News&Then 63 - August 2013

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Open Day 2013

We're having an Open Day Friday 30 August 2013. There will be talks on transport, travel and tourism, behind the scenes tours and information sessions. Bookings have been very popular - there are some spaces still available in a few talks but you'd have to be quick!

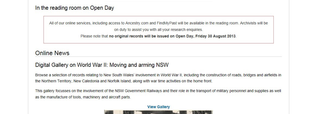
If you miss out on booking into an event there is still plenty to see and do - several history and genealogy stalls will be set up on the day, we will have some treasures from our collection on display, souvenirs and books for sale, a range of local speakers and a display of vintage military vehicles.

When: 10.00 am – 4.00 pm, Friday 30 August 2013

Where: Western Sydney Records Centre, 143 O'Connell Street, Kingswood

Enquiries: (02) 9673 1788

See what's still available online



In the reading room on Open Day

All of our online services, including access to Ancestry.com and Find&Connect will be available in the reading room. Archivists will be on duty to assist you with all your research enquiries.

Please note that **no original records will be issued on Open Day, Friday 30 August 2013**.

Online News

Digital Gallery on World War II: Moving and arming NSW

Browse a selection of records relating to New South Wales' involvement in World War II, including the construction of roads, bridges and airfields in the Northern Territory, New Caledonia and Norfolk Island, along with war time activities in the home front.

This gallery focuses on the involvement of the Government Railways and their role in the transport of military personnel and supplies as well as the manufacture of tools, machinery and aircraft parts.

View Gallery

Convict Pardon Index now complete

Thanks to the efforts of our volunteers the long running project to index records relating to convict pardons is now complete!

Index to Deceased Estate Files

We have been busy indexing Deceased Estate Files, there are now over 160,000 names to search! The index presently covers 1880 to 1930.

- 1880-1923 - surnames A-Z
- 1923-1930 - surnames A-C

Directory to pastoral leases available online at Internet Archive

In the last issue of News&Then we featured pastoral holding files and noted that pastoral leases are listed in William Hancock's 1869 directory *The pastoral possessions of New South Wales: alphabetical, arranged in the eastern, central, and western divisions*.

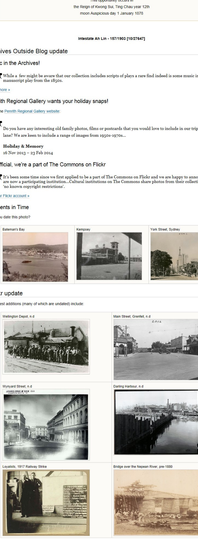
The directory lists the:

- names of the pastoral holders of the crown
- land district and county in which each holding is situated
- area in acres, the annual rent and licence fee
- carrying capacity and per section for each leasehold and resumed area respectively.

Since then we have discovered that the directory is available online through the Internet Archive. The Internet Archive provides access to a range of digital collections. For more information and to search online visit the Internet Archive.

Treasures found in the records

Liz Hicks, our librarian, came across a card that in the restricted series - a 1975 Chinese Marriage certificate along with a translation. The beautiful document was located in the restricted estate case paper (NRS 13539) for Ah Lin (1537/1903 1927/047) who died on 11 March 1903. The marriage certificate was forwarded to the Supreme Court by Ah Lin's wife Lam Lau Shi as evidence of their marriage. According to the file Ah Lin worked as a hawker and trader for 20 years in various parts of NSW.



A letter enclosed from Lam Lau Shi explains:

> "It is customary on marriage between Chinese for the intended bridehood's parents to give a document to the intended wife's parents and for the latter to do the same for the bride. This said document herein annexed is the document given by my parents to the parents of the said deceased who subsequently handed it to me. I was married to the deceased on the ninth January 1878."

Translation of the marriage document:

The Couple Singing in Harmony

Male - Created and born in the 8th Ng year 5th Moon
5th day in the Ilram division of the day (between
the hours of 3 and 5 pm of the 11th day September
in the year 1853
Female - Created and born in the 4th Ki year 2nd Moon
23th day on the Tsy division of the day (between
the hours of 5 and 7 pm of the 23th day
March 1855)
The Union is created by Heaven.
It may be desired that they will prosper with the age.

This opportunity occurs in
the Reign of Kwong Su. Ting Chau year 12th
moon Auspicious day. 1 January 1875

Interview Ah Lin - 1871/1903 [10/2947]

Archives Outside Blog update

Music in the Archives!

> "While a few might be aware that our collection includes scripts of plays a rare find indeed is some music included in a manuscript play from the 18[illegible]

Read more »

Penrith Regional Gallery wants your holiday snaps!

From the Penrith Gallery website:

> Do you have any interesting old family photos, films or postcards that you would love to include in our trip down holiday lane? We are keen to include a range of images from 1920s-1970s...
>
> **Holiday & Memory**
> 28 Mar 2013 – 23 Feb 2014

It's official, we're a part of The Commons on Flickr

> "It's been some time since we first applied to be a part of The Commons on Flickr and we are happy to announce that we are now a participating institution. Cultural institutions on The Commons share photos from their collections that have 'no known copyright restrictions'..."

Visit our Flickr account »

Moments in Time

Can you date this photo?

Flickr update

The latest additions (many of which are undated) include:

If you don't have a Flickr account you can still browse these photos on Flickr, many of which are also available on Photo Investigator.

Spotlight on Newcastle Industrial School

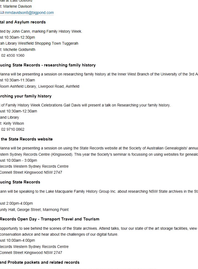
This Spotlight features Jane Hunt (regular researcher at State records) writing on her research into the Newcastle Industrial School that led to the creation of the Newcastle Industrial School webpage.

How the hunt began

In early 2009 a chance discovery located an ancestor in the Newcastle Industrial School, Newcastle in 1900. Even though I am a Newcastle resident I had never heard of this 'school' and initially thought that an admission might be a good thing. After contacting the Central Library in Newcastle I was informed that the building was still there and that it was used as a special little e-lesson of the institution and the girls who attended. I began to collect references and build a picture. I decided to look at the background of those fascinating girls in this fascinating time and the more I looked the more astounded I became ... and from there the project grew 'like Topsy'.

Background to Newcastle Industrial School

In 1866, under the guidance of Henry Parkes, the Premier of NSW, the government passed the Act for the Relief of Destitute Children in an attempt to alleviate the dreadful conditions under which many children were living. It was one of the great achievements in relation to the poor and by 1900 accommodation had been organised to facilitate the removal of children from their families and provide an opportunity to gain education and employment training. Boys were to be placed on the industrial School Ship Vernon moored in Sydney Harbour. The possession of care for girls was considered a more difficult proposition and it was decided that a building would be required on shore to accommodate the girls and provide training. Finding suitable accommodation for girls was problematic as there were few public buildings in NSW at the time, but eventually the decision was made to fit out the former military barracks in Newcastle. From August 1867, arrests were made across the state. Children were removed from dangerous situations, appeared in court and were sent to the Newcastle Industrial School by Order. In 1900 a Girls' Reformatory was also opened on the same site. These institutions existed at Newcastle for four, short, tumultuous years. Newspapers frequently described the girls' outrageous behaviour, their language, frequent escapes and the wild riots that took place. In 1871, the inmates of the Newcastle Industrial School for Girls and Newcastle Reformatory were transferred to Biloela on Cockatoo Island. The Industrial school being eventually moved to Parramatta in 1887.



Records for the Newcastle Industrial School are available at State Records but one section of the register has been lost. This missing section contains the names of 226 girls admitted to Newcastle from October 1900 until its closure and the names of all Biloela admissions until 1976. The register for the reformatory is missing. Identification of these missing girls requires careful compilation of the scattered records found in the letters of the Colonial Secretary. The index compiled by Joan Beaver identifies some inmates, but in-depth investigation of the correspondence provides valuable insights into the history of individual girls and essential clues to their identity. The 107 girls admitted to the Newcastle Industrial School and the 6 girls admitted to the Newcastle Reformatory are named in two lists in the Colonial Secretary's Letters (CSL). Research to compile the names and admission dates of all the missing Biloela girls is ongoing.

When the Newcastle institutions closed in 1871, some girls were transferred to Biloela but many were apprenticed to households across NSW, often moving further from their parents and siblings. The correspondence often describes where girls were sent, their ratios of pay as well as the length of their apprenticeships. It has been difficult to find some girls because after they were discharged from Newcastle, they assumed an alias to hide, not only from where they had come and to avoid any association with the infamy of the Newcastle institution as it had gained quite a reputation, but they also wanted to conceal the stigma of their convict ancestry.

For many, the institutions in NSW were a revolving door. Brothers, sisters and sometimes the girls themselves appear in other institutions in operation at this time. Brothers were admitted to the Vernon and many girls in their siblings may have been admitted to the Randwick Asylum. Letters in their files some were admitted to the Sydney Benevolent Asylum or the mental institutions or the gaols of NSW. Investigating these records may also permit the piecing together of separated families.

While the city of poor and vulnerable at this time may make shocking reading, the stories of success are numerous, as most of these girls went on to become loving and successful wives and mothers.

- Newcastle Industrial School (compiled by Jane Hunt) This is a developing web intended to make freely available my research and understandings of the Industrial School and Reformatory at Newcastle. I welcome any interested person - especially descendants - to view the site and contribute about the families of these fascinating but elusive survivors.
- Trove list of references
- Search the Child welfare index
- Archives in Brief 59 - Child Care and protection

Stay up-to-date with State Records

On our website

Subscribe to our website news - receive an email each time we post a news item.

Our social media channels

Facebook

On Facebook we post updates, events and much more.

Google+

Join here - You can now find us on Google+

Twitter

If you like to tweet or just read tweets follow us on Twitter where we post news items and links of interest to genealogy and archival resources.

YouTube

On YouTube we have added some in-house videos such as 'The Criminal Underworld of Sydney in the 1640s' and 'Family History at State Records NSW' and other archival films from our collection.

Upcoming Talks and Tours

Greatest Hits – the top 20 record series for Family History

Gail Davis will present a talk for the Central Coast Family History Society on some of the most popular records for family history which are held as State archives.
3 August 1230pm - 2.00pm
Lions Hall at Ettalong
Contact: Marlene Davison
Email: cdfhmarlenedavison@bigpond.com

Hospital and Asylum records

Presented by John Caren, Inverleigh Family History Week.
17 August 10.30am
Tuggerah Library, Westfield Shopping Town Tuggerah
Contact: Michelle Goldsmith
Phone: 02 4350 5340

Introducing State Records - researching family history

Emily Kanna will be presenting a session on researching family history at the Inner West Branch of the University of the 3rd Age.
8 August 10.30am - 12.00pm
Study Room Ashfield Library, Liverpool Road, Ashfield

Researching your family history

As part of Family History Week Celebrations Gail Davis will present a talk on Researching your family history.
13 August 10.30am-12.30am
Sutherland Library
Contact: Kelly Wilson
Phone: 02 9710 0943

Using the State Records website

Emily Kanna will be presenting a session on using the State Records website at the Society of Australian Genealogists' annual free seminar held at the Western Sydney Records Centre (Kingswood). This year the Society's seminar is focussing on using websites for genealogical research.
17 August 10.00am - 3.00pm
State Records Western Sydney Records Centre
143 O'Connell Street Kingswood NSW 2747

Introducing State Records

John Caren will be speaking to the Lane Map/Lane Family History Group Inc. about researching NSW State archives in the State Records' reading room.
17 August 2.00pm-4.00pm
Community Hall, George Street, Warrnyong Park

State Records Open Day - Transport Travel and Tourism

A rare opportunity to see behind the scenes of the State archives. Attend talks, tour our state of the art storage facilities, view original treasures, obtain conservation advice and hear about the challenges of our digital future.
30 August 10.00am-4.00pm
State Records Western Sydney Records Centre
143 O'Connell Street Kingswood NSW 2747

Wills and Probate questions and related records

Suzanne Lynch will be presenting this seminar with a focus on probate and deceased estate records.
16 September 10.00am - 12.00pm
Ryde Library Meeting Room
Richmond Villa 122 Kent Street Sydney
Phone: (02) 9247 3993

An Education in Itself - Education and school records held as State Archives

This talk will look at those records which will help family and local historians in their research. It will show how to access records concerning schools, teachers and pupils and highlight some online resources as well.
21 September 10.00am - 4.00pm
The Hellenic Club, Wallace Street, Western
Kerrie Cody - Vice President HAGSOC