

Now&Then 71 - December 2014

The latest issue features an update on Christmas/New Year opening hours; the Christmas Competition; Carrington albums events; Spotlight on F.W. Holden; Treasures found in the records; online news and updates; our Blog and Flickr updates and more!

- » Holiday period changes to opening hours and other services
- » State Records NSW Christmas gift ideas
- » Christmas competition
- » The Carrington albums - on tour, on display, and online!
- » Treasures found in the records
- » Spotlight on F. W. Holden
- » Archives Outside Blog update
- » Flickr update
- » Upcoming talks and tours

Holiday period changes to opening hours and other services

Over the Christmas and New Year holiday period there will be some changes to our services including opening hours and written/email enquiry and copying services. These changes are detailed below:

Open

Note the change of reading room opening hours for these days is 9am-4pm.

- » **Monday 22 December 2014 – Wednesday 24 December 2014** Hours 9am-4pm

Closed

- » **Thursday 25 December 2014 – Saturday 3 January 2015**
- » Our Telephone and Written/Email Enquiry Services will not be operating during this period. You are welcome to use our [Request For Information Form](#).

Regular operating hours resume

- » Monday 5 January 2015: Hours 9am-5pm

Operating Hours
Monday 22 Dec - Open (9am-4pm)
Tuesday 23 Dec - Open (9am-4pm)
Wednesday 24 Dec (Christmas Eve) - Open (9am-4pm)
Thursday 25 Dec (Christmas Day) - Closed
Friday 26 Dec (Boxing Day) - Closed
Saturday 27 Dec - Closed
Monday 29 Dec - Closed
Tuesday 30 Dec - Closed
Wednesday 31 Dec (New Years Eve) - Closed
Thursday 1 Jan (New Years Day) - Closed
Friday 2 Jan - Closed
Saturday 3 Jan - Closed

Copying services

- » The cut-off for placing copying service orders to have received an order before Christmas was 5 December 2014. As this date has now passed, **please note that all orders placed after this date will not be completed until after the Christmas/New Year period**

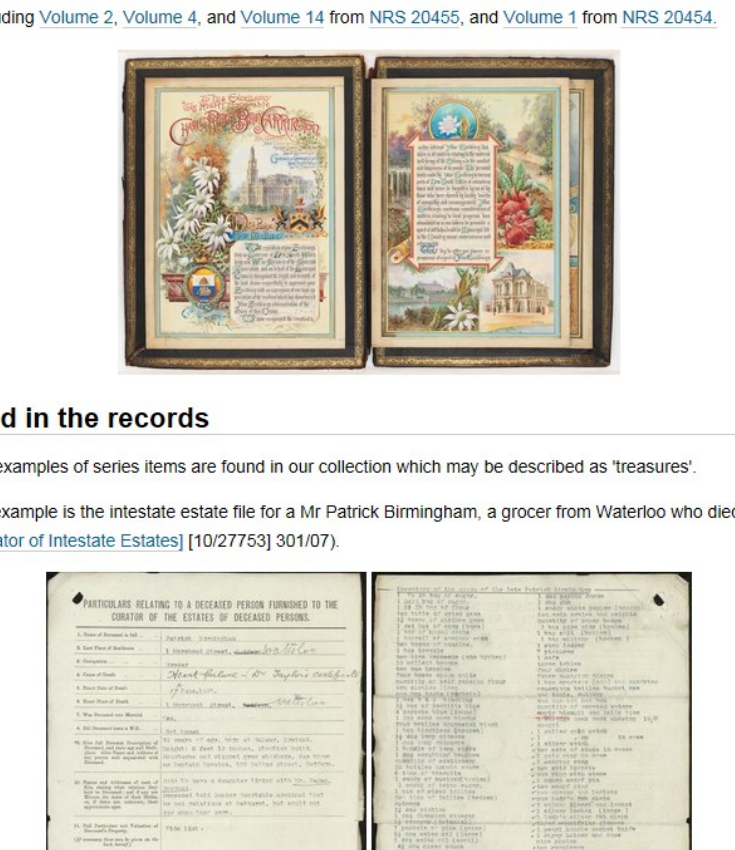
Over the festive season copy orders including digital copy orders may not be completed within the standard time frame of 20 business days.

Please note that the **5 day urgent order option** (incl 25% surcharge) will not be available for the period **15 December to 23 January 2014**. If it is vital that an order be completed within 5 business days during this time please ring (02) 9673 1786 and ask for the Senior Archivist, Public Access.

State Records NSW Christmas gift ideas

Now is the time to purchase a set of our Christmas cards - \$10.00 for set of 6

There's still time! Festive season wishes dated: 1899, 1901-02, 1902-03, 1936, and 1939. All cards blank inside (14.7 cm high x 10.5 cm wide) and sold with standard envelopes.



[Read more and purchase online at shop.nsw](#)

Christmas competition

As is now a Christmas tradition for Now&Then, we are running a Christmas Competition for our Now&Then readers. Winners will receive ONE of the following:

- » a FREE copy of a file (probate packet, deceased estate file, divorce case paper, or primary application packet) of your choice.

Any you need to do for a chance to win is to answer 10 questions. The first 10 correct entries will win a prize. The names of the winners will be published in the February 2015 issue of Now&Then.

« **Now Closed** »

The Carrington Albums - on tour, on display, and online!

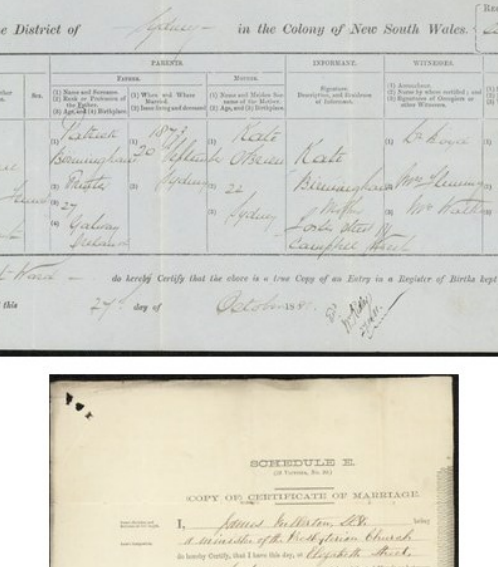
The beautiful Carrington albums continue to delight the New South Wales community with recent special viewings in conjunction with visits to regional archive repositories in Wagga Wagga and Armidale. Two volumes will also be on display in the Reading Room at Western Sydney Records Centre from Monday 15 December until the end of March 2015.

A total of 22 Presentation Albums were originally given to Lord Carrington (1843-1928), during his tenure as Governor of New South Wales from 1885 to 1890. They contain original photographs, illustrations and well-wishes from residents, towns and various associations across the state. The volumes were recently gifted to the people of NSW by the descendants of Lord Carrington and are now part of the State archives collection.



State Records Director Geoff Hinchcliffe hosted special viewings of the albums with local connections at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga in October, and the University of New England Heritage Centre in Armidale in early November. Conservator Dominique Moussou shared her observations and insights into the volumes, gleaned from her documentation and preservation work as they were accepted into the collection. The special regional viewings created a great deal of local media interest, including radio and television interviews and stories in print and [online newspapers](#).

Pages from two of the albums (see example below) will be on display in the Reading Room from December to March. They are striking examples of the highly skilled illumination work employed to convey the very best wishes of the people of New South Wales to Lord and Lady Carrington, as they prepared to return home to England after five years at Government House. Digitised copies of the albums are also available to view in Archives Investigator including [Volume 2, Volume 4](#), and [Volume 14](#) from NRS 20455, and [Volume 1](#) from NRS 20454.



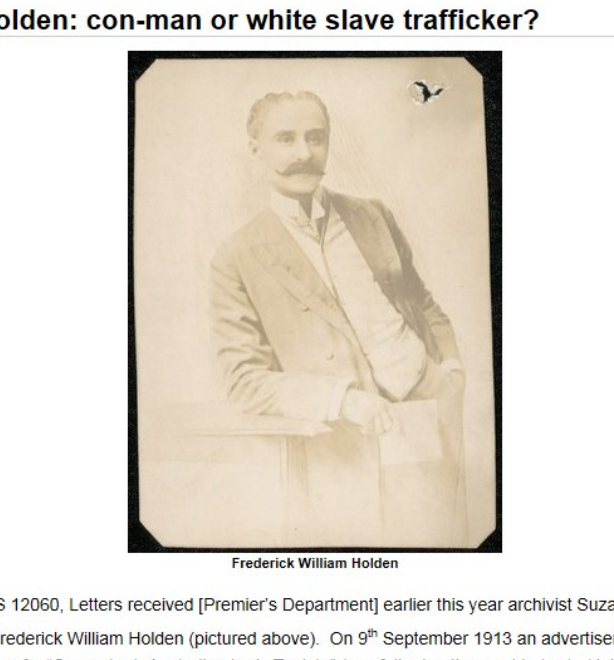
Treasures found in the records

Every now and then rare examples of series items are found in our collection which may be described as 'treasures'.

One recently discovered example is the intestate estate file for a Mr Patrick Birmingham, a grocer from Wateroo who died on 17 June 1907 (NRS 13538, [Case papers](#) [Curator of Intestate Estates] [1027753] 301/07).

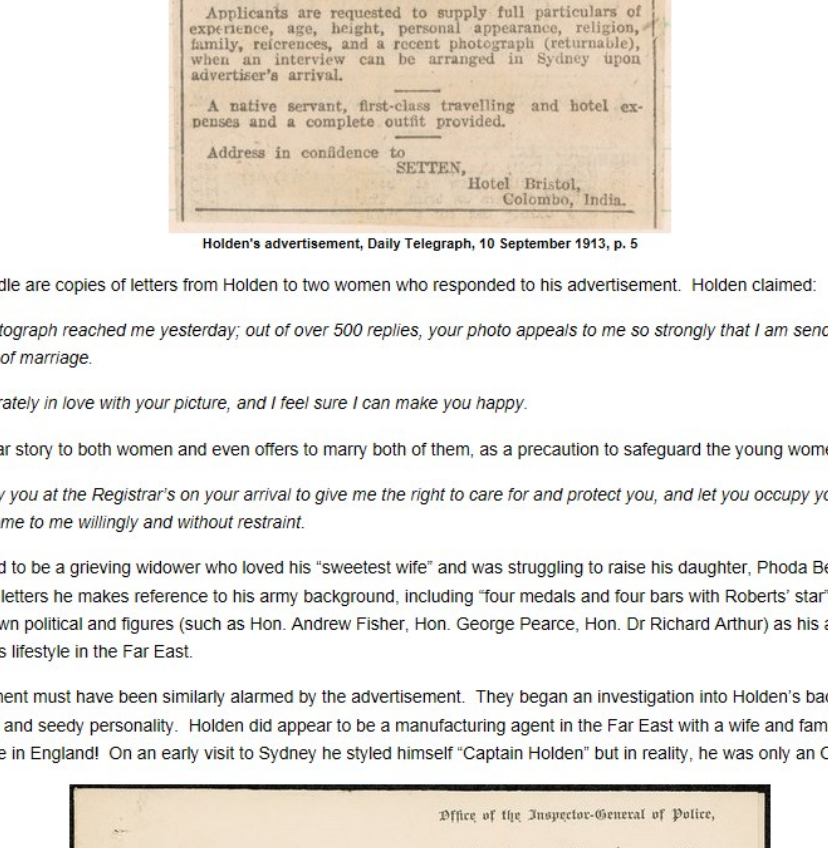


As is common for intestate estate files of business owners such as shopkeepers, all items (or goods) found to be within the business premises of the deceased are listed as part of assessing the assets in the estate. As Mr Birmingham's next of kin's whereabouts were not known at the time the file was created, many items associated with trying to identify them were kept in the file and have survived as State archives.

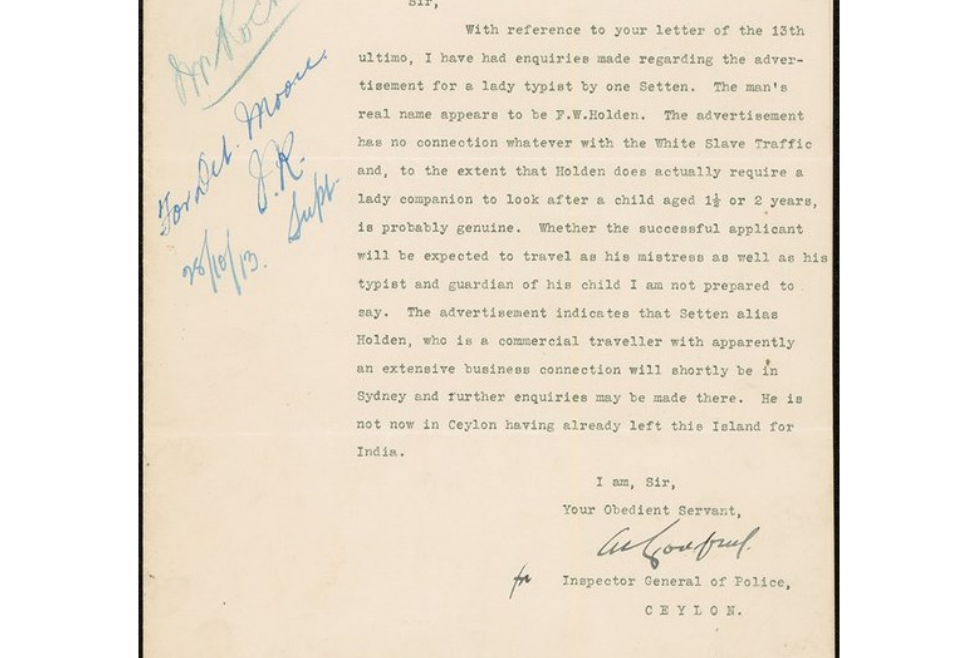


Among receipts, account balances, and credit notes in Mr Birmingham's file, there are some more interesting items including the very rare inclusion of nine photographs (examples above). There are no names included for the persons in the photographs. As the photos have remained in the file it appears no next of kin was found to claim them.

Two of Mr Birmingham's customer account books are included (below), as are many claims for money owed to suppliers.



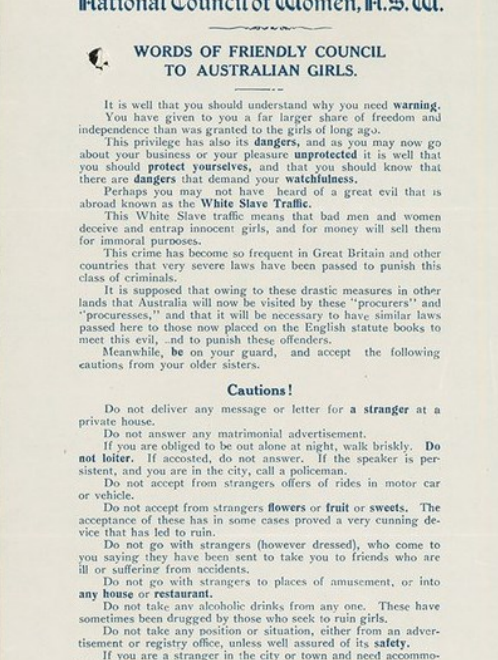
Two valuable and useful inclusions for family history research, are an original birth certificate (for Birmingham's daughter) and a copy of Birmingham's marriage certificate (both below).



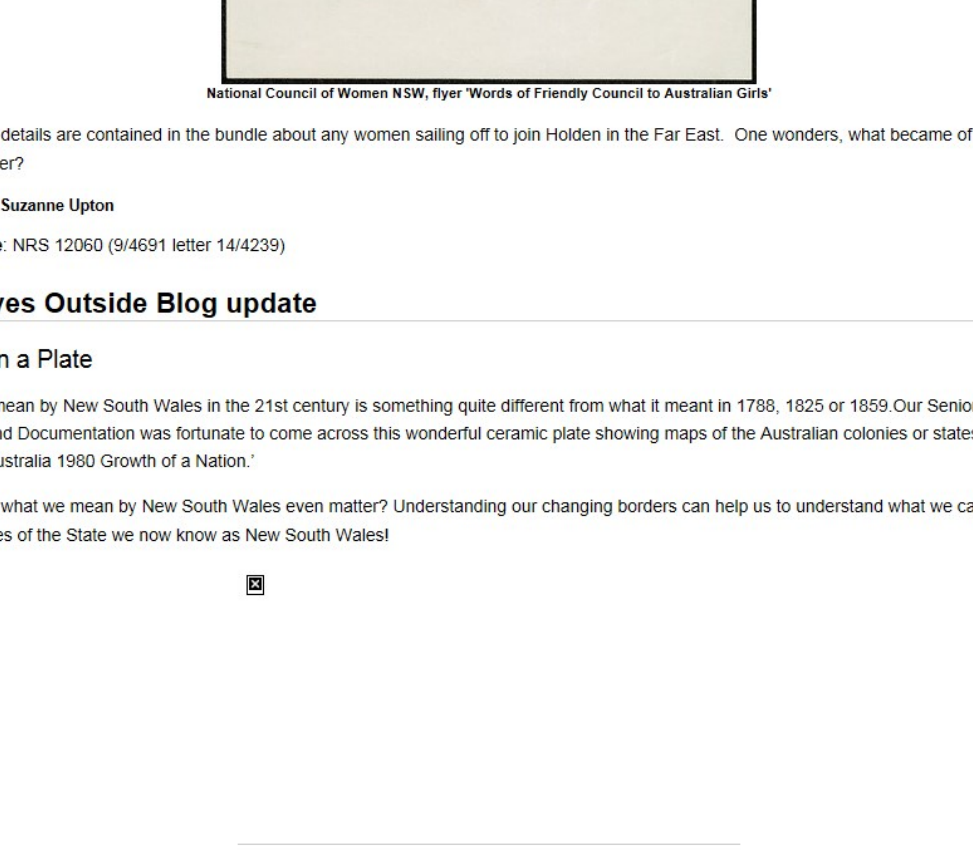
There is also a burial receipt included for a relative named Mary A Birmingham, interred at Rookwood Cemetery in 1893 (below).



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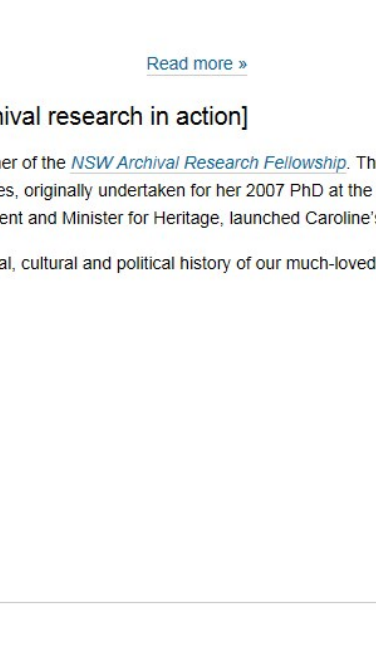


Another interesting and uncommon record in the file is Mr Birmingham's elector's right, which confirms his entitlement to vote in the Belmore Division of Sydney, in 1894 (below). Note his qualification to vote included 'married'.



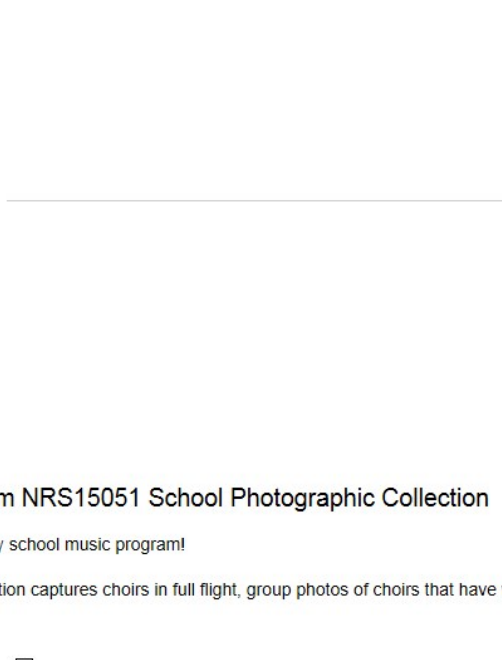
Most of the above records are not typical found in intestate estate files, especially the photographs. So this fantastic example is indeed a treasure!

Spotlight on F. W. Holden: con-man or white slave trafficker?



Frederick William Holden

When searching through the NRS 12060, Letters received [Premier's Department] earlier this year archivist Suzanne Upton came across a bundle of letters and photos relating to Frederick William Holden (pictured above). On 9th September 1913 an advertisement appeared in the Daily Telegraph requesting the services of a 'Competent, Australian Lady Typist' (see full advertisement below). Holden, using the name Setten, appeared to offer a glamorous and laudacious lifestyle that included first class travel to the Far East, while living the high life in hotels with money and new clothes. Was this a trap for a white slave trader? The Public Morals Association of New South Wales, the National Council of NSW and the Women's Christian Temperance Union of NSW, along with some private citizens, were certainly alarmed and reported the advertisement to the Police.



Holden's advertisement, Daily Telegraph, 10 September 1913, p. 5

Included in the bundle are copies of letters from Holden to two women who responded to his advertisement. Holden claimed:

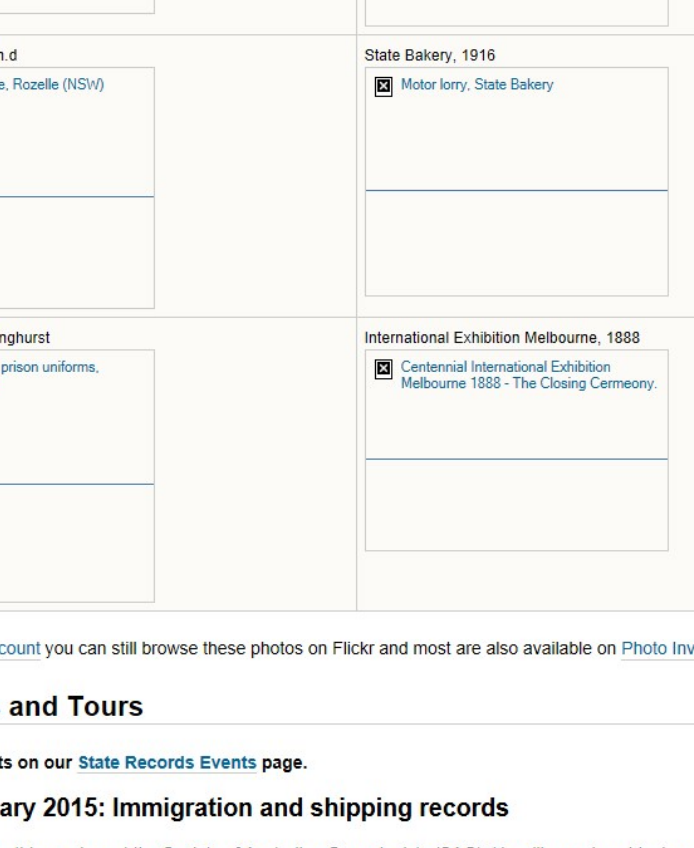
Your letter and photograph reached me yesterday; out of over 500 replies, your photo appeals to me so strongly that I am sending you mine in return with an offer of marriage.

I have fallen desperately in love with your picture, and I feel sure I can make you happy.

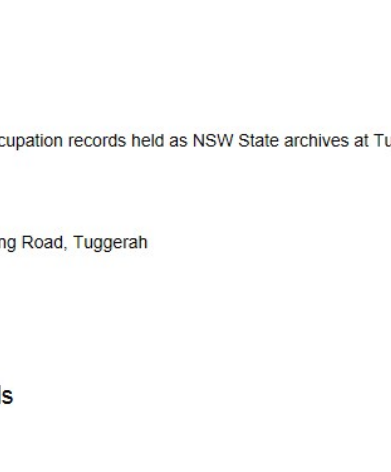
Holden tells a similar story to both women and even offers to marry both of them as a precaution to safeguard the young women's good name: *I am willing to marry you to the Registrar on your arrival to give me the right to care for and protect you, and let you occupy your own rooms until the day you can come to me willingly and without restraint.*

Holden also claimed to be a grieving widower who loved his 'sweetest wife' and was struggling to raise his daughter, Phoda Beryl aged 11 months, by himself. In both letters he makes reference to his army background, including 'four medals and four bars with Roberts' star', he names a number of well-known political and figures (such as Hon. Andrew Fisher, Hon. George Pearce, Hon. Dr Richard Arthur) as his associates, and talks about his glamorous lifestyle in the Far East.

The Police Department must have been instantly alarmed by the advertisement. They began an investigation into Holden's background which revealed an amoral and greedy person. Holden did appear to be a manufacturing agent in the Far East with a wife and family, though his wife was very much alive in England. On an early visit to Sydney he styled himself 'Captain Holden' but in reality, he was only an Officer's servant.



On a visit to Sydney in 1909 he met Miss Ruby Olive Forster, a typist with the Post Office whom he seduced. The couple ran away together to Ceylon but he did not marry Ruby (as he was already married) and they soon had a daughter, Mrs Holden, as Ruby was called, died in Shanghai following an operation.



F. W. Holden with Ruby Olive Forster and their baby daughter

The Police report described Holden as 'effeminate, foppish, and a bounder'. While not a 'White Slave Trafficker', Holden never the less represented 'a real danger to the young womanhood of this State'. Judging from his conduct, what protection can any respectable young lady hope for who is inclined to join him in the East? Sydney newspapers were requested to 'exercise a strict censorship over such advertisements' in the future.

Also enclosed in the bundle was a flyer from the Women's Christian Temperance Union of NSW warning of the dangers of White Slave Traders. The flyer exhorts young women to protect themselves and be cautious of strangers and unsafe situations. On 5 August 1913, just one month before this advertisement appeared in Sydney papers, the National Council of Women presented a petition to the Legislative Assembly urging the passing of laws to deal with White Slave Traffic which was 'such a curse in other countries' (Votes and Proceedings, 1913, Vol. 1, p.645). Such legislation had been passed in Great Britain.

National Council of Women NSW, 'Words of Friendly Council to Australian Girls'

No further details are contained in the bundle about any women sailing off to join Holden in the Far East. One wonders, what became of him and his daughter?

Written by Suzanne Upton

Reference: NRS 12060 (14691 letter 1/44239)

Archives Outside Blog update

State on a Plate

What we mean by New South Wales in the 21st century is something quite different from what it meant in 1788, 1825 or 1859. Our Senior Archivist, Content and Documentation was fortunate to come across this wonderful ceramic plate showing maps of the Australian colonies or states with the caption 'Australia 1860 Growth of a Nation'.

Why does what we mean by New South Wales even matter? Understanding our changing borders can help us to understand what we can find in the archives of the State we now know as New South Wales!

»

[Read more »](#)

Sydney's Beaches Launched [archival research in action]

In 2009 Dr [Caroline Ford](#) was the inaugural winner of the [NSW Archival Research Fellowship](#). The scholarship enabled her to expand her research on Sydney's relationship with its ocean foreshores, originally undertaken for her 2007 PhD at the University of Sydney. On 23 October 2014 the Hon. Rob Stokes, MP, Minister for the Environment and Minister for Heritage, launched Caroline's book [Sydney Beaches: a History](#).

Caroline described her book as an 'environmental, cultural and political history of our much-loved ocean coast'. Although the thesis only went up to 1920, the book includes up to the present day.

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[Read more »](#)

What's the bigger picture?

It's our final What's the bigger picture? for the year:

»

[Whip will take a guess at this one?](#)

»

School Choir – highlights from NRS15051 School Photographic Collection

The school choir – an integral part of any school music program!

NRS 15051 School Photographic Collection captures choirs in full light, group photos of choirs that have won competitions and scenes of ensembles practising in classrooms!

»

[Read more »](#)

Flickr update

The latest additions include:

 Pit Street near Market Street, Sydney	 Dulich Hill Public School - hat making demonstration Mothers Day 1913
 Rozelle Post Office, Rozelle (NSW)	 Motor lorry, State Bakery
 New South Wales prison uniforms, Darlinghurst Gaol	 Centennial International Exhibition Melbourne 1888 - The Closing Ceremony

If you don't have a Flickr account you can still browse these photos on Flickr and most are also available on [Photo Investigator](#).

Upcoming Talks and Tours

See more upcoming events on our [State Records Events](#) page.

Saturday 28 February 2015: Immigration and shipping records

John Cann will be presenting this seminar at the Society of Australian Genealogists (SAG). He will examine shipping and immigration records held by State Records NSW.

28 February 2015

1:30pm to 3:30pm

Society of Australian Genealogists, Richmond Villa, 120 Kent Street Sydney NSW 2000

Contact: [info@sag.org.au](#)
(02) 9247 3953

The A-Z of occupation records

Gail Davis will be presenting this session on occupation records held as NSW State archives at Tuggerah Library.

25 March 2015

10:30am to 12:30pm

Tuggerah Library, Westfield Tuggerah, 50 Wyong Road, Tuggerah

Contact: Michelle Goldsmith
02 4350 1560

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143 Cornhill Street, Kingswood
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(Closed Sun & Public Holidays)

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