



Bowral



Mittagong



Berrima



Moss Vale

BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY Inc.

Founded 1960

Located in the Wingecarribee Shire,
Southern Highlands of NSW

ABN 29 362 616 937

NEWSLETTER

No 577 December 2024



From the President's Desk

According to author Elizabeth Andrew 'Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.' Thank you for re-electing me to this role as it allows me to continue enjoying the company of people who volunteer with a willingness that makes working alongside them a pleasure.

During this last year over forty of our members have given their time and shared their expertise for the benefit of the rest of us and everyone who has had contact with our Society. Thank you, all our volunteers, for making our Society one to be respected and in return each of you is very much appreciated and your contribution valued.

As December dawns our Christmas Lunch gives us another opportunity to show off our social skills in the company of friends and to wish each other good times and a lovely summer. A little birdy told me that tickets to our lunch are selling quickly, yes really, and there's not many days left (see page 2). Deadline for bookings and payment is strictly 12 noon, on Friday 6 December.

Christmas in summer and we still expect Santa to wear a thick overcoat and woolly hat. As we are all looking forward to being entertained by a chocolate wheel, maybe it is only me who is baffled by the whole hot Christmas pudding in the height of summer malarky.

Have you ever dreamed of walking with Cleopatra in the shade of a palace garden?

Surely an oasis of flowers, greenery, grape vines and fruit trees. Plants to please the eye or the stomach alongside those of medicinal value.

Poppies and cornflowers have travelled through time and space so we can enjoy these favourites of the pharaohs. Which other of our garden delights may Cleo have had titillating her nostrils I wonder?

Volunteers Dr Conni Lord, an experienced and active investigator of ancient Egyptian life, and our leading exhibition creator Bud Townsing are collaborating to produce a stimulating and informative new display screen exploring the gardens of ancient Egypt and emphasising their links to our own Southern Highlands gardens. More in our February newsletter as we close in on the unveiling.

Bud has been curating displays at our museum in Berrima for a good few years and has been a central figure in the creation of display screen content and physical displays in the Williams Gallery. The acclaimed and much enjoyed homage to local hero Charlotte Atkinson is one of Bud's more recent creations.

Merry Christmas, happy New Year and enjoyable summer break to all our members, volunteers and their families who support them, from our Management Committee. Oh, and all the best to them too.

Stuart Handley

GENERAL MONTHLY MEETINGS and EVENTS

DECEMBER & JANUARY 2025 No Meeting

MEETINGS IN 2025 WILL HELD DOWNSTAIRS IN ARCHIVES ROOM
AFTERNOON TEA is served following the speaker

The **Family History Interest Group** meets at the Mittagong Archives on the first Wednesday each month, at 1pm, starting from February 2025.



Moore Memorable Musings



CAR PARTS

I couldn't afford a car until after my Uncle Austin died. He Lexus a few dollars, enough to buy a very Jeep vehicle.

'Let Skoda a car yard and Trion one or two,' my father suggested.

Soon a Dodge-y bloke hailed us. 'Audi fellas, do you fancy a Rover around?'

Mack showed us some vehicles that were Wey too Smart for us. He gave us the Kia one car and said, 'why don't you Tesla this one out? You can Venturi around the block if you like.'

We commented that this is Ariel Triumph as we felt we were leading the life of Riley. It was like Dacia-vu as we took a Seat and Buckled up in such a Noble vehicle.

My Saab-conscious took me back several years to a Mini incident when I RAM-ed a new car into a Great Wall. Man I was lucky escaping with only Minor injuries and only Bentley-ed the front fender but managed to Benz the side Commodore.

I must have Renault-ver the gutter because I Fiat the front tyre was flat. That was a Niro escape.

Meanwhile back to our salesman who we weren't beholden to, I stated, 'boy we had a GAZ this Morgan thanks Mack. Do you have a Celica model?' He showed us one car with an Astra-nomical price tag. 'Is that the best Prius you can do?' Mack was beginning to give me the Willys.

'Nissan, there's no need to show us any more thanks,' I stated Nash-ing my teeth. 'We'll Porsch off and Beetle along as we Avalon way to go.'

I needed Acura for a headache and thought some Tucker would do the trick. Even an ice cream Kona would help.

The day Passat very quickly and I was Prado of what we had achieved but we Nota-d that we needed to look for a new Venue.

I felt Karma about that decision.

I see that we've got Camry-ed away again in a roundabout fashion.

Probably enough to drive you 'round the bend!

Bruce Moore

REMINDER: Christmas Luncheon

**Thursday 12 December 2024
at 12:00 for 12:30pm**



EXETER VILLAGE HALL

The Luncheon will be a cold buffet of ham,

chicken and salads, followed by lovely desserts, tea and coffee. Feel free to BYO alcohol. Cost is **\$35** per person.

There will be lucky door prizes and a trivia quiz. The old Berrima District Ambulance "Chocolate Wheel" will be making a comeback, with lots of prizes, so please bring a handful of gold coins to join the fun.



Please let us know at the archives if you wish to attend, so we can add the names to our list, and then make payment in person, by eftpos or by funds transfer to our BDHS account BSB 633 000 Account No 200107100 Bendigo Bank (your surname as ref). Booking/payment by 6 December.

Please note: MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE NOW OVERDUE

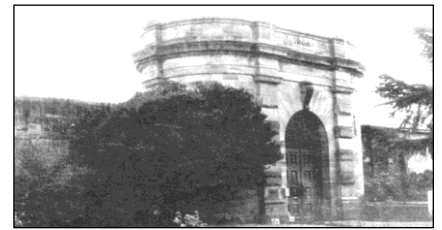
We are happy to receive payment by cash, cheque or money order, OR funds can be deposited to our bank account, details of which are shown above, as well as on the Renewal Form sent out with the September newsletter.

Thanks to all those members who have already paid their dues.

Our **Research Centre/Archives** will not be open from close of business on Tuesday 17 December 2024 until 10:00am on Monday 13 January '25.

What do all these early local buildings have in common?

Shown: Mittagong Public School (now Library), Berrima Gaol 1866 extension, and at Bowral: the first public school, St Jude's Church, CBC Bank (now demolished) seen behind the Royal Hotel, and house at 18 Merrigang St.



All these and many others were built by **Charles Grove** between the 1860s and mid-1890s, when he died. Three sons helped him in the business, but did not carry it on after his death. The Grove history will be a feature in our next issue, February 2025, so make sure your membership is up to date to continue to receive your copy!

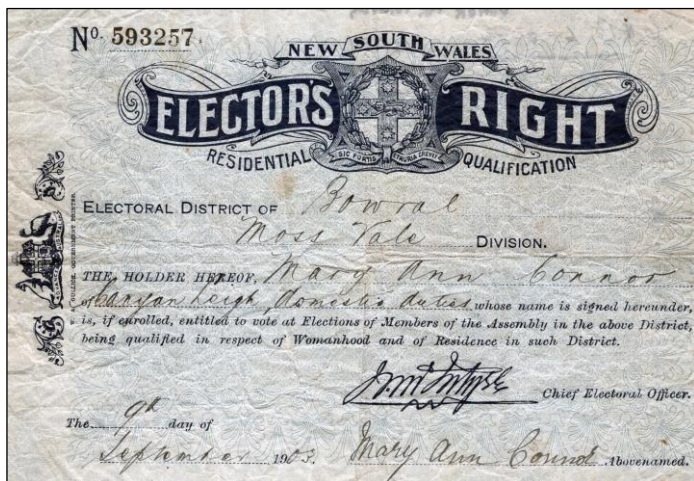
Mary Ann Connor voted in 1903

Linda Emery

The second Federal election in Australia was held on 16 December 1903. In June the previous year the passage of the *Commonwealth Franchise Act 1902* gave women the right to vote in Federal elections and stand for parliament for the first time.

We are often surprised by the gems we find in our voluminous archives and one such discovery recently gave us a glimpse into the life of one woman who registered to vote in that momentous election.

While filing a photograph in the Connor biography file, I found an Elector's Right in the name of Mary Ann Connor of Canyon Leigh, dated 9 September 1903. I had never seen such a document and have since found that it is quite a rare survivor of the election procedure.



These certificates were given to an enrolled voter to produce as identification when casting their vote. Until 1911, it was not compulsory to be enrolled to vote and it was not until 1924 that compulsory voting was introduced in Australia. Although she lived on a relatively isolated grazing property, Mary Ann clearly decided to be part of the democratic process.

Mary Ann was born in Braidwood in 1858, the daughter of Thomas and Ann Heard. In 1876 at the age of 18 she married Francis Connor in Goulburn and the couple settled on the Connor family property near Bannaby called Newfoundland. The extended Connor family held a large amount of land in the area.

Mary Ann and Francis had twelve children together between 1877 and 1899. In the mid-1890s they moved from Bannaby to Canyon Leigh where Francis Connor carried on grazing pursuits for the next 40 years. As well as caring for her large family, Mary Ann was the postmistress at Canyon Leigh.

Mary Ann was widowed after her husband was tragically killed in 1931 when he was struck by a train at Strathfield in Sydney after travelling from Moss Vale to see his son. He was brought back to Moss Vale and buried at St Patrick's Church, Sutton Forest. Mary Ann remained at Canyon Leigh until her death in 1944 and was buried next to her husband.

The fact that Mary Ann kept her Elector's Right Certificate for so long shows the importance she placed on her right to vote. Probably knowing this, one of her sons donated the certificate to the archives some years ago. We have now scanned the document and put it in our online image library so that others will know her story.



New Books in Library since June 2024

Each book has a **Library Shelf Number** and this indicates **its availability**: Those in **Sections 1 - 15** are for reference only, marked with **REF**; those in **Subject Sections 16 - 30** and **General Collection** are available for loan to members.

Howard Machinery: A Collector's Guide Vol. 1 Part 1. Written by Tony Pettitt. Published in 2020. 20/186A.

John Marshall: Shipowner, Lloyd's reformer and emigration agent by Elizabeth Rushen. Published 2020. REF. 07/100.

First Contact/Frontier Expansion in the Wingecarribee Area Between 1798-1821: Exploration and Analysis. Unpublished PhD by Kim Leever 2006. REF. 12/36.

Wingecarribee Estate & Mt Eymard Retirement Village. A History 1855 – 2011. Compiled by Sally Darling and John Matthew. Published 2011. REF. 13/313.

Longitude. Illustrated Ed. By Dava Sobel and William J.H. Andrewes. Published 1999. GEN.COLL/SOB.

NSWGR – Great Southern Railway. Bowral Stationmasters from Copeland Bennett in 1884 to 1954. Compiled by Frank Mitchell. 21/105.

Emigrate! Why! A Presentation by Denise Mackey to the Family History Group on 3 April 2024.
GEN.COLL /MAC.

Historical Maps of Ireland by Michael Swift.
Published 1999. REF. 03/02-23.

Eora: Mapping Aboriginal Sydney 1770-1850.
Published by the State Library of New South Wales,
2006. REF. 12/43.

An introduction to ... Occupations: A Preliminary List
by Joyce Culling. REF. 03/08-04.

Huguenot Ancestry by Noel Currer-Briggs & Royston
Gambier, 1985. GEN.COLL /CUR.

*Family History Research in Ireland: What are
Townlands?* Compiled by member Peter Rodney for
our Family History Group, 2024. REF. 03/02-24.

*Tales from a Churchyard: All Saints Church and
Cemetery, Sutton Forest* by Linda Emery. Published
2024. REF. 13/83A.

The Belfast and Province of Ulster Directory for 1852.
Vol. 1. First published 1852. REF. 03/02-22.

*Half a Thousand Acres: Balmain – A History of the
Land Grant.* By Peter L. Reynolds and Paul V.
Flottmann. Published 1976. 29/132.

The Long Farewell: Settlers Under Sail by Don
Charlwood. Published 1981. REF. 08/38.

Exploring Scotland's Heritage: The Highlands by
Joanna Close-Brooks. Published 1986. REF. 03/03-29.

*General Alphabetical Index to the Townlands and
Towns, Parishes and Baronies of Ireland Based on the
Census of Ireland for the Year 1851.* Originally
Published 1861. REF. 03/02-20.

Jaunting Through Ireland by Roy Kerridge. Published
1991. GEN.COLL/KER.

South East England by Richard Wyndham. Published
1951. Rev. Ed. GEN.COLL/WYN.

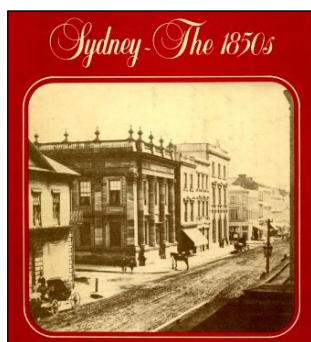
The Irish Famine by Peter Gray. Published 1995.
REF. 03/02-21.

A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland. Vols 1 and 2.
By Samuel Lewis. REF. 03/02-25.

The Glebe: Portraits and Places by Freda
MacDonnell. Published 1975. 29/131.

*Sydney – The 1850s: The
Lost Collections.* By Barry
Groom & Warren Wickman.
Published 1982. 29/130.

*Monumental Inscriptions:
Braidwood Cemetery.*
Produced by The Heraldry
& Genealogy Society of
Canberra, 1998.
REF. 10/91.



*Monumental Inscriptions and Burials: Harden Shire
Cemeteries.* Produced by The Heraldry & Genealogy
Society of Canberra Inc., 2010. REF. 10/82.

*Monumental Inscriptions & Burial Records: Hay &
District Darlington Point & Coleambally.* Produced by
Hay & Griffith Members of Griffith Genealogical &
Historical Society, 1988. REF. 10/81.

*Deniliquin General Cemetery: Headstone Transcriptions
1859 to 2006* by Betty & Frank Nolan. REF. 10/83.

*Deniliquin Lawn Cemetery Transcriptions 1977 to
2009.* Compiled by Betty & Frank Nolan. REF. 10/84.

Peak Hill Cemetery Records produced by the Dubbo
Macquarie Family History Society, 1988. REF. 10/86.

Cemetery Records: Warren Shire produced by Dubbo
Macquarie Family History Society 1986. REF. 10/85.

Cootamundra Cemetery Inscriptions produced by
Cootamundra Local History Society, 2011. REF. 10/87.

Monumental Inscriptions: Young Cemetery.
Produced by The Heraldry & Genealogy Society of
Canberra Inc., 2007. REF. 10/88.

*Monumental Inscriptions: Gundagai North Cemetery
and Gundagai South Cemetery* produced by Heraldry
& Genealogy Society of Canberra. REF. 10/89.

*Monumental Inscriptions: Yass Cemetery and St
Clement's Churchyard* produced by The Heraldry &
Genealogy Society of Canberra, 1996. REF. 10/90.

*Pioneers and Personalities: A record of
Gulargambone Cemetery 1881-1995.* Compiled by
Margery Lambell & Nancy Byrne, 1997. REF. 10/92.

Pioneer Register of Goulburn & District 1861-1901.
Compiled by The Goulburn District Family History
Society Inc. Published 1996. REF. 14/83.

Narrandera Shire by Bill Gammage, 1986. 30/199.

The Settlers and Settlement of Ganmain by Lorna H.
Gilmore, published 1992. 30/200.

*Pioneer Families and Settlement in the Wellington
District* by Les Anderson (incl. history of Ross family).
Published by Wellington Historical Society. 30/201.

Remembering the Past. Published by the Women's
Pioneer Society of Australasia Inc., 2004. A collection
of stories written by members of the Women's
Pioneer Society of Australasia Inc. GEN.COLL./WOM.

*Extracts 1828 Census: Residents – "Goulburn Plains"
and South.* Published by Goulburn and District
Historical Society. REF. 02/52

The Torrens System in New South Wales. 2nd ed.
1974. By R A Woodman & P J Grimes. REF. 03/05-17.

The A to Z of Elizabethan London compiled by Adrian
Prockter and Robert Taylor, 1979. Produced by Harry
Margary, Lympne Castle, Kent in association with
Guildhall Library, London. REF. 03/03-30.

The A to Z of Georgian London. Produced by Harry Margary, Lymgne Castle, Kent in association with Guildhall Library London, 1981. REF. 03/03-31.

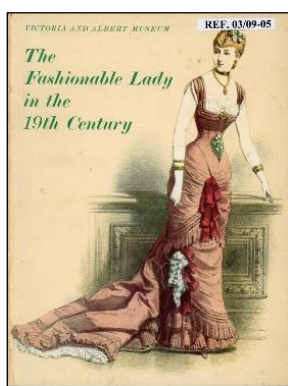
The A to Z of Regency London. Produced by Harry Margary, Lymgne Castle, Kent in association with Guildhall Library, London, 1985. REF. 03/03-32.

The A to Z of Victorian London, Produced by Harry Margary, Lymgne Castle, Kent in association with Guildhall Library, London, 1987. REF. 03/03-33.

The A to Z of Restoration London (The City of London 1676). Produced by Harry Margary, Lymgne Castle, Kent in association with Guildhall Library, London 1992. REF. 03/03-34.

The A to Z of Georgian Dublin: John Rocque's maps of the City in 1756 and the County in 1760. Produced by Harry Margary, Lymgne Castle, Kent in assoc. with Trinity College Library, Dublin, 1998. REF. 03/02-26.

The Fashionable Lady in the 19th Century by Charles H. Gibbs-Smith. Produced by The Victoria and Albert Museum 1960. REF. 03/09-5.



Queen Victoria's Little Wars by Byron Farwell. Published 1972. REF. 03/03-35.

Quakers in Ireland 1654-1900 by Isabel Grubb. Published 1926. REF. 03/02-27.

A History of Everyday Things in England: The Rise of Industrialism 1733-1851 by Marjorie and C.H.B Quennell. Published 1933. REF. 04/115.

The Pimlico Chronology of British History by Alan and Veronica Palmer. Published 1996. REF. 03/03-36.

The Town Labourer 1760-1832 The New Civilization by J. L. Hammond and Barbara Hammond. Published 1917, this ed. 1966. REF. 03/03-38.

The Village Labourer by JL & Barbara Hammond. First published 1911, this edition 1966. REF. 03/03-37.

Indexes to Irish Wills – Five Volumes in One. Edited by W. P. W. Phillimore and Gertrude Thrift. Published 1909-1920. REF. 03/02-28.

The London Encyclopaedia edited by Ben Weinreb & Christopher Hibbert. Published 1983. REF. 03/03-39.

Ancestral Research in France: The Simple Guide to Tracing your Family History through French Records by Patrick Pontet. Published 1998. REF. 03/03-43.

An Index to the Wills Proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury 1750-1800 Vol. 3 Ch-G. Edited by Anthony J. Camp. Published 1984. REF. 03/03-41.

Into The Fire: Alpine/Aylmerton Rural Fire Brigade 70th Anniversary 1953/2023. REF. 13/297.

Warragamba Dam by Red Morgan. 1999. 20/189.

Pigot and Co.'s Royal National and Commercial Directory and Topography of the Counties of Kent, Surrey, Sussex etc. Facsimile edition 1993. REF. 03/03-40.

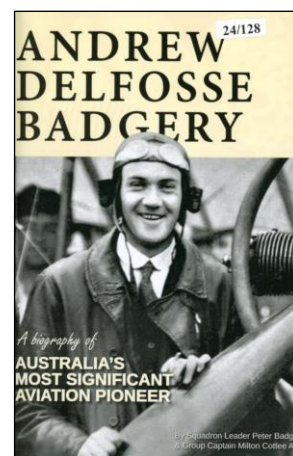
Rural Rides by William Cobbett. First published 1830. GEN.COLL/COB.

The Smugglers' Banker: The story of Zephaniah Job of Polperro by Jeremy Rowett Johns. Published 1997. GEN.COLL/ROW.

Cornish Witchcraft by J. MacLeay. Published 1977. REF. 03/03-42.

Italians in Illawarra by G. Zampaglione. 1987. 27/83.

Andrew Delfosse Badgery: A biography of Australia's most significant aviation pioneer by Squadron Leader Peter Badgery & Group Captain Milton Cottee AFC. Published 2023. 24/128.



James Squire (1754-1822) The Patriarch of Kissing Point by Dr. Peter Mitchell. Published by Ryde District Historical Society Inc., 2023. 24/129.

Pocket Guide to Irish Place Names by P. W. Joyce. Published 1984. REF. 03/02-29.

The Technology and Operation of the New South Wales Oil-Shale Industry from 1865-1906 with the Inclusion of the Hartley Vale, Airly and Torbane Sites to 1913 (includes section on Joadja). Thesis by Darryl K. Mead, 1986. 20/188.

Ordnance Survey Memoirs of Ireland. Parishes of County Donegal II 1835-6 Mid, West and South Donegal. Edited by Angelique Day & Patrick McWilliams. Published 1997 by the Inst. of Irish Studies, The Queen's University of Belfast. REF. 03/02-30.

The Irish Emigrant Experience in Australia. Edited by J. O'Brien and P. Travers. 1991. REF. 03/02-31.

Tracing your Donegal Ancestors by Godfrey F. Duffy. Published 1996. REF. 03/02-32.

Watermills and Windmills: A Historical Survey of their Rise, Decline and Fall as Portrayed by those of Kent by William Coles Finch. Published 1976. GC/FIN.

Berrima Bound Book One: The First Generations; Taylor – Hicks – Hush – Breen – Boland. Compiled by Colleen Taylor. Published 2025. REF. 01/67A.

With Iron Rails: A Bicentennial History of the Railways in New South Wales by David Burke. Published 1988. 21/107.

A local tribute to Hamilton Hume

The 200th anniversary occurred in October this year of the setting out of the pioneer expedition led by Hamilton Hume and Captain William Hovell from the edge of the known colony to present-day Geelong at Bass Strait and back, lasting four gruelling months. To acknowledge this major milestone, Yass Historical Society launched an exhibition *Hamilton Hume Going Places* on 5 October, and the National Trust held a special open day on 18 October at its historic Cooma Cottage near Yass, where Hume would later reside.

On 3 October 1824 the party left the Hume family's Appin home with six convict servants, two carts, five bullocks, three horses and a small pack of hunting dogs and would return with no livestock or dogs, two servants in critical condition, and barely a ration to spare. Despite facing rugged terrain, crossing flooded waterways and climbing mountain gorges together, Hume and Hovell parted ways unceremoniously once the expedition was over. Hovell's claims that the success of the venture was due entirely to him were later proven to be totally unjustified, and Hume was acknowledged as the real leader and pathfinder, and he became legendary in Australian history.

In 1982 a book about Hume by R H Webster titled *Currency Lad* was published by the author's family (no publishing firm was interested in handling it). In the Foreword, historian R E Mitchell states that although hailed as one of the pioneer explorers, the main awareness of Hume is, unfortunately, usually linked with Hovell and the petty disputes about the quality of leadership of the expedition. He states that "Hume's earlier exploits as a youth in the Bargo Brush, his explorations of the Southern Highlands with Dr Charles Throsby, his voyage to the South Coast with Alexander Berry, the discovery of the Clyde River and his association with Charles Sturt on the journey of discovery to the Darling River seldom warrant any mention. Moreover, few historical accounts devote adequate attention to Hume's role as a community leader in the Yass district where he finally settled in 1839".

The young Hume is a most significant early figure in the history of the Wingecarribee Shire, as Mitchell indicates above, with his various exploits including that when aged just 17 years in 1814 he found his way south to Bong Bong, as will be described here after an outline of his early life.

Webster explains in *Currency Lad* that "most of the first white children born in Australia were the offspring of convicts, called 'Currency Lads and Lasses' to distinguish them from 'The Sterling', those



who considered themselves fortunate to have been born in Britain. The children of free white parents were also relegated to this former despised class and Hamilton Hume was one of the first of these."

Born in 1797 at Toongabbie, near Parramatta, he was the eldest son of Andrew and Elizabeth Hume, free settlers who met and married in 1796. Andrew gained a reputation for being violent, unpredictable and often notorious as storekeeper and stock superintendent. Elizabeth, the daughter of a clergyman, was an educated and cultured lady and as a trained teacher educated her children herself. In 1812 Governor Macquarie granted Andrew 100 acres of good land near Appin, and there, his wild days over, he settled down to the life of a pioneer farmer and affectionate father.

This was a most important move in the lives of the two elder boys, Hamilton, then 15 years of age, and John, 12 years. Appin was on the fringe of the settled area, within walking distance of rocky gorges, and at the gateway to the southern districts and through there to the coast. It was the departure point of most exploring and survey expeditions and the point of contact with the coastal and mountain Aborigines.

No better training ground for young bushmen could be imagined. Their parents encouraged the boys to learn as much as they could about the bush and its native inhabitants. It was not long before Hamilton and John were moving freely out into this new country and developing a mastery of bushcraft and rapport with the Aborigines. From their father's various farming and stock-tending activities, the boys also gained valuable experience in assessing country and handling livestock. Hamilton realised that his best chance of making a name for himself was as a bush scout and explorer.

After his arrival in 1810, Governor Macquarie saw roads as vital to colonial prosperity. In 1814 there were frantic calls for land further out as the near-coastal settlement, hemmed in geographically, suffered from drought and insect plagues. Hamilton and John decided to make their first long trip southwards in the spring, taking with them a young Aboriginal friend named Dual. On foot, they chopped their way with light axes through the Bargo Brush until they reached the fertile area at the Wingecarribee River, called *Toom-Boong* by the Aborigines and now known as Bong Bong. Big mobs of kangaroos grazed on pasture superior to anything in the Sydney area.

The lads were not, however, the first white explorers to pass through. A small band of explorers led by John Wilson had made their way on foot in 1798 to the junction of the Wingecarribee and Wollondilly Rivers and

further south as far as Mount Towrang. Their report of fine grazing country was ignored and forgotten, the colony not being ready to expand at that time. The Hume brothers, who inadvertently followed roughly the same track as the earlier explorers, rediscovered the fine and open country. Both exploring parties were guided by Aboriginal know-how and the track both followed proceeded along the boundary between two Aboriginal areas: that of the inland Gundungurra and of the coastal Wodi Wodi people. Geographically it was the most suitable route, straddling the Nepean River to the east and rugged hill country to the west.

When the Hume lads returned home with reports of the rich, grassy lands in the volcanic highland country there was immediate interest and prominent settlers John Oxley and Dr Charles Throsby soon had cattle moved into the area.

In 1817, with young Hamilton as guide, Throsby took an exploring party to Bong Bong and undertook further explorations, including a journey westward to Bathurst. For this he was granted 1000 acres at Bong Bong. Then, in early 1818, Macquarie instructed Surveyor James Meehan to lead an expedition party, including Hume and Throsby, to the south in the hope of finding an overland route through to the south coast. After reaching the Shoalhaven River that was in flood and could not be crossed, they split into two parties. One, led by Throsby, proceeded north back to Meryla Pass from which they descended into Kangaroo Valley and to the coast, but this route only ever served as a bridle track. The other party led by Meehan with Hume as guide ventured southwest and discovered Lake Bathurst and the district that was later named Argyle County by Macquarie, where Goulburn would soon be established.

In 1919 Macquarie instructed Dr Throsby to build a cart road to the south from Picton. With Joseph Wild as overseer, eleven well-treated convicts finished the road within eight months. It followed Hume's bush track that crossed the Bargo River, passed through the Bargo Brush, climbed over the eastern side of the Mittagong Range and proceeded to at Bong Bong at the Wingecarribee River. From there it followed a section of Meehan's line through Sutton Forest and then headed west through Canyon Leigh where it turned southwest to the Cookbundoon Ranges.

In the 1830s a new line of road was built through the local district, being marked by Thomas Mitchell, the Surveyor-General, as an improvement to Hume's original line. It deviated from the first road at Little Forest (now Catherine's Hill) and turned westward to avoid the Mittagong Range. It made a new crossing of the Wingecarribee River at Berrima, where a town was laid out, and then progressed southward to Paddy's River and on to Goulburn. This new line formed a section of the road that was progressively built through from Sydney to Albury, proclaimed the

Great Southern Road in 1858 and that linked at the Murray River with a road to Melbourne. The entire route was renamed the Hume Highway in 1928.

This was in honour of explorer Hamilton Hume. The most recent attempt to tell the epic story of the man is *Hamilton Hume, the life and times of our Greatest Explorer* by Robert Macklin, published in 2016. This book sets the scene with an extensive overview of the early colonial history that shaped the life of the Hume family. Macklin acknowledges himself to be the son-in-law of R H Webster, *Currency Lad* author. Both books provide a colourful account of the great 1824 venture and their descriptions of the explorers' first days out from Appin show how by 1824 the Bong Bong district and further south had become familiar territory for the Hume family. Some extracts follow:

On Sunday, 3 October 1824, Hume and Hovell set out from Appin with their party and were accompanied by Hume's brother John. They travelled easily at first to get the stock accustomed to their harness and handlers. They camped outside the boundary fence of a Spanish settler and spent the second night at an Inn on Myrtle Creek. Their route took them down the (Old) South Road, which crossed the Mittagong Range following Hume's markings from ten years before. On 7 October they stopped at a blacksmith for minor repairs to the drays and the two leaders had breakfast with Mr James Atkinson at *Oldbury*, Sutton Forest. They then passed through the scrubby Wombat Brush to a camp on Paddy's River and the next night reached *Glenrock* at Marulan, the property of George Barber who was married to Hume's sister Isabella. Here Hamilton's brother John left them. The bullocks rested there while Hume and Hovell visited Dr Reid at his newly acquired landholding *Inverary Park* near Bungonia. He kindly furnished Hume with equipment and medicines, showing him how to use them and how to scarify a snake bite.



Oldbury



Glenrock



Inverary Park

On 13 October, having travelled southwest, the party reached the most outlying station then surveyed that Hume had recently acquired and where they rested. The two leaders rode over to nearby Lake George for an instrument check. On 17 October the party set out into unknown territory and travelled about 12 miles that day, which proved excellent going for the terrain would soon become more rugged. Great difficulties lay ahead, including rivers that took all of Hume's ingenuity to cross: a story well worth reading.

In the BDHS Library, *Currency Lad* is 24/10, and *Hamilton Hume, the life* is 24/121. Image on page 6 is Hume statue erected 1893, Lands Bldg, Sydney. *Compiled by P Morton*

Berrima District Historical & Family History Society Inc

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email: bdhsarchives@gmail.com ☎ web: www.berrimadistricthistoricalsociety.org.au ☎ follow us on Facebook

ARCHIVES: Cnr Old Hume Highway and Bowral Road, MITTAGONG.

OPEN: Mondays, Tuesdays 10am-4pm and Saturdays 10am-1pm. Closed Public Holidays.
Library collection contains reference books, journals and a general collection.

MUSEUM: Marketplace, Berrima. Tel: 02 4877 1130. Email: bdmuseum@bigpond.com

AT PRESENT, OPEN: 10.00am to 3.00pm, Fridays to Sundays.

This includes during school and public holiday periods.

MEMBERSHIP: Any person wanting to join the Society may do so at any stage during the year by completing a form and paying the appropriate fee. Joining Fee \$10.00 – Single \$25.00 – Family \$35.00.

AFFILIATIONS: Royal Australian Historical Society, Museums Australia Inc and NSW Association of Family History Societies.

If undelivered return to:
Berrima District Historical & Family History Society Inc
PO Box 131
MITTAGONG NSW 2575
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BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY Inc.

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