

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

HAWKESBURY LIBRARY SERVICE - LOCAL STUDIES FACT SHEET

The Local Studies Fact Sheets (LSFS) are to assist researchers in using the Local Studies Collection of the Hawkesbury Library Service. This fact sheet concentrates on some of the special collections which are part of the Local Studies Collection.

WILLIAM WALKER PAPERS

William Walker (1828-1908) was born in Glasgow in 1828 and accompanied his family to Australia on the "Alfred", arriving in Sydney in 1837. His family lived in Windsor and William was articled at age 13, to solicitor Francis Beddek who had commenced practising in Windsor in 1828 and later took on Richard Coley as a partner in 1848. Walker was admitted as an Attorney and Solicitor to the Supreme Court of NSW in 1852 and started his own business in George Street Windsor in 1852. Walker contributed much to the advancement of the Hawkesbury and was the local Member of Parliament from 1860 to 1869 and was closely involved with the Hawkesbury Benevolent Society, Windsor School of Arts and Literary Society and was a member of Windsor Borough Council 1871-1881. William Walker died in Windsor on the 12 June 1908, aged 80 years.

Origin of the William Walker Papers plus access and arrangement

On the death of Bill Walker in 1988, the Library was donated several items via the family. The bound volumes were donated to the Mitchell Library and a list of these holdings is available in the Pamphlet file, under RLP WAL. Some of the collection was purchased by the Library, the Hawkesbury Family History Group and money raised by public subscription.

The records were originally accessed via a card index which was compiled by volunteers of the Hawkesbury Family History Group in 1988. As there are many names indexed from single documents, problems occur when locating items. The material has recently been digitised and will be made available via the Hawkesbury Images database. Approximately 1,300 items (contained in 26 bundles) and 15 volumes in 10 archives boxes (Total approximately 2 metres)

It includes correspondence, receipts, accounts, land records, leases, legal documents, wills & draft wills. Letter books, ledgers, minute books plus day books. Also includes records of the Windsor Road Trust, Richmond Road Trust and Richmond Bridge Company. Currently photocopies of the material are filed, under the main subject heading, in a filing cabinet in the Local Studies area. The collection is not in its original sequence. Some material has been bound and made available on the shelves. Date range of the material is 1838-1956 (with some land records describing original grants dating back to the 1790s). Two items have been bound, *William Walker's minute & correspondence book 1884-1886* plus *William Walker Day Book 1890 -1892* and are shelved at RL994.42 WAL



Note: The other major legal firm in Windsor during the 19th century, was Beddek and Coley's, which was acquired by John Jackson Paine in 1888. The papers from the legal firm of Beddek, Coley and Paine are held in the Mitchell Library, in the State Library of NSW.

JEANNIE SCOTT COLLECTION

Jeannie Caroline Scott (1942-1995) was a local historian specialising in the Hall family, she also had a keen interest in the history of Pitt Town. She assisted with research on *Over Halling the colony George Hall, pioneer* and *The colony over Halled a family tree of the descendants of George Hall* shelved at RL929.20994 HAL. After her untimely death in 1995, her family donated her collection of papers to the Hawkesbury Library Service. The collection concentrates on her research on the Hall family plus some information about Pitt Town. The majority of the material has been included in the Pamphlet file under the title Hall family research and shelved in RLP HAL. Other pamphlets titles include:

Jeannie Caroline Scott (1942-1995) shelved at RLP SCO
Beresford Smith Hall family research shelved at RLP HAL
George Smith Hall and family research shelved at RLP HAL
William Thomas Rose and family shelved at RLP ROS

GOSPER COLLECTION

Thomas Roker Alexander Gosper (1768-1847) arrived as a convict on-board the "*Surprise*" in 1790. He married Mary Hipwell, also a convict, in 1810 at Windsor and they reared a large family with some descendants still living in the Hawkesbury. Descendant Dennis Bruce Gosper (1934-2002) spent many years diligently researching the Gosper family and compiled "*The pragmatic pioneers*" shelved at RL929.20994 GOS in 1991 documenting the Gosper family and related families. Late of Northmead, Dennis Gosper passed away 22 November 2002 aged 68. The Gosper Family Historical Society compiled the "Gosper family newsletter" located at RLP GOS. Dennis bequeathed his research material to the Hawkesbury Library Service and the Gosper Family Historical Society donated suitable housing for the original material. Don and Jill Mills continued the research on the family and produced "*Gosper Connections*" shelved at RL929.20994 GOS. They have also generously donated copies of their research materials. Check the catalogue for more information.

FAMILY ARCHIVES OF JOHN THOMAS MATCHAM PITT (1860-1924)

John Thomas Matcham Pitt was born in Richmond in 1860, the son of George Matcham Pitt and Elizabeth nee Town. John married Emma Louisa Onus (daughter of Joseph E. Onus, Mayor of Richmond 1887-1891) They had two surviving children, John 'Jack' Matcham born in 1886 and Dorothy who was born in 1893. Emma passed away in 1908 and John died the 11 June 1924 aged 63 years. John was a Surveyor and was also interested in a wide variety of hobbies including gardening and fishing on his property at Sunnyside at North Richmond. J. T. M. Pitt kept a diary for the major part of his adult life and these have been microfilmed with other miscellaneous items to form the Family Archives. There are a total of 8 microfilms as follows:

FILM A72	Diaries 1886 - 1892
FILM A73	Diaries 1893 - 1900
FILM A74	Diaries 1901 - 1906
FILM A75	Diaries 1907 - 1913
FILM A76	Diaries 1914 - 1922
FILM A77	Letterbook 1883 - 1905
FILM A78	Miscellaneous books, journals 1871 - 1874
FILM A79	Miscellaneous collection including newspaper clippings etc 1884-1924

GRACE DOUGLASS MATERIAL

Grace Douglass nee Buddle (1930-2003) was born at Naremburn, the only child of Jack and Queenie Buddle. As a child she visited Grose Vale and later she followed up her connection to the Hawkesbury district. She married Gordon Douglass and they resided at Pennant Hills for their remainder of their lives. Grace first became interested in family history in 1964 when one of her Mother's cousins showed her some material she had copied from the Mitchell Library, information about John Ezzey. From the early 1970s Grace began to research her family history and so began her passion of genealogy and delving into the past. She spent many hours researching at the Mitchell Library, State Records and various repositories. With cousin Laurel Legge, they wrote "Along the Windsor Richmond Road: the early days of the Ezzy family, a story of an early pioneer family" shelved at RL994.42 DOU. She also spent an enormous amount of time at Hawkesbury Library. She researched the history of the Cornwallis School as well the "Descendants of Isaac Cornwell & Margaret Stocker" Both shelved at RLP COR. She was involved with the Hawkesbury Family History Group and was one of the main compilers of the Hawkesbury Pioneer register 1 and 2. She assisted with cemetery transcribing and contributed regularly to the Hawkesbury Crier. She passed away 6 November 2003. Much of her family research has been donated to the Hawkesbury Library.

D. G. BOWD COLLECTION

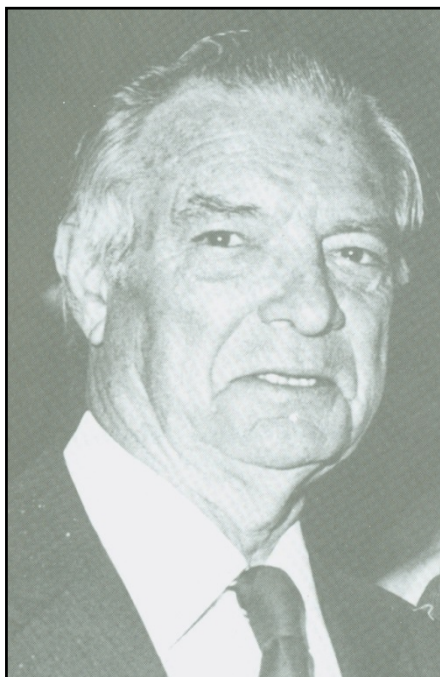
Douglas Gordon Bowd (1918-1993) a fifth generation member of a Hawkesbury family, was born in Wilberforce in 1918. He was educated in the district and became a teacher and spent most of his life teaching in the local area. He was an active member of the Hawkesbury Historical Society. His love of history led him to research and eventually produce a number of publications dealing with the Hawkesbury district. He was involved in various other community activities including the Hawkesbury Benevolent Society as well as the Australian Labor Party (ALP). He was selected as the Hawkesbury's Citizen of the Year in 1981 and the following year was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for his services to the community. Doug Bowd passed away on the 4 April 1993. During his lifetime Bowd prepared, collected and acquired many notes, files, manuscripts and photographs on the Hawkesbury district. He bequeathed his collection of local history material to the Hawkesbury Library Service and it is known as the Bowd Collection. The family of Doug Bowd donated his collection of books. This valuable contribution forms a lasting legacy for the Hawkesbury community. A plaque in recognition of his contribution was unveiled outside the Windsor Central Library in Dight Street which is now used as professional offices.

The Bowd Collection is housed in a filing cabinet and can be accessed through the OPACS computers. The photographs are indexed as part of the Hawkesbury Images collection. Specialised card indexes are located in the marked cabinets. His publications include the following:

Macquarie country: a history of the Hawkesbury shelved at RL994.42 BOW
History of the Hawkesbury Benevolent Society and Hospital shelved at RL362 BOW
Monuments, memorials and plaques in the Hawkesbury shelved at RL929.5099442 BOW
Lucy Osburn c.1836 1891: founder of the Nightingale System shelved at RL610.73092 BOW
Windsor Bowling Club: 50 years golden anniversary 1931 81 shelved at RL796.0609441 BOW
Windsor Primary School 1869 1969 shelved in RLP WIN
A short history of Wilberforce shelved at RL994.42 BOW
Origins of names of streets, parks & features: Windsor area shelved at RL919.441 BOW
Hawkesbury journey shelved at RL994.42 BOW
Bowds of Wilberforce shelved at RL929.20994 BOW
Wilberforce Public School, 1880 1980 shelved at RL372.99445

Other related items include:

Douglas Gordon Bowd shelved in RLP BOW
Bowd Family Research includes the Moore family shelved in RLP BOW
Catherine Johnson [Family Research] shelved in RLP JOH
Oral history interview Douglas Bowd, 1984 shelved at RLO 054 BOW
Hawkesbury River trading boats shelved at RL386.3099442 RIV
Bowd index to Windsor & Richmond Gazette shelved at RLP BOW



VALERIE ROSS CARD INDEXES

Valerie Ross (1936-2009) was born and educated in Sydney and lived most of her life in the Sydney area before moving to the Central coast in her later life. She had had a long association with Australian history and was fascinated by her forebears which included the Everingham family. She spent an enormous amount of time diligently researching the family and at the time of publication there were few books in this field. Her books include the Everingham trilogy which she received in 1982, the Alexander Henderson Award for Family History. Valerie died on the 17 May 2009 and is buried on the Central Coast. Her publications include:

- A First Fleeter and his time (covers the life of convict Matthew Everingham who came in 1788)
- A Hawkesbury Story (continues the story of Matthew Everingham and his children who married into the Woodbury, Chaseling, Stubbs and Cotton families in context with the evolvement of the Hawkesbury area)
- The Everingham Letterbook (letters by Matthew Everingham relating to the exploration in the 1790s of the Blue Mountains area)

HUNGERFORD COLLECTION

Meredyth Effie Hungerford 1917-2007 was born in St Kilda Victoria to parents Laurence and Sylvia Thomson and moved to Sydney where she was educated. She did an Arts degree at Sydney University and later married Antony Hungerford in 1941. After WW2 they moved to Berambing where Anthony's father had property, and raised their family. Meredyth studied and became a teacher and she taught English and History at Richmond High School from 1959 until 1976. Meredyth was an accomplished historian always researching carefully the evidence to corroborate all facts and citing her sources.



Her publications include:

- Exploring the Blue Mountains with Kay Donald shelved at RL919.445 HUN
- Exploring the Hunter Region with Kay Donald shelved at RL919.445 HUN
- Bilpin the Apple Country shelved at RL994.42 HUN

Other items of interest include: Alphabet card index to sources on Bilpin records / Meredyth E. Hungerford, shelved at RL994.42 HUN and The Mt Tomah Book Chapter 3 shelved at RL919.44 MOU. Meredyth also copied and collected numerous images known as the Bilpin Collection which form part of the Hawkesbury Images. Throughout her life, Meredyth took an active role in community activities. She was a long term member of the Bilpin District Womens Association and was involved in the Hawkesbury Historical Society where she helped set out exhibits for the museum in Windsor. Meredyth passed away 29 March 2007. Her research, books and photographs were donated to the Hawkesbury Library Service by her family.

OTHER BEQUESTS

Over the years many people have donated material to the Local Studies Collection relating to family and local history. This material enables other researchers to learn more about the Hawkesbury district, and will be kept for posterity for researchers to come. If you are interested in making a bequest or donating material, it is wise to clarify this in your will so that your estate can follow your wishes. Please contact the Local History Librarian to discuss further. Contact details below.

Prepared by the Local History Librarian & updated 5/7/2016

Contact Information

ADDRESS

Hawkesbury Library Service
Hawkesbury Central Library
Deerubbin Centre (Ground floor)
300 George Street
WINDSOR NSW 2756

HOURS

Monday to Friday 9am-7pm
Saturday 9am-1pm
Sunday 2pm-5pm
Closed Public Holidays

LOCAL HISTORY CONTACTS

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<http://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library>
<http://www.facebook.com/HawkesburyLibrary>

Access the catalogue <http://catalogue.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/amlibweb/>