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The Granville Guardian

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**The next general meeting of the Granville Historical Society will be held at 2.00 pm on Saturday 22nd October 2011 at our Research Centre
62 Railway Parade Granville
Executive Meeting 1.00 pm**

Guest Speaker

**Gregory Blaxell
Author of Parramatta River**

Our Centre is open every Wednesday from 10 am to 4 pm and on the fourth Saturday of the month for personal research. Visitors and members of family history societies are welcome. A fee applies for non-members

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Granville Historical Society

A Place where heritage & culture are valued & celebrated

President's Report

Holy Family School Granville asked us to research their history. They gave us four weeks, but we eventually located the photographs and history and had them delivered to the school for their display for mid September. Granville supplied them story boards for the history of Granville for a term to assist them in their studies. A report from Jane West, teacher, said the school was extremely pleased with the results of the story boards. They were able to look on Google Earth to check how the sites look today. They are looking to do this again next year. One of the teachers Mrs Boulous was surprised to see her family featured on one of the boards, she had not seen it before

Holy Trinity Primary have asked us to do a PowerPoint on the history of Granville which we will tailor to suit the school. It will be the first of a series on the history of Granville and Parramatta that will be designed as a teaching aid for schools with the notes of the history in a book to aid the teacher.

We are moving ahead with the history of the Lebanese who have made the Parramatta Local Government area their home. This is progressing rather well, and if anyone knows a family it would be helpful if you would let us know. Our research has led us to the Governor of NSW Marie Bashir who had a practice in Pendle Hill and has a long and proud association with the area, as well as her sister Helen. We are working hard on this and ask members to assist with any information they might have.

June and I attended the 150th Anniversary of the Parramatta City Council. Each Mayor attending received a presentation as a souvenir of the night, the function was held in the Parramatta Town Hall. The NSW Governor Marie Bashir attended with her husband Sir Nicholas Shehadie.

Gregory Blaxell will speak at this month's meeting on the topic *The Parramatta River beyond Ryde Bridge*. He will have some copies of his book *The River: Sydney Cove to Parramatta* for sale.

Our best wishes to everyone who may not be feeling well, and hope that you are well enough to attend our Christmas Party in November (4th Saturday) so get your best face on and save up for that. I don't believe that we are approaching the end of another working year. Where has the year gone?

Barry Bullivant OAM President

WOODSIDE PARRAMATTA JUNCTION Also known as CARHULLEN

By Colin Humphreys

Woodside was a gentleman's rural retreat, built in the 1850s, at Parramatta Junction, now Granville. More a homely villa than a mansion, its place in colonial history rests on its links with well-known lawyers and judges, pioneer surgeons and the Australian Agricultural Company (AACo.). Three of the five men in the chain of ownership between 1860 and 1880 were associated in some way with AAcO.

The 40 acres of the *Woodside* estate included part of Judge Advocate Richard Atkins's grants (100 acres known as Denham Court granted on 28 May 1793, and 145 acres, known as Denham Farm, granted on 19 March 1798), and part of Randolph John Want's Parramatta South holdings.¹

Want was born in London, the eldest son of a surgeon, and came to Sydney in 1829. Upon completing the requisite five years of clerkship with the legal office of Frederick Wright Unwin, he was admitted to the Supreme Court as a solicitor in 1837, and took over Unwin's practice in 1841. Unwin had accumulated a large property portfolio, but was also overburdened with debt, and owed Want £3,056. On 9 November 1848, the official assignee of Unwin's insolvent estate approved the conveyance to Want of 98 acres of land at Parramatta South to discharge Unwin's debt to him. The land, on the western side of Dog Trap Road (Woodville Road), was bounded in the north by Beckett's Creek, on the west by Atkins's grant, and on the south by Bowman's grant.²

¹ Details contained in Schedule sections of Deeds listed in these footnotes.

² Want, Richard, 'Want, Randolph John (1811–1869)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Australian National University, Online edition <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/want-randolph-john-4797/text7991>, accessed 1 October 2011; *Sydney Morning Herald (SMH)*, 5 February 1848, p. 4; NSW Land Titles Office, Conveyance, F.W. Unwin's official assignee to R.J. Want, Book 15 No. 517, 9 November 1848

The dissolute and chronically insolvent Richard Atkins surrendered his land to creditors in February 1805. John Bowman of Richmond, one of the earliest settlers in the Hawkesbury, purchased Denham Court and Denham Farm on 1 August 1810, and on 25 June 1812 obtained a grant of 150 acres of adjoining land (Bowman Farm). John Bowman died in 1825 and bequeathed the three farms to his eldest son, J.J. R. Bowman, then a resident of India. J.J.R. Bowman passed away in 1853, whereupon William Bowman, a trustee of his will, was authorised to sell the properties.³

When the Sydney to Parramatta railway line was completed as far as the temporary terminus on Dog Trap Road in 1855, Want was one of a number of landowners hoping to profit from the subdivision of their lands. The first big sale coinciding with the railway opening was the Parramatta South subdivision, part of the Drainwell Estate, embracing much of what is now central Granville, launched in a series of auctions commencing in February 1855. Want began to sell his land, situated on the western side of the subdivision, in December 1855.⁴

In early January 1857, the Want family purchased three adjoining parcels of land on the eastern boundary of the Parramatta to Liverpool railway line, south-west of Parramatta Junction railway station, from William Bowman. Two blocks, totalling just over 19 acres, were bought by George Want, and the third, seven acres in area, by Randolph Want. The land was in the south-east corner of what was originally Richard Atkins's Denham Farm grant. It appears that Randolph Want built *Woodside* villa on the seven acre plot. He had paid £175 for the land, but when he sold it to George Want eight months later, the purchase price was £700, indicating substantial improvements had been made. The house was a five bedroom villa residence with drawing room and dining room, together with a rear wing comprising kitchen, nursery and store.⁵

George Want was born in 1820, and was admitted as an attorney in the New South Wales Supreme Court on 19 November 1846, after serving as a clerk to his brother Randolph. He married Ann Blackford Beddick of Windsor at St John's Church of England Parramatta on 15 February 1855. They had a daughter at Potts Point in December 1855, and a second daughter at home at Tinley Terrace Forbes Street Sydney in January 1857. The eldest child, Annie Elizabeth, died at Tinley Terrace in July 1857, aged 19 months. Mrs Want gave birth to another daughter at Parramatta on 9 April 1858, so it appears the family moved to *Woodside* in late 1857 or early 1858.⁶

³ Schedule in Land Title, Book 47 No. 591, 16 January 1857

⁴ Advertisements (Adv.) *Sydney Morning Herald* (SMH), 16 January 1855 p. 8, 24 December 1855, p. 7

⁵ Land Title, Conveyance, W. Bowman to G. Want, Book 47 No. 591, 16 January 1857; Conveyance, W. Bowman to G. Want, Book 161 No. 378, 16 January 1857; Conveyance, W. Bowman to R.J. Want, Book 161 No.377, 16 January 1857; Conveyance, R.J. Want to G. Want, Book 55 No. 307, 7 October 1857; Adv. SMH, 18 September 1859, p. 7

⁶ SMH, 21 November 1846, p. 3S; St John's Church Parramatta Parish Records; Births SMH 4 December 1855 p. 8, 28 January 1857 p. 1, Deaths 7 July 1857 p. 1, Births 12 April 1858 p. 1

At a quarter to nine on the morning of Saturday 10 July 1858, George Want boarded a train at Parramatta Junction on his way to work at his city office. The train consisted of a steam locomotive and tender, two horse boxes and six carriages. It had travelled about four kilometres when the horse boxes suddenly jumped off the rails, dragging three of the carriages with them. They careered along for about 300 metres before crashing over an embankment. George Want and a 38-year-old woman, Sarah Hackett, were killed and four other passengers, members of the Cater family of Parramatta Junction, were injured in what was the colony's first serious rail accident.⁷

The trustees of Want's will offered *Woodside* for sale by auction in September 1859. A press advertisement described it as a pretty brick building with shingled roof, containing a front and back veranda, entrance hall, drawing and dining rooms, and two bedrooms on the ground floor with three bedrooms upstairs. The home was said to be a most comfortable family residence, erected without regard to cost, although the staircase to the upstairs section and plastering were unfinished. It took over 12 months to finalise a sale to Doctor John E. Stacy, who had been in the colony more than 30 years. Doctor Stacy was born in London in 1799 and although orphaned at the age of nine, received a good education, and was admitted to the Royal College of Surgeons in 1820. Eight years later he was appointed surgeon to the Australian Agricultural Company (AACo) at Port Stephens in New South Wales. He arrived in Sydney on the *Magnet* to take up the appointment in October 1828, accompanied by his wife Jane and two children. He remained with the AACo for seven years, but in 1838 had a medical practice in Elizabeth Street Sydney. He moved to a farm near Port Macquarie in the following year, and started another practice. Then followed another move, this time to Newcastle, where he was Colonial Surgeon from 1848 to 1855. He was also appointed magistrate and district coroner, and was Warden of the Newcastle District Council from 1854 to 1859. Jane Stacy died of scarlet fever, aged 48, in November 1854, leaving him a widower with seven sons and four daughters. On 4 February 1858 he married Elicia Antonia Beit and they had two sons, the first at Newcastle in 1859.⁸

Doctor Stacy resigned from Newcastle Hospital and as Warden of Newcastle Council in late 1860 and moved his family to *Woodside* Parramatta Junction. In January 1861 he presided over hearings in the Parramatta magistrates court, and also began improvements to his estate, including the erection of a stone building containing a stable, coach-house, harness rooms, and hay loft. But his tenure at *Woodside* would be short. His brother-in-law, William Beit, had become a partner in Westbrook Station, a large pastoral property near Toowoomba in Queensland, and there was apparently pressure to join him. Just before Elicia gave birth to a son at *Woodside* in August 1861, the estate was for sale again, promoted in a property advertisement as 'a most comfortable family residence', and 'a summer residence or place of healthful resort'. In late November 1861 the family moved to Toowoomba where Doctor Stacy built a new

⁷ *SMH* 12 July 1858 pp.4, 5; Fowlie, p. 40

⁸ Stacy spelt Stacey in many documents. *Australian Dictionary of Biography* selects Stacy; Adv *SMH*, 18 September 1859 p. 7: Land Title, Conveyance R. Want and others to J. Stacy, Book 70, No. 674, 20 December 1860; J.C. Benson, 'Stacy, John Edward (1799–1881)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Online editions <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/stacy-john-edward-4631/text7629> accessed 2 September 2011

home and established a medical practice. He left Australia in 1872 and returned to England where he died in 1881.⁹

Doctor Stacy sold *Woodside* on 12 November 1861 to a former colleague at the Australian Agricultural Company, Charles Hall. Hall was a respected figure in the New South Wales pastoral industry during a 30-year career with AACo. The company was formed in England in 1824 to invest capital in agriculture and the wool industry in New South Wales. It is still in business today, as Australia's largest beef cattle producer. After an unhappy start on unsuitable land for sheep near Port Stephens, AACo was able to establish a successful enterprise in the Liverpool Plains and Peel River valley. Charles Hall was one of its first employees. When the company sent 729 sheep, culled from the best French and Saxon flocks, to New South Wales in two ships, he was among the 27 men selected to accompany them. They arrived in Sydney in November 1825, but as a site for the new settlement had yet to be decided, the sheep were taken to a temporary property at 'The Retreat', a farm west of Parramatta. A small number of horses and cattle were held for the time being at John Macarthur's Elizabeth Farm at Rose Hill. Hall, a wool sorter in England, was employed because of his knowledge of English and continental wool markets. He also had relatives in the colony, including Edward Smith Hall, Editor of *The Monitor* newspaper and founder of the Benevolent Society, who was a cousin. After the settlement was established at Port Stephens, Charles Hall became Sheep Superintendent, and his brother Henry was appointed to take charge of cattle in 1831. In 1832 Charles Hall accompanied the company's resident commissioner, Sir Edward Parry, and surveyor Henry Dangar on their exploration to find better land for the company's sheep. AACo's sheep were subsequently transferred to Warrah on the Liverpool Plains and the Peel River near Tamworth. After the change, Hall was based first at Tamworth, and from 1841 at Goonoo Goonoo as manager of the head station. He was later appointed a Justice of the Peace and magistrate, and returning officer for the Liverpool Plains and Gwydir Electorate in 1851. Hall and AACo parted company after the Peel River Land and Mineral Company was formed to buy Goonoo Goonoo station in January 1853. In May that year he purchased *Yeumburra*, a 1,750 property near Yass that he turned into a merino stud. Hall was 42 when he married 21-year-old Hannah Titcume at Port Stephens on 21 October 1846. They produced eight children; their only son, Charles Castle, took over the management of *Yeumburra* as a 16-year-old in 1875.¹⁰

Two months after Hall became the owner of *Woodside*, he agreed to allow another doctor, James Robertson, to move into the estate as a tenant. Doctor Robertson was born at Oxminster in the England county of Devon in about 1822. He sailed for New Zealand in 1853, about 10 years after qualifying as a doctor, and came to Sydney in 1855. He had a practice in Wynyard Square in the city, as well as appointments to the Odd Fellows Medical Institute and St Vincent's Hospital. In August 1856 he was appointed to the nine-man Board of Examiners in the Faculty of Medicine at Sydney

⁹ *Maitland Mercury*, 21 August 1860; *SMH*, 10 November 1860, 15 January 1861 p. 6; D. Denholm, 'Beit, William (1829–1872)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/beit-william-2965/text4317>, accessed 2 September 2011; *SMH* Births 10 August 1861 p. 1, Adv. 23 May 1861 p. 7; Australian Medical Pioneers Index, <http://www.medicalpioneers.com/cgi-bin/index.cgi?detail=1&id=1478>, accessed 7 July 2011

¹⁰ Land Title, Conveyance, J. Stacy and others to C. Hall, Book 75 No. 482, 12 November 1861 ; J. Ferry, *Thematic History of Parry Shire*, pp 27-29, undated; W.E.R. Wilson, *A History of the Australian Agricultural Company*, Newcastle Regional Library, p. 5; *Sydney Gazette*, 14 November 1825 p. 2; S. Hall, *Yeumburra and the Hall family*, Bushell Press, Auburn NSW, 1979, p. 22, pp. 92/93

University. He died at *Woodside* in November 1862, aged 39, after suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis for many years.¹¹

Charles Hall moved to *Woodside* from Yass after Doctor Robertson's death. He had tried to find a buyer for the Yass property in 1860 but was unsuccessful. However after more than three years at Parramatta Junction, he decided to return to the land. In April 1866, Hall advertised *Woodside* 'For sale or to let, furnished or unfurnished'. He delayed moving when his wife became pregnant, but the baby was stillborn. So in September 1867 they sold their furniture at auction and returned to Yass. He had found a long-term tenant, however, in District Court judge Frederick William Meymott, who lived there from early 1868 until 1874. After Judge Meymott left, George F. Hughes moved in with his family and ran a boarding school for boys known as Hughes's Academy, but shifted the following year to Vauxhall House, the former Vauxhall Inn.¹²

Hall finally sold *Woodside* after owning it for 13 years. William Merrett, a wholesale draper and auctioneer, the son of a tailor and hatter in the village of Thornbury in Gloucestershire, England, paid £900 for the estate in November 1874. He and his brother George had arrived in Sydney on the *Oakley* in 1851, but returned to England the following year. On coming back to the colony in 1854, he opened a store on South Head Road after buying the stock of a bankrupt draper. He was in business in Pitt Street Sydney a year later, and in various parts of the city over the next 20 years. He described himself as a warehouseman, and operated as a wholesale and retail draper and auctioneer. He became briefly insolvent when a partnership went sour in 1861, but bounced back. Merrett enlarged the estate with the purchase of some adjacent land when trustees of the will of the late Randolph Want offered it for auction in July 1876. He successfully bid £307 for four parcels, including frontages to Boomerang, Bennelong and Barker streets, and eight acres between *Woodside's* southern boundary and what was called the Government Road (now Merrylands Road). Merrett lived there for a while, about 1875, before moving to a new house he built in William Street, known as Thornbury Lodge, where he died in October 1878, aged 61. Merrett bequeathed £500 to his brother, George, and the rest of his estate to his wife of 21 years, Caroline Agnes. Four years after his death, Caroline married Granville builder George Coates, who inherited Thornbury Lodge on her death in 1902.¹³

When Merrett decided to sell *Woodside*, there was someone else with a connection with AACo interested in buying. Frederic Lethbridge King was the sixth son of naval officer, hydrographer and former AACo resident commissioner, Phillip Parker King, and a grandson of the third governor of New South Wales, Philip Gidley King. Frederic King was born in London in 1825 and came to Australia with his mother and three brothers in 1827, when he was two, and his father was on one of his voyages. The family lived on a farm at South Creek (St Marys) for several years, and Frederic was 14 when his

¹¹ Australian Medical Pioneers Index, <http://www.medicalpioneers.com/cgi-bin/index.cgi?detail=1&id=652> accessed 7 July 2011; *SMH* Deaths, 20 November 1862 p. 1

¹² Adv. SMH 27 February 1860 p. 7; Adv. SMH 11 April 1866 p. 6, Births 22 October 1866 p 1, Adv. 30 August 1867, p. 7; Fowlie, p. 46

¹³ NSW Death Certificate, 08811/1878; Land Title, Conveyance, C. Hall to W. Merrett, Book 146 No. 345, 3 November 1874; *SMH*, shipping lists, 25 August 1851 p. 2, 15 September 1854 p. 4 ;Land Title, Conveyance, Want Trustees to W. Merrett, Book 163 No. 163, 14 September 1876; Fowlie, p. 46; State Records NSW: Supreme Court Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, Probate documents, Series 3/2912, W. Merrett, 28-10-1878; NSW Marriage Registration, 1440/1882; *SMH* Funerals 6 January 1902, p. 10

father was appointed AACo Commissioner in 1839. He took up land at Tenterfield in northern New South Wales in the early 1850s and became manager of Tenterfield station in 1854. During his time at Tenterfield he was appointed a Justice of the Peace and magistrate. Marriage to Mary Jane Lethbridge in 1857 produced eight children born at Tenterfield, Morpeth, Parramatta and Ashfield, before she died in 1873, aged 47. In 1862 King was appointed Manager of Government Asylums for the Infirm and Destitute, a position he held for 26 years until his retirement from the public service in 1888. The institutions under his control included the Parramatta and Liverpool asylums, the Hyde Park Asylum for Aged and Destitute Women and the Benevolent Asylum for Destitute Women and Children. He died at his Ashfield home *Gidleigh* in July 1895.¹⁴

Frederic King paid £3,300 for the 40-acre estate on 13 December 1877. A Mr M. Asher of Elizabeth Street City rented the property in 1878, but obviously found it was too far from the bright lights of Sydney, for he placed a newspaper advertisement stating: ‘Mr M. Asher wants to rent residence in or near town’. In March 1879 he advertised that he had moved from *Woodside* to ‘Asher’s Cottage Manly Beach’.¹⁵

King sold *Woodside* to Judge Ernest Brougham Docker in April 1880 for £3,600, and within two months the judge had re-named the estate *Carhullen*. Ernest Docker was born in 1842 on the family property at Scone, in the Upper Hunter district. His father Joseph, a member of the New South Wales Legislative Council for 25 years, was a doctor who had come to Australia with his wife and one child in 1834. Ernest Docker won a scholarship in 1860 to enter St Paul’s College at Sydney University, and after graduating B.A in 1863, and M.A. in 1867, he was admitted to the Bar. He became a crown prosecutor for the northern district in 1875 and was appointed a judge of the District Court in 1881, serving in the north-western and western districts before transferring to the Metropolitan District Court in 1912. He retired from the judiciary in 1918, and died, aged 81, in 1923. Part of the estate was broken up into villa sites that were offered for sale at auction in October 1880. Land in a second subdivision, known as the Carhullen Estate, was advertised for sale in May 1910. Carhullen House was demolished in the 1960s.¹⁶

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¹⁴ *The family of Governor King*, King Family Reunions Committee, 2006, pp. 113, 114; *SMH* 27 June 1888 p. 7, Death Notice, 19 July 1895 p. 1

¹⁵ Land Title, Conveyance, W. Merrett to F. King, Book 175 No. 856, 13 December 1877; Adv. *SMH* 26 July 1878 p. 8, 24 December 1878 p. 10, 15 March 1879. p. 10;

¹⁶ Land Title Conveyance, F. King to E. Docker, Book 203 No. 816, 16 June 1880; Address in *SMH* Birth notice, 22 June 1880, p. 1

