

Published by Granville Historical Society Inc.



The Granville Guardian

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Volume 18 Issue 4

May 2011

The next general meeting of the Granville Historical Society will be held at 2.00 pm on Saturday 28th May 2011
at our Research Centre
62 Railway Parade Granville
Executive Meeting 1.00 pm
Guest Speaker
June Bullivant
65th Anniversary end of World War 2

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT May 2011

Granville Historical Society

A Place where heritage & culture are valued & celebrated

Monday the 23rd May we pulled down the display *River Reflections-River of Stories* at the Parramatta Heritage Centre. This has been a very popular display especially with the locals; we have not got the numbers yet but I believe by all reports that it has been very successful. We had an email from the Council Officer who looks after the grants, he was very impressed. Other reports from members are that people have spent up to three hours looking at all the photographs & paintings. Thank you to all who participated in this project, if it was to collect and name images of the rivers, collect family images, lend artefacts or images or contribute paintings for the display or offer physical work, we thank you for your contribution, a job well done. During our work on the River Reflections, we had material from other Societies; we would like to thank the Holroyd & Guildford Group, Parramatta & District Historical Society, the Parramatta Art Society, and the Darug Tribal Aboriginal Corporation for their contribution.

We have three new projects, I will endeavor to explain them, one is the *From Lebanon to where the Eels lie down*, and we were successful in obtaining a grant from Parramatta City Council, a big thank you to Council for allowing us to add to our collection and research of the area. If any member has knowledge of or images, we would be pleased to receive copies, or we can come and copy with our mobile copying service.

Number two, we have collected many images, books and resource material on the Aboriginal people and we have been asked to help with a PowerPoint presentation (using the material that we have collected) by the Darug Tribal Aboriginal Corporation, we are also working helping with research and man power compiling a list and hopefully

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obtaining images of the participation of Aboriginal people who have served our country in war.

Number three, we are working with Kim Phillips from the *Spirits of Gallipoli*, assisting with images and information, and Kim is sharing her information with us. With the help of the past two grants from the Department of Veteran Affairs we have been able to purchase images and veterans' records, and we are preparing for the vast volley of commemorations from 2014 until 2018 to remember our men and women who served our country in times of war.

Members who are descendants of Parramatta City Pioneers and would like to have their stories published, please submit them to Colin Humphreys our editor at granvillehistorical@bigpond.com, this will help Colin and reduce his research time a bit, please include references with your stories.

Barry G Bullivant OAM
President

APRIL SPEAKER

Kim Phillips was the guest speaker at our April meeting.

She explained how the *Spirits of Gallipoli* project was started to provide available information on the men of the AIF who are either buried or commemorated at Gallipoli.

The project will provide details of sources, including reference books, newspapers and general sources where photos and information on the men can be found.

The final result will be a DVD that contains all information collected about the men, a book that highlights some of the men in detail, their lives and deaths at Gallipoli, and a website – that provides indexes and information.

Their website is:

<http://www.spirits-of-gallipoli.com/index.htm>

THE REVEREND ALFRED ROSS

The Reverend A.E.J. Ross was Rector of St Mark's Church of England Granville for more than 20 years, from 1901 to 1922, a period of dynamic growth in the town's population and industrial development.

Alfred Ernest Jones Ross was born in Launceston Tasmania in 1868 and graduated from Melbourne University in March 1894, a Bachelor of Arts with Second Class Honours in History and Third Class in Philosophy. An Honours degree entitled him to be admitted to an M.A. degree without further thesis or examination, under the rules

then current. This was awarded in March 1896, after he had entered the church and been appointed to a curacy at Tamworth in northern New South Wales.¹

At some stage during his time in Tamworth he would have met Frances Margaret Rutledge, the youngest daughter of James and Lucy Ann Rutledge. James had arrived in Sydney from County Leitrim in Ireland in 1840 and married Lucy Ann Field in 1842 in the Wesleyan Methodist Church at Windsor. He worked as a teacher and headmaster in church and public schools in Castlereagh, Sydney, Parramatta and several other centres over the next two decades. His eldest son, Arthur (Sir Arthur Rutledge) was an ordained Methodist Minister who had a successful career in politics and the law. He was Queensland Attorney General in the 1890s, and was also a barrister and a judge. Another son was the Reverend William Woolls Rutledge, who was the prime mover in the merger of the Wesleyan Methodist, Primitive Methodist and Free Methodist churches in 1902, and the first president of the United Methodist Church of Australia. A third son was the Reverend David Rutledge, who was the first doctor trained at the Sydney University Medical School.²

At Tamworth on 9 February 1887, Frances Rutledge married John Scott Connal. Connal's father, John (Senior) was a managing partner of the 33,000 acre *Surveyor's Creek* station, one of the Walcha districts oldest pastoral properties, established in 1836. In the 1850s, the partnership between Connal and Francis Jamison had run the larger 66,000 acre *Walcha* station, but had been forced to sell by the mortgagee. After five short years, Frances's marriage ended in March 1892, when her husband died unexpectedly at the age of 30. Four years later on 16 December 1896, Frances Connal married the Reverend A.E.J. Ross in St Andrew's Cathedral Sydney. Ross became stepfather to eight-year-old Norman Scott Connal, the only child of Frances's first marriage. Norman attended Fort Street Model School, and after graduating from Sydney University in 1910, became well known as a teacher and school administrator in Queensland.³

Alfred Ross left Tamworth for Sydney in March 1898 to take up the appointment of Curate at St Mark's at Darling Point, and on 1 August 1901 was licensed as Rector of Granville and Guildford. Nigel Hubbard noted in his history of St Mark's that Ross made an immediate impact on his new parish. He introduced weekday church services, commenced a quarterly parish magazine, and urged that the church debt, which the parish had struggled to reduce over the past 15 years, be wiped out as quickly as possible. This was accomplished by the end of 1901. A new rectory, designed by architect Rutledge Louat, was completed next to the church in Jamieson Street in 1904, and in 1912 the Rector urged the parish to raise sufficient funds 'with all speed' to enlarge the church in accordance with the original plan drawn up by the colonial architect Edmund Blacket. He would have to wait eight years, however, before a start could be made, but on 30 July 1920 the Governor Sir Walter Davidson laid the foundation stone for the additions. The new chancel was dedicated to the memory of the

¹ N. Hubbard, *One hundred years St Mark's Granville 1882-1982*, p. 23

² NSW Birth registrations; *The Queenslander*, 14 October 1899, p. 746; J.Gill, 'Rutledge, Sir Arthur (1843 - 1917)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*; M.Rutledge, 'Rutledge, William (1806 - 1876)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Online Edition, <http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/>
NSW Marriage registrations; *Sydney Morning Herald*, 23 September 1905, p. 9

³ Family Notices, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 24 February 1887 p. 1, 19 March 1892, p. 1, 14 October 1896 p. 1; M. Persse, 'Connal, Norman Scott (1888-1969)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography* online edition, <http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/>

Rector's late wife, Frances, who had died the previous year, and Mr Ross pledged to pay for it from his own pocket. The architect was 27-year-old Ralph Rutledge, Frances Ross's nephew, and a cousin of J. Rutledge Louat, who had designed the rectory.⁴

Frances Ross was credited with having been largely responsible for the completion of the church and other projects at St Mark's through 'her initiative, enthusiasm and self-sacrifices'. She died at St Mark's Rectory on 27 November 1919 after a long illness.⁵ Another person who worked hard for the parish was Ida Jane Haslingden Harkness, a wealthy grazier's daughter from Cooma. She had come to Granville in 1907 when her widowed mother purchased *Sutherland House* at Merrylands and re-named it *Locksley Hall*. Ida Harkness moved to central Granville when her mother died in 1916, and over the years proved to be one of St Mark's most generous parishioners. She was a good friend of Alfred and Frances Ross, and 13 months after Frances's death she and the Rector married on 1 January 1921.⁶

The Reverend Mr Ross took 12 months leave of absence throughout 1921, and when he and his pregnant wife returned to Granville in January 1922 he announced he had accepted an appointment to the parish of Enmore. When the time came for the baby to be born two months later, 40-year-old Ida had a difficult birth. The baby, Francis Ernest Harkness Ross, was safely delivered at Christ Church Rectory Enmore on 22 March 1922, but his mother suffered acute strangulation of intestine and cardiac failure, and died four days later at Braeside Private Hospital Stanmore.⁷

Alfred Ross remained at Enmore for three years. In July 1925 he was inducted as Rector of St Giles Greenwich, and in the same year married Mildred Ash, daughter of Mr and Mrs William Ash of Killara. He died of coronary thrombosis on 18 October 1935, aged 67. His son Francis, then aged 13, continued to live with his stepmother at Wahroonga, attended Barker College, and was accepted into the Royal Military College Duntroon in the A.C.T. in 1941. He graduated as a lieutenant at the end of 1942, was posted to the 2/4th Artillery Field Regiment, and served in New Guinea in 1943. The unit was moved back to Australia early the following year, but returned to the war front in Borneo in June 1945. The war was nearly over when Lieutenant Ross saw action again. Then four-and-a-half weeks before Japan announced its surrender, he was fatally wounded in heavy fighting at Balikpapan.⁸

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⁴ *Sydney Morning Herald*, 26 March 1898 p. 12, N. Hubbard, St Mark's history, p. 23; *From a Distant Field*, <http://members.pcug.org.au/~cfield/distantf/FOUR1.htm> Accessed 20 May 2011;

⁵ *Cumberland Argus*, 4 August 1920, p. 1; *Sydney Morning Herald*, 29 November 1919, p. 12

⁶ Monaro Pioneers website, www.monaropioneers.com, ; *Cumberland Argus*, 3 January 1921, p. 2

⁷ N. Hubbard, St Mark's history, p. 28; *Sydney Morning Herald*, 28 March 1922, p. 1; NSW Death Certificate 1284/1922

⁸ N. Hubbard, St Mark's history; *Sydney Morning Herald*, 21 October 1935, p. 11; National Archives of Australia, World War II Army Personnel Records, Series B883, NX138182, <http://naa12.naa.gov.au/NameSearch/Interface/ItemDetail.aspx?Barcode=5635612>