



Granville Guardian

Patron :The Hon Laurie Ferguson

President's Report.

Happy New Year to everyone. 2018 is our **30 Anniversary, 24th February 2.00 pm** your committee has been discussing our procedures and we have decided to change our ways from having formal meetings every month, it has been decided that they be held every two months, the odd month will be an open day starting at 1.00 pm. At the moment we have not set in concrete what will occur, but await your suggestions on what you would like to do, research, learn computer, workshops or just do your own research on your family research of any kind, it may end up a bit of everything. **RSVP for the 24th by the 19 February 2018.**

Our proposed calendar is on the last page, we may not send our a newsletter every month either, we welcome our new editor Harry Stephens, his article appears in this issue. I don't know if this masthead will stay, we need a graphic artist, to assist with that. We have been extremely busy over the break, new research encompassing new topics and answering the many queries received via email. The newsletter will be sent out in the middle of the month to try and beat Australia Post slow mail.

A big thank you to Arthur Naylor, Vince Hanley, Beverley Clohessy, Alice Kershaw for their time and effort in attending the 41st Granville Train Disaster Memorial, Vince transported our boards to the Granville Town Hall and they arranged the photographic display, which is always well received. The Rotary Club of Granville cooked a Sausage sizzle lunch and the Granville Train Disaster Committee organised the day.

The work we have been doing for our Parramatta research project has been done on the social history of early Parramatta has been extremely interesting, not just the governors but the Aboriginal inhabitants, and the ordinary people like public servants, colonial settlers, watermen, school teachers, clerks, constables, clergymen, medical people, bridge builders, convicts, artists and their precious images of the early colony.

June has been examining new ways of getting our history to a wider audience, to this effect the Parramatta project has hyperlinks so the community can access our history without leaving home. Also she has created a number of video's of varying lengths and put them on Youtube.

The Staff Family Of Parramatta and Granville

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=35cVZwGqRtl&t=12s>

The Granville Train Disaster.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LrpYnl81PkE&t=38s>

World War 1 Granville Soldiers

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DCNC9mNTZXg>

Female Convicts Parramatta.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vFsa1uaUXT8>

The Scots of Granville

'For that is the mark of the Scots of all classes....that he remembers and cherishes the memory of his forebears, good or bad and there burns alive in him a sense of identity with the dead even to the twentieth generation.'

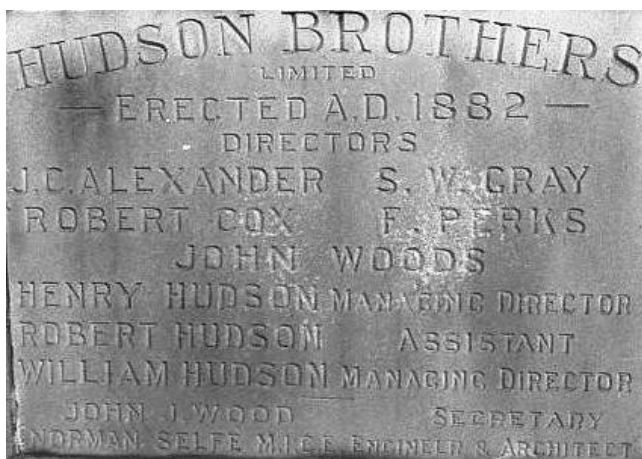
Robert Louis Stevenson

The modern day suburb of Granville stands close to the geographic heart of Sydney. It is a suburb with a strong multicultural edge and is proving attractive to home buyers who wish to live close to the emerging second CBD of Parramatta or who wish to avail themselves to the transport links which take many of its residents the employment hubs closer to the city of Sydney.

Since the arrival of white European settlement in the early days of the colony of Sydney the area now known as Granville has moved beyond the open forests of its early days, through successive waves of orchards and dairies to the era of industrialisation. During the century and a half that encompassed these changes many individuals as well as ethnic groups contributed a great deal to the development of this area. The group upon which I intend to focus in this article was made up of people who for a variety of reasons had emigrated to Australia from Scotland.

The exodus of Scots to Australia started slowly in the late 18th century with army officers, convicts and administrators heading for Botany Bay. During the 19th century a figure of 250,000 was the probable number of Scots immigrants to Australia. Many of these, especially those from a farming background in Scotland gravitated to the rural areas of Australia but equally many chose to remain in the larger urban centres such as Sydney which afforded close proximity to the various services such as education and health. But more importantly there was the prospect of employment in the industries being developed in the local area. These employment opportunities corresponded with the technological changes that were occurring in the middle third of the 19th century in both Scotland and Australia. This brought with it new products which meant a greater demand for a variety of new skills in areas such as engineering which brought with it more jobs and higher wages. Granville was to develop as one of these centres of technological change. By the latter part of the 19th century a significant number of Scots had chosen to live in the Granville/Clyde area because of its proximity to heavy industry such as that carried on by firms such as Hudson Brothers and the opportunity for employment it provided.

In the Cumberland Mercury of July 6th 1881 we read that "two of the Hudson Bros had been at Granville viewing the site for their future workshops". This firm carried out "the better class of work in joinery

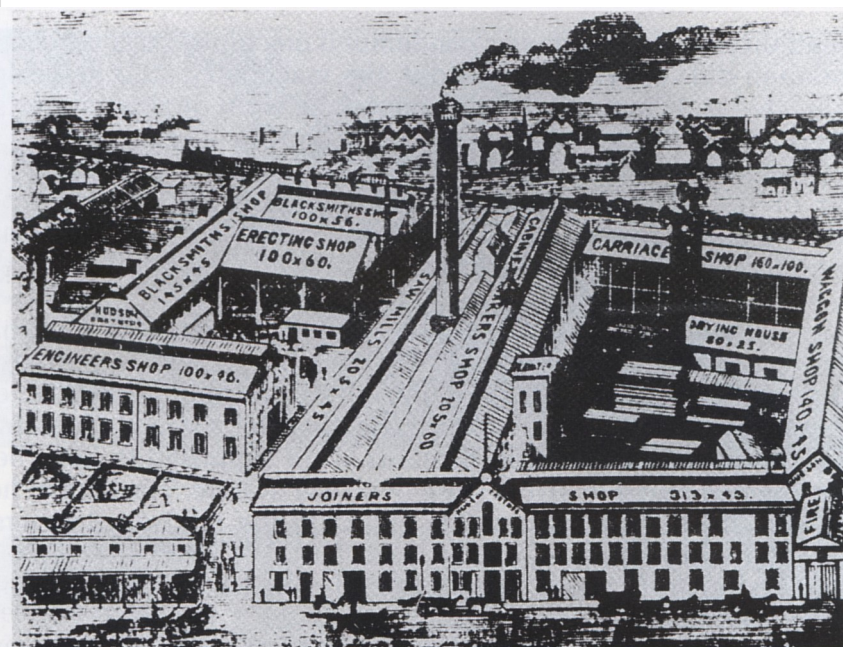


and cabinet making in Sydney" and were now seeking to operate on a more extensive scale. According to the writer, this would mean that "a huge stream of population would cause to roll to the 'Junction' which would benefit our rising population to a vast degree". The key to this expansion was the growth of the NSW railway system and the work that it generated in terms of the construction of rolling stock. On several occasions the company engaged skilled ironworkers from Scotland to come and labour in the new works. These skilled immigrants from Scotland brought with them aspects of Celtic culture such as religion and sport which are still present in the Granville of today.

To look at these influences on the development of Granville we need to look at some of those who arrived in the final two decades of the 19th century.

The earliest recorded example of the recruitment of skilled ironworkers by the Hudson Bros occurred in 1882 with the arrival of eighteen young Scots for the Granville engineering works at Clyde. These men had been interviewed in Scotland and had been offered a position on the basis of their trade skills. Among these new immigrants was William Picken. Picken was 31 years of age when he arrived in Sydney with his wife and two children. Eight more children were subsequently born in Australia. A blacksmith by trade, he retired in 1914 after 32 years of service with Hudson Bros and Clyde Engineering after which he worked in the New South Wales Government Railways workshops at Eveleigh. In 1914 prior to the commencement of the Great War he and his wife had taken a trip back to Scotland where they "had a most enjoyable time with relatives and friends". They were there when hostilities had broken out which meant that their voyage home was not without danger.

Picken died in 1915. In his memorial he is described as "a hard and honest worker", a man who "did not seek the limelight or shove himself forward in public matters". He served for some time on Auburn Council, together with Jack Lang who was later on to become State Premier. Finally the Granville district spoke of "the fine manly qualities which he possessed. Among the references to William Picken in the newspapers of the day are two references to his membership of the Sir Walter Scott Masonic Lodge. These references refer to the Masonic Balls at Granville in 1903 and 1909 and on both occasions Picken was a prominent member of the organising committees. He was also mentioned as "convulsing his listeners with his excruciatingly funny comic song 'Stop that tickling, Jock'" in 1903, while in 1909 Mr J R Neilson (another from the original 1882 group of Scottish tradesmen) is mentioned as conducting the Grand March with "the assistance of his long-term friend and brother Scot, Bro William Picken of Auburn". Martha Picken, one of William's children, married Thomas Andrews in 1927. Tommy Andrews represented Australia at cricket, playing 16 tests and was related to T J Andrews, one of the more prominent undertakers in Sydney for many years.



The Hudson Brothers Redfern works in 1879, ready for rolling stock construction

John Robert Neilson, later of 'Ayrshire' The Trongate, Granville, was another from the 1882 consignment of skilled labour from Scotland. Neilson is mentioned in 1914 as standing for election in the local Granville municipal elections. He was standing for election on the basis of the interest "he had taken in the welfare of Granville for the last ten years". In 1929 Neilson was to die as the result of injuries suffered in a motor car accident at Prospect.

Hudson Bros continued to import the best and most qualified tradesmen for their Granville works and two years after the arrival of the first group, a second group arrived among whom was numbered William Fox. Fox's

trade was listed on the ship's passenger manifest as 'carriage maker' which fitted in nicely with the direction in which Hudson Bros was now moving with the New South Wales railways as one of their clients. Among the Fox children who arrived with their parents was three-year old Robert and it is with his story that we will take up.

It is not as a tradesman that we pick up Robert's story two decades after his arrival but rather as a dairyman living in Ferndell Street Granville. This may have been due to a relation who seems to have run a dairy for some time in the suburb of Ashfield before moving across to Granville.

We learn that in 1912 Fox and his partner William Chalmers were prosecuted and fined for "failure to keep clean premises for the storage of milk". The drainage of the site "was deemed to be defective"; "the drainage of the place was unsatisfactory" and "a foot of slush had to be waded through before the drinking troughs were reached". The result was a not insignificant fine of five pounds with court costs of three shillings and sixpence.

Fox more than made up for this transgression when four years later he enlisted in the AIF for service overseas. He became one of a number of Granville residents with a Scottish connection to take this very important and courageous step. He enlisted as a private and by war's end had risen to the rank of sergeant. He served in France where he was wounded and as the result of "conspicuous service" he was "Mentioned in the Despatches" of Sir Douglas Haig, the Allied Commander in Europe. He married his wife Jessie in 1915 and they went on to have three children, one of whom, Ronald, drowned in a canoeing accident in Duck River in 1933. After returning from his war service his family lived in Archibald Street Granville where his occupation was listed as 'labourer'. He died in 1952.

Another of the Scottish group in the Granville area in the early years of the 20th century who was involved in World War One was John Basil McCaw. McCaw was born in Scotland in 1877 and spent his early years in Australia working in the merchant marine for the shipping firm of Burns, Philp who were engaged in trade with the islands to the north of Australia. We are told that he married Mary Davidson, from Blaxcell Street Granville in 1915. We next hear of McCaw in 1919 when he returned to Australia after the Armistice having spent nine months in a German POW camp after his ship was captured and sunk by a German raider while on its way to Rabaul. He later on returned to the sea working for the same company and we next hear about him from Singapore in 1941 in the time immediately prior to the outbreak of war with Japan. He is referred to as Captain J B McCaw and is described as a "worthy veteran of the sea" and a "gentleman of the old school". He died in 1965 and is buried near Adelaide.

These two men are a representative sample of those people from a Scottish background who volunteered to fight for the Mother Country in the Great War. Of the thirty or so with a direct connection with Granville most had arrived with their parents in the final decade of the 19th century although some like John McCaw had arrived in Australia as adults.

Among the cultural aspects which followed most of these Scottish immigrants to Australia and then to Granville was membership of the Presbyterian Church. The impetus for the foundation of the Granville Presbyterian Church was the arrival in the local area of those eighteen tradespeople mentioned earlier who had been recruited by the Hudson Bros to work in their facility at Clyde. The first gathering of these new arrivals from Scotland was held at the workmen's dining room at the Hudson Bros works while the next meeting was held at the local School of Arts. A permanent church structure was built and opened for use in 1885. It was built with borrowed money and "saddled with a very heavy debt". The majority of the committee charged with the running of the local church were described as "men of no business ability or financial status". A succession of ministers tended to the needs of their congregation to the best of their ability but the financial state of the local church proved to be a continuing burden.

In 1925, in order to cater for the needs of a large Scottish population in the south-eastern corner of the parish, an additional church, "a fine weatherboard building was erected by voluntary labour". It was situated in The Trongate and was thus given the name of 'The Tron Kirk'. 'The Trongate' is one of the oldest streets back in the Scottish city of Glasgow located in the area of the Merchant City known as 'Old Glasgow'. In Granville 'New Glasgow Park' is the name of a reserve adjoining Duck River, between Sixth and Seventh Streets. 'New Glasgow' is the former name of the local area when it was subdivided for industrial and residential purposes in the 1870's.

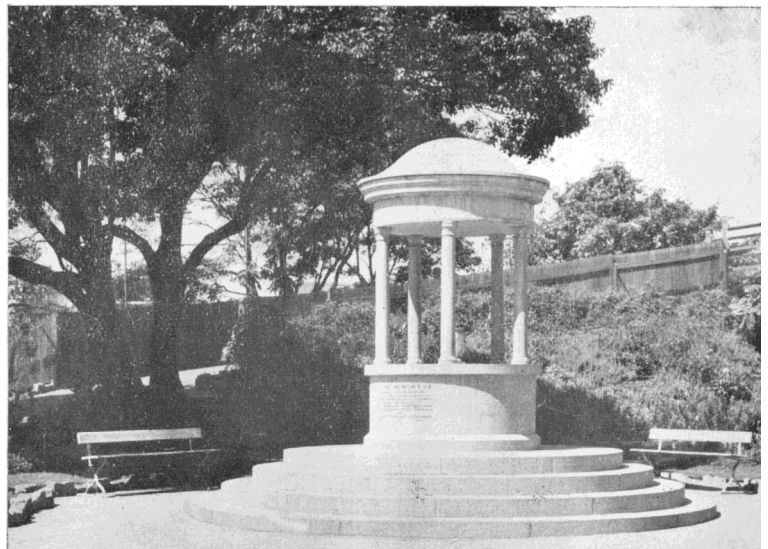


Another aspect of the Scottish culture that made its appearance at Granville in the late 19th century was the game of soccer. The local Granville 'District Soccer Football Association' is often referred to as the birthplace of soccer in Australia. A number of those men who arrived from Scotland at this time to work for Hudson Bros also made a name for themselves on the soccer field.

The first captain of the local team was John Reid Neilson and he was succeeded by William Baillie, another of the Hudson Bros 'originals'. Presbyterianism was not the only Scottish religion to find its way to Granville. *This above photograph was found in the Parramatta Heritage Centre Archives from the work of Eddie Billett. Granville Soccer Football Club and Foundation Committee.*

<http://arc.parracity.nsw.gov.au/blog/2015/11/11/new-acquisitions-granville-district-soccer-football-association/>

These observations on the impact of Scottish migration to Granville in the latter years of the 19th century and the early years of the 20th century have focused on what would be termed as the middle to working class sections of the society of the time. I will end with a reference to someone who belonged for a large part of his life to what may be termed the middle to upper class sections of society. I am referring to John Colquhoun. Colquhoun had arrived in Australia in 1887 as an immigrant from Scotland and by the turn of the century he had the largest business in Australia dealing with second hand bags. Leaving his brother to run the business



John moved into politics, serving four terms as mayor of Granville. In May 1928 on land donated to the Granville Council by Colquhoun there was to be an official opening ceremony for the facility to be known as 'Colquhoun Park'. Unfortunately Alderman Colquhoun passed away in Auburn hospital one hour before the event was due to start. Jack Lang, leader of the opposition ALP in the state parliament, in declaring the park open, observed that "like many pioneers Mr Colquhoun came to the Granville district practically a poor man and made good. Later he became an alderman and rose to the highest position in the municipality – that of Mayor". These comments were echoed by the local MLA who said that he admired Colquhoun's "ideals and his great service for the welfare of the community". *Photograph of the monument was on the North side of the Granville Railway Station, a meeting place for people, in 2018 the memorial is situated in Colquhoun Park in South Granville.*

These comments together typify the best of the qualities that these Scottish immigrants brought with them to Granville – an undoubted capacity for hard work, an idealistic approach to life anchored solidly in their religious beliefs and a great desire to serve the new community of which they were to form such a significant part. © Harry Stephens Granville Historical Society.

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Links.

<http://www.granvillehistorical.org.au>

[Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/GranvilleHistoricalSocietyIncNswAustralia](https://www.facebook.com/GranvilleHistoricalSocietyIncNswAustralia)

[Save The Parramatta Female Factory Website.](#)

[Friends of Mays Hill Cemetery](#)

[Friends of St John's Cemetery](#)

[Friends of Linnwood](#)

“A Place where heritage & culture are valued & celebrated.”

Yearly Calendar

24 February 2018(Sat)	General meeting 2.00 pm	30th Birthday Celebrations
24 March 2018 (Sat)	Open Day Family History 1.00 pm	Members Research
28 April 2018 (Sat)	General meeting 2.00 pm	ANZAC Theme– Speaker
26 May 2018	Open Day 1.00 pm	Members Training—Research
23 June 2018	General meeting 2.00 pm	Guest Speaker
28 July 2018	Open Day 1.00 pm	Research/Training
25 August 2018	AGM 2.00 pm	Guest Speaker
22 September 2018	Open Day 1.00 pm	Research/Training
27 October 2018	General Meeting 2.00 pm	Guest Speaker
11 November 2018	Centenary of WW1 Armistice	11.00 am Sharp
24 November 2018	Christmas Party 12 Noon	Digger's Granville