

Published by Granville Historical Society Inc.



The Granville Guardian

Patron Laurie Ferguson M.P. B.Ec.(Syd) M.A.(Syd)

Volume 20 Issue 2

March 2013

The next general meeting of the Granville Historical Society will be held at 2.00 pm on Saturday 23 March 2013

**At our Research Centre
62 Railway Parade Granville
Executive Meeting 1.00 pm**

**Speaker June Bullivant OAM
A Journey with David Lennox
First Bridge Builder of Australia
A Resident of Parramatta**

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

TO CONTACT US:

Write to

**P.O. Box 320
Granville NSW 2142**

Phone:

**9682 1290 (Wed. only)
9631 0216
(Barry & June Bullivant)**

Email:

granvillehistorical@bigpond.com

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Granville Historical Society

"A Place where heritage & culture are valued & celebrated."

Well the year is off to a busy start; we have already given eight PowerPoint Presentations to various groups. Every one was well received, even the one on the Funeral industry that was given to the Westmead Rehabilitation Centre. Everyone there is recovering from an operation, so we were a bit apprehensive, but we delivered it from a family history aspect and they were very interested. Thanks to the Friends of Rookwood, Judith Dunn OAM, and Dorothy Warwick, who shared their photos for this presentation.

June and I attended the Penrith Council's Making the City Conference. This was well attended by over 200 people, and we managed to put a message out to the people present about our photographic display at Linnwood Hall on David Lennox and his works in England and Australia - over 100 images. Two hundred people attended on the day and thank you to Dorothy Warwick, Judith Dunn, and Arthur Naylor for their assistance. A good time was had by all. I estimate that in the past month we have got the message out to over a thousand people by attending functions right across Western Sydney.

June has prepared a PowerPoint presentation on the Lennox Bridge Parramatta and the life of David Lennox in England and Australia; this will be previewed at our meeting this Saturday 23 March. The intention is to deliver the PowerPoint presentation to groups across Western Sydney. We will be doing the photographic display at Linnwood House, 25 Byron Road Guildford, as part of the Holroyd Council Festivities on 14 April. This will be our contribution for Australian Heritage Week which is from the 13th until the 21st April. This is always a busy day due to the Triumph Car Club having their cars on display.

Our social media has been really successful; we have over 630 signatures now for the petition to Save the Lennox. The Greater Western Sydney Heritage Action Group (GWSHAG) has been working extremely hard on this project, attending a meeting of an environmental group ParraCan, where we spoke to the gathering. We also attended the community forum run by the State Member for Parramatta, Geoff Lee. He called the forum "Geoff on the Grill". June asked a question about the lack of Heritage Protection in NSW, and sought his support to address the balance of people on the Heritage Council of NSW. He was also asked for his support to move the proposed portal position into the FAKE ABUTMENT and the Easement in the Meriton Development. We have offered to run a public forum with a photographic display and the PowerPoint in Parramatta at his request.

The Penrith Conference was most interesting with speakers talking on the theme of Crossing the Blue Mountains. Siobhan Lavelle was the keynote speaker, and Carol Liston also spoke, as well as Andrew Tink who spoke on his family of Blaxland.

We wrote to Parramatta Council asking for a meeting with the Lord Mayor, John Chedid, about Foundation Day this year. As yet we have not had an answer, but expect to hear from them soon. The idea was to have it on the Saturday 2nd November 2013, with a landing of Captain Phillip at Queens Wharf, welcomed by the Burrumattagal Clan, walking up the river which would be lined with stalls of the many cultures that form our City of Parramatta, to open a photographic display on Parramatta Past, and thence up the Governors Walk to Old Government House, (they would have to be fit). Anyway we will do our best to sell this idea, because it is important for the residents of this city to embrace all cultures and we see this as a way of bringing together our rich cultural heritage.

We have had a letter calling us Ethnocentric and Racist (and fatherless). I can only assume that this refers to the GWSHAG and their work. It has been reported to the Rosehill Area Command, who has it well in hand; a lead was found which will be followed up. It is a shame when people imply that the passion to save our history is somehow against people and not the process. One of the people working to save the Lennox Bridge wrote this creed for the campaign for the GWSHAG.

SAVE LENNOX BRIDGE FROM ITS GUARDIANS!

THE QUESTION OR THE ANSWER

The Politicians' Creed **SAVE**, why do we bother?
 For the **Greater Good** and our **Future!**
 However, our **Past** is what makes us **Today**.
 But, **Today** is tomorrow's **Past**.
 We are the **Guardians** of the **Future**.
 So let us not destroy our **Future**,
 By destroying our **Past**.

By: Bruce Michael Edgar FRSA

Barry G Bullivant OAM

THE BOWMAN FARMS

John Bowman, one of the early free settlers in the Hawkesbury District, was also a big landholder in the early history of Granville. He owned almost 400 acres of land, including two grants made to Richard Atkins and a grant in his own name, on the southern boundary of the town of Parramatta.

John Bowman was born in 1763 in East Lothian, Scotland. He emigrated to New South Wales in 1798 on the *Barwell* as a 35-year-old carpenter with a wife and three small children, and settled on a 100 acre grant at Richmond. He was one of the few free migrants in an area populated mainly by former convicts. He gradually acquired more land and on his death in 1823 held property at Castlereagh, Eastern Creek, and Bathurst, as well as his Parramatta holdings known as the Bowman Farms - Denham Court, Denham Farm and Bowman Farm. Two of his sons, George and William Bowman – both members of the New South Wales Parliament - were also big major land owners. John Bowman was a supporter of William Bligh and was one of five men chosen by the Hawkesbury settlers to present an address of welcome to Governor Bligh in 1806.¹

Denham Court was the name of a 100 acre grant made to the controversial judge Richard Atkins in 1893. Atkins was given another grant of 145 acres, known as Denham Farm in 1898. These adjoined the Parramatta South land subdivision, the ‘old racecourse’ property subdivided by W.H. Kerr.

Both blocks were conveyed to Edward Lamb in 1805 and then Bowman acquired them in 1810 . He consolidated these holdings into a property of almost 400 acres when he received a grant of 150 acres adjoining the former Atkins properties in 1812. This land remained in the Bowman family until the late 1870s, but it was mainly occupied by tenants. Even during the forced sale of many of his possessions to meet his debts in 1809 and 1813, Bowman retained the Parramatta land, although it didn’t appear to be very productive. Atkins had begun growing wheat and maize by 1802 in paddocks cleared by convict servants. Fifty years later only about 60 acres were under cultivation with crops of wheat and barley. There was a two-storey brick house on Denham Court and a tenant named Alford was operating a boiling down works.²

On today’s street layout, the most northerly point of Bowman’s land was near the intersection of Pitt and Crown Streets, just north of the motorway. It was partly bounded on the north by Auburn Street Parramatta. The eastern border extended roughly southeast along Crown Street, thence to the Granville to Liverpool railway near about Randle Street, and then southerly to the intersection of Woodville and Merrylands Road, continuing westerly, bounded on the south by Merrylands Road until about Burnett Street, which then became the approximate western boundary.

When John Bowman died in December 1823, he left the Bowman Farms to his eldest son, John James Robson Bowman, a ship’s captain who married in India in 1836 and who was living in India when his father died. After J.J.R. Bowman’s death in April

¹ B. Fletcher, 'Bowman, John (1763–1825)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/bowman-john-1813/text2069>, accessed 19 March 2013; D. Boyd *Hawkesbury Journey*, Library of Australian History, Sydney, 1986, pp. 208-210

² NSW Land and Property Information (LPI), Old System Records, Book 161 Folio 378; G. Karskens, *Holroyd, a social history of Western Sydney*, New South Wales University Press, Kensington NSW, 1991

1853, his younger brother, William Bowman of Richmond, was appointed executor of his estate, in accordance with his will. In January 1857, William sold a nine acre block to solicitor George Want who wanted to enlarge his *Woodside* estate. The remainder of the Bowman Farms was offered as three lots at auction on 26 March 1857, and again on 22 December 1859. But no sale eventuated and the property remained largely intact, apart from about 50 acres sold as 5 to 10 acre lots. When William Bowman died at Richmond on 11 December 1874 the executors of his will put the estate on the market again. It was offered in 5 to 10 acres lots as the Denham Estate, Suburbs of Parramatta, at an auction on 11 June 1875. The estate was described as ‘occupying a beautiful position a few minutes walk from the Parramatta Junction (Granville) railway station ... with commanding views of pretty rural scenery’. The estate proved to be attractive to buyers, with 200 acres sold on the first day of the sale and a further 126 acres a week later.³

The Bowman Farms auction was the first in a series of big land sales in Parramatta Junction over the next 12 months. They included the auction of an orchard on 114 acres of the Drainwell Estate in September 1875, the sale of 300 acres of the Drainwell Estate in 5 to 6 acre lots in March 1876, and the sale of 341 lots in Castner’s subdivision in November 1876.⁴

©Colin Humphreys 2013

³ Bowman family history, <http://www.ozi-gen.com/tpg/getperson.php>; NSW LPI, Old System Records, Conveyance William Bowman to George Want, 16 January 1857, Book 47 Folio 591; Sydney Morning Herald (SMH) 13 March 1857, p.7, 22 December 1859 p. 9, 29 May 1875 p. 11, 12 June 1875 p. 7, 19 June 1875 p. 7.

⁴ Granville Centenary publication, 1980.