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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 23 February 2013

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

Speaker: President Barry Bullivant OAM  
25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Granville Historical Society

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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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Granville Historical Society

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

Happy New Year to all members. Since the last meeting Granville has been very busy. During the past year we have averaged over two PowerPoint presentations per month, some groups ask you to come back this has resulted running out of presentations, the main problem is obtaining the images to tell the story, and obtaining permission to use. This has become easier in the last few years because of the advent of Flickr etc. Many of our members are handy with a camera; hence we have photographs of all the creeks in the area, so many in fact that we have now to create disks instead of hard copy, which will be harder to maintain because of changing technology.

Over the break we have created three more talks; one is *A Tale of a Dignified Profession (Coaches, Stables and Angels)* a selection of images covering part of the funeral industry), *Down Memory Lane*, the way it was (showing how Sydney and suburbs were in bygone years and the other was the society's accomplishments over 25 years, for our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The celebration was held on Australia Day at the Granville RSL. The day was sponsored by Granville RSL Club, Guardian Funerals and Granville RSL Sub Branch, and Parramatta City Council. This resulted in a finger food luncheon and over sixty people attended. The presentation was done by Barry Bullivant. We would like to thank all the people who attended, making this a memorable occasion. We presented Guardian Funerals with a photo of a funeral procession in Parramatta showing Metcalfe and Morris which was donated to us by Janine Morgan from the Morris family. To celebrate our 25 years we have put a series of funeral indexes on our website at [www.granvillehistorical.org.au](http://www.granvillehistorical.org.au) The index is not complete but roughly covers from 1956 to 2007; some years are not finished yet, but the girls have completed over 80 lever arch files in the past few years.

Lennox Bridge update: in December the Parramatta City Council voted to put the portals through the 1836 bridge

built by convicts. The Greater Western Sydney Heritage Action Group has been working very hard to prove that this is just not a bridge but that Lennox was an important part of Parramatta. Members Judith Dunn and Dorothy Warwick lent their support to the research project which has resulted in a collection of images and information which will allow us to mount a photographic display at Linnwood House in March; Granville Historical has also undertaken to continue the research on Lennox.

GWSHAG have also connected with many photographers who have been photographing the Lennox, and have their permission to use them; this will also allow us to put a PowerPoint presentation on Lennox. In his lifetime in Australia he built fifty three bridges, of which there are only three that we can prove were built by Lennox and they are in Sydney, and one, which we hope to prove is his, is at Towrang. The RTA now the Roads and Maritime Services claim this one is a Lennox, it has all the markings of a Lennox including the date, but we need to prove this. A short History of the Parramatta research will accompany this newsletter, it has yet to be completed.

A lot of the bridges were wooden, and some of the ones like Berrima were washed away in floods, and like the Princes Bridge over the Yarra in Melbourne were demolished. If any society or person has any information or images on David Lennox and his work, we ask you to share it with us as we hope to make a collection of this work for future generations. We are looking to celebrate his landing in Australia in August 1832, and planning is underway to make this fact happen. We are working continually to try to have the decision to destroy the original fabric changed, by offering the alternatives that the Administration of Council did not explore although this was a resolution in the May minutes of the Heritage Council of NSW. The GWSHAG have a fellow working in Norway to design an alternative way.

The GWSHAG ask you to continue supporting this project by asking your friends and members to sign our petition on the Change.org site, <http://www.change.org/petitions/nsw-state-government-save-the-1836-david-lennox-heritage-listed-bridge-parramatta> and keeping up with our information on our GWSHAG Facebook page. We have joined the Better Planning Network that has over 260 groups trying to get a say on what happens in our communities. We are also working with the group fighting to retain Thompson Square at Windsor.

Our forward planning includes finishing the digitising of the Granville Multicultural Centre files, and assisting Granville Boys High School projects by producing Digital Resource Files for the school. If we are successful with the Parramatta City Council grants we will undertake research on the funeral industry from Parramatta to Rookwood and beyond. So welcome back! We look forward to another year of hard work. A big thank you to Arthur Naylor who worked over the break to make sure our equipment was working okay; both digital readers are now hooked up and running, and the backlog of family history inquiries are now up to date. Arthur, thank you for your excellent research, we have five very happy people in the last week.

**President Barry G Bullivant OAM**

## THE MUSICAL HAIGHS

Meet the Haighs, a family from Yorkshire that made a major contribution to Granville's musical life in the early 20th century. On one occasion, the local press described a concert by the Haighs' young students as the 'leading social and artistic event of the season'.<sup>1</sup>

Thomas Haigh was a church organist and pianist and the father of eight children. He was born near Huddersfield in 1858, and married Mary Elizabeth Taylor in the Linthwaite church in 1881. They lived in local townships including Golcar, Lockwood and Milnsbridge, where they had six children before migrating to New Zealand in about 1888. After two more children were born in the Bay of Plenty region, they decided to come to Australia.



(c) 1906 "Overton Villa" Jamieson Street, Granville. Thomas Haigh driving his De Dion, the first car in Granville.

Above - Thomas Haigh is pictured in 1906 at the wheel of his De Dion car, the first motor car in Granville. His youngest daughter, 13-year-old Irene Olive, is in the front passenger seat, with the eldest daughter, 24-year-old Lillian, and youngest son, six-year-old Leon in the back seat. The figure on the balcony of Overton Villa in Jamieson Street is thought to be 19-year-old Pauline Haigh. The Church of England Rectory is on the right.

The Haighs arrived in Granville in 1895, and Thomas set himself up in business in Railway Crescent near Woodville Road, selling and repairing pianos and organs. He advertised in *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, and the newspaper reciprocated with an encouraging plug in its editorial columns, describing him as 'a musician of ability' and 'an enterprising man [who] deserves the support of our people'.

<sup>1</sup> *Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate (Cumberland Argus)*, 29 December 1906, p. 2

The younger children were sent to Granville Superior Public School, and after the family had settled in to their new life, Lillian (aged 14), Arthur (13), and Vera (10) began music lessons with Alfred Barry, a highly regarded music teacher in Parramatta. They excelled as students, both in performance and music theory examinations set by the London College of Music. Lillian and Arthur played the piano and organ, and Vera the violin. Lillian began teaching in 1900 when she was 18, and prepared 12 students for the Trinity College London exams in her first year. Arthur also started taking students and the pair presented a successful end-of-year concert in December 1901, a year in which Arthur and Vera both qualified as associates of the London College of Music. When Vera became part of the teaching group in 1902, the family moved to Brookland House in Malcolm Street. Albert (Bertie), a baritone, and Pauline were also competent musicians; in 1906, she joined her siblings in their music school.<sup>2</sup>

The Haigh's second youngest son, William Richard (Willie), didn't pursue a musical career, but died a war hero. He worked in local government and qualified as a town clerk at the Local Government Clerks examination. He enlisted in the AIF in December 1915 and gained his commission the following month, eight weeks before embarking for overseas service. Lieutenant Haigh, who was 29, fought in France and Belgium from September 1916, and was wounded three times. He was awarded the Military Cross for his bravery, devotion to duty and leadership at Westhoek during the Battle of Menin Road in September 1917. On 3 October 1918 Lieutenant Haigh was badly gassed by mustard gas while delivering urgent orders to units in his battalion near the village of Joncourt. He was evacuated to England but died at Wandsworth Hospital in London on 26 November 1918 from influenza, gas shell poisoning and pneumonia. His parents travelled to London to attend his funeral.<sup>3</sup>

While his children progressed with their music, Thomas kept up his involvement with the Methodist church. He was chairman of the Granville Wesleyans before the union of the Methodist groups in 1902, and later took a leading role with the Granville Brotherhood. When the 1st Granville Scout Group was formed, Thomas helped by providing the land for its headquarters. His youngest son Leon was a founding member of the group that met initially in a shed at his home in Jamieson Street. They then transferred their headquarters to land he owned. When he died he left the property to the scouts in his will.

His piano business was apparently thriving in 1904 as he was able to take a seven months trip to England and the United States with his wife Mary. Soon their house in Malcolm Street was too small for their busy lifestyle, and they moved in August 1906 to the 10-room Overton Villa in Jamieson Street, an address that was more convenient for their students. This would be the family home for the next 10 years, and the location for three family weddings: Pauline to Lionel Poole on 28 October 1913, Irene to Edward Glasson on 18 April 1914, and Vera to John Fielding on 30 June 1915. Two of the newly-wed couples moved to other suburbs, changing the structure of the family. In 1916 Thomas decided to move on as well, and at the end of the year he took his wife and unmarried children to a house in the Malvern Hill Estate, an early 20th century garden suburb at Croydon. He died there on 11 April 1924, aged 66. His wife Mary passed away

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<sup>2</sup> *Cumberland Argus* 15 June 1895, p. 3, 15 September 1900, 14 September 1901 p. 2, 28 December 1901 p. 6, 6 September 1902 p. 9, 29 December 1906 p. 2

<sup>3</sup> NAA: B2455, Haigh W R; AWM: Honours and Awards, William Richard Haigh, 25 September 1917, ROH Circular, First World War Diaries, 3 October 1918; *Cumberland Argus* 3 November 1917, p. 10.

**in June 1940 at the age of 88, and their eldest child, Lillian, died at her home at Strathfield on 18 May 1935.<sup>4</sup>**

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<sup>4</sup> *Cumberland Argus*, 1 March 1902 p. 2; 1st Granville Scout Group 75th Anniversary Year Book; *Cumberland Argus*, 18 August 1906 p. 2, *Sydney Morning Herald (SMH)*, 29 November 1913 p. 20, 18 April 1914 p. 18, *Cumberland Argus* 3 July 1915 p. 10, *SMH*, 12 April 1924 p. 16; NSW Death Registration Index 9929/1940; *SMH* 20 May 1935 p. 8