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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 25th May 2013

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

Guest Speaker
Ms Cindy and Mr Yu
Topic Shen Yun - Reviving 5,000
Years of Chinese Civilization

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

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Granville Historical Society

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

The Greater Western Sydney Heritage Action Group is now part of a larger Alliance called the NSW Heritage Network-Linked to Protect. This larger group consists of previously linked groups but now covers NSW. <http://www.heritagewatchnsw.org.au/>

The problems that exist for Western Sydney are the same in all of NSW, now the Coal Seam Gas lobby is part of the groups lobbying the NSW Government. The Better Planning Network has grown from 20 groups in August 2012 to 416 in 2013 and it is expanding every day. See their Website and sign their petition, they are working to save us from the new planning laws that will affect everyone in their own neighbourhood

<http://betterplanningnetwork.good.do/nsw/email-your-state-mp-3/>

If you have a group with a small group and need a bigger voice have them join, they are sending out daily bulletins with workshops in all areas.

Also there is a meeting from the Heritage Council of NSW, unfortunately June and I are unable to make it, details are as follows.

- Location: Sydney Masonic Function Centre, 66 Goulburn Street, Sydney.
- Start: 28 May, 12:45pm for a 1pm start
- Close: 4:30pm

Speakers include:

- Professor Lawrence Nield, Chair of the Heritage Council of NSW
 - Marcus Ray, Executive Director, Planning Reform and General Counsel Department of Planning & Infrastructure
 - David Logan, Member of Heritage Council of NSW
- RSVP no later than 23 May 2013 to Stephen Pinnington at the Heritage Branch on (02) 9873 8500 or email heritage@heritage.nsw.gov.au and provide your name, contact phone number and email address.

Anyone who is able to go please do so; it is important that we let this lot know what they have done is not acceptable.

June and I have been extremely busy over the month. We spoke to the Westmead Rehab about “Parramatta the Cradle City”, this was very well received; most people had not seen our history like this and were extremely interested. We have also attended a meeting to develop a group to fight NSW Planning and Heritage issues, and now the Coal Seam Gas has shown up with the same issues, see the video at <http://welloftruth.org.au/?t=dXNlcmlkPTc2MDkxNvxlbWFpbGlkPTE2OTk=> .

We have still been attending to the numerous queries that come from our website from people wanting to know information about our area.

We attended the National Trust Parramatta meeting last week, and listened to Judith Dunn speak on the Inns of Parramatta, very entertaining as always and fascinating to listen to what went on.

June and I spoke at the Macquarie Seniors at Ryde Eastward on Wednesday, a very large meeting of over one hundred people. Our cause is spreading far and wide, thank you to Arthur for managing once again. Two members are not well, a big Get Well for Daphne Wiles and Pat O’Brien, hope you are well again soon.

We were lucky enough to get a “Salute their Service” grant of \$3,000 to finish off the Granville RSL Memorial cabinet; we hope to accomplish this by 11th November 2013. Also the history of the Granville Multicultural Centre is well underway the photographs have been scanned as have the annual reports. It is now being written with a view to having it ready for their annual general meeting in October.

The Society has given a copy of the PowerPoint on David Lennox to Judith Dunn. She speaks to a wider audience than we can cover so it will go regional and Judith will tell the story in her usual style. Late last year Di Bartok (Parramatta Advertiser) and June wrote to the History Channel and asked them to have Tony Robinson of Time Team fame cover the history of Parramatta. I mentioned that we had a story teller in Judith Dunn and that if approached she would oblige. Well last week, the filming took place in Parramatta; unfortunately we could not include the Lennox Bridge (no scandals or funny stories). The story will go to air in January 2014.

Barry G Bullivant OAM
President

<p>APRIL MEETING SPEAKER</p>

Historian Terry Kass was the speaker at our April meeting and gave a very interesting talk on Alfred Julius Sickler, the first Estonian in Australia.

Sickler arrived in Victoria in 1853 and worked as a doctor in the gold mining towns of Bendigo and Ballarat. He was in Ballarat at the time of the Eureka Stockade when five

soldiers and 30 miners were killed. Terry said it was likely that as a doctor he treated some of the injured but there was no evidence to support this.

Sickler left Ballarat soon afterwards and moved to New South Wales, where he practised at the Stoney Creek and Louisa Creek diggings, and Molong. He moved to Dubbo where he was naturalised in 1859 so he could buy a block of land. But he ran into financial difficulty, lost his main asset (his house and land) and filed for insolvency. He moved again to other gold diggings at Mitchells Creek near Bathurst in 1862, but left Australia the next year for New Zealand.

Terry said Sickler typified the influx of Estonian migrants to Australia after World War Two, who, like him, were highly educated, often from a middle class background, and mixed with the rest of the Australian population.

<p>LUCY WOODCOCK, TEACHER, TRADE UNION LEADER AND FEMINIST</p>

The New South Wales Teachers' Federation in November 1924 included two Granville women in a six-member delegation to attend the union's 1925 interstate conference in Hobart. One was the well-known identity, Margaret Swann of Elizabeth Farm, who had been a teacher for 40 years. The other was Lucy Woodcock who, at 35, was building a reputation as a teacher and union official. She would also become a prominent feminist, a campaigner for equal rights for women, and a peace activist.¹

Lucy was born in Granville in 1889, the eldest child of Thomas Woodcock, a railways surveyor, and his wife Janet. Their marriage had been announced in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 11 January 1889. Janet was born at Botany on 6 February 1864, the first-born child of Thomas and Mary Howieson. Thomas Howieson was an engineer, who worked at the Botany Waterworks and the Minmi coal mine near Newcastle, before moving to Granville in about 1881. He soon took an interest in local affairs in the small community; in 1882 he and others began agitating to have a new municipality declared, and in 1884 he was in a seven-man deputation to the Colonial Secretary on the issue. He stood in the first municipal elections in Granville in 1885, but just missed out after a keenly-contested poll. He stood again in 1886 and served as an alderman until 1889. He died that year at his William Street home, aged 63. His widow Mary lived until 1923 when she was 85.²

After attending the Granville Public School and the Granville Technical School, Lucy Woodcock began her teaching career as a pupil teacher at the Pitt Town Public School in 1906, aged 17, but completed most of her four years of training at Parramatta South. She then taught at Eden, Coledale, Lidcombe and Darlington. She also found time to study at evening classes at Sydney University, and graduated as a Bachelor of Arts in

¹ *Sydney Morning Herald (SMH)*, 3 November 1924, p. 12

² *SMH*, 11 January 1889, p. 1; *Empire*, 15 February 1864, p. 1; NSW Births Deaths and Marriages index (BDMs); *Cumberland Mercury*, 1 October 1884, p. 2, 3 February 1886, p. 2; *SMH*, 10 February 1890, p. 1

1922 and a Bachelor of Economics in 1924. She was by this time an active member of the New South Wales Teachers' Federation. She joined it as a founding member in 1919 and served on the executive from 1924 until 1927 when she went to London for two years as an exchange teacher. She was senior vice-president of the federation from 1933, and president of the Australian Teachers' Federation in 1932. Returning from London in 1929, she was posted to schools at Arncliffe, Cessnock, Grafton and Abbotsford, before her final appointment as Mistress at Erskineville, where she spent 20 years until her retirement in 1953. Soon after arriving at Erskineville, she organised the provision of daily meals and clothing for the children of local families made destitute by the Depression. During those grim days in the 1930s, she campaigned against the reduction of teachers' salaries, and the Married Women Teachers and Lecturers Dismissal Act of 1932, which the feminists claimed was 'a deliberate war against the woman wage earner'. Then in 1937 she was one of the key activists in the formation of the Council of Action for Equal Pay, which fought for a change in the Australian Constitution to ensure women received equal pay and opportunities in the workforce. When the New South Wales Teachers' Federation affiliated in 1942 with the Labor Council of New South Wales and the Australian Council of Trade Unions, she was a delegate to both bodies. Also in 1942 she was elected to the Senate of the University of Sydney. After her retirement from teaching, she became vice-president of the radical feminist group, the United Associations of Women, and president in 1957. She also took a prominent role in the Australian peace movement. She twice visited China as a delegate of the Australian Peace Council, and helped found the Australia-China Society. She died at Ashfield in Sydney on 29 February 1968.³

Lucy was christened Lucy Godiva Woodcock - the second given name was apparently chosen by her father in recognition of his birthplace, Coventry in Warwickshire, England. Godiva, Countess of Mercia, was a rich and very religious 11th century noblewoman who, according to legend, rode naked through the streets of Coventry as a bargain with her husband to free the people from heavy taxes he had imposed. Lucy's father, Thomas Woodcock, was born in Coventry c. 1840, the second son of Richard Woodcock, a 'gentleman with various financial interests', and his second wife Mary Ann Bonney. Three of the 10 children of this marriage migrated to Australia, and four others, including Thomas, went to New Zealand. Thomas served with his brother Albert with a militia unit in the Maori wars but came to Australia in the early 1870s. Robert, the fourth son of Richard Woodcock, died in the Prince Alfred Hospital Sydney on 23 June 1889, aged 33. Number five son Frederick married Sarah Ann Sharp at Mudgee on 3 May 1877, but the couple and five children, born in New South Wales, moved to New Zealand about 1891. Thomas Woodcock and Janet Howieson produced eight children between 1889 and 1908. The family lived in Albert Street Granville for much of this time but moved in 1909 to Beaumaris Street Enfield, where Thomas died on 14 June 1926. The last words in his death notice in the *Sydney Morning Herald* - 'No mourning, no flowers' - might give a clue to the nature of the man.⁴

³ B.Mitchell, 'Woodcock, Lucy Godiva (1889–1968)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/woodcock-lucy-godiva-9172/text16197>, accessed 15 May 2013; W. Mitchell, Lucy Woodcock 1889-1968 teacher, in *50 years of feminist achievement : a history of the United Associations of Women*, United Associations of Women, Sydney, [1979?]; *Suffrage and beyond: international feminist perspectives*, edited by C. Daley and M. Nol, Pluto Press, 1994, p. 287

⁴ Coventry City Council website, Woodcock Family History NSW BDMs, Sand's Directory; *SMH*, 15 June 1926, p. 8