

Lane Cove Historical Society Inc.

NOTICEBOARD

SEPTEMBER 2021



Lane Cove Historical Society Inc

Affiliated with the Royal Australian Historical Society

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Caretaker: Terry Eakin

Editor: Karen Aubrey



A message from your President Elect Frances Christie

A bloodless coup has occurred in the ranks of the Lane Cove Historical Society, and I have emerged as your new President Elect.

Members will recall that at the end of 2020, Kay Leiper, who had served in the role of President for six years, stood down, though she has remained an active Vice President. Bill McLaughlin, who had served as President in the past, then agreed to assume the role after Kay, and we were grateful to him for his support. But at this stage Bill has decided to step aside, though he has indicated he will remain a member of the committee. We thank Bill for stepping into the role at short notice and we welcome his continuing involvement.

I shall do my best, supported by the committee, to move us forward as we look to rebuild some momentum in our activities. I shall also look to you, our members, to assist us in planning for the future, and for the time when we can at last resume normal life. I shall in fact make one request of you all, detailed more fully below.

The last few months have brought many challenges. As I write this message, we continue to live under the lockdown restrictions, with all their limitations and some frustrations. But we have much to be grateful for when we look about at the wonderful streetscapes all around the suburb. Wherever you go you see an abundance of spring growth: prunus (normally the first pink blossom to appear), daffodils displayed in many gardens, primulas, petunias, a variety of grevilleas, verbenas, lavender, tea trees, sweet perfumed freesias, violets, roses, azaleas, camellias, jasmine and many others. Many a lofty eucalypt or angophora rises in glory along the streets, and as the days slowly start earlier with the change of the seasons, we have much to enjoy.

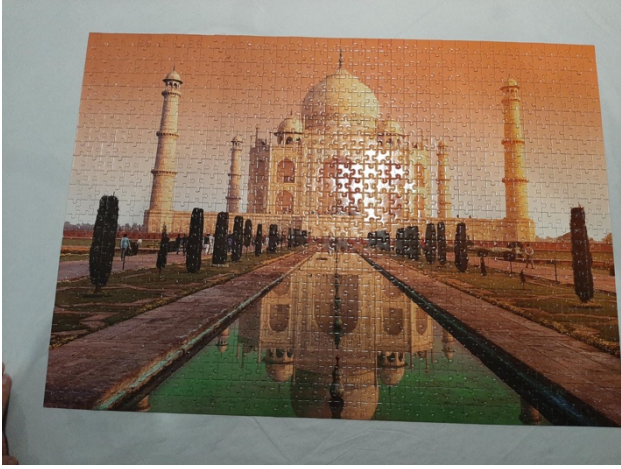
The lovely gardens at Carisbrook House are also showing their new spring growth. Spring plants are in abundance, for spring has thrown up daffodils and many other bulbs, as well as clivias, primulas and petunias. The Council gardener at Carisbrook, Tim MacLochlainn, has worked hard over the last year in shaping and preparing the garden beds at Carisbrook, and he takes a pride in his work. As many people already know, we had intended to hold a Spring Garden Seminar at Carisbrook House on 25th September. Those plans have been abandoned for this year at least. However, as the restrictions on movement are lifted in the state, we encourage our members to take a walk from time to time through the grounds of the house and enjoy the wonderful display already evident in the gardens. Among other plants, you will see a number donated this year by Terry Eakin, Caretaker at Carisbrook. They include new daffodils, Hippaestrum papilio, some Haemanthus coccineus, a few clivias, and miscellaneous bulbs for spring. There are two new frangipannis, three crab apples and an oak, as well as several Velhaemias of uncommon colours. Terry Eakin is a generous man who has given a great deal to Carisbrook over the years.

Let me return to the request I wish to make of all members: you will find a link below which will direct you to a short Survey of Opinion which is directed to all members. We want to get your advice about the full range of activities with which the LCHS is associated. We want to know what you like and find interesting, and what suggestions you might want to make about changes to aspects of our activities. We welcome comments and constructive criticism.

Please take 10 minutes to complete the Survey by clicking on the link below, no later than 30th September 2021. We plan to use the data you provide in planning for and preparing activities for the new year.

<https://us5.list-manage.com/survey?u=5e80cbc11e4462546a3e064e7&id=ca6ed39343&attribution=false>

One way to ignore the *Lockdown Blues* thanks to Toni Dickson



Have you completed a jigsaw or accomplished something that you would like to share with your fellow Lane Cove Historical Society members? If so, please send to carisbrookhouse@hotmail.com for inclusion in the next Noticeboard.

Where does your surname come from? by Frances Christie

Those of us born into an English-speaking society take for granted the fact that we have a surname. A family name or surname normally places us today as members of a group of people related by blood ties and/or by marriage, though a surname originally had other associations. The word “surname” derives from the Latin “supernomen”, while its Anglo-Norman French version was “surnoun.”, and it always suggested an additional name “above” or apart from, one’s given name.

Surnames are not universally found and in many parts of the world, the notion of a family name would be quite alien. In Indonesia for example, there are no family names. Indonesian families often give their children several names, though even that is not always the case. I have taught several university students from Indonesia, one of whom, a man called Sutoyo, had no other name. The university computer system couldn’t cope with recording a student with only one name. Instead, it repeated his single name, so when he graduated, the testamur or degree certificate he received named him “Sutoyo Sutoyo”. Yet another Indonesian student, a woman called Leoni, chose to create a second name, so she took the name of the month when she was born, “Agustus” or August.

In the Anglo-European tradition, surnames emerged some centuries ago, often as ways of placing people by their trades- “Thomas Cook, William Baker, Mary Spinster, Peter Butler, Luke Shoemaker, Roger Farmer”, and so on. A very large number of such trade or occupational surnames remain in use today, though people are sometimes unaware of their origins. How many people know, for example, that a “chapman” was a merchant or trader, or that a “fuller” was one who treated wool in Scotland with a process called “fulling”, or that a “fletcher” was one who made arrows, or that a “thatcher” was one who made roofs with straw or reeds?

Other names were not occupational but rather selected to identify an area where people lived such as “John Brook” (who lived near a brook) or “John Dell” (who

lived in or near a dell), or “John Underhill” (because he lived at the foot of a hill). Other names yet indicated a relationship to someone, as in “Fitzpatrick” (meaning Patrick’s son), or “Peterson” (Peter’s son). My own surname- “Christie” is Scottish and it meant “son of Christian”. (The Christie family or *sept*, were members of the Clan Farquharson, and apparently a rather argumentative lot, who demanded and wore their own tartan!) Some surnames are taken from places, as in “Beckham”, indicating the place known as Beckham in Norfolk. Other English surnames taken from places include “Hamilton, Hampshire or Bedford”.

To return to the many international students I taught in Australian universities, I found it quite notable that the name “Lee”, sometimes spelt “Lei”, or “Lê” was common among students from China, Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore or Vietnam. It would seem to be quite ubiquitous throughout Asia. In fact, the name “Lee” is quite old in the English-speaking tradition, as well as the Asian one, but its arrival in Australia in some numbers in recent years has reflected the impact of our migration policies. In 2020¹ the surname “Lee” appeared 8th on a list of Australian surnames, while the Vietnamese “Nguyen” was 18th, also a sign of the impact of migration. However, “Smith, Jones, Williams and Brown” were the first four names on the list, revealing that the Anglo-Celtic influence remains strong in Australia.

Surnames can be a source of infinite interest and curiosity, telling us a great deal about our various forebears, where they came from and the kinds of influences (occupational, geographic, familial) that shaped them.

Karen Aubrey and I wonder about the readers of this newsletter. How many of you know the origin of your surnames? How many of you have curious and surprising surnames, worth telling us about? We invite you to send us notes and information about them. We might even find who has the most unusual surname in Lane Cove.

Sources consulted:

<https://www.hit.com.au/story/the-20-most-common-surnames-in-australia-have-been-revealed-118486> Retrieved 27/08/21

<https://www.ancestry.com.au/name-origin?surname=christie> Retrieved 27/08/21

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/surname> Retrieved 9th September 2021

Postponement of The Lane Cove History Prize

Entries to the Lane Cove History Prize would normally be due at the end of August. However, in view of the lockdown and our continuing uncertainty about when it will be over, we have decided not to award the Prize this year. This is very disappointing, and we warmly encourage anyone interested to submit an entry to hold it over till next year’s History Prize.

JOHN BULLOCK AND FLORENCE BULLOCK (NEE WILLIAMS) by Patricia Conchar

This is the story of my grandparents, it's not an easy tale to tell because as I write the memories flow like a continual bubbling stream...

I remember how happy my sister and I were when my grandparents came to live with us. We were all living in South Africa at the time, it was 1952 and I was 12. Along with my grandparents came the huge cabin trunk which had accompanied them on the ship the 'SS Briton' which had brought them to South Africa in 1905. Inside this trunk was "Back Home" and I finally found it had another name, London, England and I fell in love with "Back Home". I wanted to know more about my grandparents. So, 30 years ago, I gathered all the treasured stories I had acquired over the years, and together with ANCESTRY.CO.UK I embarked on my research project for the Bullock and Williams families. Twice now I have travelled to England on a mission of discovery of farms, homes, churches, cemeteries and graves. I was having so much fun exploring my ancestry that in 2017 I decided to do the Ancestry DNA testing and I found cousins I never knew existed and life became even more exciting!

My grandfather, John Bullock was born in Cheshire in 1865. He was the son of William and Ann Bullock, and he had only a sister, Annie. It was a farmer's life and I gather from my grandmother; he spoke very little of life in England as it was not happy, and he never ever wanted to return. Ann died in 1904 and William in 1918 and his sister Annie in 1956, two weeks after her much loved brother.

My grandmother, Florence Elizabeth Williams was born in Essex in 1877. She was the eldest of 9 children born to Henry and Hannah Williams – she longed for "Back Home" and never stopped talking about it and for that I am very grateful. (She did return once for a visit in 1930 when her sons bought her a ticket on a ship).

They were married in 1905 (she was 28 & he was 40), shortly after the marriage they emigrated to South Africa, as my grandfather had a post in the South African Constabulary (SAC) in Bloemfontein, Orange Free State (OFS). The SAC was established by Britain to police the Colony after the Boer War which ended in 1902.



The Williams' Family



**All Saints Church in Wanstead, Essex where Florence and John were married on
26th June 1905**



John & Florence on their wedding

Unfortunately for my grandfather, in 1908 the SAC was disbanded in favour of the new South African appointed Police. My grandfather then became a farmer, which was all he really knew, but farm life was extremely hard for Florence who was a well-bred, upper middle class, London girl. He farmed first in Heilbron OFS where 3 sons were born and in 1918, they moved to a farm outside Vereeniging in the Transvaal where a 4th son was born. The farming was never successful because he sowed shallow, English style, and under the very harsh South African sun the seeds and plants did not flourish.

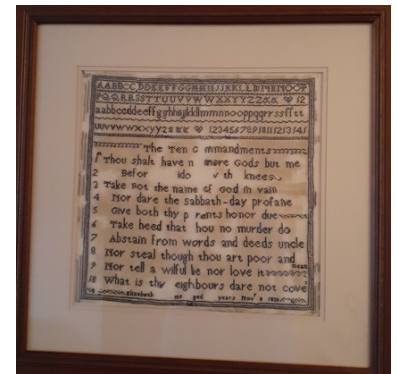
As the boys would need formal schooling, they bought land in Vereeniging in the Transvaal and built a house which they moved into. My grandfather went to work in a mine and my grandmother turned her hand to sewing, mending and baking to supplement his income.

When he retired, his garden became his farm and he tended it lovingly. He had “fowls” (what a funny name for chickens I thought!), a dog Laddie (an English breed of course!), a vegetable patch, a very English flower garden filled with English flowers and plants all mixed up (English do NOT do rows!), winding paths with birdbaths, feeders and a bench tucked away in exciting hidden nooks. Due to ageing and ill health they finally moved in with my family in 1952. They were then 87 and 75.

Life with my grandmother was wonderful although she was stern and very English. From a very young age I remember her talking about “Back Home” and that nothing in her present world was anything as good as “Back Home”. I remember her house in Vereeniging very well. It was full of unusual “things”, different smells and accents and customs and lots of dark framed photos of her family “Back Home”.

Unpacking that trunk was like heaven when they came to live with us in Germiston! Her wedding dress, the decoration from atop her wedding cake, a beautiful auburn plait of her hair tied at each end with a blue ribbon, a miniature of the first edition of Pickwick Papers, the violin and bible her father gave her when she was 10, beautiful embossed photo albums, postcards, dried English flowers, letters, ornaments, cutlery sets with mother of pearl handles which must have been wedding presents and Oh! The Tales told with such longing and a tear now and then.

My greatest treasure, an 1830 sampler worked by her Great-Great Aunt aged 9yrs of the 10 Commandments (pictured on the right). I am sad to say I broke the 10th Commandment “Thou shalt not Covet” and kept “checking that it was still OK” till one day she said to me: “I think you better have this”. I did feel ashamed, but only for a second or two! It had been very badly moth eaten so I spent a non-disclosable amount of money having it restored - now it hangs proudly in my lounge room ready for the next generations to treasure.



Exactly how John and Florence met remains a mystery but with a little detective work I can well imagine. One thing is certain, by 1901 they were acquainted because, this is the story my grandmother told me, it was a real Jane Austen romance...

Her father owned Men’s’ Outfitting establishments which classified the family as upper middle class, and him a “Gentleman”. The 1891 census has the Williams family running a business in Uttoxeter and the Bullock family farming in Nethertown, 10 miles from Uttoxeter. A lady and a farmer! As Divine Providence planned, the 1901 census records the Williams’ living at Park Grange and the Bullocks’ at Park Fields, BOTH on Kiddlestitch Road! After a trip to England where I visited Uttoxeter, I saw that Park Grange and Park Fields were directly opposite on Kiddlestitch Road and are in full view of each other!

Did they meet on market days when everyone was out and about?
Were they introduced by John’s friend who later became the bearer of their love letters?
Did John’s sister Annie invite Florence and her sisters to afternoon tea at Park Fields?
Maybe John came in from the fields for something totally unnecessary?

When her father went to London on his numerous business trips, an undaunted Florence would hang a white cloth over a bush in the garden where it could be seen from Park Fields - John knew this message meant he could come a-courting. Wonder if her mother knew?.....it WAS a large tree filled garden!

When my grandfather was in South Africa working for the SAC before they were married, he wrote to my grandmother and sent the love letters to his friend who gave them to my grandmother. He must have told her he wanted to live in South Africa, so she wasn’t surprised when one day a letter arrived with a marriage proposal, an engagement ring and a dried South African flower. John was 36 and Florence was 24 when he proposed.


Such excitement till, not without a little apprehension, she presented this letter to her father when the family were having dinner. Needless to say, he was furious. He flung the letter and the ring across the table and said, “I forbade this liaison, and I will not have it! AND he is much too old for you and below your station in life!” No amount of cajoling would change his mind.... or Florence’s, and when he heard they intended to leave the country he refused to speak to her.

The Williams family moved to Rolleston-on-Dover in Derbyshire in 1904 and my grandmother went to live with her brother in Essex. My grandfather returned to Uttoxeter when his mother Ann died at the end of 1904 and then joined Florence in Essex to plan the wedding set for 26 June 1905 in All Saints Church, Wanstead, Essex. Florence's father was persuaded to attend the wedding tho'. She never saw her parents again after the wedding, and they died within 6 months of each other in June 1924.

When Florence and John sailed on the 'SS Briton' to their new life in South Africa, they saw through rose-coloured glasses, they did not see how hard life could be, but they had each other and were devoted till he died at 92 on 1 March 1956 and she followed at 89 on 19 April 1966. They are buried together in a heritage cemetery in Pretoria, South Africa.

Thankyou Patricia Conchar for sharing your grandparent's story with us. Maybe other members have a story about their ancestors that they would like to share. If you do wish to write such notes, please write no more than 600-700 words.

Continuing on from last month's article on Stella and Clover we once again **#thankyouPat&Toni** for the extra insight into Stella & Clover's posts on Instagram



Do you have a hot water bottle?
This stoneware ceramic 'bed warmer' was used in the 1880's to warm beds, a huge step up from... more

Hot Water Bottle

This ceramic Adaptable Hot Water Bottle & Bed Warmer with ceramic screw stopper was made at the Old Fulham Pottery which was established in 1671. The bottle is labeled with registered number 443310 and carries the instruction "All Water bottles should be warmed before being filled with boiling water". The timber beads on the top of the handle meant the bottle could be carried without danger of burning the hand, however being only 21 centimeters in diameter it would have only warmed a small area of the bed. We wonder whether the lady of the house knitted covers for these in Victorian times.

Clock 1

This Belgian marble, slate and bronze cased clock has an etched gilded design. The clock face is marked "G.W. & C. Gowland of Sunderland & Paris". Carl Parker of Parker Time at Hunters Hill advised that the clock movement was made by L. Marti et Cie circa 1870 and it is truly Victorian in style.



Clock 2

This mantel clock is cased in black wood in steeple-form. It has gilt decoration.

If you're not sure how to find us on Instagram or Facebook, just click on these links and you will be directed to Instagram and Facebook, once there simply like the page 🙌

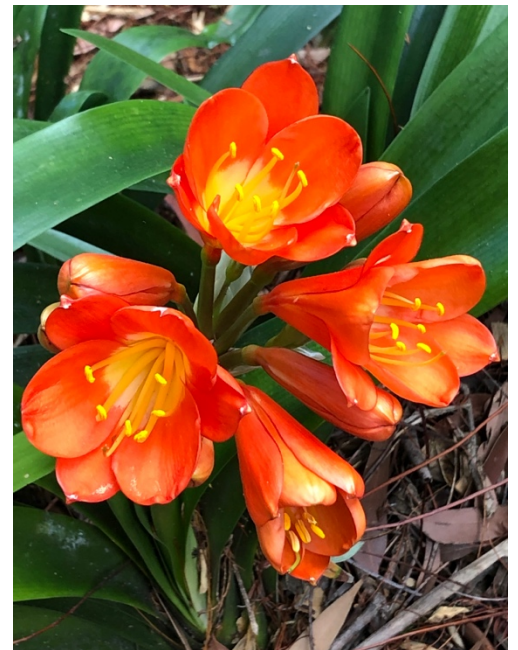
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The breathtaking *Hippeastrum Papilio* (Butterfly Amaryllis) snapped at Carisbrook this Spring.



'This is a bromeliad which sends up offsets as the plant dies after it has flowered' - Terry Eakin



The magnificent *clivias* of Carisbrook



The gardens at the front of Carisbrook get better every time we walk past!



The spectacular cymbidium orchid in the courtyard

Until next time:
 ~
Stay Safe & Take Care
 ~
 Karen Aubrey