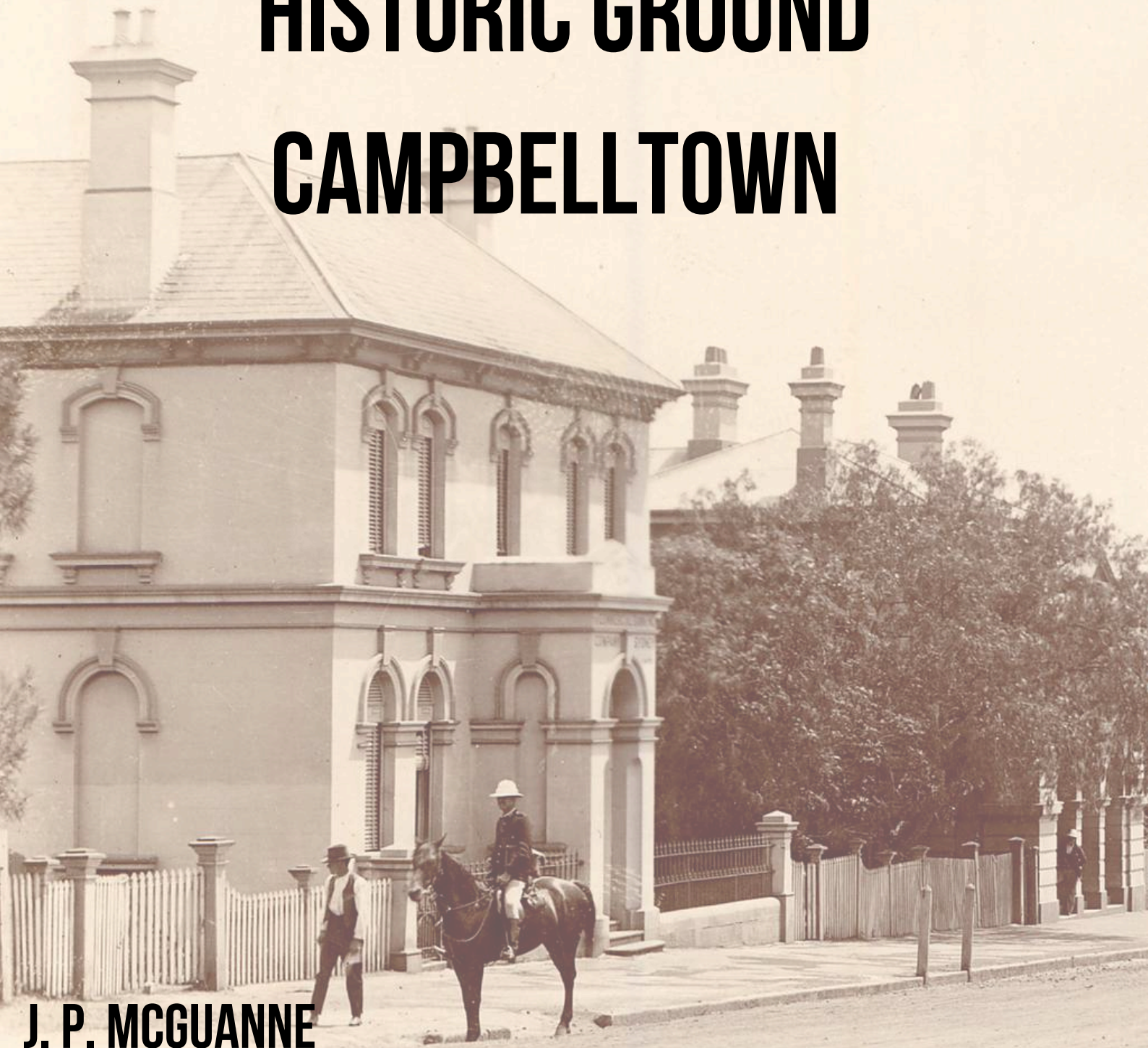


HISTORIC GROUND CAMPBELLTOWN



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**JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL
AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
VOLUME 6, PARTS 3 AND 4, 1920**

QUEEN STREET, CAMPBELLTOWN, 1906.

COURTESY CAMPBELLTOWN AND AIRDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Please be aware that this article contains terms that reflect views of the period in which it was written. While the information may not reflect current understanding, it is provided in a historical context.

HISTORIC GROUND—CAMPBELLTOWN.

By J. P. McGUANNE (Fellow.)

It was while anticipating the coming centenary of Campbelltown, and dreaming of the public festivities likely to be held at that place on December 1, 1920, that the writer's mind reverted to the days when the virgin scene was a wealth of wood and umbrel stream, enjoyed alone by pre-ancestral monocratic life. While thinking backward, many historic associations stirred my mind. From yellowed registers of century-old events, I learned how the district grew prosperous by the achievements of its sturdy pioneers, and how those vigorous Britishers built for themselves a town destined to contain all the civic possibilities that word implies. Few things in life can compare with the settler's first sight of a new land, destined to be his future home. There is a prophetic introspection which inclines to be optimistic, but for some chastening dread of what may be concealed in the hand of Time. To the wide silences of the forest came the vanguard of civilisation, its agrophiles. They came from distant lands to settle down with service and sacrifice, to exercise their husbandry and subdue the spirit of the bush, little caring whether their names adorned the printed page or gained posthumous fame, so long as seed matured and herds multiplied.

The earliest recorded glimpse of that part of the County of Cumberland, now known as Bunbury Curran, was enjoyed by Flinders and Bass, when they, with a lad named Martin, "pushed up George's River which had only been partly explored, and pursued their investigation of its winding course for twenty miles beyond the former limit of territory." On March 15, 1796, in the famous *Tom Thumb*, they sailed along the south coast, until Illawarra was reached. While camping "under the innermost of the northern islands, they called them "Martin Isles," after their young companion. These were "the Five Islands," a name by which that district was known for many years. In the aboriginal, Illawarra signifies "white clay;" its tribe was Alowriegal. When, in September, 1796, Flinders undertook "a journey on foot in company with Williamson, the Act-

ing Commissary, from Sydney to the Cowpasture, thence through Manangle, Boulli and Watta-Mowley, near Wollongong," he encircled an area, then unknown, beyond Bunburry Curran. Wollongong means "jumping waters"; Wollumbi, "the meeting of waters;" and Wollumba, "the big water-hole." Every intelligent child in Sydney, if questioned, can tell us why the once famous Cow Pasture was so named, in 1796.

We have a curious yet cogent reminder of early days in an Order by Governor King, in 1806. It reads: "No person whatever, except officers, do at any time resort across the River Nepean, on any pretext, except the people employed by the Messrs. Macarthur and Davidson, who attend their flocks of sheep, and the limited number of people appointed by His Excellency to assist John Warby with his cattle, which persons are to be provided with tickets signed by me and countersigned by the Magistrate at Parramatta, Thomas Harper, John Warby, constables of Camden country, and the military guard at the Cowpastures and Hut, having full authority for that purpose." The Hut was rebuilt by Macquarie to house the mounted constables, who protected the Government cattle from stealth. This cattle run, of 15,000 acres, was named Cawdor, Warby being its Thane. There were strongly-fenced paddocks and a tannery on the land. Here, at Camden and Cawdor, began the first sheep and cattle stations in New South Wales.

It may be briefly stated that Captain John Macarthur brought to England, in 1803, samples of his colonial wool, which so impressed the Home authorities, that Lord Camden rewarded the Captain with a grant of 5000 acres. Subsequently the grant was increased to 10,000 acres. Knowing the locality intimately, Macarthur judiciously selected the Cowpasture country as his future sheep run. Considering the boon likely to be conferred upon the British Government, by making her looms largely independent of foreign supplies, and remembering how valueless were Crown lands a hundred years ago, the grant, although magnificent, was not excessive. Camden Park suitably commemorates the lordly donor's title. When Surveyor Meehan was measuring the first 5000 acres, Governor King gave instructions that 2000 acres should be marked off as a sheep run for Mr. W. Davidson, and a road to Stonequarry Creek provided.

Governor Macquarie, in his first tour of the settlement, while invading the arcadian homes of wandering blacks, kept an examining eye on country suitable for outlying farms. Bunbury Curran, with its swelling hills and sun-lit dales, its crystal streams and golden wattle, its birds of palette splendour, its kangaroo and wallaby among the giant gum, its quiet grandeur and appealing beauty, so impressed the onlooker as a domain inviting humanity to dwell within its ample bounds, that Macquarie made a note of it. In November, 1810, the inspection extended to the Cowpasture and Manangle Ford. Dr. Townson's farm, now Varro Ville, $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Campbelltown, contained "by far the finest soil and best pasturage I have yet seen in the colony." At Camden he found only "a miserable hut."

Native names should be remembered. Manangle (old spelling), means a large lagoon, or sheet of water; Nowe-nong signifies the land opposite that place, better known as Frying Pan Flat; Kirboowallie means shallow water, or crossing place. The Camden country was aboriginally known as Benhennie, the dry land.

While at Bundie camping place, near Manangle, Macquarie's party met a few tribesmen: Roggie and his two wives, Nantz and Mary; Boldarrie and wife Mary; young Bundle, Mandgerry, Jindle and Bill. Whenever Nantz attempted to throw in a word, Roggie would silence her by exclaiming: "Shut you' mout; all of it, you lubra." Macquarie wrote: "In the evening, Roggie, the native chief of the Cow Pasture tribe, and his wife, and half-a-dozen more natives, favored us with an extraordinary sort of dance after their own manner, and with which we were all very much pleased. They were treated to a glass of spirits each before they began the dance, with which they were much pleased, and which had a wonderfully good effect on their spirits in performing their dances. During this day's excursion we were attended by some of the natives, one of whom amused us very much by climbing up a high tree to catch a 'guanna,' which he did in a very dexterous manner. In the course of our morning's ride we were much entertained with a fight between some wild bulls."

Many persons consider the words "Bunbury Curran" as purely aboriginal. Major-General H. E. Bunbury was an Under-Secretary in Earl Liverpool's Government, and officially corresponded with Governor Macquarie. In his report of the founding of Campbelltown, Macquarie placed

a comma after the word "Bunbury," and repeated this on October 18, 1811, when the proposed districts of Minto and Airds are first mentioned. He writes: "I found good land between Bunbury, Curran Creek and George's River." This was just after receiving a communication, on August 29 of that year, from the Major-General. Curran Creek was locally known and had been so named after Jack Curran, Surveyor Meehan's axeman, pedometer man, and camp assistant.

Grants of land to our first farmers and pastoralists contained two inseparable provisions: one prohibited the sale of such land within five years, the other bound the grantee to cultivate annually a certain quantity of ground, about 15 acres out of a 50 acre farm, and so on, proportionately up to 50 acres in a 2000 acre grant. A right was also reserved to open roads at any time through alienated lands. The first list of local grants includes those made from January, 1810, up to October, 1811. It is interesting because it contains the names of the first families who settled about Campbelltown upwards of 100 years ago, and because the districts mentioned found a place upon the map soon after the reference of October 18, 1811, to a "tract of land His Excellency means to form into a district, and is in future to be called Airds, in honor of my dear. good Elizabeth's Family Estate." The hills in the cold district of Appin, Scotland, are called Airds. Minto is named after the Earl of that title, Gilbert Kyngnmount Minto. Bringelly was named after an estate in Wales, owned by Judge-Advocate Bent. Airds was bounded: "On the east side by George's River; on the north-west side, Bunburry Curran Creek, Minto and Upper Minto districts; on the west side, Nepean River to a small rocky creek; on the south side by that creek to the north-west corner of Woodhouse's farm, and from thence in an east line to George's River."

To be continued.

HISTORY OF THE CORNER OF KING AND GEORGE STREETS.

By C. T. BURFITT (Fellow.)

Mr. C. T. Burfitt offers some interesting particulars regarding, principally, the north-eastern corner of King and George Streets, now usually designated "Waters' Corner."

Bay, which was substantial enough to be worth removing to Narrabeen many years ago, an excellent example of the durability of our hardwood.

Scotland Island has changed hands more than once since it was sold by the heirs of Joe Benns. It was some time ago divided into tiny allotments, and the cottages built on them are occupied occasionally. I am sure that I express the opinion of this society when I say that the few islands which are not only picturesque possessions, but reminders of our early history, should be reserved for ever for the use and pleasure of the people.

The bygone days of beautiful Pittwater, its early residents whose children are scattered far and wide, its farms and orchards, its ships and fisheries, are fading from the memory even of those who call it home, and it seems likely that it will soon be only a playground for the city whose youthful needs it toiled hard to supply.

Notes and Comments.

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BY J. P. MCGUANNE (Fellow.)

(Continued from page 156.)

The first list of land grants gazetted by Governor Macquarie and made between January 1810 and October 1811.

Grantee.	Acres.	District.
Atkins, Richard	500	.. Minto
Bent, Ellis	1265	.. Bringelly
Birch, Mrs. Mary	500	.. Do.
Broughton, Wm.	1000	.. Appin
Campbell, J. T.	1550	.. Bringelly
Conner, Owen	60	.. Upper Minto
Jackson, John	40	.. Do.
Kennedy, John	200	.. Appin
Redfern, Wm.	800	.. Airs
Throsby, Charles	550	.. Upper Minto

The above took precedence. Then came—

Thompson, Andrew	1240	.. Minto
Wall, William	200	.. Bringelly

Grantee.	Acres.	District.
Pitt, T. M.	500 ..	Do.
Kearns, Matthew	100 ..	Minto
Kearns, John	100 ..	Do.
Tull, Dorothea Sophia	60 ..	Do.
Kable, Henry	300 ..	Do.
Kable, Henry	200 ..	Airds
Inch, Joseph	200 ..	Minto
Guise, Rd.	300 ..	Do.
Guise, Rd.	300 ..	Airds
Underwood, Jas.	200 ..	Do.
Honory, Peter	60 ..	Minto
Edwards, Edward	100 ..	Do.
Throsby, Charles	950 ..	Do.
Harrex, John	200 ..	Upper Minto
Mannix, William	60 ..	Do.
Mannix, William	30 ..	Do.
Crip, Thos.	100 ..	Do.
Townson, Dr.	1000 ..	Minto
Ward, Joseph	100 ..	Do.
Riley, Brian	100 ..	Do.
Devine, Hugh	100 ..	Bringelly
Keele, William	80 ..	Minto
Powell, Edw.	100 ..	Bringelly
Gaudry, Wm.	100 ..	Minto
Williams, Thos.	127 ..	Do.
Byrne, Aron	100 ..	Do.
Driver, Charlotte	100 ..	Do.
Whalan, Sergt. Charles	100 ..	Do.
Lord, Simeon	200 ..	Do.
Lord, Simeon	200 ..	Do.
Lord, Simeon	200 ..	Do.
Laurie, John	50 ..	Airds
Lucas, Nathaniel	500 ..	Minto
Cubitt, Daniel	200 ..	Do.
Broadhurst, Thomas	50 ..	Do.
Day, Wm.	150 ..	Do.
Kerillan, Gabriel Louis Marie Huon de	400 ..	Do.
Chamberlayne, Jos.	30 ..	Do.
Grimes, George	235 ..	Upper Minto
Meehan, James	1140 ..	Minto and Airds.