

# Hawkesbury Historical Society Newsletter

## Newsletter of the Hawkesbury Historical Society Inc

**Address :**

The Secretary, PO Box 293, Windsor 2756 NSW

**Telephone :** 02 4572 3007

**Aim :** Hawkesbury Historical Society aims to encourage & preserve the history of the Hawkesbury

**Meetings held :** 4th Thursday of alternate months, 7.30-10pm in the Tebbutt Room, Hawkesbury Central Library, 300 George Street, Windsor.

**Open to :** People interested in the preservation of the history of the Hawkesbury, new members welcome.

### HAWKESBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Patron:* Ted Books

**Office Bearers 2005/2006**

*President:* Dr Rex Stubbs OAM

*Snr Vice President:* Graham Clayton

*Vice President:* Ian Jack

*Secretary:* Judy Newland

*Treasurer:* Kath Wilkins

*Museum Curator:* Rebecca Turnbull

*Assistant Curator:* Jan Barkley Jack

*Museum Archivist:* Lucy Sullivan

*Publicity Officer:* Marilyn Mercer

*Social Co-ordinator:* Dudley Mercer

*Newsletter Editor:* Michelle Nichols OAM

*Web Administrator:* Alan Aldrich

*Committee:* Erin Kuch, Carol Carruthers

**Museum Committee:** Rebecca Turnbull, Judy Newland, Kath Wilkins, Alan Aldrich, Marilyn Mercer, Erin Kuch & Lucy Sullivan

**Publications Committee:** Michelle Nichols, Ian Jack, Jan Barkley Jack, Judy Newland, Alan Aldrich & Graham Clayton

**Heritage Festival Committee:** Rebecca Turnbull, Jan Barkley Jack, Marilyn Mercer, Carol Carruthers & Graham Clayton



### 2006 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

All meetings commence at 7.30pm

23 February 2006

27 April 2006

22 June 2006

24 August 2006

26 October 2006 AGM



### Hawkesbury at Work & Play

Do you have any images of persons at work (or play) in the Hawkesbury during the 1860s-1960s?

See further details on p. 4

### Request for articles

~ expressions of interest ~

During 2006, the Hawkesbury Historical Society is hoping to publish their first journal. If any members are interested in participating in writing an article please contact the editor, Michelle Nichols on 02 4579 8218 or email [michelle\\_nichols@hotmail.com](mailto:michelle_nichols@hotmail.com) or write to the Society, c/- PO Box 293, Windsor 2756. The Publications Committee are working on themes and styles but are interested in expressions of interest.

## Scottish connections : *The Adam's family letters*

by Stuart Adam & Michelle Nichols

The following letters have been transcribed by Stuart Adam's a descendant of the Adams family from Scotland. The letters are reprinted with kind permission of the Adam's family.



Mathew's headstone at the Presbyterian Cemetery in Windsor, transcribed below.

Courtesy of Hawkesbury on the Net

Mathew Adam's migrated to Australia in the 1830s; whilst Stuart's family remained in Scotland. Mathew's sister married into the Dick family and five of his seven nieces & nephews eventually followed him to the Antipodes, as well as descendants of the two who stayed in Scotland. From Mathew's correspondence it can be seen that he was keen for other members of the family to migrate and make the most of the available opportunities in Australia. A brief introduction into the Adam's family and their family connections in the Hawkesbury, follows.

Mathew Adam was born in 1811 in Kilbarchan in Scotland, the son of James Adam, hand loom weaver & artificer, and Janet nee Clark. During the mid 1830s the Rev Dunmore Lang on a visit back to Scotland, encouraged a number of teachers to journey to Australia. Another teacher who made the voyage at this time was George Walker & family. George was the father of solicitor and politician William Walker. The Walker's became lifelong friends to the Adam's extended family. In 1837 Mathew emigrated on the "Portland" and established a school in Windsor. The school opened in Mileham Street and then later moved to "Fairfield". He also was ordained as a minister in NSW in 1839. He commenced duty with the Presbyterian Church in Windsor in 1839, an affiliation which lasted until his death in 1863. During his time in charge, a brick church was established on the corner of George & Christie Streets and it was officially opened in 1843. He became very involved with the operation of the Presbyterian Church in the Hawkesbury and in 1857 was the Moderator of the Synod of Australia. He also had an interest in the charitable work of the Hawkesbury Benevolent Society and was a member for over 20 years.

As well as his ministry he operated a private school for boys and a number of well known townfolk sent their sons to Adam's for their education. His students included the famous astronomer John Tebbutt, Henry Moses, Richard Ridge and William Walker.

Mathew Adam married Agnes Hutchinson nee Cadell at Windsor in 1859 and they had two children. Agnes herself was from an interesting family. Cadell's established the Brewery in Windsor in the 1840s. Agnes was born in 1826 in Scotland, her parents were Thomas & Catherine Cadell. She arrived with her parents and six siblings on the "Minerva" in 1832. (Her brother Thomas married Ann Bowman, brother George was the Town Clerk of Windsor Council from 1874 to 1875 and sister Mary married Dr John Neilson.)



Cadell's Brewery located on The Terrace in Windsor  
 Courtesy Hawkesbury City Council Library (015592)

Agnes was a widow, who had been previously married to Archibald Hutchinson who died in 1854 aged 32

years. Their offspring included Catharine baptised 1846; Frederick baptised 1848 and Caroline baptised in 1850, one of the daughters died as an infant.

Mathew and Agnes had two children but sadly Mathew died when they were both very young children, leaving Agnes once again a widow. The children were:

**Mary Adam 1860-1883**

Daughter Mary was born in Windsor in 1860. A memorial in the Windsor Presbyterian Cemetery records that she died at Poona in India, aged 23 years.

**James Adam 1861-1934**

Born in Windsor the year after his sister, James married twice, 1st Mary Shelley & 2nd Winifred Ovans. He died in 1934 aged 72 and is also buried at the Windsor Presbyterian Cemetery.

In Loving Memory of  
**THE REV'D MATHEW ADAM**  
 BELOVED HUSBAND OF AGNES ADAM  
 DIED JANY 15TH 1863  
 AGED 52 YEARS  
 "THEY REST FROM THEIR LABOURS  
 AND THEIR WORKS DO FOLLOW THEM."

Adam's was highly regarded by his flock, as well as his students. They erected a plaque, inscribed as follows, which is now located in the Scots Uniting Church in Fitzgerald Street, Windsor. (The original Presbyterian Church was demolished in the 1960s).

To the Memory of the  
**REV MATHEW ADAM**  
 First Minister of this Church, in which he laboured as a  
 faithful servant of Christ for 20 years  
 This Tablet is erected in grateful remembrance of his merits as a  
 Teacher, a Pastor and a Friend, by a number of young men who  
 were indebted to him for their education. He arrived in the Colony  
 from Glasgow in 1837 and died 15th January 1863, aged 52  
 years. "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord" [Rev. 14-13]

Agnes Adam died on the 14th February 1911 aged 84 years and is buried with her husband Mathew in the Presbyterian Cemetery in Windsor.

**Family connections**

The story would not be complete without the connection between the Adam's and the Dick families. Mathew's sister, Jane Adam married John Dick, a cotton spinner in 1820 in Houston, Scotland. They had nine children, with five of these migrating to Australia. The five that made Australia their home are as follows.

**Robert Dick (1821-1898)**

Robert [pictured right] arrived on the "Margaret" in 1842. He assisted his uncle on arrival but then worked in various local stores including Betts & Panton. He went on to own his own store and became Windsor's Postmaster. Robert was a magistrate, & a "valuable occupant of a seat on the Bench" as well as a JP and "Guardian of Minors", for many years. Following the establishment of



local government in Windsor he was elected the first mayor in 1871. He was involved with the Hawkesbury Volunteers, Windsor Fire Brigade as well as the Hawkesbury Benevolent Society. Robert married **Elizabeth Hannah Pye 1834-1854** in 1853. They had one child who died in infancy and Elizabeth died shortly after. Robert purchased the site of the old Cadell's Brewery which was seriously damaged in the 1867 flood and built the historic home Sunnybrae in Windsor. This home is owned by the Paine family, descendants of the Dick family. In his retirement with sister Maggie, Robert returned to Scotland for a visit which lasted about 18 months. Above picture *courtesy of Hawkesbury City Council Library.*

#### **John Dick (1826 -1850s?)**

John was a schoolteacher who arrived with sister Janet on the "Cuthberts" in Melbourne in 1852. There is no further evidence of John although family stories suggest he died of TB.

#### **Janet Pye nee Dick (1829-1891)**

Janet accompanied brother John from Scotland in 1852. She married **David Pye 1829-1897** in 1858. They had eight children and many grandchildren. She is buried in the Windsor Presbyterian Cemetery.

#### **James Adam Dick (1840 - 1900)**

James followed his brother Robert and arrived on the "Benaires" in 1853. He worked with Robert running their Store and Post Office. Held position of Postmaster in Windsor 1861-1899. He was involved in the Windsor Company of Volunteers and was Captain for a number of years. He married, **Jean Benson 1842-1887** in 1863 Windsor. They had five children including **Col Dr James Adam Dick CMG VD 1866-1942** a distinguished surgeon and army officer who served in the Boer War & WW1. **Marion Jean Dick 1872-1954** born in Windsor married **Brig-Gen John Jackson Paine 1864-1936** who lived at Sunnybrae for many years. Members of the Paine family are buried at St. Matthew's Anglican Cemetery, Windsor. James Adam Dick married a second time to Elizabeth Maria Wallis in 1892, & they had 2 daughters. Elizabeth died in 1934.

#### **Margaret Lindsay Dick 1843-1929**

Pictured below, she was born in 1843, after her brother Robert had left for Sydney. She migrated on "General Wyndham" in Melbourne in 1853 then travelled to Sydney on the "Wonga Wonga". Known as "Maggie" she never married & was companion to her brother Robert, following the death of his wife. She died in 1929 & is buried in the Windsor Presbyterian Cemetery.



**Margaret Lindsay Dick (1843 - 1929)**

*From the collection Mary Anne Amelia Stewart  
Hawkesbury City Council Library 002014*

Other family members travelled to Australia in the 1870s-1880s. These were descendants of the family that stayed in Scotland. They included John Dick Smith (1855-1922) who arrived about 1875. He married Thomasina Dunstan (1858-1945) in 1880 in Windsor. John worked in the Post Office & Store & took over in the 1890s from his uncles Robert & James Dick. He & his wife had ten children. Robert Dick Smith (1866-1887) He arrived after 1881 & worked as a compositor. He died in 1887 in Windsor. John Dick Richmond (1862-1909) migrated circa 1889. He married Mary Ann Day & died at Grafton Wharf in 1909.

## The Letters

The letters compiled by Mathew Adam in the 1850s, to family in Scotland read as follows :

#### **[LETTER I]**

Windsor, 14th July 1857

*My dear Brother,*

*It is now a long time since I had the pleasure of hearing from you, and I do not hesitate to say that the fault is in a great measure my own, as I have neglected to write to you for so long a time. Our correspondence, has been too long broken off, it is time to resume it, if we have any regard at all for each other's welfare.*

My mind has been very much distressed lately by a report which has reached me, concerning our brother John, I have been told that he has become a miserable victim of intemperance, that he is scarce by a day sober, and quite incapable of conducting any business. I hope in God that this report is not true with regard to our kind and affectionate brother. Many a time have I regretted that the poor fellow did not come with me, where he would have been so useful and so highly valued on account of his honesty and integrity. I understand he has taken up a public-house, and I have no doubt from the multitudes I see around me who have fallen victims to the same degrading vice and especially of those who have opened public houses that this has been the cause of his ruin – placing him in the way of temptation and not possessing the firmness to resist the evil. I intend to write to him, but I cannot breathe a single word to him on this fearful subject, as I hope it is not true. Would you be kind enough to write me and let me know the truth on this subject, disguise nothing but let me know the full particulars.

I have often wondered what you intend doing with your Son. It surely cannot be true that you are going to make a carpenter of him. it is perfectly absurd. No doubt the trade is a good and respectable one, but surely he must be able for something far above that, if you have given him anything like a fine education. I suppose that neither you nor his Houston friends could bear the idea of him coming to such a place as Botany Bay. However, this is the place for active and intelligent young men getting on if they make up their minds to put up with hardships at the first. Robert Dick has got on very well, he has banked several thousands, and is now doing the most extensive business in this place. He has a young lad in the Store with him, to whom he gives £100 per annum with board and lodging. His brother James is studying for the University, busily engaged in preparing his Latin and Greek. His sister Janet keeps house for me and we are all happy enough, and comfortable as far this world is concerned. John Dalziel soon got tired of Sydney, and he very much dissatisfied and went to New Zealand, where he is occupied in sheep farming, and I believe doing very well.

I heard not the least word from anyone respecting the death of our sister Mrs Dick. I expected to hear from some of you Robert Dick has sent for his sister Margaret and she is expected by early ship. What is doing with the Glasgow property since Mrs Dick's death? I suppose if it were built upon it would be very valuable.

I am obliged to you for the Newspapers you occasionally drop me. I have been very remiss in not returning you the compliment, but I will henceforth send you the monthly Summary of the Sydney Morning Herald. Would you have the goodness to send me the papers concerning the report of the meeting of the General Assembly. We have suffered a good deal from Free Kirk impudence, but I think they have got near the end of their tether. People are beginning to see that there was no occasion for a Disruption here and the Frees are now applying for grants of land to build their Churches on. The great Dr McKay late of Dunoon has got a fine site from Government in Sydney. I have no doubt they will soon apply for a Stipend also. There was a strong feeling for a union between the Establishment and the Frees, but Salmon who was formerly at Charlestown in Paisley broke out in his usual strain against the Church of Scotland and heard he resents especially those of us in this Colony that the union is in the mean time broken off. I will expect a letter from you in the course of five months. I remain

Your affectionate Brother,  
Mathew Adam.

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[LETTER II]

Windsor, New S. Wales  
21st Dec 1860

*My Dear Nephew,*  
I am sorry to inform you that I received your letter from Dr Parker, yet I did not see the contents of it. I put it into my greatcoat pocket and went for drive with the Dr and unfortunately lost the greatcoat letter and all. I am exceedingly sorry on this account as I thought I would be able to answer your letter, expecting to hear something of it. I have therefore to request that you will have to write me again by return of Post, and let me know about you prospects. Would you like to come to this country? I never liked to ask you this question before as I am afraid your father and your other friends would be unwilling to part with you, and I might be blamed if I held out any inducements for you to come out here.

*Please let me know how you are employed? What salary do you receive? What kind of employment would you like to be engaged in? And whether you would wish to come to this country? Write me freely what you would wish to be and if I can be of any assistance to you I will be most happy to give you all the encouragement in my power.*

*I am, My dear Nephew  
Your affectionate Uncle  
Mathew Adam*

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[LETTER III]

Windsor, 21st Dec 1860

*It is now a long time since I heard from you or my Brother John. I had a letter from your Son, by Dr Parker, but unfortunately by before I read it, I put it in my greatcoat pocket, and in driving out with the Dr. to Richmond I lost the greatcoat containing the letter and have not replied to it. I regret this exceedingly as you may think it carelessness on my part. However, I enclose a letter to James, and I hope he will write again.*

*I was much gratified to learn that the reports concerning my Brother John are false and without foundation. They seem to have originated from Mrs. Fenton of Houston and mentioned by Maggie Dick, but whether any of the others had any hand in the matter I cannot make out. However, since they are all false, I am so happy that I care no more about the stories.*

*I suppose you must have heard before this time that I have got married, indeed I should have announced the intelligence to you sometime ago, but I felt a delicacy in doing so at first, and as time slipped on I neglected to inform you of the event. My wife is a daughter of the late Thomas Cadell, a brother of Robert Cadell, the celebrated publisher of Edinburgh. She was a widow when I married here, having been married to a Mr Hutchinson, the Manager of the Commercial Bank, Sydney, by whom she had two children, a daughter about 13 years, and a son about 11 years of age. Besides these I have got a little daughter Mary about 12 months old. Janet Dick has also got married to a brother-in-law of Robert's named David Pye. He had got an extensive agricultural and grazing farm about 10 miles from Windsor. She is very comfortable. We occasionally take a drive out to see her. She has got a nice little boy, who is just beginning to walk. Robert and James are still working away in the Store. They have the Post Office, and command the best business in the Town. Maggie has been sent to a Barony School in the vicinity of Sydney. She is getting on very well with her education.*

*Dr Parker is living with Robert. He is still very weak and shaky, but I hope the warm weather will do something for him.*

*I must now conclude with kind regards to your Son. I remain,*

*My Dear Brother*

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Stuart Adam (Scotland) email [stuart.adam@btinternet.com](mailto:stuart.adam@btinternet.com)

**Additional Sources**

*The Australian* 13 Oct 1898

*Windsor & Richmond Gazette* 22 Oct 1898; 29 Oct 1898 & 6 Jan 1900

*Australian Dictionary of Biography* Vol. III p.301

*Early Days of Windsor* / James Steele

*Reminiscences* / William Walker



**~ Hawkesbury at Work & Play ~**

**Do you have any images of persons at work in the Hawkesbury?**

**Places of employment in The Hawkesbury?**

**Photographs of people enjoying their recreational time after work?**

An exhibition is planned during Heritage Festival at the Hawkesbury Central Library during April 2006. Images are being sought on the subject of work & recreation covering the 1860s-1960s. If you can assist please contact Michelle Nichols, Local Studies Librarian on 4560-4466 or email [mnichols@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mnichols@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)

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