



BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY Inc.

NEWSLETTER No 538 June 2021 Founded 1960 Located in the Wingecarribee Shire, Southern Highlands of NSW

ABN 29362616937



From the President's Desk

Our first general meeting in 15 months was held on 27 May. The meeting was highly successful with many members expressing their relief at emerging from a year of relative isolation.

The meeting was informed of continuing negotiations being conducted between our Society and the Wingecarribee Shire Council regarding the repairs and upgrade to the Playhouse Theatre and the Memorial Hall precinct. Our Society has been offered the firstfloor room known as the supper room in exchange for the similarly sized area on the ground floor which we occupy. The supper room is located in the original School of Arts building with architecture dating from 1899, most appropriate for a historical society.

By surrendering some of our ground floor lease area this will enable an enlarged foyer for theatre patrons. We are supportive of this objective provided that a satisfactory final plan for our first floor accommodation is acceptable. We have the final say on any proposal put forward. Essential services and fittings such as a lift, air-conditioning, carpet, lighting, electrical and data cabling are proposed. We see this offer as a once in a lifetime opportunity to upgrade the infrastructure of the building we occupy.

Our mid-year lunch at the Marist Brothers Hermitage, Mittagong on 1 July will be in lieu of our June general meeting. If you are intending to come please ring the Archives to book your place before 15 June. Various speakers will give an outline of the history of the Old South Road in the Lower Mittagong area adjacent to our lunch venue.

On page three of this issue, we continue with another one of the early settlers in the Lower Mittagong area and the family's integration into local society. This month we explore the remarkable Hanks family in the first of a 2-part series. James Hanks was a convict who arrived in Sydney in 1798. His sentence expired in 1801 and he selected convict Sarah Trapnell to be his assignee. Sarah left her husband and family in England but that didn't stop her and James from producing seven daughters and a son. The remarkable story of James and his daughters begins in this newsletter.

Also in this issue is part 2 of our local private hospital series. This month we will be looking at Bowral hospitals *Chester, Strathmore* and *Yarrum*. **Ian Mackev**

JUNE/JULY 2021:	GENERAL MONTHLY MEETINGS Thursday 1 July at 12:00 for 12:30pm Mid-Year Lunch at Marist Brothers Hermitage, Mittagong
JULY:	Thursday 22 July at 2:00pm
SPEAKER:	Perry McIntyre will present a history of single Irish women immigrants. Afternoon Tea is served following the talk
NOT	E: on the first Wednesday each month, at 1pm



NOTE: on the first Wednesday each month, at 1pm the **Family History Interest Group** meets at the Mittagong Archives

Member's Letter to the Editor

Our thanks to member Dawn Glase for the following contribution she emailed recently in response to our April newsletter's report about the donation of 'Searching for Charlotte'.

"I was given this book at Christmas time. It ticked all the boxes for me: history and children's literature. I found the book very interesting, particularly about our local history and connections between such historical local figures as the Atkinsons and Throsbys.

Two connections to my own family history were in the book. The first was that Charlotte Atkinson (nee Waring) was descended from William de Warrenne, who came to England in the Norman Conquest. He is my twenty-sixth Great-grandfather. The second connection involved John Jenkins; a convict assigned to James Atkinson. As I read, I felt this was another connection to my ancestry.

I descend from Mary Wade, the youngest convict girl on the Second Fleet. Mary is my 5th Great-grand mother. I was able to pinpoint the connection between the Jenkins and me using 'From Mary Wade to Us'. (I know that this is incomplete, but I also belong to the Mary Wade Family History Association. It is asking descendants to update their connections).

I descend from Mary, then her eldest daughter, Sarah and then Sarah's daughter, Sophia Ray. Another daughter of Sarah's, Maria Ray, my 4th Great-aunt, married into the Jenkins family.

John Jenkins' wife Charlotte and children, were sponsored by James Atkinson to join their father in this area. Their son, John Jenkins (1816 – 1899), married Maria Ray.

These Jenkins went on to become very successful pastoralists. John Jenkins (ex-convict) and Charlotte, eventually had land, became successful farmers and built Berrima House at Berrima. The last two editions of the local Property Life, have had that property up for sale.

There are many descendants of Mary Wade in this area, also in Campbelltown, the Illawarra, the Riverina and throughout Australia. One of her sons-in-law, was Henry Angel, a convict who went with Hume to Port Phillip, later becoming a station owner in Hay and finally a land holder in Wagga Wagga. Kevin Rudd, former Prime Minister, also counts her as an ancestor.

Dawn Glase."

The Society wishes to acknowledge the many favourable comments about our monthly newsletter from members who have appreciated continuing to receive it each month throughout the difficult times of the past year and a half.

Please don't hesitate to contact the editor if you have comments about content or to make a contribution.

Berrima District Museum

THE STORY CENTRE

1a Market Place cnr Bryan St, Berrima OPEN WEDNESDAY TO SUNDAY
10.00am to 4.00pm throughout the year. This includes during school and public holiday periods. Closed
Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Groups welcome at other times by arrangement. Ph John 4854 0165.

Museum: Phone 4877 1130 or email bdmuseum@bigpond.com Managed and operated by members of our Society.

Archives' opening hours

Monday 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Tuesday 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Saturday 10:00 am - 1:00 pm



Pictorial History Southern Highlands by Linda Emery (140pp illustrated), is one of our best-selling publications.

This book contains over 200 historic photos from the BDHS collection along with brief histories of all the towns and villages in the Southern Highlands. It also covers the early occupation by Aboriginal people, European discovery and settlement.

We now only have stock of the hard cover edition of the book, available for the reduced cost of \$25 (was \$35).

It is ideal as a gift to welcome new residents to the Southern Highlands or for a general overview of the history of the district.



Strathmore, built c1888 by Adolph Duprez and originally named 'Salopia', is at the corner of Wingecarribee & Short Sts, Bowral. It has been a residence, dental surgery, and was a private hospital 1936 to 1962. See story page 4

Mid-Year lunch at Marist Brothers

Our mid-year lunch is at Marist Brothers Hermitage on Old South Rd, Mittagong, a place with a rich and interesting history. Lunch will be a two-course meal of a roast and dessert, on Thursday, 1 July 2021, at 12 for 12.30pm. Cost is \$35 per head.

Bookings are essential and must be made and paid for no later than **Tuesday 15 June**. Numbers are limited so, if you have not already done so, please book soon to avoid disappointment!

There will be a talk on the history of the site going back to the early days of settlement in Mittagong. While not wishing to preempt this, a snapshot of the Old South Road's early history is provided here, to whet the appetite of those attending the lunch and for the interest of our members unable to attend.

A brief history of the Old South Road

Our May issue included the story of a windmill that from 1831 to around 1860 graced the skyline on the South Road at Lower Mittagong, across the road from Cutter's Inn, as shown on the map. The land that stretched along Old South Rd and opposite the Bong Bong Rd junction was purchased by the Marist Brothers in 1906 for a Novitiate college.

The Old South Road dates back to 1819, being a track marked out by explorers including Hamilton Hume, Dr Charles Throsby and James Meehan from Picton through the Bargo Brush and to the south country. As Governor Macquarie was encouraging settlement of the area, a road was needed. The explorers' track was the only practicable route but the terrain would not prove suitable for heavily loaded waggons as in places the grades were too steep, particularly at the Mittagong Range.

Nevertheless, Macquarie instructed Dr Throsby to take charge of clearing it for a more serviceable wheeled track. With Joseph Wilde as overseer, a party of convicts cleared a cart road from Picton through the Bargo Brush and to the eastern side of the Mittagong Range at Lower Mittagong and then descending (now Eridge Park Road) to the river flats at Bong Bong. There it crossed the Wingecarribee River by a ford and wound on through to Sutton Forest, and thence southwest to the Goulburn Plains.

The section of road through Lower Mittagong and Bong Bong did not, however, remain long as part of the main south road. In the 1830s, Surveyor-General Mitchell marked out a deviation, and that new line of road would become part of the Great Southern Road (and eventually the Hume Highway). Mitchell's new line of road deviated westward at Alpine Hill and then proceeded through Nattai (now Mittagong) and on to Berrima and to Goulburn. This new section thus avoided the steep Mittagong Range and the flood-prone river at Bong Bong.

Although no longer part of the main road, the Lower Mittagong section stayed in use for local purposes, with farming and grazing continuing in the area, including by the Hanks/Rowe family. An article about their history commences on the next page.

As well, located along the Old South Rd between Bong Bong and Range Roads was the Mittagong Farm Home (later known as Renwick), initially established in 1896 on 100 acres leased from the 'Southwood Estate'. The first of 'otherwise unmanageable' boys were sent there in 1900 to run a cottage farm home and, as this venture proved highly successful, the whole of the 550-acre Estate was leased in January 1905 with the right to purchase. Today the Renwick sub-division occupies the site, its name providing a reminder of the former Mittagong farm home.

The area's rich, vibrant history continues to fascinate.



Lower Mittagong Topographical Plan, drawn by I V Mackey

The Hanks Family at Lower Mittagong

James Hanks, convicted to seven years transportation at Oxford Assizes in 1794 for burglary and stealing, arrived in the Colony in 1798. He could never have envisaged that he would father seven daughters, of whom four were to become amongst the wealthiest members of colonial society.

James' sentence expired in 1801, three years after his arrival, and he selected Sarah Trapnell *nee* Viner, as she was being discharged from the *Earl Cornwallis*, to be his assignee. Sarah had been convicted of stealing at Summerset Assizes, Bristol in June 1800 and sentenced to seven years transportation, arriving in the colony in June 1801. She left her daughters and husband behind in England.

Sarah and James never married but lived together until her death in 1828, having produced eight children – seven daughters and one son. Sarah operated a dressmaking establishment, her skills put to good use with so many daughters to outfit. Though it appears the girls had little formal education, as they matured they successfully mixed with the wealthy families of Sydney Town.

James bought land in Chapel Row (later Castlereagh Street) looking over the town of Sydney and harbour. In 1804 he joined the Sydney Loyal Association. He followed a varied career path, listed as occupation stonemason in 1805, appointed Constable in 1811 while in 1822 his occupation was listed as 'labourer' and later still as 'dealer' and 'carter'. He took advantage of any opportunities that came his way.

First born of the Hanks girls was Sarah, born 1802, followed by Harriet in 1804, then Mary (1805), Elizabeth (1808), Phoebe (1811), Philllis (1813) and Louisa (1814). William the only son was born in 1806. The four sisters with relevance to Lower Mittagong were Harriet, Mary, Phillis and Louisa.

Harriet was just 15 when she embarked as an illegal passenger on the brig *Daphne* bound for India. The ship was wrecked in 1819 in Bass Strait. Her 13-year old brother William was also on board serving as a crew member. Both were were rescued, taken on board another vessel, the *John Palmer*, which in turn was also wrecked. They managed to survive this second shipwreck and returned to Sydney.

In 1921 Harriet was again sailing the high seas, this time as a passenger on the *Caroline* sailing from Sydney to Hobart, with consent of her father James. That same year at age 16 she gave birth to her first child, a son, James Gray, whose father was a sailor. The baby survived only a short time and within 12 months Harriet had given birth to another son, George Taylor, following a brief relationship with respected sea captain Daniel Taylor.

It did not take long for Harriet to find another paramour, this time the wealthy dashing solicitor Thomas Deane Rowe with whom she commenced a relationship around 1824. On arrival in the colony Rowe claimed to be a gentleman of impeccable connections with highly respected relatives. In 1832 he was granted 1000 acres south of the Wingecarribee River, naming his property 'Spense Coombe'. Harriet began amassing a portfolio of property in her own name no doubt with the assistance, legal or financial, of Rowe. He was still married to his wife Sarah who was living with solicitor Robert Wardell. It wasn't until Sarah died in 1837 that Rowe was free to marry.

Rowe married his long-time partner Harriet Hanks on 17 March 1838. Witnesses to the marriage were William Henry Moore and George Riley, both of whom married Harriet's sisters. Harriet signed the marriage register with an "X" indicating that though now mixing with the elite of Sydney town she remained illiterate. This hadn't stopped her from fighting court cases over disputed land grants, accruing property in Sydney town and also six 100acre lots just north of the Wingecarribee River. The following month Thomas and Harriet purchased approximately 1900 acres at Lower Mittagong from Charles Sturt and his wife Charlotte (see map over).

Thomas, Harriet and Harriet's son from a previous relationship, George Taylor (born 1822), moved to Lower Mittagong. This advertisement appears in the 15 March 1838 edition of the *Sydney Gazette*:

Mr Rowe wishes to engage with an Overseer and his Wife; the former to take charge of about 2,000 Acres of Land, an Orchard, Garden, etc. The Ground extends from the Old to the New Line of Road to Berrima from Bong Bong on this side of Mittagong, and has on it a Windmill, the Wife to act as Housekeeper, to manage the Dairy, and so forth. Application to Thomas Deane Rowe, Esq., near the Church, Phillip-street.

Presumably the family would have moved into the building originally known as the Kangaroo Inn built by George Cutter on the 30 acres, portion 73, originally granted to Robert Plumb and now on their estate.

Their happiness and plans for the future were to be shortlived as a few months later, on 11 November 1838, Thomas Rowe died at his Mittagong residence. Prior to his death, he had been involved in a lengthy court case which resulted in his being struck off and

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deregistered, leaving his career shattered. He had no children of his own. The step-son, George Taylor, adopted the name George Taylor Rowe. Harriet, already a wealthy woman with an impressive property portfolio, inherited all Rowe's assets.



Thomas D Rowe's Land Holdings 1838, Lower Mittagong

As before, Harriet did not wait long before entering into another relationship, marrying William Sherwin, the Colony's first native born doctor to qualify in England, in 1839. The following year he purchased an extensive land holding east of the Wingecarribee Swamp of 2,560 acres which he named 'Bombilarh'. This was an addition to his already extensive land holdings in and around Sydney. Plus, having married Harriet Rowe, he now had access to the land she had inherited from her late husband's estate.

However, a Land Titles document indicates that the shrewd Harriet sold the land to William for the sum of £4,000. During his years at Mittagong, Sherwin was a popular physician, a councillor and a steward at the local race course. He and Harriet continued to live at Mittagong until the late 1850s. Harriet's son George T Rowe and family moved from Mittagong to Varroville near Liverpool in the mid-1850s. It was his daughter Clara that married Etienne de Mestre - their story was provided in our March newsletter.

Harriet and William returned to Sydney, residing at her property in Darlinghurst, where she died in 1893. He pre-deceased her, passing away in 1874. The Rowe family papers indicate that Harriet owned numerous Sydney properties in the late 1870s/early 1880s. It is worth noting also that locally a cottage known as Rowes Cottage was shown on old 1850s survey maps. When the Marist Brothers purchased the acreage in 1905 a replacement cottage and dairy built c1880 existed on the site, but since demolished.



Rowe's cottage c1905, photo courtesy Marist Brothers

Mary, the third Hanks daughter, was a year younger than Harriet. In 1823 she was listed as a passenger, on board with permission of her mother Sarah, on the vessel *Regalia* bound for Hobart. She, like Harriet before her, bought property under her own name. In 1824 she purchased lot 22 of Section 35, Parish of St James, consisting of 26 ½ perches, the purchase officially recognized in 1839.

In 1826 Mary gave birth to a daughter, Harriet Louisa Hanks. No father was listed, although in the 1828 census a Louisa Clements age 3 is listed as living with her grandparents at Castlereagh Street. It is evident through land dealings that Mary knew a William Henry Moore. In 1834 both she and Moore are listed in the Registers of Memorials in regard to a property in Castlereagh St, and she was listed in the *SMH* of 13 September 1842 as being owed £251/15/0 by Moore. No doubt she had been introduced to him by her sister Harriet. Like Harriet, Mary would have had little education but this did not hinder her ambitions.

Mary when aged 39 married William Henry Moore on 13 August 1844 at St James Church, Sydney. William had come to the Colony in 1815, and was admitted to the courts as the first free solicitor. A controversial figure throughout his career, he held a strong antiemancipist stance and managed to get on the wrong side of more than one governor. Despite this, Moore did manage to build up a lucrative private practice and acquired a great deal of property in Sydney and in rural areas including a small holding of 60 acres, portion 88, at Lower Mittagong.

Mary's story will continue next month along with that of Phillis and Louisa, sisters of Mary and Harriet.

References (both in BDHS Library): 'Convicts and Currencies: The Family of James Hanks' by Anthony Laffan; and 'James Hanks: Convict and Gentleman' by Keith W Hodgson

- compiled by Caroline Dougherty

Local Private Hospitals Part 2: Bowral

In the early to mid-twentieth century our local towns were well served with private hospitals. A history of these commenced in last month's newsletter, noting that local births initially took place in the mother's home or at the midwife's place. Then, from the early 1900s, mothers could attend private hospitals at Mittagong, Bowral and Moss Vale, as well as a Moss Vale community hospital from 1955. When a maternity unit opened at Bowral & District Hospital in 1961, the small private hospitals closed.

An overview of early medical care and the story of Mittagong's community hospital were provided in last month's newsletter. Bowral's private hospitals are the focus of this month's feature, and Moss Vale's hospital history will be presented next month.

As the information on Bowral's private hospitals in our archives is somewhat sketchy, it is stressed that what follows here is not a comprehensive overview. Details are provided for Chester, Strathmore and Yarrum hospitals, with a mention of Ellengowan. If anyone has further information, please contact us.

Chester, at 52 Merrigang St Bowral, is where Nurse

Norman conducted a private hospital in the 1920s. The building still stands as a private home. This photo taken by Max Rogers in 2000.



Strathmore at 59 Wingecarribee St on the corner of Short St, Bowral, two doors from the Police Station, is today a residential property. It was described in the local *Property Press* of 9 November 1994 as one of the grand old sandstock brick houses of the town (circa 1888) and birthplace of many worthy citizens.

The house, seen on page 2, has the name 'Salopia' in a glass panel above the front door, and this name was used in advertising in the 1920s by Dr Crawford, a Dental Surgeon, who then occupied the premises.

A hospital named 'Strathmore' was originally at a different residential location, being at the corner of Holly and Shepherd Sts, Bowral. Nurse Louisa Murray and Nurse Lawless opened it in May 1925, but their partnership ceaded in September 1925, with Murray continuing at Strathmore while Lawless went on to run Ellengowan private hospital in Merrigang St.

By the mid-1930s, however, the house at the corner of Wingecarribee and Short Sts was being advertised

as a private hospital called 'Strathmore', run by nurses Mahoney and Boardman and catering for "Medical, Surgical and Obstetric Cases, with outdoor patients attended". What exactly led to this change of management and location is unclear but, as will be explained below, it had to do with Nurse Murray.

Strathmore was often mentioned in *The Southern Mail*, such as in June 1937: "One of Bowral's most popular citizens, Mr Mountford George Riley, manager of the municipal gasworks, died in Strathmore Private Hospital after a brief illness"; and in September 1937: "Mrs W White and Mrs Horace Ford are each receiving congratulations on the arrival of their second sons in Strathmore. To make the coincidence complete both reside at Kangaloon".

From 1950, Strathmore was run by Matron Millikin. BDHS file notes compiled by the late Max Rogers record that Miss D P Millikin was an obstretric nurse

who assisted to bring some 5,500 babies into the world. After training at St Margaret's Hospital in Sydney from 1921 to 1923, she started her own maternity hospital at Auburn and then, 27 years later, took over Strathmore from Sisters Mahoney and Boardman. Matron Millikin then conducted Strathmore until closure in 1962.



Yarrum, at 64-66 Merrigang St Bowral, was a private maternity hospital and the building still exists today. It opened as a hospital in June 1937, owned and operated by Mrs Louisa Maud Dienis (*nee* Murray), the same nurse who had started Strathmore in Merrigang St in 1925. The name *Yarrum* was her maiden name spelt backward and she always included her maiden name in advertising, no doubt to remind people of the solid reputation she must have already earned in the district prior to her marriage. She was a Tresilian-method trained sister which attracted many young mothers to her care, and was variously referred to as 'Nurse' or 'Sister' Deinis or Murray.

Louisa was born at Moss Vale in 1894, her parents being William and Hannah Murray. Little is known of her early life except that she had a younger sister and a brother, Francis. Presumably, Louisa would have trained in Sydney as a nurse prior to opening her first maternity hospital in Shepherd St in 1925. In Sydney in 1934, Louisa married Pierre Dienis, who was 20 years her senior. By 1936 they are in Bowral, listed on the Electoral Roll for Bowral, residing in Merrigang St, he as a carpenter and she as a nurse.

Born in France in 1876, Pierre was educated at a Marist Brothers College near Noumea, capital of New Caledonia. His father had been a maritime engineer on a French ship which disappeared off New Caledonia in 1898 and his mother was of Dutch descent. A great uncle, Admiral Debrier, fought with Napoleon and another great uncle was a general. Pierre had moved to Sydney when aged 18 years.



Yarrum in Merrigang St, Bowral, served as a hospital

Some notes on Yarrum's history as a hospital were provided by Ian H Lamond to the BDHS in 1985, including that he had the distinction of being, in 1937, the first male child born there. Ian was the grandson of Hector Lamond, proprietor from 1924 of the Bowral-based *Southern Mail* newspaper, and the son of Hector Lamond Jnr who took over the running and editing of his father's paper in the 1940s. In the mid-1930s, Hector Jnr married Dulcie *nee* Waters – who subsequently gave birth to Ian.

Ian recollects that, in 1937, "Sisters Boardman and Mahoney already conducted an equally popular maternity hospital on the corner of Wingecarribee and Short Sts, next to Peter Davidson's, a dentist. At Yarrum, Louisa Dienis was a kindly, matronly framed woman. Her husband was a somewhat dapper little man with a brown Stromberg hat and walking stick, as I remember him later. The hospital in Merrigang St was visited by Dr Harbison and Dr Watson in the early days. They both lived in Merrigang St as far as I know. Dr Watson certainly did."

"When the Yarrum hospital opened there were naturally celebrations, which is where I, literally, came in, and why I know a little of it. On 29 June 1937 it was snowing in Bowral. Quite a heavy fall in fact. The very one in which 'the look-alike Springett twins skied down Bong Bong St towed by a utility' in my father's booklet, actually." (*refer below*)

"My Dad went snow-balling; my Mum gave birth to me about 10:30pm. Sister Dienis threw a 'party' within days, complete with cake and all, and a little boy and girl on top of it. I was the first boy born in the hospital and Isabel Beatty the first girl. A Mrs Wells had a boy about the same time. There would of course be many families who have passed through Sister Dienis's and Sister Boardman's hands."

Owing to ill health, Sister Dienis retired as operator of the Yarrum maternity hospital sometime in 1956. Her husband Pierre passed away in September 1958. Most likely she continued to reside at Yarrum after it ceased as a hospital, and lived for another 25 years, passing away in August 1983, aged 88 years.

Louisa and Pierre are buried in Bowral General Cemetery along with Henrietta, their infant baby.

Some information about the two Hector Lamonds

In 1905 Hector Lamond was at the front line of Labor politics along with William G Spence, who was one of the great labor advocates of ALP history. He had been a miner and shearer and general secretary of the Miners Union in 1882. He and Hector were close friends. Hector became editor of the *Australian Worker* in 1895 and married Gwynetha, daughter of W G Spence, in 1902.

In 1924 Hector purchased the Bowral-based *Southern Mail* and became prominent locally as proprietor and editor of the district's leading newspaper.

His son, Hector Spence Lamond (1905-1985) came to Bowral in 1931 to join his father at the newspaper. Before entering the journalistic field, Hector Jnr had worked in the softgoods trade in Sydney.

In the mid-1930s, Hector jnr married Dulcie Waters and their son Ian was born in 1937, as told above. Hector later divorced Dulcie, and the electoral roll of the 1960s has her and Ian sharing the same Bowral address, with Hector living at a hotel.

Hector Jnr became editor of the *Southern Mail/Four Mails* in 1947 when his father became too ill to carry on and, following a change of ownership in October 1960, remained as editor and a company director. The name of the paper was changed to the *Southern Highland News* in February 1961.

After Hector retired in June 1970 the paper published a booklet by him titled 'Nothing Happens in the Berrima District they Said – but Were they Wrong?' which includes the snow story alluded to above.

– compiled by Philip Morton

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AFFILIATIONS:	Royal Australian Historical Society, Museums Australia Inc and NSW Association of Family Histo Societies.

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BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY Inc.

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