



BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY Inc.

Founded 1960

Located in the Wingecarribee Shire,
Southern Highlands of NSW

ABN 29 362 616 937

NEWSLETTER

No 548 May 2022



From the President's Desk

Our Society was represented at the recent Anzac ceremonies throughout the district. Thanks to the following members who attended the various ceremonies: Carolyn Dougherty laid a wreath at Mittagong, Bud Townsing at Bowral, David Baxter at Moss Vale and, on behalf of the Berrima District Museum, John Schweers laid a wreath at the dawn service held at Berrima.

Our problems with NBN/Telstra have now been resolved and I am happy to say members are able to once again contact us via landline.

Our speaker for the next general meeting on 26 May is Perry McIntyre who will present a history of single Irish women immigrants. Judith Dunn will be guest speaker at our June lunch at the Marist Brothers Hermitage restaurant on Wednesday 29 June. Judith will be presenting an intriguing topic entitled *Horrible History for Adults! Then and There Lying Dead*. More details are on page 3.

At our last general meeting our Archivist, Linda Emery gave another entertaining presentation in her ongoing

series entitled *Captured in the Light*. Linda features recently acquired photographs and the history behind them. One of the subjects this time was Bert Hinkler, famous Australian aviator who had a fleeting encounter with our district captured in photos.

If you are travelling through Bowral you can now see a photographic hoarding at the corner of Bong Bong and Wingecarribee Streets which depict, among other subjects, historical photographs from our Image library. Linda's report is on page 4.

On pages 5 and 6 of this issue you can read about a new Museum exhibition expertly curated by Lyn Hall about the 150th anniversary of Berrima Public School. A description of the display is given plus a chronological history of the various schools that operated in Berrima from 1855 up to the opening of the present school in January 1870. The Reverends Thomas and son James Hassall were both Church of England ministers who served for a time in Berrima. James was a mediator in the issues surrounding the opening of the Berrima Public school in 1870. Philip Morton has compiled this story which can be read on page 7.

Ian Mackey

GENERAL MONTHLY MEETINGS 2022

MAY 2022: Thursday 26 May at 2:00pm
SPEAKER: Historian Perry McIntyre speaking on Irish History
AFTERNOON TEA is served following the speaker

JUNE 2022: Wednesday 29 June at 12:00 for 12:30pm
EVENT: June Luncheon at Marist Brothers Hermitage, Mittagong

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

THE
Story
Centre
BERRIMA
DISTRICT
MUSEUM

Moore Memorable Musings



WINE NOT?

Where has our old favourite wines, such as Porphry Pearl, Cold Duck, Blue Nun, Kaiser Stuhl and Ben Ean Moselle gone?

These are some of the popular wine brands Australians grew up with in the '60s and '70s.

Although I didn't drink in the early days of serious studiousness, I can recall buying a bottle of Orlando's Barossa Pearl which sat on our table at the Trocadero. I was desperately trying to impress the young lady I took to a ball after presenting her with a corsage to pin on her dazzling shantung ballgown.

The taste of this wine to me then was like drinking a mix of lolly water, lemonade and bleach. However the shapely empty bottle itself could later be used as a bed-side lamp holder or a table decoration dripping with colourful old candle wax.

I'm told some of these old brands are quietly making a comeback on the market.

Let's face it, the old bag-in-a-box wines we called Chateau Cardboard are still gracing our shelves.

Gone are those brand names like Hock, Chablis, Champagne, Port, Sherry and Burgundy. These are regions I'm told and it's strictly a no-no, P.C. and illegal to use such names on wine today.

No, the grape variety(ies) must be the standout along with the maker's name. Added to this is a description of the wine like a deep purple colour.

Aromas of rich dark currants, nectarine skins, gushing blackberry, overtones of fragrant tobacco, rich soil, hedge clippings, smashed minerals, metal and pencil-shavings. A medium-bodied, saucy but racy acidity stabilises the wine nicely with the robust tannins. A perfect complement to a hard-boiled egg and burnt toast.

Give me a good Beaujolais, Chianti or even that old gut-rotting claret any day. Perhaps we should have taken more notice of the famous Penfold's Grange Hermitage.

Always out of my price-range, I see some 1951 bottles are still for sale at over \$20,000 a glass! This would be quite an expensive toast.

Bruce Moore

BERRIMA DISTRICT MUSEUM

The Story Centre

1a Market Place cnr Bryan St, Berrima

OPEN: FRIDAY to SUNDAY

10.00am to 4.00pm

throughout the year including school and public holiday periods.

Groups welcome at other times by arrangement. Ph John 0434 623 402

Museum: Phone 4877 1130 or email bdmuseum@bigpond.com

Managed and operated by members of our Society who volunteer their time and expertise.

Archives' opening hours

Monday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Tuesday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Saturday 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

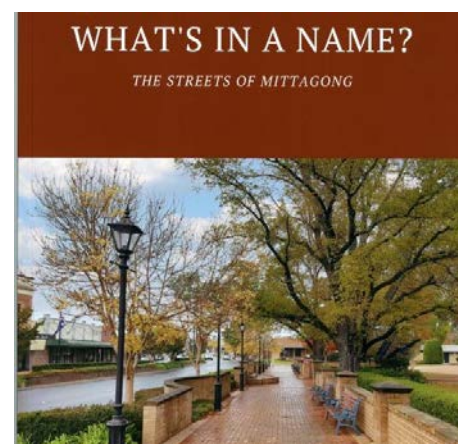
Membership Details

Please note that all membership enquiries and changes of address details should be addressed to:

The Membership Secretary
c/- the Society's postal address, or email: bdhsarchives@gmail.com

"The Streets of Mittagong"

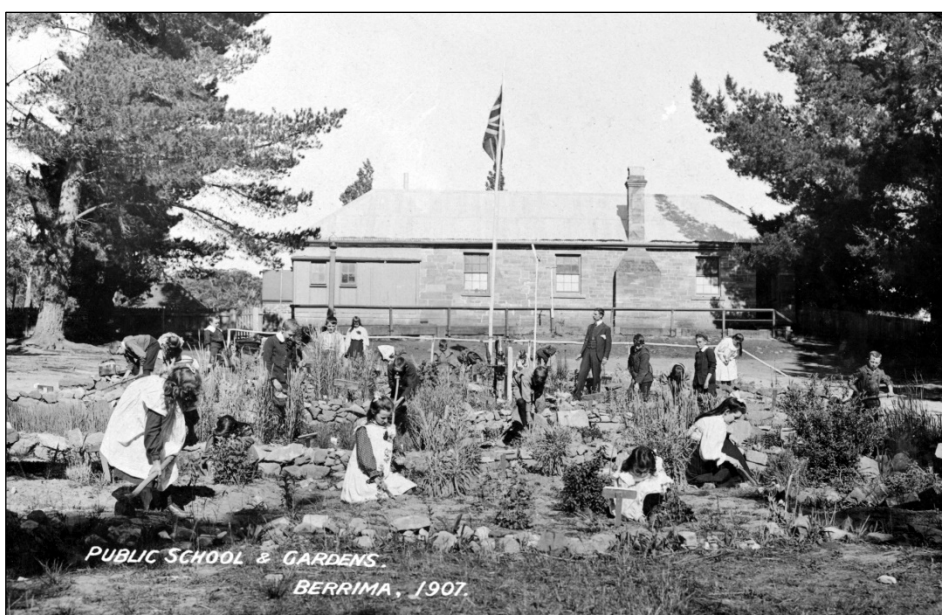
This recently published BDHS booklet outlines the origins of street names of Mittagong, Balaclava, Willow Vale, Welby and Renwick, with plentiful illustrations and photographs.



Copies may be purchased for \$15 at our archives and the museum, and available to buy on the BDHS website.

The new booklet is the result of a collaborative project, with thanks to Sandy McKenzie, Linda Emery and Carolyn Dougherty who undertook the research. Also acknowledged is the work of the late Dr John Simons who documented the origins of street names in the Mittagong Land Company Subdivision of 1884.

It remains an ongoing BDHS project to document, where possible, the origins of street names in all the towns and villages of the Southern Highlands.



Berrima Public School with pupils at work in the school gardens, 1907

– read more about the school's 150 years of history on pages 5 and 6

Irish History at our May Meeting

PERRY McINTYRE



**FSAG, B.Sc., Dip.Ed., M.Litt.,
Dip. Local & Applied History, PhD**

Perry has worked as a genealogist, historian and archivist for 40 years. She served almost 20 years on the Society of Australian Genealogists council and other committees including the History Council of NSW (President 2005-06), the Royal Australian Historical Society,

Australian Catholic Historical Society, the Great Irish Famine Commemoration Committee (Chair 2012-15) and the Mosman Historical Society.

She has published and spoken widely on immigration and family history. Her PhD on convict family reunion was published in Ireland as *Free Passage* in 2010 and reprinted in Australia in 2018. She is a director of Anchor Books Australia, formed to make good quality Australian history publicly available.

Perry's talk at our May General Meeting will focus on a history of single Irish women immigrants.

Our General Meetings are held at 2:00pm, upstairs in the BDHS Research Centre/archives, Old Council Chambers (Playhouse), Bowral Rd, Mittagong.

'Horrible History' at June Luncheon

The Society will be holding its June Luncheon at the Marist Brothers Hermitage, Old South Rd, Mittagong on Wednesday 29 June, 12:00 for 12:30.

This venue in its historic surroundings proved most popular with members who attended our Christmas lunch there last December, and in similar style a two-course meal of main and dessert will be offered this June, with tea and coffee provided, and there will be the usual door prizes and raffle.

The cost is \$45 per person. Members and guests who wish to attend should contact the Society as soon as possible to book and make payment.

Guest speaker at the lunch will be **Judith Dunn**, OAM, a tour guide, public speaker and educator.

Judith will entertain us with tales about a variety of crimes and incidents that show the tumultuous life around Sydney in colonial times and up to 1950.

Horrible History for Adults! Then and There Lying Dead – a Judith Dunn PowerPoint Presentation

The talk is based on Judith's latest book which aims to show bizarre incidents, accidents, murders and inquests from 1803 to 1950 through



newspaper reports. These stories are intriguing, incredible, amazing and sometimes awful – yet make listeners laugh. Men selling their wives in the market, bodies turning up in the river, the Inspector of Distilleries who died an alcoholic and rough justice in the early court system. Why was a leg buried in Parramatta and which Doctor carried his gold home from the diggings in a coffin? A fascinating glimpse into colonial life that make one glad to be living today!

Brief Biography

Judith Dunne is past president and Fellow of the Parramatta & District Historical Society having served on the Society Council for 25 years. She initiated the Historic Graves Committee almost thirty years ago, is still its convenor and is author of the Parramatta Cemetery Series, a series of five books recording the oldest cemeteries in Australia. She is currently president of Friends of Mays Hill Cemetery and Friends of St Johns Cemetery, a Councillor of the Royal Australian Historical Society and NSW delegate to the Federation of Australian Historical Societies.

She holds a Parramatta and District Historical Society Fellowship (FPDHS) for researching and recording Parramatta history.

Judith has received a number of awards including the Australian Centenary Medal, NSW State Government Award for services to History and Heritage and, in her capacity as teacher, achieved a Quality Teaching Award from the NSW State Government.

In 2011 Judith received an Order of Australia Medal for services to history and heritage.

Judith has authored seven books, five of which are on the Parramatta Cemeteries.

For recreation, Judith likes to water ski!

Bert Hinkler landed at Bong Bong

Pioneer aviator Bert Hinkler gained fame for being the first to fly solo from England to Australia in February 1928, a flight that took 15 days. Born in Bundaberg, Queensland in 1892, Bert was the son of a German born mill worker. After leaving school he became fascinated by flight, joining the Queensland Aero Club and the Aerial League of Australia in 1910. Learning mechanics by correspondence, he built two gliders in 1911-12, the second design being based on his own observation and analysis of ibises in flight.

Late in 1913, Bert Hinkler set off for England and worked for a while for the Sopwith Aircraft Company. At the outbreak of the First World War, he enlisted in the Royal Naval Air Service in September 1914. He served with distinction throughout the war and was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.

In 1919 he joined AV Roe & Co (Avro) the British aircraft manufacturer in Southampton and was their Chief Test Pilot from 1921-1926. He created many aviation records between 1920-1931, his most renowned achievements being his pioneering solo flight from England to Australia and the first solo flight across the South Atlantic in 1931.

In May 1928, Bert and his American wife Katherine, wearing a red flying cap, flew in to the Southern Highlands, landing at the Bong Bong racecourse. They had come from Melbourne in the Avro Avian aircraft that Bert had flown from England, making various stops along the way en route to Sydney. The crowd, who paid an entrance fee, was estimated at around 1500 with eight policemen there to help keep them under control. Among the school children there on the day were Norma and Moon Wickens from Sutton Forest. Their photo, and several others of Bert's famous plane, came to us recently through Robert Serio, the American son of war bride Dorothy Hinkley of Sutton Forest.

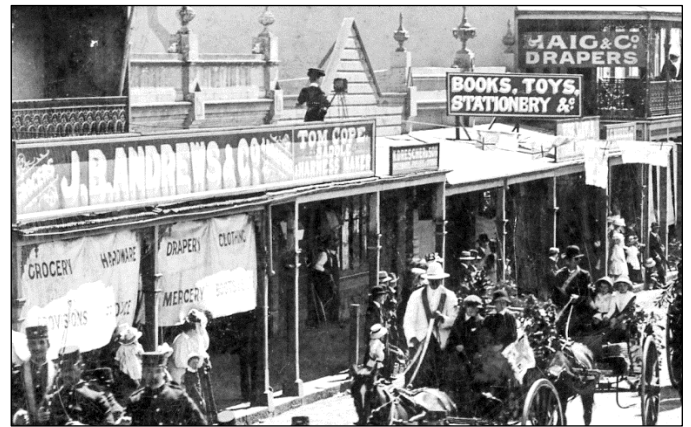


Bert Hinkler was killed while attempting another solo flight from England to Australia. He began the flight from Heathrow in January 1933 and disappeared. The crashed plane and Hinkler's body were found on the mountains near Castel San Niccolo, Italy, on 27 April. He had survived the crash and died outside the wreckage. On the orders of Dictator Benito Mussolini he was buried in Florence with full military honours.

BDHS photos 'on show' in Bowral

Members may have noticed the new hoarding which has been erected around the site of the fire that destroyed the buildings on the corner of Bong Bong and Wingecarribee Streets in Bowral. The Society was pleased to be able to assist Wingecarribee Shire Council by supplying historic images of Bong Bong St including several photos of the site itself. All the photos have a short caption and are dated giving snapshots of the streetscape over time. The Society is acknowledged with information about what we do as well as a QR code that takes viewers to our website.

One of the images on the hoarding, the 8 hour day procession in 1909, revealed an interesting detail once blown up to the large size. On one of the shop awnings, a woman can be clearly seen with her tripod and camera set up to capture the festivities.



The photographer pictured is Louisa Jessie Duprez (1876-1935), who was active in Bowral at that time. She produced postcards of streetscapes and also took group and individual portraits. We hold a number of her photos, including those capturing the 8 hour day processions from about 1908 to 1914, always taken from the same position on top of the awning.

Jessie was the youngest child of Adolphe and Louisa Duprez who had settled in Bowral in 1868. Adolphe was born in France, not far from Paris, and came to Australia in search of gold in around 1858, his family following him a year later. He established a bakery in Bowral and became very much involved in public affairs in the town, but his most notable achievement was his advocacy for the construction of the road to Wombeyan Caves. His enthusiasm for the project led to the road being known initially as Duprez's Road.

Jessie too was active in her community especially in the Methodist Church and Bowral Tennis Club. After the death of her mother in August 1915, Jessie left Bowral to live in Sydney. She did not marry and died at her Northbridge home in 1935. - **Linda Emery**

'Berrima School 150 Years' at museum

Berrima District Museum's exhibition in the Williams Gallery, *Gardens and Landscapes of the Southern Highlands, Then & Now*, has attracted much interest since it opened earlier this year. Its official opening was featured in our April newsletter.

Although less grandiose, another of the museum's recently installed displays is also well worth a look.

Berrima School 150 Years (1869-2019), curated by the museum's indefatigable Lyn Hall, was originally planned to be exhibited in 2019 with its opening attended by Berrima Public School's current teachers and pupils as part of their 150th celebrations.

Due to the pandemic, the project was placed on hold although Lyn remained in contact with school staff who had been supportive with ideas and materials, and the donation of objects and loan of materials. Necessary upgrades to the museum and its displays were undertaken during the periods of closure, with the museum reopening in December 2021.



The *Berrima School 150 Years* display, on show since early this year, features a variety of interesting items.

These include past equipment used at Berrima Public School, including a 1950s reel-to-reel tape recorder and overhead projector, as well as a collection of objects, documents and rare books on loan from the school, including important historic Pupil Record books and Special Edition publications produced by the School.



Accompanying the display is a digital slideshow of illustrations, photographs and stories that provide an overview of the school's development and major events. There is also a bound collection of class photographs spanning the years to browse through.

The display also features a large central panel of text, with wording from an historical account prepared by Jim Fletcher, BA 1969, Research and Planning, NSW Dept of Education, from Department records, the Mitchell Library and NSW State Archives.

For the interest of readers who are unable to visit the museum, the text on the panel is reproduced here:

Early history of Berrima schools

1848 Governor Fitzroy gave his assent to a bill for the establishment of two boards to control education in the colony – a Denominational School Board and a Board of National Education.

1855 In Berrima a Roman Catholic school had opened in 1840 but was later closed. A Church of England school began operation in 1855 but finding it impossible to support a teacher from the funds paid by the parents, it was taken over by the Board of National Education who insisted that the teacher Jacob Halls complete a month's teacher training at Fort Street Model School.

1855-1862 Halls resumed duty in December 1855 and by then the school was a State School. This operated in a four roomed stone house leased from Mr Keighran. The attendance was 27 children in 1862. According to Board of Education Inspectors reports, however, the building and equipment were far from satisfactory, although the teaching standard maintained by Jacob Halls was satisfactory.

The school building did not receive maintenance and continued to deteriorate. The 1861 census recorded over 70 children between the ages of five and 14 at Berrima with only 37 enrolled at the State school. Overcrowding was preventing proper instruction from taking place. In three years, three different

State inspectors gave varying reports and eventually the long-suffering Halls tendered his resignation. The school closed in June 1862.

1867 Replacing the State School, an Anglican school was opened in Reverend James S Hassall's renovated coach house and stables. In 1867 however the local school board at Berrima requested the newly formed Council of Education to close the Anglican school as it then had only 22 children enrolled compared to 65 at the Catholic school, which had reopened in 1862.

With the aim of securing a public school at Berrima, a new local board was formed. In their application to the Council of Education they guaranteed £125 towards the cost of a new public school building, stating that they could rent a space for a temporary school for £12 per annum. They recommended that a single gentleman be appointed to carry out teaching duties until the public school be completed.

1868-1870 The local board was shocked when told that the Council of Education's architect had planned a school to cost £800. They had expected a figure below £400 and were disheartened. The board felt "that the scheme for establishing a Public School is not feasible . . . it is our desire to relinquish the understanding and notify you accordingly".

Rev. Hassall found this arrangement unsatisfactory. He had been under the impression that the Anglican school had closed with the intention of immediately opening a public school. In November he notified the Council that the Catholic school was over-crowded because the children from the Anglican school had gone there. He also noted that Rev Wyatt had closed his private school and his house was now available; the Council could use the furniture from the old Anglican school and if the Council would appoint a teacher a public school could be easily established.

John Rooney was appointed and reached Berrima in December 1868. He immediately ordered new furniture as well as books, maps and stationery. He began teaching on 6 January 1869. The local board took fresh courage and raised over £80 towards the cost of a new school. They now had over £100 with the promise of £50 more. They were keener than ever: "no endeavour shall be spared . . . to secure as handsome and substantial a building as can possibly be erected."

Once again Rev Hassall showed his interest in the school, this time by donating a one-acre block on which the present school building stands.

Tenders were called in March 1869 and Mr P Hart's tender of £425 accepted. In July 1869 the Council's architect inspected the building site and reported the

walls of the teacher's residence were nearly ready for the roof and the schoolroom walls were going ahead well. He felt that satisfactory progress was being made but regular inspections were needed.

Just when it appeared Berrima would have a public school housed in its own building, events threatened its existence. The school was operating in temporary rented premises and the local board expected the Council of Education to pay the rent. The Council refused for they considered it to be the local board's responsibility. The local board promptly resigned and refused to hand over keys of the new building to Rooney. In November 1869 Rooney informed the Council that the new building had been finished three weeks ago but he still could not get in. Not only would the local board not hand over the keys but they actively opposed the school.

Said Rooney: "I am placed in an awkward position; Messrs James Powell and William Small (the local board) threaten to seize on the school property and my furniture . . . and to oppose the Public School by all the means in their power." His position was aggravated by over-crowding of the rented premises, with 50 children in a room 20ft by 14ft (6m by 4.6m).

The Council of Education's architect was not satisfied with the newly completed building and had the contractor make several corrections, but the school was finally finished by 8 December 1869.

The wrangling continued over who should pay the rent and was still no closer to settlement. Rising above this conflict, Rev Hassall wrote to the Council of Education and very strongly recommended that the teacher be authorised to take possession of the new building as soon as possible. This the teacher did from 1 January 1870.



Berrima Public School (pictured above in 1913) grew and developed over the years, being held in very high regard by townspeople and those of the surrounding district which it also served. The museum display provides a comprehensive overview of the school's history spanning the years from 1869 to 2019.

Reverends Thomas & James Hassall

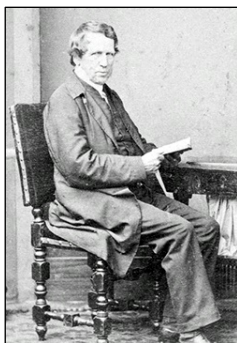
Thomas Hassall (1794–1868) and son James Samuel (1823-1904) were both Church of England ministers. Thomas was the first Chaplain appointed in 1829 to a huge parish that included Sutton Forest and James was the first Rector in 1853 of Holy Trinity, Berrima. As noted in the previous story, James was a pivotal mediator in issues regarding schooling at Berrima. A history of father and son is provided in brief here.

Bound for Tahiti, 30 artisan missionaries sailed from London in 1796 on the *Duff*, including silk-weavers Rowland and Elizabeth Hassall and two young sons, Thomas and Samuel. After a year in Tahiti, civil strife among the native tribes caused them to flee by ship and they arrived at Port Jackson in May 1798. Soon after arrival Rowland received a land grant and began farming at Pennant Hills. He and fellow missionaries were welcomed by Reverend Samuel Marsden who sought their help in the religious life of the colony. At his recommendation, Rowland became government storekeeper at Parramatta and was later appointed Superintendent of Government Stock by Macquarie, leading the first government herds across the Blue Mountains and acquiring land at Bathurst.

Thomas Hassall, eldest son of Rowland, received the best education then available in the colony. Marsden recognised his potential, especially after Thomas established the first Sunday School in the colony in his father's house. Thomas decided to enter the ministry and returned to England in 1817 to study for ordination. Returning in early 1822, he preached his first Australian sermon in St John's, Parramatta, where he remained as Marsden's Curate until 1824.

In August 1822, Thomas married Marsden's eldest daughter, Anne (1794-1885). They had three sons and five daughters. Their eldest, James Samuel, was born at Parramatta in 1823. In June 1824 the family moved to Port Macquarie, Thomas being appointed chaplain to the penal settlement there. He did not stay long as he ran into stiff opposition when trying to improve convict conditions. Early in 1826 he was appointed to the Bathurst district.

By 1829 he had taken up an appointment to a new parish, the Cowpastures, which included the Sutton Forest district, and had purchased the large Denbigh estate at Cobbitty (Camden) which became his headquarters. His parish was most extensive, encompassing Camden, Burragorang, Nattai, Bong Bong, Mulgoa, Goulburn, and parts of the Illawarra.



He was known as the 'galloping parson' and always rode good horses sitting in what he described as his 'easy chair'. As settlement density increased, the huge parish became divided into more local parishes.

Described as a popular and most diligent parson, his religion was practical rather than theological and he had a remarkable record of conversions. Thomas Hassall died at his Denbigh estate in March 1868 and his widow Anne passed away in June 1885.

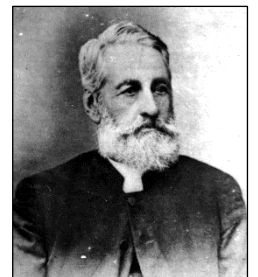
James S Hassall, their eldest son, commenced his schooling at The King's School, Parramatta in 1832. His companions included the sons of explorer John Oxley, one time NSW Surveyor-General. James is said to have also enjoyed a close relationship with his grandparents and remembered his grandfather Samuel Marsden preaching at St John's, Parramatta.

James studied theology at St James in Sydney and later at Lyndhurst College, Glebe. Ordained in 1848, he was appointed to St Peter's Church, Cook's River as Curate and the following year as incumbent at Bungonia. In 1853 he was appointed to the Parish of Berrima, becoming the first Rector of Holy Trinity.

In 1850 James had married Frances Dixon, a niece of John Oxley. Two sons of Oxley, John and Henry, were large landholders in the Berrima district and trustees of Holy Trinity. When the Hassalls first settled in the district, they stayed at the Wingecarribee Estate near Bowral, the Oxley family home. James waited a year for the Parish to find him a Berrima house to no avail, so he bought land with river frontage on the edge of town in Quarry St, where he and Frances would raise a family of three daughters and five sons.

The first dwelling comprised imported iron cottages. The Parsonage, a sandstone Victorian Rustic Gothic style building, is presumed (documents not found) to have been built around 1860 and perhaps designed by Edmund Blacket, architect of Holy Trinity, Berrima and who drew plans for All Saints, Sutton Forest.

James's Berrima duties included being the Anglican Chaplain to Berrima Gaol. He considered himself somewhat suited as he had freely mixed with the convict population since his youth and, indeed, was well regarded and respected by the men in his care.



In 1874 the Hassalls moved to Corinda, Queensland. James died in 1904, aged 81, and Frances in 1907.

Sources

Austn. Dictionary of Biography, 1966; T Hassall by Niel Gunson; Hassall, JS, Obituaries Australia, Nat. Centre of Biography, ANU; RAHS Qld Journal Feb 1999 article by Jean Stewart; The Old Rectory Conservation Mgmt Plan (Linda Emery), 2006

compiled by Philip Morton

Berrima District Historical & Family History Society Inc

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email: bdhsarchives@gmail.com ☎ web: www.berrimadistricthistoricalsociety.org.au

- ARCHIVES:** Cnr Old Hume Highway and Bowral Road, MITTAGONG.
OPEN: Mondays, Tuesdays 10am-4pm and Saturdays 10am-1pm. Closed Public Holidays.
Library collection contains reference books, journals and a general collection.
- MUSEUM:** Market Place, Berrima. Tel: 02 4877 1130. Email: bdmuseum@bigpond.com
AT PRESENT, OPEN: 10.00am to 4.00pm, Fridays to Sundays.
This includes during school and public holiday periods.
- MEMBERSHIP:** Any person wanting to join the Society may do so at any stage during the year by completing a form and paying the appropriate fee. Joining Fee \$10.00 – Single \$25.00 – Family \$35.00.
- AFFILIATIONS:** Royal Australian Historical Society, Museums Australia Inc and NSW Association of Family History Societies.

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BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY Inc.

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