



Bowral



Mittagong



Berrima



Moss Vale

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 553 October 2022



From the President's Desk

Welcome to our October newsletter. As we are approaching the end of the year, I would like to remind members that our Annual General Meeting is held in November. We are always looking for members who may be interested in any of the volunteer positions that are available. Please contact myself or any committee member to register your interest.

On page 2 you will read about the new Royal Australian Historical Society website introducing the history of agricultural shows in NSW. Agricultural shows within our district have always had an avid following.

I remember my own experience with the Moss Vale Show where members of our extended family would park two cars overnight in prime position adjacent to the ringside fence with just enough room to spread the picnic rugs in front of the cars. We, as kids, saved our pocket money for months to splurge in sideshow-alley or on Fairy Floss or Pluto Pups. A highlight of one year was seeing the four Bee Gee's as very young entertainers well before they took the world by storm.

Alex Beben will be our guest speaker at our General Meeting on 27 October. Alex will be talking about the results of his archaeological digs on the Bong Bong Common site.

A brief background on Alex can be read on page 3. Also on the same page mention is made of the July edition of the Australian Garden History magazine featuring the beautifully illustrated piece on the Gardens and Landscapes of the Southern Highlands Then and Now, currently on the digital screens at the Berrima District Museum in Berrima. This exhibition is highly recommended and will be running for some time including through the upcoming Christmas holidays. It is well worth a visit and free to financial members.

On page 4 and 5 you can read edited extracts from a report to Wingecarribee Shire Council on the historical significance of Bong Bong by the late Professor Ian Jack in 1993 which led to the formation of the current Bong Bong Common Management Committee in 1995.

Linda Emery is providing an interesting history of the house Emira, Moss Vale, and its various owners and occupants, see pages 6 and 7.

At our Family History Group meeting on 5 October a very well attended group of 20 were fascinated by Linda Emery's account of her early family history.

Our Family History Group meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month, except January, and begin at 1:00pm.

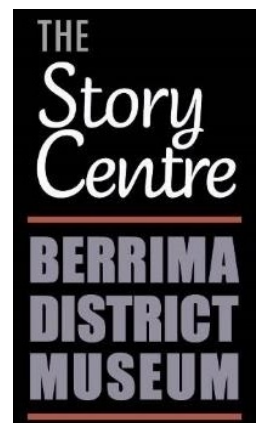
Ian Mackey

GENERAL MONTHLY MEETINGS 2022

OCTOBER 2022: Thursday 27 October at 2:00pm
SPEAKER: Alex Beben, Archaeologist, about the dig at Bong Bong Common
AFTERNOON TEA is served following the speaker

NOVEMBER 2022: Thursday 24 November at 2:00pm
BDH&FHS Annual General Meeting plus a "Show and Tell"

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



Moore Memorable Musings



WHAT'S 'IS NAME?

A famous footballer once remarked "until I turned 13, I thought my name was Shut Up".

How confusing it is for us amateur genealogists today, bent on recording family names. As it is, one has to be a super sleuth, forensic scientist, psychologist, mathematician and worldly historian to piece together some families.

Where have those good old reliable names gone? Like William, George, John, Robert, Elizabeth, Margaret, Anna, Mary etc.

Although very tedious, we used to apply some sense in linking children to families by traditional patterns, especially from the Celtic countries.

e.g. The firstborn son would be named after his father's father.

The second born son after his mother's father.

The girls had a similar structure, firstborn after mother's mother.

Second born was named after father's mother.

All third born's were usually named after their parents.

Then came the Aunties and Uncles' turn ... and so on.

Tradition has lots going for it.

Thanks to movies and the internet, we now hear of a whole lot of unrelated Christian names such as Midnight, River, Skye, Rainbow, Cinnamon, Heart & Storm. Why not Tsunami?

In Australia, the names Anzac, Uluru, Ikea, Nutella, Boofhead and Judge are banned. *Really?*

However we do have a few Mimosas, Acacias, Bindiis, Willows and Poppies cropping up. Obviously names like Adolph, Heinrich and Attila are not very popular in Europe and Asia.

But in Republican-ville USA we think that Gunner, Killer, Tequila, Chuck, Randy and Fannie-Mae would be readily accepted.

Back in colonial America I've found an Experience, Increase, Obedience & Patience. What were they thinking? I think perhaps a prefix of NO would be more suitable.

Why should we worry unnecessarily? In our Australian family we only have to go back to the 19th Century to find a Norman Bathurst, Henry Wellington and an Albert Kempsey. Guess where they were born? Lucky we don't have a Schitt's Creek in this country!

Give me the good old Thomas, Richard or Harold any day!

Bruce Moore

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Due by end October

A renewal form was issued with the September newsletter. Payment can be by cash, cheque or money order, OR funds deposited to our bank account, details shown on the Renewal Form.

NOTE: If depositing funds to our bank account, please ensure that your initial and surname are used as reference and **PLEASE RETURN YOUR COMPLETED RENEWAL FORM AND BANK RECEIPT BY MAIL OR EMAIL**, as this helps the Membership Secretary to keep track of the many payments.

BERRIMA DISTRICT MUSEUM

The Story Centre

1a Market Place cnr Bryan St, Berrima

OPEN: FRIDAY to SUNDAY

10.00am to 3.00pm

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



Members of the Noble and Armstrong families at the 1908 Robertson Show; image from a postcard in the BDHS Image Library and appearing on the cover of *Winds of Change* published in 1979 by Robertson A&H Society (see story above).

Agricultural Shows in NSW

Competition, Community, Country

A new website has been launched by the Royal Australian Historical Society (RAHS) that aims to introduce the history of NSW agricultural shows to the public. With a focus on local/regional history, the website offers a new way for individuals to learn about and connect with their local community. To view, click on this link [Competition, Community and Country: Agricultural Shows in NSW](#)

The homepage contains five different themes, highlighting the social, cultural and educational significance of agricultural shows in NSW, from the early colonial period to today. Members of the public may share their own stories of going to the show, which are highlighted in the *Community Contributions* section.

Affiliated Societies are also invited to provide histories related to shows in their own areas, and several of these have been added as modules in the *Contributions* section. The BDHS intends to add a module to showcase our district's history of agricultural and horticultural shows at Moss Vale, Robertson and Burrawang.

The launch of *Agricultural Shows* coincides with the launch of *Country Calling: History on the Land*, a special online event to be held by the RAHS on the 22 October 2022. *Country Calling* will feature a morning session on making history with Aboriginal peoples, and an afternoon session on the history of agricultural shows. For more information on the event and to book, please head to rahs.org.au

The speaker at our October meeting

Alexander Beben

Director at Austral Archaeology Pty Ltd, the firm undertaking archaeological investigations at Bong Bong Common for Wingecarribee Shire Council.

Founded in 1987, Austral Archaeology is now one of Australia's leading heritage consultancies. It provides expert and professional consultancy advice to public and private sectors in the fields of archaeology, heritage conservation and heritage management.



Alex has over 17 years' experience in archaeological projects and has conducted over 500 heritage projects across Australia and internationally in the UK and Italy. As a resident of the Southern Highlands, he has been fortunate to spend much of his career working in the Illawarra, South Coast and Southern Highlands areas. He is managing the Bong Bong Common archaeological investigation project that was commissioned by Wingecarribee Shire Council in 2021 and is still on-going.

Bong Bong Common is described on the WSC website as being the site of a convict period settlement that dates from 1821 to c1843, consisting predominantly of government buildings where soldiers and public servants would have worked and lived. This is the first European settlement of the area which was progressively abandoned from 1837 in favour of the new settlement at Berrima, with only two buildings remaining in 1843.

The Shire Council's main purpose for commissioning the project is to determine the location and line of buildings and determine what risk there is that proposed works will have an impact on the items of heritage significance.

At our meeting, Alex will give an illustrated talk about what they have discovered at the site, how this relates to its historical significance and perhaps reveal some new information. Please come along.

Garden History magazine feature

The July 2022 edition of *Australian Garden History*, the official quarterly journal of the Australian Garden History Society featured, in its Advocacy section, an informative and beautifully illustrated piece on *Gardens and Landscapes of the Southern Highlands then and now*, the exhibition currently on show at our Berrima District Museum.

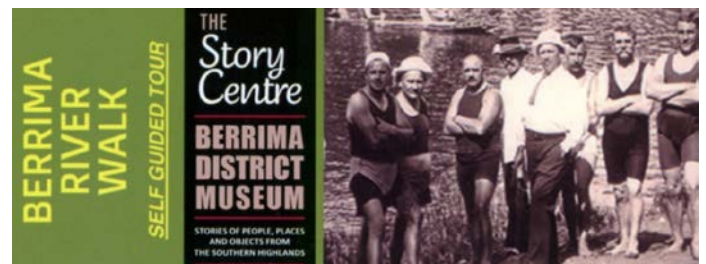
The article, written by Ruth Bailey, Chair of the Southern Highlands branch of the AGHS, and Bud Townsing, a member of both the AGHS-SHB and our Society, explains how the exhibition serves to remind people of the importance of landscape and garden heritage and the need for its protection. The authors state that "Most of the area is in the Wingecarribee Shire, whose large areas of national parks and water catchments provide a high level of conservation. There is concern, however, for the area's man-made rural landscapes and urban gardens." They cite population growth as posing challenges and highlight the need for more focused management.

The journal has other interesting articles as well and may be read at: www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au

Berrima Museum and River Walk

The Berrima River Walk complements the *Prisoner's in Arcady* Exhibition on permanent display at the Society's Berrima District Museum. The exhibition provides images, stories and object displays about the 300 plus mariners, mostly German, who were interned at Berrima Gaol during World War I.

The internees were allowed out of the Gaol during the day and made good use of the Wingecarribee River and surrounds, building jetties, holding regattas and generally messing about in their canoes and boats. They also built day-huts and shelters from the timber and stone that nature provided.



The self-guided walk has storyboards along the route featuring the history. You may not be aware that with your smartphone you can click on each board's QR code to bring up more of the history. With the weather warming up, it's now well worth a visit.

Professor Jack's report on Bong Bong

Further to the archaeological dig at Bong Bong which will be spoken about at this month's General Meeting, provided below are extracts from a report on the site's historical significance submitted to Wingecarribee Shire Council in 1993 by Robert Ian Jack, who at the time was Associate Professor and Head of Department of History, University of Sydney.

The significance of the Bong Bong settlement became lost in the mists of time as from the 1830s it was progressively abandoned in favour of Berrima. In the 1990s Wingecarribee Shire Council was proposing to develop parts of the site which it had acquired in 1986. Linda Emery, historian and BDHS member, attempted to make Council aware of the site's significance and enlisted the support of Professor 'Ian' Jack, who wrote a report and submitted it to Council in December 1993. In it, he included indications of where archaeological evidence was most likely to be found, thus laying the groundwork for later assessments and digs.



The heritage significance of the site was subsequently acknowledged by Council, the Bong Bong Common Management Committee being formed in 1995 and the site has been managed ever since as a public asset.

Robert Ian Jack (pictured above) passed away in 2019. Edited extracts from his 1993 Report follow here.

BONG BONG TOWNSHIP

A Report to Wingecarribee Shire Council, 1993

HISTORY The decision to lay out a township at Bong Bong on the north side of the great bend in the Wingecarribee River was taken in March 1821 and the site was surveyed in November of that year. There had, however, been earlier occupation of the site by Charles Throsby who built a hut in 1817 close to the river, to the east of the present Moss Vale Road. Already by 1820, when Governor Macquarie visited the area, Throsby had moved south of the Wingecarribee to the property which Macquarie named Throsby Park and was grazing a substantial herd of cattle there. His hut to the north of the river remained but otherwise the site of the township was undeveloped when it was reserved by the government in 1821.

The site lay adjacent to the original south road. This road, developed under Macquarie, gave access

through County Camden south to County Argyle and is usually known as the Old Argyle Road. By 1820 it had been completed as far as Sutton Forest and Macquarie with his baggage-carts used the road on his trip to the southern counties. The line of the Old Argyle Road to Bong Bong followed the approximate line of the present Moss Vale Road with one crucial difference: about 400 metres north of the present bridge over the Wingecarribee, the Argyle Road turned sharply to the west and crossed the river where there is a small island, then veered hard south following the course of the river and joining the present road line again close to Bong Bong church.

Macquarie commented in 1820 that the road crossed the Wingecarribee, there some ten metres broad, 'by a good sound pebbly ford'. On his return journey, Macquarie again forded the river, on 2 November 1820, and 'encamped on a very pretty bank on the north side of the river'. Macquarie's camp site is almost certainly within the area planned for development by Council. Over the ten years after Macquarie's visit, Bong Bong was developed as a government establishment.

Thirty acres (12 hectares) south of the Argyle Road and fronting on to the great bend of the river were reserved in 1821 and in the course of the 1820s a number of buildings, primarily to maintain law and order, were erected. Police constables, military personnel and prisoners in custody had to be accommodated. The soldiers (who numbered 14 in 1833) were initially housed in huts but a barracks had been erected by 1829. The gaol built by 1826 was originally roofed with bark, but late in 1829 it was decided to reroof it with shingles.

A Commissariat store was erected between 1829 and 1831. In 1827 a school house was open with a resident teacher. The eleven children on the roll came, however, from the surrounding pastoral properties. It is clear that the township had no residential area but was merely a focal point providing certain amenities to a scattered rural population. The occupation of the site in 1831 also included the following features:

- along the river to the north of the crossing four huts and three enclosures associated with grazing and agriculture (the probable site of Macquarie's camp on 2 November 1820)
- a small burial ground some 150 metres from the river, north-north-east of the crossing
- William Bowman's 1826 inn perched on higher land at the extreme north of the study area, and no more than 150 metres west of the present Moss Vale Road.

This year 1831 saw the beginning of the end for Bong Bong. The construction of Mitchell's new line of south road from Mittagong to Berrima diverted through traffic away from Bong Bong and created a new township at Berrima which developed the urban features lacking at the earlier centre. The area's post office was moved in 1837 to Berrima.

The opening of the court-house at Berrima in 1837 removed the magistrate's functions from Bong Bong also. By 1843 the judicial and gaol buildings at Bong Bong were disused and in disrepair and the entire 30-acre township site was sold to Charles Throsby.

The Commissariat store on the eastern side of the township remained and was occupied by a store-keeper called Dovey in the 1860s. Dovey was able to prosper because of the revitalisation of the Old Argyle Road and the coming of the railway. The Argyle Road was redirected in 1865 to bypass the ford of Macquarie's time (which had become a causeway and bridge in the 1820s).

A substantial wooden bridge was built in 1865 just to the west of the present bridge and the roadway ran to the east of the present Moss Vale Road. The railway from Mittagong opened two years later. The importance of the alignment of the railway bypassing Berrima is, paradoxically, that road traffic increased on Moss Vale Road: there was no station at Bong Bong but the growth of Bowral and Moss Vale, made possible by the railway stations there, had an increasing impact on local traffic.

The realignment of Moss Vale Road in 1865 cut right through the centre of the original Bong Bong township. The old Commissariat store on the east side of the new road survived as Dovey's store but the buildings to the west went into terminal decay. The 1865 bridge was replaced in 1916 by another low-level bridge designed in concrete by Arthur Hart. In 1975-6 the present bridge to the west of the earlier structures, with a realignment of Moss Vale Road, was constructed and the 1916 bridge was demolished, with some difficulty, in December 1976.

Very close to the likely site of Bowman's inn, recent excavation for a structure and subsequent erosion have disturbed the historic area; and the Telecom coaxial cable trench has cut right through the area from approximately north to south.

The final stage in the history of the area is its development as a recreation area with roadways and tree plantings by Wingecarribee Shire Council. As the history demonstrates, the recreation area contains a number of features all with a high archaeological potential and an equally high tourist potential.

RECOMMENDATIONS That the following areas be protected from any development, either by the making of pathways or the planting of new trees:

1. the site of William Bowman's inn and an adjacent dump area for 19th century glass, ceramics and iron artefacts. This site A adjoins the boundary fence with the Briars, to the west of the westernmost of the two rows of pine-trees. It is suggested that the entire rectangular strip, however, from Moss Vale Road to the eroded site on the western slope of the hill, 200 metres long by 100 metres broad, be protected with special attention to the area west of the pines.
2. the site of the four huts associated with the enclosed paddocks of the 1820s, the burial ground and the Macquarie camp site on the east bank of the Wingecarribee in the area 560 metres north of the old river crossing.
3. the line of the Old Argyle Road across the paddock to the river-crossing. This is probably the straight indentation which shows clearly on the recent aerial photograph supplied by Council.
4. the river-crossing, which is of prime importance. The basaltic stone used to improve the ford crossed by Macquarie in 1820, the horizontal ironbark logs used to define the crossing on both sides of the island in the 1820s, and the vertical posts used on the western part of the divided river to support a low-level wooden bridge, probably before 1829 (when Dixon marked the crossing as a bridge) constitute a highly visible and impressive heritage item. All surviving features must be preserved and a conservation plan prepared.
5. the area along the south of the first terrace near the river where the foundations of four and possibly five of the buildings scrupulously drawn and measured by the surveyor James Larmer in 1837 are likely to have left underground remains. This was the heart of the judicial and peace-keeping aspect of earliest Bong Bong and must be preserved untouched for possible archaeological excavation in the future. In the meantime, appropriate signage should be created and the entire area in the south of the development area fenced off.
6. the traces of the 1865 roadway leading to the successive bridges of 1865 and 1916. The bridges themselves have left little trace thanks to the 1916 demolition by explosives, but the area deserves protection. It comes within the area proposed in Recommendation 5.

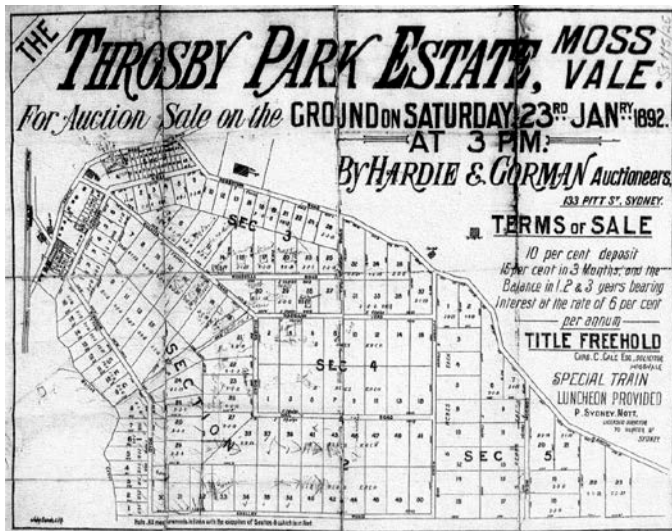
- R Ian Jack, Department of History, 8 Nov 1993

A house history: Emira, Moss Vale

Linda Emery

Increasingly, the research team at the archives is called upon to undertake house histories for owners wanting in knowing more about their homes and the people who lived in them. We recently did research on Emira in Moss Vale which proved to have had some interesting occupants.

The land on which the house was built was originally part of a 1000-acre land grant, Throsby Park, to Dr Charles Throsby in 1820. His nephew Charles Throsby Jnr inherited the estate and after his death in 1856, it passed to his wife Elizabeth and his eldest surviving son, Patrick Hill Throsby Snr and eventually to a grandson of Charles Throsby, Patrick Hill Throsby Jnr who lived at Red Braes in Valetta Street, Moss Vale. Part of the Throsby Park property was subdivided as the Throsby Park Estate, with large and small lots sold progressively from January 1892.



In 1911, Patrick Hill Throsby sold Lots 1-6 of Section 4 of the estate, approximately 30 acres, to his nephew, Archer Throsby Young for £465. Young sold Lot 4 in 1917 to Muriel Pryor Lambeth, the wife of Harry James Lambeth, Shire Clerk for Wingecarribee Shire Council, for £150, the sale price showing that the land was still vacant at that time.

Born on 2 August 1888 in St Peter's, Sydney, Harry had married Muriel Pryor Carter at St John's, Moss Vale in December 1915. The wedding was a quiet affair as Harry's brother, Reginald Walter, had been killed at Gallipoli in August 1915. Another brother, Harley, also serving in the AIF, died of wounds in 1917 in Belgium.

Muriel Carter was the daughter of Arthur and Emily Carter of Hanslow Park, Sutton Forest (now known as Bunya Hill, owned by actress Nicole Kidman).

The Carter family were pioneers of the district and prominent members of the local community.

Muriel and Harry's only son, Arthur James (Jim) Lambeth, was born in May 1917 and by the end of the year, the family moved into their newly completed house in Narellan Road. The building is shown on a subdivision plan for the Glorigan Hill Estate offered for sale in November 1917. Jim Lambeth, who spent his first four years in the house, became a geologist and joined the Australian Antarctic Research Expedition to Heard Island in 1947, spending 14 months at the remote station 4,000 km south-west of Australia.



*The 14 Heard Island expeditioners 1947-1949.
Jim Lambeth is in the back row, 2nd from the left.*

In September 1921, the Lambeths sold their house to Frank Lewis Toose for £1,150. Born in Goulburn in 1874, Frank Toose settled in Moss Vale in 1897 and established F L Toose & Son, a general store, clothing and drapery store which he operated for more than 50 years. The store is now The Taphouse bar and restaurant, but the old Toose sign is still visible on the parapet above the awning. Frank Toose bought and sold a number of properties in Moss Vale and probably purchased the property as an investment, as he did not live in the house.

He also owned the 5-acre Lot 2 adjacent to the house on the corner of Narellan and Villiers Roads and when he sold the property in August 1923, he sold both the house and adjoining land for £1,830.

The next owner was Herbert Vivian Hordern of Sydney who purchased the property for his wife, Norah Ebsworth Hordern née White. Herbert Hordern was a grandson of Anthony Hordern who established the retailing giant Anthony Hordern & Sons. He became a dentist and later a stockbroker in Sydney. Herbert 'Ranji' Hordern was an international cricketer, playing seven test matches for Australia in

1911 and 1912. Before that, while studying dentistry at the University of Pennsylvania in the United States he toured England and Jamaica in 1908 and 1909 playing for the Philadelphians Cricket Team. He played first class cricket in New South Wales and is said to have been the first major leg-spin and googly bowler to play for Australia.

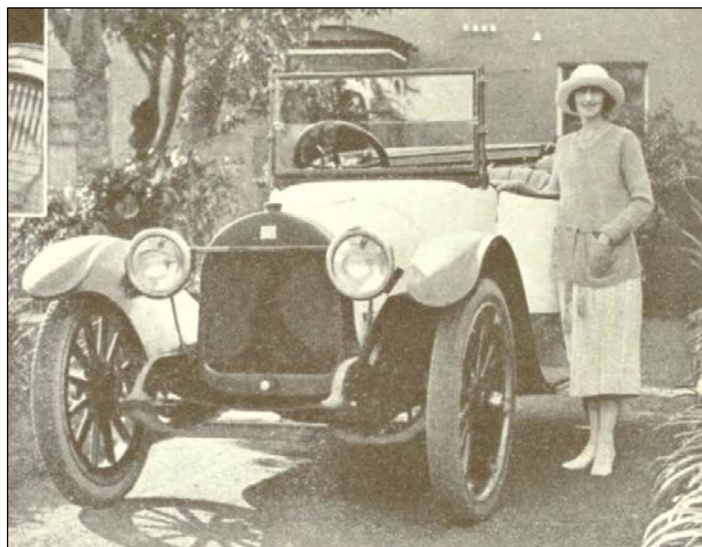


In 1913 Hordern married Norah White, daughter of Henry Luke White of Belltrees, Scone, one of Australia's most famous pastoral holdings. Author and Nobel Prize winner Patrick White was a younger cousin of Norah's and almost certainly stayed at or visited the house while he was at Tudor House, Moss Vale between 1922 and 1925, when her two sons were also students at the school. By 1923, the marriage was failing and Hordern bought the house in Moss Vale for his wife, spending the weekends there with his family. However, in 1926, he sold the house to his wife Norah and they effectively lived apart until they divorced in 1929.

Norah Hordern retained the house in Moss Vale. In April 1937 she was involved in a head on collision on the Razorback between Camden and Picton and died 15 months later in July 1938 aged 47, as a result of head injuries received in the accident. Earlier, in February 1938, she had sold the house to Kathleen Brodie Pavitt (née King) for £1,850. The women knew each other as they moved in the same social circles in Moss Vale and in Sydney.

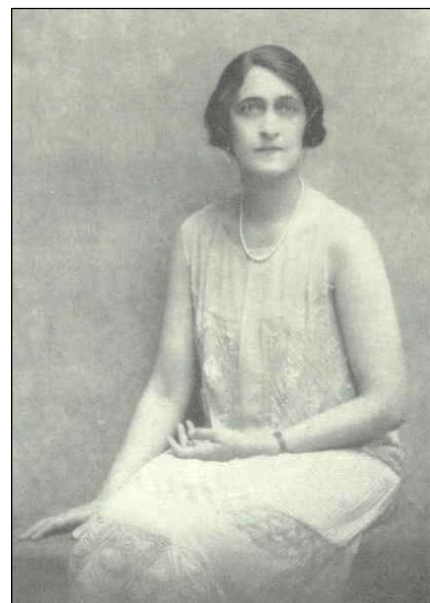
Kathleen Pavitt was born at Goonoo Goonoo Station, Tamworth in 1890, the daughter of George Gidley King and Elizabeth née Brodie. Her father was General Superintendent of the famous station owned by the Peel River Land and Mineral Company (formerly the Australian Agricultural Company) whose father before him, Philip Gidley King, had also been superintendent. Kathleen's 2 x great grandfather was Captain Philip Gidley King, the third Governor of New South Wales from 1800 to 1806.

Kathleen was twice widowed. In 1911 she married pastoralist Edwin Herbert (Bert) Willsallen who died in 1918 aged 43. The couple had travelled to the United States to seek medical treatment for Bert, but he died in Boston. Their son Herbert (Paddy) was only four years old.



Kathleen Willsallen nee King circa 1913

Her second husband was well-known grazier Leonard Pavitt who she married in 1926. They had a son, John, in 1929 who, like the Hordern boys, attended Tudor House at Moss Vale.



Kathleen Willsallen in 1926

Leonard Pavitt had extensive pastoral interests as well as a home in Kings Road, Moss Vale, Windyriggs. In April 1933 while out rabbit shooting at Windyriggs, his shotgun accidentally discharged while he was going through a fence and he was killed.

Kathleen Pavitt moved to Narellan Road and named the property Nerida. She remained in the house until 1951 when she sold to grazier Stanley Sydney Smith for £8,000.

His ownership was relatively brief and he sold in 1954 to Ernest Stanley Wallace, an oral surgeon. Wallace converted the land from Old Systems Title to Torrens Title.

In June 1960, Nerida was sold to the Emira Pastoral Company and the name of the house changed at this time. Subdivision of the land was undertaken in 1972 by Charles and Eileen Lucas leaving Emira on 2½ acres. Subsequent subdivision created three additional lots with Emira remaining on a little under one acre.

Berrima District Historical & Family History Society Inc

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- 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
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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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