

Maitland and District Historical Society Inc.

Bulletin of Maitland and District Historical Society Inc.

(Established March 1977)

Affiliated with Royal Australian Historical Society and
Museum and Galleries Hunter Chapter



Curating Maitland's History

Celebrating the Society's 40th Anniversary

Volume 24, Number 2

May 2017

*The Aims of the Society are to
Discover, Record, Preserve, Advise on and Teach the History of Maitland and the District*

Maitland and District Historical Society Inc.

Cover: The photograph was taken by Allan Thomas and shows curator Adele Cockburn with some of the Society's collection.

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Location: 3 Cathedral Street Maitland (opposite Bishop's House)

Lecture meeting is held on the first Tuesday of each month from 5:30-7.00pm as a forum for lectures, talks and presentations

Business meeting is held on the third Tuesday of each month from 5:30-7.00pm

Meetings are held at the Society's rooms, 3 Cathedral Street Maitland

Membership fees : \$20 (single) and \$30 (double / family)

Patrons: The Hon. Milton Morris AO
NSW Member for Maitland 1956-1980
NSW Minister for Transport 1965 – 1975
The Most Reverend Bill Wright, Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle

Current Office Bearers :

President : Keith Cockburn	Vice Presidents : Kevin Parsons, Peter Smith
Treasurer : Vacant	Secretary: Kevin Short
Bulletin Editor : Lisa Thomas	Consultant Editor : Keith Cockburn

Bulletin contributions are being sought. Please contact the Society via email maitlandhistorical@gmail.com

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The 2017 Annual General Meeting

The Society's AGM was held on 21 March in the rooms at 3 Cathedral Street. The officers elected were as follows:

President: Keith Cockburn

First Vice-President: Kevin Parsons

Second Vice-President: Peter Smith

Secretary: Kevin Short

Curator: Adele Cockburn

Events Co-ordinator: Graham Dark

Publicity Officer: Chas Keys

Bulletin Editor: Lisa Thomas

Research Co-ordinators: Val Rudkin, Heather Berry, Maree Farrelly

Technical Officer: Kevin Parsons

Committee: Tom Skelding, Janece McDonald

Kevin Short was appointed as Public Officer, and Jennifer O'Neill as Hon. Auditor.

The position of treasurer was left vacant, to be filled at a later date.

The Society's 40th Anniversary

A luncheon to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Maitland and District Historical Society will be held on Saturday 8 July at St John's Hall. The scheduled guest speakers will be John Di Gravio and Greg Ray. The cost of the luncheon is \$35. For more information please contact the Society.



The Society's first president June Vile

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When the Society was formed it was recognised that the minutiae of everyday life in Maitland had changed in substantial ways during the lives of the early members. As June Vile, the Society's first president, wrote in Bulletin 2 (July 1977):

“The other day a handful of members began saying, “I remember when...” and the change in lifestyle was astonishing. The days of ice chests, clothes props, tradesmen calling at the door, post office nibs and monitors mixing school ink, are not so far behind us, but our children gape at the mention of them. It would be an interesting exercise if each member wrote down his or her recollections of childhood, conditions of employment, early housekeeping, even the type of food eaten in other decades. This is the stuff of which history is made, and jolly good fun as well. We can then work backwards on each item till we find a change of some kind.”

The philosophy at the heart of the above is, in part, also the rationale behind the Society's extensive collection of local artefacts, tangible reminders of how we once lived. The conservation, documentation, and cataloguing of often humble objects from Maitland's early and recent past fulfills an important part of the Society's mission.

One of the most recent items to join the Historical Society's collection is the World War I service medal of, Maitland boy, Private Leslie Gilligan of the 17th Battalion 1st AIF. Private Gilligan was killed on the Western Front in the second battle of Bullecourt in May 1917. The story of his medal's discovery is quite amazing.

In September 2016, at a 90th birthday celebration at Stockton for Colin Gray, himself a military veteran, Leo Gray, Mr Gray's great-grandson, along with several other young relatives, was digging in the house garden when the medal was, quite literally, unearthed.

It transpired that Pte Gilligan's medal must have been transported from East Maitland to Leo Gray's Stockton home in the early 1990's within a truckload of soil. Colin Gray had been a member of the *Shirley Doreen* North Stockton surf boat crew which had rescued people caught up in the 1971 floods. As a thank you for his assistance, Mr Gray was given the truckload of East Maitland soil in order to enrich his Stockton garden beds, and so Pte Gilligan's medal had lain buried in Colin Gray's garden since then.

Through the Maitland Genealogical Society, contact was made with Damien Parer, Pte Gilligan's great-nephew and nearest relative. Mr Parer has graciously entrusted the medal to the Historical Society's care.

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As part of our anniversary celebrations, in the present Bulletin, along with a new article, we again highlight research which was printed in the Society's early Bulletins.

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The following is the second tranche of the index of Society Bulletins, as compiled by Judy Nicholson the previous Bulletin editor.

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From **Bulletin 3** (September 1977) . A potted history of Bolwarra Public School, by Kathleen Macmillan.

The school was opened in 1852 with an initial enrolment of 61, the children of the workers on the Bolwarra Estate. An inspector reported in 1861 that the children were “bashful, think slowly and show little self-reliance.” After closure in 1872 due to a decline in enrolment (as access to West Maitland had been improved with the bridging of the Hunter River), an application was made in September 1889 to reopen the school. In 1890 the Minister wrote “the school is to be conducted as a primary school as well as a farm school. It will be the first of its kind in the Colony.” A teacher with

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a practical knowledge of agriculture was appointed and by 1900 the school had a model farm and was winning prizes with its exhibits in district shows.

In 1908, enrolment having increased to 86 due to work on the North Coast railway, a second assistant was appointed; in 1913 his income was £60 per year. Enrolment declined due to the opening of a private kindergarten in the area and the opening of 'Nillo' school in Lorn in 1921.

The enrolment in 1955 was 79. A third assistant was appointed in 1957, and in 1959 the old building and residence were demolished and replaced with wooden rooms.

With the opening of Bolwarra Heights housing development, the school continued to grow and today has an enrolment of 170, with 6 teaching staff.

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From **Bulletin Vol. 3 no. 2** (Sept 1979). The Story Behind a Memorial, by Ron Montague.

A visitor to St. James Church, Morpeth, might see a marble tablet that bears the following inscription:

"To the memory of Rinaldo Sherberras, Late Captain in H.M. 80th Reg., who fell in his 37th year at Ferozeshah on the 21st December A.D. 1845 within the Sikh entrenchments having seized one of their standards; whilst stationed at Maitland he acted as justice of the peace and gained the confidence and esteem of the community. This tablet is erected by a few of his friends in this neighbourhood who lament his loss."

A more detailed account of this incident may be read from a plaque above the Sikh War Memorial in the Anglican Cathedral in the old Staffordshire town of Lichfield. The 80th was the Staffordshire country regiment and its battle record is a feature of that memorial. The inscription tells how on the afternoon of the 21st of December a party of Sikhs dressed in chain mail counter attacked. They were carrying three standards. The first was seized by Captain Sherberras of the 80th who was killed, as were Captain Best and Corporal Brown who also tried to capture the trophy. Then Colour-Sergeant Kirkland of the grenadier company snatched it and although wounded retained it; he later was promoted to the rank of ensign for gallantry in the field.

Our visitor might reasonably ask why this officer, one of many who had been stationed in and around Maitland, had been singled out for special attention. It is not generally known that Rinaldo Sherberras had more than simply a military connection with Maitland and Morpeth. Sherberras (sometimed spelled Scherberras) was born into a noble Maltese family; one member still living represented his country at the coronation of King George VI. Captain Sherberras was barely five years old when Malta became a part of the British Empire in 1814 but being English educated and quite rich he was able to get a commission in the 80th Regiment while it was in Malta during the mid eighteen twenties. He went to England when the 80th returned to train and recruit and when the regiment moved to Australia by detachments he sailed, as a lieutenant, in charge of one of the parties.

The last detachment arrived in Sydney in 1837 and the regiment was again divided into small groups and posted to many distant parts of Australia. Stations included Norfolk Island, Tasmania and later New Zealand. A small party was sent to East Maitland and Newcastle initially to guard convicts, but as transportation was phased out after 1840 many of the soldiers were employed in civil labour.

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Although Captain Day of the 99th, was officially the senior officer in the district, Lieutenant Sherberras carried out most of his duties.

As a justice of the peace Sherberras served as the police magistrate at the old Morpeth Court House and during this time he fell in love with a young lady who lived nearby. This association could have brought about many personal problems because, as an aristocratic Maltese, Sherberras would be a Roman Catholic. The young lady in question was Jane Platt the adopted daughter of E.C. Close, senior. As a retired lieutenant of the 48th Regiment, E.C. Close was regarded as a pillar of the Anglican Church and as virtual lord of the manor in and around Morpeth.

However, difficulties or not, Jane was married to Sherberras before the 80th sailed to India to take part in the first Sikh War. Although warned to prepare for service in India in late 1842, it was August 1844 before the regiment was brought into the old George Street Barracks in Sydney to be made ready to embark. It was on the 12th of August that Jane accompanied by her young sister Mary Ann went on board the sailing ship "Royal Saxon". Sailing with them were nine officers and 290 non-commissioned officers and privates.

The remainder of the regiment sailed in the sailing ships "Briton", "Lloyd" and "Enmore"; all reached Calcutta except the "Briton" which was wrecked off the Andaman Islands. The survivors were marooned on an uninhabited island for fifty days before being rescued. The regiment was finally reunited at Agra and after a few months of recuperation was moved to the Punjab to stem the Sikh invasion.

Ferozeshah was a hard fought battle mostly hand to hand with no wounded being allowed to survive. The Sikh army under Lal Singh was 50,000 strong, trained by French officers and armed with modern muskets but its soldiers preferred to use their tulwars, the long sharp swords they could use to deadly effect. Casualties were heavy and many acts of bravery recorded on both sides. Jane Sherberras stayed in India long enough to receive the medal her husband had earned. She settled back in England with her sister and died in 1902 being well into her eighties. She did not re-marry.

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From **Bulletins Vol 4, nos 5 and 6**, (July, August 1980)

A Recollection of Early Homeville and Telarah, and Recollections of Historical Interest, by Mr. Leslie Pitcairn J.P. (continuing from the previous Bulletin February 2017).

Across the New England Highway and along the gulley in the gravel quarry you can see the mouth of the old tunnel which Mr. A. Ralston worked; the coal was sold for domestic use. Further down is the mouth of the tunnel in which Professor David found coal. He worked west towards Farley and lost the coal and so they crossed to the left of the seam and came down the gulley and found a higher seam about five feet. This mine was worked for many years firstly by a Mr. Paul. When I was a boy it was worked by a Mr. Dyer and then by Mr. Ralston who took me down that mine to see what it was like working down a pit. My father used to check the boiler and winch for the mines certificate.

About a hundred yards further on was the old Homeville pit.; it had a siding line for loading coal wagons and was in operation for many years. Across the line over on the Hill was South Greta Mine. They employed up to 200 men. The old convict stone house (Font

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Hill) was built for Mr. Hungerford and was later sold to the South Greta mine. The last occupant was Mr. Traile, the Mines Engineer.

Back down the gulley where the Shell Depot now stands was Taylors Brick Works making red clay bricks. It only worked for about five years.

In 1923 I installed a 6 H.P. oil engine and spindle moulder and that year had the contract for refitting Hustlers. That's where Waltons Store is now. Also the Maitland Boot Palace and Wood Bros, Draper. Then I made 25 pews for the Sacred Heart at Campbell's Hill. I also made tables, chairs and glass cases for Southwell Bros.

In 1924 I built the first motor hearse outside Sydney and conducted the first motor funeral in the district, from Cessnock to Wallsend. In 1925 I built the first motor bus in Maitland for a Mr. Stokes. It was built in the style of a Pullman Railway carriage. Also lorries for: O.K. Young, F. Newton, Kirkwoods, Harry Atkins, Carriers. These were a cabin and table top design; a cattle wagon for Mr. Ninness of Gresford, and for Pender and Pryer, plasterers. I built the first closed in cabin lorry with sliding doors. In 1930 I built a motor bus for Mr. Ford of Greta.

Between 1925 and 1926 I made alterations to my factory and added more machinery comprising a 6 inch jointer, a 32 inch band saw, heavy duty spindle moulder and router, chain and chisel mortise, 30 inch rip saw, panel planes and moulding machine, dowel boring machine, large wook turning lathe with a 9 foot centre, belt sand paper machine, iron cut off machine, small iron drilling machine, fine saw bench for cutting mouldings, iron saw bench for grooving and cutting, a specially made machine with six saws for shoulder work on caskets and angles, compressor and spray polishing machine plus ten electric motors. During this time I fitted out Dymocks with four counters and six display tables.

During the Depression trade was slack and having no orders coming in I made thousands of fruit cases from scrap timber. I then gained the contract for removal of all the engines and electrical gear from East Greta Mine to Muswellbrook Coal Mining Company, the boilers going to various collieries by train. At that time I had nine men working for me. £1 a day was the award wage then. I also had the contract for military funerals at Greta. In 1933 I had the contract to make the pews for the Pro-Cathedral when they moved from St. Johns to the present site.

In 1952 I built the first and only Funeral Chapel in Maitland which was widely used and which was a real asset during the 1955 flood and while I was in the funeral business. After I sold my business in 1968, I supplied turned pillars for 4 poster beds. After 58 years in my work I decided to retire.

This is a history of Maitland district mines and my business life.

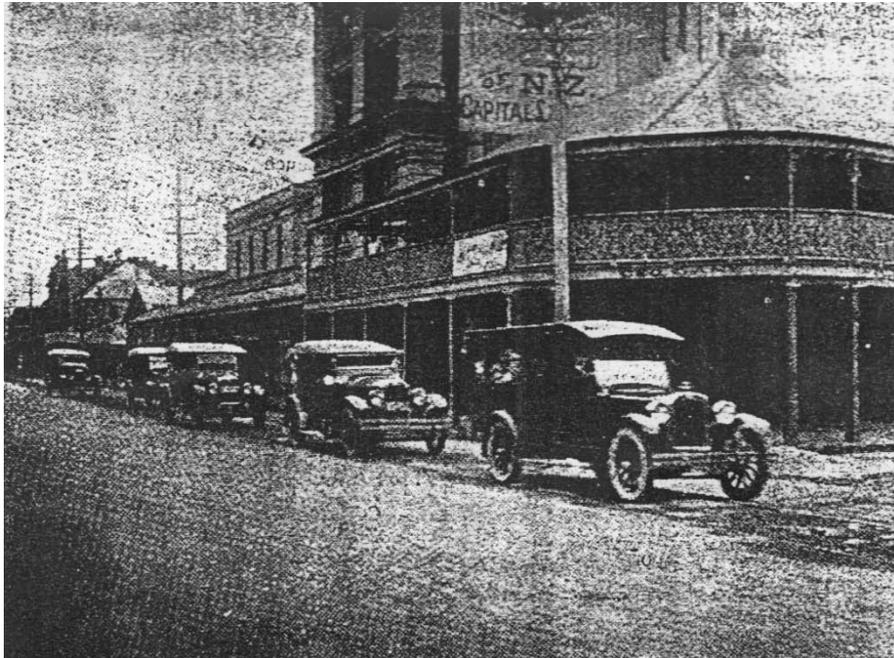
Leslie Pitcairn J.P.

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The following photograph was supplied by Betty Smith, Leslie Pitcairn's daughter. The original media caption which accompanied the photograph read "The first motor funeral in Maitland was conducted

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by Mr. L. Pitcairn in July 1924, our photograph shows it passing through Maitland on its way to Wallsend cemetery."



The following two photographs show the East Greta (now Gillieston Heights) coal mine in 1894. Leslie Pitcairn's father Andrew was the mine's engineer during the mine's existence. Andrew had been born in Kilty (County Fife) Scotland, which was a coal mining centre. Unfortunately, Betty Smith has stated that her grandfather is in neither photograph.





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Richard Meacle (1810 - 1867) - A Story to be Told, by Val Rudkin and Gay Hammond

The following article was sparked by a request to the Society from Gay, who is a descendent of Richard Meacle, for information about her ancestor and his family. She particularly asked for any details on a photograph which she believed was of the family house in Elgin Street and which shows unidentified people on the front verandah. Unfortunately no details on the content of the photograph were unearthed, but the enquiry brought to light a segment of Maitland's history.

Richard Meacle arrived in Australia on the convict transport ship *Portland* on 20 June 1833. His crime was 'horse stealing' and he had been convicted at Galway, Ireland for the offence and sentenced to 'life' in the Colony of New South Wales. He departed from his homeland on 2 February 1833 with 10 other convicts. He was born in Galway about 1810 and was recorded as being a stone cutter, a trade that would have been welcomed in the newly forming colony. There is not much information recorded in those early years but Richard was granted his Ticket of Leave in 1844 and granted his Conditional Pardon on 20 December 1848 which meant his 'life sentence' was served out in 15 1/2 years.

Settlement began at Wallis Plains in 1818, with the Government of the day granting small holdings to a handful of convicts who had completed their term of servitude and considered of reliable

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character. Two townships developed and in 1829 the names of East Maitland and West Maitland were gazetted.

How Richard Meacle came to be in Maitland is unknown, however it could be assumed that his arrival in 1833 was during a time of building in the district of Maitland and the larger buildings were being erected of stone. One of the earliest quarries was established on the land grant "Rathluba" and from here stone was quarried, cut and transported by horse and dray to the building site.

Free immigrants were travelling to Australia and by 1840 the number of young women arriving in the country was on the increase. It was the immigrant ship *Isabella* that carried Ellen Desmond far away from her native home of Carrigaline (near Cork) Ireland. Ellen arrived with her elder sister, Eliza on 18 October 1840. The shipping record states that Mr. John Marshall was the agent for the voyage and the cost of passage to each girl was £18. The total number of young single women who made this voyage was 88. A sizable number in a land dominated by male settlers.

Eliza and Ellen Desmond were the daughters of Thomas and Mary Desmond. Eliza was 21 and her occupation was recorded as Dressmaker. Ellen was 18 and was recorded as a needlewoman. The recorded occupations of the young women on the *Isabella* were as follows:

Governess House Keeper Dressmaker Farm servant Nurse maid Dairy maid Bonnet maker
Lady's Maid Needlewoman Nursery Governess Child's maid General Servant Milliner

Both Eliza and Ellen were able to read and write and of the total number, nine could do neither and three were able to read only. The fact that the Desmond girls were able to read and write and were skilled needlewomen indicates they had received a rudimentary education. However, their arrival in Australia in 1840 also indicates that they were not from even a moderately wealthy family. Australia was being 'sold' as the land of opportunity. The British government promoted the immigration of skilled workers and the nimble fingers of young women, capable of providing the upper classes with fashionable clothes to match those worn in England, was ranked highly. The majority were Irish and predominantly Roman Catholic with the youngest, and there were a few of them, only 15 and the oldest 28. The total amount paid for the voyage by these women was £1384.

What would make 88 young women between the ages of 15 and 28 take this huge step? The journey by sailing ship took 3 months and it was a hazardous journey through mostly unchartered waters. Yet, they made the choice. How wonderful for the men already here and hoping to find a wife. The arrival of so many young females would have been "a sight for sore eyes" and no doubt many marriages were arranged in the following months.

Ellen Desmond was destined to become the wife of Richard Meacle. How did they meet? We don't know, as records of these events do not exist unless in the form of a family diary. Birds of a feather seems to apply to the union between Richard and Ellen. Both Irish and that bond was important when separated from family and old friends by a distance too great to even contemplate. They were married by the Rites of the Roman Catholic Church at the Church of St. John in Maitland, the marriage was recorded in 1844.

The following information on the births of Richard and Ellen's children is from BDM (where found). The precise dates were recorded in Gay's Family Bible. Death details are variously from BDM or

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Sydney Morning Herald notices.

Mary	1732/1845	15 September 1845	
James F		17 September 1846	- 2100/1920 Ryde
George	1471/1847	19 December 1847	- 08 Oct 1901
Richard	899/1849	22 May 1849	- 05 Sept 1939
Paddington			
Thomas		05 April 1851	
Bridget	1381/1853/1391/1853	08 February 1853	- 16827/1935 Marrickville
John Joseph	3127/1854	16 December 1855	- 11 Nov 1916 North Sydney
Eleanor Ann		10 July 1857	- 03 May 1944 Paddington
Elizabeth	9120/1858 Maitland	21 November 1859	- 2281/1947 Marrickville
Francis	8842/1861 Maitland	01 January 1861	- 11783/1944 Paddington
Anthony	11557/1867 Maitland	01 January 1867	- 02 January 1867 (from headstone)

Richard Meacle died 26 June 1867 and was interred in the Campbell's Hill Catholic Cemetery. His death preceded the birth of their last child, named Anthony after Richard's father. Anthony survived for one day and was interred with his father.

Richard died at the age of 58 and Ellen was still a young woman being 45. His simple last will and testament made the day before he died states he bequeathed the four-room cottage which included a [back] house situated in Elgin Street, West Maitland to remain in the possession of the family at large during the life of his wife Ellen Meacle and at her death to go into the hands of his daughter Bridget Meacle.

He also bequeathed a property of 100 feet frontage in Catherine Street which contained two houses to remain in the management of the family until the youngest was 20 years, then to be sold and the proceeds distributed amongst his children, Thomas, Bridget, John Joseph, Eleanor, Elizabeth, Francis and a child unborn, and to those other of his children, Mary, James, George and Richard he left sixpence each.

His son James Meacle was named administrator and the will was dated 25 June 1867.

The statement "house in Elgin Street to remain in the possession of the family at large during the life of his wife Ellen Meacle and at her death to go into the hands of his daughter Bridget Meacle" is a little ambiguous. It seems to imply by 'into the hands' that Bridget was to be responsible for the house on behalf of the family, though it could also mean that Bridget was the sole benefactor.

Ellen Meacle had moved to Sydney by May 1873, when she advertised for her son Thomas Meacle to contact his mother. Her address was given at 154 Dowling Street, Woolloomooloo. She had received no response up to 21 June from the notices published in the *Maitland Mercury*.

The property in Elgin Street was sold in 1890 on behalf of Ellen Meacle. A Sale notice was published

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in the *Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser* on Saturday 30 August 1890. The auction was conducted by Sparke & Clift at the Goodyer's Hotel, Campbell's Hill and described as an unimproved allotment. On 6 September, Sparke and Clift's Report in the *Mercury* advised they had sold the property on account of Mrs. Meacle, for \$600.

Previous to the sale, the property was listed in the 1878 Rates Book for the West Maitland Municipal Council with Ellen Meacle as the owner and Henry McLean as the occupant, thus indicating that the house was let. In the 1886 Rates Book it becomes a little more complicated being listed as 2 houses with owner Jno. Enright and the occupants of the houses were James Pryor and Samuel Bertles. Enright was a stock and station agent, so was probably leasing the property from Ellen Meacles and letting to Pryor and Bertles. The fact that the house was owned by Ellen in 1890 when auctioned substantiates this theory. But this now begs a question: were the two houses on the land demolished and removed prior to the 1890 sale? There is nothing written to confirm or deny this, but the land may have been considered more valuable without the old buildings. This was something not uncommon in that century and early in the next. Offering an empty block was more likely to sell quickly than one adorned with old structures, the clearing and carting off of the materials being a costly exercise to the purchaser, where the owner would hopefully redeem the expense in the sale price.

Richard Meacle had a brother James who came out to Australia and settled in Sydney. But his is another story that Gay hopes to unravel. His Funeral notices were published in the *Sydney Morning Herald* Sat 5 June 1880 p 16:

Funerals: The Friends of the deceased Mr. James Meacle are respectfully invited to attend his funeral, to move from his late residence, Bent Street East, To-morrow for the Necropolis.

The Friends of Richard C., George, James, John and Frank Meacle. The funeral of their deceased uncle.

James' arrival is believed to have been on the ship *Cressy* which arrived 12 January 1856 with his wife Mary Ann and 2 y.o. son Richard. Another child, baby Bridget died on the voyage. A Bridget Meacle was recorded on the same ship, single and nursemaid aged 32. It is possible that she was a sister to James and Richard Meacle.

At the time of his death James Meacle's certificate recorded his children as Richard, Anna Maria, George and Charles and one girl decd.

Ellen Meacle died at her home "Glen Elgin" Paddington May 1905 aged 82 years.

The Family Notice of her Death was published in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 18 May 1905 p 4: MEACLE. - May 16, at her residence, Glen Elgin, Paddington, Ellen, relict of the late Richard Meacle, aged 82 years. Many years a resident of West Maitland, leaving a large family of children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. R.I.P.

The *Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate* on Mon 22 May 1905 published this brief report:

Mrs. Ellen Meacle, formerly a well-known and respected resident of Maitland, died at her residence, Glen Elgin, Paddington, during the week, at the age of 82 years. She leaves a family of sons and daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

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The following are notices published for marriages and deaths of Richard and Ellen's children:
Mary Ann Meacle, Gay Hammond says Mary went to Melbourne where she married Henry Cooper in 1888.

James F. Meacle died in 1920 never married

George Meacle died in 1901 according to the family and had not married.

Richard Meacle died 1939 never married

Thomas Meacle (*seems to have vanished*)

Bridget, John Joseph and Francis Meacle all married.

Eleanor (Ellen) Meacle died 1944 and Elizabeth Meacle died 1947 both remained spinsters.

Sydney Morning Herald Sat 14 Feb 1877 p 1:

Marriage. - Meacle - Howley. February 6, by special license at Sacred Heart Church, by the Rev. Father Hayes, John Joseph, fifth son of the late Richard Meacle, of West Maitland, to Rose, youngest daughter of John Howley, builder, of Sydney.

Bridget Teresa Meacle married Silvester P. Stanley at Sydney in 1881.

Freeman's Journal (Sydney) Sat 5 March 1881, p 10:

Marriages: Stanley - Meacle. - February 3, by special license, at St. Mary's Pro-Cathedral, by the Rev. C. F. P. Collingridge, assisted by the Rev. Father Petre, Silvester Philip Stanley, to Bridget Teresa Meacle, daughter of the late Richard Meacle, of West Maitland.

Sydney Morning Herald Sat 25 April 1891 p 1:

Marriage: - Meacle - Moore. - April 16, at Paddington, Francis, youngest son of the late Richard Meacle, of West Maitland, to Edith, youngest daughter of J. B. Moore, Creedmoor, Gordon-street, Paddington. No cards.

Australian Town and Country Journal (Sydney) Saturday 11 April 1896 p 1:

MEACLE. - JAMES MEACLE, son of the late RICHARD MEACLE, of West Maitland, and last heard of in the Bourke and Cobar districts, kindly Communicate with your mother.

Sydney Morning Herald Mon 13 Nov 1916 p 6:

Meacle. - November 11, 1916, at his residence 19 Nook avenue, North Sydney, John Joseph, beloved husband of Rose Meacle, in his 60th year.

Funeral from St. Mary's Church, Ridge-street, Sydney to Catholic Cemetery, Waverley.

Sydney Morning Herald Thu 7 September 1939 p 8:

Meacle - September 5, 1939, at Sydney, Richard Charles Meacle late of 26 Suffolk Street, Paddington, beloved brother of Ellen, Elizabeth, and Frank, aged 90 years.

Requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of the late Mr. Richard Charles Meacle of 26 Suffolk Street, Paddington - at St. Francis' Church, Paddington and thence to Waverley Cemetery.

Sydney Morning Herald Mon 28 November 1949 p 14:

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Meacle, Edith Harding. - November 27, 1949, at hospital. Edith Harding Meacle of 24 Lang Road, Centennial Park, widow of the late Francis Meacle and dearly loved mother of Alma (Mrs. A. Tighe), Dulcie (Mrs. R. Fisher), Gladys (Mrs. J. Tonkin), Norman Harding Meacle, and Frank Moore Meacle, aged 84 years.

Sydney Morning Herald Mon 8 May 1944 p 8:

Meacle. - May 3, 1944 at her residence, 26 Suffolk Street, Paddington, Eleanor Meacle, dearly loved sister of Elizabeth and Frank. Waverley Cemetery.

NSW State Records: NRS5316/4_4787/Isabella_18 Oct 1840/ (found on page 8 online):

This record is a copy of the actual hand written log on passengers arriving on the "Isabella" 18 October 1840. Mr. John Marshall was the agent and the cost of passage for Ellen and Eliza was £18 each.



The above is the photo of the house and family which was supplied by Gay.

The house appears to be constructed of upright timber slabs with a shingle roof. The verandah has a large log on the outside and logs for steps. There are glass window panes. There is no evidence of a chimney so the kitchen was probably a separate building at the back.

Richard Meacle died in 1867, so was the photograph taken before or after his death?

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Maitland and District Historical Society Inc.

The Maitland and District Historical Society Inc. has a number of publications for sale at the rooms at 3 Cathedral Street Maitland. For details of the publications for sale, or to purchase, please visit the rooms during open hours Wednesday and Saturday between 10 AM and 3 PM. Alternatively, contact the Society on 0438 623 299 or email maitlandhistorical@gmail.com.