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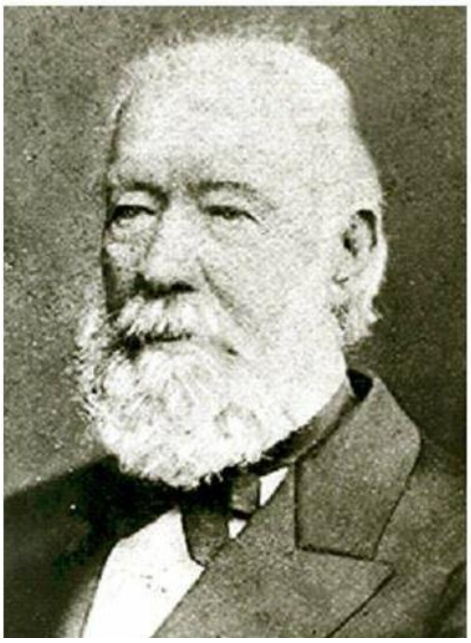

Bourn Russell

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

Cover: The photo was supplied by Chas Keys.

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Lecture meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month from 5:30-7.00pm as a forum for lectures, talks and presentations.
Committee meetings are held on the third Tuesday of even months from 5:30-7.00pm.
General meetings are held on the third Tuesday of odd months from 5:30-7.00pm.
Members are invited to attend all monthly meetings.

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

Membership fees : $25 (single) and $35 (double / family)

The rooms are open between 11 and 3 on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Patron: Dr AC Archer AM

Current Office Bearers :

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

Editor's Notes:

The November 2025 edition of the Bulletin was dedicated to gardens, and featured excerpts from correspondence written by Eliza Nowlan between 1822 and 1824. I had been told about this collection by our patron Dr AC Archer AM. The full correspondence is well worth reading for the insights it provides on the early years of European settlement in the area, and Eliza was a hugely interesting woman. The collection is accessible *via* the Archives of the University of Newcastle.

About as far as one can get from roses, dahlias, and herbaceous borders is an article on boiling-down works by Chas Keys. Chas's article had previously been in the *Maitland Mercury* and documents the relationship between the 1840s economic depression and boiling-down works.

We conclude with an article which relates to the family and associates of Henry Nowland. It illustrates the interrelation between business and marriage within one extended family in the early Colonial period.

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Boiling-down works in the Maitland area in the nineteenth century

BY CHAS KEYS

They are long forgotten now, but boiling-down works were once very important in the Maitland area. Especially that was true in the 1840s, when a severe depression struck the colony and prices for sheep and cattle collapsed – in the case of sheep to as low as sixpence (five cents) per animal. Boiling-down works provided a means of getting some return for animals that were otherwise virtually worthless.

These works slaughtered farm animals and boiled their chopped up remains in large cast-iron cauldrons over fires. When the product had cooled the fat (tallow) floated to the surface and was scraped off, to be used in the manufacture of soap and candles in Maitland. There was a soap factory next to the Rose Inn at the Port of Maitland in the early 1840s. Tanning of animal hides was another early Maitland industry that was linked to the local farm economy: Henry Rouke began operating a tannery near the Angel Inn in High St in 1843.

Much of what was produced from the boiling-down was exported to England, where its use for domestic lighting via candles was much cheaper than whale oil. The latter could be afforded only by the wealthy, so what came from the boiling-down process allowed the poor of industrialising Britain to have lighting in their dwellings. It would otherwise have been unaffordable.

Back in the Maitland area the boiling-down establishments were something of a godsend to a pastoral industry and community which in the mid-1840s were at something of a standstill as a result of the depression. The works benefitted farmers and farm labourers, but also businessmen in the town. Many had become bankrupt, but

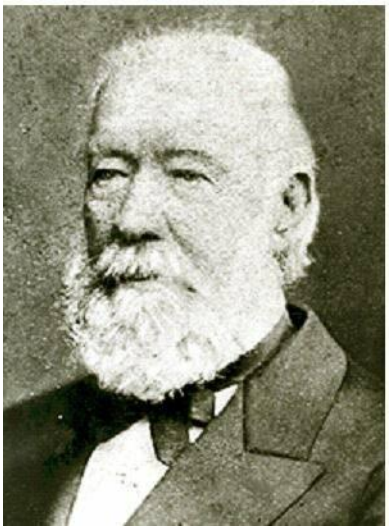
a few who were in danger of that fate saved themselves by establishing boiling-down activities.

One who did this was Bourn Russell, whose boiling-down operation was on his wife's land at Stoney Creek, west of Rutherford and on a tributary of Fishery (Swamp) Creek. Another prominent Maitland businessman, Isaac Gorrick, also operated a boiling-down establishment in the Rutherford area; he advertised it in 1851 as ready to receive sheep and cattle and trusted that it would "merit an extended patronage" from local farmers needing to get rid of stock. John Eales of Berry Park and Duckenfield had more than one boiling-down establishment. There were many such works in the district, and they were important to the local economy for decades.

Some were large and employed substantial numbers of men. One at Windermere in the 1860s claimed to be capable of boiling down 900-1000 sheep per day.

The works themselves were revolting places to be near. The stench they emitted must have been overpowering, and working in a boiling-down establishment would have been unpleasant in the extreme until one became inured to the smell. The waste water from the works polluted the Hunter River and small local tributary creeks, possibly affecting fish stocks, but the cooked offal helped feed pigs.

Boiling-down works were a necessary evil of their times. They would probably have been seen by most people in the 1840s as sources of wealth, not as disgusting and appallingly polluting. Their noxious by-products would have been tolerated, but they would not be tolerated today.



Bourn Russell, Maitland merchant and operator of a boiling-down works near Rutherford

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The Extended Nowland Family and Business Connections

By Lisa and Allan Thomas

(Note: The following article has been excerpted from our book The History of 'Holbeach' A Colonial Coach Station, Hotel, and House in Lochinvar, NSW. It required several months of research to locate the relevant information from organizations including the State Library of New South Wales and the State Archives. We were greatly assisted by various members of the Nowland family.

Henry Nowland was born in 1796 on Norfolk Island and was the second son of Michael Nowland (c1761 - 1828) and Elizabeth Richards (c1775 - 1852), who were both convicts on the Second Fleet. Henry's parents met when they were sent to Norfolk Island on the "Surprize", arriving on 7 August 1790, which means that they were in the first settlement on the island. The first three - Michael, Henry, and Elizabeth - of their eventual eight children were born there. The Nowland family chart on the last page was provided to us by a Nowland descendant.)

It would require a book on its own to detail the many business interests and land transactions of Henry Nowland and his extended family, and this is beyond the scope of the present work. However, some idea of the Nowlands' commercial dealings is illuminating.

The families that figured closely in the lives of the Nowlands tended to share several common experiences with them. They generally had at least one convict in the first generation. These families often had an early connection to the Wilberforce area, and some of them later moved to the Hunter Valley and/or the Liverpool plains.

As interesting as they were, we have decided not to include specific biographies of Henry Nowland's brothers, because their commercial interests could not be covered in only a few paragraphs. The brothers' stories may be found in several on-line sites which deal with prominent Australian pioneers. Moreover, people who are familiar with the Nowland family history will notice that not all the families which figured in that history are profiled here for reasons of space. The Connors and the Cobcrofts, for example, are not represented. The ties which linked these early families are extensive and we could not follow them all.

The Nowland children, in particular the older boys, tended to stick together commercially. That is, they separately acquired lands in the same geographic areas. Moreover, if one brother found himself in financial difficulty the others would help out if they could. This, assuming the boys got on well together, is not all that unusual. What is less usual is the way that people who married into the family became enmeshed in its affairs. This may be seen in the lives of the married daughters of Michael and Elizabeth Nowland.

Elizabeth Nowland

Elizabeth, the eldest daughter of Michael and Elizabeth, married twice. Her first husband Henry Richardson was a convict transported for life for burglary who arrived on the "Admiral Gambier" in 1811. They married in Windsor 1814 after his pardon in 1813 when she was sixteen and he was thirty-one. He was a blacksmith. They had three children (Henry, John, Elizabeth).

Things started well between Richardson and the Nowlands. In 1815 William Nowland, the third Nowland brother, was apprenticed to Richardson to learn blacksmithing. Also in 1815 Henry Richardson and Michael Nowland Jr. lent money to Michael Snr. Apparently something went badly wrong after that. In 1821 Richardson and Nowland Jr. severed their business ties, and in that same year the marriage of Elizabeth and Henry Richardson also ended. Elizabeth, who did not divorce, then took up with freeborn James Rochester, with whom she would have nine children. After Richardson's death in 1850 she and James Rochester married. She appears to have spent her life in the Windsor area.

Mary Nowland

Mary, the penultimate child of Michael and Elizabeth, married ex-convict Alexander Johnston in Sydney in 1828. He had been convicted for his part in a Scottish insurrection against the English in 1820. Although trained as a carpenter Alexander moved into the hotel business. In 1845 he had a hotel in Falbrook. From 1846 through 1848 Alexander kept the "Family Hotel" in Muswellbrook. Between 1850 and 1856 he was the licensee of the "Woolpack Inn" at St Aubin's Scone. In 1858 Alexander added the "Noah's Ark Inn" at Holkam (Scone) to his business. At his death in 1867 he held these two licences, and Mary and the family continued to run the hotels. Son Gilbert took over the Woolpack. Alexander had acted as an agent for Henry Nowland's coaching business, and the Noah's Ark Inn, in particular, was a major stopover for Henry's coaches.

Henry Nowland's nephew Alexander Johnston, the son of the first Alexander, and wife Eleanor *nee* Long
Undated photograph supplied by Michael Johnston

Sarah Nowland

Sarah, the youngest child of Michael and Elizabeth Nowland, had left her parents' home at some time in her teens and moved in with brother Henry and his family, where she stayed until she married William Adnum in 1831. At the time of their marriage she was seventeen and he may have been twenty-nine. Adnum was a convict who had been transported for life in 1820, arriving on the "Earl St Vincent". Adnum, who was a "brazier", opened a coppersmith and hardware shop in Sydney. The address was possibly 266 George Street, which was the address given as Sarah's home at her death in 1878. Sarah and William had eight children. On William's death in 1861 he was worth £400.

For whatever reason, the Adnums appear to have had no serious connection to the Hunter area or beyond, and were instead based in Sydney during their married lives. After Edward Nowland's death in 1842, William Adnum was appointed as one of the two trustees of his estate, which suggests that he was on generally good terms with the Nowland family.

Mary Nowland Adnum

The Farlows

Robert Farlow had arrived as a convict in 1801 on the "Canada". His wife Ann, who was free, and their first daughter Maria, came with him. By 1805 they were in Wilberforce. Robert and Ann Farlow had nine children, five girls and four boys. Three of the Farlow daughters married Nowland brothers. William married Mary Ann and Edward married Christian (var. Christiana). Henry Nowland married Harriet Farlow in 1825, and they also were to have nine children.

Christian Farlow had married Edward Nowland in 1829. Edward died in 1842, leaving her with five young children. Possibly three years later she became involved with Edwin Baldwin, as noted below.

The Baldwins

Henry Baldwin was born in 1769 in Chipping Barnet (London). In 1790 he was tried and convicted in Warwickshire of burning haystacks in protest of land enclosures. He was

transported to Norfolk Island. Around 1804 he contracted a common law marriage with a married woman. Elizabeth Carpenter was a free settler who had arrived in 1801 with her husband Isaac/Israel Rainer. Elizabeth and Isaac never divorced.

Among Henry Baldwin and Elizabeth Carpenter's many children were Edwin (born 1805) and Otto (born 1809). These two boys, along with their father, were to be involved with the Nowlands in various ways for many years.

The Baldwins moved to the Hawkesbury, as had the Nowlands. In 1822 Henry Baldwin was named on a legal document relating to Hawkesbury land, along with several Nowlands.

In 1826 Edwin Baldwin had married Alice Clark, the daughter of a convict father and a free mother. They had five children, the last two being born in Singleton. In 1826 Edwin went across the Dart Brook pass. He was later convicted of having stolen cattle on that trek. He was sentenced to seven years on Norfolk Island. When Edwin returned he found that his wife had had several children by another man. Edwin disowned her, and around 1845 he took up with Christian Farlow, one of the three Farlow sisters who had married Nowland brothers. So Henry Nowland's relationship with Edwin was as the man who was in a common law marriage with his brother's widow.

Archibald, who was born in 1846, married Elizabeth Baldwin, who was a daughter of Edwin Baldwin and Christian Farlow. Therefore, the Nowland-Baldwin-Farlow connections were carried on, apparently cordially, into another generation.

In 1826 Otto Baldwin was one of the first people to take stock across the Liverpool Plains. (This may have been the trip with his brother Edwin.) Otto became a squatter, and had a place called "Warrah" (Quirindi). He lost this in 1833 when the land was granted to the Australian Agricultural Company (AACo). He then set up a station near Manilla called "Diniwarindi". He also established "Boggabilla" station on the Macintyre River. He held this station with George Yeomans.

Henry's brother William Nowland, who had blazed the trail over the Gap into the Plains, had also been dispossessed at Warrah by the AACo but he bought the property back in 1863. Before 1850 William had also owned property in West Maitland, which he lost in insolvency proceedings around that time.

As variously noted, Otto Baldwin purchased Lochinvar land on the southern side of the highway, immediately opposite to Henry Nowland's. Both land contracts were in mid-1840. Given the amicable relations between the Nowlands and the Baldwins, Otto's Lochinvar purchase could not have been coincidental, nor could it have been done in opposition to Henry's business interests. The two together may have decided to invest in Lochinvar's future. Otto owned the "Spread Eagle" in Lochinvar.

The Yeomans

John Yeomans had arrived as a convict on the "Britannia" in 1791. He had been convicted in Warwickshire and transported for seven years. John lived in Wilberforce in 1818-1819 and had a spirit licence there. The Yeomans were close to both the Nowlands and the Bushells (see below). John's son George early on settled in Patricks Plains but then resettled in Maitland. George Yeomans leased the "Angel Inn" from Molly Morgan in 1826 and opened the "Woolpack Inn" in 1828. He had the "Sportsman's Inn" in West Maitland in 1834-6, and the "Northumberland Hotel" in Maitland in 1843. In 1832 he owned a property in the Liverpool Plains called "Yarramanbah". He owned this property with several other men, including Otto Baldwin. George Yeomans became a Provisional Director of the Maitland Steam Navigational Company in 1840.

The Greentree Family

Henry Greentree, born in 1781, was a convict from Surry. He married Jane Pope in 1803, when she may have been nineteen. Convicted of sheep stealing, Henry arrived in New South Wales in 1815, Jane, who was free, followed him later that year with their five children (another daughter was born in the colony). Henry died in 1818. By 1822 Jane was in some sort of relationship with James Martin of Wilberforce, who had arrived as a convict in 1806. However, in 1846 Jane married Michael Nowland Jr, the eldest of the Nowland brothers. Michael was 52 at the time of the marriage, and Jane may have been 62. Michael died in 1856 and Jane in 1872.

There is another Greentree connection to the Nowlands. Reuben Greentree, Henry Greentree's son, married Ann Farlow in 1825 in Wilberforce. Ann, born in 1807, was two years younger than her sister Harriet, who married Henry Nowland that same year. In 1854 Reuben Greentree bought the elegant "Reibycroft" property at Freeman's Reach from George Yeomans. Ann had been born in Freeman's Reach. Reuben died in 1881, and Ann in 1902.

The Bushell Connection

Some family connections carried on from the first convicts down through the grandchildren. Paul Bushell, born around 1768 in Warwickshire, arrived in 1790 as part of the Second Fleet. He was on the "Surprize" with both of the parents of the Nowland family. Several early documents attest to the ongoing supportive relationship between the Nowlands and the Bushells, who were also close to the Yeomans. Paul Bushell's daughter Sarah married Edward Nowland, the son of Edward Nowland, thereby continuing a family relationship which had begun in the 1790s.

The Lumley Connection

John Lumley had been a pound keeper at Patrick Plains (Singleton) in 1835, although by 1839 he had the "Horse and Jockey Inn" there. In 1842 he moved to larger premises, which he renamed the "Rose Inn" in 1848. Lumley's wife, who had been freeborn and, as the daughter of a regimental soldier, reasonably well-connected, died young in 1850. In 1852 Lumley remarried. His new wife was Sarah Nowland, who was the second daughter of Henry Nowland. This must have been a highly satisfactory marriage. A

cricket match between Singleton and Muswellbrook was reported in the *Maitland Mercury* of 25 February 1860. John Lumley, who was noted in the paper as a ”first-rate” batsman, played for Muswellbrook. The match was held on the grounds of his father-in-law Henry Nowland’s “Royal Hotel”.

On Sarah’s death in 1924, the *Sydney Morning Herald* (14 November) reported “Mrs Sarah Lumley, who died in her 98th year at her residence at Marion street, Harris Park, on Monday, was a native of Wilberforce. She was the widow of Mr. John Lumley, and the second daughter of Mr. Henry Nowland, of Muswellbrook, who was one of the first Royal mail contractors in Australia. Mr. Thomas Lumley, of Randwick, who was the deceased’s stepson, was also a mail coach driver in the “Fifties”.” It appears that Henry Nowland provided employment for at least one step-grandchild.

Sarah Nowland Lumley

ATTACHMENT L

FAMILY CHART

MICHAEL NOTLAND 1761c – 1828 and ELIZABETH RICHARDS 1775c – 1852
Arrived: 'Scarborough' 1790 Arrived: 'Lady Juliana' 1790
Buried: Wilberforce. Buried Wilberforce.

MICHAEL (Jnr.)	HENRY	ELIZABETH	ANNE	WILLIAM	EDWARD	MARY	SARAH
b. Norfolk Is. 1794	b. Norfolk Is. 1796	b.Norfolk Is. 1798c	b.Sydney 1801c	b.Castle Hill 1804	b.Wilberforce? 1806c	b.Wilberforce 1808	b.Wilberforce 1814
d. Wilberforce 1856	d.Muswellbrook 1863	d.Windsor 1878 m.Windsor 1814 1.HENRY RICHARDSON 1783c–1850	d. Wilberforce 1819	d.Camberwell NSW 1884 m.Wilberforce 1831 MARY ANN FARLOW	d.Liverpool Fl'ns 1842 m.Wilberforce 1829 CHRISTIAN FARLOW	d. Sconе NSW 1881 m. Sydney 1828 ALEXANDER JOHNSTON 1806–1867	d.Sydney 1878 m.Sydney 1831 WILLIAM ADNUM 1802c–1861
m. Wilberforce 1852	m. Windsor 1825 HARRIET FARLOW	Children : 3 HENRY 1815–1897 JOHN 1817–1885 m. Ann Hegarty ELIZABETH 1820– ———		b. Wilberforce 1813 d. Singleton 1895 Children : 10 WILLIAM 1832–1906 m.Anna C Clark MICHAEL 1834–1886 m.Martha Squire ROBERT 1836–1883 m.Jane S Mercer JAMES 1838–1841 CHARLES 1840–1891 m.Anne S Squire JOHN 1842–1860 ALEXANDER 1846– m.Naomi K Simpson GEORGE 1849– m. Alice B Aldwell ALFRED 1851–1932 m. Laurette A Aldwell HENRY 1853– m.Martha E Clark	Children : 11 GILBERT 1828–1907 m.(1) Henrietta Chivers m.(2) Mary H Russell ALEXANDER 1830–1917 m.Eleanor F.Long MARY 1832–1919 m. Nathaniel P Asser ELIZABETH 1834–1924 ANNIE 1836–1923 m.Donald Campbell MICHAEL 1839–1840 WILLIAM* 1842–1915 JOHN 1845–1915 m.Isabel Thrum ALFRED1847–1925 m.Sarah J Barden SARAH 1849–1931 m.John J Dodd THOMAS* 1853– 1855 *unmarried	Children : 8 ELIZABETH 1831–1913 FRANCIS 1833–1906 WILLIAM 1835–1901 m.Elsie Murdoch SARAH 1837–1913 HENRY 1840–1896 MARY A 1842–1849 EDWARD 1846–1880 FRANCES 1850–1928
JANE GREENTREE (widow) 1784c – 1872 Arr'd free 1815 d. Wilberforce	b. Wilberforce 1805 d.Muswellbrook 1880 Children : 9 ANN 1825–1903 m.1.Pierce Hegarty 2. John Richardson SARAH 1827–1924 m. John Lumley JAMES 1829–1883 m.Mary Ann Rae HENRY 1837–1862 ROBERT 1838 WILLIAM 1840–1905 m.Pauline D.M. Underwood HARRIET FARLOW 1842–1906 ARCHIBALD 1846–1916 m.Eliz. Baldwin FREDERICK 1850–1886	2. JAMES ROCHESTER 1800c–1873 m. Windsor 1850 Children : 9 MARY 1824–1888 JAMES 1826–1899 m.Eliz.Schofield WILLIAM 1828– m. Mary Jane Curran HARRIET 1830– m. John Gow ANNE 1832– THOMAS1834–1917 m. Mary Jane Thomas CHARLES 1838– EDWARD 1841– SARAH 1843–1844				