

Historical Indexes of the Canberra/ Queanbeyan District

The Heraldry and Genealogical Society of Canberra Inc. will publish, in December, a four CD ROM collection of research notes and indexes comprising 29,900 records pertaining to the Canberra/ Queanbeyan district transcribed by Errol Lea-Scarlett with contributions from the late Bruce Moore. The four volume set is available for the pre-publication price of \$100 (including postage and GST). After publication the price rises to \$110 plus \$10 postage (including GST). The Society has order forms available or you can contact HAGSOC on (02) 6282 9356 or email hagsoc@hagsoc.org.au.

Volume 1 deals with court and church records for Bungendore and Michelago, Volume 2 includes court and council records for Queanbeyan, Volume 3 with land records, teachers in the Queanbeyan area and Errol Lea-Scarlett's index to obituaries and personal notices between the 1820s and 2001. The final volume includes parish registers and burial records for the Queanbeyan, Canberra, Gundaroo and Yass areas.

Well Station

In the last *Newsletter* Babette Scougall wrote about the incorrect use of 'Wells Station' and wondered why 'Well Station' was no longer used. That prompted Tony Corp, who has connections with the McKeahnie family who once owned the property, to write to the Chief Minister, Jon Stanhope, about correcting the name. He has advised Tony that the nomenclature board would make any corrections and amend the street names accordingly.

To be fair to the developers there are some maps (but not all) going back as far as World War 1 which show the property as 'Wells Station'. Even books by Samuel Shumack and Lyall Gillespie refer to it as such.

A Guide to Upper Canberra

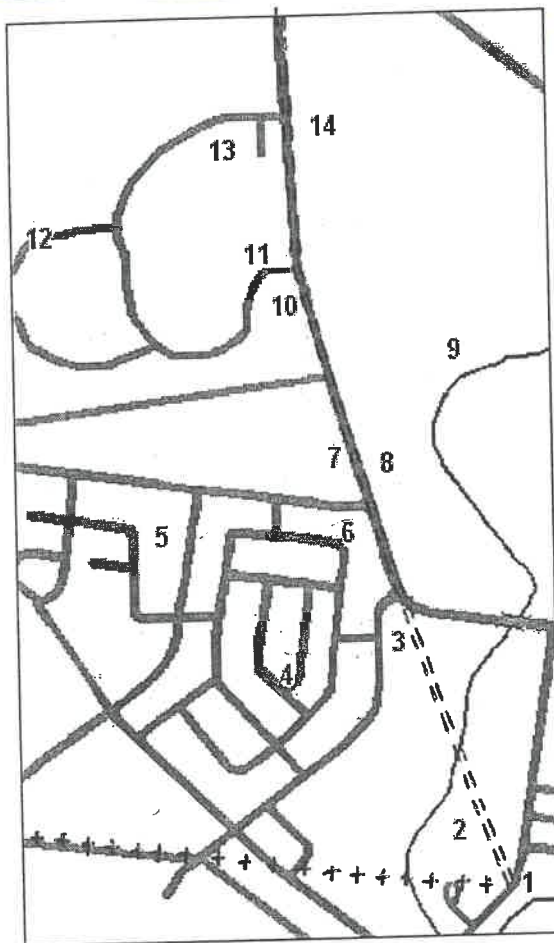
In 1856 six small portions of land were sold in the Parish of Canberra. Each block straddled the Yass Road and because they were long, rectangular blocks where the homes were relatively close together, a small community developed which came to be known as Upper Canberra. In the early twentieth century it was referred to as Ainslie and it is now the suburb of Lyneham. The last *Newsletter* included an article on Mary Mathieson but space precluded publication of this guide to the area in which she lived for over 50 years. It is based in part on the excursion notes for the CDHS tour to Ginninderra in 1995.

(1) **Yass Road** - The start point is innocuous enough; the small park where the cycle path crosses Goodwin Street near Lyneham High School. This spot is marked on early maps as 'Shumack's Trig' and it was also the intersection of the old Yass Road and Weetangerra Road. To get a rough idea of the route taken by the Yass Road, on a map of Canberra draw a line along the straight stretch of Ellenborough and Mouat Streets in Lyneham (only as far as St. Ninian's at the Brigalow Street intersection) and thence directly connect it to the straight stretch of Limestone Avenue. Weetangerra Road headed west from Shumack's Trig along the alignment of Clianthus Street

(2) **Ainslie Amusement Hall** site - Walter Burley Griffin located the industrial area for Canberra in this vicinity. When, in 1915 the Commonwealth proposed to construct an arsenal, Griffin argued that it should be located here and arranged the erection of at least one building which was used for community events including 'farewell' and 'welcome home' parties for soldiers during World War 1. The 'Ainslie Amusement Hall' is believed to have been located on the Lyneham High School oval.

(3) **St. Ninian's** - Brigalow Street. The first Presbyterian church on the site of the present St Ninian's was opened in the early 1860s being built according to plans drawn by George Kinlyside. The wooden building was replaced by a stone building which was first used for services by the Reverend J. Gibson

of Yass on 9 February 1873. It served the Ginninderra community as well as Canberra, and was the venue for many tea meetings (overseen by Mary Mathieson) and concerts. The church was enlarged in 1901 and again in the 1970s. Services ceased in 1914 and did not resume until 1942 when it came into full time use as St. Ninian's Presbyterian Church largely as a result of the efforts of the Reverend Hector Harrison. The church was rededicated in the presence of the Prime Minister, John Curtin (see the January 2005 Newsletter). The Pioneer Memorial Garden was dedicated on 10 March 1963 by Reverend Harrison and was erected in memory of Evan and Edith Cameron. The garden wall was built with stones from the remains of the original Ginninderra farm (also known as Palmerville).



=== Yass Road +++ Weetangerra Road

(4) **Kia Ora** – Garling Street near the Lyneham Pre-School. The family of Peter Shumack junior (the nephew of Mary Mathieson and her first husband Peter Shumack) owned Fern Hill until 1911 when they sold it and moved to Kia Ora where Shumack died the following year. His wife, Elizabeth, died in 1918 at Kia Ora. In 1958 the house was shifted to the south coast to make way for suburban development.

(5) **Fern Hill** – Mackennal Street. George Southwell, from Rosevale near Sutton, purchased Fern Hill in 1911 from Peter Shumack (junior). It consisted of a slab house with a three-room weatherboard cottage (built in 1905) attached. Southwell died in 1912 and his sons Fred and Jack took over the property. After his brother died in 1944 Fred Southwell ran the property and entered into partnership with his wife, Elsie. The homestead block was resumed for the development of Lyneham in 1958 and the homestead demolished, supposedly to be re-erected at the Black Mountain Tourist Park at the end of David Street in O'Connor. The Fern Hill property included part of Southwell Park and extended over O'Connor Ridge to the site of the AIS in Bruce, which the Southwells continued to farm well into the 1970s. The name is still used to describe the area of Bruce to the east of Haydon Drive.

(6) **Elm tree** – corner Archibald and Mouat Streets. Legend has it that Mary Mathieson's first husband, Peter Shumack, planted elm trees in the grounds of the Canberra Presbyterian Church (St. Ninian's) in 1871. One of the trees lasted until 1999 and the other till 2001. The tree on Mouat Street is a reminder of its older cousins and probably marks the entrance to Fern Hill from Yass Road.

(7) **The Canberra Inn/ The Pines** – Mouat Street. The Canberra Inn was built in 1857 as Joseph Shumack's home and was licensed as an inn from May 1876 until 1888. (I wonder if Finlay McDonald was a regular customer and how often Mary would have to 'drag' him back home.) After Shumack it was occupied by his nephew, Jack Read and his family, when it was renamed as The Pines. Read specialised in growing wheat but he died in 1917, after which his descendants continued to live there until 1974. In 1976, a century after the original licence was granted, it was again licensed and today operates as the Old Canberra Inn.

(8) **Original Canberra Racecourse** - Mouat Street. The first Canberra races took place on the course opposite the Canberra Inn. The innkeepers of the time used to organise sporting events near their inns as a means of increasing trade and Joseph Shumack was no doubt instrumental in organising the race meetings on this course. The last race meeting held there was probably on 15 March 1886. The ACT Hockey Centre now occupies the site.

(9) **Hawthorn Cottage** – rear of the National Sports Club. Hawthorn Cottage was located on the opposite side of the Yass Road from the Canberra Inn about 200 yards from the road. The site of the cottage is in a vacant block on the boundary between the National Sports Club and the Yowani Country Club. Peter Shumack bought the land in 1856 and it was here that he and his wife Mary Mathieson lived. After Peter's death, Mary married Finlay McDonald and the cottage was their home for many years. After Mary died in 1915 it was occupied by Ted Gozzard and his family. The final occupants were Ernest and Herbert Hobbs, who married Gozzard's daughters, and their families. Now all that is left of the site are a few hawthorns.

(10) **Canberra Methodist Church** site – Cossington Smith Crescent. Canberra's first Methodist Church, a small slab building, was formally opened for religious worship on 7 February 1869, the Reverend Edward Madgwick conducting the service. The church was situated a short distance from the Yass Road on land given by Mary Mathieson's first husband, Peter Shumack. The site is opposite the North Lyneham shops. The church was used for only a few years before most of its congregation moved elsewhere and the building was re-erected at Weetangerra. The land was held by the trustees of the church until the Commonwealth acquired it in 1915.

(11) **Innis and Rosevale** – Montford Crescent, North Lyneham Shops. Robert Maloney purchased the land in 1856. He died in 1889 and his sons, Robert (junior) and Richard took over the property when Innis became the home of Robert and Richard lived at Hillside. The house was of pisé construction but was demolished sometime after it was acquired by the Commonwealth in 1915. Thereafter Jack Southwell took over the lease and he built a new home which he called Rosevale, after the property near Sutton where he had lived as a boy. In front of the homestead and between the Yass Road was the ant-bed pitch and ground of the Ainslie Cricket Club. A new ground, concrete pitch and pavilion were built for the club in 1930 just south of Rosevale near Ginninderra Drive. The courts of the Ainslie Tennis Club, founded in 1913, were also next to Innis/ Rosevale.

(12) **Hillside** – Fred Williams Crescent. Hillside was part of the original land purchase of Robert Maloney in 1856 and passed to his son, Richard, after his death. The pisé homestead was built in 1910 and was not demolished until the 1980s when north Lyneham was developed.

(13) **Gungahleen School** – Piguénit Close. The school was originally known as the Stone Hut School and was built in 1884 to replace a building on the opposite side of the Yass Road. It was renamed as Gungahleen School in 1888 and it continued to operate in the original small building until 1913 when it was replaced by a more spacious building. The school was closed in 1923 because of falling attendance and it was converted to a house for the Duntroon schoolteacher, David Jones and his wife Frances (nee Shumack, who grew up at Fern Hill and Kia Ora). After he left, the house was occupied by Stan Melville for many years. The house is now privately occupied.

(14) **Stone Hut School** site – Ellenborough Street. The Stone Hut School was on the opposite side of the Yass Road to the later Gungahleen School on land that was a part of the 'Gungahlin' property. The school opened in 1873 with Humphrey Wainwright as teacher. In 1884 it was replaced by a small school on the other side of the road. This school was renamed Gungahleen in 1888. Ed.