



Faulconbridge about 1879-1880

RECORD OF BROKEN DREAMS

Any history of New South Wales colonial society includes numerous stories of 'those who made good'. People who, despite being transported as convicts or travelling in steerage or as assisted immigrants, became the success stories of the new society. For others, the battle with the economic and commercial reality of the times saw their 'new start' in the colony bring only broken dreams and lost lives. But even these broken dreams leave their mark on the official records of government through declarations of insolvency (an inability to meet expenses) or bankruptcy (a legal process that usually results in liquidation of one's estate in order to meet expenses).

The insolvency files (CGS 13654) cover the years from 1842-87 and the bankruptcy files (CGS 13655) date from 1888 to 1929. These files contain a wealth of information, including details of the creditors, lists of assets (eg household furniture, stock, other merchandise) and even details of personal possessions. As a result they are an invaluable resource for social historians.

Whether you are reading through the insolvency file of the famous, such as Henry Parkes (colonial premier) in 1853 or Isaac Nathan (composer of the colony's first opera) in 1844 or that of great, great uncle William in 1885, these records help give dimension and life to the stories of our forebears.

These important records are now more accessible than ever before, with the recent addition of the *Index to Insolvency Records, 1842-87* (CGS 13656) to our online indexes. This index is an ongoing project and presently covers the letters A-N. Eventually it will also include the bankruptcy files for the period 1888-1929.

The insolvency index offers you the option of searching by person, locality, occupation or year of sequestration, for example, Sydney tobacconists declared insolvent in the 1870s. (Sequestration is the order made by the court giving the trustee control of the debtor's property. The date of sequestration is the official date on which the debtor becomes bankrupt.)

The index is the result of a collaboration between State Records and the Society of Australian Genealogists. Many thanks to Heather Garnsey and Martyn Killion from the society, who compiled A-H of the index.

Henry Parkes: file number 4255 in [2/8955]
Isaac Nathan: file number 1210 in [2/8775]

OUT & ABOUT

Country Public Libraries Association Conference: Beyond Boundaries, Beyond Books ...

Christine Yeats, Manager, Public Access, State Records will be a speaker

Main venue Wentworth Services Club
20-23 July 2004

enquiries: Peggy McKenzie

ph: (03) 5027 5061

email: beyondboundaries@wentworth.nsw.gov.au

2004 NSW & ACT Family History Societies State Conference

David Roberts, Director, State Records will be the keynote speaker

Blackheath Community Centre
17-19 September 2004

enquiries: Suzanne Newbury

ph: (02) 4784 1379

Back to Basics at State Records

Presented by Parramatta Family History Society
Gail Davis, Senior Archivist, Research & Publications, State Records will be a speaker

Venue to be confirmed

Saturday 6 November 2004, 9.30 am - 2.00 pm

13th Irish Australian Conference

Christine Yeats will present a paper on 'Sources in the NSW Archives for Convicts after Transportation'

Redmond Barry Building, Tin Alley
University of Melbourne

28 September - 1 October 2004

enquiries: Professor Elizabeth Malcolm, Gerry Higgins
Professor of Irish Studies

email: e.malcolm@unimelb.edu.au

web: www.history.unimelb.edu.au/irish/13IrishAusConf/index.htm

← Henry Parkes, Faulconbridge,
SRNSW; CGS 4481, [St 23504]



COMING EVENTS @ STATE RECORDS

Keeping Company

A seminar exploring key sources for research into companies and registered businesses

Sydney Records Centre

Thursday 15 July 2004, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm

Western Sydney Records Centre

Wednesday 21 July 2004, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm

FREE Bookings essential

Introduction to Land Records

Come and learn about records relating to land occupation and settlement. An important resource for all students of colonial history

Sydney Records Centre

Thursday 12 August 2004, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm

Western Sydney Records Centre

Tuesday 17 August 2004, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm

FREE Bookings essential

HISTORY WEEK: 11–19 September 2004 Links in Time

Links with the Past: Finding Chinese Australian Family Connections Using Archives

Joint event with the Chinese Australian Historical Society (CAHS) and the National Archives of Australia

Mandarin Club, 396 Pitt Street, Sydney

Saturday 11 September 2004 (full-day seminar)

\$25.00 CAHS members; \$30.00 non members

Payment to CAHS, PO Box 1614, Dee Why, NSW, 2099

Securing the Links: Filling in Your Family Tree Using the NSW State Archives

Joint event with the Greater Queanbeyan City Council Library

Queanbeyan City Library, 257 Crawford St, Queanbeyan, NSW

Monday 13 September 2004, 10.00 am – 5.00 pm

FREE Bookings essential

ph: (02) 6298 0256 or (02) 6298 0239

email: andrew.blundell@qcc.nsw.gov.au

'We Don't Talk About ...'

Guidance on locating information about the 'forgotten ones' who 'disappeared' into 19th-century mental health facilities

Western Sydney Records Centre

Thursday 14 October 2004, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm

FREE Bookings essential

'Death and Taxes'

A seminar which will look at Probate and Deceased Estate records

Western Sydney Records Centre

Tuesday 23 November 2004, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm

FREE Bookings essential

Whatever Happened to ..?

Ever wondered what happened to immigrants after they arrived or where that 'missing' great uncle ended his days? Come along and see if we can help to find answers to these and other vexing questions

Western Sydney Records Centre

Tuesday 7 December, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm

FREE Bookings essential

Researching the Railways

Accessing State Rail archives at State Records

Sydney Records Centre

Friday 10 December 2004, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm

FREE Bookings essential

Enquiries & Bookings

Lindsay Allen

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fax: (02) 8247 8604

↖ Henry Parkes,
SRNSW; CGS 4481, [St 19914]