



The Children Left Behind

Angel Mine, the novel by Australian author Ainslie Yardley, takes us back to the mid 19th century when children were being admitted to Randwick Asylum for Destitute Children. While the account of the vicissitudes suffered by the characters Mary and Thomas O'Neill, after being placed in the asylum following the death of their mother and the disappearance of their father, is fictional, it has a firm basis in fact. The stories of children left behind following the death or separation from their parents were all too common, right from the earliest days of the colony.

The reality facing the colonial administrators was how best to provide proper care and protection for these children, left orphaned or destitute. Orphan schools and asylums, such as the Female Orphan School established in 1801, were initially established to carry out this role. As the 19th century progressed, additional government-run asylums and institutions, including the Randwick Asylum for Destitute Children, were established. With the shift away from 'institutional care' to placing (boarding-out) children in licensed private homes in the late 1800s, many of these institutions wound down their operations.

State Records holds most of the surviving official records relating to the care and protection of children in government custody. These records date from 1801 until the early 20th century. Through them we are able to recreate the real life stories of children who passed through these institutions or experienced other forms of government care.

For more information on these records you can refer to 'Archives in Brief (AIB) 59: Child Care and Protection'. This AIB is available in both reading rooms and online at: www.records.nsw.gov.au. A suite of indexes to these records is being developed by State Records. They can be accessed online. The latest addition is the *Index to the Mittagong Farm Home for Boys, 1907-21*. There are 3865 entries in the index, which includes a list of boys transferred from the training ship *Sobraon*, after its closure. Microfilm copies of the records can be viewed in our reading rooms.

↑ *View of Female Orphan School near Parramatta by Joseph Lycett, June 1825 SRNSW: CGS 4481, [GPO 1 - 08874]*

William Byrnes

Out and About

Illawarra Family History Group Inc

Senior Archivist Gail Davis will speak at a seminar celebrating the group's 21st birthday

Old Court House, Cliff Road, Wollongong

Saturday 20 August 2005

enquiries: Illawarra Family History Group Inc

email: ifhginc25@hotmail.com

mail: PO Box 1652, Wollongong, 2500

HISTORY WEEK EVENTS

Annual State Conference

NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc Hosted by Cowra Family History Group Inc. Manager, Public Access, Christine Yeats will be speaking about the latest news and updates from State Records NSW

Civic Centre, Darling Street, Cowra

Friday 16 – Sunday 18 September 2005

enquiries: Olwyn Barnes, Secretary,

Cowra Family History Group Inc

email: kich@allstate.net.au

Presented by Bega Valley Shire Library & State Records

Senior Archivist Lindsay Allen will speak on the wealth of archival source material in the Archives Resources Kit, held by the Bega Valley Shire Library

Bega (venue to be announced)

Monday 19 September 2005

enquiries: Linda Albertson

ph: (02) 6499 2127

Braidwood & Beyond Australian Lebanese Historical Society Inc

Christine Yeats will speak about source material in the NSW State archives regarding Lebanese immigration in south-eastern NSW from the 1880s to 1930s

Braidwood (venue to be announced)

Saturday 24 September 2005

ph: (02) 96657478

email: mail@alhs.org.au

mail: PO Box 712, Coogee, NSW, 2034

NATIONAL RAILWAY HERITAGE CONFERENCE

Thinking Rail: Lessons from the Past: The Way of the Future

Christine Yeats will present a paper: 'The First Railway Section, Australian Imperial Expeditionary Forces (AIF): Their Life and Times'

Tamworth

Wednesday 28 – Friday 30 September 2005

website: HFRC@une.edu.au

ARCHIVES AND COMMUNITIES

Joint conference of the Archives and Records Association of New Zealand and the Australian Society of Archivists

Reference & Access Day

Christine Yeats will present a paper: 'Public Programs: All this Reaching Out, but are we Connecting with Anyone?'

Wellington Town Hall, Wellington, New Zealand.

Thursday 6 – Saturday 8 October 2005

enquiries: Australian Society of Archivists

website: <http://www.archivists.org.au/events/conf2005/2005Conf.html>

Annual Conference of the Royal Australian Historical Society

Christine Yeats will speak about 19th century records relating to 'children taken in care'

Bathurst

Friday 4 – Sunday 6 November 2005

enquiries: Royal Australian Historical Society

ph: (02) 9247 8001 or fax: (02) 9247 7854.

email: history@rahs.org.au



Coming Events@State Records

Legal Lucky-Dip: Real Property Packets

A half-day seminar in conjunction with the Royal Australian Historical Society looking at Primary Applications and related land records

Western Sydney Records Centre
Wednesday 13 August, 10.30 am – 1.30 pm
cost: \$12 includes morning tea
bookings essential: (02) 9247 8001
(Royal Australian Historical Society)

Rogues Gallery

A motley range of characters before the courts, charged with some surprising crimes

Sydney Records Centre
Monday 18 August, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm
Western Sydney Records Centre
23 August, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm
FREE bookings essential

HISTORY WEEK 2005 EVENTS

What's held at the Sydney Records Centre?

An overview of microfilm, fiche and facsimile records available at the Sydney Records Centre

Sydney Records Centre
Tuesday 20 September, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm
FREE bookings essential

Talk & Tour @ Kingswood

Presentation about a range of records and a behind-the-scenes tour of the repository

Western Sydney Records Centre
Wednesday 21 September, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm
FREE bookings essential

Celebrating 150 years of NSW Railways

Seminar co-presented by State Records and the Sydney Branch of the Australian Society for the Study of Labour History. In conjunction with the exhibition *Romance & Industry: images from the NSW railways* at State Records Gallery

Sydney Records Centre
Thursday 22 September, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm
FREE bookings essential

Earning a Living: Professions & Occupations

From A for accountants to W for watermen, discover the wealth of information about professions and occupations held in the State archives

Sydney Records Centre
Monday 10 October, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm
Western Sydney Records Centre
Wednesday 12 October, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm
FREE bookings essential

Finding your Female Felons

Tips and tactics for researching women convicts and their times

Sydney Records Centre
Thursday 10 November, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm
Western Sydney Records Centre
Thursday 17 November, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm
FREE bookings essential

Every Picture Tells a Story!

From memorials to murderers, State Records' photographic collection will surprise you. Join us for Christmas morning tea

Western Sydney Records Centre
7 December, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm
Sydney Records Centre
15 December, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm
FREE bookings essential

Enquiries & Bookings:

Lindsay Allen
Senior Archivist — Access & Information (SRC)
ph: (02) 8247 8613
fax: (02) 9833 4518
email: accinfo2@records.nsw.gov.au

Names of orphans in Liverpool district recommended for the Male Orphan School, July 1818;
SRNSW: CGS 897, [4/1740 p. 255] Reel 6047