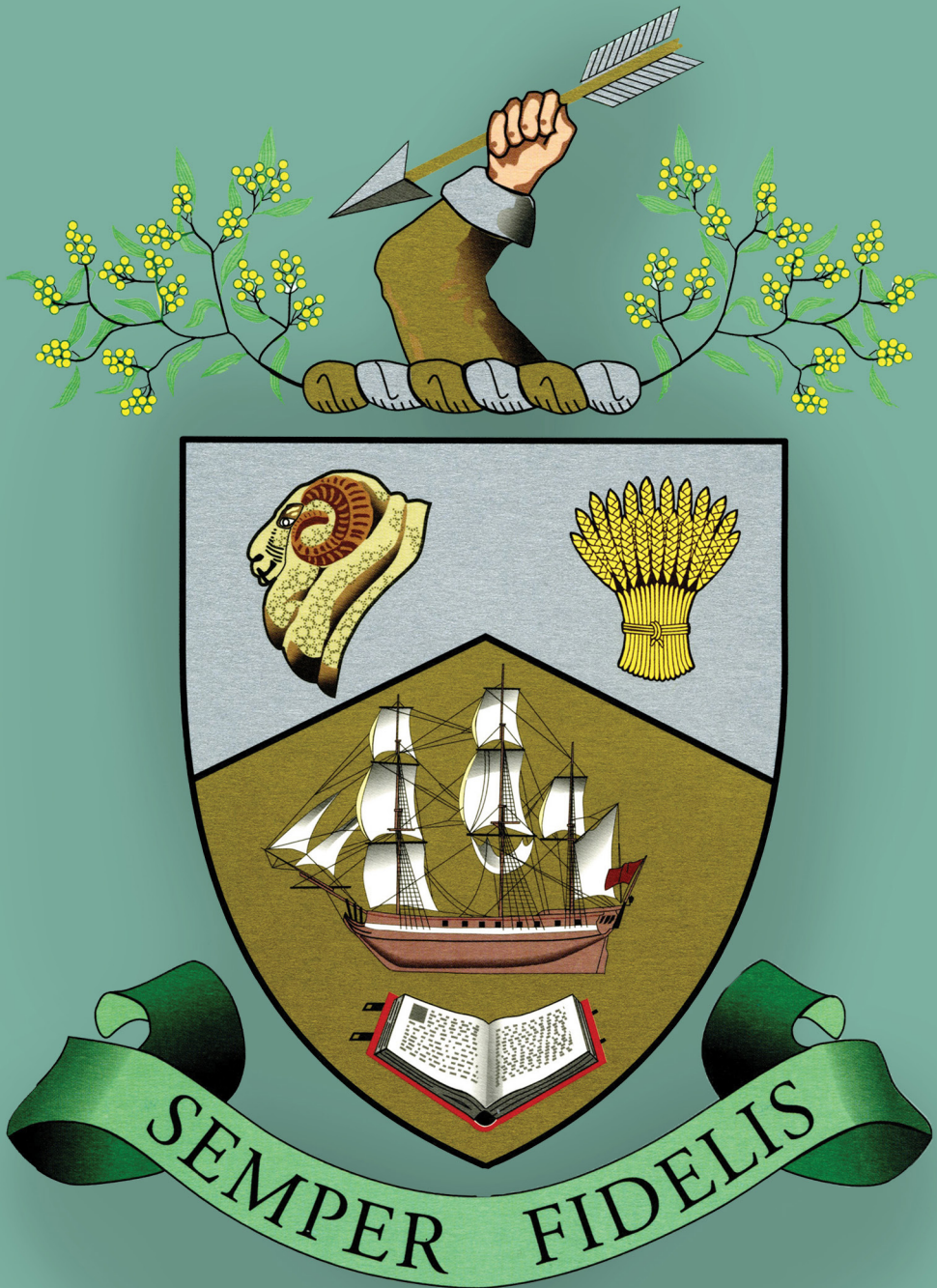


Edition 55

Hassall Family History Association Newsletter

July 2023





HASSALL FAMILY HISTORY ASSOCIATION

MAY 5-8 •REUNION• 2023

BUILD YOUR HISTORY. KNOW YOUR HASSALLS.



Over four days, May 5th to 8th, the Hassall Family History Association convened a Family Reunion marking 25 years since the Bicentenary Reunion of 1998. We wanted to celebrate being part of one of Australia's early settler families, learn more about our shared history and heritage, connect with family members from across the country, and build awareness of the family's legacy amongst the younger generations. The Reunion attracted more than 150 participants, who travelled from Western Australia, Queensland, Victoria, the A.C.T., and New South Wales. Some photos from the Reunion are included in this newsletter and many more are available online at <https://www.hassall.net.au/photos-and-recordings> and <https://www.facebook.com/groups/165908060151800/media/albums>

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

All members are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Hassall Family History Association. This will be online, Wednesday 2nd August, 8PM to 9.30PM AEST.

FRIDAY MAY 5TH

Friday 5th May comprised an optional tour of historic sites in Cobbity, Camden and Narellan, followed by a reception in the late afternoon in Parramatta.

“Denbigh”



It was especially lovely to enjoy the location and surroundings in autumn. This homestead built in 1818 was Thomas Hassall’s base from 1827 until his passing in 1868, when it passed into the hands of the McIntosh Family. In the days of Thomas and Anne Hassall, “Denbigh” was home to a school master, blacksmith, carpenter, brickmaker, and it produced wheat, sheep, vineyards, and orchards.

Today, Denbigh remains a working farm and is in addition a base for artists and craftsmen. The McIntoshes graciously treated us to Devonshire morning tea/coffee as we inspected their historic home and gardens before leaving reluctantly for our next appointment.

St Paul's Anglican Church and Cemetery

At 12pm we were met at St Paul’s Anglican Church and Cemetery by Jill Lummis, who guided us to the resting place of Thomas Hassall, Samuel Otoo Hassall, and other family members. She also opened for our inspection Heber Chapel, which Thomas built soon after his appointment as first rector of the Anglican Church at Cobbitty in 1827.



Camden Museum

The throng of Hassall family members who assembled at Camden Museum at 2pm must have both startled and pleased the Camden Historical Society – presumably the largest audience they have entertained for some time. The Society’s chairperson John Wrigley welcomed us to the Museum before inviting local historians John Burge and Ian Willis to make short presentations and to field questions – the most intriguing of which asked about the relationship between the Hassall and McArthur families. The Society then invited us into their workroom to view family-related historical materials.



Old St Thomas Chapel, Narellan

A final stop in the day's tour of the "cowpastures" region was at *Old St Thomas* Chapel in Wilson Crescent, Narellan. There are two buildings on-site, the original chapel built by Thomas Hassall that doubled mid-week as a school room, and a larger adjacent chapel built in 1884, after Thomas' passing. In 2000 the buildings were deconsecrated and purchased by Kylie and Peter Lyons, who now make them available for weddings, christenings and funerals. Kyle and Peter graciously opened both the old school room and the Chapel for us to inspect.



Opening Reception, Parramatta

The final session on this first busy day of the Reunion was the Opening Reception at Parramatta City Council's new facility "Phive" - 5 Parramatta Square. Dharug elder, Uncle Bruce Gale, welcomed us to country and Counsellor



Donna Davis, Mayor of Parramatta, spoke on the Council's interest in the City's history and heritage. After the formal proceedings Matilda Hassall performed two music items while family members shared snacks and spoke of their enthusiasm for the next few days' activities.



SATURDAY MAY 6TH

The Reunion's second day, based at the *Thomas Hassall Anglican College* at Middleton Grange, included two plenary speakers, separate sessions for each of the eight family lines, separate sessions for five projects, group photos, and the *Triple Wedding* pageant. The morning commenced with an acknowledgement of country by HFHA Committee member Rowley Hassall, and a welcome to the *Thomas Hassall Anglican College* by Principal Ross Whelan. HFHA chair Graham Hassall welcomed all committee members onto the stage to thank Ross for a decade of assistance he and the College have provided to the Association.



Guest speakers

Dr Anna Johnston, Professor in English Literature in the School of Communication and Arts at the University of Queensland, addressed the topic “Origin Stories: Rowland and Elizabeth Hassall and the emergence of Australian settler society”. Professor Tanya Evans, of the Department of History and Archaeology at Macquarie University, spoke about “The Benefits of Family History: some surprising suggestions for Hassall descendants.”



Family-line reports

Thomas

Report by Alison Shaw

The Thomas Hassall Family Line session was attended by about 30 of Thomas and Anne's descendants. Catherine Elizabeth Hope (IV) wrote: *This session, run by Alison Shaw, was informative about the Thomas Hassall Line. Although the session was interrupted by having a formal "Thomas" family photo, Alison was able to keep the momentum and interest by adding humorous family anecdotes and giving illustrations.*



Alison was enthused by her family history, was very knowledgeable and able to give recommendations and references for people to continue their own studies and/or to participate in the current Hassall projects.

Alison's presentation touched on world events, inventions, fashions etc that were occurring while the Hassalls were finding their feet in the early colony. Alison also brought up the issue of what should we be considering for our Hassall heritage items, how should they be housed and where. On Day 4 of the Hassall Reunion (Monday 8th May) Alison took a group of 40 interested Hassall descendants on a regional tour to O'Connell to "tread in the footsteps of the early Hassalls".



Samuel

Report by Melissa Blanks and James Daniel



Approximately 50 people were part of our family-line group session. Highlights of the meeting included documents and artefacts on display and Robert Wiles collation of a 20-metre Family Tree posted around the room at the back and sides of the walls, with additional entries being made by those who attended on the day! Some brought photos and artefacts. One collection from Claire Castle included historic diaries, photos, letters and documents of her family, including a 17th century ornate fine bone China tea set. Photos and documents were brought by Catherine Cohen, Robert Wiles & Beatrice Blanks of her father Harry Hassall Procter's WW1 medals, and of



family members and places who are from the Emma Hassall and Edmund Procter direct family line.

The aim of the meeting was for participants to introduce themselves, to give their name, where they were from, & something of their background and interest in the Hassall Family. To use this time to get to know each other, & where each one fits in our family tree. However, alas, time was not on our side, and were only able to get through 1/3 of the participants. We are planning to have a Family Line zoom meeting on Wednesday 19th July 2023 to continue with the introductions, with something shared of each ones family lives, histories, or events of interest to the wider family that they could share (optional) as well as to discuss areas of interest people have for topics of discussion, to gain idea's for future projects and events, with possibility of future presentations on specific topics.

One of research projects being pursued is "Did Mrs Hassall of Adaminaby give the story of The Man from Snowy to Banjo Patterson"? Refer to The Sydney Morning Herald October 6th, 2007, Article, "Mrs Hassall told Bango Patterson of Charles McKeahnie's exploits, arguably the Man from Snowy River."



Jonathan

Report by John Brooks

Jonathan's family is spread across most Australian states. We were fortunate to have 14 members attend the Reunion and participate in the Family Line meeting on the morning of 8 May 2023.

Family Line coordinator John Brooks presented an extract on the Jonathan line from a history of the Hassall Family that he had presented before to several History Associations in Sydney. This prompted lively discussion from members and assisted in placing their present families within Rowland's



descendants and assisted later examination of the family tree diagrams. Sarah Robertson's daughter had been preparing a presentation to a local school group and was sent a copy of the slides and a script by email at the end of the presentation. Hopefully this method can be used by other family groups to spread their histories. Of particular interest was the accompanying photo of three generations of Jonathan's: grandson Jonathan Evans Hassall, his daughter Jean Brooks (nee Hassall) and her son Peter, taken by a Sydney street photographer in 1938. This prompted discussion here and in the later Heritage group on the great value in street photography records often held in family albums and loose photos buried in boxes of family treasures.

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Susannah

Report by Anne Dudzinski (Shelley)

Susannah, daughter of Rowland Hassall, marries William Shelley Jnr (born Tahiti) so it becomes the Shelley Line straight to me. It is also the Rev Ralph Mansfield Line when their children, who are cousins, marry. The Ralph Mansfield Family Bible with handwritten family tree entries was shown.

There were six present at the family line session, missing sadly 2 others who registered but could not come at the last minute. Mother Joan Kersten and daughter Diane were new contacts for my daughters and cousin to meet. They are from Susannah's son William III. The other 6 of us are from her son James. A leaflet from the St Saviour's Cathedral in Goulburn was shown that identifies the grave of Susannah and William in its old Cemetery. Time ran out as we looked at the giant Family Tree on the wall. One addition was made to that. No further plans yet.



James

Report by Rowley Hassall



James and Catherine had ten children. Of these 10 children I only know of descendants of two, the first in time was Rowland Hope Hassall (1850-1909) (“Hope”) who went to New Zealand and married Rachel Matilda Stevens and they had 15 children. I lived at 646 Gloucester Street Christchurch with Norma Gladys Hassall (unmarried) and “Aunty Vi” - Elizabeth Violet Hassall (AKA “Vi”) who married Robert Lennox Moore and I met their children too. The other was my Great grandfather George Ernest Hassall (1861-1942) (“George”) who stayed at Coleraine, Victoria.

I went to New Zealand in 1970 when I turned age 19 and spent almost a year there catching up with Hope's surviving children and their children. This trip was to reconnect with relatives there who had been identified by Frances Rowe from Queensland who had continued contact with the NZ branch. Frances visited us in Melbourne and was related by marriage – somehow. I have not found that connection yet, George's son Kim Hassall came to Australia with two mates and stayed with my family for about 6 months. I have not been able to locate him in Australia. Ivy Moore's grandson (a twin) Philip Moore also stayed with my family in Melbourne. He became a good friend. I understand he lives as an isolate on the east coast of the South Island. In NZ I also met *Ivy Kathleen Hassall*, who married Arthur Jennings Skelton. I met Ivy & Arthur and some of their children and grandchildren, too. David J Hassall is descended

from George, too. His grandfather Robert George Hassall was a brother of my grandfather – a great-uncle to my cousins who attended the reunion, too.

My Grandfather was Rowland James Hassall and my father was Rowland Patrick Hassall. My grandfather was named “Rowland” after Hope who went to New Zealand. And Hope named his youngest son “George” after his youngest brother who moved to Victoria. I have only connected with my immediate family members descended from my grandfather, many of whom attended the reunion and encouraged their children to attend, (e.g. Cathy, Margaret, John, Mary, Tom, and Matilda & others, me).

At the Reunion line meeting those that attended were encouraged to add their names and their relatives’ names

Code	Children of James Hassall m. Catherine Payne Lloyd	
AE		
AEA	John Rowland Hassall died aged 3	1.
AEB	James Lloyd Hassall died aged 2	2.
AEC	Catherine Ann Hassall m Robert James Campbell	3.
AED	William Walter Hassall m Edith Inwood	4.
AEE	Henrietta Eliza Hassall m Alexander William Cunningham	5.
AEF	Rowland Hope Hassall m Rachel Matilda Stevens NZ	6.
AEG	Luisa Elizabeth Hassall m Robert D MacLachlan	7.
AEH	Arthur Wallace Hassall m Jeannie Wilson (Nee Cornish)	8.
AEI	James Cusack Hassall m Francis Percy Faris	9.
AEJ	George Ernest Hassall m Catherine Bridget McPhee	10.
	PROJECT JAMES LINE	
	We need a volunteer or group of James Line volunteers to trace each of the surviving 7 families and their descendants.	

to the James Family tree around the wall. That took considerable time. They caught up with each other. Many completed forms to be used to update the electronic family tree. Time was rapidly consumed. I told my story about how George and Hope named their sons after each other, but especially George, the youngest, who was very fond of his older brother “Rowland Hope”, who went to NZ. The major thing in addition to adding to the family tree was to tell the story outlined above and to encourage everyone to join the family gathering on the second Sunday each December

in Wattle Park in Melbourne (Riversdale Rd, Burwood VIC 3125) at about 11.30am until mid-afternoon. A future major activity might be to start the James Line meetings each December and to locate the descendants of James’ children that survived him and their descendants to connect them at least once a year, in December.

Ann

Report by Ann Brockhurst



A few people popped in and out including Jenny Walton-Smith and her two beautiful dogs. What I found most interesting was that just about everybody at the reunion knew at least some of the stories of Thomas, Johnathon and Samuel; but very few people knew anything about Ann or her sisters. It was especially lovely to talk with Susie McIntosh and Ros Vaughan. These two ladies and I were the only three direct descendants of Ann Hassall to attend the reunion and I was so pleased to be given the opportunity to share with them the truly remarkable story of Ann. It also highlighted the importance of getting her story to a wider audience and reinforces the contribution of the Hassall Family History Association.

Since coming home, I have read Margaret Reeson’s book *Currency Lass* and I was thankful for the few mentions of Ann. Susie recommended this book to me as it gave more insight into Ann's early life. Ann wasn't even a teenager when she stood at her father's grave, then a few days later saw the grave dug out so that the tiny coffin of her niece could be placed on top, and if that wasn't cruel enough; her father's grave was dug a third time for the tiny coffin of her nephew. I knew this story, but it had more impact talking about it to Susie and Ros whom it meant something to as well. I am now even more enthusiastic about getting a more official collation of the family history together. Thank you all for your support.

Eliza

By Jenny Walton-Smith



I think I was the only person at the reunion from the Eliza Cordelia Line, but not for a moment did I feel isolated or left out. There's something about being with a group of people with whom one shares the same genetic material that feels comfortable and friendly. Due to a faulty GPS I was first lost, then late for every Reunion event. Only afterwards did I discover that my GPS was set for Tasmania 😊 Fortunately, despite my tardiness I did manage to make it into the Hassall group photo, along with Kenzi & Tori, now photographically immortalised as official Hassall Hounds.

Over the past year, I have been in contact with a few people from my family line but unfortunately, they were unable to attend the Reunion. The happy news is that through the Reunion I've met two Hassall descendants who live quite nearby me in the Northern Rivers region. One person who would have enjoyed attending the Reunion was Joyce Warn who is my fourth cousin twice removed (I think)! At the age of 93, Joyce felt the pace of the Reunion a bit arduous, so on Sunday afternoon I slipped off to lunch with her at her club, the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron. Joyce is 93 years old and has been sailing since the age of 16. She's a life member of the Squadron and had quite a lot to do with women becoming full (rather than associate)

members. In the 1940s it was unusual for women to sail competitively, and Joyce has done so all her life, both in Australia and overseas; additionally, she has volunteered as a race official for more than two decades. For me, meeting Joyce was a highlight of the weekend. The accompanying photo shows Joyce in her element.



Another highlight for me was the Reunion visit to O'Connell where I met several people who knew the house where my great grandmother lived with her husband in the late 1800s. The cottage had long been associated with the Black name in O'Connell and it wasn't generally known that a Hassall descendent had lived there. That descendant was Kate Marian Walker, GG Granddaughter of Rowland & Elizabeth.

Merryll Hope's book *The Hassalls & Marsdens of Early Bathurst & O'Connell* filled quite a few gaps in my family history. A bit of background: Eliza Cordelia (b.1804) was my GGG Grandmother and was the second born child of our forebears, Rowland & Elizabeth.



At age 19 she married the Rev. William Walker who was the first Wesleyan missionary to the Australian Aboriginal peoples. He has a very interesting story himself. He was said to be one of the cleverest men in the colony and kept a library of over 2,000 books. The couple went to live at their homestead "Brisbane Grove" at O'Connell where other Hassall family members held land. Sadly, Eliza died during childbirth, aged 30 and was buried at St Thomas' Church, O'Connell. Here I am pictured (at left) at her peaceful grave.



In her brief life Eliza gave birth to six children, the third of whom was my GG

Grandfather, Rowland Thomas Brisbane Walker (1828-1874). He married Mary Anne Roberts, eldest daughter of an O'Connell local. Without dragging through the entire family saga, their daughter Kate Marian Walker married Robert Benjamin Black (my G Grandparents) and lived at Mill Cottage in Black's Mill Road, O'Connell. Pictured right is a portrait of Kate Marian Walker prior to her marriage, and on the next page are a photo of Kate Marian & husband Robert Benjamin Black in front Mill Cottage, O'Connell; Kate and Robert as an older couple in the mid-1940s; the fourth of their eight children, my grandmother Roberta Black; and Roberta's son Robert, my father, as a very young man.



And here I am with my tall daughter, Madeleine Walton-Smith, one of the many 7th generation Australian-born Hassall descendants. She's currently busy completing her PhD (biomedical science) but she shows a lot of interest in our family history. I think that one day when I'm dead and gone she'll turn up at some future Hassall Family History Association Reunion.

Life and History go on.



Project reports

Genealogy

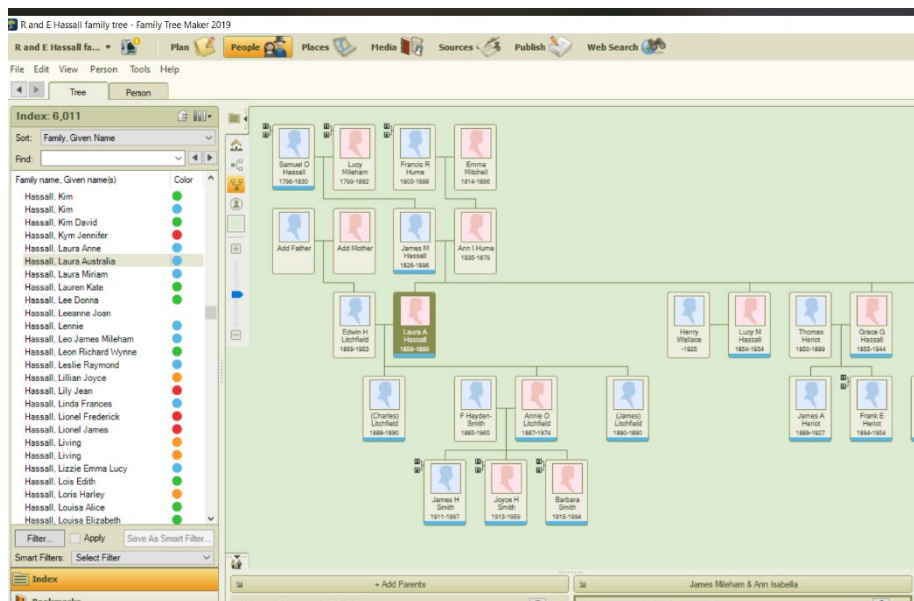
Report by Richard Clarke

The initial goal of this project is to trace all the descendants of Rowland Hassall and Elizabeth Hancox. The charts displayed at the reunion were compiled by Rob Wiles from the database I provided to Graham Hassall and substantially added to subsequently by Rob from his records. As



both Rob and I use Family Tree Maker along with Graham Hassall, FTM has become the genealogical database of choice for the HFHA and Rob's database will be the foundation from which the project will now develop. Thank you to all those reunion attendees who provided additional family data and corrections to our existing data. Most of this has now been added by Rob to his FTM database. We are interested in hearing from members of the HFHA who presently use FTM or similar and, if so, which genealogical software. Likewise, we are interested in knowing who subscribes to *Ancestry* or other genealogical research databases. Matters discussed at the session included:

- The need for privacy and publication policies.
- Research standards
- A suggested organizational structure comprising a project manager, database manager and researchers.
- Adoption of standard recording and verification processes using in FTM
- Database management
- Interface with other projects
- Interface with HFHA website
- Research techniques using the internet to locate descendants.



The Hassall family and first nations

Report by Danielle Hassall



Historical Perspectives: Hassall Family and First Nations. A preliminary conversation was started on Saturday 6th May at the 2023 reunion, with the aim to begin an ongoing project of reconciliation. Mary Hassall gave a recount of the work done at the bicentenary and the process of the Sorry book. Danielle facilitated the activities, hosting approximately 20 people in attendance. We looked at which indigenous lands the family occupied and from which lineage groups. We used the Hassall Family book to review the regions of inheritance by the 2nd generation and our recent lines. This task was enormous, and we decided it should be a part of our ongoing work in collaboration with other project groups. We then looked at excerpts of the written account of the Hassall's with

Indigenous peoples by James Hassall, Thomas's son (AAA), juxtaposed with an excerpt of *The First Australians* documentary by Rachel Perkins. The session was mostly well received, and we had 10-12 people sign up to continue the work.

Research and Publication

Report by Graham Hassall

Eight people attended this session on research and publication, which highlighted the potential that exists for original research into the lives of not only the first and second generations (Rowland and Elizabeth and their children), but the subsequent generations, which comprise thousands of compelling life histories. Rowland and Elizabeth were “unintentional trailblazers” in the sense that their eventful lives have become subject to inquiry across a number of disciplines: their travel to Tahiti about the *Duff* 1996-97 is recorded in Gunson’s *Messengers of Grace*; Rowland’s reports to the London Missionary Society concerning conditions in Tahiti are now used in linguistic, ethnographic, and historical research; their depiction in such artworks as *Cession of Matavai* are now objects of cultural interpretation; records and relics of their home and businesses in Parramatta are scrutinized in studies of commerce, gender, archaeology, and medicine; and their agricultural and pastoral pursuits are examined in the fields of economic and colonial history, and indigenous studies.



And, not least, their religious profession and activities are noted in religious studies.

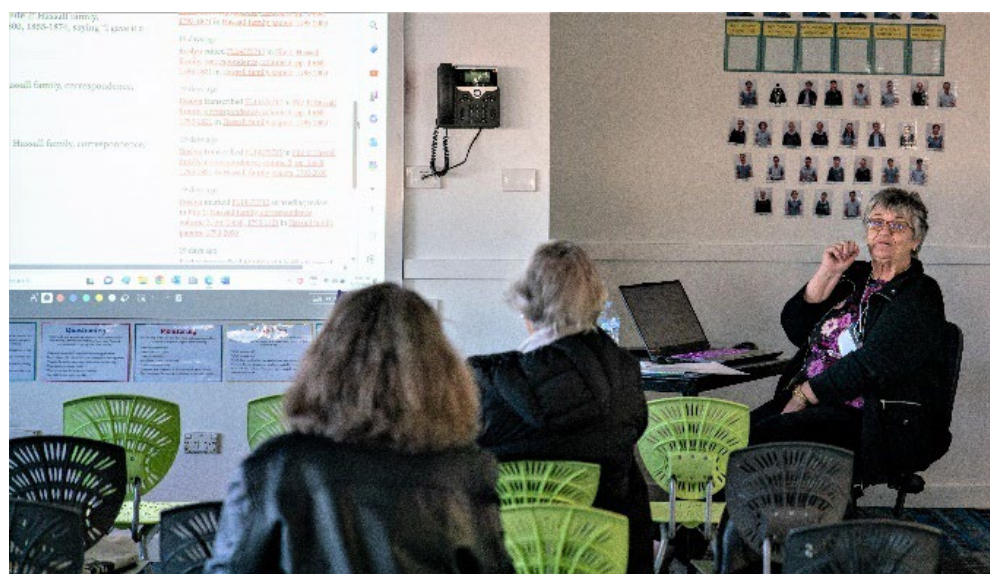
Graham included and a brief account of works published by the Hassall Family History Association, and a review of official records and other archived materials that are available for historical research. There are, for instance, at least 86 manuscript collections at the State Library of New South Wales that contain primary materials relevant to Hassall Family History. All such materials are gradually being brought together in a bibliography, and some discussion took place about possible methods for collaboration on the bibliographic project. The value of associated Association projects in Genealogy, Hassall Heritage, and Transcription, was also noted.



Transcription

Report by Ros Vaughan

During the conference both keynote speakers (Professors Anna Johnstone and Tanya Evans) referred to researching through the diaries of the Hassall Family being transcribed at the State Library. This is a very worthwhile and interesting project tackling different handwriting and putting into context the lives of this family. As a descendant on a female line (Ann), I hope at some stage to find more about her life. Only a handful of people attended this session where we connected live to the site and demonstrated how easy it is to get involved. Hopefully we will grow this band of volunteers as all you need is a computer and spare time – it can be done at all hours of the day or night.



The Triple Wedding Pageant

The Saturday May 6th. program culminated with the “Triple Wedding Pageant”, written and directed by Robert Wiles. Robert wrote the Pageant for the Hassall Family Bicentenary of 1998 and updated the script for its second performance.



The CAST included ROWLAND HASSALL aged 51 (**Robert Wiles**), married to ELIZABETH HASSALL aged 54 (**Dawn Wiles**); THOMAS HASSALL aged 25 (**Thomas Hassall**); SAMUEL HASSALL aged 23 (**Alex Wiles**), married to LUCY MILEHAM aged 20 (**Amy Wiles**); JONATHAN HASSALL aged 21 (**Alex Bissett**), married to MARY ROUSE aged 21 (**Lauren Hawketts**); JAMES HASSALL aged 17 (**James Hawketts**); ELIZA, aged 15 (**Matilda Hassall**); SUSANNAH aged 13 (**Natasha Hassall**); ANN aged 11 (**April Hassall**); NARRATOR, Rowland Hassall; ANNE MARSDEN (**Angela DeCarluccio**); MARY HASSALL, aged 19 (**Lucy Wiles**), married to WALTER LAWRY aged 25 (**William Hassall**).

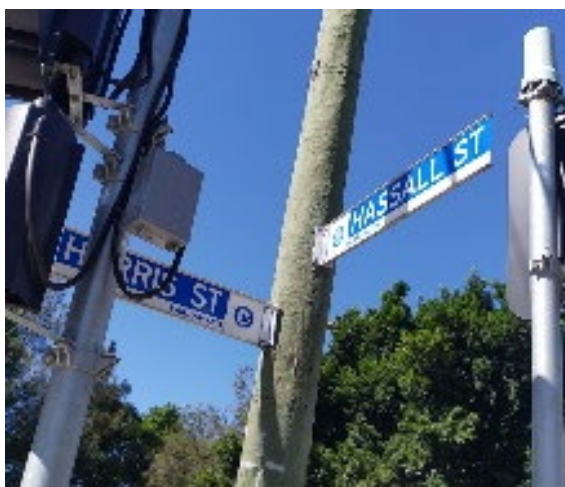
SUNDAY MAY 7TH

Parramatta History Walk

Report Graham Hassall (some photos by Uli Holmes)

On a rainy Sunday morning, 7th May, Uli Homes (Host and *Guide at Community Services, City of Parramatta*) led two groups (9.30am and 11.15am) on an historical walk along some of the historic sites associated with the Hassall family.

The earlier group also had time to visit Old Government House. The groups walked from the corner of Harris Street & Hassall Street, then along George Street, and finally to St John's Cemetery.

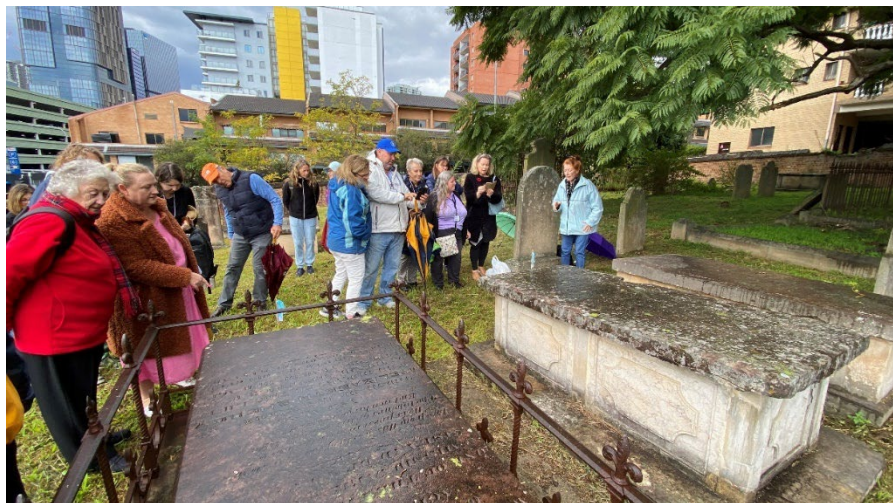


Rowland and Elizabeth had both a store and residence at 109-113 George Street Parramatta from 1803 to sometime before 1820, plus additional land in the same street. Although the building was demolished in the 1870s, photos of it are available online, and a large reproduction is on display in the foyer at 103 George Street. The tour viewed this photo as well as plaques commemorating the Hassall House and the site of the First Sunday School, established by Thomas Hassall.



St John's Cemetery

At St John's Cemetery, Jennifer Follers and Linda Bradley were present on behalf of the *Friends of St John's Cemetery* to point out gravesites of Hassall forebears, and to answer any questions. Forebears buried at St John's include Rowland and Elizabeth, and Anne Hassall (Marsden), wife of Thomas. Anne's Father Samuel Marsden lies at rest nearby as do members of some missionary families associated with the Duff's first journey to Tahiti, including William Shelley, John Eyre, and Francis Oakes.



Sunday service at St John's Anglican Cathedral



At 2pm on Sunday 7th May, Reverend David Ould conducted a Service of Evening Prayer at St John's Cathedral, "in commemoration and thanksgiving for the life of Rowland Hassall, late of this parish of St John, Parramatta. David selected readings for the service similar to those that would have been in use in the 1820s, to provide a sense of how Rowland and Elizabeth would have experienced a service at St John's - which was too the site of the "triple wedding" at which their children Samuel, Jonathan and Mary married on the same day in 1819. The service was followed by refreshments in St John's Hall, at which some final photos were taken to remember the day.



Monday May 8th

Two optional tours were available on Monday May 8th: one group visited O’Connell, near Bathurst, while a second group explored Hassall heritage in Windsor, northwest of Sydney.

O’Connell

Report by Alison Shaw

Taking 40 Hassall descendants on the O’Connell regional tour, Monday 8th May 2023, as part of our 4-Day Hassall Reunion, was a pleasure to organize. We met in *Hassall Park* O’Connell with 15 current locals, remembering that our Hassall ancestors were the current locals of the O’Connell Plains 200 years ago!



Driving out of Sydney, through the Blue Mountains to congregate at Mt York Lookout on a cold Autumn morning was the start of our tour into the lives of the early Hassalls. Viewing the dramatic drop to the Western Plains from the lookout, feeling the chill and excitement, and then driving another 90 minutes to O’Connell, almost parallel to the Old Cox’s Road, gave us time to ponder the wilderness, the hardships and the isolation that Rowland, Elizabeth, 6 of their 8 children and their spouses experienced. The lives of these extremely brave men and women is awe-inspiring. Driving in the comfort of a heated car with a coffee cart to greet us at *Hassall Park*, O’Connell, stopped us, Hassall descendants, short of fully understanding the real lives of these early intrepid Hassall travelers.





Our day at O'Connell allowed us to learn more about the Hassall grants of land by driving around the rough dirt roads on the edge of O'Connell. We sighted and read about the old cobh barn (*Lindlegreen*) that Thomas Hassall erected in 1827, went into the old St Thomas' church, built on Thomas' land with his money and saw the grave of Eliza Cordelia Hassall and other relatives. We viewed the expanse of the lands that Thomas (*Llampeda*), Samuel (*Milford*), Jonathan (*Wanera*) and James (*Warego*) established 200 years ago. How fortunate that their lands still bear the original property names that these Hassall's chose (for good reason) so long ago.



Merryll Hope was with us for the day, ready and willing to talk about and sign her book *Hassalls and Marsdens of Early Bathurst and O'Connell*. Please contact Alison Shaw if you wish to purchase Merryll's book which gives facts, primary sources and history of the Hassalls in this region.



If a group of Hassall descendants should wish to do this regional tour in time to come, I will be ready to lead again in a heartbeat.



Windsor

Report by John Brooks; photos by John Brooks and Christine Struck

On Monday 8 May we ventured into the northern reaches of early Hassall influence to Windsor and Ebenezer, ably assisted by the Hawkesbury History Society. At Windsor we met at St Matthews church, which was designed and built by Francis Greenway, and is the oldest Anglican church in Australia. Consecrated by Samuel Marsden in 1822 its church yard is the resting place of Jonathan Hassall and his wife Mary (Rouse). Several other substantial Hassall memorials are in good condition and can be read clearly. Sadly, Jonathan's seventh son Charles drowned in the Cudgegong River and commemorated by a plaque within the church.



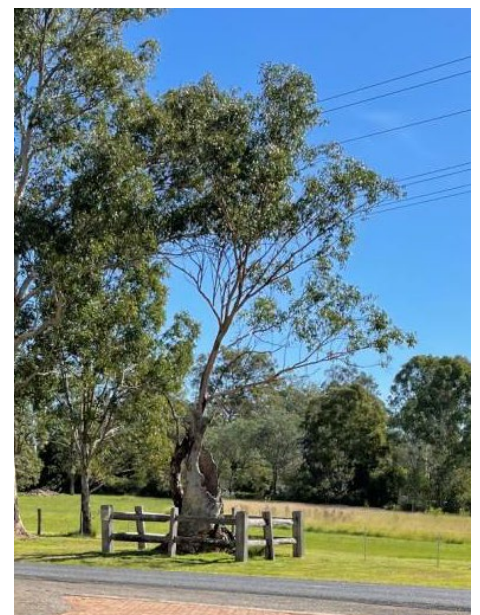
In the graveyard we learned that many of the substantial monuments are covers for family vaults that are still in use. Below is the memorial to Jonathan Lawry Hassall who died in 1899 and which also contains his daughter Elsie who died in 1953. But on the reverse side is a record of even later interments the last being in 2014. Several other memorials are still active burial plots.

Visiting Ebenezer

Further north on the Hawkesbury River is the historic settlement of Ebenezer which has an important place in the Hassall story. Ebenezer Uniting Church, Australia's

oldest functioning church on the banks of the Hawkesbury River, was originally a Dissenting Chapel. The area was settled in 1803 by a number of free settler families who sailed to Australia on the Coromandel in 1802. These settlers originally worshipped under a local gum tree preached to by Rowland Hassall. The tree shown here still exists on the opposite side of the road from the church.

The first four pioneer families included the Grono family, early boat builders who built boats up to 200 tons on the Hawkesbury, another was John Turnbull, a tailor's cutter. Floods in 1807 rose from the Hawkesbury to the highest known level and devastated the settlement. The families would have been almost destitute if Governor Bligh had not come to their rescue because of their support to him in the past. To this day his assistance is remembered and descendants of the four families all bear the middle name of Bligh. One well-known name today is a recent Prime Minister, Malcolm Bligh Turnbull who contributed to its recent restoration.





They and other local families, mostly Scots, assisted in building a simple sandstone church, which was cut from sandstone along the banks of the river. The church was built in 1808-09 but not finally fitted out until 1817 and is now administered as part of the local Uniting Church diocese. It has preserved the school master's house which is now a small tea shop and museum.

Acknowledgements

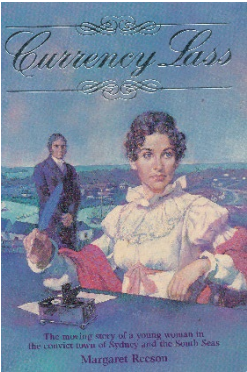
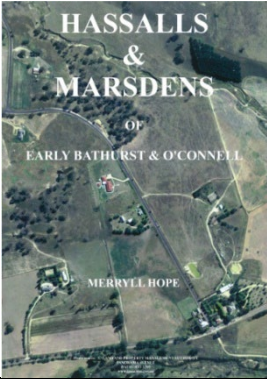


The HFHA Committee extends its thanks to the many people and organizations who contributed to the Reunion's success: the McIntosh family for their generosity in opening *Denbigh*, giving tours of the house and providing the delicious morning tea; the gifted and engaging keynote speakers at THAC, Professors Anna Johnston and Tanya Nelson; the staff and students at THAC; Rev David Ould for his willingness to run a special service for us at St John's Parramatta on Sunday afternoon. He remained faithful to the Gospel and Scripture but wove aspects of the

history and legacy of the Hassalls into the service in a humorous way that appealed to those who are not usually church-goers; Hyde Hassall for his sterling efforts in taking the informal photographs that are now posted to the Association's website and Facebook page; to the staff at Parramatta City Council, notably Jessica Wheat; the Friends of St John's Cemetery (Judith Dunn and Jennifer Follers); the Camden Historical Society and local historians (John & Julie Wrigley, Ian Willis, John Burge); and to Kylie and Peter Lyons of Old St Thomas' Chapel, Narellan.

Books for sale

A limited number of books remain available for sale.

<p><i>Currency Lass</i> – By Margaret Reeson</p>  <p>Life in the convict colony of New South Wales was harsh and often cruel. But for free settlers like the Hassall's, Sydney was home. As one of the few eligible Australian-born girls, Mary Hassall was much admired. This recreation of her life from contemporary letters and diaries vividly portrays her emerging adulthood, romance, and life in Sydney and on the islands of Tonga.</p>	\$30	Quantity:	
<p><i>HASSALLS and MARSDENS of EARLY BATHURST & O'CONNELL</i> - by Merryll Hope</p>  <p>This book contains extracts from colonial correspondence, personal letters, newspapers, land titles, sketches and photos, which refer to many Hassall's including clergymen such as Rev Thomas Hassall, his son James Samuel (<i>In Old Australia</i>), his sons-in-law Rev William Walker, the Rev Walter Lawry and others.</p>	\$35		
Cost calculation table 2			\$

1. SEND orders to the HFHA Treasurer John Brooks at:

- a) email: brooksjno@gmail.com **OR**
- b) post: Unit 106/149 Pymont Street, Pymont, NSW 2009

2. SUBMIT payment by Direct Deposit to:

BSB: 062 575

Account 10248050 (*include your name in reference box*).

New Members

The Association welcomes new subscribers as well as renewals this year: Judith Basset, Nathan Cook, Nancy Gordon, Susan Hassall, Elizabeth Johnston, Donna and David Rankin, Jenny Tasker,

New life members are Adrian Hassall, Gavin Hassall, and Naomi Lewis.

Also, the Association's Bank account has received some membership fees without names, on 26 August and 10 December 2022, so we hope that members can help us identify who these people are.

Annual General Meeting

The Hassall Family History Association's Annual General Meeting for 2023-24 will be held online on Wednesday 2nd August 8pm – 9.30pm AEST.

August 2nd Annual General Meeting <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87613447019>

Online Seminar Series

Association members are welcome to participate in the following online seminars. All sessions are 7.30-9.00pm Eastern Standard Time (except for the August 24th session which starts at 6.30pm). Make sure to add these to your diary:

July 19th Samuel and Lucy Hassall Line (James Daniel and Melissa Blanks)
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86539602681>

August 9th "Transcription of the Hassall Family papers at the State Library of New South Wales."
(Roslyn Vaughan) <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86999360804>









August 16th "Thomas and Ann Hassall Line zoom session" (Alison Shaw)
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83275735571>

August 24th "Historical Perspectives: Hassall Family and First Nations" (for information about this session contact call Danielle Hassall at hassallmedaily@gmail.com)

September 6th The Hassall Family Genealogy Project – Richard Clark & Robert Wiles
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85038720477>

Hassall Family History Association joins the Royal Australian Historical Society

In March the Hassall Family History Association joined the Royal Australian Historical Society. Membership provides access to the Society's biannual *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society*, and the quarterly *History* magazine, our membership number is 10171.

Family Line	Coordinators
1.  Thomas Hassall & Anne Marsden	1. Alison Shaw alison.shaw@optusnet.com.au
2.  Samuel Hassall & Lucy Mileham	2. Melissa Blanks melissajb3@outlook.com.au , & James Daniel jmtdaniel10@gmail.com
3.  Jonathan Hassall & Mary Rouse	3. John Brooks brooksjno@gmail.com
4.  Mary Hassall & Rev Walter Lawry	4. Barbara Scott bmsbarb@icloud.com
5.  James Hassall & Catherine Lloyd	5. Rowland J Hassall rowlandjhassall@gmail.com
6.  Eliza Hassall & Rev William Walker	6. Jennifer Walton-Smith jennywaltonsmith@icloud.com
7.  Susannah Hassall & William Shelley Jr	7. Anne Dudzinski annedudzinski@optusnet.com.au
8.  Ann Hassall & Robert Campbell	8. Ann Brockhurst brockhurst1@live.com.au

The Hassall Family History Association fosters and disseminates research on the life and heritage of Rowland and Elizabeth Hassall and other members of the Hassall family and encourages historical research on other early settler families - particularly those with whom the Hassalls are related or with whom they share historic experience in early Australia. Membership is open to all. Donations are welcome to cover the group's activities. Newsletters are published three times each year (approximately February, June, and November) and are distributed with the assistance of the Thomas Hassall Anglican College.

Life Members: Sally Anderson, Nancy Gordon, Adrian Hassall, David NH Hassall, Frank and Rosemary Hassall, Gavin Hassall, Graham Hassall, Huon and Fran Hassall, Jonathan Guy Hassall, Roland Hassall, Naomi Lewis, Ian and Susie McIntosh, Jane Miura, Alison Shaw, Jean Stewart, Joyce Warn, and Robert Wiles.

2022-23 Committee

Graham Hassall (chairperson)

email: ghgcoast@gmail.com; mobile 0409 711 773; post: 17 Scenic Avenue, Benowa, Qld. 4217.

Alison Shaw (secretary)

email: alison.shaw@optusnet.com.au; mobile 0431 227 777; post: 33 Brucedale Avenue, Epping. NSW 2121.

John Brooks (treasurer)

email: brooksjno@gmail.com; mobile 0408 687 954; post: Unit 106/149 Pyrmont Street, Pyrmont. NSW 2009.

John Hassall (member)

jjh@mmt.com.au

Margaret Hassall (member)

margaret.hassall@gmail.com

Rowland Hassall (member)

rowlandjhassall@gmail.com

Please notify the secretary of changes to your contact details.