



COWPER 200 NEWSLETTER

1809 - 2009 - The Cowper Family in Australia

December 2011

Mary Stephenas's granddaughter found after 146 years

Our forgotten daughter

Another Mary Stephenas found through Ancestry.com

Assiduous research by Rod Hirst and Trish Schwartzkoff (Mary Stephenas Branch) has revealed the poignant and at times tragic story of William and Hannah's great-granddaughter, Mary Stephenas Brooks.

Rod takes up the story here:

“William and Hannah's great-granddaughter Mary Stephenas Brooks was born on 23 February 1865 to George William Brooks (the son of Dr George Brooks and Mary Stephenas Cowper) and Esther Young (daughter of Edward Young and Sarah Kenniwell).

“Unfortunately Mary Stephenas grew up not knowing her father George William Brooks or her connection with her namesake, her grandmother, Mary Stephenas Cowper as George William died twelve months later on 12 February 1866.

“Esther then married, for the second time, Thomas Hill at Christ Church Newcastle on 4 September 1867 moving then to Haydonton which is now known as Murrurundi. Esther and Thomas went on to have 11 children. Mary took the name of Hill even though her birth records have the surname Brooks”.

Mary Stephenas, a widow at 23

“On 13 January 1886, at the age of 20 years Mary Stephenas married Henry Augustus Hughes. He was working on the railway at

Murrurindi, they had two children Esther Jane and Clara Laurretta. Tragedy struck in 1889 the year Clara was born, for Henry was taken down with pneumonia and died at his residence 18 September that year. Mary found herself a widow at twenty three.



Mary Stephenas Brooks at Murrurindi

Three years later at the age of 26 Mary Stephenas met a Thomas Murray Sheil in Murrurundi and they were married on 6 May 1891 at St Marys Cathedral Sydney. They then returned to Murrurundi where Sydney Alphonsus Sheil was born, they returned to Newtown Sydney around 1895 where two more children arrived in 1895 and 1898.

Camden connections

“Shortly after that they moved to Camden, where Mary Stephenas went on to have six more children, the last child Eileen Agnes being born in 1910.

“Now living in Camden at the property “Caernarvon” which is just down the road from “Wivenhoe” the Cowpers and “Oran Park” homestead the Kenrick's and Hirst's,

Mary may have crossed paths and even met her Cowper, Kenrick and Hirst relatives without any knowledge of their relationship. For although the Cowpers no longer lived at Wivenhoe they still had strong connections in the district.



Mary Stephena Brooks at 'Caernarvon'

“It is through Mary Stephena’s first born to Henry Augustus Hughes (Esther Jane Hughes – William’s great-great granddaughter) that I have made contact with this ‘forgotten’ branch of the family. I have been sharing information and photos with Mary Therese Locke (nee Schwartzkoff) who is in her eighty-seventh year and her niece Trish Schwartzkoff. Esther Jane married Herbert Henry Schwartzkoff.

“Mary Locke has been to visit with her son Bernard to Denman and has shared many memories, including the times growing up at “Caernarvon” and going to worship at the chapel at Mater Dei Wivenhoe as a child. Mary, who has only known of her connection with the Cowper Family for the last 25 years, was, unfortunately, unable to attend our Cowper200 celebrations and reunion.

“Now, her niece Trish has the family history bug and has been extensively collecting stories and family photos, I owe her a great gratitude for sharing with me and as a consequence, the rest of the Cowper clan this, the story of William and Hannah’s lost great-granddaughter”.

Wishing the family a very Merry Christmas
...from the Mary Stephena branch

Roderick Hirst

Keeping in touch ...

Do you have something of interest to tell us about a family member – from any generation? If you do please let us know:

Email: Cowper200@onaustralia.com.au



Left: Mary Stephena Brooks' mother – Esther Young, wife of George William Brooks and daughter-in-law of Dr George and Mary Stephena Brooks (nee Cowper)



The young Mary Stephena



Henry Augustus Hughes



Mary Stephena with two of her daughters Clara and Esther



In later years: Mary Stephena Hughes-Sheil (nee Brooks)

Ambrotype of the Premier of New South Wales Charles Cowper, 1859



From the Powerhouse Museum Collection

This photograph of Charles will interest family members. It was taken in 1859 and shows Charles, then, the second Premier of New South Wales, and his ministry. It's with some pride we recall that he is sometimes referred to as 'Slippery Charlie'. Charles of course lived up to his name as he was elected premier five times between 1856 and 1870.

It is amazing that this relic of the State's history has survived the past 150 years because it was made using the 'ambrotype' process which produced unique one-off photographs on a glass plate.

One reason it has survived is that it has spent most of its life with the family of Lawrence Hargrave before being donated to the Powerhouse Museum in 1963. The reason for this is that Lawrence's father J. F. Hargrave, who can be seen on the far left of this photograph, was a member of this short-lived ministry.

The others, from left to right, are John Robertson (Secretary for Land and Public Works), Charles Cowper (Prime Minister), Elias Carpenter Weekes (Colonial Treasurer) and Lyttleton Holyoake Bayley (Attorney General).

State Records release an 1849 map of the proposed Sydney Railway terminal station, signed by Charles as manager of the Sydney Railway Company

On 14 January last the State Records Office of New South Wales released to Flickr (the internet photo sharing program from Yahoo!) a map showing the plans drawn up by the Sydney Railway Company for the location of the terminus of the Sydney-Parramatta Railway (which was yet to be constructed) in what we now know as Belmore Park.

State Records description reads as follows

This map is part of our gallery celebrating the 50th Anniversary of State Records

SR Map 6408: Showing a significant part of Sydney as it was in 1849, prior to the construction of the major railway terminus. The map shows the grounds proposed for the Sydney Railway (part of the site of the present Central Railway) in green, with the grounds remaining in the possession of the Crown in yellow.



Plans for Sydney Railway, 1849 – State Records NSW

The map is inscribed

“Transmitted to the Honourable Colonial Secretary with the application from the Directors of the Sydney Railway Company 6th December 1849 – Charles Cowper – President”

If you are interested the link to the page is:
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/state-records-nsw/5353105184/>

And the link to State Records is
<http://gallery.records.nsw.gov.au/index.php/galleries/50-years-at-state-records-nsw/>



Cowper-White Documents turn up in a Brisbane Antiquarian Bookshop

A recent discovery in a Brisbane-based antiquarian bookshop has led to the recovery of 'lost' family documents. As well as many family letters, mostly written in the late nineteenth/early twentieth century, the collection includes the original marriage certificate of William Macquarie Cowper's daughter Eliza Jane to Robert Hoddle Driberg White, as well as copies of two sermons William Macquarie Cowper published. These were the sermon he delivered in Stroud and Booral upon his departure in 1856 and one delivered in St Phillip's on the public day of mourning for Prince Albert in 1861.

There is also a booklet W. M. Cowper published recounting his wife Margaret's illness and final days and inscribed:

"Eliza Jane Cowper, with her Papa's love and prayers that she may be a follower of her beloved Mother in Christian piety, faith and beliefs. April 18th 1855"

Whilst it is not known just how these documents came to be in the public domain, it is reassuring to know that had they not been acquired by a member of the family, the State Library of NSW intended to purchase them.

Family members are reminded to be on the lookout for memorabilia such as that described above, which we first heard about through e-Bay! There is a likelihood of material such as this surfacing anytime anywhere.

**Please, if you see an item of interest:
Email: cowper200@onaustralia.com.au**

Keith Cowper, turns 70, hopes to visit Australia so he can deliver memorabilia

From an email recently received ...

Hi John



Good to hear from you I have been a bit quiet over the past year as the arrival of grandson No 5 Aydan Davis Cowper through us into rather a spin, however we are on track now and I look after him two and a half days per week while Amy goes back to college to finish her beauty studies.

Have enclosed some pics of Angela myself and Emily taken recently when we went to The Ritz in London to have afternoon tea in celebration of my 70th birthday in May, it took us 6 months to find a window of opportunity to actually fix it up and get there. It was a nice occasion for us.

Tell the family all is well with the *Cowperiana* [Keith's name for the material left to him for safe-keeping by the late Elizabeth Eugenie Cowper-Field, direct descendant of Elizabeth Ann Cowper, William's younger daughter - Editor], we still hope to visit Australia in the coming years when we can and will bring it along with us if allowed.

I was extremely excited to hear of your purchase [The Cowper-White Documents – see opposite – Editor] which sounds like a great find for you, will be interested to hear what it includes in due course. It will be comforting that your part of the family will have an archive which can be retained for future generations.

Regarding my side of the Cowpers I have ascertained that two of my uncles, maybe three came to Australia in the early 1900s, two fought in the Great War and I have made contact with their family which is nice, we are still trying to get all the information of this other family in place.

Good Wishes to all in Australia hopefully we will meet up some day in the not too distant future.

Best!

Keith and Angela.

Camerata Antica Excels

Camerata Antica was formed in 2010 by Matthew Manchester and Anna Sandström (Mary Stephen Branch) to explore the strong connections between music for voices and instruments in the 16th and 17th centuries.



Anna Sandström

It is a mixed consort, with a flexible lineup of emerging artists on period instruments including cornetts, sackbutts, trumpets, violins, viols, lute, voices, organ and harpsichord. Members of the ensemble have performed with many of the leading early music ensembles including His Majesty's Sackbutts and Cornetts, The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, The Armonico Consort, The Australian Baroque Brass and the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra.

Since its formation, Camerata Antica has performed a wide range of repertoire throughout London and Southeast England. From their debut, performing Monteverdi's Vespers of 1610 in its 400th Anniversary year, to numerous smaller chamber recitals, the group continues to delight audiences with its innovative programming and entertaining approach to early mixed ensemble music.

(Extract from the Camerata Antica website)

Newcastle Concert

On 28 August 2011 Camearta Antica invited members of the wider family to attend a concert held at Christ Church Cathedral, Newcastle. Among the guests were John and Corinne Cowper (Charles Branch).

Members of the family will remember that the Cowpers have a long association with the Cathedral; William it is said named it, was present at its opening with Governor Macquarie, preached the first sermon and performed the first baptisms. Later, William's daughter Mary Stephen and her husband, George Brooks, settled in the Newcastle and Hunter region and worked tirelessly for the Cathedral. To this day members of the Mary Stephen Branch continue the association with Sharon Sandström playing the organ and family members worshipping there on a regular basis.

In August 2009 the Dean of the Cathedral invited the family to a thanksgiving service at the Cathedral as an important part of the Cowper200 commemorations.



From left to right Gaynor, Rod and Rhiannon Hirst, John Cowper, Anna Sandström and Debbie Caldwell – pictured after the concert.

Anna and Matthew, who returned to the United Kingdom the following week for a series of concerts and recordings later joined the extended family (including their Sydney based cousins, John and Corinne) for Alexander Hirst's birthday celebrations at Merewether.

Website: www.camerataantica.com/

Thomas Cowper in Bega

From Warren Kenny (Thomas Branch) ...

I've been in contact with the Bega Valley Historical Society, and much to my pleasant surprise, they have quite a bit of data on Thomas Cowper. It appears he, along with many others explored the area for setting up farms. The Society is going to send me copies of their records on Thomas, which hopefully will give us even more of an insight to his movements. The following link makes a brief mention of him; it's an overview of the early days.

<http://thebegavalley.org.au/17359.html>

From Old St Philip's?

During 2011 The Association of Australian Decorative and Fine Art Societies – Kuring-Gai Church Recorders – have spent time recording details of the memorials at St Philip's. Whilst their great interest was in the memorial to William which was erected in 1859 (and which the Cowper200 Committee restored in 2009) – attention also turned to Ann's memorial (pictured).



The memorial to William's second wife Ann (who accompanied William to Australia in 1809) erected in St Philip's Church, Sydney.

Sue Air from the Recorders indicates that as Ann died in 1831 and the present St Philip's was consecrated in 1856 there is every likelihood that the monument was probably relocated from the old church. Research is now continuing. The inscription reads:

SACRED
TO THE MEMORY OF
ANN,
WIFE OF THE REVEREND WILLIAM COWPER,
SENIOR ASSISTANT CHAPLAIN
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE, XXV JANUARY
MDCCCXXXI
AGED XLIX YEARS

IN ALL DUTIES AND RELATIONS OF LIFE,
FOR NEARLY XXIII YEARS,
HER STUDY AND PRAYER, AND LABOUR, WERE
BY A STEADFAST AND LIVELY FAITH IN CHRIST,
TO SERVE AND PLEASE GOD

“A WOMAN WHO FEARS THE LORD
SHE SHALL BE PRAISED”

Readers will be interested to know that the family holds a copy of the original stonemasons 'rough' (which differs slightly from the erected memorial) which came to light during the Cowper200 commemorations in 2009.

Macquarie's Aide-de-Camp

Liz Pawsey writes ...

“As you know we have been doing quite a bit of touristy things with Hastings' relatives from the UK on their first visit to Australia. On Monday and Tuesday we were in Canberra and on Monday we spent a few hours at the National Museum of Australia. We love that museum and have visited many times and each time we are amazed at how long we can become “lost” in it.

“This time we spent a lot of time in an area displaying a lot of memorabilia associated with Lachlan Macquarie. There was a small notebook belonging to the Governor's aide-de-camp Major Henry Colden Antill. It said in this notebook were details of every church service he attended with the Governor. The page was open covering the dates 21st and 28th March 1813. Each entry on that page was for services conducted by “Rev W Cowper” with details of the sermons. This was all written in beautiful copperplate script.



“You can imagine how thrilled I was to see this. When I brought the relatives over to show them, Greg took a photo and the writing surprisingly came out very well.”

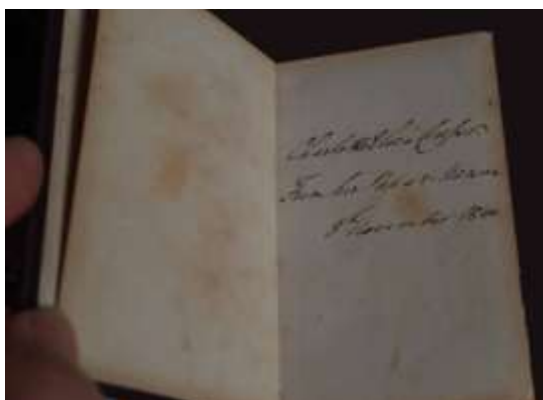
Love

Liz

A mother and father's love

Treasures keep popping up! Sibella Lee (Charles Branch) reports that when going through the effects of the Late Nancy Mannix she found a baptismal gift given by Charles and Eliza to their daughter Charlotte Eliza on 8th November 1840. Comprising two volumes – both the Old and the New Testaments – the gifts are inscribed

*Charlotte Eliza Cowper
From her Papa and Mama
8th November 1840*

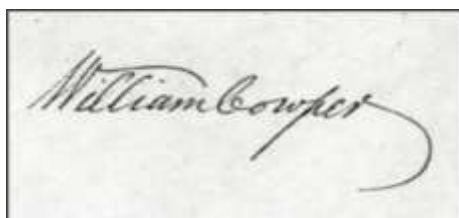


A mystery remains – how did the gifts end up in Nancy's hands – when one would have thought that one of Charlotte's descendants would have them as treasured possession?

It's wonderful to know though that the gifts remain – reminders of the love families share with their children and how it resonates through the years.

Updating the tree From Warren and David Kenny

David and I are still adding/correcting errors which showed up in the tree during the lead up to the Celebrations. Thankfully this task is getting easier with the widely expanding resources that are becoming available both here and overseas. The UK site of Find-My-Past site of which we are both Members has introduced many new features, including the ability to do broad searches of events, and this has led to a lot of corrections. On the local front, the NSW State Library has added to their site the Sydney Morning Herald from 1955, and this too has been a boost to getting a clearer picture of local events.



The Indispensable Parson

Limited copies of the Peter Bolt's important book are still available to family members at these special prices.

Pictorial Edition	\$27.00 Inc. postage
Full Text Edition	\$55.00 Inc. postage
Purchased together	\$76.00 Inc. postage

How to order:

- Step 1 Email your order: Orders@boltpublishing.com.au
Step 2 Deposit correct amount to:
Bolt Publishing Services
BSB: 124001
Account No: 20400915
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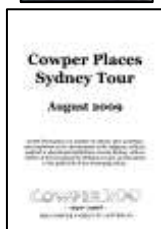
RELIVE COWPER 200!

The committee is making available several items of memorabilia which we hope will keep our memories alive as August 2009 sinks into the background.



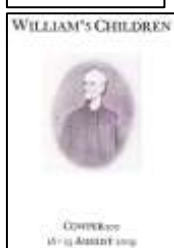
Cowper200 – the DVD - \$10.00 (Inc postage)

The DVD contains photographs of all the events, a copy of the family tree and other images collected during the celebrations



Cowper Places Tour Guide - \$6.00 (Inc postage)

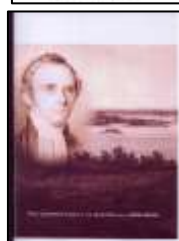
We have a limited number of guides left and these are offered on a first come, first serves basis. Read about the places the where the family worked and loved their lives – two hundred years ago! 24 page booklet



William's Children - \$12.50 (Inc postage)

Re-read the speeches, as given at the Scots Church when we learnt about the lives of William's eight children.

36 page spiral bound booklet



Descendants of William Cowper – \$20.00 (Inc postage)

Family tree compiled by Angela Lind especially for Cowper200
60 pages printed and bound

✂ Please complete and return this coupon with your remittance

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