

CANTERBURY HISTORY GROUP



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Greetings to all members and friends of the Canterbury History Group

We didn't hold meetings during our winter recess in July and August but joined with Surrey Hills Historical Society on Tuesday 16th August. There we heard Judy Archer tell the riveting story of her grandmother, Annie Gold, who was found abandoned at 2 days old in Gold Street, Collingwood and named after the street. Fortunately, she was placed in foster care rather than a bleak orphanage but on her thirteenth birthday had to leave school to become a domestic servant. Eventually she became a housemaid at the beautiful home of the Smith family at 'Duneira' in Highfield Road. Judy has carefully researched the family of Benjamin and Maria Smith and told us about them, their descendants and their Canterbury neighbours. She generously sent CHG a file of her research notes and photos as well as her book.

Our Next Meeting will be on Monday 26th September at 7.45 for 8.00pm.
 In St. Paul's Parish Centre, Church Street, Canterbury.

Our committee member, Loreen Chambers, will speak to us on

'Canterbury 1835-1895. Mansions and Villas: before the Bungalows and Maisonettes.'

Loreen has extensive experience teaching history at various schools including Scotch, Camberwell Girls' Grammar and Lauriston. She will tell us about the land boom and bust which had a huge impact on Canterbury's development.

We are very sad to tell you that Frances Barrett's wonderful daughter Shirley Barrett died on August 3rd in Sydney after a long battle with cancer. Shirley was an Australian film director, screenwriter and novelist. Her first film, Love Serenade, won the Caméra d'Or at the 1996 Cannes Film Festival film and since then she has won many awards. You can find out more about Shirley Barrett and her achievements online. Frances has visited Sydney nearly every second week this year in order to be with Shirley and her family. We send her our love and sympathy in her great loss.

Canterbury History Group - Ongoing Projects We have been kept very busy.

1. Canterbury Community Precinct in the Old Bowling Club, Kendall Street.

With members of other organisations, council officers and the Canterbury Neighbourhood Centre, Neil Curry and Libby Wilson and members of Surrey Hills Historical Society have completed four Governance workshops.

The Building will be officially opened later this year and work will start on the new Heritage Centre in the Old Library. We won't be in the new building until well into 2023. We are still having meetings about aspects of the move but Council will provide new equipment.

2. We are waiting to hear whether we have a grant for a new website.
3. The revision of the 2nd edition of 'Canterbury A History' is completed and we hope to launch it later in the year.
4. CHG has the records of the old Bowling Club in its archive, so we're providing information and photos for a display of the building's history.
5. This week we've completed a survey of place naming and commemoration that the Council asked us to participate in for Gender Equity Victoria and Geographic Names Victoria. It's been an interesting exercise in uncovering history about the lives of Canterbury pioneers

Naming of Streets in Canterbury summarized by Libby Wilson

As part of the place names survey, we were asked to list names of streets, features such as reserves, as well as statues, plaques, murals etc. Then we needed to categorise them under a. Women, b. Men, c. Non-binary or gender diverse, d. named in an Aboriginal language. An added complexity were subcategories such as aboriginal, migrant, disabled and finally white, heterosexual and able bodied.

Here I've concentrated on names of streets and we can discuss other features and forms of commemoration in a future newsletter.

There are 84 streets/lanes etc in Canterbury 3126 listed here:

Wattle Valley Rd	Margaret St	Highfield Rd	Church St
Willandra Ave	Golding St	McGregor St	Selwyn St
Leeds St	Prospect Hill Rd	Molesworth St	Compton St
Hocknell St	Griotte St	Cooba St	Maysia St
Hassett Ave	Quantock St	Catherine St	Burnside Ave
Alta St	Byron St	Willow Grove	Short St 24
Bryson St	Scott St	Logan St	Milton St
Dryden St	Maling Rd	Carinda Rd	Marden St
Myrtle Rd	Warburton Rd	Woodstock St	Claremont Cres
Matlock St	Cross St	Dudley Pde	Kendall St
Chaucer Cres	Marlowe St	Canterbury Rd	Burke Rd
Irrilbarra Rd	Beaumont St	Pin Oak Court	Gascoyne St
Allenby Rd	Torrington St	Torrington Place	Frognall Place
Parlington St	The Ridge	Stanley Grove	Rubens Grove
Avenue Athol	Mangarra Rd	Gwenda Ave	Wentworth Ave
Alexandra Ave	Monomeath Ave	Victoria Ave	Hopetoun Ave
View St	Grange Ave	Daphne St	Erica St
Boronia St	Balwyn Rd	Delany Close	Rochester Rd
Shierlaw Ave	Winson Green Rd	Faversham Ave	Chatham Rd
Vaughan Ave	Flinders Ave	Moresby St	Oak St
Keats St	Weymouth Lane	Mountfield St	Woodstock St.

Boundaries: When investigating the street names, I found that Canterbury includes both sides of Mont Albert Rd, both sides of Highfield Road, the East side of Burke Road and neither side of Riversdale Road. The SW boundary is very irregular, including Willow Grove, Byron St, the Canterbury Hockey Club (but not Camberwell High School), Myrtle Grove, Boroondara Park as far as Canterbury Rd. Then from the bend in Canterbury Rd, both sides of Canterbury Rd are in

Camberwell. In the East, Shierlaw Avenue, and both sides of Chatham Rd are in Canterbury except for Canterbury Sports Ground, Football Club and Tennis Club, which are in Surrey Hills.

'Canterbury A History' has a very useful introductory chapter on the changing boundaries: for example, before 1928, the Northern boundary extended to Whitehorse Rd. ¹

Naming of streets

In Canterbury, sadly there is no record of any of the names of Aboriginal men or women or any trace of first nations people of the Wurundjeri willam clan. Wurundjeri means 'White Gum Tree Dwellers'. We can only infer where they might have hunted, gathered and camped. What was described by early settlers as 'light woodland' would have been managed Wurundjeri country. ² Land in the first Crown sales 1843 was listed in 'Borroondara', county of Burke. (sic.)³ The municipality and a park have been named 'Boroondara' and Mangarra and Irilbarra Roads, may have been from an Aboriginal language. They were named in 1883 as part of Wentworth's subdivision.

Probably the first squatter was Arundel Wrighte who built a house on W Creek in 1839 probably close to the present Canterbury Gardens.⁴ But nothing in Canterbury was named after him. Among those who purchased Crown lands in 1853⁵ were Frederick Griffin, Hassett, Michael Logan and Patrick Moloney. Logan Street and Hassett Avenue are named after these early settlers and Riversdale Road east of Camberwell junction was formerly named Maloney's Road. Both Logan and Maloney farmed their land. Some of Logan's farm of 150 acres was sold for building of the railway line in 1882 and he subdivided 'Arklow Hill' for sale in 1883, and 'Claremont Park' in 1885 which included Logan Street, Bryson Street and Claremont Crescent. The Hassett estate wasn't sold until 1922 -1930.

Other farmers were C. Wentworth, a market gardener whose 'Shenley Hill Estate' between Mont Albert and Canterbury Roads was offered for sale in 1883.⁶ It included Wentworth Avenue. Shenley Station on the Outer Circle Railway was named after his property which in turn was named after Shenley in England. Griffin, whose name was also recorded on Gwen Mc William's map of landowners in 1853, offered the 'Griffin Estate' for sale in 1885.⁷ No streets are named after him. Nor were the 'gentlemen settlers', Francis Rennick, Ernest Carter, John Hindson, and Andrew Murray, who held large estates north of Canterbury Road, represented in street names. However, Snowden Place, was named after Edward Snowden in a later subdivision.

All these men mentioned I've classified as 'Immigrants' and also Golding, Maling, Delany, Weymouth, Shierlaw, Church and many others. At the time of subdivision and street naming, the majority of landowners were immigrants. I thought it fair to classify the streets named after these pioneers as family names. However, as there was no such category in the survey, I divided them evenly between men and women. It was often widows, sons or daughters who were named on the titles when the land was eventually sold.

Interesting Facts:

The following streets were named in the subdivisions after houses, which helps researchers establish roughly the location of a house: 'Monomeath', 'Torrington', 'Parlington', 'Myrtle', 'Milton', 'Dryden', 'Willandra', 'McGregor', Oak Street after 'The Oaks', Grange Avenue after 'The Grange', 'Gwynda' later Gwenda Avenue, 'Woodstock', 'Carinda', 'Dudley', 'Marlowe', 'Mountfield', Frognall Place after 'Frognall', Balwyn Road after Andrew Murray's property and vineyard 'Balwyn'.⁸

Others were named after plants: Boronia, Erica and Daphne Streets in the 'Heathfield Estate', Willow Grove and Cooba Street (native willow) and Griotte Street (a French Morello cherry) in the Hassett Estate, and Pin Oak Court.

Some streets were named after literary figures: Byron, Chaucer and Keats. Could adjacent Kendall Street have been named after Henry Kendall, an Australian poet who was popular in the 1880s?

Others seem to be named after British towns or suburbs: Matlock, Rochester, Faversham, Chatham, Marden (Kent), Winson Green (Birmingham), Moresby (Cumbria), Leeds Street, Quantock (Hills in Somerset). They may reflect immigrant homesickness but some could be family names or houses.

Geographic Features: Cross Street, Short Street, View Street, The Ridge, Prospect Hill Road, possibly Alta St, and Wattle Valley Road (formerly Sutherland street). There are also some earlier names that changed: Station Street became Maling Road, Boundary Road became Burke Road, (probably after explorer Robert O'Hara Burke), Railway Parade became Dudley Parade.

Two streets are named after women: Catherine Street and Margaret Street. Margaret Street was named after Margaret Camm, also an immigrant, who settled in Canterbury with her husband in 1854. Her daughter remembered travelling with her mother with a horse and buggy to Hawthorn to shop and also into the city.⁹ The roads were rough and unmade.

Interestingly, Church Street nearby, wasn't named after St. Paul's Church but named after the family of William Robert Church. Early Presbyterian services were held on the verandah of William Church's family house. He was a furrier who owned five and a half acres on the S.E. corner of Canterbury and Highfield Roads (1875-1910).¹⁰ We have a record 'March 24th 1883 subdivision of 'Church's Paddock', 5 acres into 16 lots.' An advertisement in The Argus 27th October 1883: 'Highfield Road- To let 7 roomed house, 3 acres, garden. Close to Canterbury railway station' Mrs Church.

I haven't scoured our archive, but so far, I haven't discovered the origin of the following streets: Hocknell St, Rubens Grove, Avenue Athol, Stanley Grove, Warburton Rd, Maysia St, Burnside Avenue, Compton St, Selwyn St, Catherine St, Alta St, Moresby St, Gascoyne St, Vaughan Avenue, Flinders Avenue, Scott Street, Beaumont Street, Bryson Street. Also, Colville Reserve and John August Reserve.

Molesworth Street was probably named after Supreme Court Judge, Sir Robert Molesworth. Is there evidence of this? If anyone can provide information about any of these street names or point out errors, I would be grateful.

I have only been able to do this research because the street names have changed very little and relate to the early land surveys, houses etc. We have many queries about family history and usually a street name is the starting point. Any change of street names makes this far harder for everyone.

We were also asked to suggest a list of notable Canterbury women worth considering for future naming projects - with information on why. Any ideas? Please email suggestions to the Editor.

¹ Don Gibb with Jill Barnard, Canterbury A History., Focus Print Group, Keysborough, 2019, p. 7.

² Don Gibb with Jill Barnard, p. 18 -19

³ Gwen Mc William, Hawthorn Peppercorns, Brian Atkins, 1978, p.22

⁴ Don Gibb with Jill Barnard. p. 29.

⁵ Don Gibb with Jill Barnard. p 34 Gwen McWilliam's map of Land holders of 1853.

⁶ Don Gibb with Jill Barnard. p 56

⁷ Don Gibb with Jill Barnard, p 56

⁸ Don Gibb with Jill Barnard, p 81

⁹ Early History of Canterbury and District, Canterbury Courier, c 1950 p.11

¹⁰ From the records of Alan J Holt who before retirement was Secretary of the Victorian Lands Dept.