



There are no strangers here, only friends we have not yet met.

Hi Folks,

A visitor from St Georges Presbyterian Church, Auckland, NZ, recently wrote in the Ebenezer Church visitor's book: *'Wonderful to see the history preserved and to note that it remains a working church.'* While our regular worshipping numbers are low the church enjoys the support of an amazing team of 38 volunteers who cater for casual visitors and coach groups, share the church story and at the same time raise necessary funds that contribute to Ebenezer Church remaining a *'working church'*.

In 2024 our volunteers keep the church open for casual visitors Wednesday to Sunday and we still encounter visitors who are connecting with their family history for the first time. To those who are church pioneer descendants their visit has a sense of pilgrimage which we enjoy and gain much satisfaction in making that possible.

The pioneers of Ebenezer Church – the Davison, Hall, Howe, Johnston, Johnstone, Mein, Stubbs and Turnbull families who came out on the Coromandel – and the Arndell, Bushell, Grono, Cavanough, Jacklin, Suddis and Jones families who came out on different ships and joined these families in settlement at Portland Head (Ebenezer) - made a huge contribution to the colony of New South Wales.

We learn from Gov. Macquarie's journals that, at a time when food was scarce, they were successful with their farming.

They were literate and skilled and were often appointed to positions of trust – magistrate, jurors and chief constable.

In this issue of our newsletter we share the story of another contribution, the development of the blue cattle dog by Thomas Simpson Hall, son of church pioneers George & Mary Hall. We also learn of Stephen Tuckerman who settled at nearby Sackville. Many of the descendants of Stephen and his wife Sarah married into Ebenezer families. We hope you find some interest in this information. *Ted Brill*

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This newsletter is sent to over 200 postal and 400 email addresses. Donations towards production costs and postage would be appreciated.

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What's been happening? Secret Dyarubbin River Ride



At 7.00am on 3 December a group of cyclists rode into Ebenezer Church. This was a charity ride for the MPH-Mate Research Foundation. Described as a cycling adventure into Australia's combined colonial and First Nation's history, it included Ebenezer, Sackville, Sackville North and Lower Portland.

The Ebenezer Church stop was visit-only but the riders did receive a ten-minute (*well, maybe 15*) talk on the fascinating pioneer story of the church by the local enthusiastic (*still*) church historian.

How we would have loved to tag along, especially to see the 'secret' Aboriginal sites.

American Muscle Car Club

At 10.30am on the same day there was a morning tea visit from the American Muscle Car Club. What a friendly lot their members were! They enjoyed the location and morning tea, were in no hurry to move on and said that they would be back!



Stephen Tuckerman



If you are a descendant of one of the pioneers of Ebenezer Church, you are most likely a descendant of four or five as many families intermarried. Many also married into the Tuckerman family who were living and farming at nearby Sackville.

The story of the Tuckerman family in the colony of NSW goes back to 1802, the same year as the arrival of the Coromandel settlers. In that year, at a time when Governor King was trying to restrict the trade of spirits, American Stephen Tuckerman, Captain of the ship *Caroline*, anchored at Sydney Cove with 4,000 gallons of rum on board.

Governor King had just sent back to England Captain John Macarthur to face trial for duelling with Lt Colonel Patterson. After two months negotiation Stephen Tuckerman was allowed to unload the rum on the condition that he gave free passage to Capt. McKellar to take Macarthur's sword and a despatch relating to Macarthur's trial to America free of any expense.

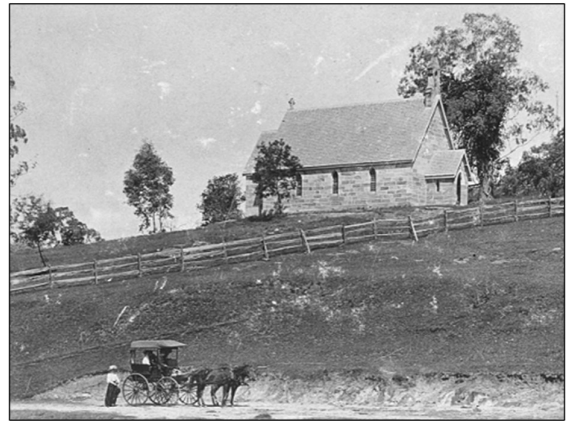
After a stay of three months the *Caroline* departed, Captain Stephen Tuckerman leaving behind his paramour Elizabeth Crouch to return to his wife and family in New Bedford, Massachusetts, USA. The *Caroline* reached Chile in August 1802. It then set out to round the hazardous Cape Horn but was never heard of again.

In December 1802 Elizabeth Crouch gave birth to a boy who was baptised Stephen Tuckerman. In 1807 Elizabeth married William Addy who had been granted 90 acres at Sackville Reach. Elizabeth and her son Stephen lived there

and when Addy died in 1812 his property was left to Elizabeth and to Stephen when he turned 21. In addition, in 1820 Stephen had acquired a grant of 60 acres adjacent to Addy's grant.

In January 1823 Stephen Tuckerman married Sarah Beasley and they had 13 children. In so doing they established a clan with many connections. Their children married into families with far reaching connections - Andrew Johnston, Edward Powell, James Blackman, the Bowmans and Andrew Doyle.

Stephen Tuckerman was to become one of the Hawkesbury's prominent citizens. In 1884 he topped the pole when four candidates were elected to the first Windsor District Council. He had a close association



St Thomas Church of England, Sackville, c. 1920

with St Thomas Church at Sackville Reach and gave land for the present flood-free site of the building. He was a founding member of the first Agricultural Association and, as a Justice of the Peace, sat on the Bench as required at Windsor.

The Tuckerman family line claims other members of considerable achievement - a headmaster of Sydney Boy's High School, a dean of the faculty of medicine at Sydney University and a deputy state auditor general.

Information from: 'Hawkesbury Journey', Doug Bowd



Forest Tennis Club c.1920

The Tuckermans were keen sportsmen who supported the building of tennis courts and a cricket ground on land in Sackville Road opposite what in 2024 is the café Tractor 828. The clubs adopted the name of Forest.

Blue Cattle Dog

In 2023 when being driven by my son David through Muswellbrook I suddenly asked him to pull over as I had seen something of interest.

It was a statue of a Blue Cattle Dog, a breed of dog that had been developed by Thomas Simpson Hall, a son of George & Mary Hall, pioneers of Ebenezer Church.

Why was the development of the Blue Cattle Dog, a working cattle dog, so important and how did it come about?

Prior to the arrival of the Coromandel in 1802, colonists relied heavily on supplies of salt pork and beef from England or America. By 1805 colony-bred pork became the staple meat. Mutton and lamb were added to the menu as sheep numbers increased but there were few cattle as these were used for dairy or as beasts of burden.

This situation continued through until about 1820 while the settled areas were centred around Sydney Town, Parramatta, and Green Hills (Windsor) where cattle and sheep were kept in fenced paddocks close to dwellings. Consequently, stock were quiet-natured and easily handled and, therefore, before 1820, there was little need for working dogs.

From the early to mid-1820's, when pioneers began to move out from the settled areas and follow the tracks of explorers, they found grazing lands in Bathurst and Upper Hunter Valley regions. The domesticated cattle which were taken to these new areas soon lost their quiet natures when put out to graze on the wild acres of unfenced country. Hence there became a need for a quality cattle dog.

Thompson Simpson Hall, together with his brothers Ebenezer and Matthew, established cattle stations and sheep stations at these properties in the Hunter

Valley, namely at Gundeabri and Dartbrook, with Thomas organising most of the on the ground work. On the latter property he built Dartbrook House.

Dartbrook proved to be a very productive farm and the quality of cattle bred on Dartbrook became legendary. Thomas Simpson Hall also maintained a sheep stud and bred excellent stock horses.

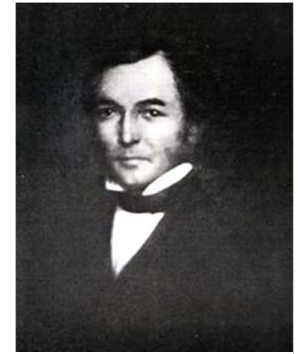
Hall also experimented in dog breeding to produce a prototype cattle dog. Perhaps at his parents' advice, both of whom grew up on farms in Northumberland, he imported a pair of Northumberland Blue Merle Drover's Dog and crossed this dog with the Australian dingo.

This breed was called the Halls Heeler, and later Blue Heelers. The dogs were known to be obedient, faithful and highly intelligent with a natural ability to work stock from the rear.



They were later refined by others through further breeding to create the Australian Cattle Dog. Thomas Simpson Hall is regarded as the main originator of this iconic type of dog and so made a major contribution to the cattle industry and the advancement of the colony.

Information from: Hall's Heelers, Bert Howard; Ovehalling the Colony, George Hall – Pioneer



Thomas Simpson Hall

Big Things Collection



Australia Post and the Royal Australian Mint have launched the Big Things Collection featuring the biggest and the best of Australia. Alongside the Big Blue Heeler are the Big Tasmania Devil, Giant Murray Cod, Big Pineapple, Giant Koala, Big Swoop, Big Crocodile, Big Lobster, Giant Ram and the Big Banana.

Muswellbrook Shire Council collaborated with the Royal Australian Mint and Australia Post to bring the project to fruition. The opportunity to appear on a legal tender coin is a rare privilege typically reserved for occasions and themes of national significance that capture the broad interest of the Australian community.

The Big Blue Heeler Coin is based on Muswellbrook's Blue Heeler statue, masterfully crafted by renowned sculpture and casting expert Brett "Mon" Garling in 2016.

The two-metre-tall statue in the Muswellbrook town centre commemorates the Australian cattle dog which originated in the local area in the 1840s. Known for their endurance, agility and diligent nature, the dogs are recognised for their stamina, ability to muster bush cattle and withstand the heat.

From: <https://www.muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au/>

Filming of Ten Pound Poms – Second Series – Ebenezer Church

At 4.00am on a very foggy morning of 29 April it was amazing to see a mini settlement lit up in the Ebenezer Church paddock. It was a team of about 100 people preparing to film wedding scenes for a second series of the BBC production Ten Pound Poms. The film crews were impressed with the location and showed great care for church property. The series is to be shown on Stan and the BBC, maybe not until 2025. The first episode of Series 1 attracted 4.5 million viewers.



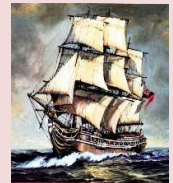
Wedding at Ebenezer Church



Jesslyn & Daniel – 20th April 2024

Stubbs Family Reunion

The Stubbs will meet again at Ebenezer Church on the last Saturday of October – that's **26th October**. Stubbs Family Convener Geoff Parsons will be doing some research on the ship the *Coromandel* when he travels through London later this year, mainly at the Maritime Museum, Greenwich. He hopes to report on some updates at the reunion.



For Sydneysiders - Sat 29 June –
Massive Market Day
at Pitt Town Uniting Church
 Coffee & Cakes; Fresh Fruit & Vegies;
 Books, Craft, Plants & Stuff; Live
 Entertainment and much more!



Keep the date – Sunday 20 Oct
An Evening of Jazz on the riverbank at
historic Ebenezer Church – starts at 4pm

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