



Ebenezer Church Newsletter No. 23: Aug 2018

Hello Everyone,

In this issue we draw your attention to three pioneer family reunions happening this year at Ebenezer Church. They are the Johnston, Cavanaugh and Stubbs families. Contact details are provided.

The pioneers of Ebenezer Church were a group of people who made a large contribution not only to the Hawkesbury but also to the colony at large. And so did their descendants, one of whom was Brinsley Hall. An article written by Michelle Nichols and Jonathon Auld on Brinsley Hall is included in this newsletter. Brinsley's father, William Smith Hall, was a grandson of pioneers George & Mary Hall.

The appeal for funds to return the deteriorating roof of the Schoolmaster's House to a slate roof is progressing slowly but we hope to reach our goal by December

While we need to keep our church buildings in a high state of maintenance our congregation is also active in helping others and this is reported in this edition.

And lastly there is a report of two Ebenezer residents who received Queen's Birthday awards.

We hope all is well in your patch.

Ted Brill

On behalf of the Ebenezer – Pitt Town Congregation

JOHNSTON FAMILY REUNION Saturday 25 August 2018



*The Johnston home at Portland Head
Photo by Michael Kemp*

9.30am: Sign in and receive Name Badges
10.00am: Official Welcome; Introduction of invited guests; Short talk on the Family; Branch members invited to talk on their family history; Pavilion opened for displays
11.30am: Talk on the history of Ebenezer Church by Ted Brill – that's in the church
12.00: Lunch (Sausage sandwiches available). After lunch: Family photos, awards and cutting the Reunion Cake
1.30pm: If required, Talk on Ebenezer Church repeated

**Contact: Robyn Sanday 02 4392 8264
rlsanday@aapt.net.au**

CAVANOUGH FAMILY REUNION Saturday 20 October 2018



The timber barns and slab house above are believed to have been built by Owen Cavanaugh on his land grant. He later donated four acres of land for the building of Ebenezer Church, the donated land including the above buildings.

10am to 4pm

Displays, raffles & family record search available on the day. Bring any updates to the family tree so they can be recorded.

BYO picnic lunch to enjoy in the grounds - don't forget a fold up chair. Devonshire Teas & coffees available from the church shop.

Contacts:

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patholdorf@bigpond.com

Alan Woods: alan.woods1@bigpond.com

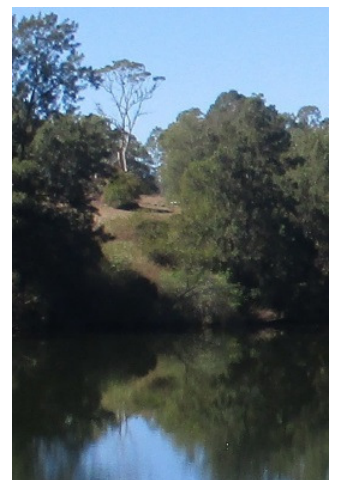
STUBBS FAMILY REUNION Saturday 27 October 2018

9.30am: Registration
10.30am: Official Welcome
11.15am: Family Reunion group photos
11.30am: Church Service
12.00: Lunch

Contact:

**Rege Smith 02 9634 1187
stubbs1802@gmail.com**

*Looking across the
Hawkesbury River from the
Charles Kemp Reserve to the
land grant of William Stubbs*



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This newsletter is sent to 235 postal and 374 email addresses across Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. Should you receive the newsletter by post but now have access to email, please let us know.

An account of Brinsley Hall

by Michelle Nichols & Jonathan Auld

The Hawkesbury district has been represented in the NSW Parliament by some remarkable individuals throughout the years, with several serving lengthy terms. An integral part of the local society, what drove these acquiescent gentlemen to represent the inhabitants of the Hawkesbury?

One such notable man was Brinsley Hall who represented the electorate between 1901 and 1917, he *“spent practically his whole life in some activity designed for the [Hawkesbury] for its advancement, directly or indirectly.”* Experienced in pastoral and agricultural pursuits, Brinsley was a respectable sportsman, having played both football and cricket and in the past had been an amateur jockey. As a young man he travelled over most of Australia and later visited New Zealand but considered *“the Hawkesbury second to no place in Australia.”*

Hall hailed from one of the pioneering Hawkesbury families, George Hall and his wife Mary Smith who accompanied by his family in 1802, sailed on the *‘Coromandel’* from England as free settlers. They joined several other families who journeyed to the opposite end of the world looking for a better life. The families settled at Portland Head and helped construct Ebenezer Church in 1809.

Brinsley’s father, William Smith Hall was the grandson of pioneer George. William managed several properties out west, on behalf of family and later married Elizabeth Fleming in 1848, his first cousin, in Singleton. They had eight children, including Brinsley who was born at the Macdonald River near St Albans on 26 October 1861.

From the mid-1850s, William and his family resided in the Macdonald Valley until they moved to Windsor. William was a Magistrate for the district serving the community for over a decade and given a big send-off in 1874 by the residents as a mark of respect. When William died in 1894 and his coffin was taken by river to Ebenezer Church followed by a flotilla of boats, one of the largest seen on the river.

After their time in the Macdonald Valley, the family moved to Windsor, and William’s fourth son Brinsley, received his education at the private school operated by Frank Holes and was recorded as an industrious student. In time, after leaving school, Brinsley was employed working on various rural properties not only in NSW but also in Victoria and Queensland. In due course he ended up in Wee Waa a small rural town located in the New England district. Brinsley and his three brothers inherited shares in a Sydney hotel from their Uncle William. Brinsley’s older brothers, Henry and Rowland, sold their shares to Brinsley and younger brother, Norman. Henry and Rowland married sisters, Emily and Susan MacFarlane and then

selected land in the Wee Waa district and becoming large landowners. With an interest in horses, Brinsley became involved breeding horses. He advertised in the newspapers in 1882 that the noted thoroughbred *“The Barb”* (the 1866 Melbourne Cup winner) was standing at



Mr Brinsley Hall, December 1899. [Hawkesbury Advocate nla.gov.au/nla.news_article663_68096]

Henry’s property at Wee Waa. Only a limited number of mares were to be served at £5 per mare.

Brinsley remained in the country as a grazier and was living there when he married on 28 July 1885 in Windsor to Anicus Kate Stewart Gordon, the daughter of George Augustus Gordon, the Clerk of Petty Sessions. After their marriage the couple lived at Wee Waa but returned to the Hawkesbury, by the time their first son Grantley was born in 1887. On his return to the district, Brinsley continued his agricultural pursuits and fascination with horses.

Civic minded, Brinsley was appointed as a Justice of the Peace for the Windsor district in 1890. This position permitted him to sit in court and resolve petty crimes and minor civil matters. In 1898 he nominated for the Hawkesbury district but was defeated however he was eventually elected in 1901 and a large crowd of his supporters *“celebrated their victory by having a ‘bullock roast’ at North Richmond.”* His term finished in February 1917 and although he re-contested the seat, he was soundly beaten by the Liberal candidate, Robert Bruce Walker in April 1917. When the outcome was announced at the Windsor Court House, Hall spoke in his speech of his indignity and disappointment over the loss. Whilst in office Windsor Council named a reserve in Pitt Town, Brinsley Park.

Between 1901 and 1912, Brinsley and his family resided in the property in Bridge Street, Windsor which had originally been constructed in the 1850s by Dr Joshua Dowe. The impressive two-storeyed building had been a girl’s private school and later became Windsor Grammar School. During the time the Hall’s lived in the building it became known as Lilburndale, the same name given to the two-storeyed Lower Portland house by George Smith Hall in 1829. Lilburn was located in Northumberland and was in fact the name of the place where Mary Hall’s parents resided. A Wee Waa property owned by Henry, Brinsley’s brother, was also known as Lilburndale.

Due to his avid interest in agriculture, it was no wonder Brinsley was a member of the Hawkesbury District Agriculture Association, which was established in the late 1870s. As a young man he also exhibited in the Show and had a special in tandem teams which were popular before cars.



Above: Brinsley Hall’s ashes were placed in this vault at Ebenezer Church. Led by Hall descendant Stephen Gow, work is on the way to install a bronze plaque that will record all the inscriptions on the vault.

He also served a term as president between 1902 and 1904. On several occasions, when he was the local representative, Hall officially opened the Hawkesbury Show.

With his *'inherent love of horseflesh'* Brinsley was a member of the Hawkesbury Race Club for over 55 years, serving on the Committee as well as many years up as Secretary, up until the time of his death. He had a keen interest in horse racing and was even known to ride on occasions. He raced 'Quiver' in Melbourne, who went on to become a major thoroughbred broodmare.

The Hawkesbury Squadron of the NSW Lancers was formed around the time of the Boer War with a half squadron at Windsor and Richmond. Captain Brinsley Hall and Captain R. B. Walker were in charge of Windsor and in 1903 the Lancers became known as the Australian Light Horse. Representatives from mounted troops participated in the inaugural Prince of Wales Cup in 1906 and it was won by the Hawkesbury (4th) Squadron led by Captain Hall. The extraordinary trophy made from 15kgs of silver and is over a metre wide. No longer contested, the cup is currently housed in a museum in Puckunyal.

The Hall's moved to Glenroy in 1912, the splendid property of Richard Cobcroft in South Windsor and remained there until the late 1930s. The couple then lived at Clarendon with their unmarried daughter,

Dulcie.

A dedicated supporter of the Hawkesbury Benevolent Society and Hospital, Brinsley was instrumental in getting an Act passed in 1903 which enabled the Society to sell **their** assets if required. Over the next few years the Society disposed a number of large properties which allowed the Society to make improvements at the hospital including the large scale renovations which were completed in 1911.

On the 8 May 1940, the public spirited, Brinsley Hall, passed away in his 79th year after a short illness, in St. Luke's Hospital, Darlinghurst. As an active member of the Lodge for many years, he was given a Masonic service and many of the local brethren attended his funeral. Brinsley Hall was cremated at Rookwood Crematorium and his ashes were interred in the family vault at Ebenezer Cemetery

Anicus Hall lived to the ripe age of 89, passing away in 1954. She too was cremated at Rookwood, and interred at Ebenezer with husband Brinsley.

The above article has been reproduced with the permission of the authors and first appeared in the Hawkesbury Independent (Issue 52)

Our Mission Projects

Wells for West Papua

In recent years our congregation has been active in responding to calls for help. The Wells for West Papua project that has not only been supported by Ebenezer – Pitt Town Uniting but also by all Uniting Churches of the Hawkesbury. For \$2500 our team in West Papua can install a well in a village that will give the village people clean water for 30 years. A successful Market Day was held at Pitt Town in June to raise funds for this purpose.

*We are now preparing for a **Jazz afternoon** that will be held on **Sunday 14 October** but on this occasion the **funds raised will be allocated to drought relief.***

Jazz at Ebenezer Church **Sunday 14 October 2018**

**More details later by email
or ring 02 45799235
or 0438 777 215
closer to the event**



Drought Relief

Our Fellowship Ladies have been quick to respond to providing funds for drought relief. They donated \$1500 towards a load of hay that left on 22 July. The members are raising funds by providing breakfast, morning tea and lunch to people attending Dog Agility meetings at Glossodia. This happens once a month.

Mosquito Nets

Every year there are 214 million cases of malaria world-wide and 48,000 deaths. The most effective means of preventing malaria is sleeping under a mosquito net, specifically a long-lasting insecticide treated net. Now having contacts for distribution of nets through our Wells people in West Papua, Tom Millington (*Mr Enthusiasm*) is running at full gallop to raise \$20,000 for the purchase of mozzie nets.

Should you wish to support any of the above projects please contact the church secretary.



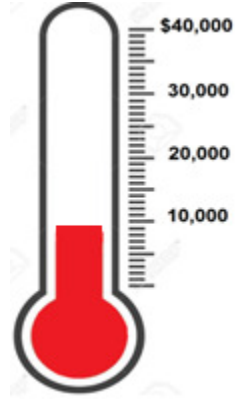


Schoolmaster's House Roof Appeal

As mentioned in the last newsletter the roof of the Schoolmaster's House will soon need replacing. We would like to return the roof to slate, the cost being \$40,000.

An application has been made for a dollar-for-dollar State Community Building Partnerships Grant of \$20,000, the results of the application being determined by December 2018.

In the meantime donations to an appeal have reached \$9,530 and we thank those people who have donated so generously. Should you wish to support this project information on how you can donate is shown below.



Donations may be made ...

by Direct Deposit ...

BSB: 634634

Account No: 100028399

Account Name: Ebenezer Church Maintenance

Please use SMH and your surname as a reference and email tedbrill@ebenezerchurch.org.au informing us of the donation.

by cheque ... post to Ebenezer Church

PO Box 7048,

Wilberforce, NSW, 2756

Receipts will be issued for all donations.

OAM Awards

The 2018 Queen's Birthday Honours included Ebenezer's Sue & Ted Brill, both being awarded Order of Australia Medals. The awards were for service to the Ebenezer community.

Both Sue and Ted had a long association with Ebenezer Public School and were co-founders of the Ebenezer Art Show, a function that is now in its 41st year. Sue was awarded Life Membership of the Ebenezer P&C Association and Ted Life Membership of the Ebenezer Rural Fire Brigade.

Their contribution to Ebenezer Church includes Sue as Manager and Treasurer of the Ebenezer Church Shop and Ted as Secretary of the Church Council.

Both Sue and Ted have received Paul Harris Fellow awards from the Rotary Club of Windsor.



Hawkesbury City Council Grant

Hawkesbury City Council has received grants for three projects - a heritage study of the area, remediation works on 25 privately-owned heritage properties in the Hawkesbury and workshops for the conservation of Hawkesbury's historic cemeteries. The last project will create an opportunity for the community to get involved in the management, research and conservation of cemetery sites.

The NSW Office of Environment & Heritage describes the Ebenezer Church Cemetery as 'one of the most important in Australia. It has an association with six generations of Coromandel settlers.'

GRONO FAMILY REUNION 2019

The next Grono Family Reunion will be on

Sunday 5th May 2019

Mandy Waller

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