



Bathurst Stamp, Coin, Collectables & Lapidary Club Inc

BATHEX 2015 EXHIBITION & BATHURST BICENTENARY

Information e-newsletter

BATHEX 2015 Exhibition 26th and 27th September, 2015. Bathurst Bicentenary activities – all year.
Issue 8 – March 2015



FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

It's hard to believe we have moved into autumn with the arrival of March. Lots has happened and we now have Bathurst's **Autumn Colours Festival** in full swing with hundreds of extra events, especially tours and outings. Autumn Colours runs from the beginning of March through until the end of May. Be sure to contact Bathurst Visitor Information Centre at 1 Kendall Avenue, Bathurst NSW 2795 or phone 1800 681 000 or email visitors@bathurst.nsw.gov.au for more information.

Welcome to those readers who have just joined the readership. This is Issue 8 in the series and if you have missed out on earlier issues feel free to request them at amcrae@lisp.com.au

A MOMENT IN TIME EXHIBITION



The **"A Moment in Time"** exhibition commemorates the celebrated crossing of the Blue Mountains by Europeans and the consequences for the colony and indigenous Australians.

This exhibition, which is part of Bathurst's 200th Anniversary celebrations, will be open to the public upstairs in Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre in William Street on Tuesday 28th April, 2015, and will open each day until 17th May, 2015, from 10am to 4.30pm. The Exhibition has free entry.

This informative exhibition begins with a consideration of the rich and ancient geology of the landscape into which the 1813 explorers intruded and then moves to examine the many aspects of the Blue Mountains crossing story.

From the original inhabitants, whose country was being traversed, through to the explorers and the

development to the Bathurst Road to the first European visitors to Bathurst. It closes with the life and achievements of some of the earliest settlers in the Hartley Valley, John and Jane Grant and Pierce and Mary Collitt, who settled there in the 1820s.

The Bathurst District Historical Society will augment the exhibition with further historical maps and paintings, some of which have just recently come to light. A book "A Moment in Time" by Joan Kent will be sold during the exhibition as well as at the Bathurst District Historical Society Museum for \$25.

The major sponsor for **"A Moment in Time"** exhibition is Charles Sturt University with other sponsors including the Bathurst Regional Council and Dawsons Removals & Storage Pty Ltd.

BATHEX 2015 Bicentenary Collectables, Gem and Mineral Exhibition - Bathurst Remembers 200 Years of History will take place on 26th and 27th September this year at the Bathurst Showground.



The displays will be many and varied with one man, Arthur Vella, an avid stamp collector who will be mounting a special 200-page display which traces Cox's Road over the Blue Mountains from Emu Ford. The exhibit will incorporate stamps, First Day covers, postmarks, medals, medalettes, coins, postcards and other memorabilia. Collecting stamps has been a passion

of Arthur's for a long time and he also volunteers at PHILAS which is the Philatelic Association of NSW Inc.

The premiere of Illumination and street celebration will now take place on Saturday evening from 5pm on 9th May in front of the Bathurst Court House and on King's Parade. This allows those attending the Bathurst Bicentenary Colonial Fair, which is down at the Macquarie River from 10am to 4.30pm, to walk up the two blocks to the Court House and Central

Business District, which includes the Town Square, and experience the Bicentenary story telling with great food, entertainment and activities. Be sure to add the **Illumination** event to your Bathurst 200 calendar as this will definitely be one of the highlights.

The main commemorative project commissioned for 2015 is the construction of a flag staff on an innovative viewing platform and multi-purpose facility on the site of the original flag staff erected on the orders of Governor Macquarie in 1815. This will be the highlight of Proclamation Day on Thursday 7th May this year.



Above – Early work progressing on the Flag Staff site at Bicentennial Park.

Major H.C. Antill, who was Governor Macquarie's Aide-de-Camp, noted in his diary on 5th May, 1815, - *"The spot which was chosen for the Governor's large tent was upon a little rising ground about three hundred yards from the men's huts, a small tent was placed on each side with a clear space in front upon which a small flag staff was erected. This was a delightful spot for a town, commanding a view of the surrounding country to a considerable extent...."*



Above – the Pillars of Bathurst Cultural Garden being constructed.

The **'Pillars of Bathurst Cultural Garden'** is a cultural heritage garden which the Bathurst Regional Council are currently constructing at Bicentennial Park almost opposite Old Government Cottage in Stanley Street and adjacent to the **Ohkuma Gardens**. The pathway and arches are completed as are the garden walls. The restored cast iron verandah posts used for

the project were formerly at the rear of the Royal Hotel in William Street and they have been put to good use as the **'Pillars of Bathurst'**.

The idea of the **'Pillars of Bathurst Cultural Garden'** is to commemorate those past Bathurstians who have added something special to the history of the Bathurst region, ideally offering inspiration to living and future Bathurstians. Initially, Bathurst Regional Council has nominated the first series of names to be attached to the pillars. Many have been chosen to bring forth those people who are less known today and who deserve to be better known.

The **Old Government Cottage Bicentennial Heritage Garden** at 16 Stanley Street down by the Macquarie River will be officially launched on Sunday 29th March, 2015, from 11am as part of the City's bicentennial celebrations.



Above – Old Government Cottage vegetable garden

The Bathurst Garden Club has very professionally designed and installed the Bicentennial Heritage Garden with the idea to show visitors who visit the cottage the layout and the types of plants a typical household garden in Bathurst would have had in the Georgian-Victorian era. Once every home had a garden growing herbs, vegetables, berries and fruit as well as fresh flowers.



On the same day there will be a triple opening of the **Old Government Cottage Bicentennial Heritage Garden**, **"The Pillars of Bathurst Cultural Garden"** (above) and **'A Delightful Spot'- Early Government Settlement Area Heritage Trail at 11pm**. After the opening there will be a Pioneer Picnic on the banks of the Macquarie River so bring along your picnic lunch and refreshments, table and chairs, umbrella, rug etc.

Old Government Cottage and its garden at 16 Stanley Street is always open from 12 noon to 4pm each Sunday or by appointment for groups and bus tours.

Bathurst Regional Council's 'A Delightful Spot' is an interpretation project about the European settlement of Bathurst 200 years ago. It includes a walking trail, an exhibition, an online database of old maps and illustrations, playground equipment and a street art project.

Bathurst is the earliest European settlement in inland Australia and the buildings and places from this time represent evidence of the earliest European structures in inland Australia. In 1815 Governor Macquarie and his large party travelled into Wiradjuri country and declared the Bathurst Plains for the English Crown.



As most of the sites associated with this time are below ground, the cultural significance is largely hidden from view. 'A Delightful Spot' aims to bring to light the stories and to share something of the buildings and the people who lived and worked in them to increase awareness about what life would have been like in the early years of settlement.

Bathurstians and visitors will be able to do tours of the area by contacting Bathurst Visitor Information Centre at 1 Kendall Avenue, Bathurst, or phone 1800 681 000 or email visitors@bathurst.nsw.gov.au for details and to book on one.



Remember that the Bathurst District Historical Society's Open Day is offering free entry to the Museum on Saturday 28th March this year. A variety of activities have been planned including guided tours of the Museum as well as the Court House - one at 11am and one at 2pm, cemetery tours, museum talks, historical photo displays, photo scanning, a Treasure Hunt for the kids and plenty of free prizes and giveaways.

The Society's collection contains objects of local and national significance. The permanent display at the Museum has been recently re-vamped to reflect the past 200 years of Bathurst from Macquarie to the present.



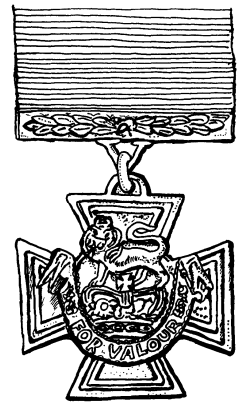
The Bathurst Bicentenary Colonial Fair will take place on two days - Thursday 7th and Saturday 9th May, though the fair on the Saturday will be larger and more involved.

Plans are in hand for demonstrations of 'lost trades' from our colonial past such as blacksmith, whip maker, horse shoeing, wheelwright, blade shearer, brick maker, bush wood turner, potter and rope maker. There will also be

the Redcoats and their lifestyle tents, a surgeon's tent, spinning and weaving, old handicrafts, pastimes and games along with maypole dancing and a slab hut all set up typically of the old days. On Saturday there will be more re-enactors, displays and activities.

The "Anzacs At Gallipoli"

tribute and display will take place in the Bathurst District Historical Society Museum from the 17th to 30th April and will be open on ANZAC Day 2015 from immediately after the 10.30am service at the Bathurst War Memorial Carillon. Bathurst RSL Sub Branch proposes to have a bronze plaque cast honouring all those from the wider Bathurst district who paid the supreme sacrifice during WW1 in 1914 - 1918 and plan to dedicate in on ANZAC Day 2015.



One man who served from Bathurst was Blair Anderson Wark who was born at Bathurst on 27th July, 1894. After the outbreak of the Great War he enlisted on 15th September, 1915. He went on to be awarded the coveted Victoria Cross (above) for most conspicuous bravery, initiative and control. Major Wark was part of the 32nd Infantry Battalion at the time.

Blair Anderson Wark was the fourth child of Alexander Wark, the gas engineer originally from Scotland who had established Bathurst's first gas works. Blair's mother was Blanche Adelaide Maria, née Forde who was born here in the colony of New South Wales. Blair was initially educated at Fairleigh Grammar, a private school in Bathurst.

Whilst attending High School he also went to classes at the Sydney Technical College. Whilst working as a quantity surveyor he joined the 18th Infantry, AMF. He had already been a Senior Cadet for two years before joining where he rose to the rank of sergeant.

After joining up he embarked in November 1915 for Egypt as Company Commander of the 30th Battalion, A.I.F., this was basically a New South Wales battalion and part of the 8th Infantry Brigade. Upon their arrival his unit served on the Suez Canal defences. Then in June 1916 they sailed for France where his first major battle was the Fromelles operation not long after arriving at the front. It was here that he was wounded on 19th July. On his return from hospital he was transferred to the 32nd Battalion.

In March 1917 he was recommended for the Distinguished Service Order, however no medal was awarded. Later, whilst in the line near Ypres at the end of September 1917, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order medal and then in May 1918 he was 'Mentioned in Despatches'.



Blair Wark was awarded his Victoria Cross in operations against the German's Hindenburg Line at Bellicourt and the advance through Nauroy, Etricourt, Magny La Fosse and Joncourt in France over the time from 29th September to 1st October, 1918. At the time Major Wark was in temporary command of the 32nd Battalion, he was aged

just 24.

Two of Blair's brothers Keith and Alexander also enlisted and served in the Australian Infantry Force where Keith was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal. Blair and his brothers received the two medals of the type seen right – the British War medal and the Victory Medal and as well as their other medals.



With the outbreak of the Second World War Blair Wark left his business and enlisted again. In April 1940 he was appointed to the 1st Battalion. In July he assumed command. Then whilst bivouacking in the field at Puckapunyal Army Camp in Victoria he died from heart problems on 13th June, 1941.

A special talk will be held in the Museum in Russell Street on Thursday 16th April commencing at 7.30pm on Bathurst's Victoria Cross winner – Blair Anderson Wark. Tim Sargeant has had a keen interest in this Victoria Cross winner and has carried out considerable war-time research behind the son from the family who established the first gasworks in

Bathurst. Wark had a natural ability to lead his men under the worst conditions.

Remember **"Rebellion on the Turon"** is on this month - on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th March.



The **"Rebellion on the Turon"** is being held at Sofala where gold was discovered in 1851. Be sure you are on hand and join with the residents of the Turon Gold Fields and the New South Wales Corp of Marines in a weekend of colonial re-enactments, activities, colonial displays, market stalls, duels, old trades and the fashions of the 1800s. There is also a junior gold hunt.



Saturday goes from 9.30 am when the cannon is rolled into position for its firing at 10am until the closing shots are fired at 4 pm and on Sunday 10am to 3pm. Note - both days start and finish with firing of the 1820s canon (cannonade). The re-enactment of the **"Rebellion on the Turon"** with the Turon Diggers uprising against the gold licensing fee and march on the Police Barracks will occur on Sunday at 1pm and you could be part of that. Cost: free if you can avoid the lady bushranger who is after your gold (coin donation) and the Redcoats who will pester you to take out a gold license. Be sure to add this event to your 2015 Calendar. For more information contact Carlo on 63377587 or email carlo_j_2000@yahoo.com.au

One of the displays at the forthcoming **BATHEX 2015 Bicentenary Collectables, Gem and Mineral Exhibition - Bathurst Remembers 200 Years of History** which will be taking place on 26th and 27th September, this year, at the Bathurst Showground, the members of the Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway (OTHR) which celebrates its 10th birthday this year is preparing a major exhibit for the event.

The Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway was formed in 2005 and is a dedicated band of enthusiasts working

A man wearing a wide-brimmed hat, sunglasses, an orange safety vest over a grey shirt, and khaki shorts stands next to a red truck. The truck has a wooden ramp extended from its bed. The background shows a grassy field and some trees.

Over the last 10 years their volunteer fettlers have replaced 10 500 wooden sleepers along 6km of the rail line from Oberon to Hazelgrove, which will be the first stop on the way to Tarana. Completion of this section of the line, comprising Stage I of the project, is now in its final stages – the restoration of two level crossings at Oberon.



OTHR owns two diesel locomotives, and has two 1897 heritage carriages (you could see them in “The Great Gatsby”) which will form the nucleus of their heritage rail train.



The exhibit at **BATHEX 2015 Bicentenary Collectables, Gem and Mineral Exhibition - Bathurst Remembers 200 Years of History** will include historic photos depicting the history of the Branch Line, railway memorabilia relating to the line and an outline of our plans for the future. Also on

The Moorilda /
Teapot Swamp
reunion will be held
on Sunday 24th May.
All descendants of
the families of
Moorilda are invited



Two hundred years ago on 16th May, 1815, the explorer George William Evans camped at the Three Brothers Hills and viewed the land which was to become Teapot Swamp and later, Moorilda. The first land grant at Teapot Swamp was in 1821 and many Irish families soon arrived, attracted by the abundant water, the quality of farming land and, it was said, by the similarity to their distant homeland.

Don't forget to book your accommodation early for any of the activities during the 200th Anniversary or for BATHEX 2015 Bicentenary Collectables, Gem and Mineral Exhibition - Bathurst Remembers 200 Years of History or any other activities in Bathurst in 2015. In the Bathurst Region we have the full assortment of accommodation from motels, hotels and caravan park to quaint bed and breakfasts, serviced apartments and self-catering properties. Those coming to BATHEX 2015 can camp at the Showgrounds for a fee. For a list of what accommodation is available during the weekend contact the Bathurst Visitor Information Centre – by phoning freecall 1800 68 1000 or email visitors@bathurst.nsw.gov.au

*Alan McRae, FAIHA, Secretary
Bathurst Stamp, Coin, Collectables &
Lapidary Club Inc. & President,
Bathurst District Historical Society.*



MACQUARIE'S CROSSING

With the return of Gregory Blaxland, William Charles Wentworth and William Lawson from the first successful journey across the supposedly impenetrable Blue Mountains, Governor Lachlan Macquarie summoned the Colony's Assistant Surveyor-General, George William Evans to investigate the find and look into the building of a road over the mountains.

As William Lawson had drawn a reasonable map, being that he had had some training as a surveyor, Assistant Surveyor-General Evans was despatched westwards in November 1813 to retrace where the explorers had reached and progressed further inland. Evans surveyed the road, initially discovering several rivers as he went until finally naming the Macquarie River. Upon his return with a most favourable report, Macquarie instructed William Cox, who had worked for Governor Macquarie before on road and other projects, to build the road using mainly convicts, the assignment taking less than six months. During this time William Cox maintained a journal from the time he commenced at Emu Ford in 1814, which is interesting reading.



Macquarie was eager to view the new territory for himself and had already sent a long despatch to England as to what his plans were. Governor Macquarie arranged to travel over the Blue Mountains wanting to look over the new road by Mr. Cox and check on the land and rivers out beyond the mountains.

On the day which would later become Anzac Day the Governor and Mrs Macquarie left on 25th April, 1815, with their quite large party. They travelled in reasonable comfort with a carriage as well as riding horses for the Macquaries, tents to stay in which were erected by convicts in the party of seventy. They didn't travel too far each day, probably for Mrs. Macquarie's benefit. It would not have been long before the Governor and others would have been aware of the challenges faced by Cox's roadmen.

Finally the party arrived at their destination after fording a number of rivers and creeks and arrived on the picturesque grassy plain on the bank of the Macquarie River where their tents were erected for them. The Governor and his party stayed for a week and the Governor was able to make his selection for the site where the Bathurst Township would be finally erected though this would not take place until 1833 when the convict and Government settlement was wound up and blocks of land sold. On 19th May Governor Macquarie's Bathurst party arrived back in Sydney.

It seems that Major Henry Antill, who travelled to Bathurst as an important party of the Governor's party,

had arranged with the artist who travelled to Bathurst at the time, John Lewin, to get a copy of his watercolour paintings. Antill was prepared to swap a copy of his journal for the artworks.



Fortunately at least 15 views from the journey over the mountains exist from those given to Antill afterwards. One has to wonder if he did a watercolour of the ceremony conducted by Governor Macquarie on the morning of Sunday 7th May. Above courtesy - Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales.

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BLACKING A NECESSITY IN COLONIAL TIMES



Although many of us dig up blacking bottles, I expect that few of us know what they were used for and why we find so many. Left – typical blacking bottle – made by the famous Bendigo Pottery Works who produced hundreds of thousands of blacking bottles.

Blacking or black oil jars or bottles are commonly found these days in old rural and household tips, indicating that they were in very common use. Blacking was a liquid and was used both in the home and

out in the farm sheds. It was possible to purchase blacking powder and make one's own liquid blacking so one assumes that some original bottles were certainly re-used as people were familiar with finding blacking in these containers. It seems that most users preferred to purchase their blacking "ready-made". Housewives in the 1800s and earlier to mid-1900s would apply blacking with a brush or a scrap piece of cloth to their hand irons, fountains, the stove, pots and frypans and the boilers that hung over the open fire.

The man of the house would use blacking in grooming the horses, to blacken equipment and leather as well as was commonly believed as a protector of timber. It was used on gig and buggy harness, buggy tops, leather travelling bags, fly nets and the multitude of equipment around the farm. A dozen bottles were

Purchased in stoneware bottles which range in size from the 10cm high for shoe blacking bottles up to the 22cm bottles for the normal blacking. The more common size however is usually about 15 or 16 cm high. Larger bulk demijohns are known though rarely seen these days. Blacking was also manufactured in a paste form known as blacking paste. A blacking paste was also made by S & H Harris's company, however its acceptance was not great. Our pioneers looked for several qualities when buying blacking. First of all was that it was actually black as some gave a bluish or brown appearance. They looked to see that the product gave a good finish, that it did not peel or crack off, didn't smut or crook by handling, did not lose its lustre with age and that dust would not easily stick to it.



Made from graphite and carbon black pigments many of the earlier blacking was based on turpentine, benzine, alcohol or some other injurious liquid along with waxes or paraffin. Whilst all manufacturers had their own 'recipe', one mixture included lampblack, potash, oil, tallow and 'soft' water. The mixture would take about 2 hours of boiling. Generally the contents were quite runny though there were those that were almost like a varnish, the latter were not popular. Blacking recipes were closely guarded secrets. Most blacking jars had a paper label applied such as S & H Harris's blacking oil for harnesses seen here. Labels were usually glued on - a manual labour job usually done by young girls as they were the cheapest to pay.

Most blacking jars are found with a brown salt-glazed finish. Many of the early bottles were imported from England. Occasionally some may turn up with a Bristol finish (glossy white). Their sizes range from jars able to hold a few ounces up to a pound in weight. The opening in the top can range from quite narrow to fairly wide with cork used to seal the opening. The cork would sometimes be sealed with wax and a seal. Some saltglazed jars have impressed writing on them. The Bristol finish types do generally have the underglaze black transfer stating what the brand may be and the contents.

Mr. J.V. Lavers was manufacturing blacking, harness liquid and ink in the 1840's at 328 Castlereagh Street in Sydney. This site is now occupied by Sydney Town Hall. One Alfred Mayo went into partnership with Lavers with Mayo establishing a cordial factory in 1846, a trade he had learnt in Fleet Street in London before coming to Sydney Town. Mayo emigrated to the colony on the "British Sovereign" which anchored in Port Jackson in 1834. For the first ten years he was employed as a schoolmaster before realising that he was wasting his talents and more importantly, the pay was poor.



One of our colony's early potters made blacking jars as one of his earliest products. Thomas Field learnt the pottery trade working in his home town of Barnet, north of London in England. In 1841 he arrived on board the 'ALFRED' as a free settler in Sydney on 29th January, 1842. Soon after his arrival he established his pottery business in George Street, South Brickfield Hill. The site was closed down for making bricks around 1838 as brickmakers moved out along the Parramatta Road.

Harper Twelve Trees Government Blacking was "deservedly popular for its softness, brilliancy and enduring quality." It was sold in oilskin packets (the user pouring the powder into their empty blacking bottle and adding some type of liquid) as well as made-up in the well-known clay bottles. A number of storekeepers in Bathurst sold this brand of blacking in 1867 including E. Webb & Co (left).

LITHGOW RE-ENACTMENT GROUP SET FOR COLONIAL FAIR ON 9TH MAY, 2015



The Lithgow Living History group has some very keen re-enactors who will be taking part in Bathurst's 200 celebrations on Saturday 9th May, 2015. The Lithgow Living History group is a member of the Australian Living History Federation.

Large numbers are expected in Bathurst for the activities as indicated by the accommodation bookings already in for the weekend. Whilst relatively new, the

The group's depictions range from colonial, goldrush and bushranger through to the World Wars and Korea impressions. The attention to uniforms and details are just one part of the re-enactments to give authenticity to the demonstrations. They will be blank firing black powder muskets and rifles and other firearms as part of their demonstration as well as providing a commentary as to their historical significance.

With Bathurst boasting an early Bathurst Volunteer Rifle Corps it was inevitable that whenever military volunteers were needed Bathurst would be an obvious source. The idea had taken shape after residents of Bathurst became concerned and felt that the township needed its own local military unit after Queen Victoria declared war on Russia in late March 1854. With news of the war appearing in the Bathurst newspaper residents raised concerns and decided that a Volunteer Mounted Rifle Corps should be formed locally.

By October 1854 the Government had approved the formation of a unit in the district but it would be limited to 50 men. Once the enrolment number had been achieved then the Sydney Headquarters would dispatch the necessary staff officer. The new recruits who needed to take the oath of allegiance and uniforms and equipment would be consigned to Bathurst. Despite the enthusiasm, they were unable to get the numbers and the idea lapsed.

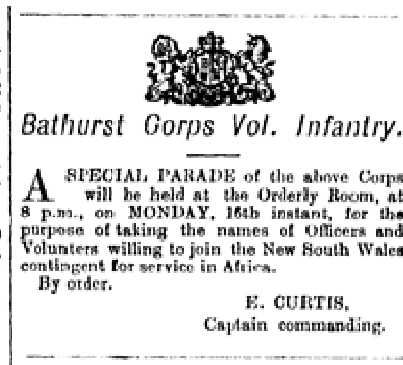
It was soon realised that a number of the volunteers did not have a horse so a dual unit was suggested by

The Police Magistrate was not to be swayed and had a petition despatched to Sydney early in 1868 direct to Victoria Barracks. It was met with another refusal. Several months later Bathurst tried again and finally they were successful in July with permission to commence the formation of the “Bathurst Volunteer Rifle Corps”.

On 2nd September, 1868, over 100 young volunteers took their oath at Bathurst Court House however they would not be admitted until the Brigade Adjutant, Captain Henry J Byrnes, arrived to pass them and swear them in with the Captain accepting seventy men.

The news of the brutal slaying in Khartoum in the Sudan of the British General Charles "Chinese" Gordon on 26th January, 1885, aroused fervent displays of both grief and outrage throughout the British Empire that would set in motion a chain of events that would see some of Bathurst's young men head overseas. Ironically the contingent was authorised to fight outside the colony by a New South Wales Government with no constitutional power to do so.

In Bathurst Henry Pfahl volunteered to fight in the Sudan Campaign, he was prepared to help 'the Mother Country'. As it turned out he didn't go as the New South Wales Government didn't agree quickly enough that they would look after his family if he was killed. Pfahl had six children by this time, the eldest being ten years of age, so he was forced to withdraw from the Bathurst volunteers.



Left- John Henry Albert Rudolph Pfahl in uniform taken late in 1898 - photo Bathurst District Historical Society.

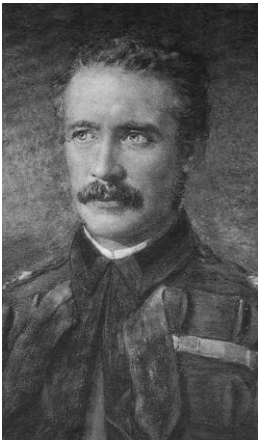
John Henry Albert Rudolph Pfahl, known to most as Henry John Pfahl, was born in Wurttemberg, Germany, on 11th October, 1845, son of Jacob Pfahl and his wife Catherine, nee Volpp, however it is not known when Henry came to Australia.

In 1872 he married Hanna Emma Johnson in Rockhampton, Queensland with the family moving to Bathurst around 1879. The couple

later had more children in Bathurst where Henry was a house painter and decorator by trade. Most

Bathurstians at the time would not have known that the British Government wanted to secure Khartoum as their own as it was situated on the River Nile. The Sudan was largely an Arab and Muslim nation with the Egyptians gaining control in 1821 after they had conquered the Funj.

In 1881 there was great unrest in the Sudan and Britain was asked to help the Khedive's forces to put down the rebellion. Muhammad Ahmed, who had proclaimed himself the Mahdi (the divinely appointed guide), was leading the rebels. The Sudan is the largest country in Africa. As this nation was on the Red Sea the British Government wanted to secure it as their own. They would call upon General Gordon, who was known as Chinese Gordon or Gordon Pasha.



Charles George Gordon (left) was born in January 1833 at Woolwich in England and soon joined the British Army. He was educated at the Royal Military Academy and commissioned in the Royal Engineers in 1852. He first served in the Crimean War and took part in the expedition to China in 1860 to fight Chinese rebels. In 1873, the Khedive (viceroy) of Egypt appointed

Gordon Governor of the Tribes of Southern Sudan and by 1882 he was appointed Commander in Chief of the Cape Forces.

As the situation worsened in Sudan in 1884 the British Government called upon him to go back to the Sudan. The moment that General Gordon arrived in Khartoum he managed, at first, to calm the rising fears of the locals. To finance the operation the Egyptian Treasury was to make £100,000 available but much of it disappeared on the way so Gordon had no money.

Besieged in Khartoum, General Gordon decided to issue his own paper currency as the soldiers wanted their pay, as did local merchants. In the circumstances he decided to use the local Khartoum Printing Works to print some emergency money. Gordon's intention was to print larger denomination notes and hand-sign each one. Then he became aware that the local inhabitants also needed smaller denomination notes so more were printed.

The uniface (printed on one side only) 'siege notes' are of a simple design with the literal translation meaning – "This sum is accepted and will be paid for by the Treasury in Khartoum or Cairo any time 6 months after today, April 25th, 1884", the first day of issue. Most of the siege notes were printed on light

card.

Hand-signing so many notes by the light of candles set in lanterns was certainly an unenviable and tedious undertaking by General Gordon, so an attempt was made to hectograph the General's signature in an effort to relieve him having to personally sign all the notes.

When the Dervishes finally overran Khartoum, large numbers of the Gordon's siege notes were burned but one found its way back to Bathurst and was given to Henry Pfahl, one assumes as a memento. After his death, the British Government blamed the Egyptian Government for Gordon's demise and refused to pay any compensation concerning the notes on Gordon's behalf.

Queen Victoria was extremely upset at the death of the 'noble Gordon' and this stirred up colonial feelings of abhorrence against the Mahdi. Finally the British Government called for colonial support and Bathurst volunteers stepped forward. There was almost immediate reaction and a special parade was held in the Orderly Room in Bathurst that evening to take the names of officers and volunteers willing to proceed to the scene of the war. Thirty to forty local volunteers, along with Commissioned Officers Major Paul, Captain Curtis and Second Lieutenant Webb.

In the Bathurst Free Press and Mining Journal of Wednesday 18th February, 1885, the events that had taken place were reported. The men who gave their names were Major Paul, Sergeant James B. Campbell, Corporal James Smith, married and Privates Charles Heath, John Smith, Henry Pfahl, Samuel Pittendrigh, James Hull and Louis Charles Gronan. Single Privates were Thomas Spencer Brain, Charles Henry Japes, Barth Tucker, Henry Murphy and James Butler. Married men were Sargeant James B. Campbell, Corporal James Smith and Privates Henry Pfahl, Charles Heath, John Smith, James Hull, Samuel Pittendrigh and Lewis Gronan.

The next day Captain Curtis received a telegram from headquarters – "Direct your men volunteering for service in Egypt to report themselves tomorrow or earliest date after, at Victoria Barracks (Sydney) with arms, accoutrements, valise, and other equipment,

uniforms and clothing absolutely complete. By Order - J. Hill. Capt. and Adjutant." A meeting of citizens was hastily convened for that evening in the hall of the School of Arts (left.). The Mayor presided and a patriotic fund was formed. A fitting farewell to the



Bathurst Contingent of troops was also arranged.

Henry Pfahl stayed on in the volunteer force in Bathurst and took part in the procession for His Excellency, The Governor and Lady Carrington on April 7, 1886. The procession proceeded from the Market Square to the Railway Station at 4.30pm. Henry Pfahl died 4th June, 1922, aged 76.

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This type of coin was achieved by using a concave die for the obverse and a convex one for the reverse to give the coin a saucer shape. This unusual type of coinage is known as scyphate coinage. The most noted examples of these coins were produced during the Byzantine Empire. The empire was named after the Greek name for its capital Constantinople.

Constantinople lay at the heart of this powerful empire which came about in 395 A.D. when Rome decided to split into two separate empires as they felt it would be easier to rule. The western empire kept the name of Rome, while the eastern empire took the name of Byzantium and was to carry the ideals and ideas of the Romans forward. By 500 A.D. the Roman Empire had declined but the massive lands of the Byzantine Empire remained strong though it had its ups and downs. During the reign of Heraclius (610-645) certain reforms were implemented which really marked the start of the Byzantine Empire. Despite losing territory to the Arabs, Bulgars and Lombards, the empire recovered. From this time to 1200 A.D. the Byzantines would be the wealthiest nation in Europe and western Asia. It reached its peak in about 1000 A.D. under Basil II. The nation had much higher standards of living and led much of the world in science, building techniques and art.



The scyphate shape was adopted in 1042 by Constantine IX and remained a feature of Byzantine coinage for some 350 years. The defeat by the Seljuk Turks at Manzikert in 1071 brought a rapid decline.

The ‘dish money’ seen here was minted for Andronicus I who became Emperor in August 1183 A.D. after strangling his 12 year old cousin Alexis II, his mother and numerous other relatives. His younger years were marked by numerous affairs, his scandalous morals the talk of the courts. This coin features the Emperor’s portrait in full regalia on the concave reverse where his courage on the battlefield was well proven. The convex obverse features a seated figure of a god.

Andronicus (Comnenus) I is historically known as a cruel and notorious ruler, however he was a great reformer as he tried to end the struggle between the peasants and the powerful landowners, offering the former protection. His cruelty and failure to stop the rapid advance of the Normans of Italy under William II of Sicily against the capital led to his overthrow and the elevation of Emperor Isaac II. Andronicus was tortured to death by being ripped apart by the common people on 12th September, 1185. He was the last of the Comnenus dynasty to hold the throne of Constantinople.



Afterwards the Crusades took place with Constantinople sacked in 1204 during the Fourth Crusade. It was felt that the Byzantines had gone, however they managed to recapture Constantinople in 1261. The remnants of the Empire hung on till it was conquered by the Ottoman Turks in 1453. See coins such as this at BATHEX 2015 Bicentenary Collectables, Gem and Mineral Exhibition - Bathurst Remembers 200 Years of History will take place on 26th and 27th September this year at the Bathurst Showground.

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REMEMBER WHEN FLOUR WAS SOLD IN CALICO BAGS?

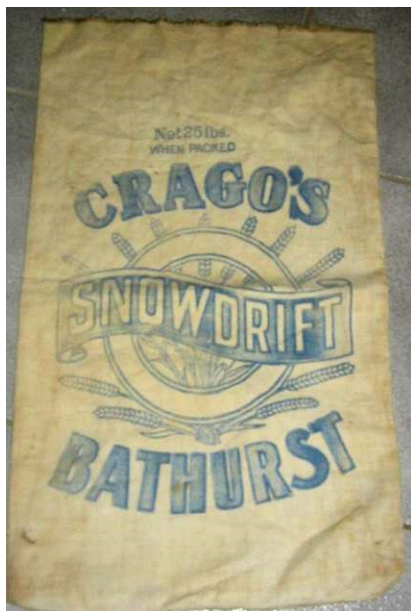
Most of our older readers can still remember the calico bags that flour was sold in. On the next page is one of Bathurst's Crago Flour Mill "Snowdrift" 25lb bulk flour bag of the type purchased by Bathurst shops and larger users such as larger households, properties and farms and remembering in those days everything was made from scratch, no packet cakes in those days.

Many of these calico bags were recycled and some of you may have worn bloomers made from calico flour bags, or a laundry bag, school bag or some other handy item. Some may have worn patched clothing where calico patches were cleverly used to make an item of clothing last a few more months. What other items can you remember these flour bags being used for? – curtains, underwear, mending, etc.

Bathurst has had many flour mills located all around

Mr. Crago was Mayor of Bathurst in 1891 and an alderman for several years. By 1896 he had commenced building his Federal (Flour) Mills at Newtown in Sydney. Here he installed the latest Henry Simon flour milling plant.

Bathurst and Oberon were not a prime wheat growing area due to problems with late frosts and their damp and cool climate. Despite this, local farmers did grow wheat from the mid-1820s. The O'Connell area fared better when growing wheat and the Crago Flour Mill purchased wheat from here too. James Lowe, with the assistance of assigned convicts, was growing wheat on his father, Robert Lowe's, 2000 acre property which was called Sidmouth Valley.



The growing of wheat was always dependant on the weather as the Sydney Morning Herald in April 1846 noted – “the vegetation was fast disappearing as the drought took hold and the scarcity of water is every day most apparent. The plough is idle – cultivation paddocks untouched and already has the anticipation of a bad season. It has had the usual effect of causing a rise in the price of wheat, hay and other agricultural produce. If rain does not make its appearance with a change of moon, we may look forward to another season of scarcity like that of 1838-39.”

In 1906 the new mill was opened in lower Piper Street right near the Bathurst railway. In 1909 the business became F. Crago & Sons Ltd with the company continuing to produce their famous “Snowdrift” brand flour. Like all flour mills at the time Crago Mills were selling pollard, bran, wheaten meal and breakfast meal for livestock and poultry. Due to these flour mills existing in the same area it became known as ‘Milltown’. The Crago Mill closed during 1954 with Tremain’s flour mill continuing until the 1980s.



Francis Crago was considered one of the leading millers in New South Wales when he died in December 1907. He had been born around 1847 at Liskeard in Cornwall and arrived in Sydney around 1865 where he later made his way to Yass to manage a flour mill. Later he worked other mills before moving to Bathurst in 1882.



By 1888 Crago had “installed the latest and most modern plant” and was always looking for more good wheat. A typical advertisement at the time for his Hibernian Mills Bathurst stated “*The*

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Whilst in Bathurst for the 200th Anniversary why not take a trip out to Hill End to the Hill End Lodge just an hour out of Bathurst on a bitumen road. It is an ideal retreat to get back to nature and indulge in fine food and wine. It is a great place for photographers, artists and bushwalkers as well as families. Hill End Lodge, 3538 Hill End Road, Hill End NSW 2850 63378200 (has about 23 rooms) hillendlodge@bigpond.com

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At the 1868 Bathurst Show which was held that year on Bathurst Racecourse the committee decided to allow side shows for first time.

In mid September 1887 tenders were called to paint the hospital building. James Hine, Architect of Bathurst, placed an advertisement in The Bathurst Times newspaper to inform prospective local painters that the specifications may be seen at his office. Tenders were to be sent or delivered to his office not later than 17th September by 12 o'clock. Mr. Hine also wanted builders in the city to tender for the re-flooring of the large wards and other work at the Bathurst Hospital with tenders for this project to arrive no later than 26th September.

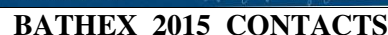
That in 1883 the Bathurst School of Arts located at

After Mr. James Richards the Commissioner of Crown Lands in Bathurst named the Village of Kelso in 1856 it took almost thirty years before it was gazetted and that was really because the railway had arrived a number of years earlier. The New South Wales Government made the announcement on 4th March, 1885, and the fact appeared in the Government Gazette, ironically on the exact same day that Bathurst was made a 'city'.

In 1896 a new telephone exchange was opened in the east wing of the Bathurst Court House. Telephonists provided the service for subscribers from 9am to 8pm every day of the week except for Sunday.

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Feel free to pass this e-newsletter along to any family, friends, work colleagues and acquaintances. If you wish to receive this e-newsletter direct just email amcrae@lisp.com.au



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Publicity & e-newsletter

Alan McRae email amcrae@lisp.com.au or phone
63315404 - evening is best.

For other information go to the following website at www.bathursthistory.org.au for the weekend programme and more information.

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