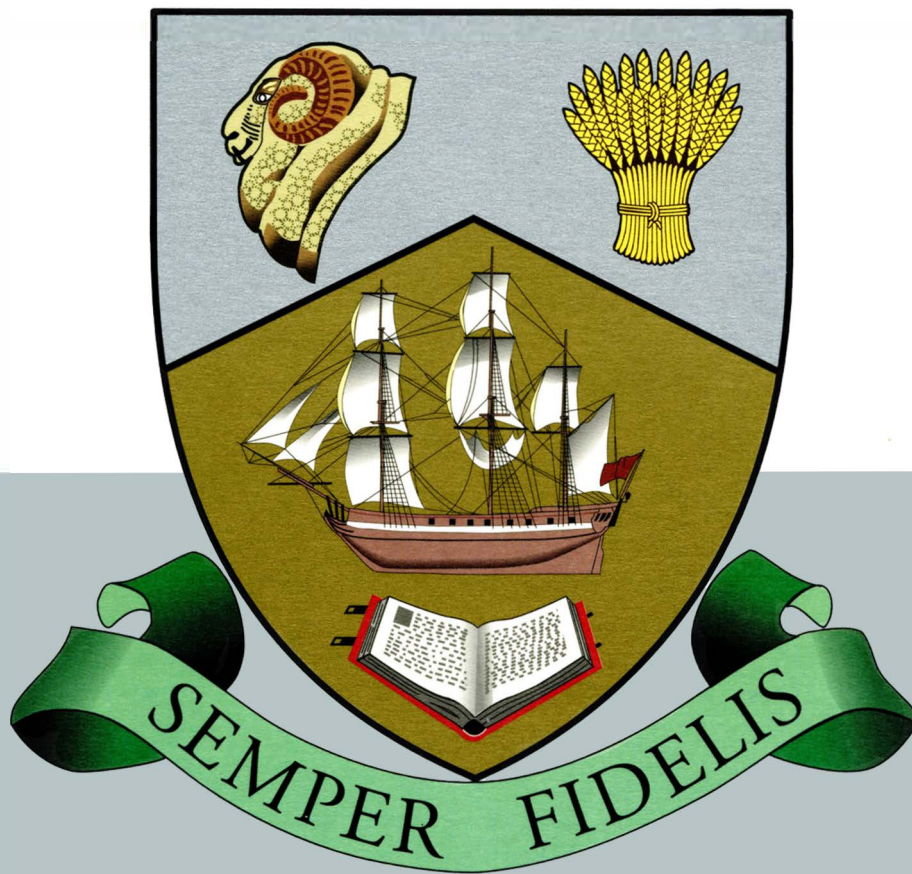


*Hassall Family
History Association*

Newsletter

Edition 60

July 2024



Association News

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

All members of the Hassall Family History Association are invited to attend our Annual General Meeting for 2024-25, which will be held online on Wednesday 7th August, at 7.30pm AEST. The purpose of the AGM is to receive reports on the Association's activities during 2023-24 and to elect the committee for the coming year. (Non-members are also welcome to attend the meeting, but only members have voting rights).

Call for nominations:

This newsletter includes a nomination form for the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and 3 additional members. Nominations must be received by the outgoing treasurer, John Brooks, by Sunday 28th July.

Meeting date and time:

Aug 7, 2024 at 07:30 PM Australian Eastern Standard Time

Zoom address:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82031665653>

HASSALL FAMILY REUNION

Kenilworth and Brisbane 5th – 7th July 2024



Over three days in July, Friday 5th to Sunday 7th, approximately 80 family members and friends participated in a program that spanned Kenilworth, Nambour, Gheerulla and Sherwood. The



Neil Sutton speaking about James and Frances Hassall



Melinda Serico and Suzie Coulston

event attracted participants from Western Australia, Victoria, ACT, NSW and Queensland. On Friday 5th the program at the Kenilworth Museum attracted some 50 attendees, most of whom were descendants of James Cusack and Frances Hassall. After a Welcome to Country by Auntie Melinda Serico and HFHA President Graham Hassall, Neil Sutton gave an account of the lives of James and Frances. After additional sharing of photos, memorabilia, and stories, our host Lenore Meldrum gave a guided tour of Kenilworth Museum before we walked to lunch at the nearby Kenilworth Bowls Club. In the afternoon an intrepid convoy visited Old Nambour cemetery, Nambour Garden cemetery and Gheerulla cemetery to view the cleaned and labelled graves of James and Frances Hassall, many of their 8 children and dozens of descendants.

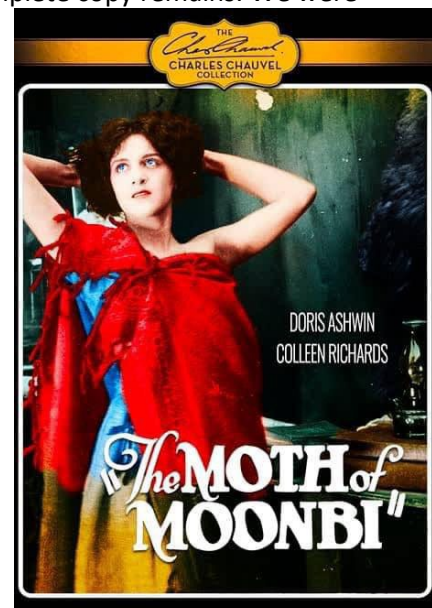


On Friday evening, 33 relatives gathered back at Kenilworth Museum to watch the first public showing in decades of Queensland's first major movie *The Moth of Moonbi*. The movie is of particular interest to the family because it starred Marsden Hassall and Doris Hassall (nee Ashwin), After debuting to public acclaim at Brisbane's Wintergarden Theatre on 25th January 1926, *The Moth of Moonbi*, gradually receded from public view and no complete copy remains. We were



Andrew Best

fortunate to have the movie introduced and screened on both Friday and Saturday evenings by Andrew Best, who is not only writing a PhD on it, but who is re-creating its missing elements through careful reading of documentation, and re-enactment and filming of missing scenes.





On Saturday 6th July the reunion reconvened at St Matthews Anglican Church, Sherwood, in Brisbane. The morning's program featured presentations on "Frances Hassall: the 'Matriarch of Matakai'" by Dr. Ann Webster, and "Hassalls in Queensland – The Black Sheep and the Lost" by Ann Brockhurst. In the afternoon the *Triple Wedding Pageant*, coordinated by Andrew Hassall, was performed on the Church lawn. In the evening Andrew Best once again introduced and screened *The Moth of Moonbi*.

Sunday's program commenced at 9am with the Morning Service at St Matthews Anglican Church. During the service Rev Ian Moore welcomed Hassall family members and acknowledged Rev. James Hassall as the church's first rector. John Hassall played harp during communion.



Ann Webster

A mid-morning tour of family graves at the nearby St Matthews Anglican Cemetery was followed by presentations on “The family of Rowland and Elizabeth Hassall” by Graham Hassall, “Thomas and Anne Hassall” by Alison Shaw, and “James and Catherine Hassall” by Rowland J. Hassall. The program concluded, after shared pizza lunch, with



Ann Brockhurst

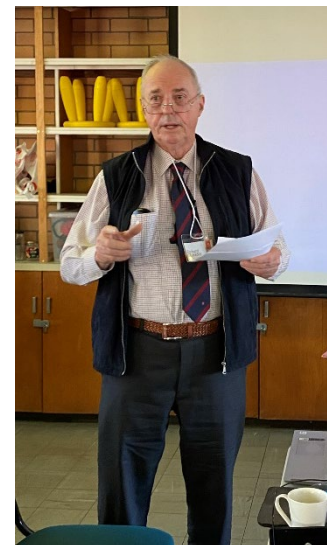
updates on the Association’s projects, notably Genealogy, presented by Richard Clarke.



Alison Shaw



Rowley Hassall



Richard Clark

Projects

Volunteering opportunities

Members can volunteer to assist with any of the Association's projects. We would particularly welcome any offers to help set up a simple website. We welcome additional help with developing our genealogical tables and with transcription of the Hassall Family Papers held by the State Library of New South Wales.

Bibliography

The Association maintains a bibliography of publications relevant to the family's history. The following titles have been added to the Hassall Family Bibliography since the last Newsletter.

Benson, Jean Caswell. "A Wide Spectrum: A Picture of the Times from 1828 to 1937 as Seen by My Forebears - the Stacy, the Caswell, the Shelley and the Harris Families." J. Benson, 1987.

This book provides glimpses of the life of Rowland and Elizabeth's daughter Susannah, who married William Shelley Jnr. Shelley partnered his brother George in establishing properties near Goulburn and Tumut before dying age 41 in 1844. Susannah passed away in 1890.

Casey, Mary, editor. *Breaking the Shackles: Historic Lives in Parramatta's Archaeological Landscape*. Parramatta Heritage Centre and Casey & Lowe, 2009. Online at https://caseyandlowe.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/breaking_the_shackles.pdf

This valuable publication describes the archaeological evidence from Rowland and Elizabeth's home at 109-113 George Street, Parramatta. Extracts of the report are included below:

About 1803, Rowland Hassall began building a house in George Street. The only building dating to this period is identified by the post holes of a timber structure, probably a wattle and daub hut, possibly the initial house built for Reverend and Mrs Hassall. This was probably a hut provided by government. The footprint of this structure was quite small, 4.3 x 3.5m (14 x 11.4ft). The typical convict hut was 12 x 24ft (3.7 x 7.4m) which is almost twice as long. Therefore this structure is the equivalent of a room of a small timber structure. No other archaeological evidence is thought to date to this occupation.

About 1814 Rowland Hassall was appointed Superintendent of Stock, this is when it is likely that the two-storey house was built. It is modelled on the Hunter's Government House but had only four bays not five and is therefore not symmetrical which is unusual for this period. It also had an unusual roof line, mostly because of the incorporation of an attic into the roof.

Hassall's house in Parramatta became a base for the missionaries of the London Missionary Society when they visited Parramatta. In many ways, his home became a pivotal point in the religious network of the colony. Not only did he preach there, he offered hospitality to the visiting clergy and missionaries. In May 1813, his son, Thomas Hassall, opened the first Sunday School in Australia in his father's barn.

The house was described as having 13 rooms, an attic and cellar with outbuildings: a kitchen with one room behind and two above, a dairy, a schoolroom and one or two other rooms. This suggests a group of four or possibly five structures with 22 or 23 rooms. As the house was sold for demolition most of the structure was recycled, therefore little remained of the building other than the lower level of the cellar, a brick well, footings of a possible dairy, and another odd structure to the east of the house, possibly the school room with a fireplace or hearth. Other than slate/mudstone footings of the cellar and part of the possible school room, the surviving footings were made of sandstock brick. Among the other remains was a timber-lined pit, possibly used as a compost pit.

Holt, Stephen. *Manning Clark & Australian History 1915-1963*. University of Queensland Press, 1982.

Manning Clark was a descendant of both Rowland and Elizabeth Hassall and Samuel and Elizabeth Marsden. Manning Clark's parents were Rev Charles H. William Clark and Catherine Amelia Hope. This study of Clark's contribution to Australian history includes some insightful comments on the ethos surrounding such early settler societies as the Hassalls and Hopes.

Jones, A. and K.K. Jenkins. *Tuai: A Traveller in Two Worlds*. Bridget Williams Books, 2017.

This book narrates the story of Tuai, a young Ngare Raumati chief from the Bay of Islands, New Zealand, who departed Australia in 1817 aboard the *Kangaroo*, bound for England. This of course was the same boat that Thomas Hassall travelled on to commence his clerical studies. The authors make considerable use of Thomas Hassall's journal in telling the story. The book is out of print but available as an ebook.

Willis, Ian. "'Just Like England', a Colonial Settler Landscape." *ISAA review*, vol. 15, no. 2, 2016, pp. 5-18.

The Cowpastures aristocracy had links to the remainder of Sydney's Cumberland Plain, the emerging provincial centre of Sydney, the controlling metropole of London and beyond. The self-styled elite developed a transnational network that had a global reach with Camden Park estate firmly at its centre. They were the southern extremity of a network of powerful colonial patriarchs that spread out across the Cumberland Plain. By 1840 they had built themselves impressive homes and large landholdings, some supported with convict labour. In the Cowpastures they included George Macleay's Brownlow Hill, John Oxley's Kirkham and Elderslie, Alexander Riley's Raby, Edward Lord's Orierton, William Howe's Glenlee, Thomas Hassall's Denbigh, Garnham Blaxcell's Curtis Park and William Campbell's Oran Park. This set established a social and economic hegemony over the region that persisted into the 20th century. (p.10).

Local villages characterising Hawdon's Cowpastures landscape were probably best typified by Reverend Thomas Hassall's Denbigh. In the 1820s, according to James S Hassall's *In Old Australia Records and Reminiscences from 1794*, Denbigh resembled 'a scattered village' with a carpenter, blacksmith, shoemaker, dairyman, gardener, brickmaker, schoolmaster and a number of assigned convict servants. Reverend Hassall's Heber Chapel, which he built in 1828 on his Pomari Grove property, became the centre of the 'village of Cobbitty' downstream from Denbigh. Just north of Hawdon's Elderslie, along the Cowpasture Road, the village of Narellan was laid out in 1827 adjacent to William Hovell's 1819 grant of Narralling. While in the government reserve the village of Cawdor started to take shape on the Great South Road with government buildings, a stockyard, a magistrate's bench and land for a church and a school. (p14).

Family Line	Coordinator
1. ■ Thomas Hassall & Anne Marsden	1. Alison Shaw alison.shaw@optusnet.com.au
2. ■ Samuel Hassall & Lucy Mileham	2. Melissa Blanks melissajb3@outlook.com.au
3. ■ Jonathan Hassall & Mary Rouse	3. John Brooks brooksjno@gmail.com
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5. ■ James Hassall & Catherine Lloyd	5. Rowland J Hassall rowlandjhassall@gmail.com
6. ■ Eliza Hassall & Rev William Walker	6. Jennifer Walton-Smith jennywaltonsmith@icloud.com
7. ■ Susannah Hassall & William Shelley Jr	7. Anne Dudzinski annedudzinski@optusnet.com.au
8. ■ Ann Hassall & Robert Campbell	8. Ann Brockhurst brockhurst1@live.com.au

The **Hassall Family History Association** fosters and disseminates research on the life and heritage of Rowland and Elizabeth Hassall and other members of the Hassall family and encourages historical research on other early settler families - particularly those with whom the Hassalls are related or with whom they share historic experience in early Australia. Membership is open to all. Donations are welcome to cover the group's activities. Newsletters are published three times each year (approximately February, June and November) and are distributed by the Association's webmaster.

Life Members: Sally Anderson, Joseph Gordon, Adrian Hassall, Craig Hassall, David N.H. Hassall, Gavin Hassall, Graham Hassall, Frank and Rosemary Hassall, Jonathan Guy Hassall, Rowland J. Hassall, Naomi Lewis, Jane Miura, Alison Shaw, Jean Stewart OAM, Joyce Warn, and Robert Wiles.

Honorary Life Members: Huon and Fran Hassall, Ian and Susie McIntosh, and Ross Whelan.

Website

<https://www.hassall.net.au/>

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Please notify the secretary of changes to your contact details.

Subscription renewals and donations:

Membership runs from July 1st to June 30th each year.

Direct Deposit to the Hassall Family History Association Account:

BSB: 062 575

Account: 10248050

(Include your name in the reference box so that we know who has paid).