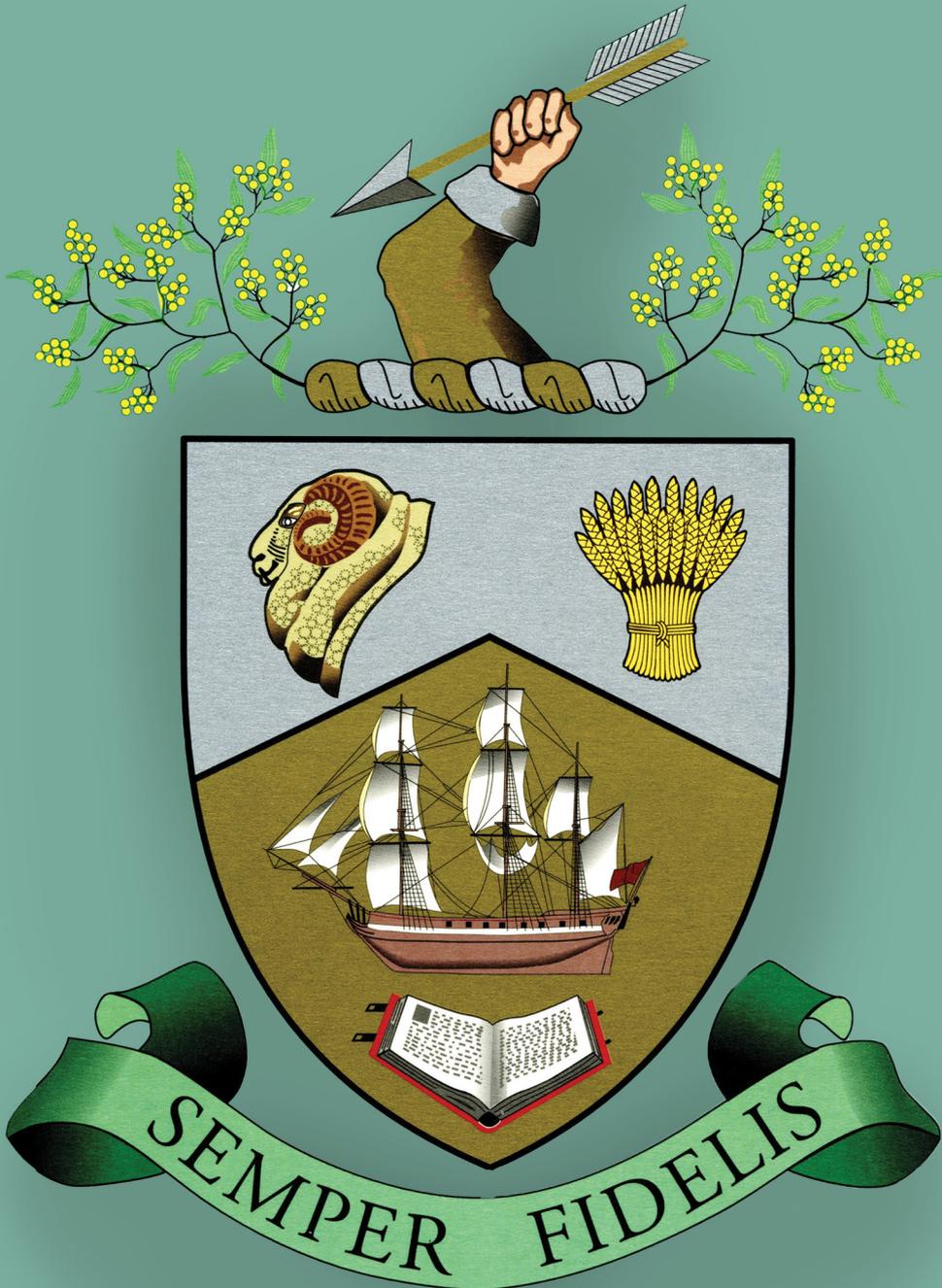


Edition 36

Hassall Family History Group Newsletter

July 2016



Articles

A matter of numbers: Getting a bead on the large number of descendants of Rowland and Elizabeth

When Rowland and Elizabeth Hassall left England on *The Duff* on 10th August 1796, they had no inkling that they and their family would have a significant impact on the establishment of a new vigorous British Colony at the other end of the earth! Together with a small band of other London Missionary Society missionaries, they were bound for Tahiti in the South Seas where they valiantly preached the word of God for a year. It was a relatively easy voyage under the skilful guidance of Captain James Wilson. However once there, difficulties commenced and then increased day by day. The Hassalls had three small children, Thomas and Samuel and baby Jonathan who was born on Tahiti, and with friction between the native folk and the missionaries increasing they must have been wondering what the future held. A major event in the saga was when a trading ship, the *Nautilus*, arrived to get provisions and to carry out repairs after being battered by a severe storm. The crew of the *Nautilus* intended to trade with the natives, exchanging guns for food and water. However the missionaries tried to prevent this by selling their own food to the ships personnel hoping to prevent the trade in weapons. After the *Nautilus* had left, Tahitian King Pomare was angry when he found out about the missionaries

actions and refused to sell more provisions to them and seemed to be making preparations to attack!

Then, what must have been seen as providence intervening, the *Nautilus* returned after a week after having been battered by another storm. This time most of the missionaries fled to the safety of the ship which, by a stroke of fortune, was headed for Sydney. They had a difficult voyage. Some of the crew had deserted in Tahiti to live with native women, and so the missionaries had to pitch in to help sail the ship. Very few details are available about this trying voyage but Sydney Harbour must have looked like paradise when they sailed through the heads!

Rowland and Elizabeth prospered in New South Wales and went on to have 9 children, 8 of whom grew to maturity and married, and each of whose families produced similar numbers of descendants. In just a few generations there were a large number of descendants and this short paper will attempt to indicate how many people can today trace ancestry to the original adventurous couple.

Step 1.

The size of the families in the first 6 generation of Hassall families as shown in the 1998 Bicentenary publication *The Hassall Family* is as follows:

1st generation (Rowland and Elizabeth)		= 8.0 children
2nd generation (eg Thomas & Anne) ave. family size		= 8.25
3rd generation (eg James S. & Frances)	"	= 7.0
4th generation (eg Robert F. & Helena)	"	= 3.59
5th generation (eg Robert M. & Kathleen)	"	= 3.56
6th generation (eg Robert W. & Janet)	"	= 2.5

Step 2.

Next, the number of people who can claim ancestry from Rowland & Elizabeth in each generation, both male and female, is as follows:

1st generation	= 8 people	
2nd generation	= 8.25 x 8	= 66
3rd generation	= 7.0 x 66	= 462
4th generation	= 3.59 x 462	= 1659
5th generation	= 3.56 x 1659	= 5906
6th generation	= 2.5 x 5906	= 14765

Therefore the TOTAL number of people in the first 6 generations, girl's families and boy's families, who can claim ancestry from Rowland & Elizabeth:

$$= 8 + 66 + 462 + 1659 + 5906 + 14765$$

$$= 22,866 \text{ people}$$

Step 3.

As a matter of interest we can estimate the much smaller number of people who happen to carry the name Hassall. To do this, assume that the family size is only half that assumed in the Step 2, ie boys only, plus add the girls who are born with the name Hassall:

1st generation	= 8 people	
2nd generation	= $\frac{1}{2} \times 8.25 \times 8$	= 33
3rd generation	= $\frac{1}{2} \times 7.0 \times 33$	= 115
4th generation	= $\frac{1}{2} \times 3.59 \times 115$	= 206
5th generation	= $\frac{1}{2} \times 3.56 \times 206$	= 367
6th generation	= $\frac{1}{2} \times 2.5 \times 367$	= 459

Therefore the number of people in the first 6 generations, boy's families only, who can claim descent from Rowland & Elizabeth:

$$= 8 + 33 + 115 + 206 + 367 + 459$$
$$= \mathbf{1,188 \text{ people}}$$

Step 4.

Therefore, the much larger number of descendants of the female family members is:

$$= 22,866 - 1,188$$
$$= \mathbf{21,678 \text{ people}}$$

Conclusions

The number determined in Step 4 is 18 times greater than the number of those who happen to carry the name "Hassall". Think of it – these people are all round us within the Australian community and we probably don't know most of them. We may never realise we are closely related to many of the people in our town! Some can actually trace their ancestry back to Rowland and Elizabeth along several paths. One family member I know got a great surprise when she and a lifelong friend discovered that they were both descended from the Hassalls!

This "diffusion" effect becomes more and

more pronounced as the number of generations are increased – not just in our family but in the Human family generally. The further back you go through the generations the more people you find you are related to in this current generation!

You should not be surprised if, when you look around and see physical features in people that remind you of some of your relatives. If you visit Japan for example, you will find that everyone looks Japanese – that's no doubt because they are all related! Similarly if you visit PNG you can easily believe that all the people there are related. In past years we had trouble with

apparent racial differences (eg Africans vs Chinese) but modern science has now unravelled DNA molecules and has shown that all humans are related and everyone alive to-day has ancestry that can be traced back to a single “ancestral mother” who lived in the distant past.

That is, we can consider all other human beings as our cousins, we are a single human race! But it is interesting to find out who our close relatives are and wonder if the folk next door are close cousins too!

One can't help thinking that the large number of descendants of Rowland and Elizabeth helped to make Australia the great country that it is to-day.

This paper has attempted to investigate a mathematical method of analysing the complexity of human connections. If any readers would like a complete set of calculations as set out in a spread sheet, a copy could be made available.

I would be very pleased to receive any comments about the topic.

d.hassall@optusnet.com.au

David N.H Hassall.

Activities

Rowland Hassall Bicentenary

29th August 2020 will mark the 200th year of the passing of Rowland Hassall. The Hassall Family History Group suggests this will be an appropriate time to bring the generations together again, and welcomes offers of assistance in the planning of a suitable programme.

Thomas Hassall Anglican College

800 people celebrated Grandparents Day at the College on 3 June 2016. Two Junior School students dressed up as Thomas and Anne and delivered a poem to the assembled grandparents.

Happy Birthday Thomas Hassall

“Anne: Oh there you are, where have you been dear Thomas?”

Thomas: Well Anne you know me, I'm always on the run, have been ever since we arrived here in New South Wales. Did I ever tell you how it all started for me.... There I was as a youngin', standing up there in the hills, wondering how I could tell these New South Welshman about Jesus.

Anne: Yes dear I remember when we travelled from place to place, starting up Sunday schools where we could teach the children to read, write, add, subtract and

most importantly learn about Jesus.

Thomas: Yes dear I remember and I think they called me the “galloping Parson” and here we stand today in the college grounds named after me – Thomas Hassall Anglican College.

Anne: Yes dear what an honour..... Happy birthday Thomas.”



Photo: mini Rev. and Mrs. Thomas Hassall as featured at Grandparents and Friends Day – complete with cupcake to wish Thomas a Happy Birthday!

The South West Festival is on Saturday 3 September (9am-3pm) and everyone is welcome.

The College’s annual presentation of awards will be held on 6 and 7 December 2016 - one evening for Junior School and one for Senior School - and members of the Hassall family are welcome to attend. Further details are available from Jo Hutchens, Director of Marketing, Enrolments & Community Relations, tel. 8781 1050 or email Hutchens.J@thac.nsw.edu.au

State Library of New South Wales

The State Library has published online an article about “The Sunday School Movement”, which features the role that Thomas Hassall played by establishing the first Sunday School in Australia, in May 1813. The article can be viewed at <http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/stories/sunday-school-movement>

Harpur Reunion

A reunion of the Harpur family was held on the weekend 16-17th April 2016 at Bathurst. Venues included the “1837 Hall”, which is part of the Uniting Church Complex in William Street Bathurst, opposite the park. The hall is the former Wesleyan Methodist Chapel where Henry Kidd Harpur attended services after moving to Bathurst in June 1841. He was married there in 1849 to Henrietta Elizabeth Walker. His younger brother, Josiah, married H. E. Walker’s sister Eliza “Caroline” Walker at O’Connell in 1856. The Walker sisters were granddaughters of Rowland and Elizabeth Hassall. The event included a visit to the O’Connell churchyard, where their

parents, Rev. William Walker and Eliza Cordelia Hassall are buried.

2017 Research Meeting

Following the success of the Hassall Family research meeting at the State Library of New South Wales in January 2016, we are planning to hold this event in Sydney once again in January 2017. Details will be shared as soon as possible.

Research

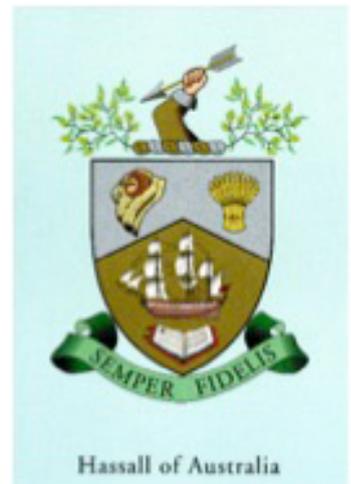
Alistair Hope diaries

“When we received the latest Hassall Family Newsletter we were even more disappointed that we had missed the gathering in the State Library, it sounded a wonderful event ... I have transcribed most of the letters we hold and also the diaries ... All the records we hold were microfilmed about 25 years ago and copies given to the Mitchell Library N.S.W., the La Trobe Library, Melbourne, Geelong Historical Record Centre, and I gave Manning Clark a copy which I think is somewhere in Canberra! ... There are over 1,000 typed pages of letters which have not been scanned into our computer yet ... Not all the letters are “Hassall” letters and at present we have not got the time to trawl through them and find the relevant ones. We will certainly send you anything noteworthy for the Newsletter when we find something - we have a couple of ideas to look for. You mentioned “Historical Hassall treks” I think Willie Hassall’s trek with horses from Western Victoria to Darwin has already been in the Newsletter - he

was the son of James Hassall, Thomas’ brother, who ended up living on a property called “Wootong Vale” at Coleraine, in Western Victoria. James also had a long trek from N.S.W. to George and Robert Hope’s leasehold property “Lake Wallace” at Edenhope in Western Victoria, via Darriwill. We believe that the name Edenhope was originally Hope’s Eden ... “(from email correspondence with Ellen Hope)

Coat of Arms

Little is currently known about the various family crests, or “Coat of Arms” associated with the Hassall family.



Pictured here are three different renditions. Rowland Geoffrey Hassall – great, great grandson of Jonathan Hassall - inherited the “Hassall of England” Coat of Arms from his father (“Top Hassall”) and was led to believe it was a Hassall crest or coat of arms. He is interested to know its origin and why it is different to the English Hassall Coat of Arms which was prepared for the 1998 Hassall Family Bicentenary.

there was no such thing as a family coat of arms, or a shield or badge. Arms are granted to an individual, sometimes with the ability for it to be used by certain descendants. This would mean that the Green Coat may have been produced by one of several companies engaged in the business of selling “family coats of arms”, usually with a frame.

The subject of the Hassall Family coat of arms was first raised in Newsletter 4, September 1996. This was updated in newsletter 6, August 1997, “Following several suggestions, the Committee has explored the possibility of establishing a special Bicentenary Arms, Crest and Motto in commemoration of Rowland and Elizabeth Hassall. The ‘Arms’ - presented here in black and white for the first time - can be used by all Rowland and Elizabeth Hassall descendants. We are indebted to the assistance and guidance of Niel Gunson and the heraldic artwork of Richard Barwick in the preparation of the arms. The draft design incorporates the basic arms and crest of the Hassall Coat of Arms shown in Newsletter No. 4, which

originates from medieval times.”

The Hassall Family’s “Australian Coat of Arms”, designed by Dick Barwick, an enthusiastic palaeontologist, displays the ship *Duff* to signify the mission to the South Seas, the Bible to indicate their missionary intent and spread of the Gospel, and a sheep’s head and sheaf of wheat to represent the family’s pastoral and agricultural interests. The motto reads ‘Semper Fidelis’ (Always Faithful).

Huon Hassall met with Dick on about four occasions during his preparation of the Coat of Arms. He was proposing an Australian Heraldic Society be formed so that Australians could submit “Coat of Arms” for registration, but this does not seem to have eventuated (see reference on page 2 of newsletter No 10).

For further information, try googling College of Arms, England (or Scotland) or Chief Herald, Dublin, Ireland. Australia does not have an official Heraldic Office. The Heraldry and Genealogical Society of Canberra- HAGSOC - may have information as well.

Armentieres sweetheart brooch

Judy Bassett has forwarded this item about a “sweetheart brooch” sent to Miss Ethel Atkinson by Raymond Langley Hassall (brother of Judy’s grandfather, Ernest Essington Hassall). The following summary is on the Australian War Memorial’s Website:



“This Armentieres sweetheart brooch was sent to Miss Ethel Atkinson by Lieutenant Raymond Langley Hassall. Atkinson was born in England in 1887 and emigrated to Australia in 1897 with her family. She studied at Sydney Technical College and also privately under Alfred Coffey. Later she returned to England to study china painting at Chelsea Art School in England. She returned to Australia by 1910 and exhibited her work with the Arts and Crafts associ-

ation of New South Wales and the Women's Industrial Arts Society. Atkinson established the Ceramic Art Studio with Ada Newman in 1916 in Sydney. There they made pottery and Miss Atkinson taught leatherwork and china painting.

Raymond Langley Hassall enlisted in the AIF on 26 May 1915. At that time he was a 36 year old mining engineer and was single. As a corporal with the 30th Battalion, 'D' Company and the service number 808, he embarked for Egypt on 9 November 1915 aboard HMAT Beltana, arriving there on 11 December. At Tel el Kebir, Egypt on 3 March 1916, the 5th Pioneer Battalion was raised with 550 men transferred from a variety of units. Hassall was among them and the next day he was promoted to sergeant. Three weeks later he was commissioned a second lieutenant.

On 19 June he embarked for France, arriving at Marseilles on 25 June. On 16 June he was promoted to lieutenant. Hassall served in France until February 1917 when he was admitted to hospital suffering

from mild deafness. He was eventually evacuated to England. In mid-August he returned to his unit in France but in December he was again evacuated to England with deafness, rejoining his unit in March 1918.

On Sunday 29 September, Hassall was working with the American Army near Bellicourt, repairing Red Road. He had finished his work and was returning to his unit when a shell exploded at his feet, severely wounding him in the right arm and leg. He was taken to the 53rd (British) Casualty Clearing Station, but died there at 12.30 am the next day.

In 1924 Atkinson returned to England with her father. There she visited arts and crafts schools and exhibitions. It is not known how Hassall and Atkinson met, or how long they had known each other before he died, but there seems to have been a strong connection between them, at least on Miss Atkinson's side, as while in England she travelled to France to visit his grave at Tincourt New British Cemetery. Back in Australia, she continued working with Ada

Newman, until Newman's death in 1949. Afterwards, Atkinson focused on water colours, until she could no longer continue due to arthritis. She died in 1991 at the age of 103."

Note: additional news about Raymond Hassall was featured in Hassall Family History Group Newsletter No 26, February 2010.

Journal of Rowland Hassall

Lucy Marshall writes from Auckland: "In the booklet *Mission to the South Seas* published by the History Department, University of Melbourne in 1990, Monograph No. 11, in the end section headed "Sources" on p. 170, Part 6: "Tahiti and Departure" a "Journal of Rowland Hassall for 1797-8" AJCP Reel 1 is listed. Some years ago I spent a couple of days at the National Library in Wellington attempting to locate this AJCP reel. Unfortunately, the numbering had been changed and although I was given a reel supposed to be the new number it was not the right one. I have always thought it would be most interesting to have Row-

land's own version of the events of those years. I have heard it stated that he was prepared to stay but the others over-ruled him as he was the only one who could operate the forge and the others believed he would become involved in inter-tribal war".

Origin of the Parramatta Sunday School Banner

Lucy C. Marshall has written about a "Sunday School Banner" associated with the Hassall family: "...It is mentioned in passing Margaret Reeson's book and I am pretty sure that she based her comments on a letter from Mary Hassall to her brother Thomas then in England, written in 1818. My impression has always been that it was embroidered at the Hassall home. I was aware of the banner years ago and its then current location at Canberra and regretted that, on one of my visits to Canberra for a conference years ago, I was not able to ask to see it."

"If its provenance in the Hassall household could be established – by reference to Mary's letter to Thomas in England in 1818 – an important factor to be considered would be that Elizabeth Hassall, the mother, was apparently the daughter of a silk-weaver and I have a note – unfortunately not referenced – that a grand-daughter remembered that Elizabeth 'had beautiful hands and kept them in fine order. When her father had a special order for ribbons for bridals she finished the tiny edges for him."

"If the provenance of the banner in the Hassall household could be established,

it would be logical to assume some input from Elizabeth Hassall in the design and execution considering her background in silk-weaving in Coventry."

Lucy C. Marshall

Which database to use?

A number of family members have digitised parts of the Hassall Family tree, and the Hassall Family History Group will eventually have to select an electronic platform that is useful to our members. Some recommend Family Tree Maker (FTM), available from ancestry.com.au, which is written & maintained by the Mormon Church. This site has a massive database to which you can subscribe. (this information from Robert Wiles).

Trove

At the Hassall Family History Group meeting at the State Library of New South Wales in January 2016, mention was made of Trove, a project of the Australian National Library to digitize Australian newspapers and other resources and make them available online. Trove is an invaluable resource for researching our family history. Jean Stewart reports: "I have been adding bits to my Hassall families. Trove is wonderful but tedious especially if the name is Hassall in any combination. However I have picked up a few more bits. I have almost completed Thomas, Samuel, Jonathan and Mary Cover and am about to embark on James....." (email to Huon and Fran Hassall 2 May 2016)

Research on the life of Amy Wilkinson

Linda Banks is writing a book on Amy Wilkinson nee Oxley, who went to China as a Missionary in the 1890's. Amy's mother was Harriet Hassall - daughter of Rev. Thomas, and her father was John Oxley Jnr. Linda has travelled overseas to do very interesting research. Amy was an amazing person. She married a Missionary Doctor, George Wilkinson, in Foochow and had two children there, Isabel and Marsden, and went to England with her husband when they retired. Linda has met her granddaughter in England and learnt much but she has been unable to find any information about any descendants of Amy's son Marsden Oxley Wilkinson, who came out to Australia in 1948, and lived in Ballarat. He had a daughter named Shuna, and died in 1965. Ellen Hope would like to hear from anyone who has knowledge of Marsden. The book is going to be very interesting, it will not be ready until 2017.

Ellen Hope

Family News

Penelope Jane Hassall.

With great sadness we note the untimely death of Penelope Jane Hassall. She was the wife of James Hassall the son of Keith and Penny (my first cousin), and we have been good friends for many years. (Penny, who also died too young, had the same first name of her daughter-in-law Penelope.) James Hassall's picture is on Page 35 of FM Hassall's WW1 Diary.

David N.H. Hassall

The Hassall Family History Group on Facebook

The Hassall Family History Group is on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/hassall/>

On this site you will find past newsletters, photos, and other updates.

Hassall Family History Group

Rowland and Elizabeth Hassall and their descendents, 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. There is no membership fee but donations are welcome to cover the group's activities. For further information write to Huon Hassall, secretary, P.O Box 472, Moruya, NSW, Australia, 2537, or email hfhassall@bigpond.com

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