

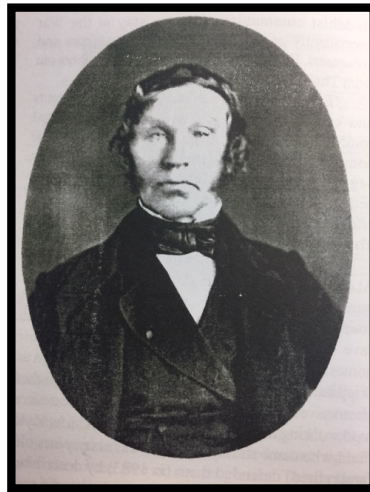


THE PICK OF THE GREAT NORTH ROAD

Pick Volume 3.9

Andrew Murray (1793 – 1858)

Ralph Hawkins



Andrew Murray was born on 22nd January 1793 at Greenwells, Melrose, Scotland the son of David Murray a farmer, and his wife Christiana (1). He was christened in Melrose on 13th March 1793 and named after his mother's father Andrew Buchan.

David Murray had married Christiana Buchan on 7th February 1790 at Bowden some three miles east of Melrose. He was aged 29 and his wife was aged 25. Their first child Christiana was baptised at Bowden on 21st February 1790. Andrew was their second child. The other children were all baptised in Melrose with the exception of the last who was christened in Castletown. (David, bapt. 16th Dec 1794; John, bapt. 26th Dec 1796; David, bapt. 29th Oct 1798)

Up until the age of twenty Andrew was employed by his uncle Walter Scott as gardener as Abbotsford (2). Scott secured the patronage of Lord Somerville for Murray but Somerville (in 1812) was unable to find an Overseer's job that Murray desired and recommended that Murray gain extra experience in London, so from 1813 Murray was employed in the nursery of Thomas Gibbs & Co, Nurserymen and Seedsmen who were located on the corner of Half Moon Street, in Piccadilly. Gibbs & Co were suppliers of seeds to the Board of Agriculture.



Gibbs has very kindly undertaken the charge of young Murray and when fit will send him forth. He was himself bred in the King's Garden at Kew so can get Murray all the benefit to be had from it: from thence it is all the best gardeners go forth. (3)

Walter Scott asked Murray whether he had any acquaintances in London where he could stay. If not, Scott would be able to arrange for someone to look after Murray till he could arrive at Lord Somerville's residence in the West End (4). Scott, in his last letter, further advised Murray:

This is the advantage which a well conducted young man has over those who have worse opportunities, that he acts from a feeling of foresight and precaution and therefore is more of a rational being than one who acts from the impulse of the moment. I trust you attend to get as much Latin as will enable you to understand the botanical terms which are more easily remembered when you know the meaning. You should also practice at arithmetic and mensuration which you may find very useful in future life. (5)

With Gibbs, Murray received further training in horticulture and was thus able to add a second string to his bow, along with his farming experience (6). It was here in early 1817 that Murray met John Macarthur who had returned from the Continent with cuttings of grapes and olives destined for his garden at Elizabeth Farm in Parramatta. John Macarthur sought Gibbs help in potting his new collection of plants and persuaded Murray to come out to the Colony with him.

The Lord Eldon sailed on 9th April 1817 with 215 male convicts and a detachment of the 46th Regiment. Murray tended some 120 potted plants in the greenhouse on board the Lord Eldon on the way out. The plants included the vines, olives, capers and figs, nuts of various kinds, liquorice plants and rhubarb, raspberries and strawberries and trees such as oak, ash, larch, elm, poplar, plane and willow. More plants were purchased at Rio de Janeiro. In September 1817 the Lord Eldon sailed into Sydney Cove and Macarthur, Murray and the plants went up river to Parramatta. Some of these English Oak Trees and a Cork Tree are still growing at Hambleton Cottage (7).

Murray married Eleanor Margaretta Kilpack at St John's Church Parramatta on 13th July 1818. Eleanor was born on 30th May 1795, her father David (dies 1799) had been an overseer of Macarthur's Farm at Pennant Hills. The witnesses were Richard and Sarah Longford. (Richard was ex-102nd Regt). The best man was William Stewart and the six year old Sophia Milson was one of the bridesmaids. (8)

Eleanor Murray under her maiden name of Kilpack had received a 60 acre grant on the recommendation of Elizabeth Macarthur being part of the subdivision of the old Castle Hill Government Farm in 1816. She sold the farm to James Milson in October 1826 (9). Once married Murray took up the position of Constable at the Cowpastures.

At this time Macarthur devised a successful scheme whereby the wild cattle at the Cowpastures could be tamed. The scheme was put into effect by George Johnston and it is probable that Murray gained a good deal of experience in helping out (10). During 1818 James and William Macarthur moved to the Cowpastures and together with Murray began to clear the property. At first only one acre was cleared and a small cottage erected (11).



The Murray's first daughter Christiana Sarah was born on the 6th April 1820 at Upper Minto and christened at St John's Church in Parramatta in December. On 21st Murray was assigned Miles Eastgate (Minerva, 14 yrs) as a Government Servant. In March 1822 Murray relinquished his post as Constable and took up an appointment as Overseer in the Government Domain in Parramatta.

The 1822 Land and Stock Return has Murray residing on his grant of 330 acres. Fifty acres were cleared; he had eight acres of wheat and 6 acres of barley, a garden and orchard of 1.5 acres. His livestock included 3 horses, 20 head of cattle and 20 hogs. He had 80 bushels of wheat in hand (12).

In November 1822 after experiencing a severe drought (1820-21) the previous season Murray, together with his brother-in-law James Milson and George Blaxland swam their stock across the Hawkesbury River to travel towards the Wollombi Valley. About 20 miles past the river crossing the party drafted the cattle and left Murray's stock behind to graze. The party pushed on to the Wollombi taking up Murray's Run, Blaxland's Arm and Milson's Run respectively (13).

Murray applied for a grant of 640 acres. This was listed on 2nd November 1826 but not made out. Murray named his grant Vinedale the rental vale of which was to be 5% of the value of the land. Any convict assigned to the owner was to be victualled at the owner's expense. The 640 acres became known as Murray's Run, a name it still bears. Murray had £857 in capital (14). His livestock included 25 milch cows, 32 heifers and 4 horses. On his farm he had a plough, a harrow, a cart and harness and a box of carpenters tools and other small implements (15).

In 1823 Murray was appointed Overseer of Government Stock and Government Dairy at Parramatta. He implemented a policy of pasure improvement purchasing 60lb of Dutch Clover seed at 2/6d, and five bushels of Rye Grass as 12/- for the Domain from Hannibal Macarthur in October 1825 (16). Murray was also responsible for supplying the Female Factory with milk. When the Female Factory was opened on its new site on the river Joseph Kenyon, a private farmer, had the contract to supply the milk, but upon Murray's arrival the Government Dairy supplied the milk at the rate of four pence a gallon. During the period 1st January 1824 to 30th September 1825 the Dairy supplied some 4,435 gallons of milk and earned 73 pound 18 shillings and four pence farthing (17). While working as Overseer at the Government Dairy, Murray probably built Brisbane Cottage opposite the Parramatta Wharf.

Murray at Pennant Hills

Murray sought and obtained a 280 acre grant at Pennant Hills, formerly part of Macarthur's old stock farm. The grant included the overseer's cottage where Eleanor Murray's father had worked. Murray had surveyed his portion himself and fenced it. He erected a two-room 'log' house and a barn 40 foot long (18). Murray further surveyed the farm into 30 acre allotments where tenant farmers (the majority Scotch ex-convict) farmed the land and paid Murray the rent. This land remained in Murray's hands until his death.

On the 29th January 1827, Murray's second daughter was born. She was christened Elizabeth Sophia at St John's Parramatta two months later.



Murray at Wollombi

Murray supplied scant details to the Constable collecting information for the 1828 Census. He is listed as David Murray, Came Free, Superintendent of Carters Barracks. He held 1280 acres of land (Vinedale, Wollombi) only five of which were cleared and cultivated he had 213 head of cattle. He employed James Dennis, (aged 34, GS, Prince Regent, 1820, L, Prot, labourer) to D. Murray, Murray Farm, Luskintyre; Richard Skinner, (aged 38, GS, Elizabeth 2, 1821, 14 yrs, Prot. Labourer) to D. Murray, Luskintyre. The overseer was John Ardill aged 16, born in the colony. Why Murray used his father's name at this time is unknown. In 1834 Murray was Superintendent of the Carters Barracks, of Grose Farm and Longbottom Agricultural Establishment (19).



The Culvert at Murray's Run on the Great North Road (Photo: M. Metzke)

Murray's Land at Wollombi

640 acres, Wollombi 'Vinedale'. Bounded by S. Wiseman, promised 2nd Nov 1826. (57/119)

640 acres, Wollombi, promised 7th Jul 1828, (57/197)

64 acres, Wollombi, 'Vinedale', promised 29th Oct 1830, (57/116)

36 acres, Wollombi, promised 29th Oct 1820, (57/120)

4th Mar 1840, Andrew and Eleanor to R.A.

Wiseman, 36+640+64+640 acres (1380 acres)

Wollombi, £500 (£2.15.0/acres), (R 291)

Murray at the Carter's Barracks

On 24th Nov 1827 Murray was appointed Overseer of the Carters Barracks at £127.15.0 pa which was increased to £150 pa in 1831. The Carters Barracks were situated near the toll bar at the bottom of Brickfield Hill and were established in 1819. They were capable of containing 180 convicts who were employed in taking care of the horses, carts and bullocks nearby. There was a stable for 90 horses near the barracks. About 1820, a separate barracks was established for boys with a small yard for coarse-carpenters, smiths and wheelwrights (20). Murray didn't reside in the Barracks but rented Ultimo Cottage nearby from John Harris. He was living at this address as late as 1836 (21). He wished to shield his daughters ears from the convicts bad language. At the Carters Barracks, Murray was responsible for the growth and supply of vegetables supplied to the Convict Gangs in Sydney.



This garden saved the Government upwards of £400 per annum. This gardening work would have been similar to what Murray had been doing in Parramatta. Murray was also in charge of the Government Treadmill, 200 prisoners, and the supervision of convict boys (who were harder to manage than the men), as well as the Lumber Yard, 40 to 50 Government horses, harness and carts (22).

Murray's position at the Carters Barracks was abolished in 1834 and Murray was offered the choice of two jobs – a similar job on Norfolk Island or a similar but temporary job at the Carter's Barracks. He refused the former as there were no facilities for his family and the rent and board in Sydney would absorb the extra pay. He refused the latter because he would have to live in the barracks with his family. He decided to retire (he was aged 41) instead to his farm and asked for a retirement allowance. This was refused because Murray had not taken up the employment options offered to him. After complaints, the matter was referred to England but the SW Government's decision was upheld.

On 18th Nov 1835 Murray was appointed Gaoler at the New Debtors Prison at the Carters Barracks on £100pa (23) but he was replaced on 1st Jan 1836 and in 1838 Murray finally retired (24). During this time, Murray purchased a piece of land and erected a pub.

Pulpit Hill

Murray may be the person who was licensee of the *Shepherd and Flock* on fifteen acres of land at Pulpit Hill in the Vale of Clwyd between 1835 and 1838. On the 9th February 1837 Murray mortgaged the hotel to James and William Byrnes of Parramatta for £184 (25). He mortgaged it again to Charles Wilson on 15th May 1838 for £350 (26). Murray finally purchased the site on 6th August 1838 (27).

His Convict Assignees 1837 were Ann Boyd, (aged 43, Fanny, 1833, A. Murray, Sydney); Joseph Brownich, (19, Burrell, 1831); James Horne, (37, Hindostan, 1821). On 10th February 1838 Murray paid £10 for a depasturing license to depasture his stock in the Wellington District, but the licence was not renewed the following year.

Move to Bathurst

While continuing to get rent from his farm at Pennant Hills, Murray branched out in another direction. He had sold his 1380 acres at Wollombi and now applied for a 500 acre grazing lease in County Georgiana in March 1844 (28). In 1853 Murray leased land at Rainham near Bathurst. Here he established a market garden and was probably responsible for the noted orchard and vineyard (29). It was from here that Elizabeth Murray was married in August of that year. He retained the lease until the property was sold in 1855. In this year Murray was on the founding committee of the Bathurst Agricultural, Pastoral and Horticultural Association (30). With the sale of Rainham, the Murrays returned to Parramatta.

Murray at Ultimo

Murray surveyed and collected the rents on the allotments in the subdivision of Macarthur's Ultimo Estate between 1837 and 1843 (31). This land, consisting of 99 allotments, lies on the north of Union Street. The first sale of land occurred in 1839 and the lots were snapped up because Sydney was at



the height of a building boom. There was a more cautious response when a further 58 lots to the north were put up for sale in 1840, though some were leased out as quarries (32).

Back at Parramatta

He transmitted a description of Byrne's eight allotments near the wharf at Parramatta in January 1842. Murray was a member of the first Parramatta District Council on 1843 (33). His interest in local government caused him to speak out against the incorporation of the town of Parramatta. He was one who believed the town could get the same benefits without the expense (34). Andrew Murray and James Byrnes stood for election for the seat of Parramatta in 1856 but were defeated by Parker and Oakes (35).

Further Land Purchases

In 1856 Murray purchased 155 acres of inferior land at Pennant Hills adjoining his farm on the east. He erected a two-room sandstone cottage still standing in Murray Farm Road. He also purchased 6 acres of land in the Parish of Alexandria on 6th March 1836 (32/235).

Andrew Murray Sells

8th November 1832, to A.B. Sparke, 600 acres + 250 acres at Wollombi Brook, Warkworth for £200. (E507 to be held by Sparke but used by Murray)

1833, to Edw. Drinkwater, lease 400 acres on Wollombi Brook, £140. F 526 (land conveyed from John Martin, brewer of Parramatta to A. Murray 4th Sep 1829, C 363)

27th January 1835, to Tim Brien 40p, Windsor Rd (purchased from John Beavan, G 852A)

12th November 1835, Thomas Graham, surrender mortgage, £188. (H 931)

18th January 1836, John Malcolm, 11p, Parish of St Phillip £800. (J 217)

21st July 1837, Edward Biddulph, lease, 1200 acres, Parish of Stockrington, NMI, £260. (L 573B)

28th October 1836, Murray & Martin to William Bowen, L&R, 400 acres, Ellalong £425. (O 715)

26th October 1840, John Martin lease house near Steam Engine Parramatta, (U 291)

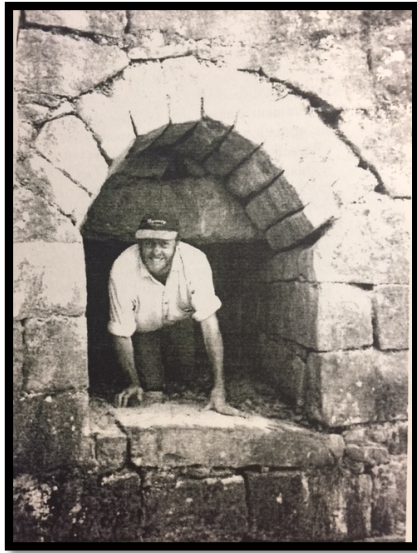
3rd February 1841, Andrew & Eleanor, L&R, Parish of St Phillip, £750. U 957

18th August 1841, Jame Dover, 263 acres, Parish of Neville, Co Bathurst, £177.10.6, Y 243 D Kell Ph St Phillip 5 per (4/877)

3rd July 1848, Andrew & Eleanor, Milsons to Tunks, 30 acres farm, Parish of Field of Mars, £95. (16/219)

24th March 1857, Thomas Harris, lease, 110 acres Harris Farm, 7 yrs, (49/57) H. Summerville, (49/998) C. McBrien, (49/99)





The author of this article on Murray climbs through the culvert at Murrays Run (Photo: M. Metzke)

His Last Days

Murray made his will on 20th February 1858. He dies on 21st May aged 65 years and was buried in the Kilpack family grave in St John's Cemetery Parramatta. In the church register his occupation is given as a stock holder.

He restoreth my soul He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness. For his names sake. Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of Death I will fear no Evil for Thou art with me. Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me. Psalm 23

Joseph Craig of Church Street Parramatta was the monumental mason.

Eleanor Murray dies on 18th May 1868 aged 73. Administration of Will was by Christina Sarah Davidson wife of Walker Rennie Davidson and goods were sword at under £4100.

Their two daughters Christina and Elizabeth survived them. Christina was born on 6th April 1820 at the Cowpastures and was married on 19th July 1836 at St James Church, Sydney to Walker Rennie Davidson (36). W.R. Davidson dies on 3rd Nov 1876 and Christina Sarah died on 8th May 1889 at *Ellengowan*, George Street, Parramatta, aged 69 (37).

Elizabeth was born on 29th January 1827 and marries Neil Stewart at *Rainham* on 15th Aug 1853 (38). She died on 5th January 1899 and he died at *Newlands* Parramatta on 28th Dec 1913, aged 96 (39).

Andrew Murray's Will

Murray's will consists of eight pages of handwriting and made the following requests and provisions:

That his remains be decently but not expensively interred in such Christian burial ground (if within a convenient distance) as may be fixed upon by my dear wife). Debts to be paid as



soon as possible after his decease. Executors to use money in Bank of NSW if necessary. Neil Stewart of Parramatta & James Milson Jnr, appointed executors. All household goods and furniture, books, plate, linen, china etc, horses, horned cattle and other livestock, carriages, gigs, carts, drays and harness, scientific instruments, gardening and farming implements to my dear wife. If my wife does not sell the above, then to Elizabeth Stewart. 5ac, Co Macquarie, farm 211 of Ellenborough Estate of 17 May 1849, to wife. 1 acre, 7 perches, George St, Parramatta, 13 Sep 1841 to my wide who will keep Insurance paid then property to Christina Davidson daughter. Harris Farm and Experiment Farm and eight acres adjacent to. 1248 acres, co Bathurst granted to me on 20 Feb 1839, to let with consent of Christina Davidson during my wife's lifetime. Christina to receive rents. After my wife's death to Christina Davidson. Other real estate to be sold. 2 rods land, Town of Bathurst, 7 Mar 1839 to Christina Davidson. 280 acres granted 13 June 1823 and 110 acres in Parish of Field of Mars of 10 Nov 1830, from Thomas Hackett and 155 acres, 12 Dec 1856 and 1 rod 38p at Double Bay, 20 Apr 1835 to Elizabeth Sophia Stewart etc His books, horse harness, scientific instruments and land to his wife (d 1868) and two daughters.

1. Information on headstone of Andrew Murray, St John's Cemetery Parramatta
2. Roy Godard, The Life and Times of James Milson, Sydney 1955 p46
3. Gibbs to Scott in Goddard, op. cit. p 166
4. Op. cit. Scott to Murray, 15th Feb 1813
5. Scott to Murray, c 25th Nov 1813 in Goddard, op. cit.
6. Goddard, op. cit. p 46 Letter of Walter Scott to Andrew Murray 22nd December 1812.
7. Macarthur Papers, ML A2897 Vol 1 p 249
8. Roy Goddard, The Life and Times of James Milson, Sydney 1955 p 46
9. Affidavit of Andrew Murray, 23rd December 1826 in Goddard, op. cit. p 164
10. Op. cit.
11. Sibella Macarthur Onslow, Some Early Records of the Macarthurs of Camden, Sydney 1914. P 314
12. SR NSW 4/1231
13. Goddard, op. cit. p 51
14. Return of Grants made in NSW during the year 1826, HRA Vol 13 p 7
15. Murray to Col Sec re land, SR NSW Reel 1166
16. Disbursements of His Excellency the Governor, S G 3rd October 1825
17. Auditor General's Accounts, 1st Dec 1821 – 31st March 1822, SR NSW 2/852. 1st Jan 1824 – 30th September 1825, SR NSW 2/814
18. Murray to Col Sec re land. SR NSW Reel 1116
19. Australian Almanac 1834 p 181
20. Bigge Report Vol 1 p 22
21. Marriage of Christina Murray 19th July 1836
22. HRA Vol 16 p 74
23. Returns of the Colony 1835
24. HRA Vol 19 p 452
25. Land Titles Office Vol L folio 205
26. Op. cit. Vol M folio 977
27. Op. cit. Vol66 folio 221
28. SMH 12th July 1844 p 3 col 3
29. SMH 2nd Jan 1926, George Oakes, pioneers of Bathurst Kelso, 1978
30. Theo Barker, History of Bathurst 1992 p225
31. Macarthur Papers ML CY Pos 774
32. Shirley Fitzgerald and Hilary Golder, Pymont and Ultimo, Sydney 1994 pp 26-7
33. Kass, Liston and McClymont, Parramatta a Past Revealed, Sydney 1996 p 149
34. SMH 7th June 1844
35. Kass, Liston and McClymont, Parramatta a Past Revealed, Sydney 1996 p 147



36. (113/20) The witnesses were Andrew Murray and Elizabeth and James Milson.
37. Issue- Walker Rennie, b 1845; Murray, b 1854, died 9.7.1888, aged 34; Emily Walker, not married; Isabella, not married
38. The witnesses were James Stewart of Mt Pleasant, George Ranken, William Lane Orton, Richard Manning of Bathurst and Andrew Murray of *Rainham* (336/81) Issue – Jane Mc Donald, b 1854, m Robert Betts, died 15th Feb 1939; Eustatis Mary, b 1857, m 1886 Arthur Milson; Eleanor Margareta, b 30.7.1857, died 11th April 1942; Mary M, b 1859; Janet Ann, born 2.3.1862, died 7th July 1949
39. Buried at Rookwood, Old Presbyterian Sect 2A Row 8 graves 3334-5

