



# TRIBUTE

MARCH, 2022

FREE PUBLICATION

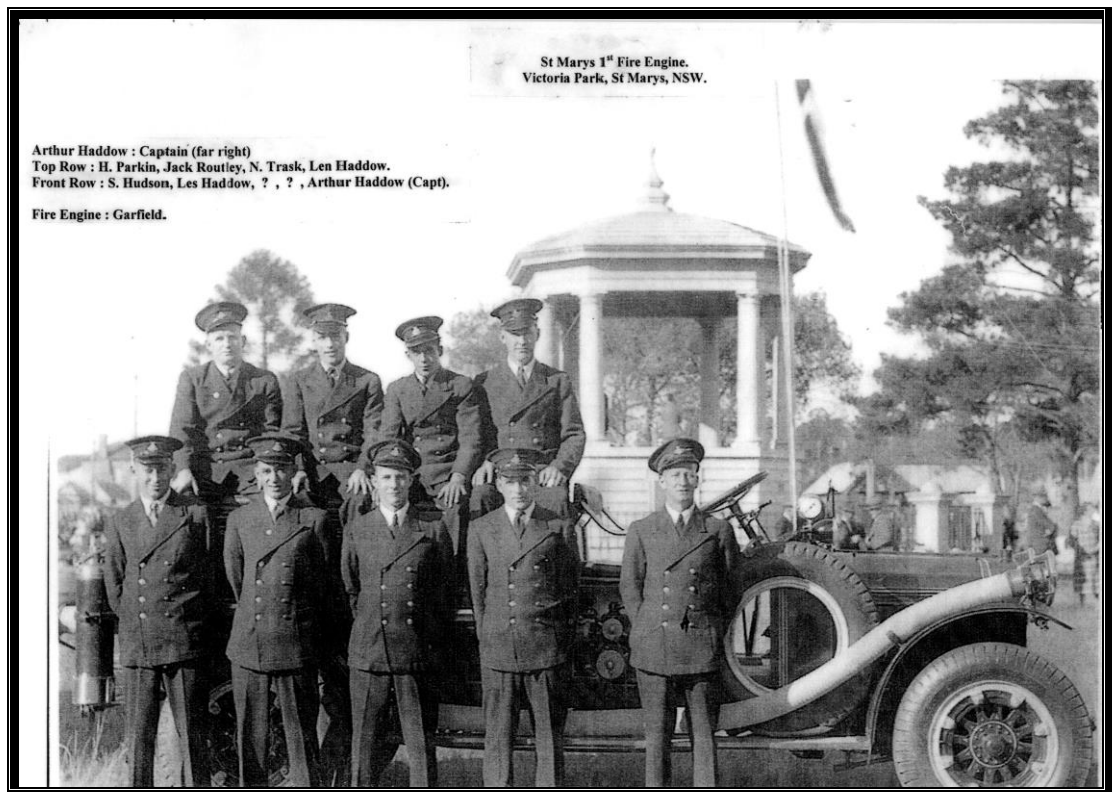
## St Marys & District Historical Society Inc. - Quarterly Newsletter

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*‘ Recording & Preserving the Heritage of St Marys ’*

The Society’s headquarters opened its doors to the public on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022. Our members are optimistic that 2022 will be a productive year as an abundance of documents, costumes and donated items are waiting to be collated and filed. We are encouraging visitors and groups to come along to view our displays. For example: St Marys Fire Brigade photographic display:



St Marys 1<sup>st</sup> Fire Engine.  
Victoria Park, St Marys, NSW.

Arthur Haddow : Captain (far right)  
Top Row : H. Parkin, Jack Routley, N. Trask, Len Haddow.  
Front Row : S. Hudson, Les Haddow, ? , ? , Arthur Haddow (Capt).

Fire Engine : Garfield.

### St Marys 1st Fire Engine Victoria Park, St Marys, NSW

Arthur Haddow : Captain (far right)  
Top Row : H. Parkin, Jack Routley, N. Trask, Len Haddow.  
Front Row : S. Hudson, Les Haddow, Unknown, Unknown, Arthur Haddow  
(Captain).  
Fire Engine : Garfield

# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENTS

## Guest Speaking – Member Norma Thorburn OAM



On Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March the Society welcomed our first group for the year. TOFS - Touring Old Farts Inc., is an incorporated not for profit social group for retired and semi-retired men.

On arrival the Society's president, Lyn Forde along with members Marie, Carol, Jackie and Eric offered the group a cuppa and biscuit to enjoy whilst listening to Norma's talk. Today's subject covered the first land grants at South Creek (St Marys) up until the 1950s and included the migrant hostel at the Dunheved Industrial Estate. Husband Tom assisted Norma with the projection of photographs.

After questions and comments, the group toured the Chambers enjoying our many displays. Later, we all enjoyed lunch at the St Marys & Diggers Band Club, overall, a great day.

Norma's talk can be accessed on the Society's Website link :  
<http://www.stmaryshistoricalsociety.com.au/conflecture.html>



Photo Courtesy of Touring Old Farts

## NOW ON PERMANENT DISPLAY

### A Reproduction of Lieutenant-Colonel Maurice Charles O'Connell's Uniform 73<sup>rd</sup> Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion



Recently, this reproduction was returned to where it was created by the members of the former Encore Historical Sewing Group, the Historical Society's headquarters.

In 2015 a male mannequin and the finished uniform was donated to the University of Western Sydney – Werrington Campus where it was officially handed over to "Frogmore House" that is part of the University and on the original land of the O'Connell estate.

*Sir Maurice Charles O'Connell* was born at Riverston, County Kerry in Ireland on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 1768. He arrived in Port Jackson with the 73<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of Foot accompanying Governor Macquarie in December 1809. As Lieutenant Governor Maurice played an important role in the early administration of the colony and was appointed a Trustee of the Female Orphan Institution and President of the Philanthropic Society. In May 1810 O'Connell married the widowed Mary Putland (Nee Bligh), the daughter of the former Governor, Mary was a wealthy and influential lady in her own right and owned 3,000 acres of land – several acres at St Marys being grants of "Frogmore" before her marriage and

"Coalee" for the marriage to Maurice O'Connell, along with land in Camperdown. Because of Mary's considerable influence over her husband regarding her attitude towards the colonists who opposed her in 1813, Macquarie arrange for the O'Connell's, along with the 73 Regiment to be transferred to Ceylon and they sailed the next year on the 26<sup>th</sup> March, 1814. Maurice had a distinguished career, being promoted to Colonel, then Major General in 1830 and knighted in 1835. Sir Maurice and Lady Mary returned to Sydney in 1838, Maurice having been appointed to command the military forces in New South Wales. He became a member of the Legislative Council and was nominated for a Colonial Order of Merit. During the winter of 1846, Maurice was acting Governor of NSW from the 12<sup>th</sup> July 1846 to the 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1846 and Lady Mary was once again a resident in Government House. In 1848 due to the frail health of Sir Maurice they were preparing to return to England when Sir Maurice suddenly died at their Potts Point mansion "Tarmons" in Darlinghurst on 25<sup>th</sup> May, 1848. The body was interred in the Devonshire Street cemetery (now the site of Central Station) but was later shifted to Camperdown Cemetery as the first burial in the new graveyard. Lady Mary spent some years in Paris before retiring to Spa in Gloucester in England where she died on 10<sup>th</sup> December, 1863. *Ref. from "The Encore Historical Sewing Group" – The making of Lieutenant-Colonel Maurice Charles O'Connell's Uniform – 73<sup>rd</sup> Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion.*

## **From Frogmore Farm to Werrington Park: A History of the Werrington Site, University of Western Sydney**

*Jack, R. I., & Liston, C. (1991). From Frogmore Farm to Werrington Park: A History of the Werrington Site, University of Western Sydney. Kingswood, N.S.W.: University of Western Sydney.*

### ***Abstract***

The Werrington site (part of the Kingswood/Werrington campus) of the new University of Western Sydney has seen a fascinating progression of Australia's economic, social and recreational history. Names well known in colonial politics are linked with the site and those early days of European history mark the beginning of a sequence of colourful changes. As the years passed, sections of the original land grants were used for prize cattle and stud farming; a golf course; a motorcycle race track; an airstrip; a guesthouse; an iron merchant's; a hobby farm. The land has been used by the army; it has been the site of an elegant country house; vineyards; gardens; a boys' home; and, from 1989, a university campus.



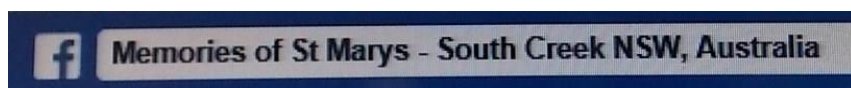
The St Marys & District Historical Society meets every 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month at 1 pm – at the St Marys Precinct “Chambers” Building – Mamre Road, St Marys.

**No meetings in January or December**  
**ALL WELCOME**

Open to the Public on Wednesdays & Saturdays from 10.00am - 2.00pm  
(meeting days till 1.00pm) and by appointment for Groups  
**Please contact: Lyn Forde: 8840 8771 / Guest Speaker - Norma Thorburn: 9623 2307**  
Patron of our Society is Kerrie Davies.

Back issues of the “Tribute” can be found on our website at  
[www.stmaryshistoricalsociety.com.au](http://www.stmaryshistoricalsociety.com.au)

This Newsletter is a free publication. Articles in this Newsletter may be republished if permission is given by the Society.



(While care is taken to ensure that all articles are accurate, the opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Society.) **Any comments on this Newsletter are encouraged.**

**PLEASE, DON'T THROW OUT AUSTRALIAN HISTORY. OLD PHOTOGRAPHS, BOOKS, LETTERS, RECEIPTS, DOCKETS, NEWSPAPERS & MAGAZINES. IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING YOU ARE NOT SURE ABOUT PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY.**