

KM at Pittwater

Pittwater

*“Let the devotee extol thee,
And thy wondrous virtues sum,
By the worst of names I’ll call thee,
O thou hydra monster rum”*

1828 Kennedy now aged 61 is discovered living on three acres at Pittwater with John Murray aged 17 and Ann Haines/Haynes. He is listed as coming free on the *Harrington* 1805 a Protestant labourer at Pittwater. Ann Haynes is a 40 year old Protestant woman who arrived on the *William Pitt* in 1806. She was sentenced to seven years transportation at Middlesex in 1804, she received 7 years Transport, she, is listed as the housekeeper to Kennedy Murray. Kennedy was arguably not in need of a housekeeper.

The area they lived is called Coasters Retreat in Pittwater, Kennedy, Ann and John resided in a group of three huts almost on the beach on The Basin flat. These huts are marked out in a surveyors report by James Larmer in 1832. Kennedy was not living in the huts after 1830 so it is possible that he lived here for sometime before the 1828 muster, the huts became, to be commonly known as his, as they are marked out on the map as “Kennedy Murray’s Huts”. This also might indicate that he was well known in the area and perhaps a bit of an eccentric.

On the 6th of March 1788 Philip visited the area and named it “Pitt Water” he recorded.

It is the finest piece of water which I ever saw, and which I honored with the name Pitt Water... It is of sufficient extent to contain all the Navy of Great Britain, but it has only 18’ at low water on a narrow bar which the land might be cultivated. We found small springs of water in most of the coves and saw three cascades falling from a height which the rains then rendered inaccessible

The Basin is a beautiful area nestled on the edge of the Ku-ring-gai National Park and reached by ferry from Palm Beach. It was here that the convoys were formed up, the cargoes trimmed for the voyage down the coast. The first recorded convoy left the shelter of Coasters Retreat on 3rd of March 1803 it was made up of four vessels, the *James*, the *Edwin*, the *Union* and the *Argument*

The area was also retreat for the Coasters or (small boats) that carried goods between the Hawkesbury and Sydney. In rough weather the coasters would anchor at Coasters Retreat and await fine weather to head out into the open ocean for the trip to Sydney.

...the small colonial populations living at the Basin began the construction of an elaborate series of terraces cut into the hillside on the northern slope of the hill west of the Basin flat.

It is not possible to document when the terraces were constructed but it is a reasonable guess that it was as a result of the great floods of 1806 and 1809. Those floods would have put the Basin flat metres under water and during the period there were a number of convoys which used the Retreat.

With nothing much to do while the crews were waiting for the weather to allow them to leave for Sydney, it was natural that the levelling of the large residential terrace should have been a focus for their energies.

At a height of about 30 metres above the level of the flat and only about 15 metres in from the flat itself, the residential terrace commences. Its width varies but averages about 10 metres and is still almost perfectly level. This main level stretches along the hillside for more than 80 metres. The length and width of the main terrace is such that there was room for several sets of houses of the style and construction in common use in the early days of the colony which would have been built from the many varieties of timber in the area.

The community at Coasters Retreat was made up of "...ex-convicts, escapees, rum smugglers, illicit distillers and drop-outs from the severity of life in Sydney and at Parramatta"

The terraces were essential to survival of the residents. The Basin flat was useless for cultivation as it was virtually a sand dune with a scrappy overlay of poor soil, this is where Kennedy Huts and three acres of land or rather sand were, most of the other residents in the area chose to live in houses built on the terraced slopes above there the soil on the lower hillside was excellent as it is semi-rain forest and deep in leaf mould and rich black loam. Without the terraces any cultivation of the soil would have led to the tilled area being washed away in the periodic heavy rains common to the Hawkesbury coast. An engineered drainage system, open but with sandstone faced sides and base, was built to ensure that the living area and the terraces were not damaged.

Kennedy's new partner, Ann Haynes, had led an eventful life since arriving in the colony. She was involved with a number of convicts including James McCarr who she lived with in 1820, McCarr's grant was in what is now Cowan Creek but in 1820 was (McCarr's Creek) named after him, he and Ann had a convict assigned to work for them a Jim Crane.

(Boddington), Smith B & Smith Mary BC 8yrs 1822 muster, McGrath, Judd, William Morgan (Arrived as convict joined Army), Murray

It is unknown who built the huts, back in the early days prior to 1820, It was common for the shell miners to live in Huts along the river, the shells they collected were sent to Sydney and Windsor, there burnt and used to make mortar for the stone buildings that were going up all over the Town of Sydney and Windsor, the miners had built crude huts for many years along the foreshores of Pittwater and the lower Hawkesbury. Kennedy's Huts were most likely shell miners Huts and he simply moved into them. He does appear to have been a squatter at the Basin and once he had vacated the huts, they were used by others. In 1870 Mary Ann Morris (Sally) acquired them and lived there for another fifty years so they must have also been fairly sturdy. The Huts were finally demolished in 1963.

James Macken states that he stayed in the huts for school holidays in early 1920's this being before Warragamba dam was built the water flowed over basin flat at waist deep.

Besides the collecting of shells other employment in Pittwater area was logging, where trees were cut up and used for roofing shingles the shingles were also sent to Sydney, the residents would have fished, performed small repairs on the Coasters in the bay, on Scotland Island Andrew Thompson had a salt works and a slip way for the construction of Coasters.

At the salt works on the island Thompson extracted salt from seawater by means of an oil burner. He was able to extract 200 lbs (90 kgs) of salt a week. Kennedy would have found work labouring in most of these areas. It was also rumored Thompson operated an illicit still on Scotland Island.

After Thompson's death, the island was offered for sale in 1813, 1814 and again in 1815 when it was divided into thirteen lots. In the Sydney Gazette of 21st of August 1819 Scotland Island is again on the market but was not sold. In 1868 a stranger appeared at Pittwater to lay claim to Scotland Island stating his father had purchased it in 1819. The Sydney Gazette advertisement of that year declares that the island is the property of R.A. Murray. The stranger claimed his name was D'Arcy Wentworth Latrobe Murray. He stated his father had been Secretary to the Duke of Kent, Queen Victoria's father. He claimed to be in possession of letters sent by the Duke to his father after the latter had come to Australia. Murray claimed he had come expressly to Australia to give the letters to Prince Alfred, the Duke of Edinburgh, and then touring Australia, so they might be returned to the Queen. Murray also hoped the Prince might obtain a government appointment for him in New South Wales. The Duke of Kent died on 23rd of January 1820 six days before King George III and the brothers were buried at night at Windsor.

Murray was not successful in his claim.

The William Pitt took 222 days to arrive at Port Jackson. It departed Falsmouth on 10th of August and then Cork on 31st of August and then finally sailed from England on 1st of September 1805. The ships master was John Boyce the Surgeon was Jos Blyer They stopped at Madeira and San Salvador. It dropped off troops at the Cape on 4th of January 1806 in its long boats. They ships log records the sounds of gunshots as the Dutch and English armies engaged in battle. Smallpox raged aboard the ship for 2 months

Ann had seen both sides of the Law, once as a witness in Court in 10th of June 1820 after she and James McCarr had been robbed by a Bushranger named James Newcombe, who she invited to stay?, who was arrested by John Williams the district Constable of Broken Bay. The other being when she was charged herself, on 8th of July 1821 where she was charged with, Stealing Wheat Sheaves out of he field, the property of John William's of Broken Bay, who would appear to be the same John Williams district Constable of Broken Bay. This may have been the link between Ann and Kennedy as they both were charged for stealing from people of high standing in the Courts.

*Proceedings at Windsor 10th June 1820
Before W Cox Esquire, John Brabyn Esquire and Sir John Jameson*

James Newcombe a prisoner and runaway the 2nd time from the Goal River and also charged with having given false information to the Magistrate, related to the murder of Samuel Cook thereby xx to implicate several persons in and therefore to so the to evade punishment charged with stealing of different property from the Dwelling house of James McCarr being duly sworn on or about the 22nd or 23rd day of May last a boat belonging to informant was from her moorings in Broken Bay with she Ors and Sails also one feather bed, two Blankets, one Mill, one flour Siva, one large chest with linen and Woman's apparel, particularly, one gown, several bed gowns, one pair of stockings, one Countupane, one Shirt, two razors, one hone, one ink bottle one small bottle of sweet oil, two chisels, two hammers, one brace and bit, two gunblets one tomahawk, one axe one hoe, one plane, One Bucket, one large pan, one wooden bowl, several cups and saucers, a tea pot, one saucepan, a quantity of things, soap, pens and needles, two knives and two forks, about 8 bushels of corn, one bushel and a half of Wheat 8 Goats one of which had been killed, a small quaintly of Salt, a number of rice Bags, one looking glass and supplies, two combs, one gouge, three yards of calico, one apron of Print and his return from Sydney

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Sydney on the Tuesday 28th of May he found the place plundered and this above things missing. James Gribble brought the Prisoner to the house when he borrowed his Boat.

James Mc Carr

Ann Haynes states that she live with McCarr who being duly sworn. States that she lost at the above time two bed gowns, that she left the house on Tuesday the 22nd of May in the evening leaving the house in charge of the Prisoner. That the boat having been lent to James Gebble, the Prisoner brought the same from the said James Gebble who he stated was his Master. That being the hour at the time she requested the Prisoner to remain in her place till he returned.

Her

Ann X Haynes

Mark

John Williams district Constable of Broken Bay being sworn that's the coming for Broken Bay to Windsor on the 22nd May last 2 natives informed him that a Bushranger was in Mangrove Creek and that he has robbed McCarr of his boat and of different kinds of property.

That with their xx he apprehended the said runaway and found in his possession the articles mentioned xxx the prisoner acknowledges that he was left in charge of McCarr house and had taken away the things. He according brought him to Windsor and logged him in Goal. He also brought the Boat and the things mentioned the said list John Williams.

The Prisoner committed for trial at the next Criminal Court and into for James McCarr Ann Haynes and John Williams to prosecute.

List aforesaid above

One Boat two Oars and two Sales

Three Large Goats and Three Small Goats

One Bed and Two Blankets

One Steal Mill and one Sieve

One Axe one Hoe one

Two bed gowns and one long Gown

One Tea Pot three tea cups and saucer one Beson

Windsor Court 454

Be It Remembered, on the Twentieth day of June in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty. James McCarr of Broken Bay aforesaid, in the said County and Ann Haynes living with the said James McCarr of Broken Bay aforesaid, County aforesaid and also John Williams of Broken Bay in the said County came before me William Cox Esquire, one of His Majesty Justices Of The Peace in and For the Said County, and acknowledge themselves. To owe our Sovereign Lord King that is to say, The said James McCarr, Ann Haynes and John Williams the sum of twenty pound each of good and lawful money of Great Britton, to be reward and levied roe the goods and chattels. Lords and testaments respectfully, to the use of our said Lord the King his heirs and successors of the said James McCarr, Ann Haynes and John Williams shall make default in this condition hereunder writer.

The condition of the above obligation is such that the above James McCarr Ann Haynes and John Williams shall appear at the next court of Criminal Jurisdictions of Sydney in the aforesaid County and then and there prosecute, James Newcombe charged with having Stolen a quaintly of different property out of the dwelling house of the said James McCarr and Ann Haynes then this mention is to be void otherwise remain in full force and effect

Signed

James McCarr

her

Ann X Haynes

Mark

John Williams

Sydney Court 456

Be it remembered that John Wylde Esquire the judge advocate of the sovereign Lord King of the Territory of New South Wales and it's dependencies who for our said Lord The King exhibits the charge in this behalf comes into the Court of Criminal Jurisdiction convened at Sydney in the said territory by xxx under the said hand of his Excellency Governor Macquarie dated the seventh day of June in the year of our lord one thousand and eight hundred and twenty one having power to inquire fo and to hear and determine and punish all Treasons under felonies, trespasses and their crimes what so ever committed within the said territory on it's dependencies and for our said lord the King charges and gives the said Court to be informed that James Newcombe late of broken Bay in the territory of New South Wales xx on the twenty third day of May in the in the year of our Lord one thousand and twenty with force and arms at Broken Bay aforesaid one feather bed of the value of twenty shillings, two Blankets of the value of two shillings, one steet Mill of the value of five Shillings one flour of the value of five shillings, one chest of the value of five shillings one gown of the value of ten shillings three bed gowns of the value of six shillings, one gounlerparie of the value

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of five shillings one shirt of the value of five shillings two razors of the value of two shillings one hone of the value of one shilling one ink bottle of the value of six pence one bottle of sweet oil of the value of two shillings two chisels of the value of two shillings two hammers of the value of two shillings one brace and bit of the value of one shilling one tomahawk of the value of one shilling one axe of the value of one shilling one blade of the value of one shilling one plane of the value of one shilling one bushel measure of the value of one shilling one pan of the value of six pence one bowl of the value of six pence six cups and six saucers of the value of three shillings one teapot of the value of one shilling one brown pot of the value of three shillings one saucepan of the value of one shilling and two knives and two forks of the value of two shillings eight bushels of corn of the value of twenty shillings one bushel of wheat of the value of three shillings seven goats of the value of thirty shillings six bread bags of the value of ten shillings one looking glass of the value of five shillings one gauge of the value of one shilling three yards of calico of the value of three shillings and one apron of the value of one shilling.

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of the goods and chattels of one James McCarr, and one Gown of the value of three shillings, and two old gowns of the value of five shillings of the goods and chattels of one Anne Hayes in the dwelling house of the said James McCarr then and there being found then and there in the same dwelling house feloniously did steal take and carry away against the XXX of the statute in that case made and provided and against the peace of our said Lord The King his crown and dignity and the said Judge advocate gives the said court to be further informed that the said James Newcombe afterwards XXXX on the said 23^d day in the year of our lord one thousand and twenty with force and arms at broken bay aforesaid in the territory aforesaid one boat of the value of three pounds two ores of the value of five shillings and two sails of the value of ten shillings of the goods and chattels of the said James McCarr then and there being found then and there feloniously did steal take and XXX away with against the peace of our said lord the king his crown and dignity

July 8th 1820 Saturday Sydney Gazette

Criminal Court

The Court met again on Tuesday.

James Newcombe was then arraigned for feloniously stealing a Book and other property (being the whole contents of his house), from the premises of James McCarr; and being found Guilty, was sentenced 14 years to Newcastle.

James Newcombe arrived on the "Surrey" in 1814 he is list as disembarked on 18th August 1814 and sent to Windsor for distribution then on 9th June 1818 James find himself in trouble and is sent, as a prisoner to Newcastle on the "Lady Nelson" he is listed as Newcomb. In October 1818 James is listed on the monthly returns of prisoners punished at Newcastle. Then in the same month on the 2nd he is listed as a run away. He must have made his way to Sydney and on the 31st August 1819 he claimed his sentence had expired.

He is then in court 15th April 1820 after cleaning out Ann's house and he is sentenced to be transported to Newcastle for 14 years, on the 27th July 1820 he was transported on board the "Princess Charlotte" he is listed as a shoemaker. Then on 27th April 1822 he is listed as a runaway again, this time from Port Macquarie he was brought in at Newcastle. James is Sydney gaol in May 1822 this time to be sent to Hobart in Van Diemen's Land per the "Elizabeth Henrietta". There is no more records on him after 1822 maybe Hobart town slowed him down, as Port Arthur did not open until 1833.

*Proceedings at Windsor
13th January 1821*

*Before
James Williams Esquire
John Brabyn Esquire
A ? Esquire*

The King against Ann Haynes

Charged with Stealing Wheat Sheaves out of the field, the property of John William's of Broken Bay.

Henry Toodworth Government Servant to John William's District Constable of Broken Bay having sworn states that he was left in charge of his Masters place during his absents to Sydney. That lately he discovered the Prisoner taking Wheat in Sheaves off his Masters ? That his Masters lost 28 Sheaves of Wheat. Prisoner was in a boat and there was a man with her of Broken Bay.

The Prisoner lives with James Mc Garth. That on Departments giving this information to his Master the Prisoner was apprehended by John William's his said Master.

*Henry his Woodworth
X
Mark*

John William's District Constable of Broken Bay being sworn states that on the information given by the last. ? He went to the home of James Mc Garth and apprehended the Prisoner.

The Prisoner Committed For Trial. 24th July 1821.

New South Wales

To wit

Be it remembered that John Wylde Esquire the Judge Advocate our sovereign Lord the King for the Territory of New South Wales and its dependencies who for our said Lord the King exhibits the charge in his behalf comes into the Court of Criminal Jurisdiction convened at Sydney in the said Territory by (fozecept) (if cied) under the hand and seal of his Excellency Governor Macquarie dated the twenty first day of March on be thousand and twenty one and having power to enquire of and to hear and determined and furnish all Treasons, Murders, Felonies (Tercepalsex) and the other crimes whatsoever committed within the said territory or its dependencies and for our said Lord the King charged and guilt the said court to be informed that Ann Haynes late of Broken Bay in the Territory of New South Wales xx on the Twenty First Day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eighteen hundred and twenty one with force and arms at Broken bay aforesaid in the Territory aforesaid twenty eight sheaves of wheat of the value of twenty shillings of the goods and chattels of John Williams there and then being found there and then did feloniously steal and take away against the beau of our said Lord the King his Crown and Dignity.

On the 1st of May 1826 a report written by the Archdeacon Scott to the Governor Darling, notes Hawkesbury river residences (*Probably people living around Pittwater*) were burying their dead in their gardens without a minister as he was 40 miles away, the residences stated they could no wait for the minister as the bodies would not keep.

Sometime in 1830 Kennedy Senior moves on to Van Diemens Land and to Kennedy Junior home in Evandale.