



the balmain
association
incorporated
news sheet

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Uncovering Our Past

A house and its story

Looking at the early history of a house and the occupants is a fascinating task which house-holders could undertake for themselves. No 13 Johnston Street, Balmain has an interesting past which is revealed in official documents and private papers.

John Hosking purchased land in the first land sale in 1836, the area from the bay up to Darling Street and between Johnston and Union Streets for £200.18.3. In November 1844 a Surry Hills market gardener, John T Baptist, bought lot 15 on which the house at 13 Johnston Street stands. Baptist re-sold to a Sydney plasterer, William Richardson in January 1845 and he built a substantial weather-board house, *Dunsley Cottage*. Richardson sold the property in 1854 for £275 to Captain Thomas Tinley, a Yorkshire man who had been a tenant of *Frederick Cottage*, site 70-72 Darling Street.

The Captain had brought the schooner *Thomas Crisp* from London in 1841 and was master of ships such as the *Marian Watson* and the brig *Matha* on the Hobart run. He also took the barque *Orwell* to the South Seas for sandalwood and the *Star of China* to New Zealand between 1842 and 1845. Tinley expanded from being shipmaster to shipowner and his vessels the *Mountain Maid*, *Ocean Queen* and *William Alfred* plied the Australia – New Zealand run.

Tinley married in 1842 to Eliza Neestrip at St Andrews Scots Church, Sydney. Their son Thomas Matthew was born in 1844. Thomas M and his wife Elizabeth Newport were to have six children all born in Balmain.

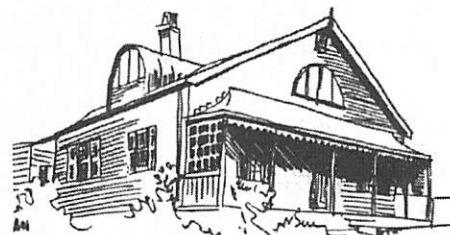
Captain Tinley set sail in the *William Alfred* on 28th September 1860 with a cargo of his own goods to sell in Wellington. Four day before setting

out on the journey, he made his will, naming his wife and son, as beneficiaries. The Captain however, never reached New Zealand.

Tinley's friend, the Reverend Watkins, a missionary in New Zealand, wrote in his journal on 24th November 1860: *There are fears for Captain Tinley. Eight weeks away and no word of him. I cannot realize the fact that he can be lost. I hope it is not so. Poor Mrs T. poor Tom*. Three days before Christmas 1860 he noted sadly: *'No news of Capt T. I am afraid the sea has swallowed him up'*.

Captain Tinley was presumed to have been lost at sea and probate granted in February 1861. A memorial was placed in the Devonshire Street, Cemetery: Thomas Tinley Master Mariner lost at sea in the *William Alfred* about 5th October 1860, 52 years. Mrs Tinley lived with her son Thomas and family at *Dunsley Cottage*, until her death on 4th May 1905 age 86 years. Daughter-in-law Elizabeth died on 4th June 1896 and both were buried in the Old Balmain Cemetery, the area now Pioneer Park, Norton Street Leichhardt. Neither name was included in the cemetery index, so always check the burial register. Thomas M Tinley died on 15th July 1915 and as Captain Tinley's memorial stone had been removed to the Old Wesleyan Section, Rookwood Cemetery in 1901 when the Devonshire Street Cemetery had closed, Thomas M was buried there and all names recorded.

The property passed through numerous hands until the owner in 1978 undertook restoration. Borer damage had been severe and the rare Huon Pine timber lining was totally destroyed but the cedar joinery, staircase and marble fireplaces were saved. All bricks and nails are hand-made and the foundations are of local stone. The original timber shingles are under the iron roof of the veranda.



Some of Captain Tinley's accounts were found behind the wall linings where they had lain since 1859 – newspapers dated that year were used as backing for the wallpaper.

The present owners kindly invited two of the history committee to view the building.

Begin to research your house yourself. The history committee will assist.

Source: Newssheet February 1981. Leichhardt Historical Journal No 14. Peter Reynolds. Old Balmain Cemetery Index. History Group.

Subscriptions

Some member's subscriptions are due. On the address may be the sign 12/02. Local postage was increased during the year and the cost will increase to 50 cents in January 2003 but there is no increase to the yearly fee. Would any member be interested to receive the Peninsula Observer by e-mail?

Christmas Drinks

You are invited to join us to a Festive drink 'on the house' on 14th December. 1pm to 3pm.

Best Wishes for Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**HOLIDAY
CHEERS!**

The Sands

In hobbies, sports, clubs etc one has to understand the jargon and so to the study of family and house history, the first jargon one hears is 'have you looked in The Sands'? This reply to an enquiry can produce some quizzical looks. 'What's the Sands'. The Sands Directory was published from 1858 to 1932 by John Sands, bookseller and stationers of 392 George Street, Sydney and who was John Sands?

John Sands came from a long line of noted engravers, who was born in Sandhurst, Berkshire, England in 1818. After serving his apprenticeship as an engraver and map-colourer, Sands came to Sydney in 1837 for the sake of his health with stationery valued at £550 and set up a retail business in George Street. In 1848 he took over Mary Reibey's house and shop front, next to the General Post Office where the firm operated until 1970.

John Sands married Marjory nee Moffat in Sydney on 6th December 1850 and they were to have five sons and a daughter. Sands died at his residence, *Marmion*, Waverley on 16th August 1873, survived by his wife who died in 1904. Sands was re-interred in Waverly cemetery from Rookwood cemetery on the death of his wife.

Sands formed several partnerships in Sydney and in Melbourne with his

brother-in-law Thomas Kenny. It was Sands & Kenny, bookseller and stationer who produced the 1858-1859 address Directory, printed by F Cunningham, King Street, Sydney.

The firm's advertisement carried the 'hourglass' trademark and stated: Beg respectfully to solicit the attention of customers and the public generally to their present carefully selected stock, embracing, Standard Books of General Literature and a supply of every new works published in England is received by them, including Juvenile books and educational works. Bibles, Prayers and Church Services and handsomely bound Family Bibles. Supplies of their own brand of fine pencils free from grit, 6d each, 4s6d doz. Stationery Cabinets, Cash-Boxes, Pewter Inkstands, artists' and drawing materials, copying press.

Each issue of the Directory listed householders, businesses, public institutions and officials of the entire Sydney and some country areas in some issues, in a format which varied during the 74 years of publication. The information was collected by Sands agents who called door to door and is open to error but a good source for research.

The two major components of the Directory were the Alphabetical and the Suburban sections. The former section consists of a single sequence of all names with addresses. The latter section provides similar information arranged variously under suburb, locality or local Government

Area as the Directory developed. In 1880 the format of the Suburb section arranged entries by street names, listing occupants according to the position of the premises occupied. In Balmain, house numbers were introduced in 1887 and renumbered in some streets in 1916. House names were important in the earlier years to identify the owner.

By working backwards from 1932 and noting down the details of an individual property for each year that it is listed in the Sands, a chronological profile of the occupants of a property can be built up. The earliest date a property appears may be an indication when the land was developed and so a circa date can be derived. The listing generally only included the head householders not necessarily owners.

For the family historian, the Alphabetical section is a wonderful source for research as their calling was sometime included and the house name can give an indication to their homeland. Micro fiche of 'the Sands' are available at Balmain and Leichhardt Libraries.

In 1881, John Sands Ltd was one of the first to print Christmas cards and New Year cards in Australia. The first card at a price of 1s 3d, was listed as 'Little girl offering a Christmas pudding to a Swagman.' Today John Sands is the largest greeting card company in Australia.

Source: Sands Directory. Glebe Society Bulletin April 2002. ADB.

Shared Traffic Zones

Something has to be done to allow emergency vehicles access in our narrow streets as well as pedestrians. The only satisfactory solution is shared traffic zones. Unfortunately their expense has frightened the Council Planning and Engineering officers. However, there are some alternatives to the detailed requirements. On the Balmain Peninsula there is widespread use of sandstone block kerbing. The expense of removing this kerbing is much less than concreted kerbs. Moreover most streets are across the grade and drainage could be accommodated on the lower side of the street in open gutters. The traditional approach to drain shared traffic zones is for underground piping and that is where the cost blows out.

Callan Park

Friends of Callan Park are claiming complete vindication of the community campaign to protect Callan Park with the passing of the Callan Park (Special Provisions) Bill introduced by MP Sandra Nori. Several amendments in the Legislative Council addressed the major loopholes that allowed long term leases among other issues. Activities in Callan Park would now be restricted to education, health and community issues.

Ms Nori said she was stunned by losing agreement on aged-care facilities within the existing buildings. The Govt bill ruled out SEPP5 aged-care housing and a government amendment prevented retirement villages. The next step will be the formation of a trust to manage Callan Park.

Photos at the Watch House

Photographs from the Balmain Association's archives will be on display each Saturday from 7th December to 25th January 2003. 11am to 3pm. Entry Free.

Research your house/local family history. Volunteer a couple of hours greet our visitors to the Watch House..

Carols at St Johns

On Sunday 8 December at 6pm Nine lessons and Carols with the Inner West Chamber Choir at St Johns Church, Birchgrove Road.

Christmas Eve 11pm Solemn Eucharist and Carols. Christmas Day 7.30am Eucharist and Carols. 9.30am Sung Eucharist and Carols.

All welcome.

Robert Klippel (1920-2001) Artist/Sculptor

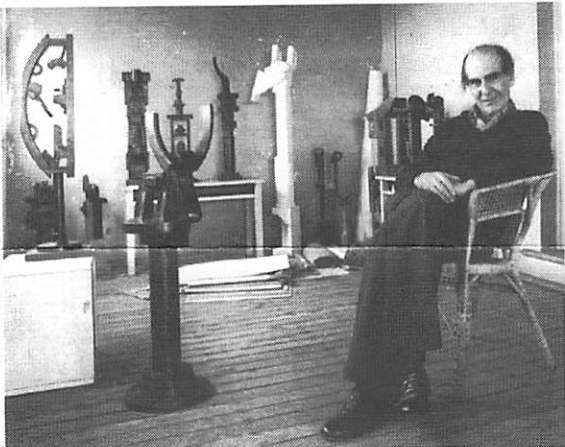
The Art Gallery of New South Wales held a Robert Klippel Retrospective from August to October 2002. Robert Klippel produced the greatest body of work by an Australian sculptor with more than 1,200 sculptures during the six decades of his active creation and possibly 5,000 drawings, paintings and collages. Klippel rarely gave titles to his sculptures, preferring to use the term *Opus*, meaning *a work*, with a number indicating the order of completion. Two 1948 Surrealist works of the collection of wood and jigsaw part assemblage were gifts to the Gallery by the Art Gallery Society in 1970. The large outdoor bronze which, until recently, has been located on the Gallery's ground floor sculpture terrace, was the Society's Bicentennial gift.

Klippel did not initially see his path as an artist as he had envisaged his career in a trade related to his father's textile business of Clipper ties and Cravats. His interest as a carver and assembler of model ships from the age of six years was developed during WWII when he served in the Navy and because of his skill in making miniature ships he was asked to make models of boats and planes that were used in recognition exercises. In 1946 he commenced art classes at East Sydney Technical College but shortly moved to London and Paris. After a short return to Sydney in 1950 he travelled to Amer-

ica where he lived for several years and taught sculpture at the Minneapolis School of Art. It was during this period of the early 1960s that Klippel first used patterns and machine parts in his metal assemblages. He returned to Australia permanently in 1963 and from 1968 for the next 33 years he lived at his Birchgrove home *Clovernook* built c1861.

Klippel lived most of his life in Sydney and since 1968 at 43 Wharf Road, Birchgrove. Inspired by industrial cranes of Sydney's docklands he constructed his first major statement in welding metal. He worked with stone, wood, metal, plastics, junk, found objects and machinery parts and using the techniques of carving, casting, welding construction and assemblage. His works ranged from a group of 36 bronzes in 1980s sized from 7 to 16cm, 89 polychrome tin sculptures, in 1995, painted and assisted by Rosemary Madigan, ranged 3 to 15 cm, to monumental wooden assemblages.

Two warehouses in the Balmain area were used for the larger works but according to Steve Meacham, SMH 31 July 2002,: 'One of the artist's friends, his long-term agent Frank Watters, compares Klippel's house in Birchgrove to walking into Miss Havesham's house.' Full of cobwebs, dust, the tools of trade, lathes, saws, vices, soldering irons



Robert Klippel with his sculptures. Photo David Liddle

and hundreds of his exquisite sculptures in various stages of completion. The whole house and its warren of more than 20 rooms, was Klippel's shed, every room was a workshop, apart from a basic kitchen and bathroom. Oblivious to the peeling plaster, faded paintwork and threadbare carpets, Klippel toiled with his focus on his art not his habitat.

He would move around the house, spending a month in the woodwork room, a year in the metalwork room, a few weeks in the collage room, painstakingly arranging minute scraps of paper with tweezers. Visitors needed to be briefed not to touch. Once an admirer of his work attempted to blow dust off a collage, not realising it was one of the many unfinished works. Paper went everywhere and the work was ruined'.

Source: Look Magazine-Deborah Edwards, Curator of Australian Art and Robert Klippel Retrospective.

2001 Census Data

Data from the 2001 Census clearly demonstrates the impact of the urban consolidation planning policies on population numbers. Population numbers in local government areas with major urban renewal projects like Sydney has rocketed upwards with a 32% increase in number of children living in the city but the Australia-wide population as a whole is aging. The Census found that the average age is now 35 and the proportion of people over 65 has increased to 12.6%. Australia's birth rate is currently below replacement rate and many women are having children later in life. Inner Sydney region compared to Leichhardt.

Total Persons	2001	1991
Leichhardt	62452	58472
Inner Sydney	470870	408266
Private Dwellings		
Leichhardt	27673	24473
Inner Sydney	193030	161146
Total Over Age 65		
Leichhardt	6072	6511
Inner Sydney	55215	52157

Total under15 years	2001	2002
Leichhardt	7862	8311
InnerSydney	59697	57566
Total Indigenous		
Leichhardt	631	563
Inner Sydney	4585	3420
Language Other Than English Spoken At Home		
Leichhardt	9508	10764
Leichhardt: Most common language		
Italian 2070, Chinese 1094, Greek 973.		
Inner Sydney	106992	101009
Born Overseas		
Leichhardt	17415	18071
Three main regions: UK 4655, NZ 2262, Italy 1317.		
Inner Sydney	157318	151647
Families/Households		
Leichhardt (2001) couples with children	4929	
lone household	8526	
Inner Sydney couples with children	35625	

In Your Garden

Timely Tasks

Here is a roundup of timely tasks. Prune climbers after flowering. Take hydrangea cuttings now from non-flowering growth. Check camellias for scale and use white oil for control. Sow seed of primula malacoides and absconia to make excellent winter and spring pot plants.

Keep dead-heading roses to extend their flowering period. Jet hose aphids off new buds. Climbing roses that have finished flowering should be pruned now. Take lateral branches back to two or three strong eyes. Old canes and dead



wood should be cut out from the base. Plant out struck dahlia cuttings. Spray heat sensitive shrubs and trees with a fine mist early morning or late evening when it is hot and windy. Leaves as well as roots need watering.

Prepare your garden for the hot months with a layer of mulch over garden beds to keep roots cool and to conserve moisture. You can use a mixture of decomposed leaf litter, compost, decayed animal manure, peat moss or straw. Mulching helps reduce weeds.

If you go on holiday have a neighbour or friend water your garden at least once a week, more if possible if you have lots of pot plants as they dry out so quickly in the heat.

Bonny Davidson

What's On

At the Watch House

Christmas drinks 14 Dec

Exhibitions

- **Photographs from our archives each Saturday 7 Dec to 25 Jan 2003 11am-3pm. Entry free**
- **Original art works**
Norman Lindsay, watercolour, oil, pen & ink drawings, prints, Elizabeth Durack, mixed media & drawings, Walangari Karntawarra, aboriginal art Ilya Volykhine, (local artist), figurative abstracts 1-9 Feb
- **Bing Wu 15-23 Feb Paintings**

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The Balmain Association Inc

Representing Balmain, Birchgrove & Rozelle.

Our aims are to:

Improve the living, working and recreational amenities of our area; maintain all features having natural, architectural and or historical value of the area and keep a permanent collection of historical interest; seek the cooperation of everyone concerned in the realisation of the above.

The Balmain Association meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm in the Watch House 179 Darling Street Balmain. The Watch House is open every Saturday from 12 to 3pm. Our editorial phone/fax is 02 98184954. Email :vhamey@tpg.com.au. Our Web site::
www.balmainassociation.homestead.com

Annual subscriptions:
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