

# **BLACKTOWN CITY MAYORAL HISTORY PRIZE ENTRY, 2024**

## **THE SUNNYHOLT AND HEADINGLEY ENIGMA**

*Headingley* was known to be an old house which existed on Sunnyholt Road, Blacktown, in the vicinity of Anthony Street, back in the 1910s. Recent research has found another old house was on the same site, known as *Sunnyholt*, which was in existence as early as 1875, and possibly earlier.

Are they one and the same? Does *Sunnyholt* or *Headingley* still stand?

Did *Sunnyholt* the house give its name to Sunnyholt Road?

What is its link to the Fry Family and to John Frederick Hilly, a famous colonial architect?

What is its link to the Women's Suffrage movement?

What does "*Sunnyholt*" itself actually mean?

What famous people lived there?

What is its link to post World War II immigration?

This research will explore the known facts about all these issues, the people that lived there, and that they are all inextricably linked.

Early land grants for Blacktown show that what was to become Sunnyholt Road, then known as Government Road, being divided into a number of owners. On the eastern side, north of what would eventually be Turner Street, going up the hill towards Parklea, a grant was made in 1821 to Owen Martin of 50 acres, and in 1823 another grant to George Allen of 300 acres.<sup>1</sup>

By 1825 it had been sold to former convict, Morgan Power. Today the reserve at the bottom of the hill on Vardy's Road is known as Morgan Power Reserve, Reserve 53. The reserve was dedicated in 1973 to Power, who arrived as a convict in 1797 on the ship *Britannia* and took up a land grant on Sunnyholt and Vardy's Roads.<sup>2</sup>

At this time land which had been granted was often being rapidly re-sold, sometimes immediately after the grant was given and before official registration, so it is possible there had been other owners as well.<sup>3</sup>

The land changed hands many times, with subdivision taking place, there being leases as well. Timothy Power leased it to John Murphy for a year from 1 December 1830. Charles Kern acquired some in 1831 and in 1832, 40 acres were transferred to John Farrell.<sup>4</sup>

The most interesting sale occurs on 13 August 1873, when Kern sold 154 acres to John Frederick Hilly, Architect. This comprised the area basically north of Turner Street to Vardys Road, which then was known as Seven Hills Road. Land Titles records show that on 13 August 1873 FREDERICK HILLY, Architect, acquired the land, and John Farrell as caretaker.[John Farrell owned land adjacent – possibly the 40 acres he purchased in 1832.<sup>5</sup>

### John Frederick Hilly

Hilly was born in Yorkshire in 1834, and arrived in Sydney in 1839. He was a senior architect in the colony by 1869. He was said to be even more renowned than Edward Blacket. Hilly designed Strickland House at Vaucluse; St Patrick's Catholic Church in Sydney; the Royal Exchange building in Bridge Street, Sydney; *Fiona* at Edgecliffe; and the Commercial Bank on the corner of George and Barrack Streets. He had, at various times, been in partnership with John Horbury Hunt and his own son, Edwin F Hilly. Around 1869, Hilly and Hunt designed the large homestead, stables and outbuildings at Mudgee for Richard Rouse Terry, known as *Guntawang*. The partnership also designed the Anglican Bishops residence at Goulburn, and the Goulburn Presbyterian Manse. *The Sydney Morning Herald* of 26 May 1869 stated "*in none of them was the hand of Hunt in evidence*", meaning that the design work had all been by Hilly.<sup>6</sup>

He was one of the colony's most proficient and highly regarded architects.

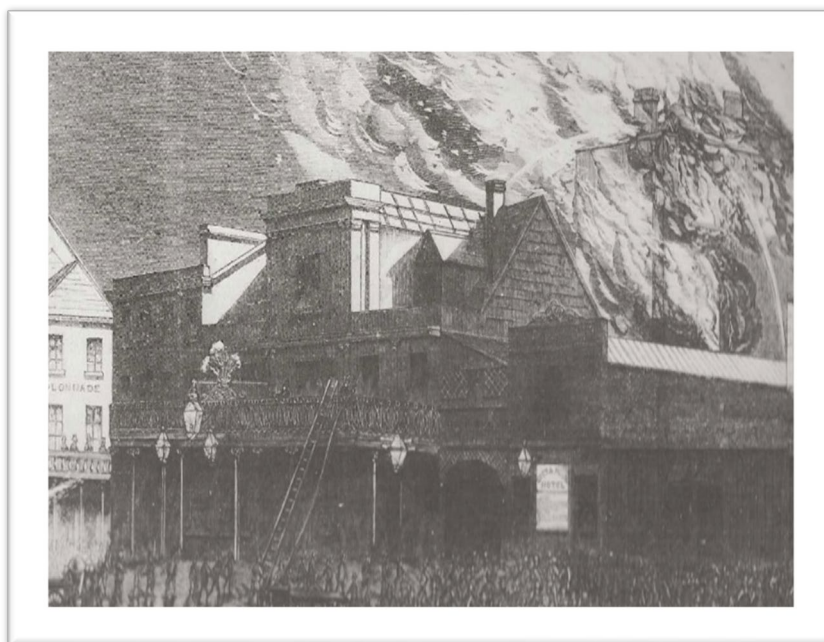


Strickland House, Vaucluse. Photo: Government Printing Office, State Library of NSW, copyright undetermined, 1972.



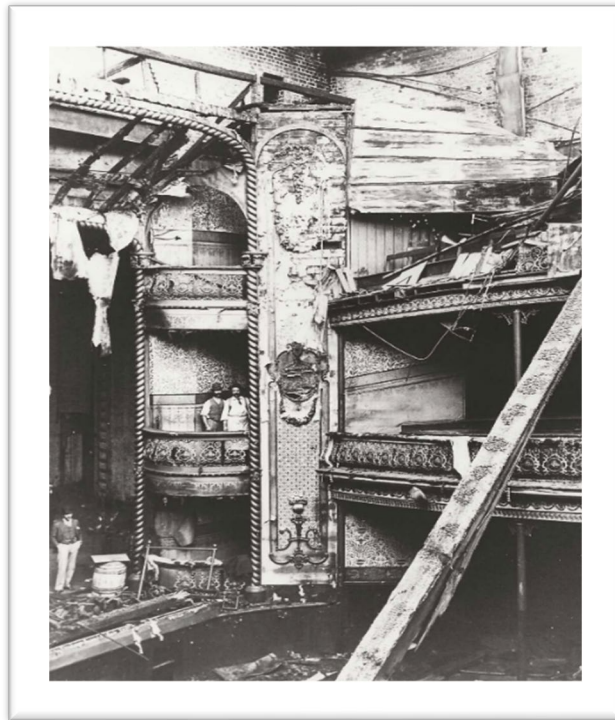
**Greycliffe House, Vaucluse, 1888. Burnt down in February 1897. Photo: State Library of NSW**

John Hilly did not confine himself to grand houses and churches. He was also the architect for the Prince of Wales Theatre in Sydney in 1861 [opened 1863], one of Sydney's earliest and most prestigious theatres. It had three levels and a massive proscenium and stage. Like many early colonial buildings, it was destroyed by fire in 1872.<sup>7</sup>



**Burning of the Prince of Wales Theatre, 1872. Writer's Collection.**

After the loss of the Prince of Wales to fire in 1872, Hilly was involved three years later in designing its replacement, the Theatre Royal – which, ironically was also partly destroyed by fire in 1892, although later rebuilt.<sup>8</sup> Surviving photographs after the fire show that it was a grand theatre, with three levels, private boxes, and an ornamental proscenium arch.



**The Theatre Royal after the 1892 fire. Photo: Author's collection**

It was the practice of wealthy people of those times to build themselves country retreats. Some of these were also used as stopovers en route to other locations. John Hilly bought the property in 1873, which then comprised 154 acres. It is not clear if he built the house which would later be named *Sunnyholt*, but being an architect it is likely he did so. The house itself was later described as a “villa” and comprised only seven rooms. It was basically a rural retreat. It was not a mansion in the manner that *Flushcombe*, on the opposite side of the railway line at Blacktown, was. Being as small as seven rooms, it could not be used for balls or dancing or large social events. Therefore its social interaction with the local gentry was limited, and Trove newspapers do not show any events such as dancing or balls being held there.

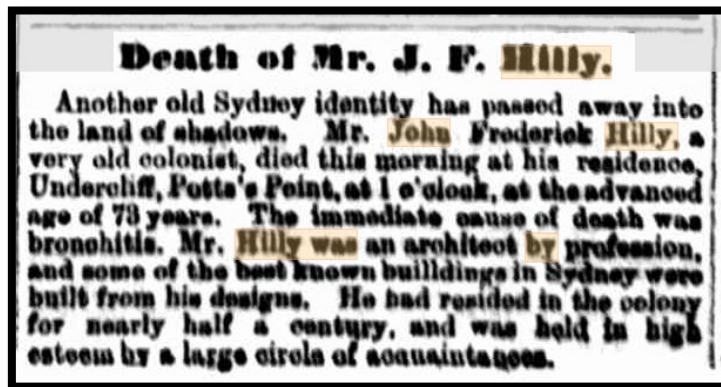
It is likely that John Hilly used it as a quiet place to get away from the dirty city and possibly also to concentrate on his designs. The railway now passed through Blacktown, having been built in 1860 and so accessing the house would only require a short sulky ride from the new station along the as yet-unmade Government Road, which was barely a dirt track.

In those days Blacktown was basically a railway station, a few shops and scattered houses. The forests had been cleared of timber and it was quickly becoming a pastoral area. It was also the junction for the road to Windsor and Richmond, and so it was growing in importance, with grand houses being built in surrounding areas, such as *Flushcombe Turrets* and *Bungaribee*.



Train approaching Blacktown Station, 1882. [Author's Collection] This photo gives an idea of what Blacktown looked like in the 1880s.

In September 1883 it was announced that Mr Hilly had died, but by that time he was no longer the owner of *Sunnyholt* and was living at Pott's Point.<sup>9</sup>



Evening News, Monday 3 September 1883 p2

### James Kight Fry

In January 1875, Hilly sold the property to James Kight Fry. He had only owned it for two years, but it is not clear if he built the house, or James Fry did, but as Fry had a large family, it is unlikely he bought the land without there being a house on it, as he had just arrived from New Zealand via Melbourne. This indicates the house dated from 1875, or a few years earlier. Land Titles records show that on 2 January 1875 JAMES KIGHT FRY, Gentleman, was the owner. Over the years that James Fry owned the land he had quite a few mortgages on it, sometimes transferring the mortgage to another party.<sup>10</sup>

Fry had migrated from London with his wife Amelia and their family, and arrived in Sydney in December 1879. He was born in Stepney, London, on 2 August 1824. He married Amelia Barrett on 9 February 1848. James was involved in Thompson and Fry, soft goods merchants of London, and in 1861 he and Amelia decided to emigrate to New Zealand. They left England on the *African* on 31 January 1861 with seven children. They arrived in Auckland then went to Dunedin. Another child, Walter Roslyn Fry was born in New Zealand, but in 1866 the family decided to move again and emigrated to Australia, arriving in Melbourne on 1 March 1866. Another child, Harold Elwood Fry, was born 17 November 1870, and was therefore Australian born. (His age is contradicted by later information on his headstone.<sup>11</sup>)



By the time of Mr Fry's arrival, some of his children had reached adulthood and struck out on their own, but several were still living with him when he purchased the land from Hilly. It is unlikely James Fry would have purchased the Blacktown property without a dwelling house already being erected upon it in which to install his family.

### ***The Origin of the name "Sunnyholt"***

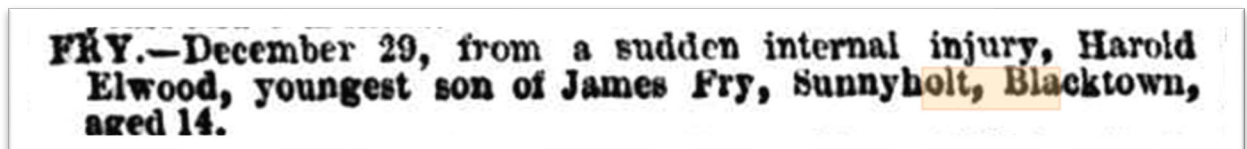
There seems to be no explanation as to why the family moved to Blacktown, after coming from New Zealand. One factor may have been that Blacktown was serviced by the western railway and was therefore just a little over an hour's journey from Sydney. The origin of the name is unclear. It may have been derived from the English word, *Holt*, meaning a grove of trees, an orchard, or a plantation, frequently used as an element in local names in England. Certainly from later descriptions the property was an orchard, or plantation.<sup>12</sup>

It is likely that Sunnyholt Road took its name from the house as the road was built in 1883/84 and the house was, at that time, pre-existing.<sup>13</sup> The house stood on a rise, the area being described as the Blacktown Downs, and looked south across Breakfast Creek towards Blacktown. Its outlook, like all prestige homes of the time, would have been one of views, rolling hills and trees. It was surrounded by its own vines and orchards. The meaning of the name therefore does make sense; a *sunnyholt*.

### **The Fry Family**

In 1880 it was reported that Amelia Mary Fry, the eldest daughter of James Fry of *Sunnyholt*, Blacktown, married Walter Phillips in Kent in England.<sup>14</sup> This proves that the house and property were known as *Sunnyholt* as early as 1880.

Tragedy befell the family in 1881, when their youngest son, Harold Elwood Fry, died from "a *sudden internal injury*" on December 29. He was only 14 years of age according to the newspaper.<sup>15</sup> According to the family papers, he was buried the following day. This seems rather hurried. He was interred at Mays Hill Cemetery, aka Western Rd Cemetery.<sup>16</sup>



Sydney Mail, Saturday 7 January 1882 p4

Although the newspaper states he was 14 years of age, according to the Fry Family Papers, he was born in 1870, which would make him only 11 years old at the time of his death. However, a his headstone in May's Hill Cemetery also states that he was 14 years old.



Above: the grave of Harold Elwood Fry in May's Hill Cemetery, March 2024. [Author's collection]

Just what caused young Harold's death is not known. It states on his headstone "*Sacred to the Memory of Harold Elwood Fry. Seventh Son of James and Amelia Fry of Sunnyholt Blacktown. Who died December 29<sup>th</sup> 1881. Aged 14. After a few hours illness caused by an accident*".<sup>17</sup> It would appear he died the same day, and this seems to be confirmed by the words of Proverb 27, quoted on his headstone, "*Thou knowest not what a day may bring forth*." The family must have been devastated by his sudden death.

*The Sunnyholt Estate* was advertised for sale in February 1882, only three months after the death of young Harold. Unfortunately the advertisement does not say who the vendor was, but it had to be James Kight Fry. The property comprised 154 acres, as well as a villa residence of seven rooms, including adjuncts of servant's rooms and outbuildings "*comprising all the pleasures of the country life*" and "*beautifully situated on the Blacktown Downs*."<sup>18</sup>

An advertisement for the sale of the property in 1882, stated "*A special feature of this Estate is an extensive Silk-Mulberry Plantation. There are hundreds of well grown trees, so that a rearing to some appreciable extent could be had the ensuing season, while there are many thousands in younger stages of growth, of which probably 10 to 12,000 would be ready for transplanting into permanent position, or for sale next winter. Last winter the proprietor supplied 500 trees to the New Zealand Government, which was desirous of encouraging a small beginning in that colony. He has made it a study to get the varieties most approved of in southern Europe for Silk, and no expense was spared to secure them ...*"<sup>19</sup>

This is quite astonishing, that Mr Fry had some 10,000 Mulberry trees ready for planting and already had an extensive plantation of the trees at *Sunnyholt*. Not to mention that he had sold 500 trees to the New Zealand Government.

*Sunnyholt* itself must have been a beautiful sight in those times, and water was no problem as it was situated between two arms of Breakfast Creek. The property was also planted with vines and fruit trees, and was fully fenced.



TUESDAY, 4th APRIL.

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SUNNYHOLT ESTATE,  
BLACKTOWN STATION,  
WESTERN LINE.

---

ONE HOUR FROM SYDNEY.

---

154 ACRES,  
1½ MILE FROM RAILWAY STATION.

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VILLA RESIDENCE of seven rooms, with all manner of adjuncts in the shape of kitchen, servants' rooms, bachelors' quarters, dairy, stable, and other outhouses, forming altogether one of the PRETTIEST LITTLE ESTATES, within easy time and access of the city, and comprising all the pleasures of the country life, without sacrificing any essential interests of business occupation.

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**M**ILLS, PILE, and GILCHRIST have received instructions to sell by public auction, at the Land Sale Rooms, 114, Pitt-street, at 11.30 o'clock a.m. on  
TUESDAY, 4th APRIL  
(if not previously disposed of by private sale, of which in such case due notice will be given),  
The above very eligible Estate of  
154 ACRES OF LAND  
and  
VILLA RESIDENCE,  
beautifully situated on the  
BLACKTOWN DOWNS.

---

A SPECIAL FEATURE of this Estate is an extensive Silk-Mulberry Plantation. There are hundreds of well-grown trees, so that a rearing to some appreciable extent could be had the ensuing season, while there are many thousands in younger stages of growth, of which probably 10 to 12,000 would be ready for transplanting into permanent position, or for sale next winter. Last winter the proprietor supplied 500 trees to the NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT, which was desirous of encouraging a small beginning in that colony. He has made it a study to get the varieties most approved of in southern Europe for Silk, and no expense was spared to secure them. To anyone looking not for immediate results, but forward to the time when Silk will be one of the great staple productions of the colony, or to a joint-stock company for the purpose of having its base of operations near to SYDNEY, the opportunity is unprecedented.

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APART from this specialty, a large portion of the Ground is cleared and part planted with vines, fruit trees, &c. The whole property is well and securely fenced, and altogether forms one of the most compact and perfect little estates within 23 miles of the METROPOLIS.

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TITLE, TORRENS'.

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Terms and any further particulars, with orders to view, to be had on application to  
THE AUCTIONEERS.

The Sydney Morning Herald, Saturday 4 March 1882 p13.

Perhaps the reason for the sale was because the family was devastated by the loss of young Harold, but the property did not sell – or was withdrawn from sale – and the family continued to live there until 1893.

TUESDAY, 4th APRIL.

**SUNNYHOLT ESTATE,**  
BLACKTOWN STATION,  
WESTERN LINE.

ONE HOUR FROM SYDNEY.

154 ACRES,  
1½ MILE FROM RAILWAY STATION.

VILLA RESIDENCE of seven rooms, with all manner of adjuncts in the shape of kitchen, servants' rooms, bachelors' quarters, dairy, stable, and other outhouses—forming altogether one of the PRETTIEST LITTLE ESTATES within easy time and access of the city, and comprising all the pleasures of the country life, without sacrificing any essential interests of business occupation.

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The above very eligible estate of  
154 ACRES OF LAND  
and  
VILLA RESIDENCE,  
beautifully situated on the  
BLACKTOWN DOWNS,  
WITHIN 22 MILES of the METROPOLIS.

TITLE, TORRENS'.

Terms and any further particulars, with orders to view, to be had on application to  
**THE AUCTIONEERS,**  
114, PITT-STREET,  
SYDNEY.

The Sydney Morning Herald, Monday 3 April 1882 p9

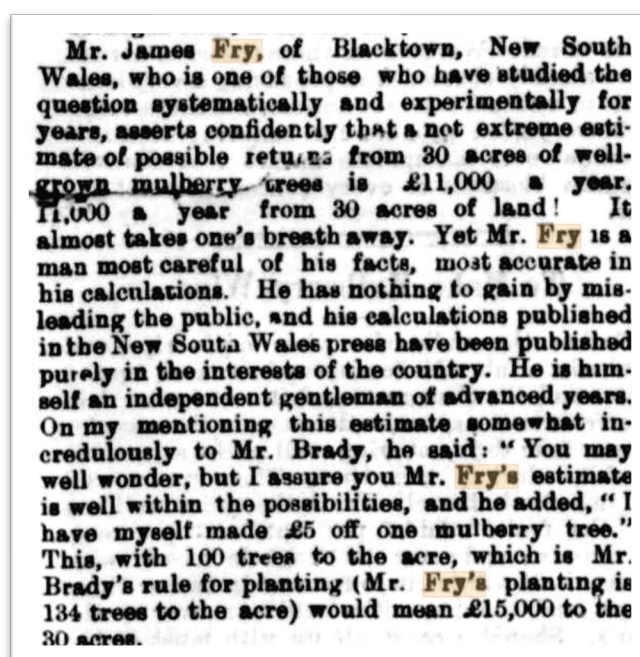
On an 1883 survey map of the yet-to-be constructed Sunnyholt Road, [below] *Sunnyholt* itself is shown as a brick house, surrounded by vines and cultivation.<sup>20</sup>



James Kight Fry was a well known expert on the growing of silk, or mulberry trees. For several years he championed the introduction of silk as an industry, and the growing of mulberry trees and the maintenance and harvesting of the cocoons. There are quite a number of letters to newspapers authored by him, or mentioning him, over the years.<sup>22</sup>

One article in April 1892 states that he was a “*great enthusiast in the matter of silk culture and some time ago took First Prize against the world in the South Kensington Exhibition.*”<sup>23</sup> The South Kensington Exhibition was in London at the Victoria and Albert Museum, and therefore such an award was very prestigious.

In the Australian Town and Country Journal in December 1892, it was stated “*Mr J Fry of Blacktown is one of those who have studied the question systematically and experimentally for years ... Mr Fry is a man most careful of his facts and most accurate in his calculations. He has nothing to gain by misleading the public ... He is an independent gentleman of advanced years.*”<sup>24</sup>



Mr. James Fry, of Blacktown, New South Wales, who is one of those who have studied the question systematically and experimentally for years, asserts confidently that a not extreme estimate of possible returns from 30 acres of well-grown mulberry trees is £11,000 a year. £1,000 a year from 30 acres of land! It almost takes one's breath away. Yet Mr. Fry is a man most careful of his facts, most accurate in his calculations. He has nothing to gain by misleading the public, and his calculations published in the New South Wales press have been published purely in the interests of the country. He is himself an independent gentleman of advanced years. On my mentioning this estimate somewhat incredulously to Mr. Brady, he said: "You may well wonder, but I assure you Mr. Fry's estimate is well within the possibilities, and he added, "I have myself made £25 off one mulberry tree." This, with 100 trees to the acre, which is Mr. Brady's rule for planting (Mr. Fry's planting is 134 trees to the acre) would mean £15,000 to the 30 acres.

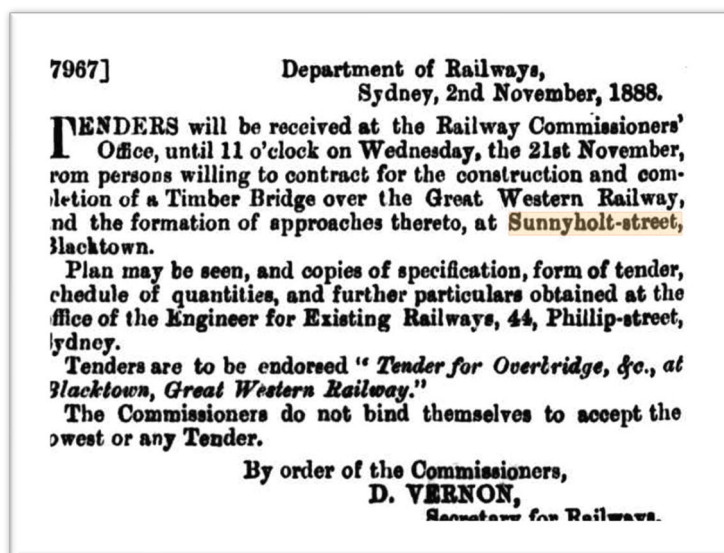
Australian Town and Country Journal, Saturday 24 December 1892 p22

James Fry's belief in the future of silk led him to write to newspapers all over the State, trying to convince the Government and others of its viability. In the Daily Telegraph of 4 August 1894, he wrote a very detailed letter, giving estimates of expenditure and income, in an effort to promote silk as an industry, stating that in seven years the returns would be reasonable and the government should allow some 10,000 acres of Crown Land to be planted with mulberry plantations. He had worked out the costs of clearing and ploughing, the cost of trees and culturists, labour, building sheds and depots. He concluded by stating “*At the end of the seven years, the leases are again offered. As the trees will then have grown to a capacity of supplying three or four more times that quantity of cocoons, possibly, thenceforth to the increasing annually, it may reasonably be calculated that in five years from that time then, in 20 years from the start, there will have been recouped to the State the whole of the principal and interest, and interest on the interest ... and the State remain in possession of a highly improved national estate producing a large income.*”<sup>25</sup> But the Government took no notice of this.

Even as late as October 1916, there were revivals of efforts to introduce mulberry trees and silk farming, and Mr Fry's efforts were still remembered:

"The silk industry is mooted locally. Upwards of thirty years ago, Mr Fry of Sunnyholt [sic] demonstrated that the production of silk was a profitable industry here. Some of the Cape Mulberry trees grown from those imported by Mr Fry may still be seen in the district." <sup>26</sup>

Further evidence can be found regarding the name Sunnyholt Street being in use as early as 1888, when tenders were advertised for a bridge over the western railway line. This confirms that it was not Blacktown City Council which named the road Sunnyholt, as Council did not come into existence until 1906. The street was obviously named after the house by the NSW Government <sup>27</sup>



Government Gazette, Tuesday 20 November 1888. No. 726.

### Edith Ada Fry

One of James and Amelia Frys daughters was Edith Ada Fry. This lady would become renowned for her work in the womens rights movement, and as a suffragette. In the many letters she and her sister, Kate, wrote during the 1880s, they were written from "*Sunnyholt, Blacktown*". <sup>28</sup>

Edith was born 8 August 1858 <sup>29</sup> in England. As a young adult she lived at *Sunnyholt*, and frequently wrote letters with the name of the house at the top of the page. She became prominent in the early days of the women's movement in NSW and in the early 1890s joined the Womanhood Suffrage League of NSW. During this time she met Rose Scott, who became a close friend. Edith was a founding member in 1896 of the National Council of Women of NSW and was later appointed Honorary Life Vice President. She was also a founding member of the Women's Club in 1901, served on the executive and was made an honorary life member. <sup>30</sup>

Correspondence in the family papers indicates that her handwriting was small, possibly due to the size of the notepaper. Edith wrote on both sides in black ink, which strikes through the notepaper and makes it difficult to read. She wrote copiously but strangely there were no mentions of *Sunnyholt* or Blacktown. One would have thought she may have mentioned the house, or what was happening in the area.

Instead she wrote about people she had met or encountered, poetry and literature. She made very detailed assessments of people's personalities. She made the remark that it was wrong for people to believe that a woman should be married to *anyone*, just as long as she was married. She stated she would rather stay unmarried in such circumstances. Edith was very open about how much she loved her brother Arthur, and how she looked up to him, but at the same time claimed to recognise his faults. Perhaps this is why she never married, as few men could have attained the standards in her eyes that Arthur did. She must have been devastated by his death in 1926. There are letters on file during 1886 to 1888, all from *Sunnyholt*, to Arthur. There is one from sister Kate to Arthur, dated 22



March 1889, from “*Boudicar*”, Blackheath, in the Blue Mountains. Katie wrote that she felt homesick and would be glad to come back again, but not to *Sunnyholt*. Perhaps she disliked the house or the location. Katie herself was also involved in the women’s movement and went to Tasmania with Edith to a conference.<sup>31</sup>

[It is interesting to note that “*Boudicar*” was the name of the Celtic woman, Queen of the Iceni tribe, who defied Rome when it invaded England and eventually reputedly took her own life when defeated, rather than be taken prisoner by the Romans. She was also known as “*Boadicea*”.)<sup>32</sup> The name of the house in Blackheath was probably synonymous with the early women’s liberation movement, of which Kate and Edith were both part.

In June 1915 the *Daily Telegraph* wrote:

“*Our Public Women. Miss Edith Ada Fry*

*Like many more of our prominent women, Miss Edith Ada Fry first took up public work in connection with the Womanhood Suffrage League of NSW, of which she was the Honorary Treasurer for many years, and a most earnest advocate of the cause. When “Votes for Women” was first whispered in awestruck tones, and to be a suspected suffragette was almost as serious as being a suspected spy nowadays, Miss Fry was nevertheless convinced that the suffrage was absolutely necessary in obtaining the reforms for which women were working. Then, on the attainment of women’s suffrage, she took an active part in the campaign for education in political matters on which many thinking women of the time at once entered. She also did a great deal of speaking at meetings and helped to organise women’s leagues in the various suburban centres.*

*Miss Fry is one of the small group of women to whom the Women’s Club of Sydney owes its formation, and in its earliest years she filled the position of Hon treasurer ... During the life of the Womanhood Suffrage League, she was their delegate to the National Council of Women of NSW... While in England recently, Miss Fry came into personal contact with many of the most able women there. Last Year she was one of the NSW delegates to the Quinquennial meetings of the International Council of Women in Rome ...”*<sup>33</sup>

To both Edith and Kate, living in Blacktown was probably inconvenient and constraining. Edith was rapidly becoming important in the women’s movement, and both sisters would have found Blacktown a backwater. It was an agricultural area, with few social activities apart from dancing. The School of Arts had yet to be built, and there would have been little in the way of entertainment. Kate had expressed the opinion that she never wanted to return there. It had a railway station, a school, a public hall, a few shops and a post office – nothing like the grand cities Edith would later travel to. Even when Edith did eventually return to Sydney to live, it was on the North Shore.

Edith Fry died in Sydney in 1940. She wrote to her brother Walter from her home in Lindfield “*It is my desire that I shall be cremated, and no notice of my death printed, until that has taken place. “Privately cremated” is all that need appear. Having had a full and varied life, all I pray for is that my ending may be marked by quietness and peace.*”<sup>34</sup>



**Edith Ada Fry. *Daily Telegraph*, 2 June 1915**

Women were given the right to vote in 1902 and to stand in Federal elections. Australia was the first nation in the world to grant women dual rights. But it excluded non-European women and people of indigenous descent.<sup>35</sup>

Rose Scott was an early Australian pioneer of the women's movement and an associate of Edith Fry. She lobbied not only for the right to vote, but for women with qualifications to be appointed to high level positions, and not excluded for their gender, especially in hospitals and universities. She campaigned for domestic service to be designated a profession, with certificates issued, to give women employed thus more standing.

She was also the President of the Women's Political Education League. In 1906 she wrote "*Choose your Member of Parliament as you would your own maids or tradesmen – for their honesty, industry and trustworthiness. Elect the right sort of men – men of good character... Avoid canvassing. Our league has done something to block that pernicious system, as women do not descend to such tactics.*"<sup>36</sup>

John Kite Fry sold *Sunnyholt* in 1893 to Isabella Dawson.<sup>37</sup> By that time, only two adult daughters were left living with them, Kate and Edith. John Kight Fry died 14 February 1896 at "*Como*", in Ashfield, 1896,<sup>38</sup> and his wife and daughters moved, ironically, to a house named *Headingley* in Coogee.<sup>39</sup>

James Kight Fry is buried in Waverley Cemetery, along with his wife, Amelia, who died in 1911, and two other family members.<sup>40</sup>

□

### The Dawson Family at *Headingley*

The family purchased *Headingley*, then known as *Sunnyholt*, in 1893, and moved to Blacktown. Land Titles show that Isabella Dawson, Mr T C Dawson's wife, purchased the property on 21 January 1893.

Mr T C Dawson, the new owner of *Sunnyholt*, had previously lived at *Headingley*, an eight room house near the beach at Coogee, on the corner of Neptune and Arden Streets. At least one of his daughters was born there in 1890.<sup>41</sup> Another daughter was born in 1895 at *Headingley*, Blacktown,<sup>42</sup> after the Fry family had sold the house to Isabella Dawson in 1893.<sup>43</sup>

In 1895 it was commented that Mr R A Dawson was spending the holidays with his brother at *Headingley*. While it does not say Blacktown, the source was the Windsor and Richmond Gazette, which would hardly be commenting on people holidaying in Coogee.<sup>44</sup> Mr R A Dawson also held land in Kyogle, NSW, which he also called *Headingley*.<sup>45</sup> The name seemed to be popular within the Dawson family.

Mr Thomas Carr Dawson was a partner in the tea business, Atcherley and Dawson. This company produced the Globe brand of tea and had offices in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. It was quite well known and in 1897 took in shareholders as well.<sup>46</sup>

It was also well known for the huge Globe it erected at the Royal Agricultural Society's showground, which was regarded as a landmark.<sup>47</sup>

(It is curious to note that in 1911, *Headingley* at Coogee was up for sale as a freehold property. The owner was the late Mrs Amelia Fry.<sup>48</sup>)

From this sequence of events it would appear that the Fry family had moved into the Dawson family home, *Headingley* at Coogee, in 1893; and the Dawson family moved into *Sunnyholt* at Blacktown, renaming it *Headingley* after their former home in Coogee.

Unfortunate circumstances seem to have dogged the family in Blacktown. In August 1893 it was reported "*A painful accident happened recently to Mr Dawson of the firm of Atcherley and Dawson, tea merchants, of Sydney. Mr Dawson, a few months since, purchased a property near Blacktown formerly belonging to Mr Fry. A fall from his horse, the result of loose girths and the saddle "slewing", together with a probably kick from the horse, caused a compound fracture of the leg, since which Mr Dawson has suffered very severely. He is laid up at his residence near here, and the reports as to his progress towards recovery are far from being as favourable as could be wished.*"<sup>49</sup>

The family were extensively involved in the local Blacktown community and were said to have many friends. Mr Dawson helped re-form the Blacktown Cricket Club in August 1895, and became one of its Vice Presidents.<sup>50</sup> He also donated a trophy, along with Mr J Perkins, to the Cricket Club in January the previous year.<sup>51</sup>

One wonders if Mr Dawson's love of cricket was the reason his homes in Coogee, and later, Blacktown, were named *Headingley* after the famous cricket oval in Leeds, England. And it is curious that his brother named his farm at Kyogle *Headlingley* as well.

IN 999 CASES OUT  
OF A FULL 1000

GLOBE TEAS give the satisfaction that we promise—on the first trial. Just about once in a thousand times we may fail to precisely hit the taste with the tea we first recommend. We look upon this as a regrettable incident, but it is said "There's no accounting for taste," so we then try a second time—and succeed.

Then we know that customer's taste. The customer knows the tea, and can ALWAYS DEPEND upon getting EXACTLY THE SAME.

Are you quite sure that your taste cannot be better "fitted" than at present? Anyhow, we would like you to try

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WOULDN'T YOU?

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**ATCHERLEY & DAWSON,**  
CENTRAL DEPOT, 121 PITT-ST., next Strand,  
Also at 89 GEORGE-STREET W., SYDNEY.

CHOICE NEW SEASON'S TEAS.  
GUARANTEED PURE.  
CONTAINING OVER THE GOVERNMENT STANDARD OF EXTRACT.

ATCHERLEY & DAWSON'S  
CELEBRATED  
INDIA & CHINA  
GLOBE  
BRAND  
BLENDED TEAS

5 FLINDERS LANE W.  
MELBOURNE.

120

8 BOND STREET  
SYDNEY.

PRINTED BY J. H. COOPER & CO., CALCUTTA, IN WILLIAM STREET, NEAR THE DOCK.

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National Archives of Australia, 1888. Image No 4372920

**Daily Telegraph 19 August 1902**

By Special Appointment to His Excellency the  
Governor.

DO YOU ENJOY GOOD TEA?

New Season's **TEA** Just Arrived.

FLAVORY CONGOUS AND KAIOW BUDS. DELICIOUS "GLOBE" BLENDS.

A CUP OF GOOD TEA DIRECT FROM CEYLON, INDIA, AND CHINA.

Squatters, Farmers, and Institutions Supplied FIRST HAND. Freight Paid to any Port  
or Railway Station in Australia.

**ATCHERLEY AND DAWSON,**

**TEA MERCHANTS,**

SYDNEY :  
18 Bond-street.

MELBOURNE :  
306 Flinders-lane.

BRISSANE :  
Adelaide-street.

## GLOBE TEAS.

In offering these well-known teas at "half price," as intimated elsewhere in this issue, Messrs. Atcherley and Dawson go far towards satisfying a proverbial "long-felt want." The public have been paying too much for their tea, not that the profits made by reputable firms have been excessive, but the system of doing business by means of canvassers and giving long credit necessarily means that the goods must be sold far above their actual value. The **Globe** Teas are so widely known that they require no special recommendation, and the prices shown in Atcherley and Dawson's new price-list appear so low as to render it impossible to purchase to better advantage. Another feature of the alteration that will be welcomed is the relief from the importunities of the too-zealous canvassers, who sometimes became a nuisance in their anxiety to "push" business.



**ANOTHER REVOLUTION !**

---

**ATCHERLEY & DAWSON'S**

**CELEBRATED**

**GLOBE TEAS**

---

**FOR HALF PRICE.**

**No more Travellers! Net Cash! Best Value!**

---

**GLOBE TEAS** were CHEAP at their old prices (compared with others), but now they are sold at bedrock prices for cash only.

**GLOBE TEAS** comprise the very pick of the Teas imported, selected by competent men who have devoted their lives to the work, and understand their business.

**GLOBE TEAS** are bought for cash and sold for cash, which is the best basis for any business, and ensures better value than is obtainable when credit is taken or given.

**GLOBE TEAS** have absolutely NO equal, either in quality, selection, or price.

On receipt of order with remittance we  
will promptly attend to your requirements.

---

**GOOD Tea** at 8½d. per lb.    **FINE Tea** at 1/- per lb.    **CHOICE Tea** at 1/3 per lb.

**THE BEST TEA IN AUSTRALIA, 1/9 per lb.**

---

**ATCHERLEY & DAWSON,**  
**284 GEORGE STREET, SYDNEY.**

*Wagga Wagga Advertiser, Thursday 4 July 1901 p3*

Fire was reported in May 1894: *"A mysterious fire occurred at Mr Dawson's residence on Friday morning last, resulting in the new stables and coach house being totally destroyed. Luckily the horses, buggies etc were got out in time. Mr Fred Roberts was severely burnt about the hands and face while trying to subdue the flames."*<sup>52</sup>

A few months later, it was reported that Mr S C Dawson was very indisposed in the last few days, *"a fact his many friends will be sorry to hear. We wish him a speedy recovery."*<sup>53</sup> This was possibly Mr T C Dawson's son or brother.

In June 1894 a man employed by Mr Dawson met with a bad accident when an axe head being wielded by another worker flew off and struck him in the foreleg, severing a vein. He was taken to Parramatta Hospital, but recovered. One wonders how long such an emergency would take to get to Parramatta by wagon, although the train may have also been used.<sup>54</sup>

Mr Dawson was reported to be *"in a critical condition, caused by the bursting of a blood vessel on Saturday morning. Perfect quietness has been ordered by his medical advisors, Drs Bowman and Wilson."*<sup>55</sup>

In September 1894, the Gazette stated *"The many friends of Mr Dawson will be glad to learn that the gentleman is progressing favourably and is now on the high road to recovery."*<sup>56</sup>

In October 1894 it was reported *"Mrs P Brien and child had a narrow escape when driving to the railway on Thursday morning. When opposite Headingley, the horse shied, capsizing the buggy and throwing out the occupants. Mrs Brien and her child escaped with a severe shaking, whilst the buggy was but slightly damaged."*<sup>57</sup>

In January 1895 the Nepean Times noted that *"Mr T C Dawson of Headingley, has had some very nice horses broken in lately, one pair in particular are gay goers. Headingley has undergone many improvements since Mr Dawson came there, and is now well worth seeing."*<sup>58</sup>

In that same issue, it was stated *"Mr Batt, of Batt Rodd and Purves, is now residing in the Flushcombe suburb in The Turrets, lately occupied by W B Campbell. By the bye, this is getting quite an aristocratic suburb now, it can boast of the plurality of its public halls, schools, churches, tennis courts, gardens, and last but not least, fair women."*<sup>59</sup>

Apart from the rather sexist last remark, the mention of Mr Batt residing in *The Turrets* is an important one. *The Turrets* was a grand mansion in Flushcombe Road, Blacktown, erected in 1883/84 by William Branch Campbell and his wife, Ann. Campbell owned a furniture emporium in Sydney, so one can only wonder at how he furnished his new house. It was later sold to Mr Batt, who occupied it for a short time. It later fell into disuse under new owners and was tragically destroyed by fire on 28 January 1909.<sup>60</sup>

Mr Dawson was away in Melbourne in April 1895<sup>61</sup> and then away in Brisbane in June 1895, so he was not averse to travel, probably on account of his tea business.<sup>62</sup>

In October 1895 it was reported *"Mr T C Dawson, the popular tea merchant, is earning quite a reputation in another line. The condition and pace of his horses is exciting much comment."*<sup>63</sup>

However, Mr Dawson's misfortunes continued in 1895:

*"The bad luck experienced by that genuine townsman, Mr T C Dawson, is becoming proverbial. What with fires, accidents etc, he has had more than a fair share of trouble since he settled in our midst. His latest misfortune was a fire, by which his laundry and tool house were destroyed. It was only by the hard work of the inmates of the house that the main dwelling was saved. This is the second fire that has occurred here since Mr Dawson has taken possession, and naturally he is perplexed to understand the cause of the outbreaks."*<sup>64</sup>

In December 1895, the contractor for the building, Mr Fitzsimmons, was reportedly making good headway. Presumably this was for a new stable and coach house.<sup>65</sup>

In February 1896 it was reported that Mr Dawson had moved: *"Mr T C Dawson has left Blacktown to take up his residence in Randwick. During Mr Dawson's residence in Blacktown, both he and Mrs Dawson won the goodwill and respect of all. He and his family takes with them our heartiest good wishes. As he has not disposed of Headingley, only leased it, there is a possibility of his coming to reside among us at some future time. Should he decide to do so, I think everybody will be glad to welcome him back."* That same month it was stated *"Blacktown and district has sustained a big loss on Thursday last week, when that sterling gentleman, Mr T C Dawson, left to reside in Sydney. During his short stay he proved himself a useful townsman, and a good neighbour, and his friends in this part can be numbered by his acquaintances, for without a doubt he had no enemies. Headingley is now occupied by Mr Single, who hails from Holminwood, up Cowra way."*<sup>66</sup>

In March 1896 the house and land, now known as *Headingley*, was again up for sale. It is notable that it featured 12 horses, 25 head of cattle, buggy, sulky, ploughs and farming instruments. The owner was Mr Dawson.<sup>67</sup>

**UNRESERVED CLEARING OUT SALE**  
 At **HEADINGLEY**, near **BLACKTOWN**.  
 SATURDAY, the 14th MARCH, 1896.

**WEAVER and PERRY** have received instructions from **T. C. DAWSON, Esq.**, to **SELL BY AUCTION** on **SATURDAY**, the 14th MARCH, at 3 o'clock sharp, at his late residence, **Headingley**, near **Blacktown**,  
 12 **HORSES**, comprising saddle and light harness horses, heavy draughts and active farm horses.  
 25 **HEAD OF CATTLE**, consisting of choice dairy cows and heifers.  
 First-class **BUGGY**, long shaft **SULKY**, **SPRING CART**, **HARNESS**, **SADDLES**, **PLOUGHS**, **HARROWS** and **FARMING IMPLEMENTS**.

**N.B.—THE WHOLE ARE FOR BONA-FIDE UNRESERVED SALE**, as **Mr. Dawson** is leaving the district.

Train leaves **Sydney** at 1.30 p.m. and **Parramatta** at 2.12 p.m. for **Blacktown** on day of sale.

*Cumberland Argus, Saturday 14 March 1896 p5*

Mr Dawson would not return to Blacktown. *Headingley* was sold the following month: “*Mr T C Dawson’s sale at Headingley was well attended and a considerable exchange of products effected, though at poor value for the disposer, as usual at such functions. Horses from £1 upwards, cattle ditto, farm implements and vehicles at about a quarter of their original cost, changed hands at the fall of Mr Jack Perry’s hammer.*”<sup>68</sup>

The house was then leased to Mr Single and family, who resided there for about six months before leaving for St Mary’s “*where they had taken a fine property.*”<sup>69</sup>

Mr T C Dawson passed away at his home in Randwick on 29 June 1899. He was only 40 years of age. He was travelling on a tram on a dark wet night and in stepping from the tram in the darkness, fell and broke his leg. He remained on the ground in the dark for some time, unnoticed, in consequence of which he contracted pneumonia and later died. He left a widow and three children.<sup>70</sup>

His widow, Isabella, would re-marry, ironically to Mr Edmund C Batt, owner of Flushcombe Turrets, in 1908.<sup>71</sup>

**PROSPECT.—Impounded at Prospect, on the 23rd day of September, 1899, from **Headingley**, by order of **F. Turner, Esq.**; sum due at date of notice set after each animal:—**

**Red cow**, hoop horns, no brands visible, point off near ear, split in off ear, aged; 6s. 9s.  
**Yellow and white cow**, point off near ear, small slit and back notch off ear, like **MP** near rump, aged; 5s. 8d.  
**White cow**, red ears, top off off ear, split in point near ear, like **MP** near rump, aged; 5s. 8d.  
**Light-roan cow**, red neck, point off near ear, split off ear, no brands visible, about 3 years; 5s. 8d.

If not released, will be sold at this Pound at noon on the 12th October, 1899.  
 1105—4s. **G. SMITH, Poundkeeper.**

September 1899, Headingley cattle impounded at Prospect. [NSW Government Gazette no 789]

In September 1899 it was announced that four cows from *Headingley* had been impounded at Prospect and would be sold unless the pound fees were paid. The notice does not say who the cows actually belonged to. Mr Single, the *Headingley* lessee had departed that month, so it is not clear if the cows were his.<sup>72</sup>

**BATT, RODD and PURVES, Limited.**  
 WILL SUBMIT TO  
**PUBLIC AUCTION**  
 AT THE ROOMS, 88 PITT-STREET,  
 NEXT TUESDAY, JANUARY 12,  
 AT 11.30 A.M.,  
 THE FOLLOWING PROPERTIES :  
**PARRAMATTA.**—McDONAGH'S GROCERY EM-  
 PORIUM, CHURCH-STREET, contain-  
 ing Shop, 6 rooms, and usual offices.  
 Land, 33 x 121. Lane also at rear.  
 Stabling on land, 37 x 52. Rental, £78  
 p.a. **SPLENDID INVESTMENT.**  
**PARRAMATTA.**—Splendid Site, 71 feet to SOR-  
 RELL-STREET ; depth, 124ft 4in,  
 fenced.  
**COOGEE.**—**HEADINGLEY**, a nice Seaside Home,  
 corner NEPTUNE and ARDEN STS., 8  
 rooms and all conveniences. Coach-  
 house and Stable. Land, 100 x 150. A  
 few minutes' walk of the Beach.  
**BUNDANOON.**—A MAGNIFICENT DAIRY and  
 CULTIVATION PROPERTY, 989 acres,  
 substantial Brick Residence and numer-  
 ous outbuildings thereon. Convenient  
 either to Bundanoon or Exeter.  
**BLACKTOWN.**—COUNTRY HOME, *Headingley*.  
 comfortable Brick Villa, 6 rooms and  
 offices, splendid stabling, loose-boxes,  
 &c. Land about 147 acres, divided into  
 Ornamental Grounds, Garden, Pad-  
 docks, &c. About ¼-mile of Station.  
 FURTHER PARTICULARS on application to the  
 AUCTIONEERS,  
**BATT, RODD and PURVES, LTD.**

*Sunday Times*, 10 January 1904

On 10 January 1904, the house was up for sale again, with 147 acres of land. Strangely, so was *Headingley* at Coogee, the former home of Mr Dawson and the Fry Family.<sup>73</sup>

In 1903 and 1904, Mr James Dunne was in occupancy. Whether he was a lessee or owner is not clear. In March 1903 he was selling horses, "*on account Mr J Dunne, Blacktown.*"<sup>74</sup> While this advertisement does not actually state *Headingley*, by the following year he was definitely in the house, for in March 1904 he advertised the death of his daughter, Ada:

"Death. February 29 at *Headingley*, Blacktown. Ada Agnes Dunne, aged 5."<sup>75</sup>

"Dunne. The friends of Mr and Mrs James Dunne are respectfully invited to attend the Funeral of their dearly beloved only daughter, Ada Agnes, to leave their residence, *Headingley, Blacktown*, this Tuesday at 12 o'clock for Rookwood Catholic Cemetery. R Metcalfe, Undertaker."<sup>76</sup>

That same month, Mr Dunne was selling a horse, "*Prize Hackney. On account of Mr James Dunne, Headingley, Blacktown, Millionaire, bay gelding, five years. Splendid hackney for Lady or Gent. William Inglis and Son.*"<sup>77</sup>

In 1905 *Headingley* at Blacktown was advertised yet again, of interest to horse breeders and others: "*A first class property, 154 acres, within a mile of the station. Comfortable cottage of brick, verandah, six good rooms and offices, splendid stabling, Batt Rodd Purves, Auction 2 May.*"<sup>78</sup>

Again, in 1908 it was advertised for sale by the same company, 154 acres, good residence, large stabling.<sup>79</sup>

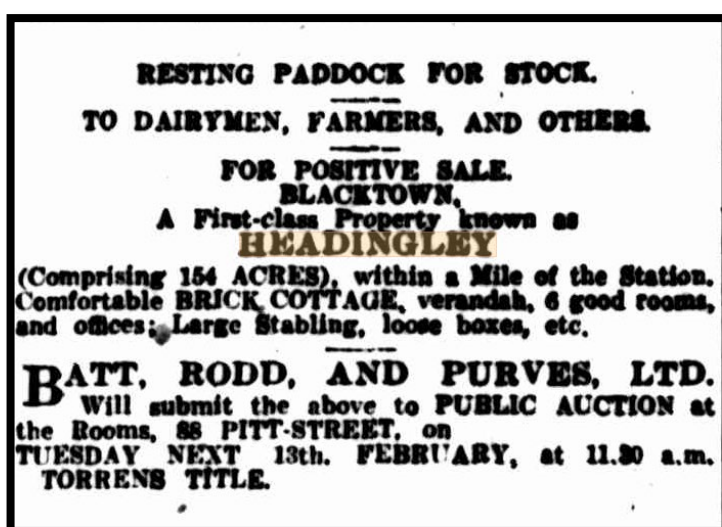


According to Land Titles records, the land was sold between September 1910 and February 1911 to Lucia Sara Tattersall. Sometime between 1911 and January 1913 it was sold again to James William and Susanna Eivers.<sup>80</sup> There is no record of this on Trove newspapers.

In 1911 it was again up for sale, described as a “snug home”<sup>81</sup>:



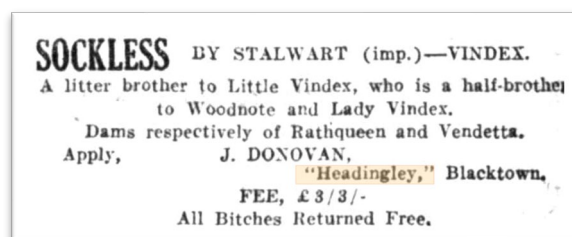
Nepean Times, Saturday 9 December 1911 p4 .



The Sydney Morning Herald, Saturday 10 February 1912 p22

It is quite surprising how many times that *Headingley* was put up for sale. In February 1912 it was being advertised as 154 acres, “a resting paddock for stock”, within a mile of the station, with a comfortable brick cottage of six rooms, verandah and office, plus large stabling. The agent was Batt, Rodd and Purves. Mr Batt was now married to the former Isabella Dawson, widow of Mr T C Dawson, the formerly owner of the property

In 1913 an advertisement appeared in the name of J Donovan, Headingley, Blacktown, who was breeding horses at that time:

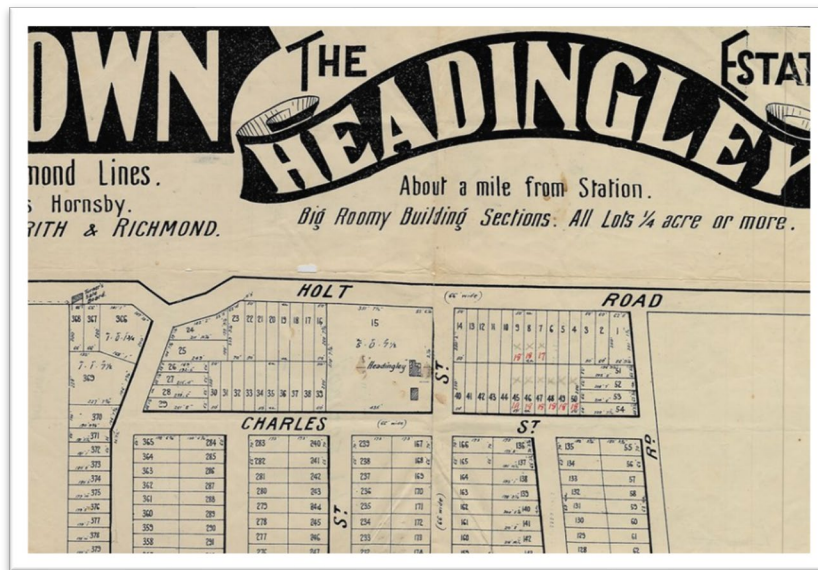


Referee, Wednesday 27 August 1913 p13.

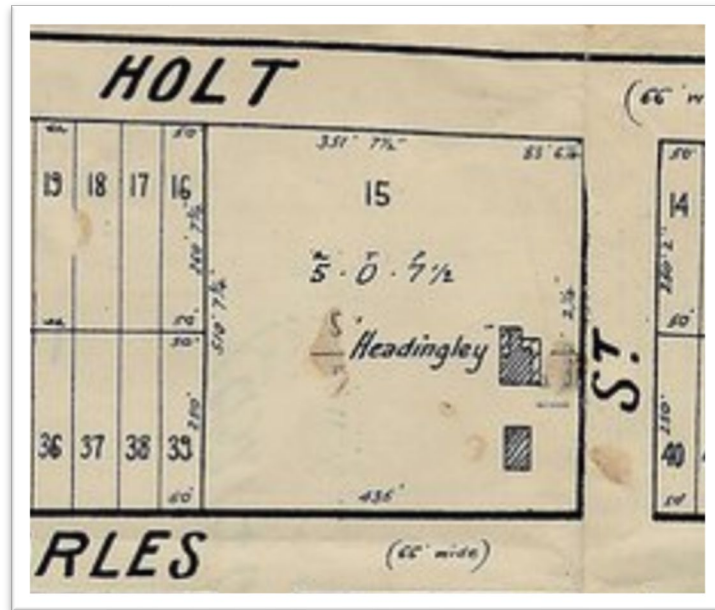
The land was sold to Charles James Turner, a self proclaimed “Real Estate Expert”, in 1913.<sup>82</sup> Mr Turner had offices in Railway Square, Sydney. He proceeded to subdivide the land into *The Headingley Estate*, and the streets named Anthony Street, Raymond Street, Charles Street, Turner Street [both named after himself] and others, came into existence. But *Headingley* remained on five acres. At first Blacktown Shire Council refused to accept his plans until certain alterations were made, such as to allow for the widening of Vardy’s Road.<sup>83</sup>

In 1914 it was reported that “*Blacktown and Canley Vale are centres where the demand for land for small farms is great. At Blacktown this week, 38 blocks of the Headingley Estate were sold by Mr C J Turner, making a total of 254 lots sold this season in this estate alone.*”<sup>84</sup> It seems strange that the lots were only quarter of an acre, yet advertised as small farms.

In 1916 Mr Turner was selling quarter acre lots from £10, with only ten shillings deposit.<sup>85</sup>



Subdivision plan for section of the Headingley Estate, showing the house remaining on its five acres between Sunnyholt Road and Charles Street. Note the dog’s leg in Sunnyholt Road, caused by a meandering creek. The road was later straightened and access to the existing houses became known as Anthony Street. [Writer’s collection/State Library NSW Aperture Collection.]

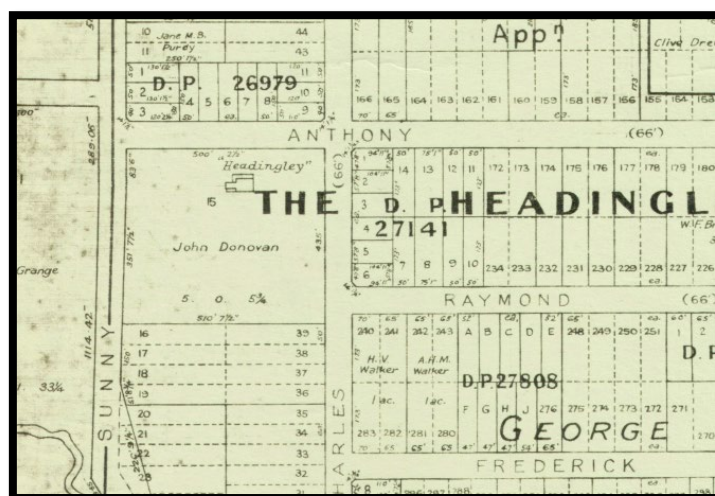


Above: close up of the house allotment, showing the house and its awnings, and what may have been a barn or stables.

In 1915 and 1916, William Robert Blain, of *Headingley Estate*, listed his horse and cattle brand with the Department of Agriculture – an annual requirement. But whether he owned *Headingley* itself, or a different part of the Estate, is not clear.<sup>86</sup> In June 1915 it was reported that Mr Charles Robert Blain, aged 64, had passed away. He resided at *Headingley*, Nicholson Street, Burwood. Perhaps he was William Blain's father, but once again the name *Headingley* is involved.<sup>87</sup>

Land Titles record that the property – ie, the five acres on which *Headingley* stood, was sold on 25 July 1921 to AMY MARIA WHITE [a plan on the documentation showed the site was now called Lot 15 and was only 5 acres 5 and three quarter perches.<sup>88</sup>

In 1931 there was a mysterious fire at the property and a large shed burned down. After an investigation, the Coroner decided that the fire was deliberate but could not say who was guilty. However, he did absolve Mr and Mrs White, the owners, of any blame.<sup>89</sup>



Parish Map, 1940, Sheet 30, Blacktown Memories. Shows the Headingley Estate progressively being cut up, between Turner St and Vardy's Roads. Map courtesy Blacktown City Library, Local Studies

The above map shows that the owner at the time was Mr John Donovan, who was known to have been living at *Headingley* as early as 1913. Douglas Valentine Cecil Mott and Violet May Mott became the owners on 7 October 1942.<sup>90</sup>



**Photo: 1930. Shows Headingley on the site it occupies today, slightly angled, surrounded by market gardens, centre left. The road to the left is Sunnyholt Road, and above the house is Anthony Street. Vardy's Road is in the top right corner. Photo: NSW Spatial Services, historic imagery, Penrith Series [excerpt]**

A number of other owners followed, some short-lived:

19 March 1946: WILLIAM FRANCIS BARBER

28 January 1948: ALFRED HAROLD JOBLING AND GERTRUDE JOBLING

14 November 1949: ARTHUR CLIFFORD HERSEY AND SYBIL HERSEY of Western Australia

4 October 1950: VICTOR PATRICK MANNING

29 May 1954: GUISEPPE AND FLAIRIO MACRI

22 February 1960; QUALITY TIMBER HOMES PTY LTD [Lots B and 10 on plan annexed – The Macri family at this time were selling off portions of their land-but still lived on a portion of the property]<sup>91</sup>

As the area now was now quickly being subdivided into residential lots, the history of the house becomes obscure and difficult to follow. The once great orchards of Sunnyholt, and then Headingley,



were no more. Instead fibro and red tiles began to take over, and the history of the site began to fade from memory.

In 1954 the house and its remaining land was sold to Guiseppe and Flairio Macri, who had migrated to Australia from Italy post World War II. They occupied the house and farmed the land as a market garden.<sup>92</sup>

In 1965 Guiseppe and Rosa Macri, of 24 Redwood Street, Blacktown, became naturalised citizens.<sup>93</sup>

Land Titles depositors plans show a Mario Macri “and others” being the owners of Lot 15, DP7875, Redwood Street. Their relationship to Guiseppe and Flairio is not known.<sup>94</sup>

Further subdivision took place in 1966, when the land, excluding the house, was sold to Quality Timber Homes Pty Ltd. According to Land Titles, this was 31 October 1966.<sup>95</sup> The site of *Headingley* was said to be Lot 16 of DP30676. Quality Timber Homes Pty Ltd subdivided, developed and sold off the lots by building a cul-de-sac into the market gardens but leaving the old house on a slightly larger allotment of its own. The new street was named Redwood Street, and the house became No 7 Redwood Street. A small leftover allotment opposite became Headingley Reserve.

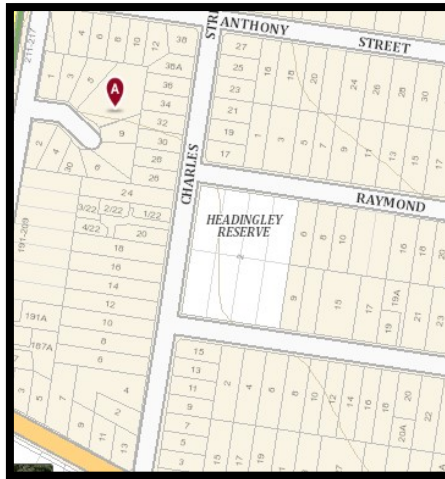
One of the writers, who lived in Anthony Street at the rear of the *Headingley*, recalls often jumping the low wire fence and being sent across the market garden by his mother, usually with two shillings to purchase spinach and other fresh vegetables. While he waited, a Macri family member would go out into the field and cut the required produce. At the rear of the house there were steps going down into a cellar, which was probably used to store vegetables en route to market. There were tables and benches on which vegetables were awaiting sorting and grading. The rear of the house, which was of brick or stone construction, was low set, due to the rise of the land behind it. As a child, with his sister, they would play in the fields of tomatoes and were often chased off, presumably by Mr Macri.<sup>96</sup>



**Photos: Author's collection, 2007. Since these photos were taken the palm trees and shrubs have been removed as well as the brick retaining wall.**

In 1961 Lot 30, DP204269 Redwood Street was designed as a Public Reserve, Number 134. It was officially named Headingley Reserve at a Council meeting on 8 February 1989.<sup>97</sup>

There was an earlier proposal for a Headingley Reserve nearby in Charles Street, between Raymond and Frederick Street. This is shown on digital cadastral maps in the Land Titles Office. Instead of becoming a reserve it was used by the Prospect County Council, the local energy supplier, for an electricity sub-station and works depot, which it still remains.



**Plan of the proposed Headingley Reserve. Land Titles Office, digital cadastral data base [DCDB map, Historical Records Viewer. The image is an excerpt and is undated.**

In 2015 the house was added to Blacktown City Council Local Environment Plan. At the time the house was still in the ownership of the Macri Family, some sixty years later. Mr Macri, the then occupant, confirmed that it was the same house occupied by his parents, but much modernised.<sup>98</sup>

In 2015 Council announced that a number of parks were under review to be sold, including Headingley Reserve in Redwood Street.<sup>99</sup> The reserve was sold in February 2022.<sup>100</sup> The last link with the name *Headingley* has now been removed.



**Headingley Reserve, 2007. Author's Collection**

In 2020 a new house was erected at the rear of *Headingley*. Mr Macri had passed away and the house was sold, ending the Macri family association with *Headingley* for over sixty years. The old house, now much altered, still stands around 150 years later, making it one of the oldest surviving buildings in Blacktown City.

**Sunnyholt/Headingley has had an amazing history in connection with many of its owners, from the well known colonial architect, John Frederick Hilly, to James Kite Fry, who championed the silk industry, and his daughter Edith Ada Fry, a well known women's rights campaigner; to John Dawson, owner of Globe Tea, and in the post war years, to the Macri family, who migrated to Australia from Italy, acquired the house, and began an extensive market garden.**

**While not architecturally significant in the terms of other mansions and large historic houses, it was, and remains outstanding in its cultural, agricultural and social heritage, not to mention its association with important families who had occupied it. It is presently listed on Blacktown City Council's Local Environment Plan.**

Footnote: The original Headingley at Coogee is also believed to still exist on the corner of Neptune and Arden Streets, Coogee, now extended and converted to apartments. [Google maps, 2023]

**Thanks to Mrs Ravneet Gill, Library Technician at Blacktown City Library; Jan French of Blacktown and District Historical Society; National Library of Australia for Trove newspapers; Land Titles Office, NSW Land Registry Services; Mitchell Library, Sydney; Blacktown City Library, Blacktown Memories website, and the late Mr G Macri.**

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