Grantham Heritage Parkland: a history of ownership 1819-1917
71 Seven Hills Road South, Seven Hills

In 1819, two fifty-acre land grants presented to emancipated convicts Samuel Haynes and Samuel Dent alienated part of the Prospect Common. Later, the two parcels were absorbed into one before it was sold to city businessman, William Chadwick, in the 1890s. Chadwick perhaps left the most enduring mark when he erected an out-of-town residence on the site, while Francis Leslie Martin bestowed the property with the name ‘Grantham’ when he purchased the property in the early part of the 20th century. Martin operated a stud poultry farm on the land before transferring ownership of the property to the NSW Government after World War I. The Grantham property has an important and interesting history that demonstrates the changing ownership of property in the Seven Hills area from convict grants to private individuals. Grantham’s narrative illustrates that each successive owner had quite divergent interests and uses for the property. Some owners used the land for grazing livestock, Chadwick established a rural retreat, while Martin carried on a commercial venture until selling out to the NSW Government. This is their story.
After receiving a life sentence at the Hereford Assize courts in 1797, Samuel Haynes arrived aboard the convict transport Royal Admiral in 1800.\textsuperscript{1} Haynes and approximately 300 convicts began the long voyage to New South Wales however, the appalling conditions aboard the ship contributed to forty-three deaths. Haynes received a conditional pardon in 1814, and good behaviour may have earned him the land grant at Seven Hills.\textsuperscript{2}

William Faithful (1774-1847) acquired the Seven Hills property in the latter part of 1829. Faithful, part of the NSW Corps serving under Captain Foveaux, arrived in the colony with the Third Fleet in 1792.\textsuperscript{3} When Foveaux moved on to Norfolk Island, he placed Faithful in charge of his NSW properties.\textsuperscript{4} In fact, Jack Brook related an incident whereby Faithful refused access to John Jamieson, Superintendent of Government Stock, who was there to tally the number of sheep on the Seven Hills farm owned by Foveaux.\textsuperscript{5} John Macarthur, notorious for flouting the law, declared that Foveaux sold him the sheep along with the 1770 acre property, which later became Macarthur’s Seven Hills farm.\textsuperscript{6}

Faithfull’s death in 1847 saw his Seven Hills property pass to daughter, Helen Eliza Faithfull (1824-1847) born from his second marriage to Margaret Thompson. However, Helen, who married Thomas Matcham Pitt Wilshire, died only a few days after her father. Consequently, the property passed to her son, Thomas William Faithfull Wilshire.\textsuperscript{7}

Haynes may have continued to reside in the area despite the sale of the land at Seven Hills because a notice in the Sydney Gazette in 1832, stated that convict, Richard Gladstonbury absconded from the employment of Samuel Haynes of Prospect.\textsuperscript{8} The notice - listing a number of other convict absconders – carried a warning that the ‘Law’ would not fail to prosecute persons found sheltering or employing absentee convicts. In addition, the 1828 census for Prospect listed Samuel Haynes as a resident. The following year he married Mary Thorowgood in St John’s Church Parramatta.\textsuperscript{9} He may have been the pound keeper at Prospect because a newspaper article cautioned owners of straying livestock that Samuel Haynes would house the animals for a period of twenty-one days before putting them up for sale to defray costs incurred for feed.\textsuperscript{10} His name also appeared on a list of subscribers who donated money towards building a church at Prospect.
William Broughton, the Lord Bishop of Australia, headed the subscription list along with William Lawson and two of his sons. They each subscribed £25, £100, £25 and £50, respectively.  

Samuel Dent was already a habitual criminal before sentence of transportation to Australia. Indeed, the Summer Assizes, held at Hereford in 1808, found him guilty of stealing two oxen owned by Reverend John Nettleton. However, Dent led a charmed life because he seems to have escaped transportation for several previous convictions. Nevertheless, his luck ran out in 1808, when the Assize court sentenced him to transportation for life with a recommendation that no mercy be shown. Dent probably spent time in the notorious convict hulks, moored in the Thames, because he did not land in the colony until September 1811. Dent arrived with approximately two hundred fellow felons, on the Admiral Gambier.  

The conditional pardon granted to him by Governor Lachlan Macquarie on 31 January 1818, indicates Dent reformed. Prior to obtaining the grant Dent pleaded for mitigation of his sentence and asked Governor Lachlan Macquarie for humane consideration to his request. A letter forwarded to Macquarie stated that following arrival in the colony Dent displayed a sober
and upright character while employed in the ‘Government Domain’ even though suffering under
the painful sentence of transportation.\textsuperscript{14} The Colonial Secretary’s Papers indicate that Macquarie
did indeed act humanely toward Samuel Dent because the latter received a conditional pardon
and a land grant at Seven Hills on 17.8.1819.\textsuperscript{15} The land grants for Haynes and Dent appeared in
the same announcement in the \textit{Sydney Gazette}.\textsuperscript{16} Other recipients of grants of land around the
same time were men like Richard Rouse, Samuel Terry and James Wilshire.\textsuperscript{17}

The Register of Land Grants imply the formation of ‘the Seven Hills Road’ had taken place
by the time the two ex-convicts took up their holdings.\textsuperscript{18} Dent was also a landholder in the
Parramatta district listed in the Convict Muster for 1822.\textsuperscript{19} In 1826, a marriage took place between
Dent and Ann Davies in St John’s Church Parramatta.\textsuperscript{20} The couple registered the birth of son
Samuel in 1827, and daughter Elizabeth, in 1829.\textsuperscript{21} Life appeared to take a turn for the worse
however in 1833 because Dent placed an advertisement in the \textit{Sydney Gazette} cautioning the
public against providing goods on trust or credit to wife Ann who abandoned the family at Prospect
‘without just cause.’\textsuperscript{22} Dent stated that he would not be liable for any debts incurred, and ‘all
persons’ were cautioned ‘not to harbour the said Ann Dent.’\textsuperscript{23} The fate of Ann is unknown and
Dent died several years later.

\textbf{James Galloway} took possession of the Dent farm conveyed to him by William Randall and
wife Hannah (nee Dent) in December 1850.\textsuperscript{24} Randall, a convict aged 34, received permission to
marry native-born Hannah (aged 17), in 1842.\textsuperscript{25} Despite research, the relationship between
Hannah and Samuel Dent remains unclear. In 1848, James Galloway appeared on a list of electors
requesting Nelson Lawson - son of William Lawson - to seek representation on the NSW Legislative
Council.\textsuperscript{26} Nelson Lawson went on to serve as the member for the County of Cumberland from
August 1848 until his death the following year.\textsuperscript{27}

A newspaper article in the \textit{Sydney Morning Herald} suggested that Galloway operated a
dairy farm on the Seven Hills property.\textsuperscript{28} In 1851, he was indirectly involved in a ‘melancholy and
fatal accident’ when a stubborn horse and a spring cart caused fatal injuries to Thomas Quinton.\textsuperscript{29}
Thomas Pike, a farmer of Prospect, found the badly injured Quinton, who ended up on the road,
sometime later. Pike conveyed him to the Galloway farm. However, Quinton died in hospital
several days later.\textsuperscript{30}
Another incident involving death embroiled James Galloway once again after William Henry Smith stood accused of killing his wife by pushing her into the fire. The court case convened on 11th November 1865, and local residents like John Kelly, John Brien, Mary Ann Pearce, Timothy Brien, Daniel Brien junior, Daniel Brien senior, Eliza Pearce, Elizabeth James, Elizabeth Howard, and Alice White, provided evidence. Smith, locked up in Darlinghurst gaol, lost an appeal for bail, however, his friends banded together and approached the Supreme Court with a writ of Habeas Corpus. When Smith, James Galloway and David Howard paid sureties, he was released. The court also heard from Doctor Robert Champley Rutter, medical practitioner at the Parramatta Asylum, who attended the badly burned lady before she died.

At the trial, Doctor Rutter, Timothy Brien, Sgt John Kelly, John Brien, Mary Ann Pearce, Daniel Brien junior and senior, Eliza Pearce, Elizabeth James, Elizabeth Howard, and Alice White, all gave evidence for the prosecution while the defence heard from Samuel Critchley, John Brown, Daniel Howard, James Galloway and Eleanor Grace Howard. The latter all spoke highly of Smith. After deliberation, the jury deemed the death of Smith’s wife to have been accidental rather that murder.

It is clear that both grants changed hands several times until Thomas Davis combined and transferred both to Torrens Title, under the Real Property Act, in 1886. After his death, William Mark Davis and Edward Henry Pearce administered the Davis estate. In 1896, ownership of the combined parcel passed to William Chadwick (1863-1937). Chadwick, a well-to-do city businessman, was the youngest child of successful timber merchant, William Chadwick and Bridget (nee Clarke). Unfortunately, William senior died at the age of thirty-nine, in 1863.

Chadwick senior, a native of Lancashire England, arrived in the colony aboard the ‘Emperor,’ in 1848, while his Irish-born bride, Bridget (aged 16) and sister Mary (aged 18), arrived in 1850. Bridget and Mary were orphans and sailed to the colony aboard the sailing barque, ‘John Knox.’ The two girls arrived under a scheme devised by Earl Grey, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, which endeavoured to fill the growing demand for domestic servants and single women of marriageable age. The Earl Grey Scheme also hoped to alleviate severe overcrowding in Irish workhouses caused by the Irish famine. Nevertheless, the huge gender imbalance in the colony lasted until the last decade of the nineteenth century. William and Bridget married in 1855,
and the children that survived into adulthood were Mary Ann (b1855), Edward (b1859), Henry (b1857), Robert (b1861) and the abovementioned William (b1863). Chadwick senior operated a successful timber business in partnership with brother-in-law, Richard Smith. In 1858-59, the Sands Directory listed Chadwick & Smith Timber Merchants located at 23 Liverpool Street Sydney while the family lived on Botany Road, Waterloo. The company had branches in Liverpool Street, Botany Road, and Parker Street. Robert Chadwick, the younger brother of William senior, arrived in the colony sometime later. He joined his brother’s firm, which became Chadwick, Smith & Chadwick Timber Merchants. Company stationery from that time noted the steam saw mill kept on hand supplies of all kinds of turned wood. Indeed, in 1872, a newspaper article illustrated the diversity of the business because they supplied products like fruit boxes, and wooden cases of all kinds, as well as fancy architraves, windows (already glazed on the premises) and doors.

William senior had been ill for approximately twelve months before eventually succumbing to chronic bronchitis in 1863. He was buried in St Stephen’s Cemetery Camperdown, and the executors of his estate were Robert Chadwick and Richard Smith. The death of his brother placed the burden of managing Bridget’s affairs on Robert Chadwick. As a widow, a woman and a sole parent with five small children to bring up, Bridget would have been at a severe disadvantage. However, with Uncle Robert’s assistance the young Chadwick boys prospered and went on to found the Equitable Permanent Building Land and Savings Institution (EPBLSI) in 1874. The institution operated much like a bank or building society, advancing funds upon security of freehold or leasehold property. According to the magazine of the EPBLSI, young William Chadwick joined the firm in 1877, aged fourteen.

Robert Chadwick set a good example for his young nephews because he supported various community, sporting and church organisations like the Chapter of St Andrew’s Cathedral, the NSW Institution of the Deaf, Dumb and Blind, the Young Women’s Christian Association, and many others. As well as property interests and the timber mill, Robert Chadwick owned sailing vessels that transported timber from locations like the Richmond, Bellinger, and Nambucca. He retired from the timber business in 1896 and purchased the home ‘Althorne’ in Woollahra where he died in 1916. Sir William McMillan, Colonial Treasurer in the Parkes ministry, owned the home later.
In 1877, the marriage of Mary Chadwick (Williams’s sister) to John Walter Hedges joined two families who would later reside in Seven Hills. Mary and John had several children and they were Walter H. b1878, Clara b1880, Nellie b1882, Minnie b1884, Harold W b1886, Lena b1889, John Stanley b1891 and Arthur Sydney b1893. Family bonds strengthened when two of the Hedges children married into other well-known families residing in the Seven Hills district. Minnie married storekeeper, Ernest Hartley, while Nellie married Edward William Charles Archdall Pearce. Edward, who inherited the extensive ‘Bella Vista’ property, was the great grandson of Matthew Pearce, one of the earliest pioneers to settle in the Seven Hills district.

William Chadwick (junior) married Louisa Clara Hill Brown in 1888. Louisa was the daughter of Jabez and Louisa (nee Samuels) Brown. In the 1870s, Jabez operated the Coach and Horse at Randwick before moving to ‘Louiville’ Church Street, Randwick. In 1890, two years after their marriage, William and Louisa were living on Gurner Street, Paddington. They may have purchased the land from a subdivision devised by John Walter Hedges. This is where they built the terrace house ‘Melrose’. McGrath Real Estate advertised the house for sale in 2011 and noted the residence was:

“Moments to Five Ways in a prestigious setting amidst galleries and shops
‘Melrose’ is a signature Victorian Italianate terrace offering three levels of traditional elegance and contemporary style. It presents the classic Paddington lifestyle just minutes to the CBD. Three storey c1890s Victorian terrace beautifully presented"
- Combined grand formal living/dining room with high ceilings
- Private leafy court garden enjoying direct northern sunlight.”

The house sold in 2011 for $2,380.00.60

A son named William Arthur and daughters, Elsie and Amy C. were born when William and Louisa occupied the Paddington house.61 The couple’s last child Ethel L. was born in Seven Hills in 1898. The announcement of the birth of Ethel is interesting because the residence, presently known as ‘Melrose,’ was originally called ‘Prospect Hall.’62 William Arthur married Kathleen Doyne in 1917, Elsie married Rupert Octavius Dent in 1920, Amy Constance married Frederick J. Brown in 1920, and Ethel married Alfred W.G. Wing in 1922.63 It is not clear if Rupert Dent was related to the Dents who originally owned part of the Seven Hills property.

Whatever the case, Rupert Dent had a brush with royalty during World War 1 when, as a young army officer, he was sent to Glamis Castle in Scotland to recuperate from a shoulder wound.64 There he met Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, who was eighteen years old at the time, and several years away from marrying the future King George VI.65 Elizabeth’s duty was to amuse wounded soldiers, thus, she and Rupert formed an enduring friendship. Several letters exchanged between the two sold at Noble Numismatics in Sydney, in 2013.66 In 1927, the Duchess of York (as she was then) renewed the friendship on a visit to Australia by inviting Rupert and Elsie to Government House.67

Family connections were evident in 1891 when the Australian Union Benefit Society held its annual meeting for the election of officers. William Chadwick secured the position of secretary while J. Hedges became one of several vice presidents, and J.W. Hedges, one of the check stewards.68 That same year the Equitable Building Society appointed William Chadwick as manager.69 In later years, William Chadwick was attributed with successfully steering the latter Society through the financial crisis of the 1890s, while his affable character was responsible for
In addition, he won the deep respect of clients he assisted through the difficult depression of the 1890s.70

When the Chadwick family moved to Seven Hills 1896/97, the building of their new residence was newsworthy.71 A newspaper article mentioned William Chadwick purchased the land from the Davis Estate, and a fine cottage was under construction.72 Designed by architect Byera Hadley, the ‘Federation’ style bungalow has verandas on three sides, and the interior rooms radiate off a wide central hall, typical of that style of architecture. Byera Hadley was a ‘speculative architect’ who designed cottages and developed vacant parcels of land. He founded his own private practise in the Camden Building 418 George Street Sydney.73 A popular architect in his day, Hadley designed buildings like the Methodist Girls School at Bowral, the Leigh and Wesley College Chapels for the University of Sydney, as well as various churches and town halls.74 However, the former ‘Prospect Hall’ remains one of only a few homes designed by Hadley that is
identified for protection under a Local Environment Plan. Builder, W. Seller constructed the home.

During their time in the Seven Hills district, the Chadwick family were involved in various community activities. William Chadwick was a Churchwarden of St. Bartholomew’s Church Prospect, along with Robert Crawford (Hill End Doonside) and real estate auctioneer, E.C. Batt (Flushcombe Turrets). The appointment is an indication of his standing in the district; all three men were JP’s. The Government Gazette for 1898 noted that William Chadwick was a Magistrate for the colony along with Arthur William Relph, ‘St Angelo’ Jersey Road Prospect.

In 1897, the children of the ‘Meadows’ school were given a Christmas treat when the school was situated in less than adequate quarters. Consequently, Mr Garrard, the Minister for Education at the time, took up the cause for better accommodation. Subsequently, William Chadwick chaired an event the following year that marked the opening of the newly built ‘Meadows Public School.’ Moreover, it was little Elsie Chadwick who presented Garrard with a bouquet of flowers as an expression of community appreciation. In 1900, William Chadwick presented an illuminated address to Trooper Whitney of the NSW Lancers on his return from the Boer War. In his speech, William referred to Trooper Whitney as ‘one of Australia’s noblest sons.’

Information suggests the family moved back to the city because Louisa Chadwick found life away from the city ‘too quiet’ and the property too isolated. The Certificate of Title confirmed the family retained ownership of the land until 1901, when Stephen John Rabone, gentleman of Mosman, became the new owner. Census records note that Henry Stewart lived there in 1901, but he may have been a caretaker.

Despite their departure from the district, the Chadwick family remained very much in touch with residents of Seven Hills. An article in 1917, mentioned Louisa Chadwick, living at ‘Highlands’ Cremorne Road, Cremorne and Mrs H.H. Smith of Seven Hills, presiding over a stall in Martin Place on Red Triangle Day. Friends of the two women - who managed to raise £185 on the day - donated money, fruit, preserves, poultry and other produce. Several Blacktown Council
alderman caused a stir by suggesting the bulk of that money should go to swell shire funds because most of the produce and donations came from Seven Hills. A very bizarre point of view.

During the 1930s, William and Louisa’s son, William Arthur Chadwick, worked as a land/engineering and mining surveyor. He and wife Kathleen lived in ‘St Agnes’ an arts and craft cottage at Neutral Bay designed by B.J. Waterhouse. The house recently sold for over $6,000,000. The Chadwick narrative clearly shows they belonged to the colonial upper class.

When William Chadwick died in 1937, he and Louisa were still living in ‘Highlands’ at Cremorne. His wife and children survived him.

Stephen John Rabone (1878-1937) who purchased the property from the Chadwick’s in 1901 also had strong family connections in Seven Hills. Stephen, the son of William Thomas and Ellen Maria (nee Neale) Rabone, married Isabel Eliza Pearce in 1908. Isabel was the daughter of George Woodward and Amelia Emily (nee Neale) Pearce. Amelia’s parents were Alfred George James and Amelia (nee Meurant) Neale. Ellen Maria Neale (1843-1918) was the much younger sister of Alfred George Neale (1825-1906) and they shared parents John and Sarah (nee Lee) Neale. According to the obituary for Alfred Neale, he was an old and respected resident of the district who died at Orange Grove Seven Hills in 1906, after suffering a long illness. Sister Ellen (Stephen John Rabone’s mother) was one of the mourners.

Stephen Rabone’s father-in-law, George Woodward Pearce, lived out his days on the Orange Grove property before his death in 1922. His obituary mentioned he was a member of the original Pearce clan who inhabited the Seven Hills district in the early days of settlement in the area. Matthew Pearce, George Woodward’s grandfather, received the original grant at Toongabbie and renamed the area Seven Hills after seven continuous hills he was able to count from the front of his house. The Chadwick’s and Rabones were both related to the Pearce family, who were also related to various people like the Broughton, Bluetts and Major-General Sir W.T. Bridges.

In 1903, a newspaper article described Mr S.J. Rabone as the enterprising and progressive owner of the ‘Prospect Hall’ property. The article is interesting because it credits Rabone with the construction of two large underground tanks that were twenty-five feet deep with a holding capacity of 80,000 gallons. Furthermore, the article suggested the tanks would make an ‘excellent
auxiliary’ to another 20,000-gallon tank already installed by Rabone. Furthermore, Rabone was responsible for the construction of several large dams on the estate.95

Throughout the 1930s, Stephen John Rabone, an accountant, lived at Bridge Street Ashfield, according to the NSW electoral rolls.96 Various newspaper articles confirm the Rabone family, like the Chadwick’s, retained links with the district. One newspaper article in 1914 mentioned Mesdames Rabone, G.W. Pearce, Burton, Neale and P.A. Pearce as the ‘Plain and Fancy’ stallholders at the St Andrews Anglican bazaar.97

Francis Leslie Martin (1873-1928) purchased the property from Rabone in 1906. Even so, the ‘Grantham Poultry Farm’ did not begin life at Seven Hills. Indeed, Francis Leslie Martin started the enterprise in 1886, in the backyard of his father’s home at Burwood.98 Francis Leslie Martin was the eldest son of James Martin (1850-1898) an agricultural machinery manufacturer and importer. James Martin (not to be confused with Sir James Martin, or the South Australian firm of James Martin) was a member of the NSW Legislative Assembly for South Sydney 1889-1894, a member for Bligh 1894-1895 and a city alderman for Denison Ward on the City of Sydney council 1888-1891.99 He was educated at Fort Street Public School and then Sydney Grammar before establishing James Martin & Co. importers of machinery and agricultural implements. The firm was located on Clarence and George Street Sydney.100 In 1895, he lived in a residence named ‘Grantham,’ located on the corner of Belmore Street and Shaftesbury Road Burwood.101 According to the local studies librarian at Burwood City Council, the Salvation Army owned the residence in the 1920s, and ‘a giant windmill’ (certainly from the time of James Martin) ‘pumped water up to huge tanks’ for use in what became known as ‘The Repose.’102
James Martin was an advocate for Federation of the Australian colonies as well as equal voting rights and Free trade.\textsuperscript{103} He served on various committees like many other self-made men of the upper class and was vice-president of the Royal Agricultural Society, a Director of Sydney Hospital and a one-time president of the NSW Cyclists Club. Furthermore, he was a special Commissioner to the Chicago Expo, in 1892.\textsuperscript{104} The \textit{Australian Town and Country Journal} stated that James Martin was initially involved in a business called Martin & Pain, George Street Sydney before founding his own enterprise.\textsuperscript{105} His eldest son, Leslie (Francis Leslie), joined the latter firm and graduated to the position of senior partner on the premature death of his father, in 1898.\textsuperscript{106}

James Martin is sure to have assisted his son in the initial setting up of the poultry enterprise at Burwood in 1886. The business relocated to Glenfield in 1887, but, unable to purchase land or secure a lease at Glenfield, Martin relocated the enterprise to Plumpton.\textsuperscript{107} In 1902, when an Order of Court transferred 24 acres of land at Plumpton from Alexander Martin (d1917) to Thomas Frederick Thompson and Francis Leslie Martin, it is reasonable to assume the transaction passed the property from uncle to nephew.\textsuperscript{108} In fact, Alexander Martin was the elder brother of James Martin and Thomas Frederick Thompson (1838-1930) was a director of James Martin & Co. Thompson had quite a chequered career; after serving time as a coachbuilder, he was variously a wine and spirit merchant and an importer of fox terriers. As well as his involvement with James Martin & Co., Thompson was also a director of Toohey’s Brewery.\textsuperscript{109}
Consequently, Plumpton became the permanent location of the ‘Grantham’ poultry business until 1906. Nevertheless, the location was never a popular choice with Francis Leslie Martin because he felt it was too isolated and too far away from the railway line. Even so, newspapers from that era regularly mentioned Grantham Poultry Farm (GPF). According to one advertisement, eggs from the farm’s ‘Prize Winning Poultry’ could be freighted to almost anywhere simply by contacting the agents.\textsuperscript{110} In 1894, clients were able to order ducks, geese and purebred pullets (of different breeds) as well as eggs for hatching from the head office at 249 Clarence Street Sydney.\textsuperscript{111}
Another article in 1895 publicised the availability of a new comprehensive catalogue and announced the launch of a new plant nursery that complemented the poultry farm. The same tome carried an advertisement for spraying pumps (endorsed by the Department of Agriculture) that were sold by James Martin & Co. Even the *Sydney Wool and Stock Journal* advertised the Plumpton farm and suggested hints and valuable information could be gleaned from the latest catalogue. It was around this time when James Hadlington senior became manager of the enterprise.

The farm was still at Plumpton in 1906 when the *Nepean Times* announced that ‘under the management of Mr James Hadlington Grantham Poultry Farm’ ranked as the ‘most successful in this State.’ Hadlington was reputed to be ‘one of the busiest men about’ because he managed the nursery side of the business too. Concerns about the isolation of Plumpton saw the farm move to Seven Hills in 1906 because the Seven Hills property was closer to a railway line. However, the
setting up and running of ‘Grantham’ remained in the hands of James Hadlington senior until he was appointed Government Poultry Expert for the Department of Agriculture in 1913. Under the directorship of Hadlington senior, the farm prospered and produced prize-winning poultry from 1906 to 1913.

The novelty of the farm drew visitors, like the Governor of NSW, while the use of groundbreaking techniques made the farm extremely newsworthy. One article declared that different breeds of poultry on the farm produced thousands of eggs, which were sorted, in a ‘novel’ way, before transportation to the railway station. Sons James Richard and Edwin assisted Hadlington senior in the operation of the farm at that time. Thus, James junior easily took over the reins when Hadlington senior left Grantham to take up his new position in 1913 When James Richard Hadlington married Florence Mabel Lucas in 1914 ‘Prospect Hall’ became home and a fitting residence for the newly appointed manager.

It is clear that Francis Leslie Martin never lived on the Seven Hills property because he was involved elsewhere. In 1912, he was busy setting up James Martin and Co. as a limited company. He and Thomas Frederick Thompson remained directors, joined by the Hon. F.E. Winchcombe MLC, a wool broker of Sydney and John R. Hall MLC, a merchant of Newcastle and Sydney. The public accountant was Thomas Davis and the prospectus that appeared in newspapers noted that Francis Leslie Martin agreed to act as Managing Director of the company for a period of six years.

Meanwhile, Grantham Poultry Farm, under the direction of James Hadlington junior continued to flourish if one can set much store by a catalogue produced around 1916. The catalogue stated that eggs and poultry were transported interstate and as far afield as the Philippines, Japan, Singapore, Thailand, Ceylon and Vancouver. Furthermore, eggs bearing the stamp of the farm were packed and transported in expressly designed safety boxes patented for that use, while live birds travelled to near and far-flung destinations in specially constructed coops. According to the North Otago Times, the 118 acre farm was ‘ideally situated…ten minutes walk from the Seven Hills station along a road that spells contentment.’ The article went on to describe the pleasant nature of the adjacent area filled as it was with orange groves, stands of timber and the odd cottage. The house (Prospect Hall/Melrose) attached to the property
came as something of a surprise to the correspondent after passing only weatherboard cottages along the way.\footnote{126}

Around this time the sale of the property from Francis Leslie Martin to the NSW Government, was in the early stage of negotiations. In 1916, the *Returned Soldiers Settlement Act* came into existence to assist those men who put patriotism for their country ahead of personal injury or family sacrifice. The scheme aimed to train and provide an income for disabled soldiers who received an honourable discharge after service overseas with the Australian Imperial Force or British Defence Service. The Rural bank distributed assistance to those men who lacked available or sufficient capital to embark on a new career. In 1917, an amended *Act* came into effect so that soldiers who did not serve overseas were eligible to apply.\footnote{127} However, the Scheme was less than successful because most of the men suffered war injuries, which incapacitated them physically and mentally.

The Minister of Lands and Forestry, the Hon. W.G. Ashford (1874-1925) administered the scheme assisted by John George Robinson Bryant who was Director of Soldier Settlements. Ashford, elected to the NSW Legislative Assembly in 1910, served in the first majority Labour government to hold office in NSW under James McGowan.\footnote{128} During his parliamentary career, Ashford was Labour member for the Upper Hunter, Liverpool Plains, and Wammerawa. He was Minister of Agriculture 1914-15 and until 1920, the Secretary/Minister for Lands and Forests. Ashford eventually resigned when a Royal Commission found him culpable on several charges related to the purchase of land and operation of the Soldier Settlers scheme. Bryant had been Assistant Fruit Expert in the Department of Agriculture from 1904 until 1918 when he took up his appointment as Director of Soldier Settlements. Recalled to answer various charges before the Royal Commission, Bryant was serving as the NSW Immigration and Publicity Officer in London.

The land became a Soldier Settlement and later, *‘Grantham’* played a role in the Royal Commission. However, that is another story.
47 Ibid.
48 Ibid.
49 Irish Famine Memorial; Mitchell & State Library of NSW, Dixon Libraries Manuscript Collection, ref: ML Mss 2622
1874-1960.
50 Information Chadwick family & photocopy of magazine of the Equitable Permanent Building Land and Savings
51 Sydney Morning Herald, 26.9.1916, p. 11.
53 Sydney Morning Herald, 26.9.1916, p. 11.
54 NSW BDM Indexes.
55 Ibid.
56 Jack Brook, p. 39.
58 Sands Directory, 1874 & 1875; Evening News, 15.9.1906, p. 3.
59 Kaye Purnell, Ibid.
63 NSW BDM indexes.
65 Ibid.
66 Ibid.
67 The Richmond Express and Casino Kyogle Advertiser, 15.4.1927, p. 2.
68 Sydney Morning Herald, 17.1.1891, p. 11.
69 Kaye Purnell, Ibid.
70 Ibid.
71 Cumberland Free Press, 31.10.1896, p. 11.
72 Ibid.
73 Michael Bogle, Byera Hadley Biography, August 2011, Architecture Insights,
74 Ibid.
75 Ibid.
76 Jack Brook, p. 144.
77 Sydney Morning Herald, 22.4.1899. p. 7.
78 State Records of NSW, NSW Government Gazette, 14.7.1898, p. 610.
80 Sydney Morning Herald, 30.5.1898, p. 6.
81 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, 8.12.1900, p. 11.
82 Kevin Moore.
83 Certificate of Title, Vol. 1199, Folio 136, Jack Brook collection, BDHS.
84 1901 Census.
85 Cumberland Argus, 20.6.1917, p. 2.
86 Ibid.
87 Sydney Morning Herald, 16.3.1937, p. 17.
88 NSW BDM Indexes, Amelia was the daughter of Ferdinand Charles Meurant.
89 Ibid.
90 Cumberland Argus & Fruitgrowers Advocate, 23.6.1906, p. 11.
91 Sydney Morning Herald, 2.8.1922, p. 12.
92 Queanbeyan Age and Queanbeyan Observer, 15.9.1922, p. 2.
93 Ibid.
94 Cumberland Argus & Fruitgrowers Advocate, 20.6.1903, p. 11.
95 Ibid.
90 NSW Electoral rolls 1930s.
91 *Nepean Times*, 7.11.1914, p. 5.
94 Ibid.
95 Kasia Malicka, email correspondence with Pamela Smith.
96 Ibid.
97 State Library of NSW, James Martin, letter to South Sydney electors, June 1891, ref. MLMSS5736.
98 City of Sydney.
100 City of Sydney.
101 *Sydney Morning Herald*, 26.6.1917, p. 5. The article is thought to have been written by Francis Leslie Martin.
102 Jack Brook, p. 145.
103 *Sunday Times*, The Crib of Memory, Nonagenarian’s Vivid Glimpse of Early Sydney, 21.8.1927, p. 3.
104 *Queenslander*, 16.9.1893, p. 530.
111 Jack Brook collection.
112 Ibid.
113 *Northern Star*, 7.9.1920, p. 5.
114 NSW BDM Indexes, James Richard Hadlington & Florence Lucas.
115 *Sydney Morning Herald*, 20.3.1912, p. 18.
116 Ibid.
117 Jack Brook collection, BDHS.
118 Ibid.
119 State Records of NSW, Returned Soldier Settler files.

**Images**

Page 1: Map of Haynes and Dent Grants in The Seven Hills, A Village Divided, a Suburb United, Original map Land Titles Office.

Page 3: Prison Hulk, unattributed.


Page 8: William Chadwick, copy from Kaye Purnell to Pamela Smith.


Page 13: James Martin & Co. c1899-1900 Image taken for the Sydney Show (now Royal Easter Show). James Martin & Company sold agricultural machinery and was originally located at Clarence St, Sydney. National Library of Australia.

Page 14: Premises of James Martin & Co., City of Sydney, Aldermen, sydneyaldermen.com.au