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"Bunk"

"History is more or less bunk".
HENRY FORD, Chicago Tribune, 1916

Lottie's life

Diary Dates 2018

**Museum Open
10am to noon
Monday to Friday**

**Meetings at Museum
22 Alexandra Street
Hunters Hill**

**Thursday 22 February
Morning Tea 10am in
the Museum
Followed by
GENERAL MEETING
IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER
Commencing 10.30am
GUEST SPEAKER**

Greg Clancy

Hitler's Lost Spy

Greg Clancy tells the story of a Swiss-born Nazi spy who arrived in Sydney in March 1938 and departed in February 1940. In that time, she broadcast her own programs on public radio — a secure channel for transmitting coded messages.

A "Saint" from All Saints" was the title of a talk given by President Chris Schofield at the Society's October 2017 General Meeting.

Chris spoke about his research into the life and times of Lottie Stewart Gore (1889-1939) whose commemorative plaque is to be found in the nave of All Saints' Anglican Church at Hunters Hill. Born at Lake Bathurst outside Goulburn, Lottie became a lifelong friend of her childhood playmate, Helen, who married the Reverend Montague Golden Hinsby, later to

become rector of All Saints.

After living for a time with the Hinsby family at the rectory in Hunters Hill, Lottie decided to become a missionary and join her brother, Canon Edward Gore, and his

wife in southern Sudan. She spent 11 years in equatorial Africa, helping to run a church and a school.

However, Lottie succumbed to illness there and died a year after returning home to Hunters Hill. She is buried at St John's Church, Lake Bathurst. Chris's account of Lottie painted a vivid pic-



ture of life in colonial and post Federation Australia. **Picture: Chris Schofield at Lottie's grave at Lake Bathurst.**

Footnote: Rev Montague Golden Hinsby joined the AIF Chaplains' Corps on 1 August 1917, returning to Australia on 12 June 1919. He was Mayor of Penrith in December 1919 when a proposal to erect a public Honour Roll for WWI soldiers and nurses (dead and living) was put forward. Support from the Council, the local Returned Soldiers' League and the public was lukewarm, and it wasn't until 8 July 1922 that the Governor of New South Wales, Sir Walter Davidson, opened the memorial, which included seven honour roll tablets, a rotunda and two trophy guns, at Memory Park.

Information from Penrith Historical Society

Judith Burgess

1 April 1927 - 6 January 2018



**Judith Burgess (nee Cuneo)
was president of Hunters Hill
Historical Society in 1992-93**

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SOCIETY INC

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Volunteer fire fighters resembled Dad's Army

One of Australia's biggest ever fires, in July 1901, destroyed Hordern's three-storey Haymarket store in Sydney. It prompted local residents to ask why there was no fire station between Drummoyne and Parramatta. The result was the formation of the Gladesville Volunteer Fire Brigade, whose subsequent adventures and antics resembled something akin to the fictional "Dad's Army".

A public fund was established to secure a block of land opposite the Gladesville Hotel and erection of a wooden building. The all-important mobile hose reel was donated by a well-heeled resident, Harry Shelley, who demanded the vital piece of equipment be named *Glen Doone* after his mansion at Henley.

Although Gladesville had been free from fires up to that point, no sooner had the volunteers been trained than several outbreaks occurred in quick succession.

One such event happened in a building on the hill at Ryde, near St Anne's Church. A fast trotting horse was immediately commandeered and harnessed to the reel. But when the scene of the blaze was reached, it was found that owing to the absence of pressure, the water simply trickled out of the nozzle, rendering the hose useless.

Despite this setback, the volunteers set to with buckets and succeeded in saving some of the structure. But apparently this did not please the owner, a widow woman. Her dilap-

idated building was insured and it seems she would have greatly benefitted had it been allowed to burn to the ground.

The notoriety of the firemen inspired the admiration of a young journalist connected with one of Sydney's daily papers. He decided that a write up on them would make interesting copy. So, one winter's night, when members of the Fire Brigade were snug in their beds, they were woken by the clanging of the firebell.

When the volunteers arrived breathless at the station, wondering where the fire was, they were confronted by the reporter, notebook in hand. He addressed the gathering, saying "Gentlemen, I have come to test the efficiency of the Brigade". Unsurprisingly, his speech was not received well. After a hasty "court martial" the seeker after a story was carried to a nearby horse trough and unceremoniously dumped in.

Nine years after the establishment of the volunteer brigade, the Board of Fire Commissioners decided to take control of safeguarding the communities of Gladesville, Hunters Hill and Ryde. The local fire station was established at its present location in Pittwater Road.

During its nine years of voluntary service, the Gladesville Volunteer Fire Brigade attended 54 fires. **By Chris Schofield, with information from the booklet, *Hunters Hill Sesquicentenary Celebrations 1794-1938* by JMC Boulton**

Horderns fire was big, but not the biggest

The fire that destroyed the Horderns Haymarket store was big, but there was an even bigger one on 22 September 1882, when the Garden Palace, at the south-western end of the area now occupied by the Sydney Botanic Gardens, went up. It was a large, purpose-built exhibition building constructed to house the Sydney International Exhibition in 1879. It was designed by James Barnett and constructed at a cost of £191,800 in only eight months.

This was largely due to the importation from England of electric lighting, which enabled work to be carried out around the clock.

A reworking of London's Crystal Palace, the Garden Palace plan was like a large cathedral. It had a dome 30.4 metres in diameter and 65.5 metres high. The building was over 244 metres long and had a floor space of over 112,000 metres, with

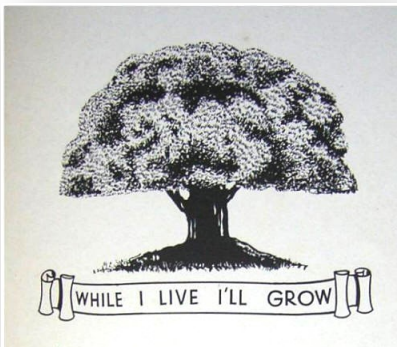
4.5 million feet of timber, 2.5 million bricks and 243 tons of galvanised corrugated iron. Sydney's first hydraulic lift was contained in the north tower. The large amount of timber ensured its complete destruction.

At the time of the fire, the building was used by

several Government Departments and many significant records were destroyed, notably records of squatter occupation in New South Wales. Most importantly, 500-1000 pieces of Sydney Aboriginal artefacts were also lost. The *Australasian Sketcher* reported the loud roar of the flames which could be heard throughout the city, and the towers and walls falling with a great crash resembling the roar of heavy guns. The zinc-work on the dome was sent flying far and wide, some spinning over to Woolloomooloo. The skeleton of the timber-work 'appeared like a magnificent fire-work design.'

The only remains of the Garden Palace are its carved Sydney sandstone gateposts and wrought iron gates, located on the Macquarie Street entrance to the Royal Botanic Gardens. A 1940s-era sunken garden and fountain featuring a statue of Cupid mark the former location of the Palace's dome.

The widespread destruction caused by the Garden Palace fire highlighted the need for Sydney's own fire brigade, and shortly after this fire the State Government passed the Fire Brigades Bill, which helped set up the Metropolitan Fire Brigade in 1884.



**The famous
Anthony Horderns symbol**



**The Garden Palace, destroyed by
fire, 22 September 1882**