HANCY, William

ARRIVAL William HANCY and his wife (shown in 1822 Census as having the first name of) SARAH, arrived in New South Wales as FREE on board the ship, “MINORCA”, which sailed from ENGLAND on 21/6/1801 and arrived in Sydney on 14/12/1801.

LAND GRANT The Governor of the time, PHILIP GIDLEY KING, granted William HANCY (the surname is spelt “HANCEY” in the Deed of Grant), One hundred acres (100 acres) in the District of Toongabbee, bounded on the S.E. side by Michael Hancey's Farm and on the S.W. by Stock Farm, the said 100 acres to be known by the name of “Hancey Junior’s Farm” - term 5 years free of all fees etc, and after that term of 5 yrs an Annual quit rent of two shillings (2/-) - on condition clearing and cultivation of country, - date of Deed 31/3/1802. Grant No 1047 Vol 3C Folio 92,

This nomination of William Hancy's land in the Deed of Grant, "the said 100 acres to be known by the name of "Hancey Junior’s Farm" has led to some confusion as to the relationship between the two men. A brochure of The Hills District Historical Society, entitled “The Beginnings of the Settlement in the Parish of Castle Hill” by James Jervis A.S.T.C., being material published originally in the Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society, Vol XV pages 226-266, refers to the two men in the section, "Notes on Pioneers" and the subsection on page 27 headed, "Michael Hancey and William Hancey” as “evidently father and son, as the former’s grant is registered an “Hancey Farm” and the latter as "Hancey Junior Farm". However the 1828 Census shows William as aged 62 years and Michael Hancy as 67 years of age, a difference of only 5 years, hardly lending weight to the thought that they might be Father and son, and more likely to be just brothers. A perpetuation of this error has occurred in another brochure, “Kellyville Public School Centenary, 1873 - 1973” at page 7, but ironically in reverse, since its author says, “William Hancey and his son, Michael Hancey, came out to Australia as Free Settlers in the 'Minorca' in December 1801" ...

Governor MACQUARIE made him a grant of a further sixty acres (60 acres) adjoining Mr ACRES' Estate at Baulkham Hills. This land of Mr Acres' straddled the Windsor Road, and his Eastern boundary was the Western boundary of William Hancey's 100 acre block, except for a small stretch at its North West Corner, which stretch became that part of William Hancey’s land at that end, whilst the remainder of the 60 acres was adjacent to William Hancey's Eastern boundary, making an L-shaped addition to his original holding, and the waters of the Cattai Creek at that point were wholly within his lands.

William HANCY (using his first spelling) addressed a Memorial to Governor Sir Thomas BRISBANE in 1822, petitioning for a grant of the whole or such part as the Governor might see fit, of an area of some 3/400 acres of barren brush, fit only for stock to run on, and adjoining his farm. Memorial is dated 1822 - No 141 4/1830 Archives Office of NSW Reel 1070. One of Wm.Hancy's referees, John Joseph King signed his reference on 17/8/1822, and commented that Wm Hancy's conduct had been found, “invariably correct”, and that he and his family “have distinguished themselves by their Sobriety and Industry".

Children In this Memorial Wm. Hancy stated that he and his wife had been accompanied by three children, Catherine, Ann and Thomas, and they came to the Colony in the “Minorca”, and “has had issue since five more children, Margaret, Frederick, Elizabeth, Sophia and Charlotte”.

It would seem that Wm. Hancy was not successful in obtaining the land he sought in 1822, because on 26/8/1824 he sought to obtain the grant of “such quantity of land in the New Country adjoining Hugh KELLY's Farm as may in your Excellency's wisdom seem meet”.... 1825 Memorial No 344 4/18... Archives Office of N.S.W.

In answer to queries, Wm. Hancy advised that of his 160 acres, “Sixty have been cleared and fenced in, the residue of which is so very barren and useless, that it is not worth cultivating”. He had stated that he had “upwards of 90 head of cattle for which he has not sufficient pasturage".

Of his referees, John Joseph King, confirmed his statements that the land was “neither fit for cultivation nor sufficient to depasture his cattle of about 90 head". He also stated that Wm. Hancy had a good character on coming to the colony, and had distinguished himself as also his family by “Integrity, sobriety and Industry”.

John Piper, declared Wm Hancy to be a deserving man and confirmed that he had 8 children. John Palmer also confirmed that Wm Hancy had been known by him since his arrival in the Colony and that he regarded him as “an industrious deserving character".
Site of Farm  Wm, Hancy's farm is in an area which came to be known as "Parish of Castle Hill". The Map of this Parish shows Hugh Kelly's Farm of 60 acres to be North of Wm. Hancy's land, and only separated from each other by another 60 acre block owned by Patk, Byrne. There is another block of 60 acres, endorsed with the name T. Kelly, and Easterly from Hugh Kelly's land, to which it is adjacent, further North - Easterly and on the other side of Cattai Creek is a large area of land, which had not been surveyed at the date of the preparation of the map.

Identification  In 1982 Gregory's Sydney Street Directory shows a road, which is named "Show Ground Road", running westerly from the shopping centre of Castle Hill at a T intersection with "Old Northern Road" to another T intersection at its westernmost extremity with "Windsor Road." Michael Hancy's 100 acre block's Eastern boundary would have been the Western boundary of the then Castle Hill showground in 1892, and the Showground Road would have been along the common boundary between each of William and - Michael's respective grants, there being no road in 1802 when they received their first grants, and the headwater of Cattai Creek would have provided a boundary to William Hancy's land on its Eastern boundary. While it is correct to say that there was no road there at the time of its occupation by William and Michael Hancy, the Parish Map of Castle Hill does show that they had a common right of way to the Windsor Road.

Quality of Land  The Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society Vol.XV at pp 226-266 has a paper written by James Jervis. He states in regard to The Beginnings of the Settlement in the Parish of Castle Hill, "The heavy clay soils of the district were difficult to work and deficient in certain mineral constituents essential to plant life. When cropped continuously the land ceased to respond, and the early settlers soon found it difficult to grow cereal crops successfully. Then rust attacked the wheat, which was the staple crop, and farmers were forced to abandon this branch of agriculture."

Frank Murcott BLADEN’s "HISTORICAL RECORDS OF NEW SOUTH WALES", Vol 6, at pp 190/1 shows the "HAWKESBURY SETTLERS' ADDRESS," 1806 to Governor Bligh on his arrival in the Colony, advising of "a near calamity of approaching famine caused by a great flood in March 1805, happening at a time when landholders, settlers and cultivators were being oppressed by a policy of not allowing imports of necessities, reducing prices of grain and other produce of agriculture to so low a price that would not pay the grower the expenses of cultivation ... and not paying for such commodities in money or such bills as would enable the settlers to purchase articles of necessity at a ready money price." (As the Colony had been established as a penal settlement no currency had been supplied - the Commissariat's Store receipts for produce, which was delivered to it, were a makeshift currency. There was a sort of official barter, whereby settlers could exchange their produce at a fixed price for imported goods. Cattle and rum were used as instruments of exchange,) "Looking to the Governor for what might be called a 'Bill of Rights', expressing loyalty, and complaining at an infringement on their rights, privileges and liberties by John McArthur, who by the 'Sydney Gazette' appears to have signed 'For the inhabitants' without the signatories previous knowledge, consent or authority, public or private."

WILLIAM HANCEY is shown as having been one of the 244 signatories. Also at pp 636/7 in the same Volume is detailed a Welcome to Lieut.Gov. PATERSON dated 6/5/1808, even though he did not arrive until January 1809, praying for the re-establishment of law and order, and punishment of those who deposed Gov. Bligh.

William Hancy was one of 7 signatories.

AND AGAIN at pp 802/3 in the same Volume is set out a SETTLERS PETITION TO VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH, dated 4/11/1808 and signed by 25 "Free settlers" amongst whom William Hancy is shown to be one of the signatories. This Petition reports the difficulties facing Gov. Bligh, when he arrived in New South Wales, because of the flood, with many suffering want, the bartering of spirits, the strolling dealers and the trading by the officers of the Regiment in the Colony as well as the extortionate rates of interest charged by these officers, to stop which he issued orders against those practices, and that in consequence the military deposed Bligh released McArthur from the Gaol where he was awaiting the hearing of a case against him, and appointed McArthur a magistrate and Colonial Secretary, Major Johnstone taking on himself the position of Lieut. Governor, saying that it was at the request of the principal inhabitants, but the Memorialists denied, saying that they knew nothing of the arrest Of the Governor, until after it had taken place. They also said that not twenty of the inhabitants were consulted before the arrest took place.

They also pointed out that the cultivators of land labour under the greatest inconveniences, as they can get no cash for their grain, from which circumstance they are unable to discharge their debts or get necessaries for their families; that the military monopolise to themselves the use of labourers, and put them to work at other than agriculture, so that the colony was being impoverished. Therefore they sought for the reinstatement of Bligh.
MITCHELL LIBRARY, SYDNEY, holds "WENTWORTH PAPERS". As "A 767". At p. 46 is a
RETURN OF PERSONS QUALIFIED TO SERVE AS JURORS AT THE GENERAL QUARTER SESSIONS,
PARRAMATTA, in the Territory of New South Wales, listed by Chief Constable, John Thorn.
Their places of residence were:- Parramatta, Newington, Seven Hills, Field of Mars,
Castle Hill, and Prospect and Melville.
Their standing in the Community or trades were:- 5 Esquires, 18 Yeomen, 13 House-
holders, 2 Bakers, 1 Carpenter, 1 Builder, 1 Govt. Botanist, 1 Tanner, 1 Gentleman &
Schoolmaster, 1 Wheelwright, 1 Publican and 2 Householders & Superintendents.

WILLIAM HANSEY (sic) is listed as one of the Yeomen an a Landholder.

RAYMOND’s THE NEW SOUTH WALES CALENDAR & DIRECTORY - 1834 - gives a description of
Itinerary - Road from Parramatta to Windsor & Richmond - on pp 54/55, (in part the
means of getting to Wm. Hancy’s farm). At point 15 miles from Sydney, bridge over
Parramatta River - North side of Parramatta and Gaol stands on the left, At 15 ½ ml.
point on the right along Penrith St. towards the Pennant Hills and joining in
about 3 ½ mls the road leading in from Pennant Hills to the Government wharf. From
the Junction to that wharf 2 mls.
There is also another road from Parramatta between this and the river, which
leads to the Female Orphan School; to the neat and picturesque cottage of Pemberton
Grange, the seat of George Thomas Palmer Esq.; Weddon Cottage of the late John Palmer;
Vineyard cottage of Hannibal McArthur Esq. MC; One Tree Hill of Thomas Forster Esq.;
Ermington House, Major Lockyer’s residence and to others near Kissing Point, where a
church and school house ornament the top of a rising hill.
At the 16 ¼ ml point, Turnpike. On the right, road leading to Pennant Hills and
to allotments marked out for the location of veterans.
This portion of the country is very rocky and wild and is much resorted to by
bushrangers. A little farther on is the bridge across the Darling Mill ponds.
On the right, steam flour mills, named the Darling Mills.
From this to the 18 mile stone, the land on the left is the Toongabbee reserve
land attached to the Government domain.
At the 18 ¾ ml point, on the right, the new North road to Wiseman's and Hunter
River turns off.
On the left, Pye's Inn.
At the 19 ¾ ml point, The Baulkham Hills. Here two old settlers, McDougall and
Suttor have extensive orange grounds, the trees are upwards of 20 years old.
At the 22 ¼ ml point, on the left Haywood, the residence of Mr. Geo. Acres.
At the 23 ml point, on the right, a public House, called "Bird in the Hand",
kept by Hugh Kelly. On the opposite side of the road there is much cleared land
affording an open prospect, backed by some formidable hills belonging to the lower
ranges of the Blue Mountains.

(Comment - This extract from the Calendar and Directory refers to Wm, Hancy's
neighbours at Baulkham Hills and to some of his referees to some of his petitions. Also
the reference to Hannibal McArthur's vineyard cottage is apt. because of the marriage
of William Hancy's oldest daughter, Catherine, to one of Hannibal McArthur's assigned
servants, James Williams.)

THE GENERAL MUSTER OF NEW SOUTH WALES in 1806 shows William Hancey (sic) in the list of
landholders with from 50 to 100 acres, of which land he had under cultivation 20 acres
of Wheat; 20 acres of Maize; 3 acres of Barley; 3/4 acre of Potatoes; 1 acre with
Orchard and Garden, 20 ½ acres of Pasture; and 35 acres lying fallow = 100 acres.
The animals detailed in the return were:- Sheep, 2 male 2 female, Goats, 1 Male
and 5 female, Hogs, 16 male and 4 female.

He is shown not to have held any bushels of Wheat, Maize or Barley on hand.
The Personnel on the farm were:- Wm. Hancy. his wife, 5 children, 2 Convicts for
employment as farm hands.

THE GENERAL MUSTER OF 1822 shows William Hansey (sic) as landholder at Parramatta, and
gives his wife's name as Sarah; whilst his children were shown as numbering 5 on the
farm (Catherine, the oldest girl, having married in 1818 James Williams); their names
being given as Ann, Mary, Thomas, with 2 others not named. The ages given and their
status of Coming free, or being born in the colony were not given correctly according
to other records, also Ann is included although married In 1816.
THE GENERAL MUSTER of 1825 shows William Hansey (sic) as landholder, Parramatta, and Sarah, his wife, and the children again numbering 5 on the farm, viz:- Ann, Mary, Thomas, Frederick and Elizabeth. (thus we have the names of the two, who were not named in the 1822 General Muster, i.e. Frederick and Elizabeth. However in William's Memorial of 1822 to Governor Brisbane, he had listed that he had had two more children, Sophia and Charlotte. In the same way as in the 1822 General Muster the children's ages and status were not given correctly according to other records.)

THE CENSUS of 1828 for William Hansey (sic) shows him as No 377 on the Roll.
Age 62, (so, for the first time, we learn that he was born about 1766). Came Free on 'Minorca' in 1801, Catholic, (here again, for the first time we learn to what creed or faith, it was he belonged). Settler at Baulkham Hills, holding 160 acres of land 30 Acres are shown as cleared, with 17 under cultivation, and that he owned 5 horses and 16 head of Horned Cattle.

His wife, Sarah, is shown as No 378 on the Roll and her age is given as 60 yrs. None of the girls are shown with the surname 'Hancy' or Hansey', so assume married or left the Colony by death or migration. Frederick Hansey (sic) is shown as No 457; Age as 25; Born in the Colony; Protestant, and a Sawyer at T.W.Fernden's, Kissing Point. Thomas Hansey (sic) is shown as No 458; (Age & status is not shown, but Age would have been about 28 or 29 and status as coming free in 1801 on Minorca) He is said to have been a Catholic, and by occupation a baker of Kent Street.

(DEATH of WILLIAM HANCY) William Hancy died 6/12/1830 at the age of 65 Yrs, still resident at Baulkham Hills, and was buried in the Catholic Cemetery, Parramatta, at the junction of the Windsor and Pennant Hills Roads, (This information is contained in a List of Inscriptions on Headstones in that Cemetery in a folder at the Rooms of the Society of Australian Genealogists, “Richmond Villa”, 120 Kent Street, Sydney. N.S.W.

SON, THOMAS. MEMORIAL RE LAND Archives Office Reel 1068. 1820 - 310 - 4/1824.
"25 May 1820 - The respectful Memorial of Thomas Hancy (sic) to His Excellency, Lachlan Macquarie. Memorialist a free born subject of this Colony is 19 yrs of age and resides with his father, William Hancy, at Baulkham Hills, following Agricultural Pursuits and supporting an Honest Industrious Character ...Being anxious to Improve a Farm implores ... grant him each portion of land for a Farm ... as shall seem meet.”

- it seems that Thomas might have been born at sea just before arrival in Port Jackson.
The 1828 Census, as mentioned before, showed Thomas Hancy as a baker, of Kent Street, and later we found him as of Gloucester Street. The N.S.W. Govt. Gazette of 26/5/1834 under land Claims, No 119. Page 85, shows him of Gloucester St., and the reference to his land is:- piece of land bounded on the North by a line running West to the allotment of William Davis in Cumberland Street, Sydney.

MARRIAGE of FEMALE CHILDREN Catherine, the oldest of the children, who arrived in the Colony with their father on the Minorca was married in St. John's Church, Parramatta on 21 March 1818 to James Williams. (See. under Williams)
Ann, the other female child to arrive with their father, had been married earlier on 9 Sep. 1816 to Thomas Wooley, also at St. John’s Church, Parramatta. Both the husbands were convicts at the time of their marriages, and required the Governors consent to the publication of the Banns, before they were allowed to be married. (R.G. Sydney Cert. of Marriage Particulars for Ann - No 1965 Vol 1.)

Mar 31. - Granted 100 acres in the District of Toongabbie. Rent 2/- per year. Commencing after 5 years.

DEATH OF SARAH HANCY R.G.Sydney's Cert. of Regn of Particulars of death of Sarah Hancy shows she died on 17 Nov 1859 at the age of 94 yrs. at Baulkham Hills: Cause of death was given as Old Age and Dysentery, and that she was buried on 19/11/1859 in the Old Wesleyan Cemetery, Parramatta. No particulars were inserted for details of parents or where born or married, simply answered 'unknown'. Number of children 8.
(Entry in the Register being 4550/ No 221.) (That Cemetery was closed and turned into a park by the Parramatta Council - It is known now as "The Walter Lawry Memorial Park" to commemorate pioneer clergymen of the Wesleyan faith. On inspection in June 1983 only a few of the headstones were left as stepping stones around two memorials in the park.)
CHILDREN OF WILLIAM & SARAH

Catherine  1795   -  1879
Simeon [?]  1797   -  n.k.
Ann       1798   - 1862
Thomas    1801   - 1876
Margaret  1802   -  n.k.
Frederick 1804   -  1872 [?]
Elizabeth 1806   -  1874
Sophia    1808   -  1845
Charlotte 1810   -  1867

WILLIAM HANCY

1822 MEMORIAL No 141  4/1830 A.O. Reel 1070

To His Excellency Sir Thomas Brisbane, KCB., Captain General, Governor and Commander in Chief in and over His Majesty's Territory of New South Wales Etc.Etc.Etc.

THE PETITION OF WILLIAM HANCY SHEWETH

That your Petitioner and Wife and three and three Children, namely Catherine, Ann and Thomas, came free to the Colony in the 'Minorca' in the year 1801. has had issue since five more children, Margaret, Frederick, Elizabeth, Sophia and Charlotte. That your Petitioner has had obtained two Grants of Land, One from His Excellency Governor King for One hundred acres and the other from His Excellency the late Governor Macquarie for Sixty Acres. That there is a quantity of barren Brush adjoining the farm that your Petitioner occupies at present, in appearance from three to four hundred acres and only fit for stock to run on. Your Petitioner prays your Excellency will be humanely pleased to grant him this portion of barren brush or any quantity thereof as to your Excellency appears meet, and your Petitioner as in duty bound, will ever pray.

I beg to recommend to His Excellency the Governor for favourable consideration as being a respectable industrious family.

J.......................... J.P.

The conduct of Memorialist and his family having come considerably under my observation, I am enabled to state that I found it to be invariably correct and that they have distinguished themselves by their Sobriety and Industry.

17 Aug. 1822
John Joseph King
R.G.C.