

**PART B: WITH OFFICIAL SANCTION
(AND MORE)!**

The Amazing Career of Susannah Matilda Ward in the New Land

*Everything passes and vanishes;
Everything leaves its trace;
And often you see in a footstep
What you could not see in a face.*

William Allingham (1824 - 1889)

FAMILY OF WILLIAM GORDON WARD AND SUSANNAH MATILDA

(No definite information is currently available about the earlier families of either William Gordon Ward or Susannah Matilda Baldwin)

WILLIAM GORDON WARD .. married SUSANNAH MATILDA BALDWIN
 * Also note second marriage

Born	England	Born	England
Died	Sep 1820 Sydney NSW.	Died	4 Jun 1862 Paterson NSW.

ELIZABETH . marr. 1829 . FREDERICK GARLING (Junior)

Born	1810 Oporto Portugal	Born	1806
Died	1880	Died	1873

SUSANNAH MATILDA . marr. 7 Feb 1832 . FREDERICK BEDWELL **

Born	4 Jan 1812 Cintra Portugal	Born	5 Nov 1796 Glouc. Eng
Died	30 May 1854 Paterson NSW.	Died	1 May 1853 Paterson NSW.

WILLIAM THOMAS HAWKSHAW .. Unmarried

Born	1815
Died	Nov 1836 Java en-route Far East

EMMA . marr. 3 Feb 1841 . GEORGE NICHOLAS LAILEY

Born	1817	Born
Died		Died

SARAH MAITLAND . marr. 6 Oct 1838 . CRAWFORD LOGAN BROWN

Born	1818	Born
Died		Died

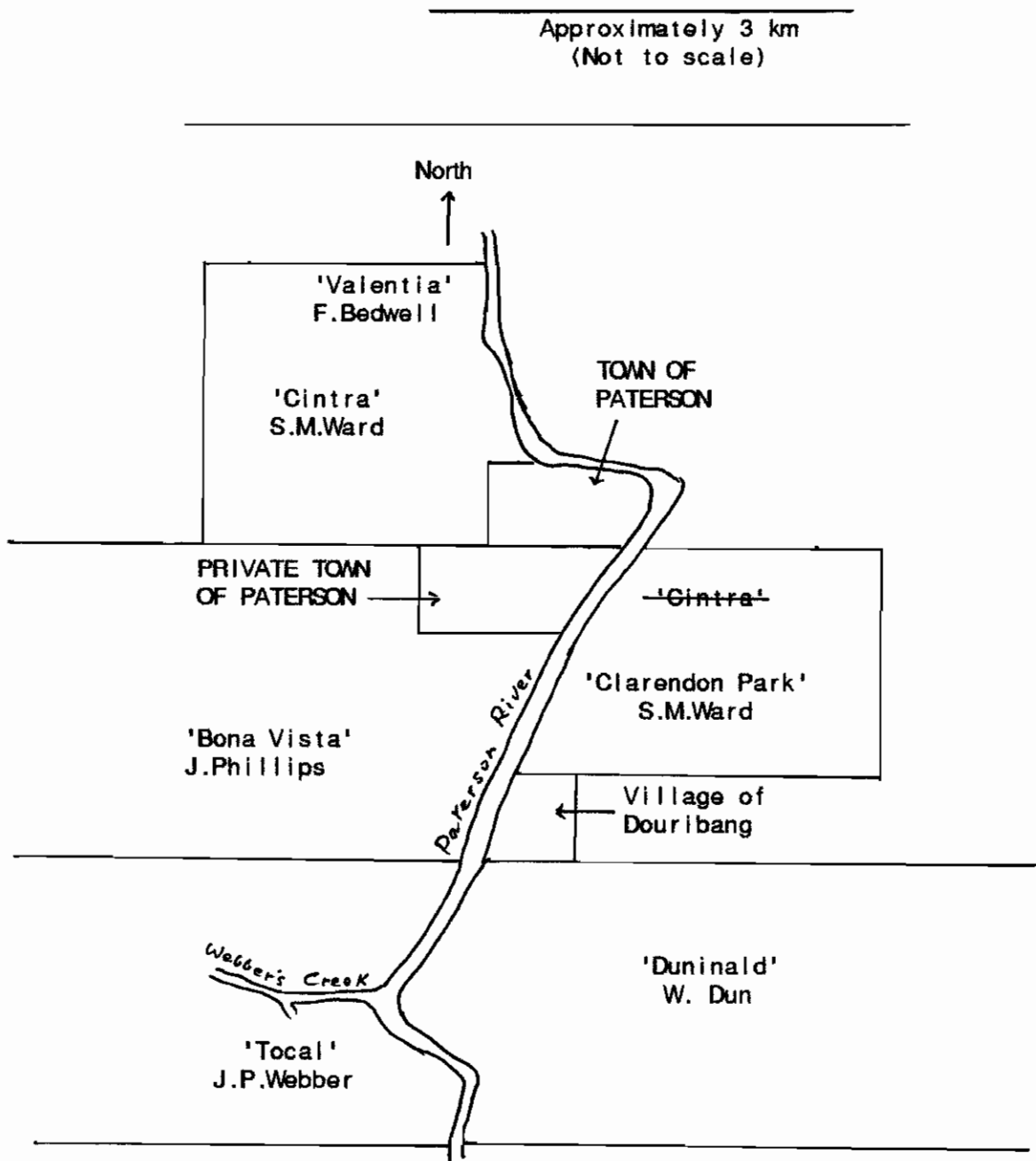
MARIA ELEANOR VILLIERS .. Died young

Born	1819
Died	Apr 1823 Parramatta NSW

** Refer to separate details of family

* Note: On 9 Aug 1841, Susannah Matilda senior married Robert Studdert (who was born in Ireland in 1819, and died in NSW on 27 May 1879).

**ROUGH PLAN OF PORTION OF PATERSON RIVER AREA
SHOWING SOME RELEVANT PROPERTIES AS GRANTED**



1 Some Early Hardships _____

Difficult Times in the Colony Compared with Earlier Days

William Gordon Ward with his wife Susannah Matilda (nee Baldwin), and their family of six young children (five girls and a boy, aged between about one and nine years) arrived in Port Jackson on 28 January, 1820. Their ship was 'Dromedary', one of His Majesty's store ships of 1100 tons, with a crew of 115 men, and among the officers, there was a Surgeon Superintendent. The journey had taken a little over four months from England, including a short stay at Hobart Town. There, Captain Richard Skinner, R.N., had orders to disembark most of the convicts which he had carried from England, and only twenty-two of the total of 369 male convict passengers remained on board; according to the Historical Records of Australia, most of those going to Sydney had been assigned to settlers. Initially, the intention had been to deliver all but 200 to Sydney, but that was changed, with the Governor's later approval.¹

The vessel carried a guard of fifty-seven soldiers of the 69th and 84th Regiments, under a captain and an ensign, and there seemed to be only one other passenger, apart from the Wards; he was Lieutenant John McArthur, R.N.

Interestingly, 'Dromedary' reached Port Jackson just sixteen days after 'Mermaid' arrived back from a voyage of exploration, both vessels sailing along the south of the continent. En-route to Sydney, 'Dromedary' had called at Hobart. There is a lot of ocean, and the chance of a meeting would be slight; however, if they had sailed a little further north before reaching Van Dieman's Land, and if King had sailed a little further south than the 38 degrees recorded in his Journal, the larger, faster vessel may have overtaken 'Mermaid' south of the Bight. But, even if they had seen each other,

Frederick Bedwell could not have guessed that the young girl, Susannah Matilda, on 'Dromedary', who was celebrating her eighth birthday at about that time, would become his future wife.

The family's plan to move to New South Wales seems to have been arranged quickly. On 5 July, 1819 (according to information received from a reliable source, but not yet checked), William Gordon Ward wrote from 33 Ely Place, Lambeth, seeking a land grant in New South Wales, and requesting that it be larger than normal, mentioning that there were six children in the family. In the application, William said that his 'friend', the Honourable Mrs. Villiers, had brought him to His Lordship's attention, a reference to Earl Bathurst. So far there have been two versions of the application, one that it was written to Under-Secretary Goulburn, and the other directly to Earl Bathurst. If the latter is correct, it would provide further evidence of the influential position of William and his wife, Susannah.

The Hon. Mrs. Villiers (pronounced 'Villers') referred to above would be the wife of John Charles Villiers, who had been the Comptroller of the Royal Household in the late 1780s, and who was to become the 3rd Earl of Clarendon in 1824 on the death of his older, unmarried brother.² John Charles Villiers (the 3rd Earl) was the person who ensured that Susannah Matilda, with her family, was to be well looked after in Australia, following the early death of her husband.

William's application was approved within three days,³ and the family was on board the ship which departed on 11 September, just a little over two months after the initial application.

Despite the possibility of influence, the eventual land recommendation for William was of only the normal acreage.

It is difficult to discover much concerning William Ward's earlier life, or of Susannah's, for that matter. William had been in the army, and in various later family marriage notices etc. in Sydney, after his death, he was referred to as "the late Lt. Ward, 1st Regiment of Royals." That Regiment is more correctly known as 'The First, or the Royal, Regiment of Dragoons', whose battle honours, among many others, included the Peninsular Wars (1809-1814) and Waterloo (1815). It is said that in his land application, William mentioned that he held a commission in the 1st Regiment, and that he had been twenty-five years in various army departments; this would suggest that he probably was in administrative postings. It is understood, again without checking, that the Army Lists show a reference to a W. G. Ward who was recorded for 'army rank' on 3 March, 1808, and for 'regimental rank' on 9 March, 1809 - but that of course would not reconcile with the reference to 'twenty-five years' service. Certainly, on 2 October 1828, when writing to Mr Twiss, Under-Secretary for State in London (seeking special assistance for Susannah Matilda), the Earl of Clarendon said that William Gordon Ward, "had been in the Commissariat of the Army".⁴

There seems no doubt that William and Susannah were in Portugal during at least part of the Peninsular War against Napoleon's forces. Their first two children were born in Portugal, Elizabeth in 1811 at Oporto, now known as Porto, and Susannah Matilda (to

become Frederick Bedwell's wife) in Cintra, now spelt Sintra, a town near the coast, west of Lisbon, in 1812.

After landing in Portugal in 1808, Sir Arthur Wellesley, later the Duke of Wellington, soon drove Napoleon's troops from the country, but Napoleon fought back, clearing all British from Spain by the end of that same year. Then, in 1809, Napoleon neglected that area, and by 1814, the Peninsular War was over, providing Napoleon with another disaster to go with his Russian debacle.

It could be assumed that with two young children, Susannah would have returned to England from Portugal, leaving William to continue in his army appointment. The next child, William Thomas Hawkshaw, the only son, was born in 1815, the year of Waterloo. He was named for his father, but his other given names, Thomas Hawkshaw, were those of Major-General Hawkshaw of the H.E.I.C.S, who was the uncle of Susannah, and with whom both Susannah and her sister, Jane, are reputed to have spent some of their early lives, following the death of their parents. That story has not been able to be confirmed.

Actually, there is little that can be confirmed about the early lives of those Baldwin girls, Susannah Matilda and Jane, the older sister; in fact, there is a claim that there was another sister, Caroline, but even less is known about her.

Cecily Joan Mitchell, in her book 'Hunter's River', refers to the attendance of Susannah Matilda at the ball given by the Duke and Duchess of Richmond in Brussels on the eve of what was to be the battle of Waterloo.⁵ There is no confirmation of any relationship between the Richmonds and Susannah, but it is interesting to note that the fifth child of the Wards, born in 1819, was named Sarah Maitland, possibly after the daughter of the Duke and Duchess. In 'Limestone and Lemon Wine', Stories by Thomas Shapcott, it is stated that the Richmond's daughter, Lady Sarah, met her husband-to-be, Peregrine Maitland, at the Ball. He was made Knight Commander of the Bath, and Major General of the First Infantry Brigade, at Waterloo. Later, according to the background data in the story, Lady Sarah ran away to marry him, but then obtained her parents' consent. Sir Peregrine Maitland became Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada for the period 1818 to 1828.⁶ Considering that Susannah Matilda named her daughter as Sarah Maitland at about the start of that time, it could be a reasonable assumption that she was well-acquainted with the Richmonds - even if she was not at the Ball.

Searching the voluminous marriage and birth records seeking definite answers, having so little to start with, is a big task. The marriage and christening records in the International Genealogical Index show a Baldwin family in the Wellington district of Herefordshire, where a John Baldwin (born 1737) married in 1763 to Sarah Clark. They had two daughters, Jane and Susannah. Jane was not born until 1780 - or, at least, that was when she was christened - and Susannah was christened three years later in 1783. A gap of seventeen years before the first child is a long time, but, even then, the parents would still have been relatively young. Could they have been the girls we are seeking, and if so, where do the Hawkshaws come into it - and more interestingly,

what is the reason for their later association with many persons of high rank, and the preferential treatment which Susannah received in Australia?

There is of course the obligatory rumour of a very close relationship with Royalty - actually, with the Prince Regent (later King George IV), no less! Then, there are other stories; but in fact, at present, Susannah's genealogy is uncertain.

Exploits of Sister Jane in London

Susannah's sister, Jane, seemed to lead a fast life in London from the time of her late teens, and although it is not essential to this family history, an outline of some of the apparent happenings could add background to the general story as it would have affected young Susannah during her teen-age development. The matters which will be mentioned have been told by others, so that it is not possible to vouch for their accuracy; nevertheless, the sources would appear to be beyond question, and relate to available records.

A woman named Jane Baldwin had a child who was baptised in 1802, under the surname 'Goster'; that was similar to a name which was to be used later by Susannah's sister, Jane, as will be explained. That child was named Frederick Goster, and was shown as the son of John Nicholas Goster of St. Marylebone. It is said that the child's mother, Jane, was the daughter of William and Sabina Baldwin, and she had been christened at Westminster in St. Martins in the Field, on 8 February, 1779.

Then, in 1810, during a substantial personal association between Jane (Susannah's sister) and William Fitzhardinge, (who was the eldest son of Frederick Augustus Fitzhardinge, the 5th Earl of Berkely), Jane had a son, William George Augustus Fitzhardinge, who was eventually to come to New South Wales, and who will appear again in this story.

As if that was not enough, our Jane, then, in 1813 (just three years later) contracted a runaway marriage with Lieutenant the Honourable Augustus Edward Stanhope (aged 19), the seventh son of the 3rd Earl of Harrington. Jane was said to be fifteen or sixteen years older than young Stanhope. The marriage was soon broken up by the Earl, who eventually brought a nullity suit, which, after dragging on from 1819 to 1822, led to its annulment in the Consistory Court. Some weeks after the marriage, the young man had returned to his regiment in France as aide-de-comp to Lieutenant General Lord Combermere. Later, it is understood that he was involved in a regimental problem,

when he 'resigned' his commission, and moved to Scandinavia, where he died in his late thirties.

The nullity case was reported in 'The Times' in London in 1822, when it was dealt with by the Court, and although neither of the parties were called to give evidence, the facts seem most interesting. Apparently, in arranging the marriage in Hampstead, Stanhope had used a false name and claimed residence in the area in order to avoid the need for a special license as a non-resident - and of course, he was a minor. For the wedding ceremony, they both disguised themselves, Jane as a maid, and Augustus as a stable hand or groom. He claimed that both his parents were deceased, and that he was of age.⁷

In the court it was disclosed that Jane had been living in a highly fashionable manner, under the name of Mrs. Goswell - note the name 'Goster' mentioned previously. In the Court, it was asserted that 'of the female party in the cause', very little could be known either of her family or situation in life.

It seems significant, also, that no action was taken against either of the couple on counts of obvious perjury.

There is an unsubstantiated story that Jane later married a wealthy Hamburg merchant, with some consular appointment; but, enough of Jane - what of Susannah Matilda, and the great adventure in Australia, which was just commencing for her?

A Continuation of Hard Times, but Help from High Places

In a little over six months after their arrival in Sydney, William Gordon Ward was dead. There is a recorded burial at St. Phillip's, Sydney, under the name of William Walter Ward, at about the right time, which may be that of William Gordon Ward. There is no official record of the reason for death, although it is understood that Jane's son, when he came to Australia some years later, (and after he had a serious disagreement with Susannah, his aunt), claimed that William had died from 'dissipation' - that suggested that the death was the result of wasteful living, probably including excessive alcohol! Of course, young William Fitzhardinge had an axe to grind, and may have made unfounded statements, or may have been led to believe rumours which were without basis.

In a personal opinion by the late Lilius Humphreys, it was stated that there is a belief that William's health was gravely impaired by war injuries, so that he appeared to be

incapable of attending to business affairs, or of considering the welfare of the family. She said that Susannah had spoken of his 'dissolution' at that time, so that he may have been finding solace in drink.

Although definitely not attributed to Liliias, one might add that in our more-enlightened times, William Ward would probably be on a full T.P.I. pension, and could even be president of some local R.S.L.

Susannah now found herself in this strange, undeveloped land, with six young children, and with no husband for support. Certainly, in those early months after arriving, William had been in poor shape, whatever the reason. So much so, that Susannah felt it necessary on 14 August, to write to Governor Macquarie to point out that as her husband was still affording no support, the family was in a destitute situation, and she sought a land grant for the use of herself and children; she feared that if the previously-promised land grant was made to her husband, it would afford no benefit at all for the children. She also advised the Governor that the two cows previously provided by his order were now dry, and she requested replacements as milk was a most important food for her children.⁸

Next day, the Governor arranged for the Colonial Secretary to reply to Susannah notifying her of the Governor's agreement to her request, and advising that he would also grant the land to her in trust for the children, subject to legal approval.⁹

On 10 October, Susannah wrote again to inform the Governor that her husband had died, leaving her destitute. She was anxious to return to England, where her friends and connections, as known to the Governor, could assist her in rearing her young family properly. She continued with an appeal for a free passage for herself and the children in 'Dromedary' or a similar ship that may be departing early for England. She then told the Governor that she would still wish to receive the promised land grant, and that she would authorise an agent to manage the land for the benefit of herself and the children.¹⁰

In referring to Susannah's choice of 'Dromedary', the late Liliias Humphreys stated that, on the Ward's journey out, their names did not appear on the passenger list, and it is claimed that this was because they had travelled as the private guests of the captain of the ship.

The Secretary to the Governor replied to Susannah dated 27 November, advising that His Excellency would extend those indulgences, as had been originally promised, to be held in trust for the family, being one thousand acres of land, and five government men for six months; in addition, considering the distress involved, he had directed that six cows be issued from the Government herds on a credit of three years, to be paid for in kind. He stressed that the Governor intended that those indulgences be granted in Susannah's name for the benefit of the children. Further, the Governor would recommend to Captain Skinner that the family be given a free passage to England on board 'Dromedary' under his command.¹¹

The above letter was addressed to Susannah at North Shore, care of John Piper, Esq.

As it turned out, Captain Skinner was unable to provide a passage to England as recommended, because all available cabin space had been taken over, and actually refitted (1), for the return accommodation of Commissioner Bigge, and his Secretary, Thomas Hobbes Scott. Secretaries were in favour, even then! Bigge came to New South Wales to enquire into the proper conduct of government activities; it seems to have been a matter into which someone else should enquire, that so much should now be spent on his comfort.

It may be of interest to add that Bigge's secretary, Thomas Hobbes Scott, was also his brother-in-law - could it have been an early case of 'jobs for the boys'? On his return to England, he became a clergyman, and he came back to Australia in 1824 (until 1829) as an archdeacon of the Anglican Church.¹²

A Position at the Female Orphan School

By good fortune, just at that time, the Female Orphan School at Mount Arthur, Parramatta (now Rydalmere) needed staff, and two senior positions were to be filled, that of Supervisor and the Matron. Governor Macquarie appointed Susannah to both positions, with both salaries, and quarters were made available at the school for her and her five daughters.¹³ Dr. William Bland befriended her son, William, and took him into his home where he was cared for until he was a young man.

Although Governor Macquarie treated Susannah extremely well in regard to the appointment at the school, a previous Matron had also received great kindness and consideration from that Governor. According to a publication of the Society of Women Writers in 1980 entitled 'Lives Obscurely Great' (edited by Patricia Thompson and Susan Yorke), a husband and wife team, Thomas and Mary Collicott, were appointed respectively as Master and Matron from 1 January, 1819, at the Female Orphan School; in addition, their two eldest daughters were appointed as Assistant Matrons. Thomas had been convicted of forgery at the Old Bailey, and his wife, Mary, who had been the widow of a Doctor Allen (previously physician to the Prince Regent), used influential friends to arrange, with her children, to go to New South Wales, where Thomas had been transported for life. Governor Macquarie had promised to assist them in various ways, including a free pardon as soon as possible for the husband, and a land grant for the son when he came of age; and then there were the

school jobs.¹⁴ Maybe Commissioner Bigge came out to New South Wales to investigate the high level of kindness shown by the Governor.

Tragedy at the School - and Dissatisfaction with Officials

Susannah had been granted an annual salary of £100, to be paid from the Treasury. However, she experienced some early problems in that regard, and on 9 February, 1822, she wrote to Governor Brisbane explaining the effect of her salary being withheld, and asking for his intercession.¹⁵ Apparently, the matter was cleared up, but there is no copy of the reply.

While at the Female Orphan School, Susannah was to suffer another blow, when her youngest child, Maria Eleanor Villiers Ward, aged only four years, was to drown accidentally in the river by the school. On 13 April, 1823, in the words of the Coroner's Inquiry next day, the young girl "fell accidentally, casually, and by misfortune into the river, and then and there suffocated and drowned, of which suffocation and drowning, she, the said Maria E. V. Ward then and there instantly died, and so the jurors aforesaid do say." John Eyre was the Coroner, and there were twelve jurors, including one woman - two of the male jurors signed by mark.¹⁶

The evidence included a statement by Master Phillips, aged five, son of Mrs. Phillips, (apparently not the Phillips' family of Paterson) saying that he and Maria were at the water's edge together, and Maria walked upon a log partly in the water, and fell off. He then came to the house and gave information about it. In other evidence, John Doyle explained that between 12 and 1 o'clock, the cook called with a frightful voice that one of the children had fallen into the water. John Doyle immediately began a search, and in fifteen minutes the child was recovered by a man named Higgins, and conveyed to the house. Dr. McLeod was sent for, and instantly attended, but it was in vain.

The child had been named Maria Eleanor Villiers Ward, no doubt after the wife of John Charles Villiers, who was also Maria Eleanor. John Charles Villiers became the 3rd Earl of Clarendon in 1824.

Susannah's position at the School was to finish at the end of that year, and it is interesting to look at the conditions applying at the school just a few years earlier, to obtain further background; it could be expected that somewhat similar conditions still applied when Susannah was Matron. Looking again at 'Lives Obscurely Great' which was referred to earlier, it was stated that in 1819, the building accommodated 200 girls of all ages, with girls being apprenticed out by ages 12 or 13. They were given enough education to fit them for domestic service, and enough religion hopefully to preserve

their virtue. There were no comforts except for fires in winter, and from the kitchen, they normally would receive bread and milk, ox-head soup and 'pease.' Actually, there seemed to be plenty of milk, as they had their own large dairy herd. A few girls married from the school, but most went into domestic service after a recommendation from the Matron. Any girl who was raised in the Orphan School was entitled to a dowry of one cow as a marriage portion.¹⁷

Considering the privileged upbringing of Susannah, as probably occurred, her years at the School must have been very difficult, but it did provide an income, and accomodation for herself and daughters during a very hard time in her life. There is no further reference to any desire to return to England, so that she eventually preferred to take a chance in New South Wales, rather than return to whatever life could be re-made in London. Her eldest daughter, Elizabeth, was twelve when Susannah's appointment at the School ended, and Susannah may have thought that the future in the colony for the girls could be preferable, to that in England.

Susannah retired as Matron effective 1 January, 1824, when the Committee was also disbanded by General Order from the Colonial Secretary's Office. It stated that such institutions were to be modelled upon new principles, following the arrival from England of Mrs. Sweetman. The Committee resolved "to obey the sudden, unexpected order with reluctance and sorrow ... (and) they would have happily executed any new principles." It was interesting to note that Susannah was required to replace kitchen articles worn out during her residence at the school.¹⁸

From the date of her forced retirement, Susannah apparently was required to pay rent until she returned to Sydney. At least, on 24 February she wrote to Major Goulburn requesting that the large government boat be made available, on any day before the end of the month, to transport her baggage from the school to the cottage in the North Shore, so as to avoid the expense of lodging.¹⁹ Luckily, it was a leap year (if they were recognised then), so that the Major would have one more day (no more than five in all) to satisfy the request for a boat before the month end.

Although Susannah left the School early in the year, there was apparently some unfinished business, again showing how she would leave no stone unturned to improve the position for herself and the family. She wrote on 9 February, 1824, pointing that she had as yet no reply to her claim for rations which had not been provided for the period from 20 November, 1823 to the end of her appointment on 1 January, 1824.²⁰ The introductory letter for the Sweetmans, from the Colonial Secretary, was dated 17 November - apparently although Susannah was still responsible for the school until 1 January, someone had tried to deny her the proper entitlements of the position from that earlier date. In addition, she claimed that her salary had been paid only to 24 December, even though her appointment did not cease until 1 January; one week remained to be paid. Probably, the bureaucrats in the Governor's service were resentful of Susannah's persistence in claiming her rights, and also, jealous of her seeming influence; but, who could rightly criticise her for demanding that she received whatever was her entitlement? There is no evidence of the reply to those requests for rations and

salary which had been wrongly denied her, but it may be assumed that the position was corrected.

She did, however, appear to harbour some resentment because the position had been taken from her, and on 11 September, 1824, she wrote to Governor Brisbane, thanking him for his kind offer as a consequence of her supersession, to do all in his power to assist her further. She said that since she was removed as a result of an appointment made in England, and in view of the good work which she had done at the School, she would appreciate any indulgences which could be extended.²¹ It seems that she notified Earl Clarendon in London of the happening, because as late as 26 August, 1829, Governor Darling found it necessary to write to Twiss in London, replying to his letter which had enclosed an extract from a communication from Lord Clarendon in respect of Mrs. Ward,²² assuring Twiss that Susannah's interests were being fully attended to, regarding the land granted to her children. He further advised that Lord Clarendon must have received incorrect information concerning her alleged supersession at the school by a clergyman from England.²³

The truth of the matter in relation to the sudden loss of her position is not readily apparent to us at this stage. She definitely was not superseded by a clergyman, although it is possible that Thomas Hobbes Scott (Secretary to Commissioner Bigge) - and soon to be a clergyman - may have contributed to her loss of the job. Bigge and Scott had arrived in Sydney to commence the investigation of the colony's affairs in September 1819 - Susannah with her husband and family arrived four months later, and it was during the next eight or nine months that Susannah was most dissatisfied; William Gordon Ward, her husband, died in September, and by the start of the next year (1821), Susannah had received her appointment from Governor Macquarie as Matron of the Female Orphan School.

Bigge and Scott arrived back in London by mid-1822, and Bigge's reports were issued over the next seven months, the last in January, 1823. It was only two months after that when a letter was sent from Downing Street, London, to Mrs. Sweetman on the Isle of Wight, informing her of her appointment to take up the job as Matron in New South Wales, with an assistant job for her husband, and indicating that travel arrangements would be made by the next suitable convict ship.²⁴

It seems that Susannah received her first official notification of the proposed change when Mr. and Mrs. Sweetman arrived on her doorstep at the school with a letter from the Colonial Secretary dated 17 November, 1823, saying that she had arrived from England to fill the appointment at the school.²⁵

Although that was the end of the job as Matron, the period of three years spent at Parramatta, mainly due to the kindness of Governor Macquarie, provided Susannah and her young family with a breathing space to enable them to settle down in their new life.

Marking Time in the Town

The next reference in the records is in the 1828 Census; during the intervening years, Susannah had moved to Pitt Street, and the census shows the mother and four daughters, by then aged between nine and seventeen years. William, the son, was simply shown as 'Master Ward' at the residence of Dr. Bland, also in Pitt Street.

In the following year, the eldest daughter, Elizabeth, married Frederick Garling, junior, of the Customs Department, but remembered today as an outstanding marine artist. They had seven sons and four daughters.

In some records, it is stated that in 1832, Susannah married Henry Nowland of Page's River. That is not correct; Henry Nowland did marry the widow of a Lieutenant Ward, but the prior husband in that case had been a different Lieutenant Ward; he had been an officer in the 4th Regiment of Royal Marines.

Susannah, however, did re-marry many years later, as will be further mentioned in this story.