

The history of Studley Park

By Ray Herbert

The history of Studley Park dates back to the early years of the colony of New South Wales, when cattle straying from the Government herd in Sydney Town found their way to the Cowpastures area. The discovery and reporting, by local Aboriginal from the Tharawal tribe of this enlarged herd helped to solve the supply of meat for the struggling Colony. It also showed the land could and would support the growing of crops, the production of cattle and therefore that agriculture could be established in the fledgling colony.

John Macarthur received a grant of land of 5000 acres on the southern side of the Nepean River. This grant became known as the "Camden Park Estate". With the development of the estate Macarthur employed both convicts and emancipated convicts to help with the daily running of the property and to control his ever-increasing flocks and herds of Livestock.

Among the employees of Macarthur's were John Condron (Herdsman) and William J Parrott (Shoemaker). They were to become the original owners of the two properties that make up the present day Studley Park. Governor Lachlan Macquarie granted both.

The first grant of land recorded in the Parish of Narellan was to William J. Parrott. This grant of 100 acres was made on the 1st of January 1810. The property occupied from the corner of the present day Camden Valley Way and Richardson Road to Lodges Road and to about the end of Wilson Crescent. The property became known locally as "Parrotts Farm".

William J Parrott was born at Shoreditch, St. Leonard's, London, England in 1768. His occupation was given as a shoemaker. On the 8th of July 1789 William Parrott alias Price was committed to stand trial in the Old Bailey Court, London. At his trial William was charged with Feloniously Breaking, Entering and stealing a quantity of Silverware, the property of Samuel Brookes of Primrose Street, Bishopsgate, London. William was found guilty of the charges and sentenced to DEATH. He was to reappear in the Justice Hall of the Old Bailey on the 28th October 1789 and it is recorded in the Court records of the day that William was sick and could not attend. His sentence was commuted to transportation for Life.

William J Parrott was ordered to be Transported to the Eastern Coast of New South Wales or one or other of the islands adjacent for the term of his sentence.

After a period in prison, William was placed on the Convict transport ship "Albermarle", with a total of 250 male convicts and 6 Female Convicts. The Albermarle sailed from Portsmouth on the 27th March 1791 as part of the Portsmouth Division of the Third Fleet.

While at sea on the 9th of April 1791 an attempt was made by some of the convicts to capture the ship. The ship's master George Bowen acting quickly picked up a blunderbuss, fired and wounded one of the ringleaders. After securing the deck Bowen went about rousting out the other troublemakers whom by now had fled below decks. A party of the ship guards went below and captured the ringleaders. Two were immediately hung and the others placed in irons.

The "Albermarle" sailed for the port of Madeira. The mutineers were landed and plans were made for their return to England in custody on the next Ship to stand trial for Mutiny. The "Albermarle" continued her voyage to Teneriffe and then on to Rio de Janeiro. After re supplying they continued to the Cape of Good Hope to resupply again before continuing the voyage on to Port Jackson, arriving on 13th October 1791, the voyage taking 200 days.

The 1805-6 muster of New South Wales and Norfolk Folk Island showed William as an Emancipated Convict and working for the Government at Parramatta. Records from the Macarthur Estate, Camden Park daybook dated 1807, showed the Macarthur's employed William as a Shoemaker.

In the 1814 Muster, William was shown as a landowner in the Upper Minto area with two convicts under his control. William J Parrott died on the 20th of June 1824, when he was 56 years old, William is buried at St. Johns Cemetery at Parramatta. In his will he devised the Property to John Mc Manus.

John Mc Manus sold the property on the 10th of May 1825 to John Lacy, who in turn sold it to his son Timothy on the same day for the sum of 200 hundred Spanish Dollars. (1)

John Lacy was also a convict, born in Dublin, Ireland in 1778, and he was employed as an Iron Founder, Lacy was convicted in the Dublin Court in December 1798, as a result of his involvement in the 1798 Irish Rebellion. He was sentenced to 7 years in goal, John surrendered himself for transportation instead of serving a prison term in the Dublin Goal

In the history of the Irish Rebellion of 1798, John Lacy is listed as a prominent leader of the Rebellion and his name also appears on the Banishment Act of Ireland that had been established to deal with the rebels.

John was loaded on the Convict Ship "Minerva" at the port of Cork and transported to New South Wales, the ship indent indicating that John had accepted to be transported. A letter from Lord Castlereagh to the Lord Lieutenant General and Governor General of Ireland Lord Cornwallis indicated an annexed list of persons who surrendered for Self-Transportation. (2)

The "Minerva" sailed from Cork on the 24th of August 1799 in a small convoy. On The 4th of September two ships flying Portuguese colours fired upon the "Minerva". The ship arrived in Rio de Janeiro on the 20th of October where she resupplied before sailing on the 8th of November arriving in Port Jackson on the 11th of January 1800 at 11am, sixty-four days out from Rio.

The Norfolk Island Victualling book of 1802 records John on the Island. The muster of 1805-06 indicates he had been set free by servitude and was self-employed as a sawyer. Records show John Lacy married a Mary Smith (Hospital Nurse). Four children were born from their marriage; his son Timothy in 1806 and daughters Sarah in 1808, Elizabeth in 1812 and Alice in 1814.

After selling the Parrott's Farm to his son Timothy, John Lacy moved to the Lower Burraborang Valley, in the parish of Bimlow and on the bank of Lacy's Creek John being one of the first settlers in the valley. The Muster of 1828 showed John had 1000 acres in the Valley. He had established a dairy, and was listed in the muster as a supplier of food to the Government.

Timothy Lacey was born in the colony in 1806, as a youth he had served a Colonial sentence for stealing a sheep. Because of his Colonial sentence Timothy could not receive a grant of land and had to purchase any property he owned. Timothy married Sophia Hough who was also born in the colony and they had a daughter Mary from their marriage.

Timothy owned the Parrott Farm property between 1825 and 1844, and in the 1828 muster he is listed as a Publican at Windsor. In the 1836 Post Office Directory his address was listed as the "Harp Inn" at Campbelltown.

Upon the death of his father Timothy inherited the property at Lower Burratorang. In 1856 he was recorded as a landowner at the Oaks when in conjunction with other residents they applied to the Board of Education for the establishment of a school for their children at The Oaks.

Timothy Lacey died on the 19th of June 1887. He is buried with his wife Sophia at the Roman Catholic Cemetery at the Oaks, at the corner of Timothy Lacey Lane, his sister Elizabeth is buried close by, Lacy's Creek, Lacy's Bay and Lacy's Tableland on the western side of Burratorang Valley are named after the family.

In 1838 Timothy mortgaged the farm to Daniel Cooper and James Holt. Daniel Cooper was born at Bolton, Lancashire in 1785. He was convicted of Stealing at Chester in 1815, sentenced to transportation and was shipped to New South Wales on the "Fanny", arriving in Port Jackson in January 1816.

Within two years of arriving in New South Wales Daniel Cooper had received a conditional pardon on the 31st January 1818 and an absolute pardon in 1821. Daniel was running a General Store in George Street, Sydney within two years of his arrival in the Colony, he became Landlord of the Manchester Arms Hotel which was located in Park Street, Sydney.

Daniel married Hannah Dodd at St. Philip's Church, Sydney on the 6th of January 1819. With his Business partner Solomon Levey, Daniel became part owner of the Waterloo Stores Company. The head office of the company was located at the corner of George and Market Street in Sydney. (Gowings Corner)

The company owned the Brig "Campbell Macquarie" (1821) which traded between Sydney and Van Diemens Land. The company also had large land holdings in New Zealand. By 1824 Daniel had established the Australian Brewery, and he also operated mills on the George's River at Liverpool and on the Woronora River.

The Waterloo Stores imported the much need items for the Colony, and exported Wool to England. At one stage the Waterloo Stores Company commenced issuing their own money.

The newly established Bank of New South Wales tried at one stage to force the Waterloo Company out of the Banking field and in 1828 Daniel Cooper and Soloman Levey became StockHolder in the Bank. Daniel became a member of the board and later on two occasions a Director of the Bank of New South Wales.

Daniel at one stage owned over 1600 acres of land in the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney, he had purchased the property of Captain John Piper, 1100 acres at Woollahra and Rose Bay. It is recorded that Daniel fought for emancipated convicts to be able to sit as jurors in court cases, and he was also involved with the establishment of the Sydney Chamber of Commerce.

Daniel's involvement in the Macarthur area was firstly as the owner of the Forbes Hotel in Campbelltown (CourtHouse site) with his license dated 9th July 1830. He is recorded as being the first land developer in Campbelltown area. He held the mortgage on Studley Park from 1838 to 1853, and on other farms in the Area. Daniel held the mortgage on the property of Frederick Fisher who was one of his employees.

Daniel returned to England in 1831 to set up and control the English side of the Waterloo Stores Company. He died at Brighton in southern England on the 3rd of November 1853.

James Holt, an employee of Daniel Cooper, held the Mortgage with Cooper on Parrott's farm until the 28th of September 1853. The Waterloo Stores Company had employed Holt in England before coming to Australia. The 1836 Post Office Directory recorded James as living in residence at the Company's Sydney Office.

The 1841 Census of New South Wales gives Holt's residence as Jervisfield. On the death of Daniel Cooper, James was an executive for Daniel Cooper's Estate and he assisted Daniel's nephew also named Daniel, to run the Waterloo Stores. Young Daniel was later knighted for his uncle's work in the Colony.

James Holt sold Parrott's Farm to Thomas Brennan of Sutton Forest on the 28th September 1853. The property was sold on the 25th October 1871 to James Marlow a resident from the Oaks.

The property was transferred to James's wife Martha on the 20th June 1881 who in turn sold to Abraham Friedman a Moneylender from Sydney.

In 1884 William Charles Thompson a salesman from Ashfield bought the property.

The other portion of Studley Park was a grant of 100 acres to John Condron by Governor Lachlan Macquarie on the 25th August 1812. John was one of three herdsmen employed by the Macarthur family, firstly at Parramatta and later at Camden Park.

John Condron was born in Ireland in 1763 where he was sentenced to 7 years imprisonment in December 1789 in the Dublin Court. John was transported on the Convict Ship "Minerva" to New South Wales, arriving on the 11th January 1800. (3)

Further transported to Norfolk Island, the Victualling Book of 1802 records John's information. It is recorded that John returned to Sydney on the 19th of February 1802.

In the Muster of 1806 John Condron was in the employ of the Macarthur family at Parramatta. The daybook of Camden Park listed John as one of the three herdsmen the Macarthur's employed. The daybook also showed he was paid Sixteen pounds Thirteen shillings and Four pence for 10 months work.

The muster of 1814 recorded John Condron as a freeman, resident in the Parramatta area. The records also show he was married to a Martha Hill.

The muster of 1822 showed John as a Landowner with 100 acres of land, of which he had cleared 26 acres and owned the following stock.

Three Horses
Twenty Five Cattle
Ten Hogs

The Farm produced 1 Bushel of Maze. (4)

The 1828 Census gave John Condron age at 65 years old. On John's death the property was transferred to Henry Ellison a Publican from Parramatta.

Henry and his brother James were the sons of John Ellison a Publican from Parramatta. Both had been born at Parramatta, Henry on the 20th April 1815 and James on the 24th October 1822.

Henry purchased Condron's Farm and on his death on the 28th of January 1853 the property was passed to his wife Julia. Upon her death Henry's Brother James inherited the property.

James Ellison was married to Sarah Staughton and a child James William Henry Ellison, born in 1853, inherited the property on the death of his father. The property remained in the Ellison family until the 4th of March 1878 when it was sold to William Henry Thompson. During the years of ownership by the Ellison family it is reported a carriage house was built on the property, of which nothing remains today.

On the 2nd of October 1888 William Henry Thompson sold the combined properties of Parrott's and Condron's farms to William Charles Payne.

Payne was born at Williamstown, Victoria in 1865 and on his marriage application he was described as a Grazier living at Narellan. William married Clare Adams at St. Johns Church, Ashfield on the 15th of September 1886.

William went about the construction of a home for his new bride. He authorized the noted Architects and Builders A. L. & G. McCredie of Sydney (5) to construct the House, Stables, and a Granary/Engine house. The Engine House contained a steam traction engine and a dynamo which were to provide electricity for the house. In addition, 4 workers' cottages were also built at the front of the property near the main road .

During the construction stage half a million bricks were needed for the house. The bricks were made and supplied by R.A. Cross Brickmakers of Camden. The timber for the house was supplied from a sawmill located at Werombi. Stone quarried from local quarries was also used in the foundations which were carried down to the bedrock. McCredie constructed a picturesque looking Victorian Villa residence in the Light Italian style for Payne.

The design and plans of the house appeared in an article published in the Builders & Contractors News of July the 20th 1889. A further comment about the house can also be found in the Editors Notes for the paper that states. " As good an example of the economizing of space and compactness of arrangements as we have seen for a long time ."

William Charles Payne gave the property its name of "Studley Park". It is believed to be have been named after Studley Park House located on the property of Studley Royal which is near Ripon, in Yorkshire, England. (6)

Clare Adam's father is reported to have lived in the Ripon area.

By December 1890 Payne was in financial difficulties and the property was mortgaged to McCredies in lieu of money owned by Payne. McCredies sold the house to Francis Buckle a wealthy Ship Owner who kept the property as his country house until 25th of April 1902 when it was sold to Dr. Henry Oliver, Principal of the Campbelltown-Camden Grammar School and Commercial College.

William Gordon of Narellan had founded the Camden-Campbelltown Grammar School at Camden in 1872. The school over the years had moved to other sites in the Camden area before combining with the school run by a Mr. Crabbe in John Street. The school came under the control of Dr. Oliver in 1890 and he moved the school to Campbelltown and later to St. Helen's Park House.

Dr. Oliver moved the school from St. Helen's Park House to Studley Park in 1902. To accommodate the school, additions and alterations were made to the house. The servants quarters and the first floor rooms were converted into dormitories for the students.

A free standing Weatherboard Common / Dining room was constructed at the rear of the house and additional toilets were also added at the rear of the house.

The Stables and Carriage House was converted into two Class Rooms on the ground floor with staff accommodation on the upper floor northern end (present Office) and the southern end of the upper floor being used as a concert hall.

The Orchard that had existed on the northern side of the house was removed and an area further to the east of the house was converted into football fields for the students. A cricket pitch was laid out in the area know as the Church Paddock near St. Thomas's Church.

The Engine House remained in its original use to supply electricity to the house, with storage for farm tools and the schools car. A butcher's shop, milking bails, pigpen and chicken house were constructed in the immediate area. The electricity supply was later replaced by gas for lighting with a gas production plant located between the house and the stables.

In December of 1919, Dr. Oliver sold the property to the Reverend Charles Herbert Palmer B.A., who had previously moved into Studley Park House and to the position of headmaster of the school from 9th July 1915 accompanied by his wife Ethel and son Donald. Ethel Palmer's sister Elizabeth Earle and her 2 year old son Frederick also moved into the ground floor rooms and the servant's quarters of the house. Mrs. Ross, the mother of Ethel and Elizabeth, was also accommodated in the house.

The Reverend Palmer's daughter Mavis was born in the dining room of Studley Park House in 1915.

The School Cadet unit under the command of Colonel Shaw one of the teachers, provided a guard of Honour for the Governor of New South Wales, Sir Walter Davidson at the Campbelltown Centenary celebrations in 1921. He later unveiled the school Honour Roll for the First World War at St. Thomas's Church, Narellan.

An advertisement for the school appeared in the Sydney Mail on Wednesday April 20th, 1927, giving the telephone number of "Camden 3" for the school and a statement that "Narellan is a Recognized Health Centre". The article also stated "Any boy desiring to enter the University or to take up mercantile pursuits or to 'Go on the Land' were able to receive a course of study at the College".

In September 1927 a serious fire caused extensive damage to the roof promenade level. Only quick action by the students and staff in forming a bucket line up the main stairs of the house from the well in the kitchen courtyard saved the house. It is reported that the fire was out by the time the Fire Brigade arrived from Camden.

Golf was starting to become a popular pastime with courses developing in the suburbs. Donald Palmer and Cousin Frederick Earle and a young houseman Fred Skinner laid out the first golf course

at Studley Park. Fred Skinner had been a caddie in Sydney before moving to his position at Studley Park where he would have provided the skills and knowledge needed by the players.

The Camden-Campbelltown Grammar School at its peak had about 70 boarders, mostly the sons of businessmen from the city and the country and from the nearby Pacific Islands. A few days students from the local area also attended one of the locals was Russell Boardman.

The School flourished under the control of the Reverend Palmer but went into decline during the depression years with enrollment levels falling. Finally the school was forced to sell and it moved to Dalley's Castle (7) at Manly in 1933 with Studley Park being sold to Archibald Adolphus (Arthur) Gregory.

Archibald Adolphus (Arthur) Gregory purchased Studley Park on the 29th September 1933. Arthur was the Sales Manager for 20th Century Fox Films in Australia. After the purchase of Studley Park House he went ahead with alterations to the buildings. Major alterations were made to the interior and the exterior of the house that was changed to the new Hollywood Art Deco Style.

The Common Room / Dining Room was converted into a Theatrette for the screening of films and the building was fully equipped with the latest sound equipment and Movie projector. Members of the Golf Club as a cafe and dance hall used the theater.

A keen golfer, Arthur commissioned New South Wales State Amateur Champion Eric Apperley (8) of Manly to design a competition golf course of 9 holes on the property and a further 9 holes were later designed by D. G. Soutar. It is recorded that the holes were over regulation length. The Gregory family carried out the construction of the Tees, greens and the fairways for the course. Arthur's idea was to turn the property into a country club for the golfers from the city.

Golf was first played in the Camden area back in the 1920's, with the first course located at the site of today's Camden South Primary School. At that time only 9 holes were played and most courses were constructed with only the 9 holes. Fences to keep out stray cattle protected the sand greens.

The golf courses in the Camden area over the time moved to various sites within the area. One was located in an area on the southern side of the present day Macarthur Bridge then moved to the western side and then to a site at Hilder Street, Elderslie near the present playing fields, before coming to Studley Park.

Studley Park House was the venue for an Afternoon Tea by members of the Australian Polo Club in June of 1936, following a game at Cobbitty. The players and their guests then travelled on to Studley Park for afternoon tea. The Gregorys provided their quests with additional entertainment by showing a Movietone Newsreel in the theatre on Polo.

An article showing photos of the afternoon tea appeared the Daily Telegraph of the 12th June 1936. Studley Park again appeared in an article in the July 1937 edition of " The Motor in Australia and Flying " in an article titled "Motorist - Golfer's Rendezvous at Studley Park". A brief description of the course was included in the article.

"The course was described as of nine holes, the holes were over championship length with Bent grass greens, with well grassed fairways, it was considered by professionals and city club players to be the best course outside of the metropolitan area."

The second nine holes were in construction at the time of the article.

The Stables/Class room block from the school years was converted into the Clubhouse. With a starter's box located at the rear of the building, a golfer could book a starting time and could make arrangements for luncheon and afternoon tea in the Studley Park Theatre or out on the course.

A golfer spending the day at Studley Park was surprised at the comfort, the surroundings and the cuisine. The golfers could pack their own lunch and enjoy it in the open or be catered for in the best possible way at Studley Park. The endeavors by the Gregorys were to make Studley Park Golf Course an exclusive place for the discriminating golfers.

On the 2nd of October 1939 the Department of the Army began to lease the grazing portion of the property for a weekly compensation of 12 guineas. 12/12/- (Part of Parrott's Farm)

On the 27th of December 1939 after discussions between Arthur Gregory and the Department of Defence, the 6th of June 1940 saw the gazettal of the transfer of Studley Park to the Army. Arthur Gregory was compensated the sum of 16,000 pounds and back rent for use of the grazing portion of the property from 2nd October 1939 to 6th June 1940 to the value of 446 pounds 8 shillings.

Studley Park House now became the Headquarters of the Eastern Command Training School. The school conducted courses in tactical instruction, the Vickers Machine Gun and Driver training in the operation of the Matilda Tank and other vehicles in the grounds and the surrounding area. To help meet the needs of the Army personnel a building from the old Cobbitty Army Depot was relocated to Studley Park and was sited to the east of the house. Additional buildings were contracted and constructed upon the old orchard area to provide additional accommodation and messing facilities for the army personnel stationed at Studley Park.

The Stables block was used for the classrooms and the upstairs room as the Transport Offices. A small rifle range was also constructed in the old quarry to the east of the house. The front balcony on the eastern side of the house was enclosed, the morning room and the Lounge were converted to a Bar and mess facilities for the Officers. The first floor dressing room was later converted into a kitchenette as part of the Married Quarters for the Officers.

At its peak, 250 personnel could be accommodated in the Barracks blocks and canvas tenting was available to house an additional 250.

It is not known if the Golf Course was used for golf by any of the Army Personnel stationed at Studley Park during the war years as the water pipes and pumps to water the greens had been removed.

Members of the Camden Golf Club who had played on the course at Studley Park while owned by Arthur Gregory were forced to move firstly to a public course located at Kirkham Lane, and later to a site at Cobbitty.

Between 1945 to 1948 saw the decline in the use of Studley Park by the Army with the house still being used as married quarters. On the 8th March 1946 a grazing licence was issued to Mr. C.K. Whyte on 140 acres of the property at the cost of 150 Pounds per annum.

On the 11th February 1947 Mr. Whyte and a Lt. R. G. H. Gulliver submitted an application to reconstruct the original golf course on the property. The Lease application was also to include the original grazing area, plus the golf club house that was now in a state of disrepair. Access to the golf club was to be by the main driveway with the entrance from Camden Valley Way.

In October 1947 a letter was sent to the Defence Department requesting a 10-year lease with the renewal option for a further 10 years on the property. It was mentioned in the letter that the Army had previously removed the water pipes leading to the 18 greens and the replacement piping that had been supplied was inoperative.

By June 1948, negotiations ceased because of difficulties in obtaining sufficient water piping and other machinery needed for the operation of the golf course. The Army indicated on the 28th April 1949 that any lease of the property had to have improvements to the grounds and repairs carried out on the clubhouse. On the 15th August 1949 Mr. Whyte made a final offer to lease the grounds for a golf club. The offer was refused and the Army then requested urgent discussions with the Camden Golf Club.

A group of local residents, dissatisfied with not having a golf course of their own, had approached the Department of the Army earlier in the year. After negotiations the group was able to secure the lease on all but 18 acres of Studley Park for the use by the Camden Golf Club Limited. The House and the Army Complex property were part of the 18 acres the Army held.

On the 14th of February 1950 the Camden Golf Club limited received permission from Mr. C.K. Whyte to lay out new greens and to mow fairways for the golf course. In return for Mr. Whyte being allowed to graze his cattle for a period of 3 months after the termination of his lease.

Camden Golf Club Limited submitted a revised plan for the course on the 17th of March 1950, the plans showing how the two existing water mains from the road to the club house would service the water pipes for the new greens.

The Foundation Committee of the Camden Golf Club Limited was formed on the 18th of March 1950. The first President of the newly formed club was Mr. W.C. Clifton, Vice Presidents Mr. G. Griffiths and Mr. F.S. Longley. The Club Captain was Mr. A.E. Neal and the Vice Captain Mr. F.E. Marden.

The Army approved the revised plans for the watering system to the greens and the new course layout on the 11th April 1950.

On the 8th May 1950, Camden Golf Club Limited was granted the right of entry to the old Golf Club house to effect much needed repairs, the building having been neglected since it had last been used by the Army. The members of the club carried out all the repair work on the clubhouse.

The Department of Defense on The 7th June 1950 notified Camden Golf Club limited it had approval for a lease of ten years. The 30th June 1950 saw the termination of the grazing lease held by Mr. C.K. Whyte.

On the 1st of July 1950 a lease on Studley Park was granted to the Camden Golf Club Limited for ten years with a renewable option for a further ten years. The members set about in earnest reconstructing the golf course.

The end of the war had signalled a decline in the use of Studley Park. The house and Army Complex still remained in the control of the Army, and in 1948 when the Citizen Military Forces were raised to fulfill the role of the pre-war militia the house and barracks were again used as a school.

On the 6th July 1951 the first recruits of the newly formed Women's Royal Australian Army Corps (9) marched into Studley Park to begin their Recruit Training, Forty one recruits marched in to be

greeted by the Officer Commanding Captain Mary Johns and the Chief Instructor Warrant Officer Patricia Rawlings. The Second course of twenty-four girls from Northern Command and six from Sydney marched in on the 6th of August 1951. Only two courses were conducted at Studley before the decision was made to have a single training school for The WRAAC's to Point Lonsdale in Victoria.

Studley Park House was still used by the Army as the married officer's quarters for personnel stationed in the Liverpool area. At one stage the Area Commander for Liverpool Brigadier General Brogan made Studley Park his home.

Studley Park still served as an Army establishment. It was the home of two units of the Citizen Military Forces. "C" Squadron of the 1/15 Royal New South Wales Lancers were based at Studley Park for a time before they relocated to the Lancer Barracks at Parramatta(10) and the 2nd Ordnance Platoon was also based at Studley Park and used the facilities of the Army Complex and the Golf Club.

In April 1963 and again in June 1965 detailed surveys were made of the entire Studley Park site, Plans and Specifications for alterations to the Golf Club's "Pro" shop were submitted to Camden Council on the 24th of September 1973. A portion of the property was disposed of to the Church of England Property Trust for 1000 pounds, to improve access around St. Thomas's Church. (an area of 36 3/4 perches)

The Department of Defence finally declared the Golf Course portion of the property surplus to their needs in March 1977. Negotiations between the Minister for Defence and Camden Golf Club, with a view to a priority sale to a tenant were commenced. The club at the time was unable to proceed because of financial constraints.

The Macarthur Development Board acting on behalf of Camden Golf Club endeavored to secure the property as district open space. Plans were submitted to bring the property into public ownership with a long-term lease to be held by the Golf Club. On the 17th October 1979, Studley Park House and the Army buildings were valued at \$ 240,000. Commonwealth and State land exchange meetings were held and agreed to the sale of the land to the State for recreational purposes on the 5th of August 1981. The house was then valued at \$ 270,000.

On the 6th of October 1981, a private consortium offered to lease the property and restore the house as a Conference/Reception Centre and to restore the Army Buildings for the Local Army Cadet Corps. In November 1981 the property was again valued, this time at \$ 276,000.

On Monday the 22nd of February 1982, a fire in the Golf Club's Maintenance Shed the old Machinery Shed resulted in the loss of the shed and its contents of green keeping equipment and other plant equipment.

Studley Park was at last finally declared surplus to the needs of the Army, and it was handed over to the Property Department of the Department of Administrative Services on the 17th of February 1984 for sale.

At the time the house was said to be in poor condition. The main stained glass window in the house was stuck up with masking tape and half destroyed. In an endeavor to stop any more damage and to protect the property a vandal-proof fence was erected around the house in August 1984. Final approval was finally given to transfer Studley Park House to the State Government for the sum of

\$ 270,000. The State Government was also charged to protect the heritage value of Studley Park House and the surrounding area.

A request was received on the 16th of November 1984, from the Camden Army Cadet Corps to purchase one of the old buildings (RAP Hut) which had been used to house the Corps "Q" store.

In a letter from the Crown Lands Department on the 26th of March 1985 it stated that the Stables and Carriage house have been permanently integrated into the Golf Club. On the 4th of June 1985 Camden Council requested the use of one of the Army Barracks to be used as the Headquarters by the local group of the State Emergency Service.

The State Government on The 5th of November 1985 issued a Permanent Conservation Order. The order Number 389, covering Studley Park House the Army complex and the 18 remaining acres, was gazetted on the 28th of February 1986.

Camden Golf Club Limited submitted an expression of interest to the Property Department on the 14th of March 1986, with the view of leasing Studley Park House. A report commissioned on the house at the time mentioned the house was in sound condition, and most of the glass was intact except for the some of the leadlight that had been previously damaged.

In a further letter from the Club on the 7th April 1986 to the Property Department, the Club described its plans to turn the house into a "Country Club" style complex if granted the lease.

Between April and May 1986, much needed repair work was carried out to the house, the slate roof was repaired and replaced, the windows and doors were also repaired by the Property Department. Steel mesh screens were provided and installed to protect the stained glass in the house and all other broken glass was replaced. The house was valued on the 21st of October 1986 with a price of \$ 250,000.

Studley Park House and Army complex was sold to Charles Northern and Gabriel Olsen in 1989. Northern and Olsen were to experience financial problems and left the house vacant in 1994. Studley Park house remained vacant and although vandals have caused damage to the house, it still remains intact.

Camden Golf Club Limited flourishes from its clubhouse in the former Stables/School rooms and in October 1996 the club purchased Studley Park House. Once again both house and property have become one, thus marking the start of a new chapter in the history of Studley Park and the Narellan Area.

The inaugural meeting of the Studley Wine and Food Club was held in the Drawing room of Studley Park House on Monday the 14th of October 1996, and a formal dinner for a group of 100 people was held in the house on the 17th October 1998.

While many old houses have been demolished to make way for new development, Studley Park House still remains as a reminder to the courage and fortitude of the early pioneers of the Camden region. Constructed over 100 years ago Studley Park House has seen the comings and goings of many a figure in the history, growth and development of the Narellan and Camden area. It is a part of Australia's short history and holds a most valuable part in the history of the Community of Narellan.

NOTES

1. A Spanish Dollar was worth 5 shillings in 1825
2. Document relating to the Convict Ship "Minerva" shows a letter from Castlereagh to Cornwallis the Lord Lieutenant General and Governor General Of Ireland. This is the same Cornwallis who surrendered the British Forces at Yorketown to the Americans in their War of Independence.
3. John Lacy and His Wife Mary and John Mac Manus were also on the Convict Ship " Minerva ".
4. A Bushel was equal to 50 lbs which is equal to 22.6 kilos
5. A. L. & G McCredie of Sydney, built the Institute Building at the Sydney University. They also built "Montana" in Boyce Street, Glebe in 1892.
6. Ripon is a town in North Yorkshire, north of Leeds. Studley is located nearby. Studley Royal has the ruins of Fountains Abbey dating from 1132. Studley Park House was destroyed by fire in 1946.
7. Dalley's Castle named after William Bede Dalley, Solicitor and Member of the New South Wales Parliament. Colonial Secretary who raised the New South Wales Contingent to the Sudan.
8. Eric Apperley was New South Wales State Amateur Champion Golfer in the 1930's.
9. The Women's Royal Australian Army Corps was formed on 5th of March 1950. First Recruit Course at Studley on the 2nd of July 1951.
10. "C" squadron or Camden squadron. 1/15 R.N.S.W. Lancers moved to the Headquarters of the New South Wales Lancers at Lancer Barracks at Parramatta.