



Peninsula Historian

Newsletter of the Manly, Warringah &
Pittwater Historical Society Inc.

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FROM THE EDITOR

Thank you to Keith Amos for his major article in this issue on Carl von Bieren, instigator - in the 1880s - of the powder works that gave present-day Powder Works Road at Elanora/Ingleside its name.

For such a relatively small area, which development largely by-passed for the first 100 years of European settlement, it is amazing - at least to me - as to how many local history stories are still left to be uncovered. One such story was the subject of our February talk, the role of Collaroy Plateau in the development of radio astronomy in Australia, with an ultimate link to the now-ubiquitous Wi-Fi. The talk report is in this issue.

While you may not have anything quite so dramatic to contribute, you nevertheless may have some interesting snippet or fact of your own. Please share it with us or provide the lead for it to be pursued and fleshed out.

In that vein, a member of the public has recalled a plaque marking the burial of a time capsule in the vicinity of the bus shelter on Pittwater Road outside Warringah Mall. There is no such plaque there today. Does anyone have a

recollection? If you do please email me at editor @mwphs.com.

Richard Michell

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I know I harp on this issue more than perhaps I should, but I'm still not sure just where we're going. Our membership is basically stagnant. We don't have a home. Somehow we're not attracting the youngans because we've not captured that secret showing them that History can be fun, that History is a vital part of the fabric of life, and that History was their past, is their present, and they will be its future.

I have had one or two meetings with people, not of our member list but people who see a possible avenue to marry some of our northern beaches assets, be they scientific (engineering, physics etc.), biological (marine and terrestrial), aboriginal pre-history, social etc.. Discussions have been promising, robust and I certainly cross my fingers that the path ahead leads not to a dead end but to a happy, rosy and fun-filled 100th birthday.

Phil Colman

DIARY and a REMINDER

Monthly meeting at the Curl Curl Community Centre, cnr. Griffin and Abbott Roads

11 March, 2017 2.00 pm

'Mysteries of North Head and how we unveiled them'

Geoff Lambert, the Secretary of the North Head Sanctuary Foundation, will give an illustrated talk explaining the use of history research methods to uncover and elucidate a number of mysteries on North Head.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Another gentle reminder to any stragglers that membership renewal time is here. Details are on the last page.

NEWS AND VIEWS

MONTHLY MEETING REPORT, Saturday 11 February, 2017

Attendees were treated to a most interesting talk - *Why is Collaroy Plateau Important to our Wi-Fi World?* - presented in a very entertaining and enlightening manner by Hastings Pawsey who lives in Frenchs Forest. It described the fascinating career of his father, Joe Pawsey, as a pioneer in the fields of radio transmission, early television, Radar and, ultimately, radio astronomy. Hastings revealed that a Radar antenna, installed on Collaroy Plateau during WW2 for defence reasons, was used by a small team led by his father - from the then-brand-new CSIR (later CSIRO) - for the first deliberate attempt in Australia to detect radio waves coming from space. It was trained on the sun at dawn and dusk and signals were found. Radio astronomy in Australia had been born. As the 1950s progressed Australia, with Joe Hawsey at the helm, became the world leader in the new science.

Australian scientists were the first in the world to detect radio waves from outside of our solar system.

For technical reasons it was found to be better to build a number of smallish detectors, and link them, than to build an equivalent single large detector. In the early 1990s scientists at the CSIRO developed techniques to allow the large amount of data gathered and transmitted by these dispersed detectors to be brought together at a single location and processed in real time. They developed what is called the Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN). Today it is the basis of all mobile phone and Wi-Fi transmissions and the CSIRO receives large royalty payments each year.

Northern Beaches Council is actively working on some means of commemorating the small but seminal role that Collaroy Plateau played in this inspiring story.

NEXT MEETING, FEBRUARY

The use of history research methods to uncover mysteries on North Head

Geoff Lambert, the Secretary of the North Head Sanctuary Foundation (NHSF) will give an illustrated talk at our next meeting .

Geoff is a neuroscientist by trade but has had an enduring interest in North Head, literally since the day he came to Sydney in 1977. NHSF is a conservation group with the aim of preserving the whole of North Head for its natural and human history values. It has amassed a huge historical collection of documents relating to North Head, has a Visitor Centre on North Head, runs nature walks and conducts a program of flora plantings from its native plant nursery.

Geoff's talk will focus upon about a dozen mysteries, the details of which have been uncovered over the last 15 years. He will link the mysteries to the methods used to uncover them.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Thank you to all those who have renewed their membership. If you are not as yet in that category we would encourage you to use the form at the end of the newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP BADGES

Also, thanks to the efforts of Kevin Martin, we now have a new supply of membership badges. These are the classic metal style with enamelled inlay, as shown (dimly) in the photo. If you would like one, they can be purchased at any of our meetings for \$10 each.

POT POURRI

In the last issue, in her comprehensive article on Frenchs Forest Cemetery, Beth Robertson informed us that one of the people buried there was Ida Standley, after-whom Standley Chasm in Central Australia was named. Perhaps revealing my own ignorance, I confess that I had no idea that a woman was the source. I had presumed, from the time I was a child in primary school when I first heard of it, that the chasm was named after some probably-dead white male. Making the perhaps-unfair assumption that I am not alone, here is the Ida Standley story, as given in the Australian Dictionary of Biography.



Joe Pawsey (on the right) at work with colleagues

SHELAGH CHAMPION

Just as this issue was going to print we received the very sad news that Shelagh Champion died on the 22nd of February. Shelagh has been an enormous contributor for many years, both to local history in general and to the Society in particular. Our deepest sympathy to her husband George. There will be a fuller testimonial in the next issue.



Ida Standley (1869-1948), schoolteacher, was born on 19 January 1869 in Adelaide, one of six children of Hanson Woodcock, butcher, and his wife Bertha, née Franklin. Educated at Misses Lucy and Florence Tilley's Hardwicke House Ladies' College, Ida went as governess to the Standley family at Mount Wudinna station on Eyre Peninsula. On 12 August 1887, aged 18, she married George Standley, a 35-year-old farmer. Periodically left to fend for herself, with three daughters and a son to rear, in 1897 Ida became a probationary teacher at the Boothby school, near Cleve, and taught up to twenty-four children. By the time she left Boothby for Gawler

River in 1903, her marriage had ended. In 1911 she transferred to Buchfelde. By 1914, after eighteen years in one-teacher schools, her salary had increased from £65 to £100 per annum and her children were old enough to be independent.

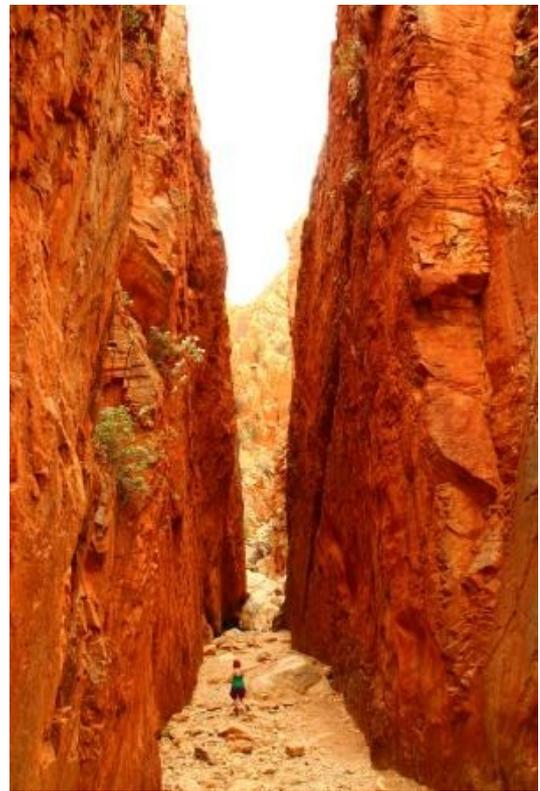
In that year the South Australian Education Department advertised for a woman teacher for Alice Springs. No one applied. After local parents agreed to cover the cost of board and washing, Standley took the post and was paid £150. In May she went by train to Oodnadatta whence she was escorted by a constable on a fourteen-day buggy trip to Alice Springs. The school, at the back of the gaol, was formerly a warder's residence, 'a little stone room with a couple of windows and a door'. White parents protested when she suggested that all children attend together, so she taught eleven white children, six mornings a week, and fourteen part-Aborigines on five afternoons. She eventually received an allowance from the Education Department and moved into 'Myrtle Villa', a slab-walled cottage in Wills Terrace.

Under the policy of separating children of mixed descent from their Aboriginal mothers, the police took them to the 'Bungalow', two galvanized iron sheds with earth floors. Mrs Standley was given charge of the makeshift institution and paid an additional £50. While the number of children at her morning classes declined, the bungalow became so overcrowded that by 1923 sixty children—aged between a few months and 16 years—slept huddled on the floor. Although Professor (Sir) Baldwin Spencer and other visitors condemned the bungalow, plans to build a new institution were postponed. By hard work, efficiency and compassion, Ida Standley gave her Aboriginal children a basic education and increased their self-esteem. A sturdy matron, prim and proper, clothed to neck, wrist and ankle, she still conveyed affection for the children, many of whom called her 'Mum'.

In 1928 the Aboriginal children were shifted to an incomplete new home at Jay Creek, about 30 miles (48 km) west of Alice Springs. Ida delayed her retirement to go with them and spent the summer in a tent. She left the Alice in 1929 and was appointed M.B.E.



Ida Standley outside her home 'Myrtle Villa' in Alice Springs (South Aust Library)



Angkerle (Standley Chasm)

For fifteen years she had been the only government teacher in Central Australia. Popular and respected, she was described by the press as the 'Beloved Lady'. Retiring to Adelaide, she died at Manly, Sydney, on 29 May 1948 and was buried with Catholic rites at Frenchs Forest. Three daughters survived her. Standley Chasm, near Jay Creek, and the Ida Standley Pre-School, Alice Springs, commemorate her, and a plaque marks the site of her home in Wills Terrace.

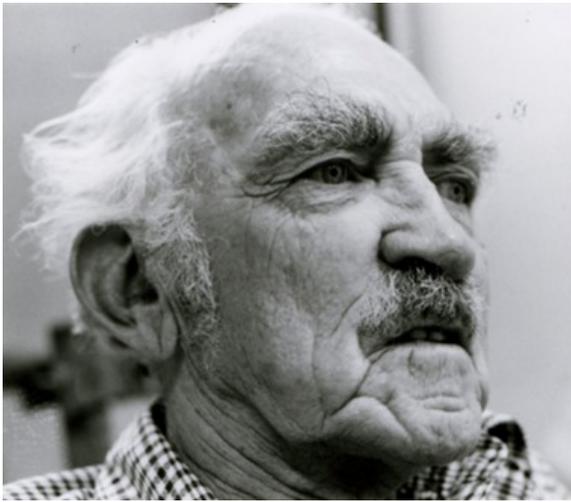
Citation details

H. N. Nelson, 'Standley, Ida (1869–1948)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/standley-ida-8619/text15057>, published first in hardcopy 1990, accessed online 14 February 2017.

This article was first published in hardcopy in *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Volume 12, (MUP), 1990

Collaroy Plateau

If it has come as a surprise to learn that the quiet, dormitory suburb of Collaroy Plateau played a role in the development of the somewhat exotic activity of radio astronomy, I recently stumbled over another hopefully-interesting fact. My wife Fran is reading the second volume of the autobiography of the now-



Xavier Herbert late in his life

well-known author of adult and children’s books, Ruth Park. It emerges that she lived for a short period, in 1944/45, with her husband D’Arcy Niland and their young first child, in a very run down beach house at Collaroy, on the thin strip of sand that lies between Pittwater Road and the ocean, the strip that has been in the news over the past 12 months or so. She reveals that another author was nearby, living on Collaroy Plateau, looking down over them. It was Xavier Herbert, well-known by 1944 through his novel *Capricornia*, published in 1938.

Ruth Park describes going for walks through the bush on the Plateau (which was still essentially undeveloped), including seeing aboriginal rock carvings. I wonder if she ventured far enough in from the coast to see the somewhat primitive hut with a metallic contraption above it that, along with a similar one at Dover Heights, made up the cutting edge Radar system that was defending Sydney, trained out to sea to detect approaching war ships. This was the aerial which,

a few years later, was to make the first detection in Australia of radio signals from space.

I don’t know how long Xavier Herbert lived on Collaroy Plateau. He was discharged from the AIF in August 1944 (he had served as a sergeant in the North Australian Observer Unit) and apparently moved straight to Collaroy Plateau. He went to Cairns in 1951.

Does anyone have additional information on Xavier Herbert on Collaroy Plateau?

ARTICLE

The mystery of Carl von Bieren’s identity

Nearly every local history of Manly-Warringah has some mention of Carl von Bieren’s powder works at Ingleside – after which Powderworks Road takes its name. The powder works was a grand plan in the 1880’s that collapsed in controversy. Instead of manufacturing gunpowder for the first time in New South Wales, Von Bieren led investors deeply into debt without ever commencing production. He was arrested trying to abscond to Britain, found guilty of fraudulent insolvency and sentenced to two years ten months imprisonment. Released from Goulburn Gaol in 1888, he took passage back to America and was never heard of again.

What most puzzled observers at the time, and has continued to intrigue researchers, is the question of Von Bieren’s real identity.¹ Although his four trials addressed this, it was never clearly resolved, and didn’t need to be to find him guilty as charged. Normally, a fraud case wouldn’t last in popular memory, but the abandoned powder works and ruins of Von Bieren’s residence survived as curious reminders of the case. Then, after the Great War of 1914-18, the name Von Bieren began to raise suspicions about a possible German plot: why did this man appear so mysteriously from overseas, then vanish just as strangely a few years later; was he a Prussian agent, secretly experimenting with gunpowder-making, or spying on Sydney’s defences?

Back in 2007, I introduced a work-in-progress talk on Von Bieren to our society as follows: *‘There are theories that he was a failed industrialist, serial con merchant or even a German spy. What isn’t known is why he had so many aliases, what his roots were and what happened when he went back to US. I’m hoping eventually to provide a reliable account of what sort of person he was.’* This article outlines some progress. My considered view is that ‘Carl



Carl von Bieren’s Business card (courtesy S&G Champion)

Von Bieren' (hereafter Carl) was an expert 19th century confidence man - highly skilled at fooling unsuspecting victims to attain gentility. Also to be considered is whether his wife, Anna, ever knew who he really was.

Carl and Anna first arrived at Sydney in December 1882, as first-class passengers aboard the steam and sailing ship, *Orient*. It appears that they had left America two or three months earlier on a round-world trip, stopping first in Britain. Carl was mixing pleasure with business. The London office of the American Exchange arranged their further travel via Paris, Naples and Suez to Australia, and also wrote Carl a letter introducing him to a British bank in Calcutta. Signed by Carl at the bottom, it provided crucial proof of identity for his financial dealings in India and beyond: -

Gentlemen,

We take pleasure in introducing to you our esteemed friend and client Mr Carl von Bieren who, with his wife, is travelling in your district.

Mr von Bieren holds our letter of credit, and may probably undertake extensive business transactions in your country; we therefore commend him to your best care and attention, and will appreciate as extended to ourselves, any special courtesies you may have the opportunity to accord him.

*We are, Gentlemen, your obedient Servants,
American Exchange in Europe Ltd
Henry F Gillig, General Manager*

Signature of:



*Carl von Bieren*²

But was Carl a bone fide businessman? Certainly he had the presence: expensively dressed, imposing appearance, articulate and charming with those just met. Or was he a clever fraudster, now in possession of a valid reference for any opportunity he could gain from using it?

One key document unmasking Carl as an imposter is a passport application he swore to in New York.³ Made at a notary's office in September 1882, he identifies himself as Carl von Bieren, 38 years of age, an American citizen born in Amsterdam, Holland, on 25th December 1843 during a sojourn of his parents abroad. The form further notes that his American father was Ferdinand von Bieren, and that Carl would be travelling with his wife Anetta, aged 27. But when brought to court in Sydney, Carl stated that he was born on 25th December 1844 at Ithaca, New York State, the son of John von Bieren.⁴ So was his father Ferdinand or John, or neither; and was he born in Holland in 1843 or in USA in 1844, or neither? At least his birthday is consistent – and easy to remember being Christmas!

The impression conveyed by Carl both before and during his trials, is that he and Anna were independently wealthy. He claimed in court that Anna was 'a Scott of New York, related to the members of a large iron firm of that name in New York', adding that he had sent some of the powder works plans to her industrialist father, PVB Scott. When he married Anna in Philadelphia - dated December 1877 on the birth certificate of their (Australian-born) daughter, Viola⁵ - he claimed to have sold Philadelphia Powder Company, and a few years afterwards travelled to Europe with Anna. They arrived at Sydney with 2,500 pounds in gold belonging to Anna, he said, and a letter of credit from the American Exchange in London, for 600 pounds on the Oriental Bank.

In actual fact, little of this is true. The 1880 US Census records that 'Annie' Scott was 24 that year, single, living with her parents, and working in her father PVB Scott's general store in Philadelphia.⁶ So clearly, Carl and Anna did not marry in 1877. It is more likely they eloped to Europe at about the time she became pregnant, as Viola's birth certificate records that Anna had given birth to their first child (who had died) somewhere before they came to Sydney. Only the letter of credit seems accurate, given Carl's above-mentioned visit to the American Exchange. All else including Anna's gold is almost certainly fictitious. Within a few months of circulating in Manly, Carl inveigled a group of well-off locals, including some Manly councillors, into financing his grand scheme on only a limited outlay of his own or Anna's money.

His initial purchase of the powder works site at Ingleside, for example, required only 90 pounds deposit for 320 acres on conditional purchase. From there on, it was a case of 'easy pickings' from those who unwisely lent him money. In July 1883, for instance, he appointed Andrew Duncan as a works supervisor on 300 pounds annual salary, promising a rise to 500 pounds the next year; however he put off paying Duncan any wages for two months, and instead borrowed 500 pounds from him that was never repaid. Nearly all funds for the powder works, Carl's grand residence 'Ingleside Manor', and the couple's extravagant lifestyle with servants for nearly three years, came from floating the 'Australasian Powder and Manufacturing Co.' to shareholder investors.

Eager for a windfall, investors readily accepted Carl's self-promotion as a well-qualified and able industrialist. He had managed, then owned Philadelphia Powder Mills, *Sydney Morning Herald* reported, having 'spent seven years at the Heidelberg University,

where he graduated as a chemist and surgeon; passed two years at the School of Mines in Freiburg (sic); and is a member of the Pennsylvania Scientific Society'.⁷ The Company's launch took place at Manly in May 1884, attended by a group of well-primed businessmen. Notably though, a local baker said he had always regarded the venture little more than 'a sharebroking, hand-me-round-the-wine, share-selling concern'.

In actual fact, Carl was never proprietor of a Philadelphia Powder Mills – of which there is no trace. Nor was he ever enrolled at Heidelberg University or the prestigious Freiberg Mining Academy in Saxony.⁸ Hence, while Carl managed it, the powder works at Ingleside never made an ounce of explosives.

In June 1885, facing mounting suspicion from investors, banks, unpaid servants and numerous other creditors, Carl despatched pregnant Anna, infant Viola and a maid (for the voyage only) back to Philadelphia, where their second daughter, Elsie, was born in November. Carl never returned to them. Throughout their lives - Viola and Elsie never married - they used the surname Van Buren, which it seems Anna always believed was Carl's real name. That this was a quiet secret between them is also indicated by the fact that Carl identified himself on Viola's birth certificate as 'Clinton Van Buren' - apparently believing it to be an official document confined to family access.



"Ingleside Manor and nearby buildings in 1885" - Courtesy Mitchell Library

In October 1885 Carl packed a few belongings and spent much of the night burning documents in his study's fireplace. Early the next morning he departed for Melbourne, where he took the first ship he could to escape to America. One letter not burnt was retrieved by a diligent Manly police constable, Edward Murphy. Never used in court, it opens a key window into Carl's American past. Addressed to the wife of a New York banker, it purports to come from her faraway brother in Mexico, but has obviously been forged by Carl to gain access to the hospitality of a wealthy family – and sooner or later to their money: -

*Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico
17 May 1882*

*Mrs Harriet L Wight
41 West St NY*

Presents Prof C.H. Vanburen

I take pleasure in presenting to your kind attention Prof C H Vanburen.

As a living letter is more satisfactory, the Professor has kindly volunteered to give you a description of me & my surroundings, & as everything that appertains to you is of such great importance to me ... I know you cannot fail to feel interest in the brother who was always nearer to you than others ...

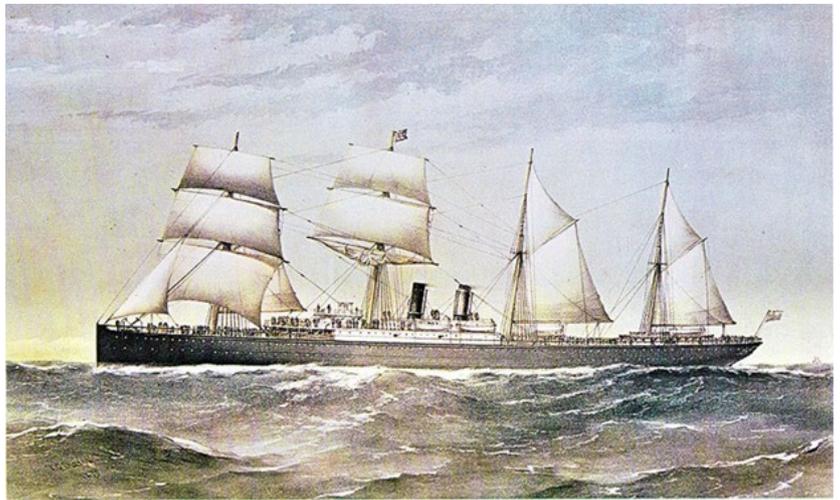
I need not state that your kindness to Mr Vanburen will be appreciated by

*Your affectionate brother,
John⁹*

Carl's 'Van Buren' identity first came to light in court when the American Consul, as a witness for Carl's good character, said that he had got to know him in Sydney and believed him honest; adding that he knew the New York Van Burens to whom Carl was related. When Justice Faucett queried 'That is not his name', the consul explained that this family 'of the largest means in America' had two branches, Van Burens and von Bierens, and that from Carl's appearance he had 'no doubt he was one of them'. Clearly, the consul had been approached to support Carl as an innocent, falsely accused American, related to some powerfully placed Van Burens (Martin Van Buren was American president 1837-41). Cross-examined, he said that he knew New York was a Dutch settlement, but wasn't aware that Van was a Dutch prefix to a surname whereas von was German.

Another alias that needed explaining in court was the identity Carl used when he fled by ship from Melbourne: a teaching certificate and naval reference for 'Clinton H Walbridge'. The implausible defence was that Carl had used three of his first

names to avoid arrest, before collecting funds in America to repay his debts. Even more implausibly, a defence witness named Charles Clapp said he had known the accused since boyhood and had seen his name in a family bible in Van Buren Manor, on the corner of 5th Avenue and 46th Street, inscribed 'Carl Clinton Hiram Walbridge von Bieren.' Clearly, Charles Clapp had been induced by some means to commit perjury. *Historic Bibles of America* (1905) has no listing of a Van Buren family bible¹⁰ and the notion that such a bible, if it did exist, would have a Von Bieren entry is ridiculous. Almost certainly Carl had stolen, or fabricated, the identity of a seaman named Clinton H Walbridge to use as an alias.



S.S. Orient which made its maiden voyage to Australia in 1879 (lithograph after TG Dutton)

Also found in Carl's possession was some blank writing paper

with a letterhead 'Van Buren Manor, 5th Avenue, New York'- hence the precise address stated by Charles Clapp. Along with

the above-cited letter, the letter paper was found by Senior Constable Murphy after he had chased Carl to England and arrested him aboard ship in the Thames. Murphy always held strong suspicions that Carl was an imposter. It was Murphy who discovered that Carl had signed 'Clinton Van Buren' on his daughter's birth certificate, had faked a demonstration at the powder works' official opening using blasting powder bought secretly in Sydney, and that his special chemical liquid for soaking charcoal at the powder works was actually diluted indelible ink.

The masterly scam that Carl devised to support Anna and himself in luxurious comfort for over two years at Ingleside was comprehensively exposed in court. However Justice Innes, in his final summing up, counselled the jury that though the evidence of fraud was compelling, he did not believe Von Bieren an imposter; adding he saw no reason to doubt that Carl was a member of the Van Buren family, and could understand his using shortened forms of 'Carl Clinton Hiram Walbridge von Bieren', because: 'When a man was handicapped in life with such a name, not through any fault of his own, but by the action of his godfather or godmother, could he be blamed if he dropped some of it?'

So guided, the jury found the Carl guilty as charged of fraudulent insolvency, with a strong recommendation for mercy. The sentence passed down was two years with hard labour, but on appeal that Carl had 'never done hard work', Innes made the sentence ten months longer without hard labour. A request that Carl's friends be allowed to bring him meals in prison 'as he suffers greatly from indigestion' was denied. Carl was sent firstly to Darlinghurst Prison, then transferred to Goulburn Prison where he served the rest of his sentence. Released in September 1888, he left Sydney by ship, eventually reaching New York via Cuba in January 1889. Thereafter, no one called Carl von Bieren, Clinton Van Buren or Clinton H Walbridge can be positively identified as Carl.

So who Carl really was, one can only imagine. His type, however, closely resembled that of another imposter, 'Count Ignaz von Attems', who arrived at Sydney from London in 1868. Using various forged introductions and bogus credit notes from the Anglo-Austrian Bank, the 'Count' fleeced numerous victims in Sydney and Brisbane before escaping to Java on *Hamlet's Ghost*, a yacht he had purchased in Queensland. From Australian banks alone, the 'Count' swindled 6,500 pounds. Captured in Java, he made a full confession before a Dutch court at Sourabaya in an attempt to lessen his sentence (ultimately, ten years). He confessed to being Curt Oswald Schmalz, born in Saxony in 1843. He had trained in a commercial academy in Trieste - main seaport of the Austro-Hungarian Empire - risen to captain in the American civil war, then made a career of deceiving banks and gentry around the world using various, mainly Austrian, identities.¹¹

Curt Schmalz was close to Carl's age, and their similarities are plain: well educated, presentable in upper-class society, astute with international banking, masters of forged documents and identities. And since Carl spoke fluent German to his German maids and stonemasons, and had a bust of the Prussian



Police portrait taken 15 March 1886

chancellor Otto von Bismarck at 'Ingleside Manor', they seemed to have shared a central European ethnicity.

To conclude, 'Carl von Bieren' can be at least partly unmasked as an artful 19th century confidence man: 'Not a thief in the traditional sense, he seduced his prey with silky words and fantastical promises until his victims willingly gave him their trust, their money and quite literally their confidence'¹². That Carl never re-joined Anna and her daughters in America, suggests that she, too, may never have known who he really was. When sentenced, Carl responded: 'I thank your Honour for the kind manner in which you have dealt with me...' Doubtless he was relieved that his real *modus operandi* hadn't been uncovered: with a new identity he could always start afresh on another swindle, far away from Australia.

Keith Amos - 2016

Notes:

1. For the best study to date: Shelagh & George Champion, *Narrabeen Powder Works*, unpub.MS, 2007, rev. 2012. Local Studies, Northern Beaches Council Library - online in 'History of Manly'
2. 'Von Bieren Case', Box 9/6747, State Records Office, Kingswood NSW
3. US Passport Applications 1795-1926, *Ancestry.com.au*
4. Champions, op.cit. p.2. Hereafter, unless otherwise cited, court evidence mentioned in this article is from newspaper reports transcribed in this reference
5. Viola Mabel Scott, b.16/2/84 at 'Ingleside Manor'- registered at Manly, 1884/011890 BDM, NSW
6. 1880 United States Federal Census, *Ancestry.com.au*
7. *SMH*, 6/3/1884
8. Conveyed to the writer from Heidleberg University 30/10/09, and Freiberg Mining Academy 3/4/2007 – after searches for both 'Carl von Bieren' and 'Clinton Van Buren'
9. 'Von Bieren Case', *ibid*
10. Jean Dixon, *The Riddle of Powderworks Road*, Wentworth, Sydney, 1980, Foreword
11. *Queensland Times, Ipswich Herald and General Advertiser*, 10 Jan. 1871, *Trove.nla.gov.au*
12. Mimi Matthews, 'The 19th Century Confidence Man', 20 June 2016, *mimimatthews.com*

Editor's note:

I am trying to encourage Keith to write something on the Manly-based police officer, Senior Constable Edward Murphy, who featured so prominently in von Bieren's demise. It seems amazing that the powers-that-be allowed such a relatively-lowly officer to pursue von Bieren back to London. This story is surely the local version of the film 'Catch Me If You Can', with Leonardo DiCaprio playing von Bieren and Tom Hanks as Senior Constable Murphy.



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**Membership for 2017
is now due**

Manly Warringah & Pittwater Historical Society Inc.

Membership Application Form - 2017

Title: Dr/Mr/Mrs/Ms (please circle)

Name:

Age group (please tick): 10 – 18 19 – 50 51 – 70 71 – 85 86 – 95

[Note: this information is required for insurance purposes; if two persons included in this application fall into different age bands please tick both boxes]

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Date:

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	\$12.00.....	If you require Peninsula Historian by post.
DONATION:	\$.....	
TOTAL:	<u>\$.....</u>	Do you require a receipt? Yes/No

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Please make payable to 'MWP Historical Society Inc' and mail with the completed Renewal Form to:

**The Treasurer
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MANLY, NSW 1655**

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Account Number:	00907384

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