


# ANDERSON, MAYBANKE SUSANNAH

<https://jacksonslanding.net.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/anderson-maybanke-susannah21.jpg>

**MRS. MAYBANKE ANDERSON.**  
In every movement which has for its mainspring the children of mean streets in Sydney's poorest quarters, Mrs. Anderson is




**MRS. MAYBANKE ANDERSON.**  
*Photo.—Crown Studios.*

always prominent. More particularly is she associated with the Free Kindergartens—of which she was one of the founders. The beginning of this system, which catches the small child who would otherwise spend its mornings amongst the gutters adjacent to its dwelling (one hesitates to use the word "home") occurred here in 1896. At that time the subject was very little understood.

"Kindergarten in those days," says Mrs. Anderson, "was looked on as something that meant folding paper, and letting children do as they liked. Education was regarded as an ingenious scheme for pouring knowledge out of a big tub into a lot of little tubs, which often leaked or ran over. Our first Kindergarten was in Charles Street, Woolloomooloo. As I went in search of a room to make a start, I stopped to watch some children playing a queer sort of game. 'You shouldn't drag that little girl about,' I said, as the screams of the child seemed to call for help. A boy who was looking on, reassured me: 'It's all right—Missis! They're gammonin' she's drunk an' they're takin' 'er orf to the lock-up!' Here was the ideal of the mean street."

Mrs. Anderson, who has been one of the mothers of the Free Kindergarten system in Sydney, points with pride to the evolution of eight flourishing schools from the humble room in Charles Street. A fine training college in Liverpool Street, Darlinghurst, is the arena in which students are taught their business—to gently bend the young idea into habits of thought that lift it above the squalid "play" which imitates the vices of its elders. The

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Maybanke Susannah Anderson (1845-1927), suffragist and social reformer, was born in England to parents who believed that women should be able to earn their own living. In

Sydney, at 22, she married Edmund Wolstenholme. Twelve children were born, but only three survived to adulthood.

Edmund was often unemployed, so Maybanke kept a boarding house, then ran a fee-paying girls' school (Maybanke College). Although the marriage had failed, divorce was impossible until 1892. Seven years later she married the younger Professor of Philosophy, Francis Anderson, her partner in reform campaigns. As a publicist and orator she advocated votes and access to higher education for women, kindergartens and inner-city playgrounds for children, teacher training and adult education. With other suffragists she took advantage of federation negotiations to ensure that women were enfranchised in the new Commonwealth.

Maybanke Kindergarten and the Maybanke Youth Centre in Harris Street are two of many reminders of her exceptional life and works.

For more information, visit the [Pyrmont History website](https://pyrmont-history.com.au/).

<https://jacksonslanding.net.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/anderson-maybanke-susannah1.jpg>



## BOYCE, FRANCIS BERTIE

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Francis Bertie Boyce (1844-1931), Anglican priest and social reformer, worked in a bank when his father died and he had to leave school. He taught Sunday school and resolved to enter the Anglican ministry: he was ordained priest in 1869. He was posted out West, but returned to Sydney in 1882 as minister in St Bartholomew's, Pyrmont. In 1849 Edward Macarthur had vested the land in the Anglican Church, which built a church, a school, a parish hall and a minister's residence. Here Boyce learned about slum housing before he moved on to St Paul's, Redfern.

In these working-class parishes, Boyce became a social reformer, agitating for unemployment relief, slum clearance, better housing, old-age pensions, temperance and female suffrage. He helped create the British Empire League in Australia and became a strong supporter of the League of Nations.

As the Anglican congregation declined, St Bartholomew's was demolished in 1970 and the land leased to the City of Sydney for public housing.

For more information, visit the [Pyrmont History website](#).



## HARRIS, JOHN

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John Harris (1754-1838), naval officer, surgeon and landowner, grew up in Country Derry and reached Sydney in 1790 as a surgeon to the NSW Corps. Like most other officers he quarrelled (and was twice court-martialled), embezzled funds, was rewarded by factional patrons with grants of land, and used convict labour to improve this land. Unlike the others, he pieced together a single estate from several grants, and named it Ultimo (meaning 'previous month', to relish the technicality on which he escaped conviction in a court martial).

In 1804 he built a two-storey residence, and by 1818 accumulated 233 acres around it, taking up most of the peninsula except Macarthur's North Eastern tip (Pymont). At a dinner there in 1808 his guests hatched the Rum Rebellion and rushed off to arrest Governor Bligh. Harris and other officers sailed to London to give evidence in the court

martial that followed the mutiny, but returned to Sydney in 1814 as a private citizen, having quit the navy.

Harris developed the estate as a quasi-English country estate of park lands and imported deer, and commissioned Francis Greenway, the colony's architect, to extend the residence. The estate was undivided and largely uncultivated when Harris died, although a nearby brewery and a distillery polluted the air and encouraged Harris himself to move out to a sweeter-smelling suburb. Through disputes among his heirs, Ultimo Estate was not subdivided until the 1860s, although sections were leased for cottages, quarries and other industrial activities. Members of the family lived in Ultimo House until the 1890s, when it (and the last of the estate) became Sydney Technical College. The House itself was demolished in 1932.

For more information, visit the [Pymont History website](#).

## JOHNSON, RICHARD

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Richard Johnson (1753-1827) was the first clergyman in Australia. In 1786 he was made chaplain for NSW and sailed with the First Fleet. He appealed in vain to successive

governors for labour to build a church. He also complained that his salary was inadequate to support his large family, but he did receive 160 hectares of land, including Glebe Island. Having a low opinion of the Island, he exchanged it for land in what is now the suburb of Glebe, and worked it well, selling it at a profit when he left the colony in 1800.

He did build a church, but he was evidently better at farming than fishing for souls.

For more information, visit the [Pymont History website](#).

## JONES, THOMAS

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Thomas Jones (? – 1799) soldier and murderer, was a private in the NSW Corps in 1795 when his officers awarded him 55 acres at the North Eastern tip of Pymont. Such land grants were made as an incentive to develop agriculture to make the colony self-sufficient in food. This grant – Jones' Farm – required him to live on the land, clear and cultivate it. Seeing its poor potential, Jones stayed away, and sold the land to Sergeant Ikin, who sold it to John Macarthur as soon as he could.

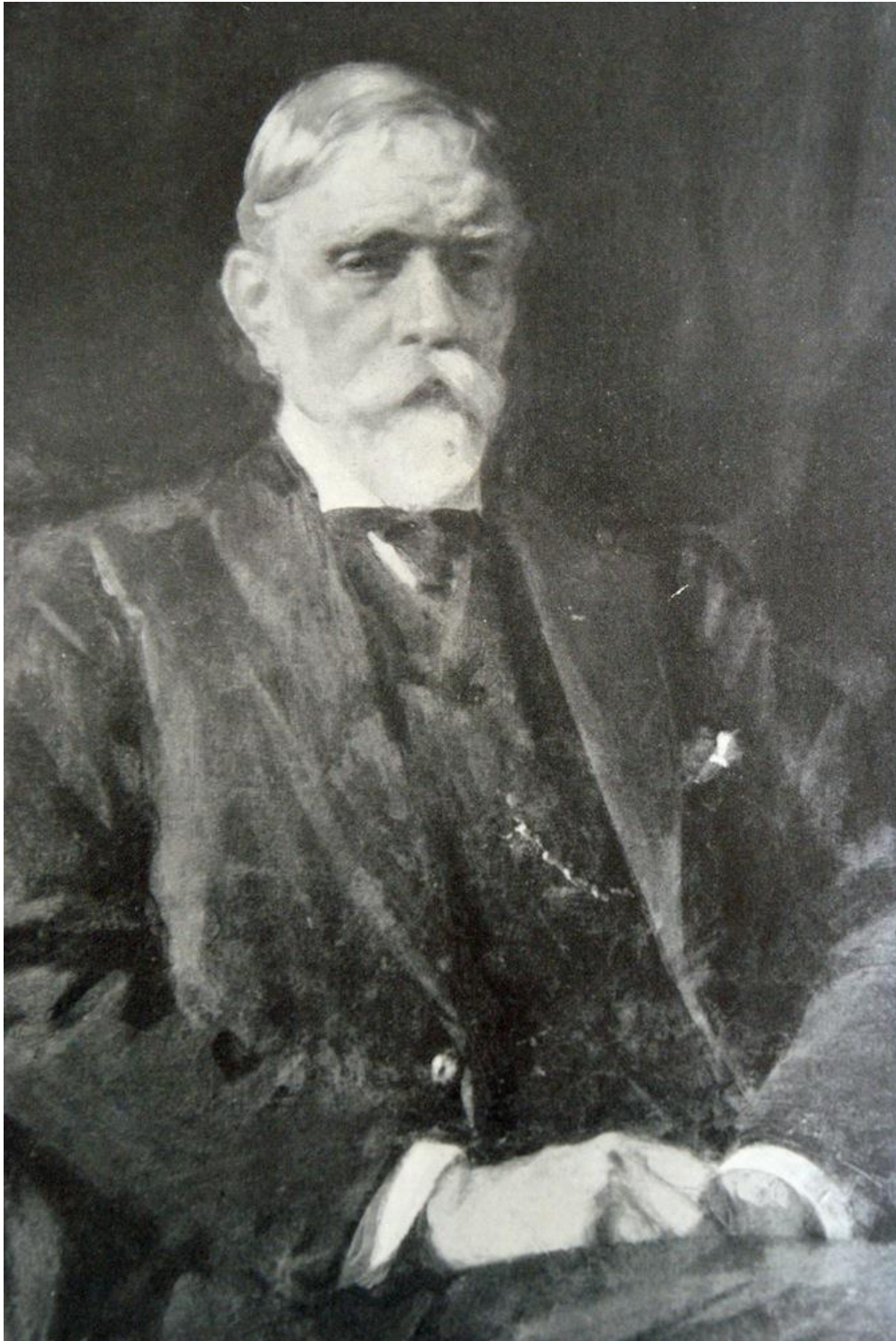
In 1799 Jones and his wife were charged with murdering a missionary: convicted, they were hanged, but (unknowing) bequeathed their name to a street and a bay in an area not yet known as Pymont.



## KNOX, EDWARD WILLIAM

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<https://jacksonslanding.net.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/E.W.-Knox-chairman-1920-1933-1.jpg>



Edward William Knox (1847-1933), general manager of CSR, was born in 1847 in Sydney, second son of Edward Knox. This was a high-achieving family: Adrian became Chief Justice of the High Court; Thomas became managing director of Dalgety & Co. Educated at Sydney Grammar School, Edward William joined CSR in 1864. In 1870 he took charge of the company's mills on the Clarence, improved management and encouraged farmers to grow sweeter cane. In 1876 he visited the West Indies to study milling: next year double crushing was adopted. He also visited sugar-beet factories in Germany and France.

As general manager from 1880, Knox 'surrounded himself with able lieutenants' as the company expanded into Queensland, Fiji and New Zealand. CSR recruited chemists from Scotland and Germany. After the slump of 1884, Knox introduced chemical book-keeping.

The company's absorption of all competitors laid it open to criticism and prompted the royal commission on the sugar industry in 1911-12. Knox refused to answer questions about costs or produce the company's books. CSR challenged an amendment to the Royal Commissions Act and was upheld by the Privy Council. Knox was certainly consistent; he refused to give information to another royal commission in 1920. Knox desired 'a uniform absence of [government] interference in industrial matters', but was willing to cooperate with governments. He served on four royal commissions: in 1915 he helped draft the principles of wartime control of the Australian sugar industry; and he visited the Colonial Office in London in 1922 to discuss the vexed issue of Indian labourers in Fiji.

In 1920 Knox became chairman and managing director of CSR. He resigned as managing director in December 1932, resigned from the board in February 1933 and died on 26 June.

For more information, visit the [\*\*Pyrmont History website\*\*](#).

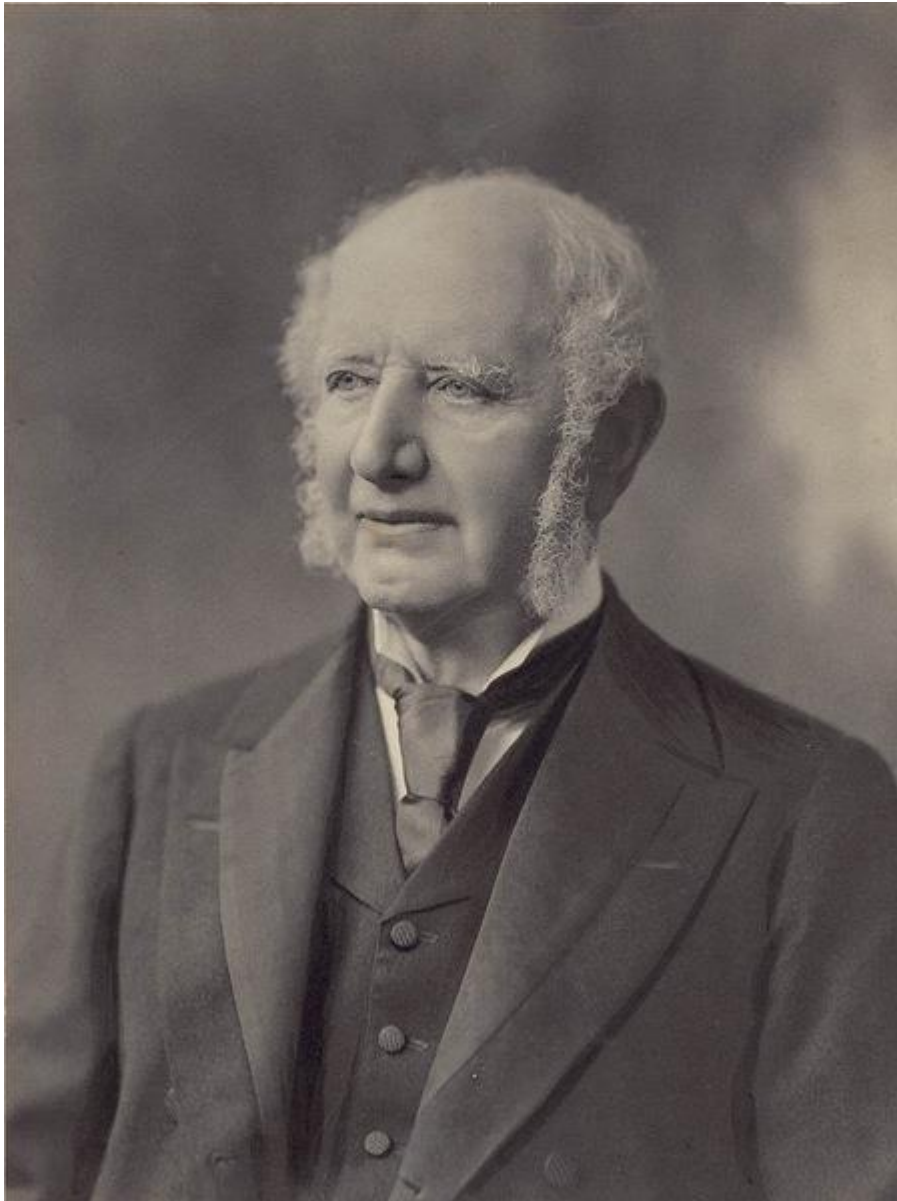
<https://jacksonslanding.net.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/E.W.-Knox-in-his-20s-1.jpg>





## KNOX, SIR EDWARD

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Sir Edward Knox (1819-1901) founder of CSR was born in Denmark. At 16, he entered his uncle's London merchant house but chose migrate to Australia.

Arriving in Sydney in 1840 he joined the Australian Auction Co. and in 1843 became manager before he transferred to the Australasian Sugar Co. With two associates he bought Bowden's refinery and a distillery which he leased to AS. As he prospered he became (among other posts) a director of the Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney. In 1847, when the managing director was sacked, he became manager.

In 1854 the Australasian Sugar Co. went bust. In January 1855 Knox founded the Colonial Sugar Refining Co., holding a third of its capital of £150,000. The new company bought the refinery and distillery from Knox and his associates. He was its first



chairman of directors and held the post until 1901. For two years the company flourished: it paid a dividend of 50 per cent in 1856.

Knox sold his home and some shares and sailed to England, but world prices fell, leaving the company in trouble. He returned to Sydney, reassured his partners, and gradually put the company's affairs in order. He determined that profits would never again be lavishly distributed. CSR discouraged competition by efficiency and taking over rivals. New refineries were built in other Australian colonies and New Zealand, and mills were built in NSW, Queensland and later Fiji. In 1880 he handed over the general management of the company to his second son Edward William but remained chairman until 1901.

Knox was knighted in 1898 and died in 1901, survived by his wife, four daughters and three sons.

For more information, visit the [Pymont History website](#).

## MACARTHUR, ELIZABETH

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Elizabeth Macarthur (1766-1850), was born in Devon, where her parents equipped her to manage complicated affairs, vital skills after she married John Macarthur in 1788.



Their first son Edward was born before they sailed in 1789 to join the NSW Corps. A daughter born at sea did not survive. In Sydney she bore four more sons, James (died young), John, James (again) and William, and three daughters, Elizabeth, Mary and Emmeline.

While John schemed, blustered and prospered, Elizabeth created a miraculously happy and orderly home at Elizabeth Farm, delighting in the country: 'The greater part of the country is like an English park, and the trees give to it the appearance of a wilderness, or shrubbery commonly attached to the habitations of people of fortune'. In 1806 her guests shared that vision, when they compared their picnic site with the picturesque German spa resort, Bad Pyrmont. That picnic seems to be Elizabeth's only connection with our Pyrmont. (Her daughter Mary married a surgeon, James Bowman, creating another incidental connection.)

Life changed in 1809 when John sailed (again) to England. For eight years Elizabeth took charge of his merinos, his Camden Park estate and its convicts. After John's return however, his depression and paranoia deepened, and their once-harmonious relationship frayed. By the time he died (in 1834) he – a minority of one – could no longer tolerate her company.

For more information, visit the [Pyrmont History website](#).

## MACARTHUR, JOHN

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John Macarthur (1767?-1834) was born near Plymouth, relatively poor, and struggled to join the British Army until 1788. Next year he became a lieutenant in the NSW Corps and sailed with his wife and son in the Second Fleet. He fought a duel, provoked another fierce dispute and suffered serious illness before he reached Sydney – where he quarrelled with every single Governor. His most serious dispute was with Governor Bligh. Macarthur was in gaol when his fellow officers mutinied, deposed Bligh and made Macarthur ‘colonial secretary’ in their illegal regime. He was the most powerful figure in the colony until law and order were restored. Even then, he was too influential in London, too manipulative and vengeful to sideline.

Meanwhile, as regimental paymaster and inspector of public works, he accumulated capital and land, including Elizabeth Farm at Parramatta, Camden Park – and a small grant in Pymont. His most successful venture was to acquire merino sheep, breed them – and have their wool accepted in the British market, in time for the high prices prevailing during the Napoleonic wars.

During his prolonged absences he had, in Elizabeth, a wife capable of managing his affairs. Returning at last to Sydney, he lobbied for government by self-important aristocrats like himself (the merinos) against Governor Macquarie’s encouragement of emancipists.

His connection with Pymont was tangential, as recorded by Fitzgerald and Golder. Having bought the land in 1796, he dabbled in timber-cutting and salt-boiling, and built a windmill, but did not clear the land or cultivate it. Not until his son Edward subdivided and sold the land in the 1830s did it make money for the family.

Although Macarthur won most of his quarrels and became richer and more feared, he also grew depressed and paranoid. He even fell out with long-suffering Elizabeth: yet (as Margaret Steven points out) it was to her and their sons that he owed most of his reputation as a promoter of Australian wool.

For more information, visit the [\*\*Pymont History website\*\*](#).

## SAUNDERS, CHARLES & FAMILY

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Charles Saunders (1824 – 1893), entrepreneur and stonemason, was born in Devon, and brought his family to Sydney in 1852, soon after gold was discovered in NSW. Next year Charles leased land from the Harris family, beginning a relationship which benefitted both families. This land, in what was then Ultimo but is now Pymont, was not the first quarry in the area: ballast quarrying had been operating to supply the sailing ships. Saunders' site became known as Paradise, a comment on the ease with which the yellow block sandstone was quarried.

By 1855, this was the material preferred by the Colonial Architect, and Saunders was a preferred supplier. There was such huge demand for sandstone during the building



boom that quarries – on the peninsula and elsewhere –had to pay high wages to retain stone masons. It is no accident that masons formed Australia’s first successful trade union.

Saunders quarries were not the only enterprises on the peninsula: the McCredies were almost as famous, but channelled their energies into building as well as quarrying. With skilled labour, good commercial contacts and a reputation for the reliable supply of fine stone, Charles prospered and expanded his operations. More land was acquired from the Harris family, for quarries farther South, which became known as Purgatory and Hellhole. Made roads and drays dragged by teams of Clydesdale horses replaced the barges that first took stone to building sites. Charles built the Quarryman’s Arms, and the expanding family lived there until the 1870s when they moved along Harris Street to Clifton Villa. At the same time he began to yield control of the business to his son Robert.

For more information, visit the [\*\*Pymont History website.\*\*](#)