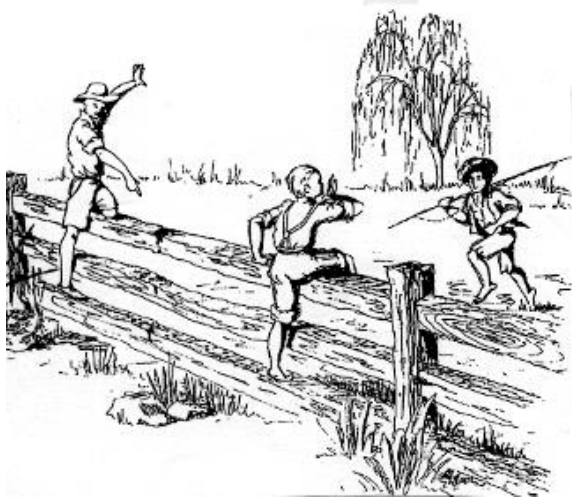


GhostBuster



CAMPBELLTOWN DISTRICT FAMILY

HISTORY SOCIETY Inc

ABN - 88 944 738 687

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MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS
Single \$20.00
Couple \$30.00
Name Badges \$8.00 each

Website Address: www.cdfhs.org.au

Webmaster: Dennis Allsopp webmaster@cdfhs.org.au

RESEARCH FEE

Written inquiries \$30.00. Stamped self addressed envelope to be included with inquiries.

RESEARCH CENTRE

Campbelltown City Library, Hurley Street, Campbelltown.

Note: Location change – see page 6.

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THE SOCIETY MEETS ON THE FIRST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH (EXCEPT JANUARY) AT 1.30pm, IN THE MEETING ROOM OF CAMPBELLTOWN CITY LIBRARY (Unless otherwise advised). ALL WELCOME.

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Ghostbusters is published three times a year, (March, July & November).

Articles for inclusion are to be handed in no later than 27th January, May and September or at the February, June & October Meetings.

We are happy to exchange Journals with other Societies. If your Society would like to be included on our exchange list, please contact us.

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Editorial

Hi to all,

Welcome to another edition of the Ghostbuster magazine.

Our main topic in this magazine relates to "My Irish Ancestors." See pages 7 - 16.

Please note that the library, where the Society is based, has moved to the old Spotlight Building, 147-157 Queen Street.

Copies of this magazine and our newsletter are also loaded onto our website.

Please note that I will be stepping down from this magazine editor role at the next AGM in August 2026 after 23 years. If anyone wants to step into the role, please advise.



David Beddie

Ghostbuster Magazine

July 2026 Issue

Topic: My Brick Walls and success.

Maximum 600 words. Plus, a picture if you have one.

Submission Date by: Saturday 6th June 2026.

Extra item for the magazine: "Unidentified Photographs".

Contact Details

Do we have your up-to-date contact details?

If you have changed your address, phone or email address please advise us at:

aged@cdfhs.org.au

From the President's Pen. . . .

President's Report March 2026.

Hello Family History Members,

There will be no president's report this issue. Thank you for your continued support of our Society.

Best Regards,
Robert PALMER
CDFHS President.



The Research Room and Library

Campbelltown HJ Daley Library reopened on Monday 4th August 2025.

The Library is now located at the Old Spotlight Building, 147-157 Queen Street.

All three floors will be used for Library and community, with the potential for one floor to be dedicated to after-hours services.

The Campbelltown District Family History Society will hold its' meetings in the meeting room, at the library.

CDFHS Member's Library

Our Member's library has a number of books that are not being borrowed, and we would like to make some of those available to our members.

Please contact Gail Algie for a list. library@cdfhs.org.au

Positions Vacant.

We have a position vacant for Assistant Editor on our committee.

If anyone wants to try this role, please contact Pam Shea:
secretary@cdfhs.org.au

Campbelltown District FHS Inc - Calendar

Meetings are held at Campbelltown Library, Meeting Room 1, at 1.30 pm, unless otherwise advised.

Sat 7th March 2026

Member's Meeting.

Location: Campbelltown City Library. 1.30pm

Speaker: To be advised.

Topic: The Ryerson Index.

Sat 4th April 2026

Easter Saturday.

Member's Meeting.

Location: To be advised. 1.30pm

Speaker: To be advised.

Topic: To be advised.

Sat 2nd May 2026

Member's Meeting.

Location: Glenalvon Historic House. 1.30pm

Speaker: To be advised.

Topic: To be advised.

Sat 6th June 2026

Member's Meeting.

Location: Campbelltown City Library. 1.30pm

Speaker: To be advised.

Topic: To be advised.

Sat 4th July 2026

Member's Meeting.

Location: Campbelltown City Library. 1.30pm

Speaker: To be advised.

Topic: To be advised.

Any questions on these should be directed to the Social Secretary
social@cdfhs.org.au

"My Irish Ancestors"

The discovery of my Irish ancestry came very late in to my genealogy journey, in fact almost thirty years into my research and it appears that they are my only Irish folk! Combined with the fact that they were the most difficult to unearth that I feared I would never discover them!

The mystery couple are one set of my great, great, grandparents and for those thirty years were my preverbal brick-wall. I firmly believe that they would have remained a mystery if not for the discoveries of DNA, my eternal thanks for unlocking this mystery or I would still be in the dark!

Their son George, my great, grandfather decided to drop his surname and was the perpetrator of this mystery and he continues to be the mystery in my family tree. However this article is about his parents, both Irish born, who came independently to the Colony of New South Wales and would call Australia home.

John Christopher COFFEY was born in Currans, County Kerry, Ireland, September 1796. In his early teens he joined the British Army c1812 and had active service, possibly in the Napoleonic Wars (which ended in 1815 in Europe), Canadian Frontiers War c1812-4 and the Battle of Plattsburgh, USA, c1814, before arriving in the Australian Colonies with the 3rd Regiment of the British Army (the Buffs under command of Abbott) in December 1822. Research shows that he may have visited NSW before the 1822 date.

Over the next years he was stationed at Botany Bay Head, Newcastle, Wallis Plains (near Maitland), Port Macquarie, Parramatta and Van Diemen's Land (VDL). At some point he left the regiment and joined the NSW Corps possibly whilst in VDL and later he transferred to the Mounted Police in April 1831. March 1834 saw him back in Sydney when he was discharged, with gratuity of 12 pounds.

By 1834 he was in Sutton Forest, in the Southern Highlands where official records have him marrying Margaret on 15 December 1834.

[Designed by Edmund Blackett and with the foundation stone laid on 10 January 1830, by the Archdeacon (later Bishop) Broughton.]



Photograph: Australian Christian Heritage, accessed online February 2026.

Margaret LEGASS was born in Wicklow, Ireland in c1807* and spent her younger years as an orphan with her sister Ann. There are some suggestions that her parents were Huguenots from Britain (yet to be confirmed), she had basic education and was a needlewoman, when she embarked on the ship the Red Rover arriving in Sydney in August 1832. On the passenger list, she is recorded as 25 years* (some debate here) and obtained employment on her arrival with Captain Cliffe, a whaling captain that lived at Chowder Bay with his young wife.

She lived at the Clift's residence for only a short time when sadly the Captain's wife died in childbirth. Some research suggests she was also in Governor Bourke's household. Uncertain where Margaret went until 15 December 1834, when she marries John, in the Church of England chapel at Sutton Forest. John records his age as 35 (when he possibly was closer to 38) and Margaret records her age as 24* (two years after her arrival when she was 25). They welcomed their first child born on 31 December 1835, and in February 1836, Cornelius Ambrose who was baptised by the Rev. Samuel Marsden, at St John's Church of England, in Parramatta. Their only daughter was born on 2 June 1838, Cecilia Jemima was baptised in August 1838 by the Rev. William Cowper, at St Phillip's Church of England in Sydney. Three sons followed: John Henry in 1841, George Arthur Francis (my nemesis) in 1844 and Silvester Augustus in 1848. John and Margaret would remain in Sydney area for the rest of their lives.

John was dismissed from the Mounted Police, possibly for being ‘drunk and disorderly’ (still under review) and on future documents would be listed as a labourer or dealer. Research reveals he was a tough but fair man, possibly due his upbringing. He passed away in 1861, aged 65.

Margaret lived a very full and long life, setting up her own business as a needlewoman of note. Her success shows with her advertising in the Sands Directory of 1865, as a seamstress, 36 Campbell Street, Sydney between Pitt & Castlereagh Streets, and again in the Directory for 1886 in Mary Lane, off Gipps Street, Sydney.

Margaret passed away on 30 August 1906, at the Newington Asylum. On her death certificate she is recorded, age as 90 (making her born in 1816) with her age at marriage 20 years (1814) and her time in the Colony 74 years (arriving 1832). I believe that she was younger than 25 years when she arrived aboard the Red Rover and was born between 1812-6. Death notice in the newspaper, her family records her as aged 94. Her arrival in 1832* and her death in 1906* are the only confirmed facts. Either way, she enjoyed a long and productive life, RIP Margaret.

Mrs Margaret Coffey died recently in Newington Hospital, Parramatta, aged 94 years. She made the flannels worn by the first English cricket team that visited Australia.

DEATHS.
COFFEY.-August 30, 1906, at Protestant Hospital, Newington, Parramatta River, Margaret Coffey, aged 94 years, beloved grandmother of Mrs. H. Jarvis. Sleep on, beloved, sleep, and take thy rest.

[The Queanbeyan Observer \(NSW : 1894 - 1908; 1910 - 1915\)](#) / [Tue 18 Sep 1906](#) / [Page 2](#) / [Brief Mention.](#)

Written by their 2nd great granddaughter Sharon Greene CDFHS member.

From Tipperary to the Nepean: The Cummins Family of Menangle

By Ted Cummins, OAM, DipFamHist

In early May 1832 the convict transport Eliza lay at anchor at the Cove of Cobh, preparing for a voyage to New South Wales with 198 male convicts, most of them Irish. Among them were brothers James and Thomas Cummins, recently convicted of manslaughter at the Spring Assizes in Clonmel, County Tipperary. Their crime arose from faction fighting, a violent and deeply embedded feature of rural Irish life that reflected local rivalries as well as wider religious, social and economic tensions.

Upon arrival in New South Wales, James and Thomas were immediately subjected to the assignment system. James was placed with Alfred Kennerley of Evan near Penrith, while Thomas was sent to Appin. James served his sentence without incident and was granted a ticket of leave in October 1836, initially restricted to the Penrith District. This was soon amended to Campbelltown, an area with a strong Irish presence and closer to his brother. James completed his sentence in the Menangle district and remained there as a free man.

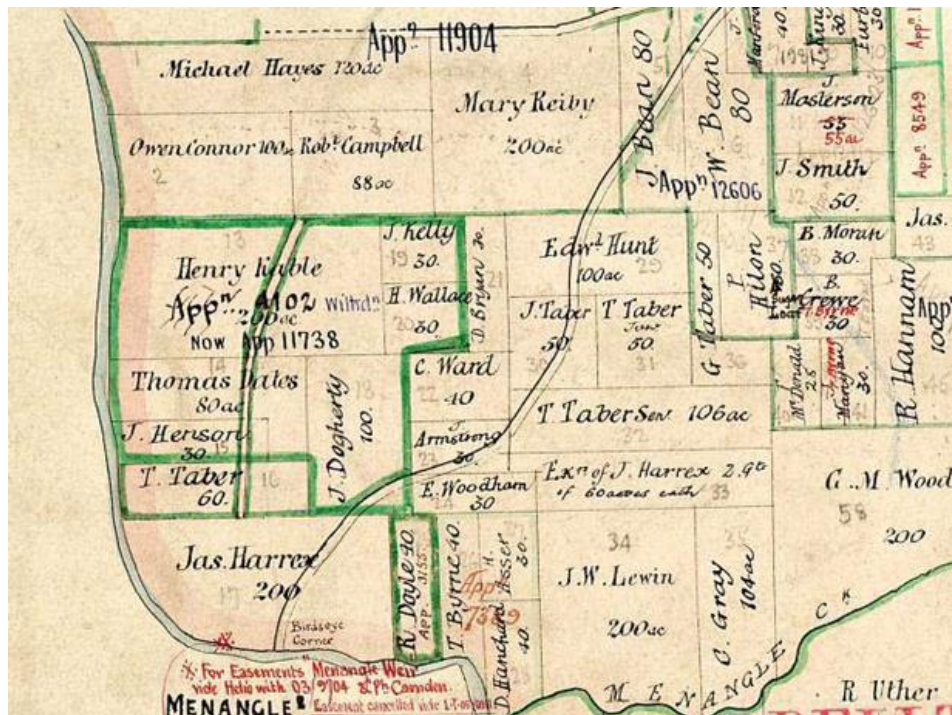
Admitted to Campbelltown from the Penrith District on 11th Nov 1836

TICKET OF LEAVE.	
Date	4 October 1836
Prisoner's No.	292057
Name	James Cummins
Ship	Eliza 6
Master	Grove
Year	1832
Native Place	
Trade or Calling	
Office	
Place of Trial	Tipperary
Date of Trial	Spring assizes 1832
Sentence	6 mo. Penal.
Year of Birth	
Height	
Complexion	
Hair	040 /
Eyes	
General Remarks ..	
Allowed to remain in the District of	Penrith
On recommendation of	
Dated	11th Nov 1836

James petitioned Governor Bourke for permission to have his wife Margaret (née Croak), and their son Thomas join him from Tipperary. His application was approved swiftly and in September 1838 Margaret and Thomas sailed from Kingstown aboard the female convict transport Margaret, arriving in Sydney in January 1839. The family settled in Menangle, where James leased land from the Rev. John Joseph Therry, originally a grant to Owen Connor in 1816, a one hundred acre holding beside the Nepean River.

James and Margaret raised a large family in Menangle, with five more children born between 1839 and 1849. Like most tenant farmers, they lived simply,

likely in a slab hut with bark roofing and rudimentary furnishings. Farming was labour intensive and involved the whole family, with children contributing from an early age.



Parish of Menangle, n.d., Map showing the location of Owen Connor's 100 acre grant.

In addition to his Menangle farm, James leased land from the Macarthur family on the Cowpastures, signing a 21 year clearing lease in 1844 for a property known as Cummingsfield. Managing two farms proved difficult and in 1849 James surrendered the Cowpastures lease, returning to focus on his original farm. By the mid 1850s he was a prosperous and respected farmer, owning significant stock, equipment and crops. His interview with Caroline Chisholm reveals a man proud of his independence, grateful for the opportunities offered by the colony and deeply remorseful for the violence of his youth in Ireland.

James became part of a close-knit Irish farming community in Menangle, sometimes referred to as the Tipperary Connection. Many families worked cooperatively, sharing labour and resources. This network included relatives of Margaret, such as her brother Daniel Croak, who migrated with his family in 1854 and settled nearby before later moving to Taralga and the Lachlan district.



Portion of Camden Park Estate [cartographic material] south of Bird's Eye Ford showing Riversford, Cummingsfield and Mount Russell Farm, Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales.31

James was active in local agricultural life and served on the inaugural committee of the Camden Farmers Club and General Improvement Society in 1857. The Cummins children married within the local Catholic community, strengthening family ties throughout the district. Their eldest son Thomas married Jane Hayden in 1855, while daughter Winifred married John Whelan in 1859. Both families later moved west to establish new farming ventures in the Lachlan District. Another daughter, Margaret, married James Carroll in 1865 and remained in Menangle for many years, while their son James married Mary Dunphy in 1878 and took up residence on a small farm north of Howe's Creek, at the foot of the hill opposite the gardens of Camden Park. William Cummins married Annie Fahey on 30th April 1884 and remained in the district. William became a well-known figure in the district, serving four terms as an elected councillor, two of those as Mayor of Campbelltown.

During the 1860s the Cummins farm became part of the expanding Glenlee estate, then owned by James Fitzpatrick, a former convict and prominent landholder. In 1868 Fitzpatrick married James and Margaret's youngest daughter Elizabeth. A skilled and fearless horsewoman, Elizabeth was well known in the district and featured in contemporary newspaper reports of local race meetings. Her life was tragically short and she died in 1882, ironically from a riding accident. Fitzpatrick himself died only months later, leaving their children significant landholdings, including the farm long worked by James Cummins.

In his will, Fitzpatrick allowed James and Margaret to remain on their farm rent free for the rest of their lives. Margaret died in 1883 and James in 1887, having lived to the age of 86. Although their graves have not been located, records indicate they were buried at St John's Roman Catholic Cemetery in Campbelltown.

The Cummins family legacy continues in the Menangle district. Descendants remained in the area for generations, and the family name is preserved in Cummins Road at Menangle Park, a lasting reminder of a convict family who, through perseverance and hard work, established deep roots in colonial New South Wales.



Cummins Road, Menangle Park, NSW 2568

Seeking Researchers Connected to Irish Convict James Cummins (Arr. 1832)

I am currently researching the Australian branch of the Cummins family, descended from James Cummins, an Irish convict who arrived in the Colony in September 1832 and eventually settled in the Menangle district. As the bicentenary of his arrival approaches in 2032, I'm hoping to connect with others who may also be researching James or any of his descendants.

If you have information, family stories, photographs, or research relating to the Cummins family, I would love to hear from you. My aim is to collaborate, share knowledge, and potentially mark the bicentennial together in a meaningful way.

Contact:

Please contact me at: james_cummins1832@gmail.com

Ted Cummins

Michael Tuite (one of my) Irish Ancestors. By Belinda Sacco.

Born in 1840 in Tullamore, Ireland, Michael Tuite would build a life spanning continents and help shape his family and Australia's military history.

After leaving Ireland for Lancashire to work as a weaver, Michael enlisted in the 12th (East Suffolk) Regiment of Foot in 1859 at 19.

Michael's first adventure was to come to Australia. His military records show him with good conduct awards. By 1863 he had been promoted to Sergeant.

He married the daughter of another Soldier, Catherine Newman in Paddington in September 1863. By December he was to take his young wife to New Zealand for the Maori Wars.

The family grew in Waikato. Two daughters were born with assistance from some of the young Maori women. Michael was respected in Waikato as he upheld the rights of the local people, jailing fellow soldiers for offences against them. As is the life of a military family they were shipped back to England when his tour ended.

Michael was re-engaged and was sent to India where their third daughter was

born. Returning to Ireland, his son was born and the family was sent to Afghanistan. On returning to England Michael retires from the 12th. Within 3 months the family is embarking for Australia.

They depart England for the last time in 1881 on board a steamer, The Orient, on a journey that would take weeks rather than the months of their original journey.

In Sydney, Michael joins the fledgling NSW Volunteers as a paid staff member. His first position is listed in the Sands directory as a gaoler at Paddington Barracks. His skills in Infantry and drill see him quickly become Sergeant Major of the Volunteer forces, teaching the new recruits skills in Musketry and drill.

Australia volunteered men to assist the British in the Soudan War. Paddington Barracks is opened for enlistment. Michael as Staff Sergeant, was quick to enlist, and as such the Number One was allocated as his serial Number, which he would continue to carry until regimental numbering was adjusted at Federation. Michael assisted at Paddington and travels to Kiama and Richmond to complete the work of signing recruits. They left Sydney on March 3, 1885 and returned on June 19, 1885.

On the contingents return Michael is awarded the Lord Mayors prize for the soldier who distinguished himself in battle. It is met with a mixture of responses, from applause to moans, as by this stage Michael had gained a reputation for loudness, toughness and upholding the rules.

Life settled again. Catherine was to have two more children completing the family. He was promoted to Sergeant Major and Musketry Instructor continuing to share his skills. He ran very successful Rifle Association days and was organiser for soldier's encampments, and part of a large intercolonial military tournament at Rose Hill. He was regularly mentioned in newspapers both for his military work, as well as for his booming Irish voice echoing down streets at night whist assisting with drill training for the Scottish rifles and others.

He received many awards for his service one



being for Meritorious and Long Service commissioned by Queen Victoria. He had been running very successful Rifle Association days and was organiser for many soldier's encampments, finally being part of a large intercolonial military tournament at Rose Hill.

In 1894 he receives word that his Brother had been killed in America. He resigns from the Army and travels there to represent him. Michael passed away in Connecticut, USA, far away from his family. Catherine makes the pilgrimage to America to visit his grave and erect a headstone, a tree stump. Tree stumps traditionally meant someone was cutdown in their prime.

Australia's only notification of the passing of a man who assisted in the development of its armed forces in so many ways;

“TUIITE. —In loving memory of our dear father, who died January 5, 1897, at Hartford, Conn., America. Dead, but not forgotten. Inserted by his daughters, Maggie and Elsie.”

References

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<https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/>.

Research report

The research officers are continuing to assist in answering questions on enquiries that are sent to them. Please send an email to our Research Team at: research@cdfhs.org.au if you have any questions.

The Sunday Sessions

The Sunday Sessions are a series of workshops for CDFHS members only, held on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. Each workshop will run for between 1 and 2 hours, depending on the subject and number of attendees. All sessions shall commence at 12noon.

The topic for each session will be announced at the CDFHS general meeting on the preceding Saturday and also posted on the website calendar.

Each session will focus on a single subject area, however they may run over into the following session should time not being available to complete the topic of the day. All sessions will remain partially unstructured to allow attendees to raise specific issues and have them addressed.

All sessions will be held in the Family History Room at the Campbelltown City Library and it is recommended to bring your laptop computer, should you have one.

Non members of CDFHS wanting to join The Sunday Sessions please submit you details at the link above and you will be contacted asap.

Please see the following link on our website, to see a list of potential topics and a link to click on to join a specific session.

<https://cdfhs.org.au/proposed-workshops/>

CDFHS Inc Upcoming Events

Please see the following link with upcoming events for CDFHS Inc.

https://cdfhs.org.au/?post_type=tribe_events

CDFHS Inc - Facebook

Our facebook page is: <https://www.facebook.com/cdfhs>

Social Secretary's Report

Social Secretaries Report March 2026

Welcome to 2026. I'll introduce myself. My name is Belinda and you would know me best from the HJ Daley street march last year. I have been chipping away at my family tree for a number of years and love seeing what I can uncover.

I have big shoes to fill taking over from Denise and I want to take a moment and thank Denise for looking after us and making sure we are always learning, sharing stories and enjoying ourselves. She has paid an important role in bringing us all together.

!!Thankyou Denise!!

To start the year I am asking our members what they would like to do this year. The QR code under will lead you to this questionnaire. It is quick and easy to do. Alternately you can email me and suggestions and of course your favourite outing days.

Our speakers and outings will be available in the newsletter and Magazine and I will have a calendar at the meetings. I look forward to having many adventures with you all this year!.



Belinda Sacco
Social Secretary
social@cdfhs.org.au

Campbelltown District FHS Inc

Website and publications are

sponsored by :

The Data Store

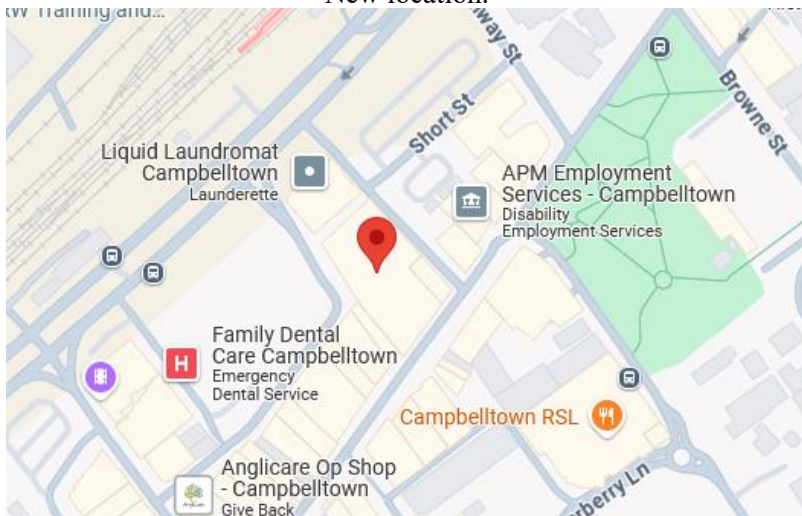
Software tools for the genealogist.

www.thedatastore.com.au



The HJ Daley Library New location

New location.



The Following Items Are For Sale From Campbelltown District Family History Society

* Campbelltown Pioneer Register 1800-1900 CD 2nd edition	\$30
* Campbelltown Federation Register - Book	\$15 (special)
* Campbelltown Cemetery Pictorial CD – only special request	\$10
* To purchase Pioneer Register plus Cemetery Pictorial together costs	\$40.
* Triple CD - Pioneer, Federation & Cemetery Registers [1 CD]	\$105.00
* Ghost Busters (Our Journal, Free To Members) Non Members	\$2.00
* Ingleburn Soldiers Memorial Park.	\$15.00 + \$6.95 p&h
* 5 Generation Chart	\$2.00
* 7 Generation Chart	\$4.50
* 9 Generation Chart	\$4.00

Check on-line shop for other products eg. books, combo CD
<https://www.cdfhs.org.au/shop/>

Useful Addresses

Campbelltown City Library Hurley St (Cnr of Camden Rd)
Campbelltown NSW 2560
Phone: 0246 45 4444

Campbelltown LDS Research Centre - Corner The Kraal Drive
& Johnson Road Blair Athol NSW 2560

Transcription Agents in NSW

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