

A12 John Kinchela

Attorney General & Judge of the Supreme Court

Title/rank:	Attorney-General and Judge of the Supreme Court of NSW
Born – date/year:	1774
Place of origin:	Kilkenny Ireland. Arrived in Sydney in June 1831.
Education:	Trained in law (BA. 1796; LLB., LLD, 1808), practised in Dublin. Alderman, then Mayor of Kilkenny in 1819. In 1824-25 he was in the West Indies as a commissioner of inquiry into the state of captured negroes. On his return, he moved to London.
Marital status & children:	Anne Bourne, whom he married in 1807. They had three children.
Place where lived	Initially at Glebe, then at <i>Juniper Hall</i> (which he renamed <i>Ormonde House</i>) in what became Paddington.
Role/job:	<p>While in London in 1830, he was chosen to succeed A. M. Baxter as Attorney-General in NSW, and took up duties after his arrival in the colony in 1831. Soon after settling into his job he engaged a clerk to sort out the great disorder in the paperwork of his office, and having done so, discovered arrears of unsettled actions accumulated over 10 years. This resulted in large sums being paid into the Treasury. Governor Bourke praised his ‘high principles, legal knowledge and great anxiety to give satisfaction’.</p> <p>However, he was afflicted by oncoming deafness and was retired early from the bench. It also ‘rendered him inefficient’ as a member of the Legislative Council. Possibly in compensation, (and because of his known pecuniary problems) he was appointed Deputy Commissary in the Vice-Admiralty Court In 1837 and a year later was given additional work as ‘advising Crown Counsel’.</p> <p>He had long standing debts to Irish creditors throughout his career, which were a background embarrassment, and necessitated his selling <i>Ormonde House</i> in 1838 to settle them. In 1840, he became master in equity but within 10 months he was attacked by paralysis, and was obliged to resign all his public offices. He then moved to Liverpool, where he died and was buried.</p>
Contribution to Liverpool:	It is not known why he chose to retire at Liverpool. He was notable for his service to the State, not the town.
Died/age:	21 July 1845, aged 72.
Religion.	Church of England Grave No. A12
Source of info.	Australian Dictionary of Biography, Vol. 2, 1967. Also Liverpool