

## (Catholic paupers' graves) William Francis King "Flying Pieman"

Title/Rank:	Mr.
Born – date/year:	1807
Place of Origin:	London, England. Arrived in Sydney 1829.
Marital status & children:	Not known
Placed where lived:	No fixed address.
Role/job:	<p>Through the advocacy of Bishop Broughton, King was appointed schoolmaster at Sutton Forest. After some years as a private tutor to the Kern family at Campbelltown and as a barman at the <i>Hope and Anchor</i> in Sydney, he emerged as an athlete and extravagantly bedecked itinerant pie man. He is best known for selling pies to passengers as they boarded the ferry in Sydney for Parramatta. He would then run the 18 miles to Parramatta with any unsold pies and arrive before the ferry so he could sell them to the same passengers as they disembarked. He undertook a great many running feats, including running from Campbelltown to Sydney, carrying a dog in 7 hours 50 minutes and beating coaches plying between various towns and/or Sydney. He thus became one of its famous street characters.</p> <p>As immigrant men often found themselves in old age without the resources to care for themselves and without family to turn to, King sought refuge in the government-provided asylum at Liverpool. Characterised as a sawyer, he was described in the <i>Evening News</i> of 21 March 1871 'as odd as ever, and has a scheme in his head for benefitting the institution, by giving a performance on the top of the walls of the Asylum. He reads the papers to a crowd of inmates daily, wears mourning on his sleeve for French and Prussian losses, and has a high opinion of Sir James Martin.'</p> <p>He died of paralysis at the Liverpool Asylum, and was buried in the Catholic part of the paupers' section of the northern portion of the LPMP cemetery, a pauper, unremembered and unmourned by those he had so often entertained.</p>
Contribution to Liverpool:	Although very peripatetic, he ended his days in the Liverpool Asylum.
Died/age:	10 August 1873, aged 66
Religion:	Catholic
Source of info.	G. P. Walsh in <i>Australian Dictionary of Biography</i> , Volume 5, (MUP), 1974. Also <a href="http://www.weekendnotes.com">www.weekendnotes.com</a> – "The Old Liverpool Men's Asylum" 2014

