

THE Cedar Log

40th Year of Publication

Journal of the Richmond-Tweed Family History Society Inc.

Ballina NSW Australia



The original **Ballina Post Office** was built in 1888. This graphic is taken from a set of 12 colour views titled '*A Souvenir of Beautiful Ballina*' ... '*an ideal holiday resort in all seasons*'. Published about 1950 by *Nucolorvue*, Mentone, Victoria. Postcard set owned by RTFHS member Ann **Emery**.

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Free to Members

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We acknowledge the Bundjalung people as the Traditional Custodians of the land and rivers where this journal is produced and pay respect to their elders past, present and emerging.

Richmond-Tweed Family History Society Inc.

(Incorporated in New South Wales)

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The Marie Hart Library: Opening Hours:

10 am to 4 pm Monday, Wednesday & Saturday. Closed 1st Saturday of the month
1pm – 4 pm and Public Holiday

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Editorial

By Carmel Crosby

As most members will know by now, our founding member and past President, **Marie Hart**, passed away on 17 March 2023. As well as establishing our Society, Marie made great contributions over the years, including writing regular features until 2019 for our journal – *All in the Family* (keeping us up to date with what members were doing), *In the Loop* (with news from other Societies and their journals) and lists of *Journal Gleanings*. There are several articles honouring Marie in this edition of *The Cedar Log*. It is interesting to note in Marie’s first Newsletter report (reprinted in the following pages) that after almost 40 years, the monthly meeting of our Society is still held on the first Saturday of the month at 2 pm.

In this journal, there are reprinted talks given in February at our monthly meeting on **My Favourite Ancestor** by Dawn **Lotty**, Jill **McCann** and Trevor **Emery**. Also reprinted from our March meeting are talks on historical drownings of our ancestors (by Carol **Donaghy** and Shirley **McAnelly**) and there will be more in the September journal.

Many thanks to **Gwen Clark**, who has retired from the position of our Society’s **Social Events Organiser**. We have had many wonderful events organised by Gwen at the Summerland Farm restaurant over the years.

Richard **Goss**, our President for the past 2 years (and secretary also, for one of those years), will step down at the AGM in August. We thank him for all the work he has done over this period, not least in getting the NBN up and running after many setbacks. We now have internet with a fixed IP address so that we can be accepted as a **Family Search Affiliate Library**.

An **AGM nomination** form will be sent with this journal or in the near future, so please consider if you would like to volunteer for one of the positions.

As winter sets in, enjoy staying cosy and warm inside or visiting the *Marie Hart Library* and solving those mysteries of your family tree!

Carmel, Editor.

Remembering Marie Hart

See below some of our members' memories of our founding member,
Marie Hart,
who passed away in March 2023.



Marie Hart when the RTFH
Society presented her flowers for
her 90th birthday in 2020

Memories of Marie - By Jackie Chalmers

I don't think she was even 5 foot tall! But every inch packed a punch of enthusiasm and energy – a human dynamo – generating that energy to all she met.

Marie was the supreme gatherer of facts: She followed our lives, every individual encounter she 'gleaned' what was going on in our lives, and she recorded it in her notebook. Marie kept and added to these individual notes of our lives everywhere she went. Consequently, we all looked forward to reading her regular column 'All in the Family' in the Society's quarterly Journal, The Cedar Log. This was one of the many ways Marie kept us all together as family – her family of Family Historians!

To me personally, Marie was my Mentor – setting my direction and commitment over 10 years ago when she nominated me to the Committee; giving me encouragement to complete my Certification with the Society of Australian Genealogists; giving me reasons to stick at it, to hang in and keep going!

Marie never spelt it out to me as to what to do, which way to go, what was important, should I continue – she didn't have to – the way Marie lived, worked, contributed, supported, encouraged, followed through – she was a living example and it was that example that led us.

More Memories:

- 1 Her initial struggle with technology – Bearing in mind that the first Newsletter or Journal, of 6 pages A4, Marie typed in September 1984 – she persevered and was soon emailing congratulations to the editorial team in 2015 the day after the March edition hit the streets!

- 2 Marie recycled all her window envelopes – after reading all the overseas and local journals, she would record references to subjects she knew you were interested, in on a small square of paper, insert it into one of these envelopes, with directions to where you could locate this journal in the Marie Hart Library, write your name on the front of the envelope and leave it in the Library mail box. One of these in my possession reads:

12-12-16
Jackie
Using Maps ... pp. 238-240 'Origins' (Bucks) ... J17896

- 3 Her joy and pride when the 2017 December edition of The Cedar Log was awarded the Nick Vine Hall Award - the plaque that now hangs in the library named after her.

- 4 A picture of Marie - think it was a 90th Birthday – the Players Theatre was in renovation and our meeting was held with black drapes all around us – very sombre setting – Marie was presented with a floral bouquet – her facial expressions of delight lit up the room as we took her photograph!

- 5 Marie couldn't handle the modern whizz-bang software such as *Evernote* and *Google Earth* – but she took an interest in them because you did – I received another one of Marie's Envelopes with a reference to *Evernote* in it!

Tribute to Marie – Ann Emery

Marie Hart made a significant contribution to my ongoing family history research. At a time when I was busy with full-time work and raising a family, Marie would feed me articles about Trinidad and Barbados that she found in journals, bringing them to church on Sundays to give them to me. This continued for many years and was amazingly helpful in reigniting my interest in researching my father's side of the family. She never lost interest in listening to the little gems I discovered and was able to direct my research in ways I would not have

otherwise thought. Her bright personality and her dedication to the Family History Society were remarkable and there are many who benefitted from her knowledge and caring nature. Marie was always looking for ways to help others. She was such a blessing in my life.

Other memories

Marie assisted me so much with her little notes on my family that she came across in her research or reading. It was so helpful and appreciated. – Joy **Morhouse**

Marie was a truly lovely lady with the sweetest smile which never left her face. She always had time to talk to me and give me advice when needed. My best wishes to her family. – Jean **Ison**

After my short talk at one of our Saturday meetings, Marie came up to me and said something about it being complicated research. I exclaimed ‘Oh! was it not understandable?’ and she said ‘No! I just wish I knew how to do all that.’ I don’t think Marie was capable of criticism...she was always so positive! – Carmel **Crosby**

What’s on the Web?

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/palaeography/> This is a tutorial from **The National Archives** on how to read old handwriting. Examples are in English and mainly from the 1500-1700s. Working from the easiest to hardest, you will learn much of what you need to know to decipher those old documents.

<https://www.youtube.com/c/GenealogyTV/featured> This YouTube channel has many videos to help with your family history research. There is a ‘popular videos’ section or playlist, which group videos under a specific topic e.g. ‘Learn Genealogy from the Beginning’ or ‘*Ancestry.com* tricks, tips, DNA tests, family trees, hints etc’.

https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/calendar?day=day_2028&type=main-stage Last but not least, **RootsTech** gives access to videos from a conference held earlier this year. The videos for this conference are available for use for 3 years. You can look at the *main stage* or *sessions* for different days of the conference. There is a wide variety of topics including many aspects of DNA; on major sites like Ancestry, Family Search, My Heritage etc; lots of How-to-Research genealogy sessions and talks on research in various non-English-speaking countries. There is also access to their large repository of videos from the past, via the *On Demand* button at the top. RootsTech is a valuable resource, with hundreds of recorded talks, that can be accessed from the comfort of your home. The hardest task will be choosing which session to watch first!

**Below is Marie Hart's first report in the first newsletter that was produced by our Society. We are reprinting it in honour of Marie, our first President, who passed away on 17 March 2023, in our 40th Anniversary year. Five pages of articles, business and items of interest followed Marie's
'A Word from the President'**



FAR NORTH COAST FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

NEWSLETTER

No. 1

September, 1984.

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings from Ballina, and the Far North Coast Family History Group. I acknowledge, with gratitude, the Newsletters and good wishes received from other Groups and Societies upon the announcement of our existence in the June issue of Descent.

I suppose it could be said that history is in the making as we issue our very first newsletter! Our group is a small but enthusiastic one, which came into being on the December 17, 1983 when five ladies, in response to an item in the Notebook section of the Northern Star on December 10, gathered around my dining room table to discuss our shared interest in family history.

After three meetings, and a growth in membership to eleven, we were delighted to be given the use of the Ballina Library for our meetings at 2 p.m. on the first Saturday of each month.

We were still a small group but had made our mark with a letter published in The Australian expressing our concern at the inability of the Public Record Office in Victoria and the State Archives in Queensland to supply information to researchers by correspondence. A note from the Director of the Society of Australian Genealogists, Mr, Nick Vine Hall, arrived to say "well done", but sadly these Departments have not yet changed their policies.

On June 29, 1984 we were privileged to be visited by Noel and Madeleine Layton. Mr. Layton is well known to genealogists as an entertaining and informative speaker and we

considered ourselves honoured to have him come to our little corner of the world to talk on various methods of record keeping.

Under the direction of our Research Officer Mrs. Edna Tucker several members are assisting in the work of cemetery transcriptions begun by her some time earlier.

Our Secretary, Mrs. Betty Aberdeen, has cleverly acquired a microfiche reader for us, but since a reader is of little use without the fiche we have embarked on fund raising. To get the ball rolling our Treasurer, Mrs. Raylene McLaren, crocheted a double bedspread for us to raffle. We are still stunned at her completion of this task in the month between meetings, while caring for her family and nursing part-time at our local hospital. Perhaps her husband is the phantom crocheter!

All members have contributed in one way or another to the growth and interest of the Group, and it is vital that they continue to do so. It will only be with the consistent effort of all that we shall be able to grow and fulfil our aims to promote the study of genealogy and associated subjects, to assist members and others in their individual research projects, and to collect and preserve material related to family, local and Australian History.

I thank all members for their co-operation, and particularly the Committee, which, like Topsy, is growing as demand for services increases:

| | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Secretary | Mrs. Betty Aberdeen |
| Vice President | Mrs. Patricia Hughes |
| Treasurer | Mrs. Raylene McLaren |
| Librarian | Mrs. Dorothy Southwell |
| Publicity Officer | Mrs. Jess Moore |
| Research Officer | Mrs. Edna Tucker |

May this be the first of many newsletters to exchange with other Societies, and to record, in a modest way, the efforts and achievements of the Far North Coast Family History Group.

Mrs. Marie Hart,
President.

* * * * *

My Favourite Ancestor Agnes McMillan

By Jill McCann – Member 1010

Born in Glasgow in 1820, Agnes was born into poverty. She was the daughter of Michael

McMillan, a coal porter and his wife **Mary Henderson**. By the age of 12 she was part of a street-smart group living mainly on the streets and stealing to stay alive. She was arrested three times – the first time at the age of 12 for housebreaking (18 month sentence) and the second time for theft (60 days). The third time, she and her two friends were arrested in Kilmarnock for stealing clothing. Agnes denied the charge but she was unfortunately wearing the stolen stockings, which still bore the shop tag. She was convicted in May 1836 and sent to Newgate Prison to await transportation on the convictship “Westmoreland.”

The ship was on its second convict voyage. It carried 155 female convicts, only one of whom died on the voyage. It arrived in Hobart on 3 December 1836.



Fig 1: Agnes – drawing based on description in convict records*

In Hobart she was incarcerated in the Female Factory at Cascades, a dank and forbidding place, which housed hundreds of women and children. Luckily, her friend and fellow thief,

Janet **Houston** was transported with her, so they had each other in this terrible place. One of the rules was “no talking, no laughing, no whistling, no singing”!

The Tin Ticket by Deborah **J Swiss** was published in 2010 and tells some of the story of Agnes, Janet, Ludlow **Tedder** and Bridget **Mulligan**.

Like all fictitious accounts of history, some poetic licence has been taken and there is one glaring omission from this account of Agnes’ life – of which more later.

In the factory women did laundry and seamstress work for the colony, as well as picking oakum – a truly punishing task. Oakum picking was the teasing apart the fibres of old ship rigging, or ‘junk’, on average 2 feet (60 cm) every day, which was then sold back to shipbuilders and used as wadding/caulking between the wooden planks, making it watertight.

Other women were assigned to work outside the factory – mostly as house servants doing menial work such as laundry.

Punishment at the Female Factory was brutal. Agnes was in trouble many times – mostly for insolence and for being absent without leave. For these crimes, she was sentenced either to 7 or 10 days of bread and water in a solitary cell (measuring 4 feet x 6 feet) or hard labour at the washtub. If you have been to the Female Factory then you will know that the washtub was outdoors, the water would have been cold and the soap carbolic.

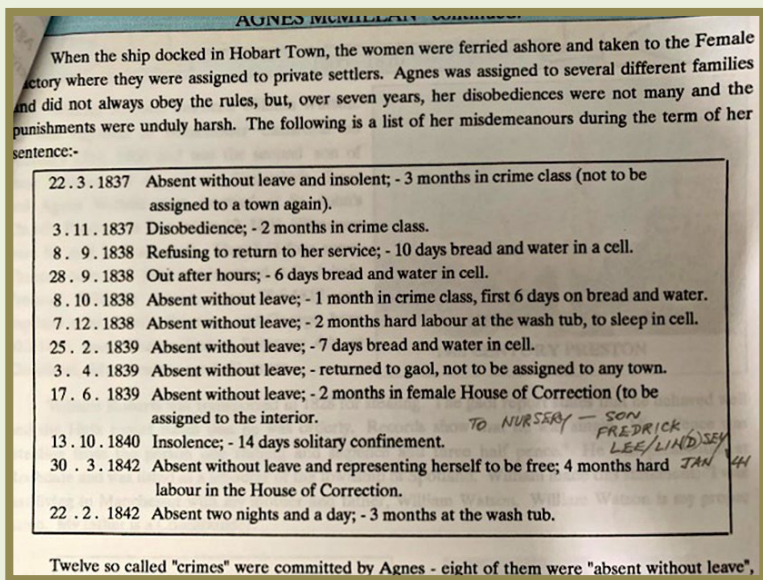


Fig 2: Agnes’ Prison Record

Many of the young women sent outside the Factory as servants were sent back pregnant and were punished, sometimes with 6 months added to their sentence. We don't know the circumstances, but Agnes gave birth to her first child, Frederick Lee in 1841. His father was the convict **Frederick Lilycroft Lindsay (aka Lee)** and there is no record of a marriage.

In the 1841 Convict Muster of Hobart Town, Frederick Lee had been reassigned to the Van Diemens Land Company farm on the north-west coast of Tasmania. Before that he had been at Old Beach, some nine miles upriver from Hobart so this may have been when he met Agnes.

(Fred's birth and his life with the Roberts family are the surprise omission from *The Tin Ticket*. Who knows why?)

On her return, it seems that Agnes was able to work in the nursery and so keep an eye on young Fred and keep him alive. The nursery by this time had been moved to Liverpool St, where the mortality rate improved. At the Female Factory 50% of babies died. Janet Houston lost two babies during her time of incarceration.

Agnes met William **Roberts**, another convict sometime about 1841 when she was assigned to the outpost of Oatlands. William's name was actually William **Watson** but like many convicts, he changed it – perhaps because of the shame of his conviction. He was the son of a respected coachmaker and was working with his father at the time of his conviction.

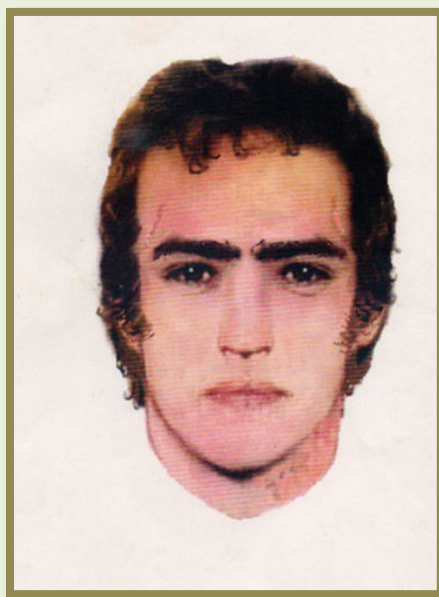


Fig 3: Colour drawing of William Roberts as a convict

In May 1843, exactly seven years after being sentenced, Agnes was freed. She went directly to Oatlands where William was waiting for her. Because he had been a coachmaker he was assigned to travel with the Government Survey Department while still indentured, helping to source the best timber. We have no evidence of a marriage, but together they moved to Franklin in the Huon Valley where William worked as a carpenter, builder, sawyer and coach builder.

Lady Franklin, wife of the Governor of Tasmania, bought land in 1838 and tried to create a 'decent yeoman' class through renting small holdings to distressed settlers. River transport took their potatoes, palings and shingles to Hobart and by 1850 the township of Franklin boasted a church, school and post office. By 1866, when Franklin was proclaimed a town, its population far outstripped that of other local townships,

While we don't have any details of William and Agnes' life there, Lady Franklin's patronage figures in the fanciful obituaries of both William Jnr and Agnes Jnr (2 of William and Agnes' children), which were later published in The Northern Star newspaper in Lismore, New South Wales (NSW)—so it seems clear that Lady Franklin's involvement in this community was woven into the story that was being constructed about the Roberts family beginnings.

They stayed in Franklin until 1852, by which time they had five young children as well as Fred Lee. In that year, they made the long journey by boat, cart and on foot, first to Melbourne and then to Ballarat.

William Roberts Jnr was eight years old at the time of the Eureka Stockade. He recalled later that he had 'seen a man shot down as he and his brother (six-year-old George) were running a message'.



Fig4:Painting by Charles Doudiet - 'Swearing Allegiance to the "Southern Cross" - December 1st 1854' - Eureka Stockade, near Ballarat, Victoria.

Two more children were born to Agnes and William in Ballarat, and then in the early 1860s the whole family headed north to the rich cedar-cutting area around Lismore, NSW. By this time three of the eldest children, Lavinia, William and Agnes, were married – Lavinia into the **Johnson** family. Many of them accompanied the Roberts family to the north coast of NSW.

By the mid 1870s, the extended family – including the Johnsons and **McCanns**, were settled in the Richmond River area – at Lismore, Tintenber, McLeans Ridges, Bexhill, Teven and Emigrant Creek. We know that Agnes worked as a midwife around Alphadale and Newrybar. One of her many descendants recalls being told by her grandmother, who met Agnes, that she ‘rode a white horse and smoked a cornpipe’.



Fig 5: Agnes in old age

William died in 1870. Agnes died in 1877 and is buried on a property at Alphasdale which was a Johnson family farm. There were eventually 75 grandchildren and many of their hundreds of descendants still live in the Northern Rivers area of NSW.

Fred married Harriet **Coleman** whose father John Coleman, an ex-convict, was a prominent early citizen of Ballina. They had 11 children, 9 of whom survived childhood.

- Lavinia[#] married John **Johnson**—(7 children)
- William married Harriet **Miller** —(11)
- George married Margaret **Henry** —(8)
- Agnes married Henri **Samin** — (9)
- John married Harriet **Smith** —(11)
- Caroline married John **Greenhalgh** — (7)
- Joseph married Mary Ann **Munsie**—(11)

William and Agnes never spoke of their convict origins and it's likely that they were unknown by family until the research done by my generation. When their son William died in 1935 there was a long obituary in The Northern Star, which detailed a largely fanciful family background.

But there's no doubt in my mind that Agnes and William both eventually benefitted from their transportation. Once free, they led industrious, respectable lives. They owned property – something they may never have done in England and Scotland. Their children lived in an unpolluted and healthy environment, far removed from the cities of their parents' childhoods. To get there they both exhibited extraordinary strength, toughness and resilience.

* The drawings of Agnes and William were based on their descriptions in convict records and are courtesy of Glenda Manwaring. They were published in her family history Leaves on the Tree of Saul.

[#]My husband, Paul McCann, is descended from Lavinia. Their eldest child was Esther, who married Charles McCann.



My Favourite Ancestor Edward “Henry” Small

By Dawn Lotty - Member 924



My maternal great-grandfather, Edward Henry **Small**, or Henry, as he was called, is my favourite ancestor because of the staunch support he provided for his children and stepchildren throughout very difficult times.

Henry was born in 1851 into a close-knit, intergenerational family of Primitive Methodists, who ran their very large dairy farm as a collective. Henry was not interested in cows - he was interested in horses, training them for others or worked them himself individually or in a team.

At the age of 19 in 1870 Henry met a widow named Mary Ann **Jackson**, aged 28, who had 6 children from her first marriage to William Jackson. They ranged in age from a few months to 10 years old. When Henry left for the gold fields at Ophir near Orange, New South Wales (NSW) Mary Ann decided to follow him leaving all her children with

her mother Sarah, who lived in the southern highlands of NSW. Three children and eight years later Henry and Mary Ann were married in Orange in 1879 and then returned to Camden where Henry built a large house on the family property and all of the children were reunited. Three more children soon followed between 1879 and 1885.

William, however, the oldest of Mary Ann and William Jackson's children, had already been arrested on 3 occasions for petty crimes. Henry paid the fines incurred so that William would not go to gaol.

Meanwhile Alfred, another of Mary Ann and William Jackson's children, was finally arrested and gaoled for 3 years for a crime he had committed 6 years previously. At that time, he had stolen Henry's rifle, loaded it and fired the rifle at a man 'just for fun', but

unfortunately the man died. The newspapers from Brisbane to Adelaide now turned on Henry castigating him as a father saying he had not given the boys a proper education and strict enough discipline or a Christian upbringing. They accused Henry of ‘placing the rifle in juvenile hands’. This event started the newspapers’ ongoing attack on Henry.

In 1885 Mary Ann left Henry with the 13 children now aged between one and 25 years and disappeared. All the children remained living with Henry. William was now serving short sentences of 2 or 3 months for stealing. Newspaper articles pointed out that William was part of Henry’s criminal family. Upon Alfred’s release, William, Alfred and Henry’s second son, also called Henry, formed a gang and for 12 years their crimes ranged from stealing and armed robbery to assault, resulting in gaol sentences from 2 to 3 years on each occasion. Towards the end of the 12 years, the youngest member of the family, Richard, briefly joined his siblings when they robbed the Ingleburn Railway Station.

Henry still provide a home, education and support for his family including paying fines and legal fees and was often arrested, but not charged, for ‘receiving’ because the children would bring the stolen goods home and of course the police would soon follow. Amidst this turmoil, Henry married Jane **Peck** in 1888. In reality, they committed bigamy and Jane must have been a saint to take on this household.

In 1893, another son of Mary Ann and William Jackson’s, Walter, went missing. His body was later found hanging from a tree. Strangely his feet were firmly planted on the ground. The family publicly voiced their belief that he had been murdered, but the coroner found “death by suicide”. The newspaper ended its report on the incident by reporting that ‘Walter was a member of the ill-reputed Small family’.

Then in 1898 Jesse, Henry’s oldest son, bought an unbranded mare from a man in a pub and left her on Henry’s farm. When a buyer came to purchase a horse from Henry he recognises the mare and said she had been stolen from a Mr **Hutton** several years ago. Henry sent Jesse to inform Mr Hutton that he should come and collect his mare. Mr Hutton arrived with the police and because Jesse did not have a receipt of purchase Jesse was charged with horse stealing. Henry was charged with receiving. Both were found guilty and each sentenced to 3 years hard labour. Once again Henry was the main target of the newspaper’s attack. Henry, they said, was a criminal who had turned his children into criminals. No one mentioned that at this stage Henry had raised 8 other children 4 girls and 4 boys that were all leading respectable lives.

During Henry’s time in prison, two things happen. His daughter Annie was arrested and gaoled for 3 years for her part in a gang of four that committed a number of home burglaries across the local district. More importantly, young Henry discovered where his mother Mary Ann lived with a man named George **Smith**. Drunk and angry he arrived at their house with

a gun threatening to shoot his mother. George Smith retrieved his rifle and after a scuffle shot and killed young Henry. In the trial that followed young Henry was described by the newspapers as a drunk, of very bad character and the community was now better off because of his demise as he was an active part of his father, Henry Small's, notorious gang. George was found not guilty of murder.

When Henry was released from goal he faced the fact that he was 51 and no longer had a business. Soon after, an offer of a job to work with horses came from Quirindi, NSW. I wonder if Henry looked around and found that William was now married and working in a warehouse in Sydney, Alfred was married and working as a stone mason and Annie was now back home on her farm near Camden.

So Henry and Jane packed up and moved to Quirindi. They had not long settled in when Jesse was wrongfully arrested for the assault of a 12 year old girl and possible rape. The newspapers wrote that Jesse was 'woefully raised'; that his family had 'mixed immoralities' and were 'a disgrace to the colony'. They found Jesse 'guilty' and called for him to be hung.

Henry hired a barrister and the trial was a one-day sensation with the police, a doctor, the child's mother and finally the child herself admitting that Jesse was innocent. After the jury returned a verdict of not guilty, Jesse packed his bags and went to live with his grandmother Sarah in the southern highlands.

Henry and Jane settled down in Quirindi and I hope finally found a happy and contented life. Jane died in 1927 aged 75 and Henry died suddenly two years later in 1929 aged 78. I believe Henry must have been a very strong and resilient man, mentally, steadfast in his conviction that no matter what the press and others said of him he stood by his family irrespective of the consequences.



Come and join your fellow RTFHS members to have a **Christmas in July** celebration on Saturday 22 July at the Cherry Street Sports Club, 68 Cherry Street, Ballina. Contact Bonnie Bennett on 0414 927 361 before 14 July to confirm your attendance. Estimated cost for a 2 course Christmas-themed meal is \$32.

My Favourite Ancestor Frederick Emery

by Trevor Emery - Member 353

Frederick **Emery** was born on Friday 12 November 1847 at East Peckham, Kent, England, the 5th of 9 children born to John and Mary Emery. In the 1861 census, Frederick, his father and older brothers were listed as agricultural labourers.



Clipper "Flying Cloud" painted by Jack **Spurling** (1870-1933), circa 1926, presumably using a previous painting or photo of the ship as a guide. The ship and was built in 1851 in Boston. Photo of the painting courtesy

Frederick, aged 22 and his brother William, aged 29, were assisted passengers on the *Flying Cloud*, which left Liverpool, England, on 4 June 1870, bound for Australia. They arrived in Maryborough, Queensland on 30 August 1870. Maryborough was the only Queensland port that accepted immigrants from 1868 to 1898 with over 20,000 new immigrants arriving.

Frederick and William settled in the Tiaro area, 25 kilometres south-west of Maryborough. Through the Queensland Government Settlement scheme William was granted 255 acres of land along the western bank of the Mary River, 6 kilometres south-west of Tiaro at a rural area known as Glenbar. Electoral Rolls indicate Frederick resided with his brother at this property until 1882.

In 1884 Frederick moved back to Tiaro working as a butcher where he was in partnership with a Mr Hopper until September 1887 when the partnership was dissolved.

On 25 June 1884, Frederick was married at St. Philips's Church, Tiaro, to Barbara **Steven** the daughter of a well-known Tiaro family.

Frederick and his father-in-law had an interest in horses with the local paper carrying several advertisements that his stud horse 'Viscount' was available for stud work. By 1887 Frederick has acquired land in Tiaro and reported in the local paper that he intended to fence his block of land.

From 1886 to 1888 Frederick settled into the Tiaro community. He was a member of the Tiaro Jockey Club, a warden at the Tiaro Church of England, and a committee member for the Tiaro Anniversary Ball. Frederick and Barbara's first 2 children Magnus John, and Cecil Reginald, my grandfather, were born in Tiaro.

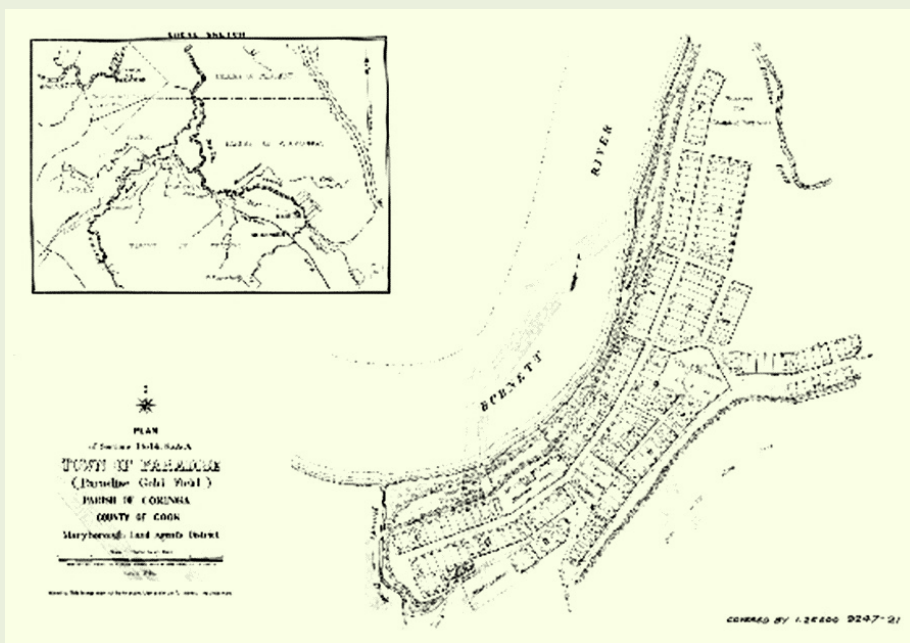
Frederick and William applied for land through the Queensland Government Land Act. This Act allowed for large selections of old pastoral leases or newly released land to be balloted for, with the successful applicant entering into a lease with the Government to undertake improvements to the land, which included clearing and fencing, while paying a peppercorn rental. Failure to comply with conditions resulted in the land being declared forfeited and reverting to the Crown. In 1903, Frederick, William and 3 of William's children were granted 5 scrub selections on the northern side of the Burnett River, opposite Paradise, in the area now known as "The Goodnight Scrub".

Frederick also applied for and was granted selection of a parcel of land on the Burnett River downstream from Paradise. This was a prickly pear selection and after his death the land was forfeited to the Crown due to non-compliance with clearing the prickly pear from the property.

In 1892, Electoral Records indicate that Frederick was a resident of Paradise township. Frederick and Barbara's family now included two more children, Percival George and Evelyn Maude.

While at Paradise, Frederick and Barbara welcomed their last child Leslie Frederick, born in 1894, but sadly in 1902, aged 39, Barbara died. Barbara was buried at the Tiaro Cemetery in the Steven's family Plot and the two youngest children were raised by the Steven's family.

The gold mining town of Paradise, 125 kilometres west of Maryborough, stretched for more than a kilometre along the southern bank of the Burnett River. Founded in 1889, Paradise was an entirely new settlement and like most gold towns, it had no pre-existing buildings, roads or infrastructure.



Town Map of *Paradise* on the Burnett River, Queensland

The popular view of gold towns has long been of wild and raucous places, populated by single men, and were often rough and disorderly settlements. Paradise was quite different and there is evidence of families seeking to shape their town according to common Victorian values. This resulted in a very orderly, family-centred community with houses and businesses being built along a well laid out street plan.



A photo from 1892 shows the Paradise Courthouse in the background and the Paradise Hotel in the oval inset. (Courtesy: State Library of Queensland)

The town had 7 large hotels, in which events could be held, but the townspeople were adamant that they should also have a community hall and in 1892 fundraising began for a School of Arts Hall, which when completed 2 months later was opened with a ball where the local ladies were happy to attend. The town was supported by a well-developed business community and school which met most of the needs of the locals.

In the years 1884 – 1895, 70 mines operated in Paradise. Paradise must have been a noisy place with 4 stamping batteries working in the peak time, and over 2,000 people living in the town.

Ever since the goldfield opened, the miners were dissatisfied with the amount of gold that could be extracted from the ore by the amalgamation process.

Frederick was a member of the committee which investigated and introduced a process incorporating the use of cyanide for extracting the gold from the ore. The amount of gold recovered by this process was approximately twice the amount of gold recovered under the amalgamation process. Between 1890 and 1901, 11,500 ounces of gold was extracted from the Paradise goldfields.

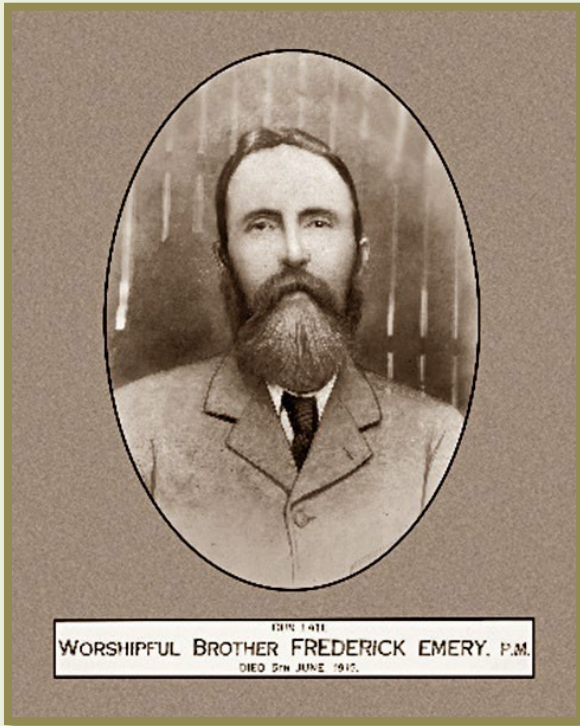
The Cyanide extraction process came with a significant financial cost, which along with reducing yields, difficult mining operations and the large gold discoveries in Western Australia, led to the demise of gold mining in Paradise. By the early 1900s only 2 mines were operating.

Frederick played a substantial role in the Paradise story. He was a butcher, was part owner of 2 mines and Chairman of the Progress Association. In 1892, Frederick was appointed as a Justice of the Peace (JP) for Paradise and regularly presided over hearings at the Police Court. He was listed to vote in the Queensland Legislative Assembly for the Electoral District of Burnett.

Following the demise of the Paradise goldfield, Frederick moved to the adjacent town of Mt Perry where he continued his business as a butcher. Over the next few years, Frederick purchased 3 grazing properties at Coringa and North Dallarnil and one lot in the township of Dallarnil, where he built a butcher shop. During the early 1900s, Dallarnil was a busy settlement being the terminus of the railway, which served the local gold mining towns and expanding rural land selections. Frederick was involved in the farming and cattle breeding industries, and 2 of his sons joined him in the butcher shop in Dallarnil where they installed the first freezing plant in the district. Frederick continued his role as a JP and was an active member of the Biggenden Masonic Lodge where he held the position of Worshipful Master.

Following his death, aged 67, in the Childers Hospital on 5 June 1915, Frederick's remains were transferred by train for burial at the Tiaro Cemetery, beside his late wife, Barbara.

I doubt that when leaving England as a 22-year-old agricultural labourer Frederick would have imagined in his wildest dreams that he could have such a profound influence on the communities in which he lived in regional Queensland through his social, business and community involvement.



It has been interesting to learn about Frederick's life in Australia through the resources of Trove, which have added life to the details found in my brother's research, the Family History sites and Government records.

The last chapter in Frederick's story was a completely unexpected event. Last year our family was given a photograph of my great-grandfather, Frederick Emery, by the Masonic Lodge of Maryborough. It was wonderful to finally be able to put a face to the man to whom our family owes so much.

Another Website and Podcast

<https://www.balh.org.uk/> The **British Association for Local History** website has lots of information from many Counties, mainly in England, though various other Societies and groups are also represented. Look up a county you are interested in and there will be various lists or links to resources about that county. They also have a podcast called *Local History Matters* <https://www.balh.org.uk/podcast> with topics of interest to family historians. Series 1 has episodes from a range of locations. Series 2 has topics about engaging with and sharing local history research.

Thomas Bowen Accidental Drowning

By Shirley McAnelly – Member 765

Thomas **Bowen** (my 2nd great Uncle) was born on 4 September 1854 at Clarence Town near Dungog, New South Wales, on the Williams River. His parents were John Bowen and Mary Bowen (maiden name Bowen). John and Mary Bowen had 14 children with 13 surviving to adulthood. Thomas was the 10th to be born into the family and my great grandfather, Alfred Bowen, was the youngest in the family. Alfred Bowen was born in 1864 and his mother died as a result of childbirth and this left quite a few younger children to be cared for in the family. Some children were taken and looked after by various relatives and my great grandfather was taken by the midwife and raised with her family. The midwife was known to the Alfred Bowen family as Granny **Yates**. Alfred added Yates to his name being known as Alfred Yates Bowen.

Some older members of the family moved to the Richmond River area. James Bowen, brother of Thomas Bowen, came to the Richmond River area in about 1870 and eventually settled at Piora near Casino, where he was a successful farmer. Previous to coming to the Richmond River area James Bowen had resided at Brushgrove on the Clarence River, where he married Catherine **Sherry** and they had 13 children.

Thomas Bowen's sister, Johanna (known as Hannah), her husband Daniel Maher and family moved up from the Manning area in about 1895 and settled on the north arm of the Richmond River near Coraki and were engaged in dairy farming. Hannah Bowen and Daniel Maher had 10 children.

Thomas Bowen moved up to the Richmond River area near Coraki in about 1898 and worked as a labourer. It took me quite a while to find the death registration for Thomas Bowen as it was registered at Ballina and no parents' names were recorded. The only clue was that his brother-in-law was one of the witnesses and Thomas Bowen was born at Clarence Town, William Rivers, New South Wales (NSW). This was quite a find as many books had been written about the Bowen family and no one had found his death and of course the cause of death was Accidental Drowning. A Coronial Inquiry was held on 20 June 1923 and the cause of death and date of death being 16 June 1923 was certified by James **Allison**, Justice of the Peace, Coraki. Thomas Bowen never married and he was buried on 17 June 1923 in the Roman Catholic Cemetery, Coraki.

The Richmond River Herald and Northern Districts Advertiser on Tuesday 19 June 1923, page 2 reported as follows:

*"Drowning Case at Coraki - Early on Saturday evening an old and well known identity of these parts in the person of Thomas Bowen, aged 74 years, met his death by drowning. It appears the old chap was under the influence of liquor at East Coraki, and desiring to cross to the town side, walked down the ferry approach and into the water. He continued walking till he got out of his depth, and was soon floundering in deep water, when his plight was observed by a lad named **Cavanough**, who promptly gave the alarm, but by the time assistance arrived Bowen had disappeared. The police under Sergt. **Donald** took charge of the dragging operations, and at 9.15 p.m. Mr. Jas. **Turner**, who was in a boat with Sergt Donald, descried the body floating only 20 yards from the approach. The funeral took place on Sunday, and was largely attended. Father **Hennessey** read the service, and Mr. J. **McMullen** carried out the arrangements. Deceased who was unmarried, has many relatives scattered throughout the Richmond. An inquiry will be held to-morrow."*

The Farmer and Settler reported on Friday 22 June 1923, page 4 as follows:

"ACCIDENTALLY DROWNED Old Man Walks into the River

An elderly man named Thomas Bowen was accidentally drowned at East Coraki (N.S.W.) ferry approach on Saturday night. The body was subsequently found floating close to the scene of the fatality. Mr. Bowen was a member of a well known Hunter River family, and had resided in the district for a quarter of a century.

At about half past seven a voice calling "Tom Bowen, Tom Bowen" from the direction of the river near the Coraki ferry approach attracted the attention of a lad named Cavanough. Sounds of splashing were heard. The lad gave the alarm, but dragging operations by the police proved unsuccessful until a late hour, when the body was discovered.

As the punt was on the other side of the river from the scene of the mishap at the time, it is thought that deceased accidentally stepped into the channel."

Thomas Bowen was actually aged 68 years and 9 months when he accidentally drowned. Perhaps he looked older than he actually was and his mother having died when he was 10 years of age might have affected his life. All I can say is what a sad way to end one's life by "Accidental Drowning".

Resources for my article are as follows:

- Birth from Register of Roman Catholic Baptisms in the Parish of East Maitland in the County of Northumberland - Baptisms, Early Church Records viewed at Lismore Regional Family History Library, Goonellabah.
- Death from NSW Births Deaths & Marriages - Transcription by Laurence Turtle
- Trove: various newspaper articles

Drowning on the Death Certificate

By Carol Donaghey – Member 862

The person who drowned in this story is not in my direct line. The drownee was married for a short time to my great-grandmother, Amelia, and his death certificate clearly says that his death was caused by drowning.

Amelia **Brown** (pictured below) is my great-grandmother and my favourite ancestor. She led a complicated life and seems to me to have been a bit of a free spirit.



As a child she lived in Bay Street, Glebe, and at the age of 15, she became pregnant to John **Newman**, a labourer from Sydney. Their daughter, Mary, was born the following year in the Benevolent Asylum, which stood on part of the site where Central Railway Station is now.

There was no father recorded on the New South Wales (NSW) Births, Deaths and Marriage (BDM) Registry. John Newman was, however, documented in the Benevolent Asylum's records as Mary's father.

John must have disappeared from the scene because six months after Mary's birth, Amelia married 20 year old James **Kennelly**, a bootmaker, from Paddington. On their marriage certificate Amelia is aged 18 years. Her father's consent

was necessary because Amelia was under age - her actual age being only 16 ½ at the time of the marriage, not 18.

The relationship with James didn't last long as sadly, he died 10 months later in July 1877, after accidentally drowning in a creek at Waterloo, a suburb of Sydney, while in a state of intoxication.

James' death certificate states that Amelia Brown was his wife and Mary his daughter, aged 15 months. It also states that Amelia was 17 when they married. James is buried in the Anglican Section at Rookwood Cemetery. His funeral notice was inserted in the Sydney Morning Herald by his father, Patrick, and doesn't mention Amelia or the baby so maybe James' family did not approve of the marriage.

I don't know any more about James and his short life, but when I received his death certificate I was shocked to learn that he had drowned.

Three months after James died the widowed Amelia Kennelly married William **Cronin**, a 23 year old carpenter and the eldest son of my 2x great-grandparents, Martin and Ellen Cronin, from Limerick, Ireland. Amelia's second marriage took place at the same church as her first one. My maternal grandfather, John James, was their fourth child.

Amelia and William were married for 40 years, raising six out of seven children, including Amelia's firstborn, Mary. There is no real evidence of what their life together was like, but during the 1880s an English emigrant was to enter their lives, who was destined to change their world.

Michael **Owens** from Liverpool, England, was 22 when he emigrated to Sydney in 1880. How, when or where he met the Cronin family is a mystery, but his presence had a lasting impact on the entire family. He lived at various times with different Cronin relatives and moved house with them, when they changed residences, as is recorded on the electoral rolls of the time.

My mother remembered him very well and said he was charming, funny and kind-hearted. He was welcomed into the Cronin family circle, participating in their family activities and becoming godfather to some of their children.

He resided in Australia for 65 years and at various times he lived with William and Amelia and their family. His attachment to Amelia developed into a more loving and devoted relationship, which perhaps explains why he is buried in the same grave with her.

Amelia died from kidney disease in 1917. She was 57.

She was well loved by her family and for several years after her death her children placed memorial notices in the newspapers. My grandfather adored her and always spoke of her with love and respect.

It is thought-provoking that William died only four years after Amelia and is not buried with her, while Michael Owens, who died 28 years after her in April 1945, is buried with her. My grandfather organised and paid for Michael's funeral and arranged for him to be interred with his mother. Did he have a nostalgic moment and think they should be together for eternity? I like to think so.

I have a gold locket of Amelia's and a long lock of her hair, which still shows the golden threads amongst the greying honey colour. I also have the only photo of her. It looks like it was taken in a studio.

I believe Amelia had a colourful existence and she fascinates me in so many ways – her very early short marriage, her change of age on the marriage certificates, her daughter, Mary, about whom nothing was known (my grandfather never mentioned he had an older sister), and her relationship with Michael.

I am also intrigued about my grandfather's second name. James is not a family name. Did she give him that name as a reminder of her first husband who drowned or was it purely a coincidence?



New Members

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new members.

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Member No 1028 | Gail Knowland | Ballina |
| Member No 1029 | Vickie Webber | Lismore |
| Member No 1030 | Bruce Allsopp | Alstonville |
| Member No 1031 | Diane & Graeme Robertson | Wollongbar |
| Member No 1032 | Vanessa Reynolds | Lennox Head |
| Member No 1033 | Gerry Gerrand | West Ballina |
| Member No 1034 | Gayle Reid | Ballina |
| Member No 1035 | Lois Keith | East Ballina |
| Member No 686 | Patricia Wilson (rejoined) | Ballina |

Destruction of the 1931 England and Wales Census in 1942 Fire

By Carmel Crosby, Editor

As was mentioned last issue in Frank **Harvey's** article about the 1939 survey of England and Wales, the 1931 census was lost in a fire. Since then, I read that contrary to popular opinion, it was not a fire caused by a German bomb in World War 2. The letters (only one with the General Register Office (GRO) letterhead, but presumably all were from GRO officers) relating to the incident at the Office of Works storage in Hayes, West London (then Middlesex) in December 1942 are freely available on the UK National Archives site, Reference RG 20/109. <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C2698084>

The first assessment report, a short time after the fire, stated in a letter that *'The fire was not occasioned by enemy actions and how it achieved such dimensions in a store in which special hydrants had been fitted and said to have been in charge of a fire guard of 6 paid watchers, is a mystery which will need investigation.... In view of this unfortunate event, it seems to us that reasonable precautions to safeguard existing records should be reviewed and taken where possible and it occurs to us that the duplicate blue (N.R. plans) and white plans of division prepared before the N. R. enumeration might well be separated and stored in different buildings if this is not the case at the present time. Note: N.R. stands for National Registration as in the 1939 Survey.*

The letter of reply commences with *'it seems clear from your account that either criminal negligence or sabotage had occurred.'*

'Head Office' seems to have taken on board the report of the 'man on the ground' to arrange to secure their other valuable documents. It sounds like the 1939 survey results were being used constantly. 'Future Precautions: The blue form (1939 plans) are in use at Smedley's, but white forms are with N.R.O.s (presumably National Records Offices). It is impractical at the present stage to separate the Enumeration Books from the blue forms. Daily searching for e.d. (enumeration district) letter codes are still fairly heavy, and the forms do not contain... the material available, though these are always used for the initial searching.... Probably the best course would be to ask the N.R.O.'s whether they have retained the white forms and if so, to make arrangements for their security, and if not, to arrange for the issue of copies.' Hopefully, someone in the GRO understood that!

A third and final letter in the file, from 1950, explained how a ‘Search Officer’, presumably from the GRO, went to the site and enquired of various people in government buildings nearby, if there was any chance of surviving records. The answer was a definite NO. Whether it was ever found out how the fire started and if there was negligence or sabotage, as the original letters suggested, was not stated in this file. Perhaps a reader has more information.



The Richmond-Tweed Family History Society turns 40!!

This year we celebrate **40 years as a Family History Society**. The main celebration will be a luncheon on Saturday, 2 December 2023, so **save the date!** If you have some good ideas or wish to be involved with planning our celebrations, please contact the president, secretary or editor.



Perhaps you could write a story, long or short, about something that happened to you in 1983, when our society was being founded. It may be related to family history or just to you or your family, which after 40 years could almost be counted as history! These stories will be published in the December edition of *The Cedar Log*, so get those pens out and start writing!



New Books in the Marie Hart Library

By Kerrie Alexander – Library Officer

The Geraghty Story continues 2003 by Sister B. **Baldwin** [Bg-12]

Tracing Your Scottish Ancestors - The Official Guide - National Records of Scotland - prepared by keepers of the records, giving all the latest internet developments and information on traditional records and *Scotlands People*. 7th Edition, published in 2020. [G-175]

Tracing Your Irish Ancestors Through Land Records: A guide for family historians by Chris **Paton**. Gives information on Tithe records, Griffith Valuation, Registry of Deeds Office and many more sources of land records which are so important for Irish research due to the loss of many Irish records. [L-13]

The Hunt Collection: George Hunt 1891-1974 Tuckurimba NSW: Maritime Collection from the Richmond River compiled by Jacqueline **Kennedy**. A collection of photographs of boats which plied the Richmond River accompanied by a short history of each boat. [M-63]

Family and Local History Resource Directory for Victoria by Shauna **Hicks**. Highlights major research repositories including archives, libraries, museums etc which may not have an internet presence. [G-174]

Irish Workhouse Orphan Emigration to Australia 1848-1850 by P. **McIntyre** & R. **Reid**. Sources for the Irish 'orphan girls' sent to Australia between 1848 and 1850 from union workhouses all over Ireland at the height of the Irish Famine. [M-63]

Go North Young Man: From the South Coast to the Big Scrub by Ian **Kirkland**. Looks at the stories and families of those farmers who moved from the South Coast of NSW to the Northern Rivers area. [H2.477/9]

Still Greater Effort: Alstonville Red Cross 1914-2014 by John **Sim**. Documents the proud 100 year history of the Alstonville branch of the Australian Red Cross. [H2.477/11]

Recognising Ballina District Citizens Book 2 by Ian Kirkland. Short biographies of notable personalities in the Ballina district. [H2.478/25]

Ballina: Early Days by Brian **Worthington**. A brief history of Ballina covering 100 years from its discovery in 1829 to 1929 covering cedar getting, early settlement shops, churches etc. [H2.478/26]

Effort Earns Success: Alstonville Public School 1875-2008 by Ian Kirkland. Details of academic cultural and sporting achievements of Alstonville Primary School students. [Sz-159]

Out of Puff: The Ballina Train by Ian Kirkland. Tells the story of the railway line between Booyong and Ballina that ran from 1930 to 1948. [Xz-10]

Gleanings of Journals in the Marie Hart Library

By Janine Thomson

“Beginner’s Corner – German Research”. This is a must read for anyone who has German ancestry. *Links and Chains – Liverpool FHS – February 2023 – Page 18*

“Websites to Watch” – Looks behind the wizard’s curtain to see what is in store online for researchers in 2023.

“Scottish Burial Records & Memorial Inscriptions” - how to find those elusive Scottish Burials.

“Animal Magic” – an interesting story about the long history of pet ownership in Britain. *Who Do You Think You Are - January 2023 - Page 15, 31 & 53*

“26 Days and 94 Years at Fromelles” – The story of Private Claude Ward’s death at the front and being found again 94 years later. *Timespan - Nepean FHS – March 2023 – Page 11.*

“Waverley Cemetery” - Traces the history of Sydney’s cemeteries, from 1792 to the Waverley Cemetery of today.

“Fitzroy’s Hand of Glory” - In January 1875, Melbourne’s newspapers were abuzz with a grisly discovery in the slums of Fitzroy North.

“Convict Orphans Hiding in the Family Tree” - Between 1828 and 1879, 6000 children were confined to Hobart Town’s Orphan Schools. *Traces – Edition 22 - 2023 – Page 13, 15 & 28.*

“Penelope Lucas, More Than a Governess” - Employed as the family governess by John and Elizabeth Macarthur, she became an integral part of running Elizabeth Farm. *HISTORY – Royal Aust. Historical Soc. - March 2023 - Page 3.*

“Local Resources for Family History Research – County Derry”. Puts an emphasis on resources specific to the county *Irish Roots – Issue 125, 2023 – Page 10.*

“The Golfers of Old Edinburgh”. Tells the history of golf in Scotland. *Lothians Newsletter – Spring 2023 – Page 4.*

“Get more from your Family History”. Shares an expert’s favourite tips for smashing your brick walls.

“House History”. Picks the best online resources to research the history of a home in Britain. *Who Do You Think You Are – February 2023 - Page 15 & 35*

Gleanings of Australian eJournals

By Jackie Chalmers

The following journals are now received as eJournals and may be read from home or in the Marie Hart Library on the RTFHS02 computer. If they are from the area you are researching you may well find information that will not appear elsewhere, so do check them out.

Australian L-Y

POSITION VACANT - Head of Home Affairs by Robert Eldridge

Lake Macquarie FHG, The Chronicle, Feb 23

A Story of a Bull in the Hotel - Winning entry for the Yvonne Jenkins Memorial Award 2022
submitted by Danny Whitty

Lithgow FHG, Lithgow Pioneer Press, Oct 22

A Place of Belonging by Rob Thomson

Logan River & District FHS Inc., Lithgow Pioneer Press, Nov 22

Percy Dwyer of Palmers Island - a very well-known and legendary horseman

Maclean District HS, Clarence River Advocate, Mar 23

The Tragedy of Whistling - Ernest Hawkins submitted by Nancy Dixon

Manning Wallamba FHS, The Figtree, Mar 23

100 Years Ago Christmas Preparations in the Shops at Coraki – *Richmond River Herald and Northern Districts Advertiser, 19 December 1922, p4*

Mid-Richmond HS Inc., Newsletter, Nov 22

Camp Drafting – Les McNamara by Michael McNamara, great nephew

Moree & District HS, Yilaalu, Nov 22

The Tragic Constable Family of Gundary by Shirley Jurmann

Moruya & District Historical Society Inc., Journal, Mar 23

Kynnumboon 1939-1943 by Bev Fairley, one of Tweed pioneer Joshua Bray's many great-grandchildren. This is a lovely glimpse into an idyllic family life at the family property "Kynnumboon", on the banks of the (now) Rous River.

Murwillumbah Historical Society, Timelines, Oct 22

Voyage to Australia 1927 - Memories of a Dreadnought Boy by Melodie Woodford

Note from Newcastle journal editor: All quotes are from the personal diary of William Arthur John Woodford, Melodie's father, written between 21 September 1927 and 18 November 1927. He had been born on the Isle of Wight. His story after his arrival in Australia was told in the article *The Dreadnought Boys* that was published on page 18 of the September 2014 NFHS Journal No. 207
Newcastle Family History Society Inc., Journal, Mar 23

The Story of Monty O'Sullivan – from Territory Stories – Monty was a well-known drover. One of his ventures saw him take 1,000 cattle from Mataranka 1,000 miles to Dalhousie Springs in 1932
GS of Northern Territory, Progenitor, Dec 22

Discovering Details in a Photo by Marilyn Grogan
FH Assoc. of North Queensland Inc., Relatively Speaking, Jan-Mar 23

The Blackman Family – Many of Them Policemen by Trudi Mayfield
Orange FHG, Newsletter, Apr 23

Discovering details in a photo by Marilyn Grogan
Queensland FHS Inc., Queensland Family Historian, Jan 23

The Story of Dorothy Kathleen Greenup – a Remarkable Woman from a well-known Redcliffe Family
Redcliffe & District FHG Inc., The First Settlement City Gazette, Mar 23

Incident at Sawpit Gully, 1861 by Mark St Leon
Royal Australian HS, History, Mar 23

Dig a Little Deeper! by Irene Stolk
FHS of Rockingham & District, Between the Lines, Mar 23

Bill Stacey – Founding President of the Ryde District Historical Society by Kevin Shaw
Ryde Family History Group, The Recorder, Mar 23

The Clipper Ships – Black Ball and White Star Lines on the UK – Australian Run compiled by Ian Morrison
Shoalhaven FHS, Time Traveller, Apr 23

Database Launch: The Randwick Asylum for Destitute Children by Jan Worthington NZRN, DipFHS, FSAG
Society of Australian Genealogists, Magazine Descent, Mar 23

Nineteenth Century Emigration from Scotland to South Australia by Graham Jaunay
Sth Aust. G & Heraldry S, South Australian Genealogist, Feb 23

A Trip To Goorangoola District by William Collins
Singleton FHS, The Patrick Plains Gazette, Apr 23

- John Flagg by Margaret Peglar *South Gippsland GS, Newsletter, Dec 22*
- Christmas 1976 by Jocelyn Alder *Sunshine Coast Genealogy, Kin Tracer, Dec 22*
- Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Sailor by Mary E. Metcalfe
Toowoomba & Darling Downs FHS, The Gazette, Mar 23
- New South Wales - Births, Deaths & Marriages - Local Registrar Numbers
Tweed Gold Coast FH & Heritage Assoc. Inc., Tracks, Mar 23
- Mourning Cards - No. 3 by Geoff Haddin
Wagga Wagga & District FHS, Murrumbidgee Ancestor, Feb 23
- Goulters of the Cotswolds by Judith Bush & James Goulter
West Gippsland GS, Kith 'n' Kin, Feb 23
- Hints for Searching Cemeteries by Barbara Uhe – very practical and useful hints
Whitsunday FHG Inc., Branching Out, Mar 23
- Ada Lory: A Woman Twice Widowed - Story by member, Noel Pidgeon
Wyalong District FHG, Mallee Stump, Mar 23
- Who Came First? Impetus To Emigration by Lynda Smith nee Prentice
Wyong FHG Inc., Tree of Life, Feb 23
- This is an additional format to the Yass Society's Journal and contains local points of interest including *Fossick for Fossils Tours* by Judith Davidson
Yass & District HS Inc., Newsletter Yandoo, Apr 23
- Bills Troughs - A Forgotten Memento to a Bygone Era
Young & District FHG Inc., The Lambing Flat Leader, Jan 23



Monthly Speakers

4 February 2023 – **Ann Emery** coordinated the afternoon with 4 members telling us about their favourite ancestors. Some of their talks are printed in this issue of *The Cedar Log*.



Jill McCann spoke about her husband's convict 3x great-grandmother **Agnes McMillan**, who was transported to Hobart at the age of 16. Many of her descendants are in the Lismore area.

Vicki Evans spoke about the life of her grandmother, Evelyn Ursula **Mowle**, who was born in Armidale, New South Wales (NSW), in 1910 and died in 2010, aged almost 100. It was her knowledge of the various family lines that was the impetus for Vicki's family history journey.

Dawn Lotty's great-grandfather and lovable rogue, Henry **Small**, packed so much into his 78 years that you will have to read his life story in this issue to know the multiple twists and turns of his life.

Trevor Emery told us about his great-grandfather, Frederick Emery, who sailed from England to Queensland in 1870 aged 22. He spent his life in Australia in the area south and west of Maryborough, Queensland. Read the story of his rich life and times in this issue.

4 March 2023 – **Jan Ousby** introduced 8 members to tell us about ancestors who had 'Accidental Drowning' on the death certificate. It seems this was an unfortunately frequent occurrence!

Jan herself spoke about Walter 'Mac' **MacNamara**, a blacksmith, who drowned in 1916 aged 44, in a creek in Waterloo in inner Sydney, where he had lived all his life.

Dawn Lotty spoke about Stan **Karkoe**, a relative by marriage, whom she knew in her youth. He sadly drowned in a river at Christmas in 1963, while visiting Bathurst, NSW. It was a mystery to everyone, as he was a good swimmer and only 28 years old.



Shirley McAnelly related the story of her 2nd great-uncle, Thomas **Bowen**, who walked down the ferry ramp at Coraki, NSW, and drowned in the Richmond River in 1923. It was determined that he was under the influence of liquor. Her story is printed in this issue.

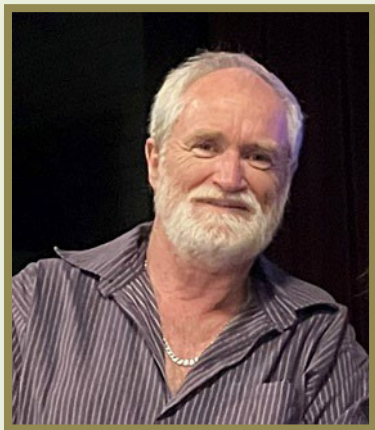
Carol Donaghy told the story of James **Kennelly**, who had been married to her great-grandmother, Amelia, for less than a year when he drowned in a creek in Waterloo in inner Sydney. Was it the same creek that Jan Ousby's ancestor had drowned in! Read the story of Amelia **Brown** and her several partners and husbands in this issue.

Vicki Evans told us about her grandfather, Keith **Toose**, who drowned in 1935. He had been in World War 1 and had gone night-fishing in a boat on the Macleay River, NSW. He had on his old army coat and boots and it was thought that these heavy items contributed to his death, when he got into trouble in the river. He left behind a wife and young family.

Leigh Wilson spoke about his 2nd great-uncle, Harry Wilson, who lived in the Beetaloo area east of Port Pirie, South Australia. In November 1886, after a ferocious storm, which caused flash flooding and raging creeks, Harry was swept away whilst trying to cross a creek.

Joy Conlon related about her husband's great uncle Felix Francis Conlon, a Jesuit priest, who drowned in 1933, whilst trying to save a 16 year old boy, who was swept off rocks at Avoca Beach, NSW.

Robyn Hilan told the sad story of her great-aunt Rose **London** (nee Hilan) and her niece Eliza **Devine**, who drowned crossing Coopers Creek on their way to Bexhill, near Lismore, NSW, in January 1898. The young Eliza had managed to swim to shore, but returned to the water to assist her aunt but both succumbed to the fast-flowing waters. Once again the style and weight of their attire were seen to have contributed to their drowning.



1 April 2023 - We were pleased to welcome a guest speaker, Paul Full, from Ace Photoshop in the River Walk Arcade, Ballina, who spoke on many aspects of Preserving History Photographically. Paul showed many ways old photos can be restored, whether they were faded, damaged by water, creased or stuck on glass. People or items can also be magically edited into or out of photos! He advised transferring our old videos to digital as soon as possible before the tapes perished beyond retrieval. Members had their many questions answered about their old photos and videos and were keen to go home and dig out their family photos and start preserving their family history.



The Richmond-Tweed Family History Society Inc. was established in 1983 to serve the family history needs of researchers initially with a special interest in North East New South Wales, Australia, in the area bounded by the Richmond and Tweed Rivers, often referred to as the Northern Rivers.

The Marie Hart Library (MHL) holds numerous local records including the Local Schools Admission Registers, Cemetery and Burial Records, Honour and Memorial Rolls from many locations within the Northern Rivers, plus death and funeral notices and obituaries from *The Northern Star* (1876 – 2020).

Over the years, the library has expanded and now holds a wealth of information from across Australia including electoral rolls, historical and pioneer records, war records, shipping lists, probate records, landholder returns, Colonial Secretary papers and cemetery books. There are family history journals from within Australia or overseas countries, either as hard copies or in electronic form. The latter can be accessed on the computers in the MHL or from home. Access is available to microfiche, CDs and computers connected to genealogical websites, to which we subscribe, including *FindmyPast* and the *Biographical Database of Australia*. We are also a *FamilySearch* affiliate, which gives access to more than the standard *FamilySearch* site. Ask the member on duty, during opening hours, if you need assistance with any of the library's resources.

Family History Research Requests can be done by the Society for a fee of \$15 per hour. Please include a 22x11 cm stamped, addressed envelope and research fees where applicable. Email the secretary or send details to our PO Box (addresses are on the inside front cover)

THE Cedar Log

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The Editor would be pleased to accept articles for inclusion in this journal. Ideally, they should be sent by email to editorcedarlog@gmail.com but typed hard copy is also welcomed. The format preferred is Times New Roman font; 11 point; single spacing. Please add your contact details as the Editor may need to discuss editing of material submitted for publication. It is your responsibility to ensure that your article does not infringe copyright.

Items remain the copyright of the Richmond-Tweed Family History Society and the author. Members' input is important and makes for interesting and diverse reading and you might be lucky enough to connect with someone who has read your article, either in Australia or overseas. We would love to hear about how you broke down those brick walls or any interesting information you have found out about an ancestor or research sources or techniques that others may find helpful.

*The society does not accept responsibility for opinions and statements published by individual contributors. **Material and articles in this journal may only be reproduced with written permission from the Society. Please contact the editor via email.***



SOCIETY EVENTS

Society meetings are at the Players Theatre, 24 Swift Street, Ballina at 2pm on the first Saturday of each month. There is no meeting in January or December.

DATES TO REMEMBER 2023

Contact the Secretary if you would like to participate in one of the presentations listed below.

Saturday 3 June Meeting: First Clue that Sparked a Line of Enquiry. Co-ordinated by Robyn Hilan.

Saturday 1 July Meeting: A Photograph That Tells a Story. Co-ordinated by Jackie Chalmers.

Saturday 22 July: Christmas in July Lunch at Cherry Street Sports (Bowling) Club, Ballina. Please contact Bonnie Bennet on 0414 927 361 before 14 July if you would like to attend. Approximate cost \$32.

Saturday 5 August Meeting: AGM plus talks on The Black Sheep in the Family co-ordinated by Joy Conlon

Saturday 2 September Meeting: DNA Lecture from an invited speaker.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership fees for the year 1 January to 31 December 2023 are \$35 Individual or \$45 Joint Membership. Journals will be sent to financial members only.