

THE Cedar Log

40th Year of Publication
Journal of the Richmond-Tweed Family History Society Inc.
Ballina NSW Australia



RIVER SCENE AT BALLINA

In the **River Scene at Ballina**, looking west along the river, the *Richmond River Amateur Sailing Club* is on the right and a coastal steamer is in the centre. These steamers travelled upriver to Lismore and down to Sydney. The area was quite industrial and has since been redeveloped into apartment blocks, offices and restaurants.

The *Naval and Maritime Museum*, our *Marie Hart Library* and the *Richmond River Sailing and Rowing Club*, are now located further along the Richmond River, to the east of this view.

The postcard is one in a set of 12 titled '*A Souvenir of Beautiful Ballina*' Published in about 1950 by *Nucolorvue*, Victoria. Postcard set owned by RTFHS member Ann Emery.

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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)

Location: Marie Hart Library, 6 Regatta Avenue, Ballina, NSW Australia

Website: www.rtfhs.net.au

All Correspondence to be forwarded to:

Secretary, Richmond-Tweed Family History Society Inc., PO Box 817, Ballina NSW Australia 2478. Or email: secretaryrtfhs1@yahoo.com

Patrons: Martyn Killion, BA, Grad. Dip App. Science (Information), Dip FHS

Honorary Fellowships: Nola Rodey, Suzanne Warmerdam, Esme Smith, Frank Harvey

President: Victoria Evans

Email: presidentrtfhs1@yahoo.com

Vice President: Vacant

Secretary: Judith Cosgrove

Treasurer: Bonnie Bennett

Public Officer: Judith Cosgrove

Publicity Officer: Allan Ridgewell

Membership Secretary: Jan Ousby

Social Events Organiser: Joy Conlon

Library Officer: Kerrie Alexander

IT Manager: Position Vacant **IT Support:** Carol Brown

Research officer: Janine Thomson

Web Manager: Liz Marshall

Committee Members:

Liz Marshall, Jan Ousby, Linda Maslen

Joy Conlon, Ann Emery

Journal Editor: Carmel Crosby

Email: editorcedarlog@gmail.com

Assistant to Editor/Production: Liz Marshall

Assistant to Editor: Judith Cosgrove

Societies Exchanging e-journals please contact:

Email: richmondtweedfhs@yahoo.com.au

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 Holidays.

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Editorial

By The Editorial Team

As the warmer weather arrives, we look forward to celebrating the **40th Anniversary** of the founding of our Society, which was on 17th December 1983, when five people gathered around the table at Marie **Hart's** to discuss a shared interest in family history. To mark this momentous occasion, we will have a celebratory luncheon and cake on Saturday 2nd December. See a short article inside and the back page of this edition, for details. We look forward to many members and friends attending this event.

Inside this issue, we have an article by John **Broadley** outlining how his group is powering ahead with the **Mariners Project**. Please contact him if you have any ancestors connected to the Port of Richmond before 1940 or would like to help with the project.

Also in this issue, we have an article first published by *The Australian Society of Genealogists*, about the *Australasian Federation of Family History Organisation's* award for Meritorious Service, that our patron, Martyn **Killion**, has received and an outline of his career and achievements.

Other great stories to read in this issue are by Victoria **Evans**, Dawn **Lotty** and Leigh **Wilson** on their ancestors who unfortunately had 'accidentally drowned' on their death certificates. There is also a reprint from the *Northern Star* (Lismore, NSW) newspaper from 1929, supplied by Janine **Thomson**, about a massive effort in 1872 to refloat a ship named *Examiner*. It had been stranded on the beach north of the mouth of the Clarence River, near the present-day town of Iluka. Many thanks to those members who wrote these articles and our regular features.

At the **AGM** in August, Richard **Goss**, our president, and Jackie **Chalmers**, a committee member for many years have resigned from their positions. The following new members were elected. President - Victoria **Evans**, Committee Member – Linda **Maslen**. The elected positions in our Society that remain the same are: - Secretary - Judy **Cosgrove**; Treasurer – Bonnie **Bennett**; Committee Members - Liz **Marshall**, Jan **Ousby**, Ann **Emery** and Joy **Conlon**. Thank you to all retiring, new and remaining committee members for your time and work for our Society. It would not survive without you.

Liz, Judy and Carmel, The Editorial Team

AFFHO AWARD FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE

Martyn KILLION

(This article was first published in *Descent* December 2022 [Vol 52 Part 4], 137. Permission to republish in *The Cedar Log* has been kindly granted by the Society of Australian Genealogists. Martyn Killion is the patron of the Richmond-Tweed Family History Society).



During our recent 90th anniversary morning tea, we were delighted to play host as our Vice-Patron and former President, Martyn Killion, was presented with the AFFHO Award for Meritorious Service. This was announced at the recent Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations (AFFHO) Congress on Norfolk Island. An abridged version of the citation accompanying the award follows:

Martyn Killion has been involved in family history in Australia for over 40 years, working professionally in the archival and library fields, while also contributing as an active volunteer in the family history community.

He was a foundation staff member at the Western Sydney Reading Room at the State Archives and Records Authority, working there from 1987 until 2003. During those years he was a popular member of the public access team, regularly assisting researchers with family history enquiries. His enviable knowledge of State Archives' collections also made him in high demand as an engaging public speaker. He left State Archives in 2003 to work in other NSW government sectors, including the State Library of NSW.

In 2016 he returned to State Archives and is currently the Director Collections. Among his many duties in this executive position is the digitisation of the State Archives collection and his leadership in this area has seen an enormous increase in the range and number of records now available online to all family historians with NSW research interests.

A member of the SAG since 1990, he completed the Society's Diploma in Family Historical Studies in 1994. He joined the Board in 1999 and served two terms as President (2001-2005 and 2014-2018); the first term coincided with the launch of the Society's highly successful fundraising campaign to buy its own premises. He also served terms as Vice President, Convenor of Education, Honorary Archivist and Honorary Librarian. His service was recognised with the award of a Fellowship in 2006 and his election as a Vice-Patron in 2019.

As part of the SAG's education team, he introduced a webinar program in August 2011, positioning the Society as a pioneer in providing its members with online access to world-class presentations from the comfort of their own home. In 2003 he successfully negotiated for the SAG to become the first organisation outside of the USA and UK to provide free library access for its members to the Ancestry website. These initiatives paved the way for other family history societies to follow. He co-led two successful SAG research tours to England in 2003 and 2004 and has lectured widely throughout Australia and in the UK.

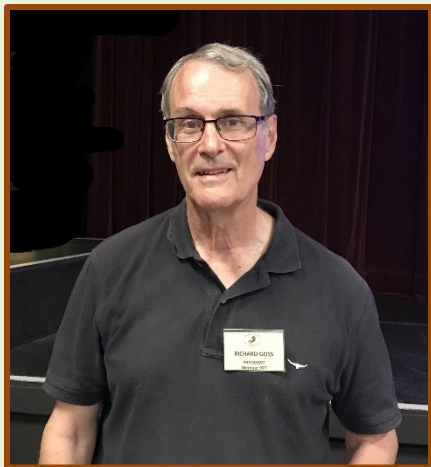
With Heather Garnsey, he indexed 78,000 records of inmates of the Sydney Benevolent Asylum 1857-1900 and made these freely available at www.sydneybenevolentasylum.com. This work continues to allow many family historians to break down brick walls in their research.

Martyn was President of AFFHO from 1991 until 1996 and its NSW representative from 2015- 2019. He was co-editor of the 1994 edition of AFFHO's *Cemeteries in Australia: A register of transcripts*, as well as the 1992 and 1993 editions of its *Directory of Member Organisations*. Under the auspices of AFFHO he convened, on behalf of the SAG, the very successful 15th Australasian Congress on Genealogy & Heraldry held in Sydney in March 2018. This four-day event brought together over 700 family historians from around the world.

Martyn has successfully combined a solid professional career in archives with a lifelong interest in genealogy, and has brought to the wider family history community a great appreciation of the value of genealogy in the broader historical context.



President's Report for 2022-2023



Committee of Management

Many thanks to the Members of the Committee of Management for 2023. Judith Cosgrove, Secretary, Bonnie Bennett, Treasurer, and Jan Ousby, Membership Secretary, continued their experienced administration of The Society and have signed up to do it again in 2024. Ann Emery, Carmel Crosby, Joy Conlon, Liz Marshall, and Victoria Evans served wonderfully in 2023 and will continue doing so. A special mention needs to be made to Jackie Chalmers. Her commitment, insights and experience have enlightened our meetings and she will be missed.

I was unable to find a way by which The Society could continue to benefit from Leonie Oliver's election as Vice President. In the time she was a Committee member, Leonie contributed, particularly, to the strength of our General Meeting programme.

General Meetings

A highlight of the year has been the variety, excellence, and good humour of our General Meeting programme. In the care of a different Coordinator for each event, many Members have found an opportunity to contribute to a fascinating breadth of topics. The topics and speakers have been recorded in successive editions of *The Cedar Log*, as were some of the stories told. Alan Ridgewell has continued to garner radio publicity for our Meetings.

We extended our audio equipment to include a lapel and a roving microphone.

The Cedar Log

Another delight has been the continuing excellence of *The Cedar Log*. It was published under the leadership of Carmel Crosby, as Editor, with production assistance from Judith Cosgrove and Liz Marshall. Notice that all three served on Committee as well.

Marie Hart Library

All Members are aware that our Founder and Honorary Fellow, Marie Hart, passed to higher service during the year. I continue to work on a tribute to her and to seek from you further input on her life and contributions. That will be concluded in time for our 40th birthday in December.

Our Affiliate Library Status has been bedded down and several Members have already benefitted from access to otherwise inaccessible information and original records.

John Broadley, supported by Victoria Evans and Margaret Schmitt, are striding through our “Mariners” project that seeks details of the mariners, not just the captains and pilots of the Richmond River.

Financial Security

Robyn Hilan, our Honorary Auditor, has reported on the accounts and the losses incurred. For The Society to prosper, more Members are needed to assist in completing the many tasks required to do all that The Society does.

My medical health has led me to withdraw from Presidency and Committee. I will continue to be available to assist our Committee, but I will not occupy positions of leadership, here or elsewhere.

I gratefully thank Robyn Hilan, Don Howell, Dawn Lotty, and Kerrie Alexander for their support. I will do what I can to carry The Society to its 50th birthday. I hope that you will, too.

Richard Goss President 2021-22



Stanley Desmond Karkoe An Accidental Drowning

By Dawn Lotty – Member 924

Usually when I research members of my mother's family it's 80% research and 20% family stories. In this case it's 20% research and 80% of what I can personally remember from 60 plus years ago on a subject that I had not thought about for all of that time.

My mother's two youngest brothers, Edward and Austin, married Stan Karkoe's two much older sisters, Violet and Freda respectively. I first met Stan when I was just 11 and he was 18. We had moved from Wagga to Sydney and this allowed us to travel more often to Burragorang Valley to visit Edward and Violet.

Burragorang Valley now lies beneath Warragamba Dam but before it was flooded it was beautiful, unchanged native bushland teeming with wildlife, aboriginal rock carvings, three rivers and towns, which were home to about 3000 people.



Burragorang Valley near Picton, 1879, by James H Carse (1818 – 1900). Courtesy - Art Gallery of New South Wales, sourced on commons.wikimedia.org

Karkoe or **Karkos** is Greek and Stan's great-grandfather, Nicholas, had been born in Athens in 1829 and was employed as a seaman on board the 'Mystery'. When it docked in Newcastle on 18 May 1860, he jumped ship. In the next records I could find, he was working as a gold miner at Captains Flat (east of what is now the Australian Capital Territory - Canberra)

before he applied for a lease to mine silver at Yerranderie and Silverton on the western side of Burrarorang Valley, south west of Sydney, New South Wales (NSW).

As normally happens, Nicholas married a local woman named May **Chittenden** and they had 10 children. Their daughter, Rachel, had a son out of wedlock in 1896 who was named Joseph. Joseph married Mary **Toovey** in 1920 and they had 5 children. Stan was the youngest by 10 years. Joseph and Mary moved their family to the eastern side of the Valley to the coal mining town of Nattai River, which consisted of a general store and post office and about 50 miners' cottages, all owned and supplied for workers by one of the two coal mines, owned by the family of either **Clinton** or **Fox**.

Stan was about 6 feet (1.83 metres) tall and until recently, when I found a very small photo of Stan, I had forgotten how good-looking he was, with olive skin and dark wavy hair. He had been a champion athlete when younger and now played on the wing for the local rugby league team. People living in the nearby towns of Camden and Picton looked down on the miners living in Burrarorang Valley as socially inferior, but Stan's sporting ability gave the valley something to be proud of, so he was very much the local celebrity.

Whenever I went to Nattai River, on school holidays, Stan loved to organise the activities. Cricket, touch football, long hikes to swimming spots on one of the rivers or whirls around the countryside in his WW2 jeep.

When Stan was 20, he married Patricia **Sutton**, who came from the Sydney suburb of Liverpool. He was a country boy and she was a city girl and about the only thing I can remember about the wedding was the reception and my father saying the marriage would not last. Unfortunately, he was right. Three years and 2 children later the marriage was over. As half of my mother's family lived in Liverpool, we still saw Stan regularly, when he came to visit his children who lived nearby.

With the imminent flooding of the valley for the construction of the Warragamba Dam, the men started to leave looking for alternative places to live and find jobs. Stan went to live not too far away in Oakdale, near Camden, and found work in a local foundry as a machinist.

At Christmas in 1963, Stan went to Bathurst, NSW, to visit friends. The weather was very hot so Stan and a friend decided to go for a swim in a local water hole. They swam for a while and then the friend got out of the water and lay on the bank to dry off. After a while, the friend wondered what Stan was doing - before realising Stan was floating face down in the water. Unfortunately, Stan could not be revived.

When we learnt of Stan's death we were dumbfounded as he was only 28. When we learnt that he had drowned, we were shocked beyond belief. This was a man who was renowned as a strong swimmer.

I did not go to the funeral, but to the wake which was held in Camden - from memory at the Camden Hotel. It was hot inside and the atmosphere was very oppressive and almost claustrophobic - rife with conspiracy theories, from negligence by his friend to murder - so much so, I went outside. My Uncle Austin soon joined me. There was nowhere to sit so, in our best clothes, we sat on the kerb in the main street of Camden, with our feet in the gutter and talked about anything and everything, except what was going on behind us.

A coronial inquest was held in March 1964 and the findings on his death certificate read 'Asphyxia due to drowning accidentally - caused whilst swimming'. Nowadays we talk about closure. This decision brought anything but closure - only anger, bitterness and disbelief from his family, which lasted for years and years.

When I think back on it now, Stan's family and friends may have been able to accept a finding of a heart attack or a medical episode, but even then it is very difficult at any time to accept an unexpected death let alone a death of someone who was only 28 years old - fit and healthy and with his whole life ahead of him.



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, at the *Ballina Byron Islander Resort*, 1 Ronan Place, off River St, **West Ballina**. Our patron, Martyn Killion, will be in attendance. All past and present RTFHS members and friends are invited to attend. See back cover for how to confirm your attendance.



If you have some good ideas or wish to be involved with planning our celebrations, please contact the president, secretary or editor.

The Editor would like members to write a story, long or short, about something that happened to them 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!

When the Death Certificate States Accidental Drowning Keith Macleay TOOSE

by Vicki Evans - Member 1016

Keith Macleay **Toose**, my great-grandfather's brother, lost his life in an accidental drowning on 17 November 1935, at the age of 45 years.

Keith was born on 22 November 1889, at Bellbrook, New South Wales (NSW), to parents, James Chapman Toose and Jane **Barr**, who had married in 1866. James had come to Australia in 1857 with his family, from Taunton in Somersetshire, England. Keith was the youngest of 13 children, all but one of whom survived into adulthood.



Keith Toose's parents and siblings:

Back Row L to R: Gordon Eardley, Reginald Arthur, Stanley Vere

3rd Row L to R: Howard Darcy, Charles, John Henry, Amelia Jane

2nd Row L to R: William Chapman, James Peter, Jane (nother), James Chapman Toose (father)

Front Row L to R: Eveline Isabella, Keith Macleay and Irene Florence

Initially, James and Jane had established themselves at Branxton, NSW, where their first six children were born, John Henry in 1867, Amelia Jane in 1868, Eveline Isabel in 1869, William Chapman in 1871, James Peter in 1873 and Howard Darcy in 1875. James then sold the property and moved first to Port Macquarie, then Kempsey, NSW, where another child, Reginald Arthur, was born in 1877.

In 1878 Keith's father accepted a position as the first telegraphist at Nulla Nulla Creek, west of Kempsey. This position was one demanded by the citizens of Kempsey following a damaging flood, so

that in the future they would be able to receive early flood warnings. The family lived at Nulla Nulla Creek for a time before James convinced authorities that the telegraph station should be moved to a better position, a short distance away, to what became the village of Bellbrook.

It was here in the post office and family residence at Bellbrook, that the remaining six children were born. Lewis Charles was born in 1879, Leslie in 1881, Stanley Vere in 1883, Gordon Eardley in 1885, Irene Florence in 1887 and finally Keith in 1889.

Keith led the typical life of a country lad, filling his time with riding, bushwalking, hunting and fishing, playing cricket and tennis, as well as helping his family. His parents valued education and it is likely he attended the Bellbrook half-time school. I am unsure at this point if, like some of his older brothers, he attended school in West Kempsey or Fort Street High School in Sydney.

Keith's parents, and eventually their children, immersed themselves in the life of the village and surrounding community. His parents were devout Christians and instilled their beliefs and values in their children, as well as their strong sense of duty, loyalty and responsibility.

Reviewing Keith's life, one could say that many of his efforts and choices mirrored those of his parents. His father was described by others at the time, as a "man of accomplishments, who during his lifetime on the Macleay, had sat as the magistrate of Bellbrook, was Crown Land Agent, was a successful farmer and grazier, postmaster, local amateur dentist (in the early days), first aid expert, as well as a guide, philosopher and friend to all". He was on many committees, acted as chairman at many community meetings and events and advocated for projects that would benefit the community.

In 1906 aged 16, Keith moved to Sydney when, after approximately 28 years at Bellbrook, James and Jane retired to their home, 'Silverdale' in Mistral Avenue, Mosman (in Sydney). In 1908, Keith undertook study at the Hawkesbury Agriculture College on the practices and science of dairying, especially in cheese making. A newspaper article reports his attempts in 1909 to get community support to build a cheese factory in Bellbrook, but this appears to have been unsuccessful. In 1913, the census has him living with his parents in Mosman and working as a shipping clerk.

In August 1915, he joined the war effort and enlisted at Holsworthy, with the 36th Battalion, aged 25 years 9 months. Within a short time, he achieved the rank of sergeant. In May 1916, he was one of 500 recruits accepted into Duntroon Military College for the officers instruction class. A newspaper article at the time stated that he was one of only 35% who successfully passed, and he was subsequently gazetted as a 2nd Lieutenant. He embarked in Sydney aboard the HMAT* *Port Sydney*, on 4 September 1916. He served in France and was

twice wounded before eventually returning to Australia in April 1919 as a Lieutenant. *His Majesty's Australian Transport.

According to local newspapers, it appears that Keith then returned to Bellbrook and again became involved in the community. He was a leader in the efforts to build a cooperative dairy factory in the village and encouraged others to “*roll up and take an interest in the welfare of your district*”. Despite a lot of positive interest, the dairy factory was instead built closer to Kempsey, at a small settlement called Toorooka. Keith, however, was an early director and just prior to his death was elected vice chairman. He was also involved with the returned service league in Kempsey, the local shire council, the Chamber of Commerce, the Agricultural Show Society, sporting bodies and was also a trustee of the Bellbrook General Cemetery. Keith was frequently called upon to speak and to represent the community when lobbying for such things as improved roads, bridges and school facilities. His speeches were measured and sincere and it appears he was often required to gather the facts to support an endeavour, and to write and present the reports.



Lieutenant Keith Macleay Toose



Macleay River looking towards Nulla Nulla Creek

In 1925, Keith married a local girl, Lillian **Davis**, in St James Church of England at Bellbrook. They went on to have three children, Helen Mary in 1927, Douglas Macleay in 1931 and Russell Marcus in 1935. The family lived on their property close to the junction of the Nulla Nulla Creek and the Macleay River where Keith farmed the land.

Keith and his siblings remained very close, despite some living in Sydney and accounts indicate the siblings visited each other quite regularly. Indeed, his sister, Irene was up from

Sydney, holidaying with the family on the fateful day of his death. A report of the coronial inquest was included in the Macleay Argus, on 29 November 1935. The inquest was held at the Kempsey Court House on 28 November 1935, before Mr N L **Parker**, the coroner. Irene Toose, his sister, gave evidence as to what had occurred. She related how *“on Sunday afternoon, 17 November 1935, Keith took her and his family out motoring. On returning he said something about having to hurry over his tea as he intended going a little way up the river to fish. She noticed he put on an old army coat. After he left, she went out a couple of times and saw what she thought was the light of his torch. About three-quarters of an hour later she thought she heard someone call out, but did not attach much importance to it, as she had frequently heard sounds at night since she had been there. She did not like her brother’s practice of fishing at night. She was awakened at about 11pm and advised her sister-in-law of her fear regarding the non-return of her brother. She then went to the bluff and called but received no response. It was then decided to call a neighbour for assistance. She said her brother was very disappointed at not being able to catch any fish while she was there and was anxious to do so before she left in a few days”*.

Keith’s wife, Lillian Mary Toose, concurred with Irene Toose’s evidence. She added that *“after tea he was to feed the pigs first, and put on his heavy boots, instead of the sandshoes he usually wore fishing. He was a keen fisherman and had tried on several occasions to catch some while his sister was staying with them. About three-quarters of an hour after he left, she heard a cry, and her sister-in-law drew her attention to it, but she did not attach much importance to it as lads passing the place frequently coo-eed. At 11pm she was awakened by the baby and Irene, called out that Keith had not returned. Even then she was not alarmed as it was common for him to stay out until after midnight. Her husband had no recent illnesses and was in his usual good health and spirits”*.

Many people joined in a search of the river, including the police. The following morning Keith’s upturned boat was found. Efforts to find him included dragging the river. It wasn’t until late on Monday afternoon, that Keith’s body was found.

“Constable Mills deposed that, to me the punt up-turned on a rock in the river near the home of the deceased, and a fishing rod complete with line and spinner, was found in the boat, with one end jammed under a cross-piece of the boat. The body was later found in 20 feet of water some 30 feet from the bank and there were no signs of violence upon it. Deceased had on trousers, shirt, singlet and heavy blucher boots. The river at that point was about 100 yards wide, and the night of the 17th was very dark, accentuated by an overhanging bluff and willow trees. It was quite likely the deceased would have spent some little time trying to find the punt from which he had fallen before trying to reach the shore. He was informed that he was a fair swimmer. He was a highly respected citizen, in comfortable circumstances, and as far as he knew he had no worries and appeared to be a robust man in fair health”.

The findings of the Coronial Inquest and the Death Certificate recorded a finding of ‘accidental drowning in the Macleay River while fishing’.

It is a great irony that approximately two years before his death, Keith had himself saved a young child from drowning at South West Rocks.

Keith’s death was a tragic outcome for the family with the children still being quite young – Helen being 9 years, Douglas 4 years and Russell just 6 weeks old.

Keith was buried in the local Bellbrook Cemetery on 19 November 1935, with many mourners in attendance, including family, friends, returned soldiers from the Macleay Valley and members of the many organisations he had worked with. A bugler played the Last Post.

Reports in the local newspapers included numerous eulogies that were subsequently given, including at the local council meeting, where he was described by one councillor as “a gentleman of honour, a most important factor in a man’s make-up, an intelligent man who always gave of his best and cared for his community.” The coroner at his inquest, Mr N L Parker, also paid tribute to Keith, whom he “had known personally and who was a man of outstanding attributes and one highly respected by his fellow citizens throughout the district”.



Keith Macleay Toose's Headstone at Bellbrook Cemetery, New South Wales

Henry “Harry” Truor Wilson 1858-1888

By Leigh Wilson - Member 805

Henry Truor **Wilson** was a 2nd great-uncle of mine. His parents Henry France Wilson and Caroline Mary **Milburn** had married in England in 1845, after which two sons were born, and then the family migrated to Adelaide, South Australia in 1849. Henry France Wilson’s parents, Henry Snr and Caroline, also emigrated.

Henry Truor Wilson was born in Adelaide on 22 February 1856, the fifth of a total of eight children, one of whom died in infancy.



This photo is possibly Mrs Henry France Wilson (nee Caroline Mary Milburn) the mother of Henry 'Harry' Truor Wilson, who drowned in 1886. The photo has been estimated to have been taken in about 1881, when Caroline would have been 60.

In England, both Henry France Wilson and his father, Henry Wilson, had been townspeople, engaged in various commercial activities. Knowing that employment in the early days of Adelaide and South Australia could be difficult to obtain, I poked about in *Trove* (<https://trove.nla.gov.au/>) hoping to find an article that would indicate something of what work they did. Henry Wilson (Snr) had died in 1852.

It was then that I found in the paid public notices of the *South Australian Advertiser* on 9 November 1886 this very small item.

MRS. HENRY FRANCE WILSON desires to tender her sincere thanks to the inhabitants of Beetaloo and Laura for the kindness shown to her late son Henry Wilson, by following and assisting at his funeral.

Beetaloo and Laura are in the mid-north of the State and were (and still are) mainly grain-growing areas, which didn’t seem to relate to my people. But on the other hand, the name “France” was quite unusual and had featured in earlier generations of the family.

A look at *Wikipedia* told me that Beetaloo Reservoir is in the southern Flinders Ranges, east of Port Pirie. It had been built between 1886 and 1890 to provide water for both the developing agriculture of the Mid-North plus the copper mining and smelting industry on the Yorke Peninsula. The dam then was reckoned to be the largest concrete dam in the southern hemisphere; yet nowadays it is the smallest of South Australia's 16 reservoirs, and no longer supplies drinking water. It backs up for any major outage on the Morgan-Whyalla pipeline, and also as a recreation and fishing reserve.

Elsewhere in *Trove*, I found that in November 1886 a correspondent had written to the *South Australian Advertiser* ---"

Fortunately for the safety of valuable property, we are only called upon perhaps once in a lifetime to chronicle such a storm of devastation as that which visited the surrounding districts on Tuesday afternoon. The morning broke fine and cloudless, a hot glaring sun, with a light dry wind, and oppressively sultry, denoting a coming change. But even the most weather-wise among us could not have foretold the imminent rapid alteration from calm to storm. In less time than it takes to write up the event, a terrific gale of wind and hail broke with unusual force, and although up till nearly 2 o'clock on Tuesday afternoon the sky was clear, and the earth dry as a bleached bone, yet within the space of an hour everything had been reversed. The heavens were covered with black, wild looking storm-clouds rushing furiously against each other, and a perfect deluge of hail was flooding the country. Miniature rivers ran joyously along in all directions until finding an outlet into larger streams, culminating in a gigantic flood."

It stated that hail the size of large beans fell with the first rain, and the rain and hail then increased until the creek overflowed after less than half an hour. A correspondent said "The hail at that time and for some time after the rain had abated was the largest I have ever seen; in fact, I very much doubt if any man living ever saw hail so large; when I say they were as large as a cricket ball I am not exaggerating, some were larger. One of these I picked up myself, and weighed it. It put the scale down for 10 oz. A tradesman in the camp weighed one, which turned the scale at 12 oz. Several of the men were struck on the head with the smaller ones, which raised large lumps, and in one or two instances stunned them for several minutes". (Note: 12 oz = 340g)

The creek ran so high that it was impossible for anyone to cross. Quantities of large trees and other timber were coming down, and in a very short time, the footbridge dividing the camp was washed away, followed by the large bridge spanning the creek at the town's entrance.

A later report said "*I forgot to mention while writing about the hail that a horse belonging to Mr. John Talbot was struck with one of the large hailstones, and knocked stupid with the*

blow; the horse staggered for several minutes. A Mr. Wilson (no relation), one of **Treleavan & Brown's** carriers, lost a valuable horse through the hail striking it while in the team and causing it to bolt, and it was thus so much injured that the owner had to shoot it. Robert **Parcell**, who was supposed to be drowned, turned up at last. He had to go up the creek some 3 miles before he could attempt to cross, and therefore he did not reach home until late in the evening. The Beetaloo Waterworks has suffered a great deal, the flood having swept everything in the creek clean away except for the dry-stone walls higher up the stream. I believe they stood the flood best.

*“The saddest thing of all was the loss of the life of young Harry Wilson, teamster for Mr. **Gray**. He, with several others, wishing to cross the stream, fixed a rope from a tree on one side of the creek to the other, over which they intended to pass. Harry Wilson, I believe, was one of the first to make the attempt, although he was cautioned by several not to do so, but he would not be advised, and rushed to the rope, catching it with his hands only, his legs swinging. Going hand-over-hand he had not gone many feet when it was observed he was done. Every attempt was then made to land him, but too late, his hands gave way; and he was washed with great force down the creek (the stream at the time was going at about the rate of 25 or 30 miles an hour) for a distance of about 100 yards. He appeared to be swimming manfully, making for the bank, but in a moment he was dashed with great force against a large gumtree growing on the edge of the stream, which must have caused instant death. The moment he struck the tree his head disappeared under water, and no more was seen of him until he was found some 2 miles down the creek, an hour and a half after he fell in.*

*“His body was brought up to the camp and placed in the lumber room of the Institute. Word was at once sent into Laura, and next morning Corporal Dean, from Gladstone, and Mr. **W. Wilson** (no relation), J.P., arrived at the camp and made all necessary enquiries, deeming an inquest unnecessary as the unfortunate man had persisted in crossing the creek against the advice of his friends. On Thursday the body left the camp for the Laura Cemetery, a good number of his fellow-workmen following to the grave. As no friends of the deceased were known, Mr. **Jobson**, the engineer at Beetaloo, generously took the funeral arrangements upon himself. The Rev. Mr. **Henderson**, of Laura, officiated”.*

Mr Jobson had earlier distinguished himself when an old man named **Lyons** narrowly avoided being washed away. Lyons was attempting to cross the stream after the flood-water had gone down, and when about halfway through became giddy, fell forward, and would have been washed down the stream had it not been for the heroic action of Mr. Jobson, the Resident Engineer, who, while passing, saw what would happen unless an effort was made to save the old man. Jobson at once dismounted from his horse, and taking the reins off tied them on his own arm and handing the other end to his man, manfully faced the torrent, though

he could scarcely keep his footing. The old man fell just as Mr. Jobson got into the stream, when he was caught in Mr Jobson's strong grasp and dragged bodily out of the water.

The Beetaloo headworks had been completely washed away. The torrent had broken through the small dam wall, laying it level with the bed of the creek and destroying all the works at the big reservoir. The bridge camp had been washed away, the pipes had been broken near the main camp, the reservoir, race, and engine-house had been destroyed, and immense hailstones had crashed through the galvanized iron roofs of the store. And so it was that this one small clue in an old newspaper gave me considerable insights into the working life and dramatic incident that ended the life of one of my great-great-uncles. He had joined a team building Beetaloo Dam, where he failed to survive the contrary weather conditions of the great Australian wilderness.

Henry "Harry" Truor Wilson, born in Adelaide in 1856, died in 1886 at the age of 30 years, and unmarried.



Members at our Christmas in July Lunch



Leigh Wilson & Trevor Emery



Ann Emery & Victoria Evans



The Mariners Project

By John Broadley – Member 841

The project has quietly proceeded in the three key areas.

- In the **collection of data**, the scrutiny of books and documents in the *Marie Hart Library* has continued to yield names of Mariners. These are people associated with the Port of Richmond, those sea-going from the port, and those working the river from the port, between 1840 and 1940. Data storage and its manipulation is being explored. Linking the appropriate stories has proved challenging.



L to R: Vicki Evans, John Broadley, Margaret Schmitt

- Vicki **Evans (on left in photo)** has been researching and developing the **Mariner stories** to go with the names data. Some very interesting information has been unearthed.
- With the assistance of our Patron, Martyn **Killion**, we received the **Pilot's Register** from Museums NSW/State Records, and Margaret **Schmitt (on right in photo)** has been indexing it. This will assist State Records and provide more information about vessels and crews for this project.

We would be very happy to hear from anyone who had relatives "*working the water*", in the Ballina area prior to 1940. More helpers on the project would also be appreciated!



What's on the Web?

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From their journal *GHOSTBUSTER*. November 2022.

Ancestry.com Census Records in Australia

The following census databases are to be found on Ancestry.com

Select: For Australian records only

<https://www.ancestry.com.au/search/collections/catalog/?limitToCountry=1>

Type in – Keyword ‘Census’ and Search.

There are 17 databases selected – some of these are listed below.

*Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903-1980. [104,243,516 records].

*New South Wales, Australia, Government Gazettes, 1853-1899. [3,324,431 records].

*New South Wales, Census and Population Books, 1811-1825. [71,715 records]. *New South Wales, Australia, Returns of the Colony, 1822-1857. [79,904 records].

*New South Wales, Australia 1828-1842: Bounty Immigrants List. [6,473 records].

*1891 New South Wales, Australia Census. [190,892 records]

*1901 New South Wales, Australia Census. [259,940 records].

*Queensland, Australia, Commonwealth Electoral Rolls, 1906-1969. [2,678,278 records].

Note: When accessing any Ancestry database, e.g. those above, look at further information below the search facility displayed. This gives additional information on the database selected, which may assist in your research.

e.g. *“About New South Wales, Census and Population Books, 1811-1825.*

This collection contains population, land, and stock books giving details on the population of New South Wales for the years 1811–1825. All of these records pre-date the first official census, which was held in 1828”.

Further information is provided below that.

Story from the Past

The following article is reprinted from *The Northern Star* (Lismore, New South Wales) Friday, February 8, 1929. Page 9. Our research officer, Janine Thomson, came across this interesting story from the past in our Northern Rivers area and thought it worth sharing. Most of the article is transcribed, for ease of reading, though some words were indecipherable and have a few dots in place of the missing words or letters...

PIONEER'S PERSEVERANCE

Hauling Vessel Overland

HEART-BREAKING WORK REWARDED

When it comes to a question of facing difficulties with a stout heart and persevering in the face of apparently insurmountable obstacles, the present generation has to admit that the men who pioneered the Richmond River district were seemingly built of stouter stuff than the men of to-day. Hauling a beached barque of 260 tons out of the sand at the edge of the sea, over a terrace and then into a river nearly a mile away, all with tackle that left much to be desired was one of most astounding feats.

On April 30, 1872, the *Examiner* was carried ashore on the North Beach at Clarence Heads, where the breakwater now stands. The barque had taken a load of pine, from the Richmond to Grafton for a Clarence mill owner, Mr. D. B. Selman. The vessel left again in ballast and, there being no tug available, endeavoured to sail out. The *Examiner* was built at Coraki from hardwood timber by Mr. W. Yabsley, who was also owner and captain. The vessel was left high and dry a short distance above high water mark, but, owing to the sea that rolled in at this place and the way the barque sank into the sand, the task of getting her into the sea again was considered one nearly certain to result in total loss. The only alternative was to lift the ship out of the sand and drag it to the river, a mile away. The residents of the locality and the

insurance company expected the *Examiner* to become a total wreck but their views were not shared by the owner. He did not ask for advice on the matter, but made up his mind that the mile of land between the ship and the river was not an insurmountable obstacle, and then set about proving his ideas. The story of a daily struggle lasting from May 1 to October 9 is told in the owner's diary, a few brief words setting out the daily progress, or lack of it, and throughout the struggle the possibility of giving up the fight never seems to have occurred to him.

DEEP IN SAND

On May 1, 1872, the vessel was hard and fast in the sand and all the crew's efforts to move her only resulted in her settling deeper. The next day, Messrs. W. and H. Yabsley arrived from the Richmond to take a look at the ship they had helped to build, and on the following day Messrs. T. **King** and C. Yabsley arrived. On May 4, the vessel was eight feet down in her sandy bed and H. Yabsley started out for Coraki to obtain a team of bullocks. The next task was to dismantle the vessel's masts and rigging and, when the last of these were carried ashore on May 8, several of the crew left. The following day H. Yabsley arrived with a bullock team and was accompanied by T. Yabsley, O. **Jones**, J. **Flynn** and R. **Thompson**.

The next few days were spent in the scrub felling timber that would be required for the work of shifting the vessel, and the bullocks hauled the logs to the beach. At the end of a fortnight, May 14, H. Yabsley turned up with more working bullocks and on the next day the scrub was searched for long trees suitable for use in lifting the ship from the sand. They selected 40 good sound trees from 50 to 65 feet long, about 24 inches in diameter at the big end, tapering, to about 14 inches. On the next day W. **Exton** (well known in Lismore) arrived, and started work. Three days were spent in felling timber and then T. King and some of the crew who still remained started squaring logs on two sides, some to go under the vessel and some to go under the screw jacks and for use as levers.

ADEQUATE PREPARATION

On May 20 the men had been three weeks on the job, but all the work was in the nature of preparation for the task to come. However, the owner recognised that if his efforts were to be successful he could not afford to skimp his preparations and on that day a sawing pit was dug. There was not a sawmill anywhere within reach, in fact the gang working on the beach so seldom saw a strange face that when their camp did have a visitor, Captain Yabsley never failed to note the fact in his diary. He saw that to try and use levers on the sides of his ship was not likely to do the vessel any good, and the first thing the pit was used for was to saw cleats. These were pieces of wood 6ft long, 8in wide, and 6in thick, and it was the intention to bolt them on the side of the ship, where they would give the levers a good grip, and prevent damage to the sides. The work of sawing cleats and squaring logs continued till May 27, the only break in the monotony of the daily task being a visit by a passenger steamer from Grafton. She brought a number of passengers to look at the vessel and no doubt contained a

good many "wise heads" who laughed at the apparently impossible task undertaken by Captain Yabsley.

On May 27 and the next day some of the men were engaged in bolting on the cleats and getting the tackle into position. The next two days passed in digging away the sand from under the vessel to allow room for the screw jacks, and, after a few more days preparation, logs to support the jacks were placed under the ship where the sand had been dug away. Now came the critical time when the preparatory work was to be tested. The vessel was feet deep in sand and anyone will realise the difficulty of lifting 260 tons from clinging sand. The first day was not very promising, but it was not unproductive; All hands worked with screw jacks and 40 levers, 20 on each side of the ship, and, at the end of a day of heartbreaking toil, the *Examiner* was lifted eight inches from her sandy bed.

SLOW WORK

Captain Yabsley must have felt that the small progress made was encouraging, for, beyond the bare chronicle of the number of inches, his diary records nothing of his feelings in the matter! The fact that Mr. Tom **Borton**, the mailman from the Richmond, stayed the night, was of much greater importance. On June 6, 7 and 8, the ship was lifted by the stern two feet each day. The effort was continued day by day till June 12, when the stern was almost clear. On the next day the gang was trying to lever the rudder clear when one of the levers broke under the strain, and a flying piece of wood struck T. Yabsley, who was standing on the deck. The wood hit him in the head, knocking him about ... yards away, and stunning him. He was insensible for some hours. It was evident that a doctor was needed, so John **Robinson**, John Yabsley, and P. **Hyland**, rowed to Grafton for one, and Dr. ...on returned with them, and, left the next day after doing his best for the injured Yabsley.

The work had then been in progress for more than six weeks and the river must have seemed as far away as ever to the men engaged. The only fruit of their labours that they could see was the *Examiner* hanging in a strange way, her bows buried in the sand and her stern .ar, her decks tilted at an angle that made walking difficult. The gang had by this time made a fairly comfortable camp on the beach - comfortable for those days - and the bullocks were every night placed in a post and rails yard. The animals were "tailed" every night till 11 p.m. and then put in the yard. They were taken out about 4 a.m. and allowed to feed, then yoked up for the day's work about 8 a.m. Captain Yabsley supervised the work all day, and part of his daily routine was to post up, every day after tea, a record of what had been done, and an outline of the next day's duties. On June 14 a start was made with the lifting of the bow, a little was gained every day till June 18 and on that day the *Examiner* was clear of her sandy bed supported on a level with the beach by jacks and logs under her keel. Then a start was made to lay slipway pointing to the river a mile away and this continued for a week, some days being spent in the bush felling, squaring, and hauling timber.

OVERLAND "VOYAGE"

June 25 saw the vessel started on her long voyage overland, the day being devoted to pulling her on the slipways, the next day the ship travelled 20 feet toward her destination pulled with bullocks and tackle. Then came work that lasted for weeks. Every day the vessel would be a few feet nearer the river, the slipways behind were pulled up and placed down in front again, some days the ship would advance 25 feet, on other days only 15 feet, but it was all progress. With the handiness of ship builders and bushmen combined, larger pulley blocks were made and special devices on to which it was proposed to hook the bullock teams. On the first day they were used, the devices, which Captain Yabsley calls "wooden anchors" broke under the strain, so they started to make new and stronger ones. Another four teams of bullocks were brought from the Richmond.

On July 18, after nine weeks of toil, an easterly gale and heavy sea threatened to bring to naught all the labour performed by these stout hearted men. The logs were washed from underneath the *Examiner*, and left her hanging by the middle, and it speaks volumes for the sound workmanship that she did not break her back under the strain.

STEADY PROGRESS

The next day all hands started in to lift the vessel again with levers and screw jacks and turned her nose a little more inland to get away from the breakers that were still coming in unusually high under a following wind. On July 22 the big chain cable broke (1½ inch chain, doubled), but, nothing daunted, a start was made with another cable. Then the daily journey recommenced again, some days 10ft., some days 25ft., till on August 5 all previous records were broken with a haul of 40ft. in a day. Then commenced a period of longer daily haulages, 50 ft., 180ft., 199ft., were some of the daily totals. August 16 only 10ft. was gained owing to a strong wind blowing sand on the ways and preventing the vessel sliding.

Day succeeded day and still the men struggled on but were now heartened by the knowledge that they were working on a possible task. They had mishaps, broken gear, sand that must be dug away; there were a few visitors from the Richmond to see how they were getting on, for the fame of their task had by now spread far and wide. Tom Borton spent another night at the camp, Captain **Creer** and Captain **Muir** called to see their friend, Mr. C. **Garrett** walked along the beach from Ballina, Mr. **Cook** and others visited the camp, and, no doubt, lent a helping hand. Some of the gang tired of the life on the beach and left, others came and took their places, but still the work went on. On September 5, more than three months after work was started, the hauling party touched 200ft. in one day, for the first time. Then came a succession of good days, 290ft. was the record on September 7, until with cheers and shouts of joy, the good ship *Examiner* stood balanced on the bank of the Clarence on September 18. Then came the work of launching her and, six days later, the ship plunged into the waters, of the Clarence, after what was surely one of the strangest "voyages" a ship ever made. To the joy of the owner and his gang the rough handling had not affected the vessel and "she did

not leak a drop," says the old diary. Pilot **Freeburn**, his crew, and other visitors journeyed to see the launching and joined in the cheering, and no doubt, stayed over for celebrations at night time.

COST AND PERSONNEL

The rest of the work was easy to a shipbuilder. The spars and rigging were put back into place, and on October 8, C. and T. Yabsley said goodbye to the sand and salt water and started off home with the bullocks. On the next day the barque lay at the Clarence Heads, ready to put to sea.

A marvellous achievement for any men, the more so in this instance when the place, the tools available, and the times are considered. The work cost £1400, and the insurance company was more than satisfied as it expected it would cost at least three times this amount.

The old diary records the names of the men engaged: - Captain **Yabsley**, his four sons, William, Henry, Charles, and Thomas, his brother John, Thomas **King**, John **Robinson**, Oliver **Jones**, John **Flynn**, Robert **Thompson**, James **Cook**, Patrick **Hyland**, John **Lenos**, William **Green**, Charles **Benger**, Samuel **Baxter**, John **Ford**, two sailors who came from Grafton, and three of the crew.



Members at our Christmas in July Lunch



Gail Knowland, Robyn Hilan & Bonnie Bennett



Yvonne Randle, Shirley McAnelly & Robyn Wright

New Books in the Marie Hart Library

By Kerrie Alexander – Library Officer

Thomas Chapman of Hartwell House Kiama, NSW by Susan Lark [Bc-12]

From Brighton to Ballina No Fair Play! The Story of John Coleman by Dianne Wiggins & Joan Ransom [Bc-13]

The Woodburn Bridge Opening – Commemoration booklet of the opening of the Woodburn bridge in 1981. It includes a history of the ferries which crossed the Richmond River at Woodburn [H2.472/7]

A Bend in the River: Uncovering Woodburn's Tales from the Grave Stories of some of the Pioneer families of Woodburn. By Samantha Elley 2023. [H2.477/15]

Here's Ballina - a look at Ballina in the 1960s [H2.478/28]

The Lost Boys: the untold stories of the under-age Anzac soldiers who fought in the First World War by Paul Byrnes. 2019 [W-59]

Just a reminder that books with a yellow sticker on the front cover are not available to be borrowed and taken from the library. These include books about the local area. There are, however, 25 local area books, for which there are 2 copies, so the spare is available for loan.

New Members

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

Jan Aitken Ballina

Peter Johnson Jerrabomberra

Colette Luscombe Ballina

Gleanings of Journals in the Marie Hart Library

By Janine Thomson

“Letters From Home”. The story of an ANZAC and his landing on Gallipoli.

Timespan - Nepean FHS – June 2023 – Page 16

“From Circus Cages to Swirling Stages”. Tells of the constant evolution of Melbourne Zoo’s habitat designs.

“Researching Your Welsh Ancestors”. May help to discover more about immigrants from Wales.

Traces – Edition 23 – Page 17 & 28.

“Launceston Catholic Baptism Records for 1845-1885”. What the transcriber saw – an insight into how these records were entered and how errors can occur.

Tasmanian Ancestry – Tasmanian FHS – June 2023 –Page 14.

“Clear Fresh Water to Common Sewer:” The story Hobart’s Rivulet and Urban Streams.

“The Sydney Opera House”. A fractured history in scattered records.

HISTORY – Royal Aust. Historical Soc.- June 2023 – Page 6 & 18.

“Local Resources for Family History Research – County Clare”. Puts an emphasis on resources specific to the county of Clare.

“Connecting the Dots”. Instructs on how clustering your DNA results with colour dots will help find shared matches.

Irish Roots – Issue 126, 2023 – Pages 8 & 10.

“The Nimbin Aquarius Festival”. Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the 10 day festival.

RRHS Bulletin – May 2023 –Page 1.

“A Beginner’s Guide to Irish Research”. Dublin-based Genealogist shares essential advice for uncovering your Irish roots.

“Illegitimacy”. Reveals how to access and use online records to help identify any relations born out of wedlock.

“Around Britain – Worcestershire”. Focuses on information and records available for the county of Worcestershire.

Who Do You Think You Are – April 2023 - Page 14, 31 & 60.

Gleanings of Australian eJournals

By Jackie Chalmers

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

Australian A-I

My Mother's Family Came Free! Or Did They? by Frances Corcoran

The Heraldry and Gen. Soc. of Canberra Inc., The Ancestral Searcher, Mar 23

Studying Family History at the University of Tasmania by Kate Bagnall

The Heraldry and Gen. Soc. of Canberra Inc., The Ancestral Searcher, Jun 23

Modern Women from Garden City by Robyn Watters

AIGS Inc. Trading as Family History Connections, The Genealogist, Summer 22

Part 2 Jerry Daley's Story by Jan Regan

Alstonville Plateau Historical Society Inc., The Pioneer, Mar 23

Clara Ross Nee Daley visits Alstonville (in her own words)

Alstonville Plateau Historical Society Inc., The Pioneer, Jun 23

Historical NSW Title Deeds and Parish Maps Online by Wayne Hoppe

Armistead Family History Group Inc., Dust of Ages, Feb 23

Caring for Paper Based Collections by Julie McCarthy

Armistead Family History Group Inc., Dust of Ages, Jun 23

The Murder of Thomas and Bridget Kain and their Daughter Margaret by Marie Larnach

Bathurst Family History Society, Carillon Chimes, May 23

Continuing Story of the orphaned Dister children who arrived on the ship *Caeser* in 1855 by Pat Raymond

Bega Valley Genealogy Society, The Valley Genealogist, Feb 23

Setting the Records Straight on the Original 'Tathra Hotel' by Pat Raymond

Bega Valley Genealogy Society, The Valley Genealogist, Jun 23

The Barnsley's Sutton Forest Shop

Berrima and District FHS, Newsletter, Feb 23

Note the image on Page 2, Mittagong Swimming Pool Carnival in 1930's from image library on their website - Milestone for our Image Library – report by Linda Emery

Berrima and District FHS, Newsletter, Mar 23

- Local Dairy Industry and TS Mort's Fresh Food and Ice Company by Philip Morton
Berrima and District FHS, Newsletter, Apr 23
- Air Raid Shelters by Patsy Moppett
Blue Mountains Assoc. of Cultural Heritage Organisations Inc., Heritage, Mar-Apr 23
- From Convict Ship to Kurrajong Settler
Blue Mountains Assoc. of Cultural Heritage Organisations Inc., Heritage, Jun 23
- The Social Status of English Migrants: Booth's Poverty Maps of London by Peter C. Rickwood
Blue Mountains Assoc. of Cultural Heritage Organisations Inc., Heritage, Jul-Aug 23
- John Archer 'Jack' Bishop by John Levy *Botany Bay FHS Inc., The Endeavour, Mar 23*
- Not Everything is Online by Jennie Fairs *Botany Bay FHS Inc., The Endeavour, Jun 23*
- Ronald James (Jimmy) Budd OAM (1935 Mullumbimby – 2017 Billinudgel)
Brunswick Valley HS Inc., Museum, May 23
- Family Histories -link to Family-Historie.pdf (mullumbimbymuseum.org.au) a list of Biographies and Autobiographies of Women *Brunswick Valley HS Inc., Museum, Jun 23*
- Mullumbimby in Transition (Again) *Brunswick Valley HS Inc., Museum, July 23*
- What Does Letter Code 'D' Mean? By Val Messer *Bundaberg G A, Family Ties, Mar 23*
- Six in One Grave by Val Messer *Bundaberg G A, Family Ties, Jun 23*
- St Thomas' Enfield and Charlotte Hyndes by Susan Borel
Burwood & District FHG, Burwood Ancestry-tree, Mar 23
- Unusual People in my Family Tree, Nathan "Nat" Phillips, "Stiffy" from the comedy duo, "Stiffy" and "Mo" by Jan Neaves *Campbelltown District FHS Inc., GhostBuster, Mar 23*
- Thomas Peisley – my Convict Ancestor by Sharon Greene
Campbelltown District FHS Inc., GhostBuster, Jul 23
- Convicts in the Family – No Way! By Kaylene Morris
Casino & District FHG Inc., The Crossing Place, Feb 23
- I Have No News of Him! The Search for W.D.R. Groves by Dawn Springett
Central Coast FHS Inc., E-Muster, Apr 23
- Our Family Business by Judy Sanders *Colo Shire FHG Inc., Family Ties, Apr-May 23*
- 95 Years of Kurrajong CWA by Joy Shepherd
Colo Shire FHG Inc., Family Ties, Jun-Jul 23

- The Old Sherwood House by Joan Sussmilch
Cooroy-Noosa G & H Research Group Inc., Missing Link, May 23
- Emily Joyce Muir 1915-1995 by Margaret Stent *Cowra FHG Inc., Eagle Eye, Jun 23*
- The Wild Goose by the Fenian Convicts
Descendants of Convicts Group, The Mail, Feb-Mar 23
- Edward Elliot-The Dancing Convict
Descendants of Convicts Group, The Mail, May-Jun 23
- Raymond Kelly MBE – NSW Crime Fighter Part 1 by Steve Clayton
Dubbo & District FHS Inc., Newsletter, Mar-Apr 23
- Raymond Kelly MBE – NSW Crime Fighter Part 2 by Steve Clayton
Dubbo & District FHS Inc., Newsletter, May-Jun 23
- Another Brick Wall Climbed – Finding Elizabeth Sibley’s Death by Judy McCleary
Echuca–Moama FHG Inc., Bridges and Branches, Mar 23
- Hanlon and Sutton by Wendy Hicks
Echuca–Moama FHG Inc., Bridges and Branches, Jun 23
- The Museum of Sydney by Roderick Best (Director)
Fellowship of the First Fleeters, Founders, Apr-May 23
- The Remarkable Reach of DNA by Matthew Grice
Fellowship of the First Fleeters, Founders, Jun-Jul 23
- Forbes’ History Book Online by Monica Wren
Forbes FHG Inc., Lachlan Valley Gold, Feb 23
- The History of Goulburn Ambulance by Roger Bayley
Goulburn Historical & Gen. Soc. Inc., The Argyle Bulletin, Feb 23
- The Justice Precinct by Roger Bayley
Goulburn Historical & Gen. Soc. Inc., The Argyle Bulletin, May 23
- Concealment of Birth by Michelle Nichols
The Hawkesbury Crier, The Hawkesbury Family History Group, Jun 23
- Australia’s First Chief Constable– Henry Kable
*Hawkesbury-Nepean Chapter Fellowship of First Fleeters, Hawkesbury-Nepean
Newsletter, Autumn 2023*
- Australia’s First Piano – Reference: Dr Heather Blasdale-Clarke)
Fellowship of First Fleeters, Hawkesbury-Nepean Newsletter, Winter 20

Monthly Speakers

6 May 2023 – **Judy Cosgrove** coordinated the afternoon with 4 members telling us about their ancestors' **Occupations**.



Liz Marshall told us about her grandfather, Edward Newell **Vennard**, who was born in Redfern in inner Sydney in 1866. He became an architect, which Liz informed us comes from the Greek for 'chief carpenter'. After working in Bowral he moved back to Sydney and in 1914 designed a block of flats in Cronulla. In those days everything was drawn by hand. In the early 1920s he designed

another block of flats named *Blackstone*, in Elizabeth Bay. He also designed the adjacent block of flats a short time later. Both blocks are still standing.

John Broadley spoke about his 3x great-grandfather, Mark **Broadley**, who was a **cheesemonger** in the early 1800s in Blackfriars, London. It was a common occupation back then and there were many cheesemongers' shops. It is an ancient trade and cheese was found in the tombs of the Pharaohs! Cheshire Cheese was Britain's oldest, and was sent to London from the 1600s. The major market for it was London and the British Navy. In 1833, the production of Cheshire Cheese had reached 10,000 tons per year. Theft was common and a William **Eaton** was sentenced to 7 years transportation to New South Wales (NSW) in 1788. John found out when he was researching for his talk, that his wife and RTFHS member, Meryl Broadley, is descended from William Eaton, the cheese thief, as he is descended from the cheesemonger!

Jill McCann told us about her ancestor John Hubert **Plunkett**, who was born in 1802 in Roscommon, Ireland. He managed to attend Trinity College, even though this was uncommon for Catholics, and graduated in Law and became a **barrister**. He emigrated to NSW and was appointed Attorney General in 1836. He was involved in the formulating of many socially progressive laws, which established the equality of all before the law, including Aboriginal people. In 1838 he presided over the trial of the 11 stockmen charged with the murder of at least 28 Aboriginal people at Myall Creek, near Inverell, NSW. 7 were sentenced to death by hanging.

Richard Goss spoke about his great-grandfather, Francis **Goss**, who was a **heliographic printer** in the early 1900s. It was a complex process that was completed in their backyard

using sunlight and toxic chemicals. Architects' plans were one use of the copying process. His son Fred, Richard's grandfather, brought back from Germany after WW1, a forerunner of the photocopy machine, which sadly put his father out of business.

3 June 2023 – **Kerrie Alexander** gave a short description of **Family Search Affiliate**, which is now available in the *Marie Hart Library* as we have the NBN connected at last. It basically means that we can see all the records on the massive *Family Search* site, including all those with the key symbol attached, which means they are usually locked. It was suggested that it is best to use our own log-in details, so *Family Search* will show us our own information and anything we find will be saved to our tree etc. Alternatively, the RTFHS log-in can be used. Click on search, then 'catalog'. Then you can search by a place, surname, title, author, subjects &/or keywords. If you choose a place, the records available for that place will be shown and you can continue searching. It was suggested to look for what you want at home, then go to the *Marie Hart Library* and open up the locked records. Many of the records are copies of original register books. When scrolling through them, you might find surprises. It was also suggested to check the original record of an event, as there can be inaccuracies in transcripts.



The topic for **3 June** was **The First Clue that Sparked a Line of Enquiry** co-ordinated by **Robyn Hilan**. Talks by **Marlene Lester, Meryl Broadley, Carol Donaghy, Leonie Oliver, Fiona Jones** and **Robyn Hilan** were presented. Some of these will be printed in *The Cedar Log* at a future date. Robyn summarised that there are many sources of information, mentioned by the speakers, that might just provide a clue to help break down that

brick wall and further our research. Resources mentioned included local history societies, libraries, archives, family history libraries, cemeteries, churches, family stories and legends, family notes and things that were said by relatives, magazine articles, chance contacts with people in libraries or cemeteries, contacts via online interest groups, professional service providers, transcription agents, seminar speakers, free and subscription websites, and last but not least, DNA.

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.*

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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 2 September Meeting: DNA Lecture by Helen Smith via Zoom

Saturday 7 October Meeting: Family Search – How to Use it Better- John Tranter, former LDS Librarian at the FamilySearch Library in Goonellabah.

Saturday 4 November Meeting: Newspapers – where else to look besides TROVE – Carmel Crosby

Saturday 2 December: 40th Anniversary luncheon at the *Ballina Byron Islander Resort*, 1 Ronan Place, off River Street, **West Ballina**. Arrive 12 noon for 12.30 start.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership fees for the year 1 January to 31 December 2024 are \$40 Individual or \$50 Joint Membership. Journals will be sent to financial members only.