

THE Cedar Log

40th Year of Publication

Journal of the Richmond-Tweed Family History Society Inc.

Ballina NSW Australia



SURF CARNIVAL AT BALLINA

View over **Lighthouse Beach**, Ballina, New South Wales, during a surf carnival. Note the absence of vegetation and buildings in the background, which is the area bounded by Shaws Bay and the Richmond River and is now fully inhabited. Graphic 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 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.

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Editorial

By Carmel Crosby

2023 has commenced reasonably quietly without catastrophes that have marked the beginning of previous years in our area with fires, a pandemic and floods. This is where I am touching wood with my fingers crossed!

Christmas 2022 is now a memory, but inside this issue you can find an account of our Society's get-together with photos of some of the attendees. It was a very enjoyable event.

Also in this issue are articles contributed by Jill **Clark** and Meryl **Broadley**, who found reports of ancestors in newspapers – one who had a lucky escape, but the other was not so lucky. Dawn **Lotty** has written a story with twists and turns about her husband's grandmother's heritage and shows that persistence pays off when it comes to family history research. Leigh **Wilson** has written about another of his **Taplin** ancestors, who as a pilot had more lives than the proverbial cat!

Many thanks to Frank **Harvey**, a past president of our society, who was also editor of *The Cedar Log*. He has explained aspects of the **1939 pre-war survey of England and Wales**, which is a unique resource for family historians. Perhaps a story could be written for *The Cedar Log* about someone you found in the survey? There is also a short article about the **1921 Scottish census**, which was released late last year, so check it out if you have Scottish forebears.

Joann **Clapham** has resigned from coordinating the **Saturday Meeting Afternoon Teas**. Thank you for dedicating your time for so long to help the Society, Joann, and we hope to keep seeing you at meetings. Joy **Conlon** has kindly offered to take over from Joann and welcomes any offers of help with the afternoon teas, each first Saturday. Please contact her or the secretary if you wish to help.

In January this year, *The Ballina Wave* printed an introductory article on family history research and our Society written by Richard **Goss**, our President, assisted by committee members. We have been asked to contribute a further article on DNA for their March issue. Here's to a successful year on the family history research front and hopefully you find time to write a story and have it published in your Society's journal!

Carmel, Editor.

Nancy Leech

By Dawn Lotty – Member 924



After researching several generations of the paternal side of my husband's **Lotty** family in 2013, I came back to his parental grandmother Nancy **Leech** (see photo on left). Nancy married Joseph Lotty in 1901 and I knew from their marriage certificate and Nancy's death certificate in 1955, that Nancy's father was Richard Leech and her mother was Elizabeth **Harding**.

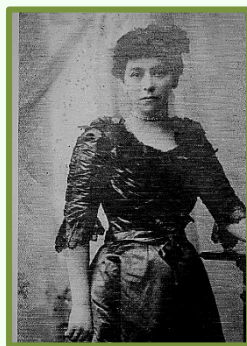
So while I waited for Nancy's birth certificate to arrive from the New South Wales (NSW) Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages (BDM) I started to research her father, Richard.

Richard Leech was a free settler. He was a carpenter and glazier and in 1840 obtained a job helping to build **The Canterbury Sugar Factory**, a large four storey stone building. The suburb of Canterbury is on the northern bank of the **Cooks River**, some 10 kilometres from the centre of Sydney. The Sugar Factory was built to process sugar from the Philippines. The site allowed the boats to sail into **Botany Bay** and up the Cooks River to berth at the Sugar Factory wharf.

In 1844 Richard married Elizabeth **Fanning** and built her a timber house just a few 100 metres from the Sugar Factory. I should provide a brief background to the house otherwise the rest of my story may not make sense.

The house backed onto the Cooks River just off Canterbury Road, the main road between Canterbury and Sydney. The house fronted onto a dirt track and until the mid-1930s it was the only house on what was finally named Close Street in about 1860. First the Leech family and then the Lotty family occupied the house until 1968 when it was demolished.

Richard Leech and Elizabeth Fanning had 5 children, but Elizabeth died in 1850. Richard then married Elizabeth Harding (see photo on right) in 1855 and they also had 5 children.



It was at this time that Nancy's birth certificate arrived and I was surprised to discover Nancy was born in 1875, eight years after her 'father' Richard had died in 1867.

So who was Nancy's father?

Despite a very long search, I could not find any records that gave me a lead on the problem so I gave up and put the entire research away.

In 2019, I decided to check all the gaps in my family history records and so I came again to Nancy. Usually, I like to find graves or burial plaques or perhaps a picture of the churchyard or cemetery to add to my research and I knew that **St Paul's Anglican Church, Canterbury**, was the resting place of choice for both the Lotty and Leech families, including Nancy, so I googled the church website.

I discovered that St Paul's had employed an historian, Ernest **Greenwood**, in 1988 to write a book on the history of their Parish. Luckily, the book was available online and provided an amazing account of the area with extensive references and extracts from newspapers and official records.

One chapter of 33 pages dealt with 'Pugilism'. It appears that Canterbury was a major venue for bare-knuckle fighting with contestants coming from as far away as Penrith, NSW, and Wollongong.

The fights were moved around the area, usually in pub yards, but also on farms and any large open space available, possibly to avoid the Police as the fights were illegal. The fights drew a large crowd of both men and women with the purse varying from 10 to 100 pounds, often topped up with the fighters betting on themselves and others to win.

The fighters, both men and women, had the most extraordinary names, such as, *The Butcher* and *The Strangler* while Elizabeth, the wife of *Joe The Basket Maker*, was known as *The Fighting Hen of Cooks River*. There was great rivalry between Canterbury on the north bank of the Cooks River and Parkestown - now Earlwood - on the southern bank of the River.

Parkestown was founded by John **Parkes** and his wife Margaret **Southern**, who had three sons who were bare-knuckle fighters. The eldest, William Parkes, often referred to as 'the best fighter of the era' fought under the name of *Bill Sparks*. The middle brother, Isaac Parkes (see photo on right), the least talented of the three, fought under the name of *Iky Sparks*. The youngest brother, Thomas Parkes, who was described as skilful and elegant, fought under the name of *The Sprig of Myrtle*. The brothers and their



families lived together on a large family property and usually fought on the same programme, taking on all comers.

In 1870, however, the fighting fraternity was shocked by a scandal, widely reported by the sporting newspapers of the day, that would tear the Parkes family apart. It was not that Isaac had left his wife, Sarah, and their 10 children for a widow, who lived in Close Street, Canterbury, but the fact that he now intended to fight for the Canterbury side of the River and would change his fighting name from *Iky Sparkes* to the *Canterbury Bloomer*.

Had I found Nancy's father!

I was now able to track the Parkes family in other publications such as the book *Parkestown to Earlwood*, and on multiple websites and on TROVE (<https://trove.nla.gov.au/>). The fighters were often arrested and appeared before a magistrate, who would issue a fine and then let the fighters go free. Isaac, who appeared regularly, now gave his address in the court proceedings as 'Close Street, Canterbury'.

The bad feeling between the brothers, William and Isaac, was displayed when the pair was arrested for disturbing the peace in 1881. A newspaper report states that William was "employed to erect a fence, Isaac came upon the ground and without ceremony chopped it down". Isaac was found guilty and paid a fine. Again he gave his address as 'Close Street, Canterbury'.

Isaac died from a cerebral haemorrhage in 1900. His address was listed as Close Street, Canterbury. His funeral notice in the newspapers of the day also gave the same address.

By now I felt confident that I had found Nancy's father.

Sadly, Isaac was not buried at St Paul's, Canterbury, with Elizabeth and Nancy, but buried at the Wesleyan Cemetery, Moorefields, perhaps with the hope he would be finally reunited with his family. While the Parkes family graves are all together and have very nice marble headstones, Isaac is buried far away by himself in an unmarked grave.

As you can imagine, there has been little or no acknowledgement from the Parkes family of Isaac's relationship with Elizabeth or recognition of the existence of Nancy (and her younger brother John) as being of the Parkes family, but I have now learnt that a very recent DNA test, by a direct descendent of Nancy's, has finally resolved any doubt.



The 1921 Scottish Census

By Carmel Crosby, The Editor



The 1921 Census of Scotland has been launched on [ScotlandsPeople](https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk) – pages from the census cost 6 credits (equivalent to £1.50 – approx. AUD\$2.70). As explained in the last issue of The Cedar Log, there is no subscription to ScotlandsPeople and credits must be purchased to view documents. The pages shown on ScotlandsPeople are of the enumeration books, which contain all the information transcribed from the household schedules, which were completed by the householder on census night. The schedules were destroyed once all the information had been transcribed. You will need to register (at no cost) and log in, to be able to search the census and other records. On this census page <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/advanced-search/census-returns> type in information about the ancestor you are looking for and detailed results come up for the persons who match this information, including - full name, age in 1921, location (road name and county/city). From there you can choose to purchase credits to view the actual census page.

In a new item about the 1921 census on the ScotlandsPeople site <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/article/news-article-1921-census-records-released> it mentions how the census was scheduled to be taken on 24 April 1921. However, due to industrial unrest, it was postponed until 19 June. As a consequence of the summer date, many people were at holiday locations across Scotland and the wider UK, instead of their normal residences. This is something to consider if you cannot find a particular person or family where you think they should be – they may have been on holiday!

Whilst looking at information about the Scottish Census, I came across a link to an article listing free Scottish resources by Chris Paton, who spoke at our Scottish Seminar last year. It lists many archives including 17-18th century tax records, mining records and old newspapers. <https://www.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com/tutorials/17-best-free-online-scottish-resources/>



Found in a Box

By Jill Clark – Member 396

I have only ever seen Botany Bay as a sheltered, calm, peaceful bay, usually sparkling in the sunshine with families dotted around the curving beach area and small sailing boats enjoying the gentle breeze out on the water. Recently, as I was looking through a box of my late husband, Alf's, family records, I came across a faded photocopy of a report in the *Sydney Morning Herald* dated Saturday 3rd June 1893, page 9. I had heard that three of Alf's early Turner relations had died in a "freak accident" in Botany Bay a long time ago, so my attention was attracted by the heading below. You might like to read with me the reporter's illuminating description of events.

**TERRIBLE FATALITY IN
BOTANY BAY.**

**CAPSIZE OF A SAILING
BOAT.**

SEVEN LIVES LOST.

ONLY ONE SURVIVOR.

Yesterday afternoon a terrible fatality occurred in Botany Bay. A sailing boat, in which were seven men and a boy, swamped in the middle of the bay, and of the occupants only one man escaped drowning. With one exception, all the men were brick-makers. Their names are as follows:—James Bennett, residing in Terrace-street, Tempe; Herbert Bennett, his son; Henry Turner, of Albert-street, St. Peters; John Turner, King-street, Newtown; Thomas Turner, St. Peters-street, St. Peters; Albert Eales, Cook's River-road, Cook's River; Andrew M'Kechnie (storeman), May-street, Newtown; and Charles Watts (the survivor), Campbell-street, St. Peters.

For ease of reading, the rest of the article has been transcribed...

“The men all being engaged in outdoor occupation were prevented working by the rain yesterday and so it was decided early to go on a fishing expedition. A party was accordingly organized of those whose names are given above and at a quarter past seven o’clock a start was made for Cooks River in a 22 ft. sailing boat owned by a man named Clark. James Turner was in charge and in addition to having control of the tiller, he held the main sheet in his hand. The sewer bridge at Shea’s Creek was cleared at about a quarter past 9 o’clock and the boat was headed then straight for Kurnell on the south-eastern shore of Botany Bay, of which spot it was intended to anchor and fish. At the time it was raining in torrents and was bitterly cold. A fair wind was blowing from the west and with this at their quarter, the boat made good time to its destination which was reached about a quarter to 11 o’clock. Hardly had they arrived there when the wind veered around and blew strongly from the south-west raising a nasty cross sea. Under these circumstances it was deemed wise to forego the fishing, have an early dinner and then go oystering at Weenie. The anchor was dropped under the lee of Kurnell, and dinner was prepared, three schnapper fishermen who were aboard a five-ton fishing boat, dining with them. The fishermen had been at Kurnell for a couple of days and intended waiting there until the weather moderated. After dinner sail was made to Weenie Creek where a load of oysters was gathered. At half-past 3 o’clock it was decided to start for home. Two reefs were taken in the mainsail and the area of the jib was also reduced. All the afternoon the wind had been increasing in force and had been gradually shifting further southward. At the time of leaving a regular gale was blowing. After the boat got from under the lee afforded by Kurnell the full force of the gale became apparent and with the wind right behind her she made great pace to the northern shore of the Bay. Frequently she broached to, but Bennett, who is spoken of as being an extremely careful man at boat sailing, always managed his tiller up in time. The distance from shore to shore was about seven miles, and for about three miles, although there were several escapes from filling, Bennett contrived to keep her well before the wind and with the exception of some spray he took little water over. The wind now became very uncertain, sometimes dying away in puffs and then coming up again in powerful gusts. The direction also was very uncertain, veering from south-west to south-east. About half the distance across the bay had been accomplished, and when in a direct line between the Baths at Lady Robinson Beach and the inner north head of Botany, the mainsail was struck. A heavy gust of wind came down on them. At the same time her bow fell into the trough of a sea, under which she ran. From this she partly recovered, and had just gathered way again, although she was half full, when the main-sheet block on the boom gave way. The mainsail battered against the stay on the mast, the boat again ran under, filling almost to the gunwale and the boom dragging in the water, at the same instant, she rolled over. Those in her clambered on to the craft’s side and as she gradually turned bottom upwards they got on the bottom, clinging with their hands to the keel. Watts was the last to get on to her and obtained a good hold of the stern post. The sea tumbled them about, and the boat was rolling first on one side and then on the other. Striving to keep a hold, and at the same time working with the craft as she rolled, proved tiring work,

so that with the bitter coldness which all felt, the weaker ones began to get exhausted. Thomas Turner was the first to go, about 10 minutes after the boat went over, and he was followed by the boy Herbert Bennett. Following them at short intervals, Albert Eales and Harry Turner let go of their hold on the keel and sank without a word. James Bennett drifted away and was caught by Watts who put him on the boat again. Bennett, however, could not retain his hold long, and falling unconscious sank alongside his comrades. James McKechnie, who was the next to be drowned, was washed off the bow for a few minutes. He struggled desperately to regain his hold, but the seas were too strong for him, and becoming exhausted he drifted away leeward. Only two now remained on the boat - John Turner and Charles Watts – and it was about an hour and a half after the boat had capsized. She had drifted about 2 ¾ miles and was nearly half a mile from the Botany Pier. Watts exerted himself, calling for help and at last he was heard by the men on the schooner Albatross, which was lying at the pier. Four of them.... put off in a dingy, but after pulling nearly 200 yards she was swamped and they had perforce to return to shore. Meanwhile the overturned boat had drifted to within a quarter of a mile of the shore. Turner had been twice washed off, but on both occasions he had been caught by Watts as he swept along with the waves and had been put on again. The third time he was forced to let go his hold, and Watts, although he bravely endeavoured to save him, was unsuccessful, and Turner sank within sight of help. A large boat was now put off from the shore, but before it could be manned, Watts had been swept sufficiently close in to feel the bottom and he then waded to the beach. He landed behind the Sir Joseph Banks Grounds. At the Pier Hotel a change of clothing was procured for him, and he proceeded to his home in the tram. Here he spread the news of the fatality and quickly the wives and relatives of the drowned men were made aware of the sad loss they had sustained.

McKechnie and J. Turner were unmarried, and so is C. Watts. The other men were all married, and three of them leave families. H. Turner, who was 45 years of age, was manager of the Carrington Brickworks, St Peters. Herbert Bennett was 10 years of age, and the ages of the others varied from 21 to 33 years.

The boat was 22ft long, with a fore peak. Her mast was about 20ft high, and the sail had a hoist of 17ft. The length of the boom was about 16ft.”

POSTSCRIPT: Five bodies were recovered the next day and taken to the South Sydney Morgue. A postmortem was held and on Monday 5th June an Inquest with the finding being “Accidental deaths” and the survivor, Charles Watts, was commended for his bravery. An impressive funeral procession of hearses, mourning coaches, cabs and other vehicles was reported leaving the Morgue for the Necropolis.

The three Turner men were my husband’s great uncles. I have since looked at Trove (<https://trove.nla.gov.au/>) and found many reports of boating accidents on Botany Bay over the years, so I have adjusted my thoughts of it as always being a tranquil Bay!

When is a Census Not a Census?

By Frank Harvey Member - 724

The answer to the above question is easy. It's when it's a 'Survey'—as in the 1939 Pre-War Survey of the 40+ million inhabitants of England and Wales.

England had declared the long-expected War on Hitler's Germany on 3 September 1939 and by 29 September that year, sixty-five thousand Enumerators were ready to gather the required information in as short a period as possible.

The design of the Survey was based heavily on an existing template already in preparation for a proposed 1941 National Census. However, it is quite different from a regular Census. When you take your first view of a page from this Survey it can look quite messy. Numerous lines of information are ¹redacted, and there is often some additional detail entered in red, green or blue pen. However, when your eyes adjust to the format of the page you will be able to locate a person's 1939 home address, gender, marital status, employment, and most significantly, the full birth date of each person (something never found on a regular UK Census!).

Because exact birth dates are not always available through official birth registration resources, this Survey becomes a very valuable tool . . . particularly as this is the only surviving record of the population of England & Wales between ²1921 and 1951—a 30-year gap in the genealogical knowledge of our English/Welsh ancestors.

It contains entries for every 'John' and 'Mary' in the population, as well as notable persons like Neville Chamberlain and Sir Winston Churchill. Even the members of the Royal family and the Royal household at Buckingham Palace, London, were not exempt from inclusion.

This Survey was used by the British Government to issue Identity Cards at the onset of World War II (1939-1945) and later, it aided the issue of Rations books in January 1940 when food supplies became short. It was used to plan mass evacuations of people from vulnerable areas, and to conscript suitable personnel for the war-effort. The Survey was also used in the founding of post-war services like the British NHS (National Health Service) in 1948.

¹ Redacted lines include persons born less than 100 years ago – unless they are known to have died since 1939. Fortunately, your writer's personal entry remains redacted!

² 1931 Census lost in a fire and 1941 Census never taken because of the War.

Surprisingly, the Survey was still being used for British Government purposes as late as 1991, when digital services finally replaced paper records.

Military Service personnel were not included in this Survey, even if they were billeted in private homes or located at their home address for any reason at that time.

WHAT ARE THOSE ADDITIONAL RED, GREEN OR BLUE ENTRIES ALL ABOUT?

The British population was required to ³report to the government any change of address, as well as a marriage. When a woman married, her new surname became one of the changes made to the Survey; with details being added in bold RED pen. This is a boon for researchers when seeking the family history of female relatives known to be alive and unmarried in 1939. Other red markings may refer you to further details on other pages of the Survey, or give better definition to a person's employment description.

There are also GREEN and BLUE additional notes found on some pages. If you can interpret them, some can give you either the date of the marriage of a previously single woman, or the date of the change of surname – or even a connection to the issue of a subsequent NHS membership number.

Immediately after the Declaration of War, arrangements were made for thousands of 'city' children to be evacuated to live with 'country' families. In the central area of some major cities only very few children remained to be included on the 1939 Survey. If family sources have told you about the evacuation of one of your English child-relatives, you can look for them by searching the numerous 'Reception areas' to which these children were evacuated.

THE RIGHT-HAND SIDE OF THE PAGE

The extreme right-hand side of the page can contain some interesting information. One of the writer's Uncles is listed as a 'Painter Decorator and Paper Hanger' – but in the right-hand column it is noted that he was a member of the ⁴ARP Work Service organisation. These people served their local community by checking that people were taking proper cover during enemy Air Raids – and also checking that people had their windows suitably blackened, so as not to expose house lights to enemy aircraft which may fly overhead at night.

³ The WWII National Registration regulations imposed some restrictions on citizens – restrictions not lifted until 1952.

⁴ ARP = Air Raid Precautions Officer.

My Aunt was employed as a Librarian – but the right-hand column described her as a ‘Women’s Voluntary Service Clerk’, which was an equivalent ARP organisation for women.

As a young girl during WWII, my wife always felt she was safe, as soon as her father put on his special ARP armband.

WHERE TO VIEW THE 1939 PRE-WAR SURVEY ONLINE?

An online edition of the Survey was made public in 2016 and is currently available through subscription sites Findmypast and Ancestry. Findmypast regularly opens redacted lines as a person’s death is confirmed or their birth date passes the 100-year limitation; while Ancestry updates the available records annually.

Happy Hunting.



Pioneer Families Project



Are you descended from a Ballina Pioneer?

The *Ballina Historical Society Museum* at Pimlico is interested in your family story.

There is a dedicated space at the Museum with a rotating display of information about a pioneer family of the district.

After being on display, the material is filed as a resource for future researchers.

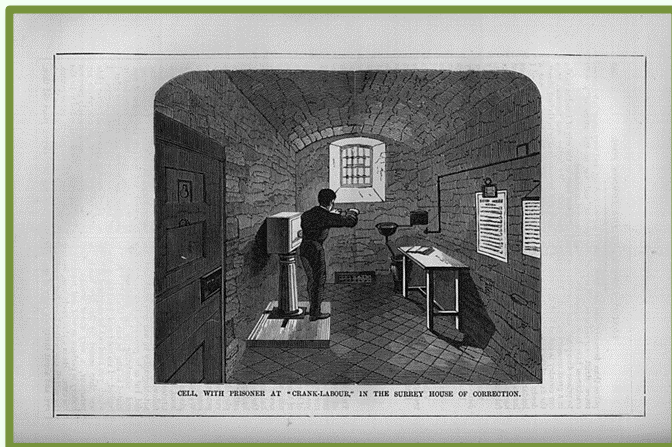
If you are interested in telling your family’s story at the Museum please contact Jill McCann (jillymccann@gmail.com) or Patricia Wilson (trishajean36@gmail.com)

The Crank

One of the 'hard labour' punishments used by the British penal system, like the treadmill or picking oakum, was The Crank. It was a mechanical device the prisoner had in their cell, which they had to turn the handle of for many hours a day. There was resistance on the other side of the box that the crank was attached to, as paddles moved through sand. The warders would come in when they felt like it and tighten the screws on the device to make it harder to turn and therefore making the prisoner work harder. This is how the warders came to be known as 'Screws'.

In the 1800s, the powers that be decided that the policy of reform and rehabilitation was too soft and hard labour was instituted. This harsh system was still in operation when Oscar Wilde was imprisoned in the 1890s. He later wrote in *The Ballad of Reading Gaol*...

*With midnight always in one's heart,
And twilight in one's cell,
We turn the crank, or tear the rope,
Each in his separate Hell...*



Picture from Wikicommons: Henry Mayhew's "London Labour and the London Poor", 1851.

Christmas Party 2022

The Society's Christmas Luncheon was held on 3 December 2022 at Summerland Farm, Alstonville. Those attending enjoyed catching up with members and friends over a delicious lunch. A Christmas word quiz, devised by Leonie **Oliver**, was challenging for most of us but 4 members gained a top score of 20, so Leonie held a runoff question in which one of our newest members, Linda **Maslen**, was victorious and went home with a delicious box of chocolates. Thank you Leonie for organising the quiz.

The Christmas raffle was drawn and the winner of the \$100 gift card was Robyn **Wright** (member 986); the \$50 gift card was Audrey **Doman** (member 297) and \$25 gift cards were Vicki **Evans** (member 1016) and Carol **Brown** (member 677). Thank you to all those who bought raffle tickets to support The Society.

Apologies were received from Kerrie **Alexander**, Gwen **Robinson**, Nola **Chapman** and Joann **Clapham**, some as a result of Covid infections. We wish all members and their families a full recovery if they have had the dreaded virus.



Leonie Oliver, Bonnie Bennett, Jill Clark, Carol Donaghey





John & Shirley McAnelly, Carmel Crosby, Nola Rodey



Carol Donaghey, Jenny Craddock & Marlene Lester



Robyn Hilan & Christine Whitten



The Choir - Jackie Chalmers, Liz Marshall, Jill Clark & Anna Wutte

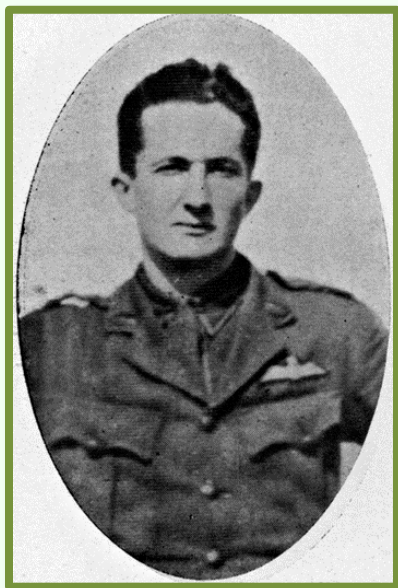
Leonard Thomas Eaton TAPLIN

by Leigh Wilson – Member 805

On 17 December 1903, the **Wright** brothers made the first aeroplane flight in the world, whereupon enthusiasts energetically sought to make machines that would stay airborne for longer, carry more and do more. At the start of the First World War in 1914, it was envisaged as a land-and-sea war; neither side foresaw how quickly aeroplanes would come to aid army activities.

A great-uncle of mine, Len **Taplin**, became a flying ace late in that War, at a time of primitive flying machines and dare-devil pilots. Australia's RAAF did not exist; the aeroplanes and their crews were part of the Army.

-----ooo0ooo-----



Leonard Thomas Eaton Taplin (**pictured on left**) was born at Malvern, a suburb of Adelaide, South Australia, on 16 December 1895. He was the eighth of ten children born to Flora Mary **Winch** and her husband Charles Eaton Taplin, a self-made architect.

Len attended Prince Alfred College in Adelaide. After graduation, he worked as assistant to an older brother Harold Eaton Taplin, who was the engineer in charge of the Electrical Supply Company at Parramatta, New South Wales (NSW).

Following Australia's prompt participation in the War, on 12 June 1915 Len joined the **Australian Imperial Force** (i.e. the Army) as an engineer. After training in England, he served nine months in France as a sapper, and after about 9 months in the trenches, he applied for a transfer to the **Australian Flying Corps (AFC)**.

His application for transfer was accepted and after training, he was assigned to 1 Squadron AFC, in the Middle East as a *Royal Aircraft Factory B.E.2* pilot. At that time, aeroplanes

were not at all standardised - it was little more than ten years since the first planes had flown - and each type of plane required skills specific to it alone.

Two or so weeks was allowed for training each new pilot, many of whom crashed during training, some fatally. Len crashed but survived. With training completed, each pilot was moved into war-fighting duties where a great many did not survive beyond 3 or 4 weeks.

A short while after joining his unit's B Flight, he crashed near Khan Yunis, a town in the south of the present-day Gaza Strip, Palestine. Next, on 8 November 1917 while on a bombing sortie, he wrecked his plane. He was seriously injured, and his observer died in the wreck.

After 2 or 3 months of recovery, Len was assigned to General **Allenby** to do pioneering aerial photography or mapping. Allenby used five Australian pilots to photograph a 1,620 km² area in Palestine to help correct and improve maps of the Turkish front. Len and four others photographed an area of land stretching from the Turkish front lines to 51 km deep into their rear areas. They started the project early in 1918, flying with a fighter escort to ward off enemy fighters. Using Royal Aircraft Factory's B.E.12 and *Martinsyde* aeroplanes, they not only overcame enemy air attacks, but also bucked 100 km per hour winds, dodged anti-aircraft fire and survived malfunctioning equipment to complete their task late in January 1918.

Two days before that project finished, during a photo sortie at 3,700 metres to map the town of Nablus, Len's camera started jamming. Holding the joystick with his knees, he dismantled the camera to clear the jam. While the camera was disassembled, however, he was attacked by a German *Albatros*. He drove the German away with a burst of 30 rounds of machine gun fire, then completed the repair of the camera while in flight and carried on to finalise the mission.

A few weeks later (in March 1918), he left the Middle East for the Western Front to pilot a *Sopwith Camel* based at Reclinghem in north west France.



The Australian Flying Corps top air ace Arthur Henry "Harry" Cobby in a colourful Sopwith Camel biplane in Britain, when he was posted there as a flight instructor 1918-1919. He was awarded the DFC, as was Lt. Taplin. Photo courtesy the Aust. War Memorial.

Early in June 1918, the King instituted new decorations for the Royal Air Force. For officers, there was *The Distinguished Flying Cross* (DFC), for gallantry, and the *Air Force Cross* for courage and devotion to duty. For non-commissioned officers and men, there was *The Distinguished Flying Medal* and the *Air Force Medal*. Four Australian officers were thereupon awarded the *Distinguished Flying Cross*, including Lieutenant L. T. Taplin.

On 17th July, Len scored his first aerial victory by destroying a German *Albatros* two-seater reconnaissance plane. A few days later, he was taking off on a pre-dawn bombing raid with *Very* flares, high explosives and a phosphorus bomb, in addition to his usual load of fuel and ammunition when, speeding along the runway, his *Camel* plane hit a rut breaking the axle on the landing gear. Len quickly unfastened his safety harness and rushed from the crash-in-progress, becoming slightly singed from the resulting explosion.

It was now that Len began flying *Sopwith Camel* plane number 1407, with which he would score 10 victories.

On 30 July, he drove down an out-of-control *Fokker*, and the following day he scored twice, driving down two *Fokkers*. On 7 August, he set an *Albatros* afire in the air, south of Laventie, and then 2 days later he destroyed a *Hannover* reconnaissance plane north of Marquillies.

On 1 September, Len became a balloon buster, destroying a German observation balloon over Fromelles. The next day, he shot down and wrecked a *Halberstadt* reconnaissance plane. Two days later he destroyed a balloon, that evening another, and 2 days later, yet another. During a dogfight in the evening of that same day, he sent a *Fokker* down out of control.

It was later in this same dogfight that his combat career came to an end. When outnumbered by a ratio of 5 or 6 to one, Len and his three squadron mates came under the attention of German fighters. At 4,600 metres, Len was shot through the right hand by the German ace, Christian **Mesch**, breaking Taplin's wrist and causing him to throw his plane into a stall. He recovered, using only his left hand, and then downed the *Fokker*. Soon after he was hit by another burst of fire that shattered the breech of his machine gun and inserted a shard of shrapnel into his nose. Stunned, he tumbled to an altitude 300 metres, followed by two Germans. Skirmishing with them he shot one down and chased the other off. Now no longer engaged by enemies he was at the minuscule height of 30 metres, coping with a rough-running engine and piloting with his one good hand. In these circumstances, he got through several kilometres of small arms fire while attempting to return to the Allied lines, but crashed several hundred metres behind the German front lines, where he was taken prisoner.

As a prisoner-of-war, he was treated well, including having surgery for his injuries. The war finished in November 1918, but he wasn't released from the prisoner-of-war camp until 1919

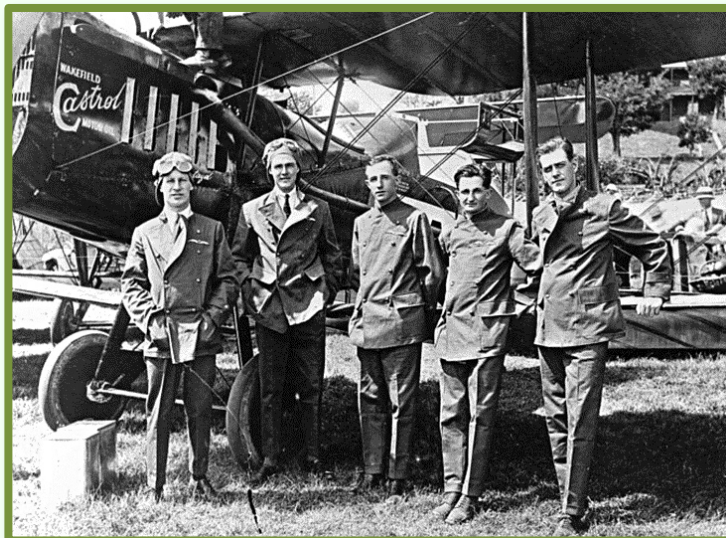
and arrived home on 23 August 1919 - nearly a year after the war had ended. He was 22 years old.

Having met and married a young English woman in England during the war, she travelled with him to Australia. They lived for a short while in South Australia and Victoria and then in 1921 they moved to Western Australia (WA) for Len to join Norman **Brearley's** fledgling *Western Australian Airlines Limited (WAA)* as a pilot. By this time the marriage had gone cold and the couple divorced in 1924.

In 1921, Brearley won the Australian Government's tender for the first air-mail and passenger contract in Australia. It was to run from Geraldton to Derby in the North West of WA, via Carnarvon, Onslow, Roebourne, Port Hedland & Broome. It would also make stops at isolated places when needed. On 5 December 1921, WAA operated the first-ever scheduled commercial flight in Australia when it departed Geraldton, WA. In contrast QANTAS (Queensland & Northern Territory Aerial Services Ltd.), although established on 16 November 1920, did not operate its first scheduled service until 2 November 1922. The photo below was taken in Perth, WA, the day before the first flight.

Charles **Kingsford Smith** (later Sir) was one of the first 5 pilots. Their first passenger was pastoralist and politician, Mr M. P. **Durack**. On the first day unfortunately, an accident killed pilot, Bob **Fawcett** and his mechanic, Edward **Broad**.

Pilots at Langley Park, Perth, on 4 December 1921, prior to the Bristol 28 Tourers departing for Geraldton. (Left to right - Charles Kingsford Smith, Bob Fawcett (killed the next day), Norman Brearley, Len Taplin, Val Abbott)

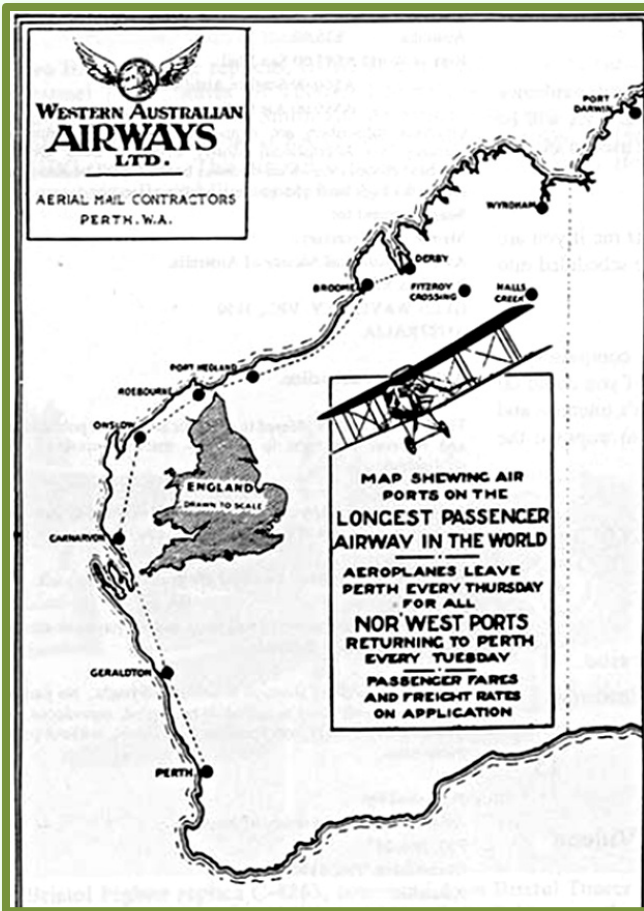


The pilots and other staff faced many challenges in this pioneering enterprise. Accidents were not uncommon and in 1924, Len's plane nose-dived from about 100 metres into Port Hedland Creek. His passenger, Samuel **Mackay**, was killed and Len reported to the inquest that he had no idea what went wrong to cause the accident and that the engine had been running well. The mechanic on board, George **Wilson**, noticed something was wrong when the plane started to drop, so got out of his seat onto the steps, and when the plane struck the water he was half thrown and half jumped to safety. A lucky escape!



*The wreck of G-AUDH on 15 July 1924, after pilot Len Taplin crashed in Port Hedland creek. The flight was a charter by Mundabullunga Station owner Keith Mackay who drowned in the wreckage. Taplin and his engineer received minor injuries. The aircraft remains were shipped to Perth to be used in a major rebuild which was given a new registration G-AUDZ.
Photo courtesy Lindsay Nothrop collection*

For an excellent pictorial history of the WAA, view the site <https://www.goodall.com.au/australian-aviation/west-australian-airways-1/westaustrianairways.html> from where the last photo and map have been sourced, The site attributes them to photographs from the compiler's collection, some taken by WAA ground engineer Frank **Colquhoun**. The majority are from personal photo album of WAA founder Sir Norman Brearley.



The map shows the route from 1924 onwards, after WAA was allowed to commence the run in Perth. The government had finally accepted that it was no threat to the Perth – Geraldton railway line.

Len married again, happily this time, and four sons were born. He became a long-term and prominent resident of Port Hedland, where he owned and operated the electricity generation plant that supplied the town's power, a meat business, a store, an engineering workshop, a cartage contracting business and an undertaking business. No doubt his pre-war training as an electrical engineer was very useful in this remote location where self-sufficiency was invaluable.

During World War 2, Len joined the Australian Army in an on-ground capacity.

In its November 7th, 1942 edition, Smith's Weekly stated "Brilliant fighter pilot of the last war, Len Taplin, must often feel the urge to be aloft again as he reads of the deeds of the men handling the Spitfires and Hurricanes to-day. "Tap" has a flourishing engineering business at Port Hedland (NW Aust), is a lieutenant in the VDC [Volunteer Defence Corps]. Awarded the DFC [Distinguished Flying Cross] for gallantry in the 1914-18 show, Taplin is described in the official history of the Australian Flying Corps as "a skilful pilot and a dead shot". His score of victims entered double figures and he shot down several balloons. He was a member of No. 4 Squadron which did great work in France in 1918." The article went on to describe

his war-time exploits in detail. His life-long nickname was “Tap”, and he was often referred to as Pilot Taplin.

Apart from his numerous business involvements he took an interest in prospecting for minerals and was active in community matters. In 1947, Len stood in the elections for the WA parliament. The vote resulted in a tie, whereupon the returning officer awarded a casting vote to the sitting member and declared him elected. Len contested this in court, and a fresh ballot was ordered, but he lost it narrowly. In 1950 he stood for the Liberal Party but again narrowly lost.

Late in life he retired to Perth, where he died on 8 July 1961, aged 65 years. His funeral was held at the Karrakatta Crematorium, Perth, Western Australia.

A child-care facility at Port Hedland is named after 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 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!



What's on the Web?



Compiled by Carmel Crosby, Editor

Please send in useful websites you have found to be included in *The Cedar Log*. If possible, send a short description along with the link to the editor's email address editorcedarlog@gmail.com

To look at the links below, if you don't have access to the internet, drop into the Marie Hart Library (MHL) during opening hours and the duty officer can assist you to look up these websites or any others that might be useful for your research.

Presented in this issue are some **Family History Podcasts**, which can be found directly on a computer using the link or by typing the name of the series (written in italics) in a **podcast app** on your smartphone or tablet. Details are usually given for each episode, so you can pick and choose which to listen to.

<https://familyhistoriespodcast.com/> Hosted by Andrew Martin from England, The Family Histories Podcast already has 4 seasons, so there's lots to listen to. It aims to be a positive, conversational, fun show about family history and family historians. Each episode interviews one guest about their family history research, including an extra special ancestor and a brick wall that they still need to solve.

<https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/podcast> The *Really Useful Podcast* is hosted by Joe **Saunders**, from the UK. Each episode covers a different topic such as Newspapers, One Place Studies etc.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006zbxm/episodes/player> Although over 10 years old, these episodes of *Tracing Your Roots* from the BBC, make interesting listening. Presented by Sally **Magnusson** and assisted by Nick **Barrett**.

<https://lisalouisecooke.com/podcasts/> The Genealogy Gems Podcast from the USA helps you make the most of your family history research time by providing quick and easy-to-use research techniques. Host, Lisa Louise Cooke, aims to 'bring you the best websites, best practices, and best resources available'. The first episode I listened to, #272, was 15 Freebies for Genealogy and was excellent.

<https://www.extremegenes.com/extreme-genes-podcast> From the USA, *Extreme Genes* host Scott **Fisher** has a wide range of guests from professional companies and family history associations. With over 400 episodes available there is plenty to choose from.

<https://familytreemagazine.com/genealogy-podcast/> From the USA, the *Family Tree Podcast* has a variety of presenters and interesting topics, with many episodes available.

Happy Listening!

What's in the Marie Hart Library?

By Kerrie Alexander – Library Officer



In the Marie Hart Library (MHL) we have much of interest to the family history researcher from books, journals, microfiche and CDs plus access to the internet and *Find My Past* (FMP).

Our focus is not just on the local area, but around the world, as our families spread out and populated young countries that were eager to welcome new arrivals.

FMP is a subscription website which, as well as many Australian records, has a wonderful collection of English parish registers, both transcripts and original images. They are now expanding into the USA, with more record sets coming online and have most of the USA & Canadian censuses available to search.

Of great interest included in the FMP subscription are newspaper images, gathered from one of the largest collections in the United Kingdom, the British Newspaper Archive, and include thousands of local and regional publications across England, Wales, Scotland and both the north and south of Ireland. Each page has been completely digitized and fully indexed, offering you the ability to search every word within an article.

The other subscription website we have is *The Biographical Database of Australia* (BDA), which is a tool for researchers comprising transcripts and indexes of original records and published biographies of deceased individuals, who arrived or were born in Australia. The database is designed to help researchers find one individual among thousands, to avoid confusing persons of the same name and to track individuals and extended families through time, as well as diverse local communities, occupations, genders and ethnicities. BDA includes the full content of parish register entries, including names of marriage witnesses. Many early Catholic and Protestant records have been fully transcribed and indexed for the first time, their content otherwise only accessible in scrawled manuscripts on microfilm.

Society Members receive a monthly email from Don Howell which includes a PDF on the latest datasets added to *Find My Past*. Don is now going to add a folder to the #1 computer which will hold all these PDFs for the past year. You will now be able to open a PDF, click

on the link to a dataset that interests you and it will take you straight to that dataset on FMP. No more searching on FMP to find a particular set of records!

Our microfiche collection is extensive and covers material not yet digitised and is well worth browsing through as is our CD collection.

We hold many books that have been published by other Family History societies and Historical societies. It can be in these little gems that you might find a reference to your family. The books in the *cemetery* and *New South Wales history* sections are now in postcode arrangement making it easy to locate and browse through.

In addition, we have lots of books on how to conduct your **research** and these can all be borrowed. The *Unlock the Past* books are excellent for explaining all the different areas of research, from overseas to Australian, and a selection are on display at the MHL now. A willing band of volunteers have been indexing every name appearing in our local history books and this electronic index will be available to use in the near future. This is an invaluable resource and will be especially helpful to our Duty Officers when dealing with enquiries about local people.

Paper copies of exchange journals from Family History societies in the UK and Australia are held in the MHL collection for 10 years, although most journals are now received in a digitised form. The last 12 months of the electronic exchange journals can be accessed by members following information emailed by Don **Howell** each month. Older copies of electronic exchange journals are held permanently on the computers at the MHL. Many of these are searchable so come in and look for your ancestors' names.

Databases and excel files of resources compiled by the Society are also held on the computers at the MHL. These include burial and cemetery records of the district and school admission registers of many of the public schools in the region. These are also available in the members' section of our website.

Finally, we are very fortunate to hold scanned images of death and funeral notices from *The Northern Star*, from its commencement in 1876 to 2020. Access is firstly via the *Ryerson Index* online, to ascertain the date the notice appeared in *The Northern Star* and then to the scans themselves, which are arranged in chronological order.

Please come in and use the MHL, we now have tea and coffee-making facilities, so have a cuppa and relax after shopping, have a chat with the Duty Officer and then find the wonderful treasures waiting to be discovered in our collection.



Gleanings of Journals in the Marie Hart Library

By Janine Thomson

“1950 US census goes online with free access”. Where, what & how.

“Gentry, Royalty and Aristocracy”. Will help you find the nobility in your family.

Who Do You Think You Are - June 2022 - Page 11 & 515

“Remembering Rabaul”. The untold story of a WW2 garrison and a battle against extraordinary odds.

“Small Things with Great Love”. Born in 1845, Rachel Kennedy’s extraordinary life in the wild and remote Warrumbungle Ranges turned her into a colonial folk hero.

Traces – Edition 21, 2022 – Page 25 & 31

“Tunnels, Torpedoes and Tags: Sydney’s Hyde Park Air Raid Shelter”. This subterranean space tells the story of Sydney’s transportation and military history like no other.

HISTORY – Royal Aust. Historical Soc. December 2022 - Page 12

“Out of the Ashes”. A look back at the devastating fire at the Irish Public Records Office (PRO) in 1922 and explains how long lost documents are getting a new lease of digital life.

“British Army”. A round up of the key sites to learn more about your army ancestor’s service.

Who Do You Think You Are - Summer 2022 - Page 17, & 37

“Stephen Lally shares why you should leave no stone unturned in the search for your ancestors”.

Irish Roots – Issue 123, 2022 – Page 16

“Local Resources for County Wexford”. This article has an emphasis on resources specific to the County.

Irish Roots – Issue 124, 2022 – Page 10

“Convicts on the Hulks”. Interesting facts about life and conditions on the Thames Hulks in the 1700s.

Footsteps – Port Macquarie FHS. November 2022 - Page 14

“Searching the Streets of London”. Explains how to place your London ancestors on the map.

“Death From Above”. The story of the forgotten Blitz of World War 1.

Who Do You Think You Are - September 2022 - Page 16 & 60

“Irish Census Substitutes”. Crucial records that can compensate for the lost Irish Census returns of the 19th century.

“Crime and Punishment” A wealth of information provided by the justice system in the UK.

Who Do You Think You Are - October 2022 - Page 30 & 37

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

Notes from Babette Smith's "Australia's Birthstain", Allen and Unwin, Crows Nest, 2009 - Convict Shame and Denial by Graeme Bell

The Heraldry and Gen. Soc. of Canberra Inc., The Ancestral Searcher, Sep 22

Winning Entries in the 2022 E.M. Fletcher Writing Competition:

Winner: I am Not In-sane by Beverley Richardson

Second Prize: The Butterfly Women by Madeleine Cleary

Highly Commended: Tales from our Grandfather by Nang-Kai Lahpai

The Heraldry and Gen. Soc. of Canberra Inc., The Ancestral Searcher, Dec 22

1948, a year in my life (Part 1, School) by Eric Panther

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

Black Douglas: The Man and the Myth by Heather Knight

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

The pioneer life of Mildred HARRISON - Love & tragedy by Stephen Lockrey

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

The Seccombes by Roger Stanfield

Alstonville Plateau Historical Society Inc., The Pioneer, Sep 22

Important Source for the Family Historian by Ian Kirkland

Alstonville Plateau Historical Society Inc., The Pioneer, Dec 22

Don't Overlook Government Gazettes by Jane Driessen

Armisdale Family History Group Inc., Dust of Ages, Oct 22

- John Bernard Fitzgerald, The Wild Man of Carcoar by Marie Larnach
Bathurst Family History Society, Carillon Chimes, Nov 22
- The Short, Sad Life of Sarah Jane Moran (nee Dodd) by Rhonda Flowers
Bathurst Family History Society, Carillon Chimes, Feb 23
- First Woman to drive across the Sydney Harbour Bridge by Pat Raymond
Bega Valley Genealogy Society, The Valley Genealogist, Oct 22
- Our ‘Wise’ Grandfather Clock by Linda Emery
Berrima and District FHS, Newsletter, Jul 22
- Dr Guy Gurney Memorial Bundanoon compiled by Philip Morton, with contributions from
Dennis McManus and Bud Townsing *Berrima and District FHS, Newsletter, Aug 22*
- Dr John Macquarie Alcorn by Linda Emery *Berrima and District FHS, Newsletter, Sep 22*
- Professor Jack’s report on Bong Bong by R Ian Jack, Department of History
Berrima and District FHS, Newsletter, Oct 22
- Trigonometrical (Trig) Stations by Patsy Moppett
Blue Mountains Assoc. of Cultural Heritage Organisations Inc., Heritage, Oct 22
- The Inn at Emu Ford by Patsy Moppett
Blue Mountains Assoc. of Cultural Heritage Organisations Inc., Heritage, Dec 22
- George Howe, the Howe Dynasty and the Gazette Legacy by Patsy Moppett
Blue Mountains Assoc. of Cultural Heritage Organisations Inc., Heritage, Feb 23
- Frederick John Gibbins; Early Days in the Australian Oyster Industry by Leonie Bell
Botany Bay FHS Inc., The Endeavour, Sep 22
- The Importance of Preserving Eulogies and Slide Presentations for Family Histories by
Heather Barton *Botany Bay FHS Inc., The Endeavour, Dec 22*
- Wilooona Revisited by Emily Hopf *Brunswick Valley HS Inc., Museum, Feb 23*
- Blue plaque will honour cold and flu remedy inventor Thomas Beecham - courtesy of Leila
Muller *Bundaberg G A, Family Ties, Sep 22*
- Success at last! by Bronwyn Prentice *Bundaberg G A, Family Ties, Dec 22*
- Byrne V Byrne – a case in Equity by Marguerita Carey

Burwood & District FHG, Burwood Ancestry, Sep 22

Campbelltown District FHS have a Blogspot of interest. It can be found at <https://cdfhsinc.blogspot.com>

Campbelltown District FHS Inc., GhostBuster, Nov 22

From riding horses to riding waves by Hendrika Johnson

Casino & District FHG Inc., The Crossing Place, Nov 22

Home at Manildra by Marlene Davidson

Central Coast FHS Inc., E-Muster, Dec 22

The Stewart and Helsham Connections (Part 2) by Joy Shepherd and Nick Florance

Colo Shire FHG Inc., Family Ties, Oct-Nov 22

North Richmond: a New Subdivision and a New Hotel (1925-1935) by Neil Renaud

Colo Shire FHG Inc., Family Ties, Dec 22-Jan23

One small Button by Robyne Ayres

Colo Shire FHG Inc., Family Ties, Feb-Mar 23

A Family Treasure by Cathy Hawes

Cooroy-Noosa G & H Research Group Inc., Missing Link, Nov 22

Betty Steel– The First Deaf Convict

Descendants of Convicts Group, The Mail, Sep-Oct 22

Convict William Blue

Descendants of Convicts Group, The Mail, Nov-Dec 22

Brigadier General James Heane CB, CMG, DSO, VD by Steve Clayton

Dubbo & District FHS Inc., Newsletter, Nov-Dec 22

Alexander (Tracker) Riley – 1884-1970

Dubbo & District FHS Inc., Newsletter, Jan-Feb 23

Mahomet and Kate Anwar by Wendy Hicks

Echuca–Moama FHG Inc., Bridges and Branches, Sep 22

Hurtle Richard Shaw - A Tragedy somewhere along the Birdsville Track

Echuca–Moama FHG Inc., Bridges and Branches, Dec 22

Jon Fearon addresses the first combined gathering of the **Australian Society of Mayflower Descendants** and the **Fellowship of First Fleeters**

Fellowship of First Fleeters, Founders, Oct-Nov 22

From Grenfell to Forbes - a reprint of a story by Henry Kendall in the *Forbes Times* dated Saturday, 8th April 1882

Forbes Family History Group Inc., Lachlan Valley Gold, Oct 22

Peace with Victory - Goulburn's Celebrations

Goulburn Historical & Genealogical Society Inc., The Argyle Bulletin, Nov 22

Nurse Greentree's 'fine work at the war' by Michelle Nichols

The Hawkesbury Crier, The Hawkesbury Family History Group, Mar 22

The Crisfords: Builders of Richmond by Cathy McHardy

The Hawkesbury Crier, The Hawkesbury Family History Group, Sep 22

James Ruse and John Harris by William Hempel

Fellowship of First Fleeters, Hawkesbury-Nepean Chapter, Newsletter, Spring 2022

A New Hangman for the Colony! submitted by Pam McAdam

Fellowship of First Fleeters, Hawkesbury-Nepean Chapter, Newsletter, Summer 2022



From the *Kiama Independent* 4 July 1867. Sent in by Kerrie Alexander, our library officer. She wonders if anyone answered it!



'Wife Wanted – Must be five foot high, good looking, with brown hair and blue eyes'

New Members

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

Member No 1026	Linda Maslen	West Ballina
Member No 1027	Janis Nicholls	Ballina



Membership Renewal Due

If you have overlooked paying your 2023 membership fees, please attend to it as soon as possible. Membership forms are available in the Marie Hart Library, at Saturday meetings and were emailed or posted to members last year. Fees are still a low \$35 for individuals and \$45 joint and can be paid in person at the library or at a Saturday meeting or by direct debit. This will be the last journal sent to unfinancial members.



Duty Officers Needed

There are spare places for duty officers at the *Marie Hart Library*. If you are able to spare 3 hours once a month to help keep the library open, please contact Bonnie Bennett or the secretary. This would be a great help to our Society.

Monthly Speakers

6 November 2022 – We had 2 speakers on local history and genealogy groups.

Brian Mullins, President of the *Ballina District Museum and History Society* spoke about the Society. It was established in 2019 and is located on the corner of Laws Rd and Pimlico Rd, in *Pimlico Hall*, which has been renovated by the Ballina Council. The official opening was delayed by Covid restrictions and took place in December 2021. It is open 10am - 2pm Fridays and Sundays. Their website has many stories, photos and other information on the local area <https://www.ballinahistoricalociety.org.au/>



Rosemary Joseph, the Convenor of the *Genealogy Discussion Group* at **U3A Lismore**, explained that U3A is about group participation and what the members want. The discussion group has been going for more than 20 years and members discuss what they have discovered, look at resources and websites and try to break down brick walls. They encourage looking at the wider picture around their ancestors, they meet twice a month on a Monday in Goonellabah. See the Lismore U3A website for details. <https://www.lismoreu3a.com.au/monday>

There was no meeting in December or January.

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

Journal of the Richmond-Tweed Family History Society Inc.

Published March, June, September & December

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 4 March: Meeting: When Accidental Drowning is Written on the Death Certificate. Co-ordinated by Jan Ousby.

Saturday 1 April: Meeting: Preserving History Photographically. Presented by Paul Full, Ace Photoshop, Ballina.

Saturday 6 May Meeting: Occupations – At What Did Your Forebears Work? Co-ordinated by Judith Cosgrove.

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

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.