THE ENDEAVOUR



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BOTANY BAY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

Discovering Your Heritage

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Meetings

Held on the first Wednesday of the month (except January) commencing at 7.30pm. March, June, September and December meetings held at 'Tradies', The Kingsway, Gymea. The remainder of the year, meetings held online via Zoom.

Library and Research Centre Messages and Bookings Only: 02 9523 8948

Port Hacking Community Centre 184 Gannons Road (south) Caringbah NSW 2229 Open: Mon, Wed & Fri: 10am-3pm; Sat: 10am-2pm. For bus route 978 & timetable, see: https://www.transdevnsw.com.au/services/timetables/south-southwest/

Annual Membership Fees

From 1 Jul 2021: single - \$40; family - \$55; interstate - \$20. Joining fee for all categories - \$10; membership renewals due 1 July each year.

Research

Volunteers from BBFHS will research family history relevant to the Sutherland Shire for non-members: minimum fee of \$20 (first hour) and \$20 per hour thereafter.

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CALENDAR



Calendar as at 15 November 2021. Many activities are not listed and will depend on the COVID-19 situation. Many will be held on ZOOM – check the Events Calendar on our website (www.botanybayfhs.org.au) or see your BBFHS Email News when it arrives in your email inbox.

2021	
Dec 1	Meeting – 7.30 pm at Tradies – Speaker Jean Campbell Down Memory Lane
Dec 13	Last day that BBFHS Research Centre and Library is open
2022	
Jan 17	BBFHS Research Centre and Library probably re-opens
Feb 2	Meeting – 7.30 pm on Zoom – Speaker Rob Hamilton More on Mason Records
Feb 16	Member's Chat Meeting – 7.30 pm on Zoom
Mar 2	Meeting – 7.30 pm at Tradies – Speaker Megan Nielson Chinese in Australia
Mar 16	Member's Chat Meeting – 7.30 pm on Zoom



Merry Christmas, One and All

PRESIDENT'S PAGE



I am sure that many of you will agree that thanks to Covid-19, the past four months have been nothing short of forgettable. Our hoped-for events went out the door and, while the year is ending without a BBFHS Christmas dinner, at least lockdown regulations have been lifted and we can again visit family and friends, lunch out and travel.

Our next monthly meeting will be a physical meeting at Tradies on Wednesday, 1 December at which time I look forward to catching up with many of you in person. As always, keep up to date with any sudden changes via our website, the eNEWS and our Facebook page.

Lilian **Magill** and I have been working on the speaker's calendar for 2022 and I am happy to advise the following presentations have all been confirmed.

Month	Date	Speaker	Торіс	Location
Feb	2	Rob Hamilton	More on Mason Records	Zoom
Mar	2	Megan Nielson	Chinese in Australia	Tradies
Apr	6	Judy Russell	Putting Those Records to Work	Zoom
May	4	Ian Waller	Agricultural Labourers	Zoom
Jun	1	Janette Pelosi	Using NSW Legislative Website for Family History	Tradies
Jul	6	Fiona Brooker	A Step Through Timelines	Zoom
Aug	3	Lesley Potter	Connections and Interconnections in Sydney Society in 1830s	Zoom
Sep	7	AGM Leonie Bell	Ron Rathbone topic: Dappeto	Tradies
Oct	5	Janet Frew	Putting Your Ancestors in their Place: ten steps to a one place study	Zoom

All but one of the Zoom speakers are located overseas and this is a major benefit of having taken up Zoom due to Covid.

Planning is also underway for the mid-month meetings, all of which will be held via Zoom, and we envisage that the meetings will consist of a short how-to presentation followed by member contributions and Q&A.

And while on the topic of Zoom, I have successfully done a hybrid test setup at the Research Centre for future Interest Group meetings and workshops where we can have people attending in the RC as well as online at home.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a safe and Happy Christmas and following our annual Christmas closure, it is hoped that most activities of BBFHS will be as back to as normal as possible when we reopen in January.

Jennie Fairs



BBFHS EDUCATION PROGRAM

by Jean Campbell (Research Centre Coordinator)

The Members' Zoom meetings, held on the first and third Wednesdays each month, contain information for members for their research. We also had over 40 members who attended the virtual Annual Conference from Port Macquarie and Districts FHS in September, which was a huge success!

Because of the lockdown in Sydney, the eNEWS was sent out weekly. This contains news, webinars, online classes, conferences, newsletters and genealogical information for members to access. It will continue to be produced weekly until just before Christmas Day 2021 followed by a break over Christmas and into the New Year.

Interest Group activity is being publicised in eNEWS at the beginning of each month. Our thanks go to Barbara Barnes and the group coordinators who have organised a draft calendar for 2022.

Jennie **Fairs** has kindly offered to coordinate the English Interest Group. They met in November, via Zoom, to see what members would like to discuss in 2022.

Lilian **Magill** is taking over the Australian Interest Group in 2022. She would also like members to let her know at lily@researchbylily.com.au what topics they would like to discuss, research, etc. next year.

Our sincere thanks go to Sue **Hewitt** and Patricia **Jarvis** for investing so much of their time and expertise in coordinating these groups for many years.

JEAN CAMPBELL – LIFE MEMBER OF BOTANY BAY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

by John Levy (Member)

Prior to the Annual General Meeting held in September, Jean Campbell (member 451) was nominated for Life Membership of Botany Bay Family History Society by John Levy and Joan Simpson. Jennie Fairs arranged for a secret ballot of the members by email in which the nomination was unanimously approved.

Jean Campbell joined Botany Bay FHS in September 1994 and has been a member for 27 years. In that time, Jean has been an amazing contributor to our Society in many roles, and always cheerful and helpful.



Jean Campbell (photo: Jacqui Miller)

Committee. Jean first joined the committee in September 2003 and has spent 18 years in various positions including two as President (2013-2015).

Research Centre Coordinator. When our Society was finally able to find a permanent home at Gannons Road in 2007-8, Jean took on this pivotal role and has held it ever since. Jean has performed exceptionally. The role involves all aspects of the Centre, especially coordinating the efforts of our Volunteers, and also arranging for maintenance to be carried out, running orientation groups, and myriad other tasks.

BBFHS Email News. For some years, Jean has put together content for the eNEWS which for a long time was produced fortnightly, in partnership with Stephanie **Bailey**. For the past year or so, with the advent of Covid-19, Jean and Stephanie were turning out the eNEWS weekly, keeping our Botany Bay members up-to-date with family history matters while they were social distancing and unable to attend meetings or the Research Centre.

Education. In a position she has shared with Barbara **Wimble** since 2004, Jean has contributed 17 years to the position of Education Officer. Each year, she and Barbara run courses for beginners and those wishing to update their family history

knowledge and research skills. In the ever-changing world of family history this requires continual upgrading of the syllabus and the course content.

Germanic Interest Group. Jean was the coordinator of this group for seven years from 2008 to 2014.

Scottish Interest Group. Jean has been and is still the coordinator of the Scottish Interest Group, taking over from Sue **Jones** in 2012. The group meets bimonthly on the first Saturday of the month.

Other Roles. Jean often speaks to various groups covering different aspects of family history dependent upon the interests of the groups. In raising the profile of Botany Bay FHS, this has often led to new members joining our Society.

Congratulations and thank you Jean!



BBFHS RESEARCH CENTRE AND LIBRARY

by Jean Campbell (Research Centre Coordinator)

The Research Centre finally re-opened on 1 November, on Mondays and Fridays only, from 10am to 1pm. This depended on Centre Volunteers being available for duty. It was pleasing to have two Volunteers on duty every day we were open in November. **Thank you**.

Following current regulations, everyone on duty is 'double vaxxed'. All researchers must be 'double vaxxed' too, show their certificate on entry, scan our QR code and sign in. Masks must be worn indoors and social distancing upheld.

We will be open in December, Mondays and Fridays, for two weeks. The last day of opening will be Monday 13 December. Please check our eNEWS for the opening date in January 2022. We cannot predict Covid regulations so far ahead at this time.

The first day back was 'abuzz' with activity. We had the maximum number present and everyone was pleased see each other in person! There is a new Admin computer and all the other ones have been updated. Thanks to John Levy, Jennie Fairs and Brenda Connors who went into the Centre the week before and organised everything to be ready for our opening.

Remote access to *Find My Past* and the *British Newspaper Archives* stopped on 18 November. *The Genealogist* is also back. They suspended their sites and our payments at the Centre over the past months. We thanked these companies for being so understanding and helpful during our lockdown.

VALE DAVID GARNET SHORT

by Doug Parkes (Member)

It is with great sadness that we announce that our first Botany Bay FHS Life Member Dave **Short** (member no. 74) died suddenly on Wednesday 20 October 2021 at his home in Kangaroo Valley.

Dave was a prominent member of BBFHS and in 1986 he proposed Project Woronora, an ambitious plan to transcribe every gravestone and plaque within the cemetery. Volunteer members from BBFHS usually met once a month to undertake the transcribing. Dave provided clipboards with photocopied maps clipped on them. Members would go to their allocated areas and



rows in pairs – one person reading out the inscriptions while the other wrote down the information. Dave coordinated with the Woronora Cemetery office and was able to maintain better accuracy in the cases where the inscriptions were difficult to read.

Dave collated all of the transcriptions and then assembled an army of volunteers to enter the transcribed information into a format that Dave designed. That format was later adjusted so as to agree with the Australian Genealogical Computer Index project (AGCI—three of these CDs are available at the Research Centre) which the Society of Australian Genealogists (SAG) was compiling.

When all the entered transcriptions were on disks, Dave magically combined the data into alphabetical order. There were quite literally hundreds of thousands of entries and Dave's Apple II computer sometimes sorted for 24 hours to achieve the final results which were later transferred onto microfiche.

At lunchtime on those days, members would adjourn to a grassy picnic spot to eat their sandwiches. During that hour many genealogical problems were thrashed out, by accessing the combined knowledge of those who were there. At one stage, there were 35 BBFHS members attending the Woronora picnics: it was great fun. Beryl **Bauld** recollects: *I took my three year old granddaughter along.* We were all sitting at lunch, propped up against a headstone and Natassia said 'We have lovely picnics in the country Nan don't we?' They were great times.

Dave will be sadly missed by all who knew him. He is survived by his wife Christine, daughter Alison and sons Murray and Russell; and his grandchildren, Eloise, Alannah, Joel, Erin and Archer.

DAVE SHORT'S RECOLLECTIONS OF TRANSCRIBING WORONORA CEMETERY

by David Short (Life Member)

In about 1985, Tony our President Leither thought of the project, or had it suggested to him, that we might transcribe the headstones and plaques in the Woronora Cemetery. Pretty simple really, just note down the section and write down the relevant details. There wasn't the full realisation that over 120,000 transcriptions were ahead of us. One advantage was that very few inscriptions are in a foreign language. However, on some headstones, and surprisingly on crematorium plaques, there are some rather unusual symbols aside from crosses, freemason emblems and military insignia. Remember that in the 1980s we didn't have Google at our fingertips to find out what they represented - so some were quite a challenge.



Dave Short (photo: Pat Fearnley)

Away from our monthly Sundays of transcribing and sharing morning tea and lunch sitting among the graves, a small handful of people made a computerised list of our work, as few members owned a computer then. High tech was an Apple II computer with the massive inbuilt memory of 64 kilobytes – the new iPhone 6 has 129Gb of memory, 2 million times the old Apple II! There were no suitable programs to capture the data so we had to write one ourselves. This included a print function to present the results in a standard form on an A4 page, using dot matrix printing of course. On a trip to the USA, I bought an Apple II clone with 1 Mb of memory, which allowed the sorting of indexes for each cemetery section. The final transcription publication was in microfiche form, as that needed only one set of paper printed pages to be made, which filled many boxes.

Thank you to all who participated, as it was the largest single project undertaken by our relatively small society.

Editor's Note: Reprinted from *The Endeavour* 122 (March 2015) from a talk Dave gave for the 30th Anniversary of BBFHS in September 2014.



by John Levy (Member)

The NSW &ACTAssociation of Family History Societies annual conference was hosted by Port Macquarie and District Family History Society, as part of the Port Macquarie bicentenary celebrations, on Saturday 11 September.

Because of Covid-19 restrictions, face-to-face attendance was not possible and Port Macquarie presented the speakers using a combination of Zoom and YouTube – a virtual conference! At Botany Bay, a conference group booking was made and plans were in place to hold the day at the hall adjacent to the Research Centre where our members could view the conference on the large screen and could socialise during the refreshment breaks. Unfortunately, the lockdown was extended and this was no longer possible. Instead, for those members that wished it, the conference was made available to them via their computers at home.

The conference was a great success with 400 people on Zoom and another 40 watching on YouTube. Of course, we missed the personal contact with friends at the social events associated with a conference. However, it also meant that people could 'attend' who could not otherwise do so in person due to physical or financial limitations. It is possible that future conferences may be a mixture of a physical and virtual attendance.

The engaging speakers covered a wide range of topics and the use of research. The sessions were available to view for a week after the conference.

Speakers Program:

Acknowledgement of Country & Welcome: Port Macquarie President, **Diane** Gillespie

Welcome to Attendees: NSW & ACT AFHS President, **Gail Hanger**John Vincent Crowe Memorial Address: **Clive Smith** – With Conviction: Finding the 1821 Volunteers

Kerry Farmer – How to use DNA to confirm traditional research

Dr Penny Walters - Ethical Dilemmas in Genealogy

Cate Pearce – Using DNA for Aboriginal Family History

Martyn Killion – Using State Archives with Conviction

Carol Baxter - Stop Thief

Dr Perry McIntyre – Working for the Surgeon in 1837

Dr Hamish Maxwell-Stewart – Building a Digital Convict Memorial

Amanda Ianna – The NSW Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages records can provide proof beyond reasonable doubt

Jason Reeve – Using *Ancestry.com* for Family History & Introduction to AncestryDNA

Michelle Patient – Celebrating Cousins

The 2022 conference will be hosted by Newcastle FHS after the 2020 conference in Newcastle was cancelled. Camden Area FHS have registered an interest in hosting the conference in 2023.





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PLEASE MENTION THE ENDEAVOUR WHEN CONTACTING

AGGIE GREEN – THE BOXER

by Barbara Barnes (Member)

The recent Tokyo Olympics showed one disappointed woman, Skye Nicholson, after her loss in the women's boxing event. I looked up the bibliography for Skye which provided the following sentence in an interview she had done. 'At first, I was training for fitness, it never even crossed my mind that I would do boxing. I just started sparring with the boys and it just kept going from there.' (abc.net.au, 11 Aug 2015) This reminded me of a woman and her story in my family background.

Agnes Grace **Green**, born 1908¹ in Paddington, was the younger of the two surviving daughters of James Edward Green and Maude Mary Ruby **Dempsey**. Agnes lived in the midst of seven brothers, many involved in the world of boxing. The boxing genes were handed down to Agnes and her brothers from the generations before them. Champion boxers, Joe Dempsey and Jim Dempsey, were Maude Dempsey's brothers and Larry **Gaffney** her cousin. The boxing brothers of their father, James Edward Green, were Ted, Ern (aka Spur), Jack (aka Jackie) and Teddy. Each of them held Australian Boxing championship titles – Jackie at different times being first a Fly, then Bantam and finally Featherweight champion of Australia. Teddy, in 1911, held the Flyweight crown.

Media reports about Agnes, published in Sydney and regional newspapers, were found via Trove. However, they were challenging to work with - like arranging the squares of a patchwork quilt, because simply listing them in date order did not make a cohesive story. Some squares were colourful but some 'blank' needed squares imagination to fill in the missing information. The first media report found was in 1921, the second in 1924 with the majority in 1931.

NOVICE BOXING TOURNAMENTS

By 1921, the *Royal Star* was following the trend in other Redfern cinemas by holding boxing matches twice a week while films were screened on other nights. Over the next few years, a number of tournaments were staged for novice boxers on Tuesday and Friday nights, lasting for several weeks of elimination rounds and culminating in a grand-final. When one tournament ended, another one started soon afterwards.

From Jaffas in the Suburbs – the cinemas of Sydney's eastern fringe by John Walter Ross concerning the Royal Star Theatre, George Street, Sydney.

Media of the time referred to Agnes as Aggie Green. Three of her brothers, also in the boxing game, were Theo (1896-1951), John Roy (1901-1975) and Edward Francis (1905- 1969).

However, Aggie also loved boxing and was not content to be in their shadows. The following 1921 media report gives a window into the boxing ability of Aggie at only 13 years of age. Her cousin Jack was slightly older.

GREEN'S TOURNAMENT.

The tournament under the management of Theo Green, at the Royal Star Theatre, George Street, good crowd. The sport was great, some of the bouts being very keenly contested. But the star performance was that between Aggie Green and her cousin Jack. The former, a veritable Titania on her tiny feet, and as clever with her hands as her brother Jack, scaled 4.11 1/2 and young Jack 4.12. 'Twas a great go entirely and had the crowd crazy, but when little Agnes whipped a solid right to the jaw, knocking Jack Jnr into the ropes, and followed with a stinging uppercut that sent him down and out, the shouts woke the policeman on duty in Barry-Street, Mascot. They're a wonderful pair of kiddies, sure enough.

Sydney Sportsman (Surry Hills, NSW:1900-1954) Wed 27 Jul 1921, p8

An interesting 1924 report follows. Whilst it refers to both Aggie and her brother, Jack, it possibly reflects the attitude to women boxers by many members of society.

Jack Green, who, a few years ago, was flyweight, bantam and featherweight, champion of Australia, has a sister who is reputed to be a wonder with the gloves. Aggie Green is now 15 years of age, and has given up boxing, as she considered it a sport unsuitable for a young lady. When she was 11 years of age, she was regarded by good judges to be an accomplished boxer.

The Geraldton Express (WA, 1909-1928) Wednesday 4 June, 1924.

Further reading of the 1930 reports indicate that Aggie herself really did not consider boxing as a sport unsuitable for a young lady as she (seriously) enjoyed being a sparring partner for her brothers and others in local gyms apparently out of the public domain. It took the following 1931 incident, and a subsequent newspaper article, to re-focus on Aggie and her abilities.

Much reference is now made to a *Smith's Weekly* article² of 16 May 1931, the first mention found concerning Aggie between 1924 and this date. Whilst no police reports have been found, it appears that Aggie was accosted in an incident on Botany Road around this time. The attackers probably came off second best, 'I've never provoked a fight in my life', she declared. But she knew enough about the fighting game to deal seriously with two men who tried to waylay her in Botany Road.

The incident certainly provoked the interest of a reporter with *Smith's Weekly*, Kyle **Tennant**, who approached Aggie for an interview and subsequently wrote a feature story. The interview was conducted in Aggie's home with three of her boxing brothers present: Theo, Jack and Teddy. Australian Electoral Records show that in the early 1930s Aggie resided in Dunning Avenue, Rosebery.

extract from the article: Not only do the champions of the ring acknowledge that she is one of the cleverest - if not the cleverest – lightweight Australia, but the men who have weathered a hundred fights from the ringside, acclaim her speed and judgement. Yet this slip of a girl has fought in public seldom – on about a dozen occasions only. At the conclusion of this interview. Aggie, intentionally unintentionally, made this challenge: They say women have no science. Well. I'll challenge anything my weight seven stone – or over to meet me. Man or woman, it does not matter. I'd just like to prove whether they're right or wrong, for the state of fair play.

No longer did Aggie Green live behind the scenes! A flurry of activity followed in the

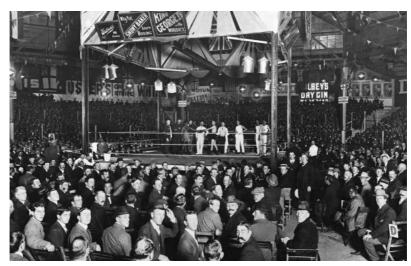


Aggie Green posing in the ring. (photo: Sydney Morning Herlald, 1 September 2017, sourced from National Library Collection)

following weeks and months. Aggie was invited to show her ring skills at fundraising events. Against whom is often not mentioned and the brief media snippets, under boxing news headings, are difficult to unravel. However, in the Randwick Town Hall, on Friday 5 June, Aggie was featured in fund raising for the *Royal Hospital for Women* and the *Eastern Suburbs Ambulance* and a second appearance occurred the following Friday night in the same place.

The following weeks brought not only Aggie Green into the spotlight but another woman boxer, Jessie **Hammond**. The *Sydney Morning Herald* of 22 July

1931 wrote of a testimonial benefit fundraiser to be held in the Sydney Stadium for the injured heavyweight boxer, Les **O'Donnell**. A contest is to take place between Misses Aggie Green and Jessie Hammond for the women's boxing championship of Australia. Despite the demand for tickets being above expectations for the whole event, the women's match within it was not to be.



Sydney Stadium - Dave Smith vs Jerry Jerome, Sydney Stadium, 19 April 1913.

Nine days later regional newspapers printed this short note under their boxing notices: *Inspector Mortimer last night visited the Stadium and banned a boxing contest for the women's championship between Misses Aggie Green and Jessie Hammond.*³ However, a more informative media report of this banning makes interesting reading.

INSPECTOR **Mortimer** last night visited the Stadium and banned a boxing contest for the women's championship between Misses Aggie Green and Jessie Hammond. The promoters had written to the Commissioner of Police notifying him that a fight for the women's championship was to be staged, but they did not ask for permission. The Commissioner passed the letter on to the Chief Secretary, Mr **Gosling**, who called for a report. Objection was taken to the contest and it was decided to ban it.

The fight had been awaited with some interest. However, four or five girls, including Misses Aggie Green, and Jessie Hammond, appeared in sparring exhibitions with male partners. They gave good display, fighting aggressively, and they did not appear to be inconvenienced. The girls were dressed in gymnasium uniform. It was charity night, in aid of the Ted O'Donnell Testimonial Fund.

The Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW, 1931-1954). Friday 31 July, 1931, p7

Shortly after, on 7 August, this acknowledgment of Aggie's skills was published linking her with her family boxing compatriots: *Miss Aggie Smith comes of a fighting family and claims the paperweight championship of the world. Her grandfather and father were bare-knuckle fighters, her uncle (Teddy Green) was bantam champion of Australia; a brother (Jackie Green) was bantam and featherweight champion of Australia; and another brother (Teddy Green) was flyweight champion of Australia.⁴*

Aside from her boxing activities, Agnes Grace married Albert Ernest Muller (1904-1939) in St Paul's Church of England, Cleveland Street, Sydney in 1924⁵ when she was 16. The marriage was witnessed by her father, James Edward Green. There were two children of the marriage, Elsie and Albert, However, the electoral records of the available years of the 1930s show Agnes and Albert living apart and Agnes using her maiden name – Agnes in the Rosebery area, either on her own or with other of her Green family members, citing her occupation as a waitress, while Albert was in Newtown on his own, and noted as a pensioner. However, when Albert died in November, 1939, the following death notice appeared in the *Sydney* Morning Herald: *MULLER* The Relatives and Friends Mrs AGNES MULLER, ELSIE and ALBERT are Invited to attend the Funeral of her dearly beloved HUSBAND and their dear FATHER Albert Ernest Alexander Muller to leave his late residence 81 Cooper Street Waterloo TOMORROW (Thursday AFTERNOON) at 1.30 o clock for the Church of England Cemetery Rookwood.

In 1941, Agnes married Harry Cross **Branwhite**⁵ at St David's Church of England, Surry Hills. Between then and Harry's death in 1961 the couple lived in various inner Sydney suburbs. It seems Agnes was visiting Kempsey when she died in 1977⁶ and was subsequently buried in the Catholic Cemetery, Kempsey East. Her death notice⁷ refers to her children, Albert and Elsie Muller, being in the United Kingdom.

I conclude the story of Agnes Grace Green with an extract from a newspaper article written by Jack **Munro** of the *Sydney Morning Herald* titled, *GREEN BOYS BORN TO FIGHT* ⁸ in 1946. Whilst the core of the article acknowledges the powers and successes of her uncles and brothers, Aggie gets a mention. *No reference to the Green family would be complete without mention of Aggie, sister to Ted, Theo, and Jackie. She was the cleverest woman boxer I have ever seen and did not hesitate to display her ability at charity shows in exhibitions with Teddy. She had never had a lesson in boxing - neither had Jackie for that matter- but she seemed to box scientifically by sheer instinct.*

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- 2. Via Trove: Smith's Weekly (Sydney, NSW:1919-1950), 16 May, 1931, p18
- 3. Via Trove: Northern Star (Lismore, NSW:1876-1954) 1 August 1931. P6
- 4. Via Trove: The Mercury (Hobart, Tas: (1861-1954) Friday 7 August 1931, p 12
- 5. Sydney, Australia, Anglican Parish Registers, 1818-2011
- 6. NSW Death Registration Transcription: 1977/102342
- 7. Ryerson Index Search: NSW State Library on-line Search: Sydney Morning Herald 7 April 1977
- 8. Via *Trove: The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW:1942-1954) Thursday 24 December 1946, p6



NEW MEMBERS

We offer a warm welcome to the following new Society members. Please take advantage of your membership by attending meeting nights, classes and the Research Centre (please ask for help if you need it).

1864	Jenny Joyce	St Ives
1865	Wayne Jackson	Engadine
1866	Joan Jackson	Engadine

RESEARCH CENTRE OPENING TIMES

Monday and Friday – 10am to 1pm

Before attending, it is best to phone 9523 8948 to make sure that volunteers are on duty and the Centre is open

Closed public holidays & after 13 Dec 2021, re-opens 17? Jan 2022

Please refer to the eNEWS and/or our website for dates and times as restrictions are relaxed.

When researching, please ask for help if you need it – it is why the Centre assistants are there and they like to help.

THE CHANGING FACE OF EDUCATION

by Leonie Bell (Member)

I recently visited the Pioneers Museum at Gulgong, which includes a historic, tinroofed, wooden schoolhouse. The display highlighted just how much education has changed over the last 200 years.

Our concept of childhood, and indeed its duration, has changed dramatically since the time of the industrial revolution. Today it is a time of nurturing, learning, play and protection, but in earlier times children were just members of the household who were expected to work hard to make ends meet. Childhood was not a time of play but of contributing to the daily tasks of a rural family. Consequently, children were given responsibilities that might astound today's parents, who fear to let their child even walk to school. Could they envisage their youngster ploughing a field, tending the hearth or milking the cows? I doubt it.

With the advent of the Industrial Revolution therefore, it is no surprise that children were put to work in the mines and factories. After all, they had been working on the farm or in cottage industries for thousands of years. Children were simply seen as another exploitable resource.

The population was generally uneducated and illiterate, so until new laws were introduced making it compulsory, the average child did not attend school. Formal schooling was only for the wealthy, privileged few. Education of the poor was positively discouraged, as it was feared that knowledge could lead to a rebellious peasantry. Once schooling became compulsory, the life of a child changed dramatically.

Schooling was fairly basic in Australia around the late 1800s. Lessons commenced at 9.30am and finished at 4pm, which was a long time for the small children to sit erect on the uncomfortable wooden forms. The infants would frequently fall asleep with fatigue, their little heads resting on the desks.

The school year comprised four terms, with a four-week holiday at Christmas, one week in Easter and two in Winter. In 1903 this was modified to four weeks at Christmas, and one week each at Easter, Winter and Spring. Students were arranged in classes 1 to 5, based around a set of graded reading material. Generally, it took more than a year to complete each grade. The recommended durations were eighteen months for Class 1; two years each for Classes 2 and 3; one year each for Classes 4 and 5. However in practice these recommendations were often exceeded.

The children studied the 'three Rs', reading, writing and arithmetic. They were issued with a slate and slate pencil for writing exercises, which involved copying letters and words. Later when they moved on to Class 2, they received a



The tin-roofed wooden schoolhouse at Gulgong Pioneers Museum (Photo: Leonie Bell)

copy book to replace the slate. Using a pen and ink took practice, as it was always a struggle not to smudge the black ink on the page. The teacher was fond of asking the children to copy proverbs into their copy book, which had the dual purpose of providing instruction in both writing and moral guidance. Spelling was taught by writing out passages dictated by the teacher.

They also studied geography by drawing maps, illustrated with key physical features and major towns. Australia was still a British colony, so it was natural that history lessons concentrated on learning the dates of the reigns of the British kings and queens. In a nod to Australian history they were taught about the journeys of Australian explorers such as Burke and Wills.

In many schools, discipline and patriotism to the British Empire were emphasised during Cadet Corps sessions. Both boys and girls marched briskly around the playground, in exercises which were laid out in the British Army textbook. The boys then drilled with wooden rifles. However physical fitness could also be fun if there was a nearby swimming pool.

The *Public Instruction Act* of 1880 compelled parents to send children to school for a minimum of 70 days per six-month period from the age of six. Since schooling was only compulsory until the age of 14, most children left after

elementary school. A few completed two years of secondary education, before pursuing a trade apprenticeship or other type of unskilled work.

If students went on to Grades 4 and 5, they might attend a Superior Public School, which combined primary and secondary school education. Grade 4 subjects were reading, writing, dictation, arithmetic, Euclid (geometry), object lessons, history, geography, singing and drawing, expanding in the final year to include mathematics, Latin and science.

Unlike a High School which featured specialised university-trained teachers, the Superior School teacher instructed the students in all subjects. Superior Schools were first formed in 1881 and by the 1890s, there were 64 in New South Wales offering further studies for those who had completed the elementary school course.

High Schools were still a novel idea, and very few students attended these institutions, which were primarily aimed at university preparation. There were only four High Schools in Sydney in 1905.

Around 1910-1930, the thinking changed regarding higher levels of schooling, and on completion of Primary School, pupils were differentiated into commercial, technical, agricultural, domestic science schools or High Schools, depending on the ambitions of the students and their families.

From the 1950s, the idea of a general Comprehensive High School education developed, where all students studied a similar program of English, Maths, Science, History or Geography, and several elective subjects such as languages; art; music; woodwork and metalwork for boys; cookery and sewing for girls. By the 1970s, the average child left school and commenced full-time work at age 15 or 16. The last two years of High School were only intended for the minority wanting to study at university and enter a profession.

Consequently, even in the mid to late 20th century, childhood was deemed to be over when the student graduated from school and entered the workforce at 15 or 16 years of age. In a recent episode of 'Who Do You Think You Are?' the participant expressed wonderment at the treatment of 'children' in the 19th century. He was not referring to mistreatment or exploitation, but to a 15-year-old ancestor commencing work. In that period, a 15-year-old would not have been considered a child but an adult.

One could argue that childhood is extended these days to the late teens, as children remain at school until 18 years old. Legally, Australian states define a child as someone under the age of sixteen in NSW, seventeen in Victoria and eighteen in all other states. In contrast, two hundred years ago an eighteen-year-old would have been an experienced worker, although they were probably uneducated and illiterate.

LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS

<u>Library</u>

This article lists the new Library accessions. We remind members that there is a wealth of family history information accumulated over some 37 years in our Library. Not everything is online! Check out our library catalogue at http://www.botanybayfhs.org.au/library--research-centre.html. You may be very surprised at what you find! Come to the Research Centre and have a look. Thank you for the donations from those members who are 'downsizing'.

AUSTRALIA

- Australia's yesterdays A Look at Our Recent Past [A.HIS.1.55LC]
- Historic Towns of Australia [A.HIS.41.6LC]

NEW SOUTH WALES

- The Commonwealth of Thieves The Sydney Experiment [AN.HIS.1.29LC]
- Sunnyside An Old Kogarah Residence [AN.LH.2217.4LC]
- Historic Sydney 1970 Drawings and Notes by Cedric Emanuel [AN.HIS.41.9LC]
- Cemeteries at Cargo, Cudal, Toogong, Nyrang Creek, Grant's Private Cemetery, Graves at Boree-Cabonne & Nyrang and Cudal [AN.SOU.5.2800.1CD]

OVERSEAS

- Ancestral Trails The Complete Guide to British Genealogy and Family History (2nd edition) [BRIT.GUI.1.6LC]
- Family History in Focus (How to use photos and pictures in family history) [BRIT.GUI.5.6LC]
- Life in Medieval England The Pitkin Guide [E.HIS.1.5LC]
- Clans and Tartans The Fabric of Scotland [S.HIS.1.14LC]
- The Big House in Ireland [I.HIS.1.23LC]
- The Record Interpreter [INT.GUI.5.1CD]
- Ancient Handwritings [INT.GUI.5.2CD]
- How to Decipher and Study Old Documents [INT.GUI.5.3CD]

GENERAL

- Bound for Australia [G.CONV.SOU.15LC]
- How to Find Shipping and Immigration Records in Australia [G.IMM-SHP.A.SOU.2.4LC]

NOTE: 'LC' indicates a loan copy, which can be borrowed; 'CD' a compact disc.

Compiled by Janette **Daly** (Librarian)

THE NICK VINE HALL AWARD 2021

by John Levy (Editor)

am pleased to report that *The Endeavour* has again been recognized in the Nick Vine **Hall** awards, achieving second place in category A (for societies with less than 500 members) as announced during National Family History Month in August 2021. We entered the December 2020 (no. 145) edition for assessment. I thank all our contributors who make our journal the interesting read that it is.

Nick Vine Hall AM was a keen supporter of the Australasian Federation of Family History Societies (AFFHO), of which our Society is a member. He was instrumental in convincing the Federal government to allow Australian citizens to 'opt in' to retain their 2001 and future Census information (under closed access for 99 years by the National Archives of Australia) to preserve Australia's history for future generations.



The Nick Vine Hall Award is awarded annually to member societies (in two categories based on membership) for the best family history journal/newsletter in Australia and New Zealand to encourage its member societies to produce quality journals/newsletters, and to honour Nick.

First prize – wall plaque and \$300 to the Society; certificate to the Editor Second prize – certificate and \$100 to the Society; certificate to the Editor

The winner in category A was Liverpool Genealogy Society Inc for their October 2020 edition of *Links 'N' Chains* No. 126. In category B (for societies with more that 500 members) the Genealogical Society of Victoria was the winner for their December 2020 edition of *Ancestor* Volume 35 No.4 and second place went to the Society of Australian Genealogists (SAG), for their spring edition of *Descent* Vol. 50 Part 3.

Journal Contributions

All journal contributions – large or small – are welcome. Email your input to *bbfhs_eds@yahoo.com.au*, leave it in the Editor's folder at the Research Centre or hand it to the Editor or any Committee member at our monthly meetings. Please add your name and contact details.

BBFHS INTEREST GROUPS

by Barbara Barnes (Interest Groups Coordinator)

On behalf of the Committee, THANK YOU to all coordinators and their assistants for the continued life of Interest Groups in 2021. Covid-19 might be the official name of the virus but Society history will record the challenges presented in 2020 only intensified with the longer lockdown in 2021. We especially appreciate Stephanie Bailey and Jean Campbell for collating and issuing the weekly eNEWS, which regularly has a wealth of information for both Group co-ordinators and participants to work with; and Pat Fearnley for the Interest Group content, and associated matters, published via the Society website.



After the initiative and introduction of Zoom in 2020, Zoom in 2021 became the main means of connecting members for monthly member meetings and the individual Interest Groups gatherings. Coupled with Zoom, great use made of group emails advised information pertinent to a Group. Some groups even opted to meet via Zoom monthly instead of bi-monthly!

As I write this report Covid-19 restrictions have reduced significantly. However, social distancing still limits numbers permitted to attend the Research Centre, which is scheduled to re-open on 17 January 2022. Restrictions at that time will depend on the regulations in force and the Committee will examine these as the date approaches and then decide what measures to put in place. Only then can short term decisions be made which affect Interest Group functioning: more Zoom meetings, face-to-face meetings or a mixture of both. All details for Groups are

published in advance through the regular eNEWS in addition to other Society media arms. It is a case of 'please watch this space.'

Therefore, I am re-issuing the following invitation to members, new and old. Especially the new as these Interest Groups can open research in unexpected directions as well as meeting fellow members, hearing their stories and brick wall problems and them hearing



yours. If you have not participated in an Interest Group previously, and one or more Groups appeal to your research, or simply a general interest, you may like to join in one or more of the groups in 2022. This invitation should appeal particularly to home bound members. If you would like to be a (new) participant in any of the Groups, the contact details for co-ordinators appear at the foot of this article. All Co-ordinators will be only too pleased to add your name and email address to their listing, to become part of their family.

We are all missing the social personal interaction together. We have faith this will return. In the meantime, keep community flowing through participation in Interest Groups, a vital part of the BBFHS education arm.

The group Coordinators are:

Writers Interest – Leonie **Bell** (0403 952 762, *LNBell@iinet.net.au*)

Irish Interest – Barbara **Wimble** (wwimble@iinet.net.au)

Scottish Interest – Jean Campbell (jeanhcampbell47@gmail.com)

Australian Interest – Lilian Magill (lily@researchbylily.com.au)

English Interest – Jennie Fairs (fairsj@optusnet.com.au)

Legacy – Sue **Jones** (scjones@optusnet.com.au)

Family Tree Maker for Windows and Macs – Pam **Heather** (pamheather@gmail.com)

Reunion for Mac – Pat Fearnley (patfearnley@bigpond.com)

DNA for Family History – John Levy (j.levy@bigpond.net.au)





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Volunteers are always welcome for behind the scenes/admin work PLEASE MENTION THE ENDEAVOUR WHEN CONTACTING

HOW ACCURATE ARE YOUR SOURCES?

by Leonie Bell (Member)

Some of you may have noticed that several years ago I won the Ron Rathbone History Prize for a research project and book I wrote on the history of Rockdale Opera Company in 2016. At the time *The Leader* rang me for an interview and sent out a photographer to picture me with my certificate. I was quite happy with the resulting article and photo, but the experience started me thinking about how authentic or accurate are our sources? Most of us would consider newspaper reports or BDM certificates as primary evidence sources, but it is always wise to look for additional sources to back up our favourite theories. It's exciting to discover a document or news report that mentions an ancestor by name, but sometimes the evidence is not quite what it seems.

Initially, we need to consider whether the person who created the record actually knew what they were talking about. Care is necessary even if the person was intimately associated with the story described in the document. For example, a birth, death or marriage certificate is created from information supplied by relatives who may have imperfect knowledge of their ancestors. I have a great grandmother whose death certificate lists her mother's maiden name as Mary Kent, but her teenage sister's marriage certificate names her as Mary Ann Polly. You would think she knew her own mother's name, but she was young and probably not that interested in her ancestry. Alternatively, did her mother marry twice? At times like these we need corroborative evidence from another source in order to make a decision as to which information is true (if any).

All documents are created by people who have their unique flaws, prejudices and underlying motives. This is particularly evident in newspaper reports. When reading newspaper articles you need to consider the whether the report reflected the actual views of the subjects or if the reporter want to get across a particular message. Research revealed that another great grandmother and her sister joined the Salvation Army in Parramatta in the 1880s and were both married in the Army. Newspaper reports vary a great deal describing the activities of the Salvationists, depending on whether they found the lack of sombre religiosity objectionable, or considered their activities uplifting and socially beneficial to the community.

For example, one reporter described their annual 1885 outdoor rally of marches, prayer meetings and luncheon in rather disparaging language; 'the lads and lasses divided into couples and groups to satisfy their baser passions of eating and drinking and after the shrieking and howling and long track through the dust in the morning...rest under the shady tree was very generally accepted, ... others refreshed themselves by marching round the racecourse frantically waving their

hands and spouting in the usual Salvation Army style'. If you compared this with a report in the Salvation Army's official publication *The War Cry*, the tone would be quite different, extolling the virtues of a happy crowd celebrating their salvation.

Also consider the accuracy of information provided by interviewees. People frequently want to present themselves or their organisation in a favourable light, particularly politicians or marketing professionals. Or maybe they are slightly embarrassed at how their actions may appear to outsiders. No-one likes to be judged unfavourably by others.

Then there is the question of whether the subject's words were accurately reported. When *The Leader* reporter 'quoted' me, although the gist of the message was true, I had actually spent some time answering her questions and she had summarised the discussion in a newspaper style quote. For example "Opera was something I already loved so it was a natural choice," she said. Well I guess I said something along those lines, but it wasn't quite that.²

A newspaper report is selective by its very nature. The reporter is trying to condense a lot of information into one short article. In an interview that lasted perhaps 15 minutes I was asked many questions, including whether I had discovered anything surprising. The first thing that came to mind was that internationally renowned Australian conductor Simone **Young** had choreographed the ballet for a Rockdale Opera production, which I considered a rather fun and unexpected fact. The reporter said that 'many people had worked with the company over the years, people like Simone Young'. If I was a family historian conducting research, I might decide that the implication is that Maestra Young conducted operas in the suburbs, when in fact this was not the case.

It is important for us to look at the whole picture of events surrounding a report and confirm information whenever possible. In this case the newspaper is a secondary source, and the primary source is not me or my book, but the Rockdale Opera program which lists Simone's name as the choreographer.³

I am in no way criticising the reporter, as I thought that overall she conveyed the information fairly accurately, concisely, and within the constraints of the genre. My point is that it is wise to judge the veracity of our sources carefully and seek multiple forms of evidence. Primary sources are better than secondary sources, but not all primary sources are created equal.

REFERENCES

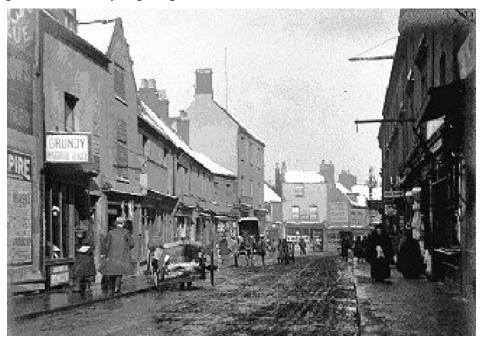
- 1. Evening News, Sydney, Friday 2 January, 1885, page 1
- 2. St George and Sutherland Shire Leader, Opera in the spotlight, Kahlia Beichert, September 21, Page 26
- 3. Hansel and Gretel program, Rockdale Municipal Opera Company, July 1982

JOHN FULLWOOD, F.R.S.A., R. B. A., F.S.A., 1855-1931 - ARTIST

by David Fullwood (via Anthony Wright - member)

John Fullwood, my third cousin four times removed (3C4R), was born in the first quarter of 1855 in Wolverhampton and ultimately became a world-renowned landscape painter, etcher and illustrator. John was the son of Joseph Fullwood (occupation: cooper) and Mary Ann Fullwood (nee Gaunt).

In the 1861 Census of England and Wales, John was aged 6, living at 68 Worcester Street, Wolverhampton in the St Mark's ward area, along with his parents Joseph and Mary and eight other siblings (Jane, William, Joseph, Albert, Alfred, Henry, Mary and Emily). John's family's ancestral roots originate from the Sedgley branch of Fullwoods who lived in that parish in 1533. John's great granduncle and my 5xgreat grandfather is Daniel Fullwood, b1740.



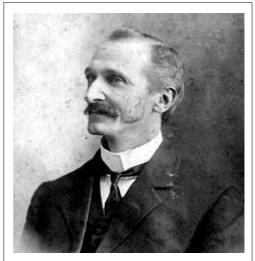
Worcester St, Wolverhampton, c 1850

To date I have been unable to obtain a painting or photograph of John Fullwood but there is a close resemblance in the form of a photograph (shown below) of John's brother Henry who immigrated to Melbourne, Australia in 1883 and saw the effects of the Krakatoa explosion during his journey.

By the 1871 census, John had moved to 55 George Street in the All Saints ward of Birmingham. He was unmarried and living with his 26 year old brother William (an electro-plate maker) and his wife Ann Elizabeth Fullwood. Aged 16, John's occupation was described as a 'Chaser & Embosser' an ancient trade (https://tinyurl.com/ut8p8884)

producing a pattern or design on sheet metal. This gave John the opportunity to use his etching and drawing skills.

John Fullwood studied at Paris and Birmingham and his paintings were displayed at the Royal Academy on 21 occasions and by the Royal Society of British Artists on 99



Henry Fullwood, brother of John (photo: Fullwood Family Album provided by Anne Robertson, nee Fullwood)

occasions. From about 1874 to 1900 he was based in Birmingham living in Broad Street. He displayed no less than 67 paintings at the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists exhibitions.

By 1892 newspapers reported that John had a considerable reputation as a landscape artist and confirmed he had exhibited at the Royal Academy, the Grosvenor Gallery, the New Gallery and the Paris Salon. The New Gallery at Walsall holds 43 John Fullwood art works: https://tinyurl.com/96damhja and the Wolverhampton Gallery has large holding of John Fullwood's works: https://tinyurl.com/hatxh8n6.

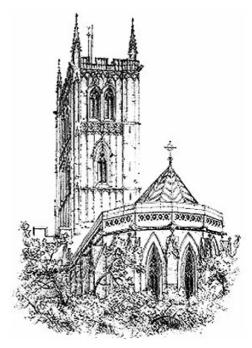
In the 1870s many of Wolverhampton's old buildings were beginning to disappear under a wave of modernisation and John Fullwood faithfully recorded them before their demolition. In 1880 some of these drawings were included in a set of etchings in his book called *Remnants of old Wolverhampton and its environs*. at https://tinyurl.com/yn8xb5vn. The book is one of the few published records of the City at this time and some of John's drawings are included below. The book was originally published in parts with descriptive notes accompanying the etchings signed 'E.B.' – the local architect, Edward **Banks**.

The first part was enthusiastically reviewed by the Art Journal. The review may have been written by George **Wallis**, a regular contributor and a Wulfrunian. The review starts: Old Wolverhampton!' The sound is suggestive; the 'remnants' of the old town are of deep interest to the antiquary and the historian; many of them have succumbed to time and others are in the course of rapid decay; the 'effacing

fingers' are leaving little of them but their memory. It is a wise and patriotic scheme that preserves their portraiture before they are gone.

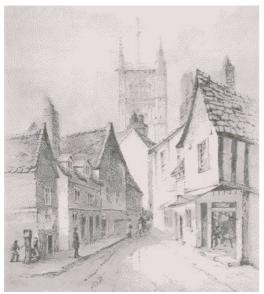
The reviewer then suggests that other cities and boroughs should do the same although it may be that there are few localities that yield so fruitful a harvest. The review says that "the etchings display much artistic ability, skill and judgement in selection and that this is an assemblage of meritorious etchings by an artist who understands his work and evidently loves it".

In the 1881 census, John (aged 26) is still living in Birmingham at 195 Lea Bank Road with his wife Kate (aged 22) and his daughter Maybell Gaunt Fullwood (aged 8 months). John had married Kate (nee



St Peters Church by John Fullwood

Rooker) in Birmingham during third quarter of 1877. John's occupation is now 'Landscape artist'.



Horsefair by John Fullwood

John was a former member of the Newlyn School of Art and a resident for a number of years in Newlyn, Cornwall. The Newlyn School was an artist's colony based in or near Newlyn, a fishing village near Penzance, Cornwall, from the 1880s until the early twentieth century.

By 1891, John had moved to London where the census for the North Ward of Richmond, Surrey records him living at Coombe House, Stanmore Road with his wife Kate and daughter Maybell. In the 1901 census,

John aged 46, is living in Slinfold Entire in Sussex with Kate and Maybell, now 20 and unmarried. Although his reason for living here is unknown, it is possible that he joined an artist group in this area. There could also have been a family connection. John's brother, Henry, had a son Edgar Fullwood who immigrated with him to Australia. Edgar married Edith **Delves** in Melbourne and her father John came from Slinfold in Sussex.

John lived in Sussex for ten years and in 1907 he was awarded a 'Civil List' pension of £75 per annum, 'in consideration of his attainments as a painter and an etcher, of his impaired health, and straitened circumstances'.

He also had a house at Twickenham, London and considered the display of his paintings in major London galleries as the most important part of his career. By 1911 John and his wife Kate are living in Sunbury on Thames.

Mr. Fullwood was an artist, whose etchings, particularly of Thomes Valley subjects, were greatly admired. Mr. Fullwood was one of the pioneers of the Newlyn art colony.

From *The Cornishman and Cornish Telegraph*, 26 November 1931

John died at Twickenham on 9 September, 1931, aged 76. Letters of administration were granted to his widow Kate. He was a member of the Royal Society of

British Artists and one of the oldest members of the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists.

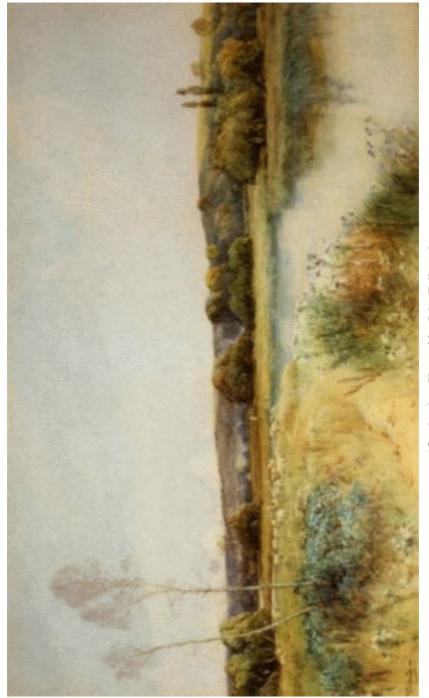
Mr. John Fullwood, F.R.S.A., R.B.A., F.S.A., of Twickenham, formerly of Wolverhampton and of Birmingham, for many years living at Newlyn, who died on September 6, aged 76, intestate, left estate of the gross value of £1,395, with net personalty £376.

From *The Times* newspaper, 14 November 1931

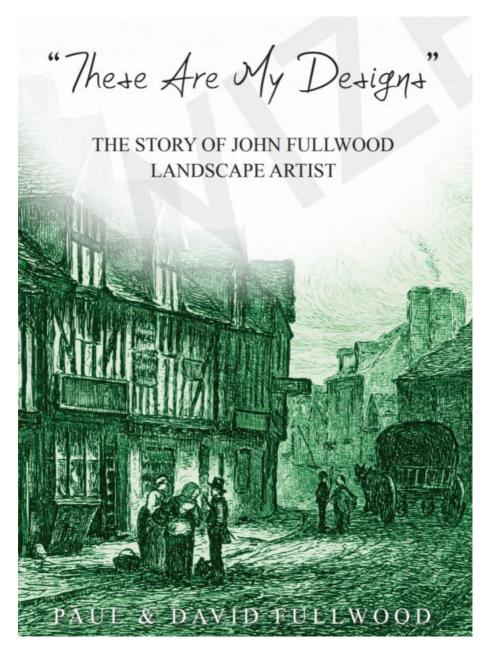
Author's Note: As a member of John Fullwood's family, I would like to hear from anyone who may have information related to my cousin's life story. Please contact me on my email: david.fullwood@btinternet.com

Author's Acknowledgement: A special thank you to John Fullwood's descendant – Mrs Anne **Robertson** nee Fullwood from Australia.

Editor's Note: Member Anthony **Wright** has been corresponding with the author, David Fullwood, his sixth cousin. John Fullwood was a first cousin to Anthony's 2 x great grandfather. Anthony's grandmother married a **Kennet**, and for this reason, the following magnificent painting is included as it links both sides of his mother's family.



'On the river Kennet' by John Fullwood



Published October 22nd 2018 by Spiderwize ISBN13: 9781912694433 Paperback, 248 pages

DIGGINGS



Diggings are titles of articles in journals that we exchange with other societies. We do not list all articles appearing in that particular journal but those that are noted as articles unrelated to the journal's origins. We recommend that you read any journal which originates from an area in which your ancestors had connections.

Members may borrow from the collection of printed journals exchanged with other family history societies held at the Research Centre and Library for the years 2016 to 2020. Please ask a volunteer for the loan procedure. Online exchange journals are also available at the Research Centre and may be viewed on the computers (click on the *Resources on the Server* icon on the desktop).

AUSTRALIA

Magazine of the RAHS Sep 21

Hoofbeats in history – Judith Dunn traces NSW racing history Tocumwal Airfield

Journal of the South Australian Genealogy & Heraldry Society May 21

The Use and Misuse of Passenger Lists

Traces Edition 15, 2021

The wreck of the *Preussen* – discrimination, vaccination and federation in colonial waters

Traces Edition 16. 2021

Opening the Archives of White Australia

BRITAIN

Cleveland FHS Jul 21

Know your Parish – Bilsdale

Family Tree Jun 21

Rationed fashion – explores the impact WW1 was to have on our ancestors' clothing

Ships' doctors and their patients

Lost at sea – explores various records to aid in finding those who died in or survived WW1 shipwrecks

19th century Army 'rank & file' service records

Your DNA workshop - Karen Evans continues her excellent articles

Family Tree Jul 21

Covid VS Cholera

The first Edwardians - looks at the life and times of England's first three King Edwards

Your DNA workshop



Family Tree Aug 21

Key 20th Century Scottish resources 20 things you need to know about FamilySearch.org Royal Navy service records

Your DNA workshop

Family Tree Sep 21

Who decides who is embarrassing & why?

Work, life & the family in the Industrious Revolution – the period leading up to the well known Industrial Revolution

Your DNA workshop

How to find your missing family in India

Family Tree Oct 21

Mapping our ancestors' lives – examines a range of historic map collections The principles of writing ancestor stories – explores the right way to write Your DNA workshop

IRELAND

Irish Roots 3rd Qtr 21

Clare Bradley meets the Quakers and discovers the treasure trove of family history records available

Local resources for family history: County Offaly

In search of the Ultrachs (Ulster families)

Compiled by Kate Anderson (Member)



PLEASE MENTION THE ENDEAVOUR WHEN CONTACTING

KISSING COUSINS

by Janet Kendrigan (Member)

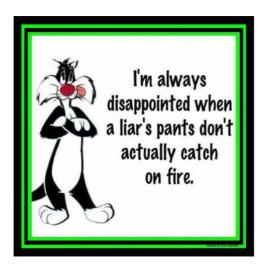
y mother's first husband, Robert Verdon **Smart**'s parents were first cousins. His father was Robert Smart and his mother was May Smart.

When May Smart married Robert Smart, her surname did not change, she remained May Smart.

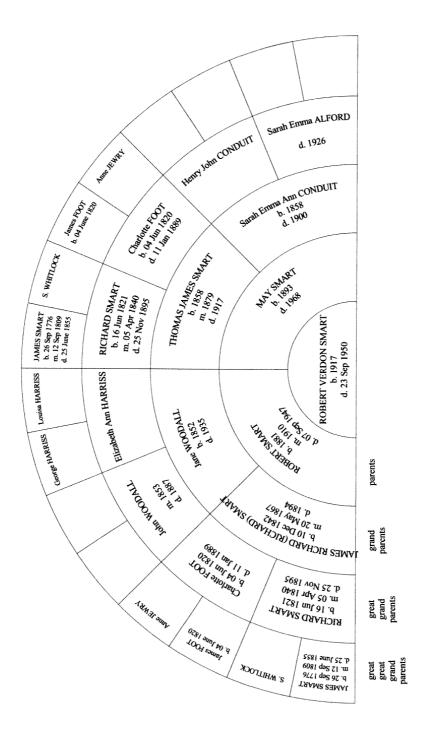
Robert Smart's father was Richard J Smart. May Smart's father was Thomas Smart. Richard J Smart and Thomas Smart were brothers.

As may be seen on the pedigree fan chart shown opposite, consequently, May Smart's father-in-law, Richard J Smart, was also her uncle while her mother-in-law, Jane (**Woodall**) Smart, was also her aunty. Her husband, Robert Smart's father-in-law, Thomas Smart, was also his uncle and his mother-in-law, Sarah Emma (**Conduit**) Smart, was also his aunt.

Both Robert Smart and his wife May Smart have the same grandparents and great grandparents, on the Smart side of the family.







THOMAS AND CHARLES BOWN, FIRE FIGHTING PIONEERS

by Kay Cook (Member)

The name of **Bown** (spanning two The name of bonn (-) generations) occupies a significant place in the history of fire fighting in New South Wales and has a historical association with No. 470 Bell and the Insurance Companies Fire Brigade.

Thomas John **Bown** was born in England in 1810. He married Mary Stone who was born in England in 1811, at Christ Church, GreyFriars, London in 1832.

Thomas and Mary arrived in Sydney from London in June 1842, accompanied by Edward Harris. Both men were experienced, professional firemen and had been brought to the colony by the Mutual Fire Insurance Association (along with two fire engines) to https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index. form a fire brigade. Thomas was appointed Principal Fireman and Superintendent of



Thomas Bown (photo: unknown, php?curid=78537217)

Water Works. Unfortunately, the brigade only lasted for thirteen months and the fire engines were consequently sold to the Sydney Corporation (later Sydney City Council). Bown and Harris were then employed by the Corporation as firemen under the direction of the City Surveyor. However, Thomas resigned two months later in order to pursue his business interests, located in George Street: gas-fitters and plumbers, plumbing supplies, manufacturers and importers of bells and other fire-fighting equipment.

By January 1851, the Sydney Corporation was reconsidering the justification and expense of maintaining a fire brigade, especially since it was coming under increased criticism concerning its capacity to provide adequate fire protection. This growing concern led a consortium of insurance companies to form its own fire brigade: the "Insurance Companies Fire Brigade" (also known as the Sydney Fire Establishment). Thomas Bown was appointed Superintendent and the fire engine was housed at his premises in George Street, Brickfield Hill. Twice each month, this brigade of twelve volunteers (plus foreman Edward Harris) assembled for practice.

From 1854, the Insurance Companies Fire Brigade operated from a number of premises in George Street (all owned by Thomas). In 1864, it occupied a three-storey, brick fire station, built at Thomas' personal expense, at 105 Bathurst Street (opposite St Andrew's Cathedral). Tenders were called in September 1864, and the foundation stone was laid on 18 October 1864.

When Thomas retired as Superintendent of the Insurance Companies Fire Brigade in late 1867, it comprised twelve firemen: a foreman, an assistant foreman, a watchman, and three engineers. The brigade's working plant comprised a steam fire engine, three manual engines; a hose reel; and one hose and ladder carriage. Thomas Bown died at his residence Barwan Park, St Peters, Cooks River on 9 January 1872 and was buried in the family vault at St Peter's Cemetery, having (according to the Mayor of Sydney), 'distinguished himself in the sphere of labour which he had marked out for himself – the establishment and keeping in operation a fire brigade in Sydney'. Mary Bown died on 7 April 1881 at St Peters and is buried with her husband.

The retirement of Thomas Bown in 1867 did not conclude the family's association with the colony's fire protection. His nephew, Charles Bown, had arrived in the colony in 1857. He joined the Insurance Companies Fire Brigade and was promoted to Foreman before succeeding his uncle as Superintendent in 1868, a position he held until the passing of the Fire Brigades Act (1884) resulting in the establishment of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) controlled by a newly instituted Fire Brigade's Board. The Insurance Companies Brigade disbanded and many of the firemen joined the new MFB. The MFB then occupied the Bathurst Street fire station which was leased to the MFB by Charles Bown, who had taken over the management of his uncle's business. Charles was elected to the Fire Brigades Board as its first Chairman – an office he held until the state-wide, Board of Fire Commissioners of NSW, was instituted in 1910. He then became that board's first President.

Fire bells were positioned in belfries so that they could be heard over a wide area to raise the alarm and call the brigade to action. No. 470 Fire Bell is a 66 cm, 159 kg bronze bell cast at John Wilson's Gorbals Brass and Bell Foundry in Glasgow in 1855. The bell was imported by Thomas Bown, paid for by the Fire Insurance Companies, and installed in the belfry behind the engine house located in George St, near Bathurst St, in 1860. By 1887, the bell was no longer needed in Sydney because the MFB continuously manned the fire station and the volunteer brigades could be contacted by telephone. So Charles Bown sold No. 470 Fire Bell to the Bathurst Fire Brigade Board and it was installed in Bathurst where it did service for many years. The bell is now listed on the New South Wales heritage register and is located in the restored bell tower at Bathurst fire station.

NOTES AND NEWS



Gretchen Parnell. Barbara **Barnes** has let me know that a past BFHS member, Gretchen Parnell, died on 16 September 2021 aged 91. Gretchen resigned from BBFHS in 2019. She was a gentle, quiet lady who simply loved to listen to others talk of their family history and was extremely proud of her connection with her First Fleet ancestors. Our condolences go to her family and friends.

Readers of Peter Calver's Lost Cousins' newsletter may have noticed that in his 28 October blog at *https://www.lostcousins.com/newsletters2/lateoct21news.htm* he referred to the risks of sailing from UK to Australia in the 1850s – a reference to member Peter Londregan's article from our September edition.

England and Wales Census 1921 – launch date: 6 January 2022. This census will be available online at www.findmypast.co.uk, providing a snapshot of 38 million lives. It partly fills the gap between the 1911 census and the 1939 register, because the 1931 census was destroyed in a fire. It was the first census to recognise divorce, and to record people's employment details. To cover the cost of digitising and transcribing the 18,235,242 images created from the records supplied by The National Archives, there will be a charge of £2.50 (\$4.60) for every record transcript and £3.50 (\$6.40) for every original record image. For more information and how the census was digitised, see https://tinyurl.com/e224cj5s.

Windows 11 will soon be available and there is the usual plaintive cry 'I've just got used to Windows 10.' Good news! Microsoft will support Windows 10 until at least October 2025. This mean that the operating system will be updated with critical security fixes as new threats or vulnerabilities are revealed. Updates can also include reliability, performance, and compatibility fixes. For more information see: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dx-JpGF93GA. In the meantime, please have auto-updates to Windows 10 turned on at Settings/Updates & Security/ to make sure you have the latest version of Windows 10. This is especially important for your computer's security and if you use your computer for anything financial.

Credit Card Scams – be aware! A member recently received an email purporting to be from the NRMA, stating that her credit card was about to expire (date wise) and that she should forward her new card details. The message accurately quoted her NRMA membership no., vehicle type, rego. no., her full name and the credit card expiry date. The set up, format and colouring of the message looked official. Because the member did not pay by card, her suspicions were aroused, which were confirmed by phoning the NRMA. She sent the email to their security division for investigation. In this case, as in others, a close examination of the sender's address, or the return address, is often the giveaway – they are usually completely different and bear no resemblance to any other NRMA (or company) address.

Family burial vault found at Central Railway Station. A search is underway for descendants of two colonial Sydney families after a 181-year-old family burial vault was found during construction of the Sydney Metro. Archaeologists have identified a name plate from one of the burials belonging to the Perry and Ham families. Central Station was constructed on the site of the Devonshire Street Cemetery from 1900. Most of the graves were removed at that time, but over 60 graves and five vaults have been discovered during work on the Sydney Metro. Descendants of the Perry and Ham families are invited to contact Sydney Metro at sydneymetro@transport.nsw.gov.au for further information.

The Fellowship of First Fleeters is an organisation comprised of descendants of those who arrived in Sydney Cove with the First Fleet on 26 January 1788 but Associate and Friend membership is also welcomed. Members may attend meetings at any Chapter and take part in their events and activities. As a member of the Fellowship, you will receive their bi-monthly magazine, *Founders* and have access to the newsletters produced by the Chapters. Some also have excellent websites. The Fellowship has a Facebook group, too. For further information, the contact details of the Chapters are on their website at: www.fellowshipfirstfleeters.org.au





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Happy New Year



in 2022

to All Our Readers





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