

THE ENDEAVOUR



Published quarterly by the
BOTANY BAY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.
Discovering Your Heritage

PRICE \$6.00

No. 150
March 2022

ISSN 0814-9828 (Printed)
ISSN 2208-3278 (Digital)

BOTANY BAY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

Discovering Your Heritage

Internet: <http://www.botanybayfhs.org.au> **Email:** botanybayfhs@yahoo.com.au

Mail Enquiries: The Secretary
Botany Bay Family History Society Inc
PO Box 1006
Sutherland NSW 1499

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2021-2022

President	Jennie Fairs	
Vice Presidents	Carole Goodyer	Noele Watkins
General Secretary	Lilian Magill	
Treasurer	Brenda Connors	
Ordinary Members	Jackie Butters	Jean Campbell
	Carol Cronan	Maree Kirkland
	Anthony Wright	

OTHER OFFICE BEARERS 2021-2022

Editor	John Levy, bbfhs_eds@yahoo.com.au	
Assistant Editor	Leonie Bell	
Librarians	Janette Daly	Pamela Heather
	Maureen Murray	Kate Anderson
Webmaster	Pat Fearnley	
Education Team	Jean Campbell	Barbara Wimble
Public Officer	Doug Parkes	
Research Centre Coordinator	Jean Campbell,	
	jeanhcampbell47@gmail.com	

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, Gympie. 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.

CONTENTS



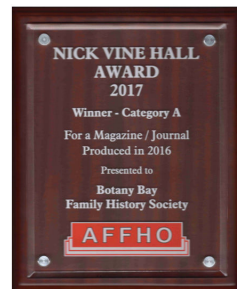
	Page
Captain Cook's Beer.....	5
Botany Bay FHS Heritage Fair.....	7
My Two Convict Irish Ancestors.....	8
It's a Small World.....	16
So Someone Stole the Flowers off your Loved One's Grave – or Did They?...	19
One Leaf of the Shamrock – the Cavenagh Family.....	21
Coincidences in Family History	30
Errol and Ivy – the Alcocks of <i>Fernleigh</i>	33
Frank Marien, Journalist (1889-1936).....	43

Regular Features

Calendar.....	2
President's Page.....	3
New Members.....	4
BBFHS Education Program.....	15
Library Acquisitions	18
BBFHS Research Centre and Library.....	20
Notes and News	28
BBFHS Interest Groups.....	42
Diggings.....	47

Advertisements in this Issue [PLEASE MENTION *THE ENDEAVOUR* WHEN CONTACTING]

Joy Murrin – BDM Transcription Services	5
Martins Green Thumb Gardening Services	7
2SSR 99.7FM Sound of the Sutherland Shire	46
2022 NSW & ACT Association Conference – Riding the Waves of History ...	48



CALENDAR



Members are advised to check latest details on our Events Calendar at www.botanybayfhs.org.au or see your BBFHS eNEWS.

2022

- Mar 1** Legacy Interest Group: 2-4pm Zoom & Research Centre
- Mar 2** **Meeting – 7.30 pm on Zoom – Speaker Leonie Bell.**
Dappeto House
- Mar 12** English Interest Group: 2-4pm Zoom & Research Centre
- Mar 16** **Member’s Chat Meeting – 7.30 pm on Zoom**
Topic: Collateral Genealogy – the FAN club
- Mar 26** DNA Interest Group: 1.30-3.30pm Zoom & Research Centre
- Mar 31** Writers Interest Group: 1.30-3.30pm Zoom & Research Centre
- Apr 2** Scottish Interest Group: 2-4pm Zoom & Research Centre
- Apr 6** **Meeting – 7.30 pm on Zoom. Speaker – Judy Russell.**
Putting Those Records to Work
- Apr15-18** Easter Public Holidays (Centre closed, Friday-Sunday)
- Apr 20** **Member’s Chat Meeting – 7.30 pm on Zoom**
Topic: Military Life in Australia
- Apr 23** Irish Interest Group: 2-4pm Zoom & Research Centre
- Apr 25** Anzac Day Public Holiday (Centre closed, Monday)
- May 3** Legacy Interest Group: 2-4pm Zoom & Research Centre
- May 4** **Meeting – 7.30 pm on Zoom. Speaker – Ian Waller.**
Agricultural Labourers
- May 10** Family Tree Maker Interest Group: 1.30-3.30pm Zoom & Research Centre
- May 14** **Heritage Fair: 10am-4pm at Tradies**
- May 18** **Member’s Chat Meeting – 7.30 pm on Zoom**
Topic: Help! I’m stuck! Members submit research problems.
- May 21** Australian Interest Group: 2-4pm Zoom & Research Centre
- May 26** Writers Interest Group: 1.30-3.30pm Zoom & Research Centre
- May 28** DNA Interest Group: 1.30-3.30pm Zoom & Research Centre
- Jun 1** **Meeting – 7.30 pm at Tradies. Speaker – Janet Pelosi.**
Using NSW Legislative Website for Family History
- Jun 4** Scottish Interest Group – 2-4pm Zoom & Research Centre
- Jun 13** Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday (Centre closed, Monday)
- Jun 15** **Member’s Chat Meeting – 7.30 pm on Zoom**
Topic: Occupations

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

As we enter our third year of Covid-19 restrictions I hope that most of you have been able to stay safely out of Omicron's vast reach. Even with the pushed back Research Centre opening to mid-February, we need to operate with restricted hours of 10am to 2pm, one person per two square metres, and the booking-in system – to ensure a safe environment is available to all. The health and safety of our members remains paramount in all decisions regarding our operations.

Under the superb organisation of Noele **Watkins**, I am pleased to announce that our annual Heritage Fair will return to Tradies this year on Saturday, 14 May. Please give some thought to volunteering on the day – even if you can only spare a couple of hours. We have been advised by Tradies of the restricted capacity and the number of people allowed in the Elouera Room under the 2 per m² rule and we are confident that it won't be a problem.

I recently announced that thanks to Pat **Fearnley**'s dedicated work on our website, we can now register and pay for all BBFHS events online including Interest Group attendance. The online payment system is also available for new memberships and renewals. It is gratifying to have received wonderful feedback from members on the ease of using the online payment system.

Of course, we know that unforeseen circumstances happen. It is vitally important to check our website, eNEWS and Facebook for any unexpected changes to advertised events.

One place to regularly check for new content is the Members Area of the website to catch up on the latest editions of digital exchange journals, various presentations and learning exercises, as well as our newest section – Cemetery Records. With more to come throughout the year, the following have recently been added: Garrawarra Hospital Burials & Cremations, St George's Anglican Church Engadine Burials, Church of England Burial Ground, Helensburgh Accounts and Holy Redeemer Anglican Church Helensburgh Burial Register.

And the best place for getting help with anything is through our very active email forum at **Groups.io**. This forum is a closed private group, requiring BBFHS membership, but is free to join. Simply visit the website at <https://groups.io/>, click on the 'Find a Group' heading, put Botany Bay Family History Society in the right-hand search box and click on the magnifying glass. Click on the name of our society and then click on the blue 'Join This Group' button and follow the prompts. It can take up to 24 hours for your membership to be approved so please be patient.

Once you are a member you can go into your settings and choose to receive emails individually or as a digest.

I look forward to catching up with many of you over the coming months.

Jennie Fairs



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).

1867
1868

Elly Taylor
Bobbie-Jean Buck

Cronulla
Yarrowonga



joy in family history
JOY MURRIN
family history services

Accredited
NSW Transcription Agent
Since 1995

PO BOX 278, OATLEY NSW 2223
P: (02) 95851187 F: (02) 95851486
E: joy@joymurrin.com.au

Services include:

- ♥ New South Wales
Births to 1912 Deaths to 1982 Marriages to 1962
- ♥ England/Wales
- ♥ Scotland
- ♥ New Zealand
- ♥ Victoria



Secure Online Ordering
www.joymurrin.com.au
Services | Knowledge Centre | Events

<http://www.joymurrin.com.au/>

PLEASE MENTION *THE ENDEAVOUR* WHEN CONTACTING

CAPTAIN COOK'S BEER

by John W Shortland (Member)

My great grandfather Dr. Edward Shortland in a publication of his journal titled *The Southern Districts of New Zealand*¹ included an entry from Captain Cook's *Second Voyage to the South Pole*... on a method for making spruce beer as a suggested preventative against scurvy which was brewed during April 1773 on Resolution Island in Dusky Sound NZ.

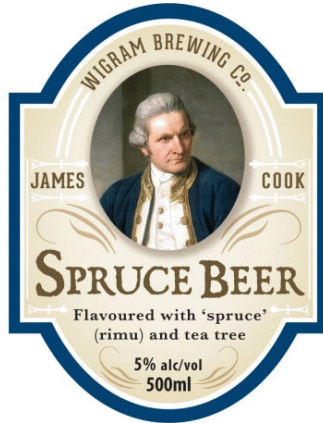
We at first made our beer of a decoction of the spruce leaves; but, finding that this alone made it too astringent, we afterwards mixed with it an equal quantity of the tea plant (a name it obtained in my former voyage, from our using it as a tea then, as we also did now), which partly destroyed the astringency of the other, and made the beer exceedingly palatable, and esteemed by every one on board. We brewed it in the same manner as spruce beer, and the process is as follows. First make a strong decoction of the small branches of the spruce and tea-plants, by boiling them three or four hours, or until the bark will strip with ease from the branches; then take them out of the copper, and put in the proper quantity of molasses, ten gallons of which is sufficient to make a ton, or two hundred and forty gallons of beer. Let this mixture just boil; then put it into casks, and to it add an equal quantity of cold water, more or less according to the strength of the decoction, or your taste. When the whole is milk-warm, put in a little grounds of beer, or yeast if you have it, or anything else that will cause fermentation, and in a few days the beer will be fit to drink.

Any one who is in the least acquainted with spruce pines will find the tree which I have distinguished by that name. There are three sorts of it: that which has the smallest leaves and deepest colour is the sort we brewed with, but doubtless all three might safely serve that purpose².

Dr. Shortland included the comment that: *Three sorts here referred to were probably the Rimu, the Kahikatea, and the Mai or Matai, which are different species of Dacryds.*

It is of note that Wigram Brewing Company of Christchurch NZ produce a Spruce Beer (<https://www.wigrambrewing.co.nz/our-beers>) marketed as an *English Style Ale infused with rimu, manuka and molasses, giving a distinctive bush flavour as based on Captain Cooks first beer brewed in New Zealand 1773.*

Captain Cook's methods to combat scurvy included a variety of substances which had known or suspected remedial properties and suitability for long periods at sea. These substances included, sauerkraut, salted cabbage, a portable broth made from cattle offal flavoured with salt and vegetables, lemon and orange juice



evaporated to a syrup, thickened extract of wort, malt and beer. In recognition for his success in the prevention of scurvy during long sea voyages he received the prestigious Sir Godfrey Copley medal awarded by the Royal Society of London for his research during his second voyage in the Southern Pacific Ocean from 1772-1775. However, the use of all these substances together with natural hygiene that Cook required on board ship did not reveal the actual cause of scurvy which remained uncertain until the isolation of ascorbic acid (Vitamin C) in the 1930s. Vitamin C enables the body to efficiently use carbohydrates, fats, and protein.

A treatise on Captain Cook's beer and its use in the prevention against scurvy is available as a review article³ by B. J. **Stubbs** which may be found at <https://apjcn.nhri.org.tw/server/APJCN/12/2/129.pdf>.

REFERENCES

1. *The Southern Districts of New Zealand, A Journal with Passing Notices of the Customs of the Aborigines* by Edward Shortland MA Cantab and Extra Licentiate of the College of Physicians 1851.
2. J. Cook, *A voyage to the south pole and around the world performed in his majesty's ships the Resolution and Adventure in the years 1772, 1773, 1774 and 1775*. vol 1. pp 99 and 101.W. Strahan and T. Cadell 1777, London.
3. B. J. Stubbs, *Captain Cook's beer: the antiscorbutic use of malt and beer in the late 18th century sea voyages*. Asia Pacific Journal of Clinical Nutrition, 2003; 129-137

Journal Contributions

All journal contributions – large or small – are welcome. Email your input to bbfhs_ed@yaho.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.

BOTANY BAY FHS HERITAGE FAIR

by Noele **Watkins** (Member)

Well times have certainly been hard for us all over the past year or so. Hopefully we are getting on top of it now and things will start to improve.

Botany Bay FHS is holding another Heritage Fair at Tradies in conjunction with the National Trust and the Sutherland Shire Citizens' Heritage Committee – to be held on Saturday 14 May, 2022 from 10am till 4pm in the Elouera room. Naturally it will not be as big as usual, due to number restrictions but we feel it can still be conducted in a safe environment and be as interesting as in the past. For the benefit of newer members who have not attended one of our Fairs, we have a large number of interesting tables showcasing parts of our own Society which you may not be aware of. All the Interest Groups will be represented with members on hand to answer any questions you may have. Joy and Alan **Murrin** will be attending to answer any of your questions regarding Transcription and Family Search and at this stage I am hoping that we will have a representative from Ancestry. Cathy **Dunn** has confirmed her attendance and will answer any questions on Norfolk Island, and I am awaiting further confirmation from a few other interesting groups. There will be a second-hand book stall and a few local Arts and Craft tables for variety. There will also be free talks given in the Kai'mea room which will be advertised as soon as we have confirmed our speakers. We may even conduct some mini workshops as well. In any case it will be a great time to come along and meet new people and catch up with old friends.

I will be looking for volunteers to assist on the day, even if it is for a couple of hours, so please contact me via our email at botanybayfhs@yahoo.com.au if you can help.



MARTINS GREEN THUMB
WE DELIVER WHAT YOU NEED

MARTIN PASSFIELD
GARDEN MAINTENANCE/MOWING/LANDSCAPING

4/65 KAREENA ROAD
MIRANDA 2228
0438406228
mpassfield5@optusnet.com.au
Pensioner discount available

PLEASE MENTION *THE ENDEAVOUR* WHEN CONTACTING

MY TWO IRISH CONVICT ANCESTORS

by Janet **Kendrigan** (Member)

I have two Irish convicts John **Bracken** and Catherine **Cunningham**, who were sent to the then named Van Diemen's Land where they met and married – this is their story.

The Trial and Transportation of John Bracken

John Bracken was one of the six children of Richard and Bridget [maiden name unknown] Bracken from County Roscommon, Ireland. He was born in 1822. His siblings were Patrick, Michael, James, Bridget and Mary. This information comes from John's Statement of Offence.

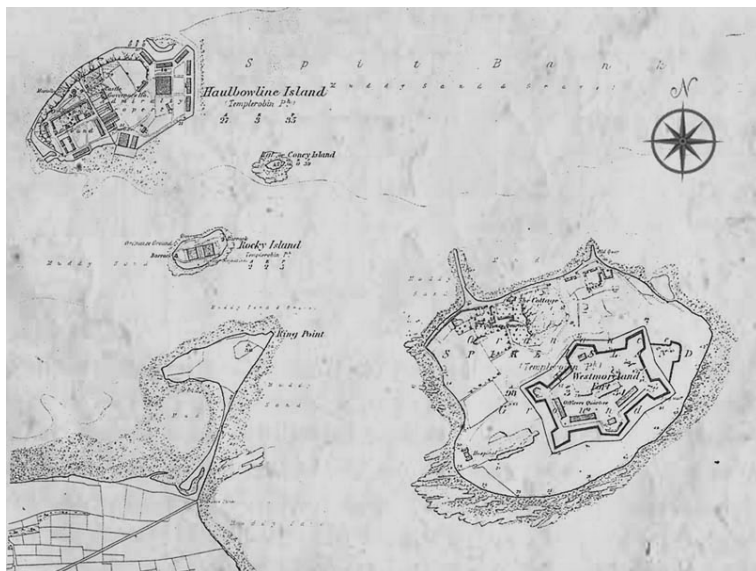
It was 23 February 1847 when John Bracken was tried and sentenced to be transported to Van Diemen's Land for seven years. His trial took place at Roscommon, Ireland, where he was charged with breaking into a dwelling house and assaulting Michael Cox, saying, 'I want money'.

John's prison report stated that he had not been convicted before, his conduct was good and he was single. It describes him as being a blacksmith by trade and that he could read a little. He was 5 foot 3¼ inches tall (1.61 m) with fair complexion, medium sized head, brown hair, grey eyes and 30 years of age, he was Roman Catholic. His right arm had been broken below the elbow.

Because of the number of male convicts already in Van Diemen's Land transportation to the island was suspended for two years from 1846. For this reason John spent just over two years in the Penitentiary of Spike Island, Cork, Ireland before being transported.

Spike Island is an island of only 103 acres (0.41 km²) situated in Lower Cork Harbour. Due to its defensive location in the harbour, it was acquired by the British army in 1779 and Fort Westmoreland was built there to prevent a French attack on the trading port of Cork. The first year that Spike Island became a convict depot was 1847. As this was the year of John Bracken's trial and he would have been one of its first prisoners.

Prisoners on the island were employed in quarrying stone for building works. They were paid for their work, but first had to go through a probationary period of eight months during which time no payment was made. The Island was used to house convicts prior to penal transportation, and by 1850, over 2,000 had been detained there.



Spike Island in Lower Cork Harbour

On 23 May 1849, John Bracken, as a prisoner, left Dublin not knowing that he was leaving his homeland forever. He was one of the 300 all-male prisoners on board the convict ship *Hyderabad*² Captained by T. A. **Castle**, [the second time he had captained this ship]. L. S. **Cunningham** was the surgeon in charge, and three deaths were recorded on the journey. This was the second time the *Hyderabad* had conveyed convicts to the colony. The first arrived on 2 September 1845 when it off-loaded 259 male convicts on Norfolk Island.¹

It was winter time, possibly as cold as Ireland, when John arrived in Hobart Town, Van Diemen's Land on 26 August 1849 ninety five days after the ship left Dublin, Ireland.² A journey so long, that when he arrived it must have seemed like he had travelled to the end of the earth, and indeed, he almost had. It was 46 years after the first settlement on the island.

The Hobart *Courier* reported the arrival of the *Hyderabad* (2) on Wednesday 29 August 1849:

SHIPPING NEWS – PORT OF HOBART TOWN.

August 26 [1849], arrived the ship Hyderabad 631 tons,- Castles, from Kingston, (Ireland) 23rd May, with 297 male convict passengers. L. S. Cunningham, Esq., Surgeon-Superintendent; Lieutenant Hunter, 11th Regiment, Mrs. Hunter and two children; Ensign Ward 56th Regiment; Rev. Mr. M'Carthy, R C.C. Mr. O'Brien, Religious Instructor; 42 rank and file, 65th, 11th, 99th, and 56th regiments, 2 women and 16 children.

Imagine the look on John Bracken's face as he surveyed his surroundings while waiting to disembark. He would have seen a landscape full of trees as far as the eye could see, tall strange trees and thick undergrowth that would have been so foreign to him and unlike anything that he had seen in Ireland. He would not have known that one day in the future that he would be a free man, cutting down single-handed, large trees like the ones he could now see.

SURNAME: BRACKEN	OTHER NAMES: JOHN
AGE: 25	SEX: M
PLACE OF TRIAL: Co. Roscommon	TRIAL DATE: 23/02/1847
PLACE OF IMPRISONMENT: Spike Island, Cork	
DOCUMENT DATE:	
CRIME DESCRIPTION: GRIEVOUS ASSAULT	
SENTENCE: Transportation 7 years	
SHIP: <i>Hyderabad</i>	
PETITIONER:	RELATIONSHIP:
DOCUMENT REFERENCES: TR 6 p 170	
MICROFILM REFERENCES:	COMMENTS:

John Bracken's transportation record from The National Archives of Ireland. The document reference is the National Archives of Ireland's reference to the original document in the archives. The microfilm reference number refers to the set of microfilms presented to Australia in 1988, as a bicentenary gift to Australia by the Irish Government.

The Convict Ship *Hyderabad*

The *Hyderabad* was an 815-ton frigate, built in 1841 at the Sunderland, Yorkshire, England shipyards. Almost all the newer vessels after 1841 came from this Durham port, and they proved excellent frigate-built vessels. They were far more pleasant to sail in than previously had been the case.³

Sunderland was long an important coal port, but the industry for which the town was until recently better known for was shipbuilding. Since 1346 when Thomas **Menville** was recorded as building vessels here, Sunderland has had a shipbuilding industry and indeed it is claimed that shipbuilding had taken place in even earlier times. In 1885, a primitive 2000 year old dug-out canoe, was found in the River Wear and was the first example of Sunderland boat building workmanship. Whatever the origins of shipbuilding on Wearside, by 1814 Sunderland had 24 shipyards, a figure which reached 65 in 1840.

By the mid twentieth-century, when the town produced more than a quarter of the nation's total tonnage of merchant and naval ships for the World War Two, Sunderland was widely regarded as the largest shipbuilding town in the world. Sadly, despite strong opposition from workers and community leaders, Sunderland's last shipyards were closed down in 1988.⁴

Duncan Dunbar –Ship Owner

This highly successful shipowner, Duncan **Dunbar**, (1803-1862), had succeeded his father in 1825, [at the age of 22], and was a comparatively latecomer to the convict service. He was one of the first shipowners to patronise the Sunderland yards. Among his Sunderland-built ships was the *Hyderabad*.⁵

The predominant position of Sunderland-built vessels during the last years of transportation to Tasmania, was due to the immense growth of the ship-building industry and the entry of Duncan Dunbar into the convict trade. It is said that he had the biggest fleet in the world at one time. He died a bachelor at the age of 59.

The Convict Ship *Earl Grey*

Coincidentally, Duncan Dunbar also owned the 571-ton convict ship, the *Earl Grey*, built in 1835 in the Newcastle, England shipyards. The first time the *Earl Grey* carried convicts to the colony was 31 December 1836, when it off loaded 288 male convicts at Sydney.⁶

The fourth time the *Earl Grey (4)* carried convicts to the colony, was on 9 May 1850, when, on its autumn arrival in Hobart Town, one of the prisoners that disembarked was Catherine Cunningham.

Catherine Cunningham's Trial and Transportation

Catherine Cunningham was one of four children born to parents James Cunningham and Mary [nee **Doolan**] about 1826, in King's County, Kildare Ireland, [King's County, was the former name for Offaly].

Catherine was tried on 3 January 1849, and was sentenced to be transported to the Colony for seven years. Her trial took place at Maynooth, Kildare County, Ireland. This time, she was charged with stealing a quilt. She had been charged once before for stealing a cow and received a sentence of four months in prison.

Catherine was 5 foot 2 inches (1.57 m) tall, and her manner is described as quiet. Her complexion was fresh, with medium head, brown hair, short flat face, high forehead, light hazel eyes, cocked nose, with medium mouth and chin. She was aged 23 and single, could not read or write and was a Roman Catholic. Her

trade is stated as a needlewoman, but her ship report lists her as a servant.

Her conviction information sheet of 3 January 1849, under relations, states that Catherine's father was James Cunningham. He was transported to Sydney but it is not clear whether it was for 14 years, or 14 years before Catherine's sentence. There are a few convicts named James Cunningham but I do not know which one, or if any, could be Catherine's father. Also stated under relations is the information that she has a (M) mother called Mary, a (B) brother called James (jnr), and two (S) sisters; Margaret and Biddy.

MARRIED OR SINGLE <i>S</i> <i>CCN 15/6 111a</i>	RELIGION <i>R B</i>	READ OR WRITE <i>N</i>	RELATIONS <i>James transported to Sydney 14/1/1836</i> <i>M Mary</i> <i>B James</i> <i>S Margaret, Biddy</i>
<i>CCN 15/6 111a</i>	NAME <i>Cunningham, Cath</i>	HEIGHT <i>5/2</i>	AGE <i>23</i>
			TRADE <i>Needle Woman</i>
SHIP CHARACTER <i>do</i> <i>DITTO</i> <i>(as good above)</i>	OFFENCES <i>Stg a Suit On Board at Kildare</i> <i>Stg a pair of Mitts</i>		
WHERE TRIED <i>Kildare</i>	WHEN TRIED <i>3 January</i> <i>1849</i>	SENTENCE <i>7</i>	NATIVE PLACE <i>Kings Co</i>

Catherine Cunningham's conviction information sheet.

On 17 December 1849, almost a year after her trial, Catherine left Dublin as one of the 240 all-female prisoners on board the convict ship, the *Earl Grey* (4). Catherine, like John Bracken, would not know that she was also leaving her family and homeland forever. The *Earl Grey* was mastered by H E Lansdowne, with the surgeon in charge, John Ferrier, four deaths were recorded on the journey. On 9 May 1850, 143 days after the *Earl Grey* left Dublin,⁷ Catherine Cunningham arrived in Hobart Town, Van Diemen's Land.

SURNAME: CUNNINGHAM	OTHER NAMES: CATHERINE
AGE: 0	SEX: F
PLACE OF TRIAL: Co. Kildare	TRIAL DATE: 03/01/1849
PLACE OF IMPRISONMENT:	DOCUMENT DATE:
CRIME DESCRIPTION: Felony of a quilt	
SENTENCE: Unknown	
SHIP:	
PETITIONER:	RELATIONSHIP:
DOCUMENT REFERENCES: TR 8, P 224	
MICROFILM REFERENCES:	COMMENTS:

Catherine Cunningham's transportation record from The National Archives of Ireland.

The Meeting of John Bracken and Catherine Cunningham

John and Catherine were both in Pontville in 1852 – a small town 25 km north of Hobart. Marriage was encouraged and married convicts were given certain indulgences, including the right to live together. Marriage improved their situation, offered a bit more respect and provided a purpose to work their way to freedom.



St Mark's United Church of England and Ireland, Pontville, District of Brighton, Tasmania (photo: <https://hobartandbeyond.com.au/place/st-marks-church-pontville/>)

John and Catherine married on 7 February 1853 in St Mark's United Church of England and Ireland, 12 years after it opened, in Pontville, Tasmania in the District of Brighton, by Reverend John **Burrows**, B.A., (1841-76). This may have

been a turning point in their lives, which contributed to their good behaviour, and in turn, led to their freedom. On their marriage certificate, John Bracken stated that he was 32 years old and is a widower, while Catherine says that she is a 25 year old spinster. John and Catherine signed their marriage certificate with an X, [their mark]. Witnesses were James **Quigley** and Elizabeth **Brown**.

1853

MARRIAGES in the District of

Brighton

When married, and where.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Rank.	Signature and Description of Parties.	Name of Clergyman, Officiating Minister, or Deputy Registrar.	When registered.	Signature of Deputy Registrar or Officiating Minister.
St Mark's Church Porchville Tasmania 1853	John Bracken Catherine Cunningham	32 25	Widower Spinster	<i>[Signature]</i> John Bracken Widower <i>[Signature]</i> Catherine Cunningham Spinster	<i>[Signature]</i> James Quigley Minister	Feb 7 1853	<i>[Signature]</i> Elizabeth Brown Minister

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rules and Ceremonies of the United Church of England & Ireland by Henry
 This Marriage was solemnized between us } *[Signature]* John Bracken } { In the Presence } James Quigley } *[Signature]* Elizabeth Brown }
 between us } *[Signature]* Catherine Cunningham } of us } *[Signature]* } *[Signature]* } Minister.

James and Catherine's Marriage Certificate, 1853 (.Reproduced with permission of the Department of Education Archives Office of Tasmania)

REFERENCES

1. Charles Bateson, *The Convict Ships 1787-1868*, Appendix, IV. Convict Ships to Norfolk Island, 1840-1847. Date of Arrival: 1845, p.372-373, and; VII(c). Convicts Disembarked at Norfolk Island and Sydney or Hobart, Year: 1845, p.395
2. Charles Bateson, *The Convict Ships 1787-1868*. Brown, Son & Ferguson, Ltd., Publishers 52 Darnley St, Glasgow, S.1, 1969 Second Edition): Appendix, II. Convict Ships to Van Diemen's Land, 1812-1853, Date of Arrival: 1849, p.368, 370-371, and; Appendix, VII(b) Prisoners Disembarked at Sydney and Hobart, Year: 1849, p.394
3. Charles Bateson, *The Convict Ships 1787-1868*, chapter eleven, The Voyages, 1841-1868, Sunderland-Built Vessels, p.293
4. Internet, Sunderland and east Durham history - A Shipbuilding Tradition.
5. Charles Bateson, *The Convict Ships 1787-1868*, chapter eleven, The Voyages, 1841-1868, Duncan Dunbar's Fleet, p.299-300
6. Charles Bateson, *The Convict Ships 1787-1868*, Appendix, I. Convict Ships To New South Wales, 1801-1849, Date of Arrival: 1836, p.352, p.354, and; VII(b) Prisoners Disembarked at Sydney and Hobart, Year: 1836, p.390
7. Charles Bateson, *The Convict Ships 1787-1868*, Appendix, VII(b) Prisoners Disembarked at Sydney and Hobart, Year: 1850, p.394, and; Appendix, II. Convict Ships to Van Diemen's Land, 1812-1853, Date of Arrival: 1850, p. 370-371

BBFHS EDUCATION PROGRAM

by Carol **Cronan** and Lillian **Magill** (Educators)

Our first Education Class for 2022 was held on 17 February via Zoom. It was well attended and showed how to make better use of the National Library of Australia and the State Library of NSW. If you haven't used either of these institutions in recent times it is well worth having another look.

Jennie **Fairs** sent out a survey to all members in late January asking for ideas for Education topics. We are looking at offering sessions on some of these throughout the year. One topic that was repeatedly suggested was the effective organising of resources so we will schedule a session around this. Of course we would also love to hear from any member who has a particular interest or expertise they would like to share with others via a workshop.

We remind readers that registration for all workshops requires booking on the Botany Bay Family History website at <http://www.botanybayfhs.org.au> at least 24 hours in advance and the payment of \$5 by members and non members.

A Powerful PowerPoint Workshop will be presented by Leonie Bell on Thursday, 28 April 2022, from 11.00am to 2.30pm. Further details will be available in the eNEWS and on our Botany Bay FHS website.

Because RootsTech, hosted by Family Search, is on in March and has free registration there will be no separate classes offered by BBFHS. Classes for the remainder of the year will be advertised in the eNEWS so keep an eye out for the topics and dates.

RootsTech welcomes millions of people online at the world's largest virtual family history conference – you can learn a lot! With many classes and inspiring speakers, RootsTech brings the human family together like no other event. Although the conference is from **3-5 March**, about the time you will be reading this, the presentations are available for the next year. To see what is available go to <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/next/> and sign up. A good look will reveal gems that you may never have thought of, mixed in a very wide-ranging, although perhaps some less-relevant, content. Any BBFHS members who have previously been involved – as either physical (they went to the US a few years ago – pre Covid) or virtual, as more recent attendees, say – **Thoroughly recommended!**



IT'S A SMALL WORLD

by Helen **Bain** (Member)

My grandfather had many interesting stories about his childhood and the places his family lived as they moved round the country with his father's job. One of their homes was the 1860s mansion *Clifton* in Ballast Point Road, Balmain which they rented from about 1901 to 1916. The house, now referred to as *Clifton Villa*, still stands high on the hill, looking out to the north. Its unusual roof lines make it quite recognisable in the distance from the ferry as it makes its way to the wharf.



Clifton (photo: Horatio Nelson "Horrie" Booth)

Clifton has had many tenants over the years. The first recorded occupant was the steam boat proprietor John **Manning** and in more recent times it was purchased in 1973 by the artist Charles **Blackman** who used it for an art school and renamed it *Chiron College* before reverting to be a residential property. It is a real gentleman's abode and once had marble fire places, a ballroom and still has marvellous views of Snails Bay from the top story which includes the Parramatta River to the west and Port Jackson towards the east.

While doing some research about the property, I stumbled across an 1874 obituary which revealed yet another tenant, a lady named Matilda Anne **Shoobert**,

beloved wife of James Shoobert, at her residence “Clifton”, Balmain.

This was most interesting to me on two counts. First, it was my family association with the house and second, the Shoobert name which was familiar to me as it was the maiden name of my close friend Judy, who subsequently confirmed that these were in fact her ancestors. Quite amazing!

Captain James Shoobert had been manager of the Bulli Coal Company at Mt Keira and the pioneer of the coal industry in the Illawarra, a man who deserves a story of his own. He, his wife and several members of their family are buried in Balmain Cemetery where I also have ancestors buried.

A couple of years ago Judy and I took a sentimental journey to Balmain to visit *Clifton*. Because of the value of the land on which the house stands, most of its beautiful spacious gardens have disappeared. High fencing made photos difficult but real estate photos of its last sale shows its now very modern interior. What was the ballroom is now converted to a covered outdoor recreation area with a swimming pool and there is now no sign of the marble fireplaces Pa talked out. Despite all, she is still a grand old lady.



Phillis **Booth**, my great grandmother, and her daughters in the front garden of *Clifton*
(photo: Horatio Nelson “Horrie” Booth, my grandfather’s eldest brother)

This article lists the new Library accessions. We remind members that there is a wealth of family history information accumulated over some 38 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’.

NEW SOUTH WALES

- History of Campbelltown, New South Wales [AN.LH.2560.3LC]
- Menai Primary School Centenary 1902-2002 [AN.LH.2234.1LC]

VICTORIA

- Your Introduction to Sovereign Hill – Guide to the Goldmining Township [AV.LH.3350.1LC]

BRITAIN

- Tracing Your Ancestors Using the UK Historical Timeline - A Guide for Family Historians [BRIT.GUI.1.39LC]

ENGLAND

- The Hidden Places of Sussex [E.SSX.HIS.41.1LC]

SCOTLAND

- Finding Your Scottish Ancestors – Techniques for Solving Genealogy Problems [S.GUI.1.15LC]

INTERNATIONAL

- The Ultimate “How to Do” Guidebook. Digital Family History [INT.GUI.2.8LC]
- Ethical Dilemmas in Genealogy [INT.GUI.1.17LC]

GENERAL

- Tamworth Identities, Volume 1 [G.BIOG.4N.29a]
- Tamworth Identities, Volume 2 [G.BIOG.4N.29b]
- Tamworth Identities, Volume 3 [G.BIOG.4N.29c]
- Griffith & District Pioneers – A Biographical Register (Series 2) [G.BIOG.4N.30]
- Last Woman Hanged – The Terrible True Story of Louisa Collins [G.BIOG.COL.1LC]

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

Compiled by Janette **Daly** (Librarian)

SO SOMEONE STOLE THE FLOWERS OFF YOUR LOVED ONE'S GRAVE – OR DID THEY?

by Rowena **Summers** (Member)

While this is not strictly family history, most of us as family historians will, at some time or other, visit the graves of our ancestors. This may be in the hope of finding a further snippet of information other than we have been able to locate to date, or just to pay our respects to our ancestors and/or loved ones. As someone who exercises in my local cemetery, I love to see all the beautiful colour of floral arrangements left en masse after days such as Mothers' and Fathers' days, or Christmas and to a lesser extent the birthdays or anniversaries of the deceased.



Flowers – real or artificial?
(photo: unknown)

People often have strong views regarding fresh or artificial arrangements and both have advantages or disadvantages. Fresh flowers are dead within a week so unless there is someone regularly tending the grave, it looks rather sad with an arrangement of now dead flowers. If one is not in a position to visit regularly perhaps give thought to an artificial arrangement, many now quite realistic and which usually remain for a long time. Some people leave a pot plant or small miniature garden which being heavier, will not blow over or away. When a grave is in the lawn part of a cemetery the flower vase is often inserted into the grass beside the plaque on the concrete strip – the problem being that they are easily disturbed by the groundsmen whippet-snipping or mowing (why do they not put holes in the concrete strip to accommodate a flower vase?). When strong westerly winds blow during winter, or there is a major storm any time of the year, bunches of artificial flowers litter the fence line on the downwind edge of the cemetery. The groundsmen when tidying the area then pick them up and because they have no idea which grave they came from, nor have the time to do anything else, put them all in the garbage bins (we won't go into THAT problem)! Whenever you decide to put something on a grave, give serious consideration as to what you will leave and how you might secure it.

BBFHS RESEARCH CENTRE AND LIBRARY

by Jean **Campbell** (Research Centre Coordinator)

Not unexpectedly, Covid-19 regulations have restricted access to our Research Centre. We are very aware and understand that many members are being cautious with their activities outside their home.

In December, we opened for four days. All days had researchers present and the Centre Volunteers were pleased. We planned to reopen in January but because of the high numbers of Covid-19 cases, we stayed closed. Instead, the Committee decided to open half way through February, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from 10am to 2pm. I sent out a very blank February roster to the Centre Volunteers and was so stunned that I had all blanks filled within two days of asking for Volunteers to be on duty. All are double vaccinated and many are triple vaccinated. They are such a wonderful ‘bunch’! **Thank you all.**

All researchers must be at least ‘double vaxxed’ too, scan our QR code and sign in. Masks must be worn indoors and social distancing upheld.

We usually do a major clean and stock take before opening in a new year. This year, Margaret and Brian **Heaton** and Doug **Parkes** offered to go into the Centre, with their ladders and do a high clean (fans, metal beams, air conditioner filters etc) as well as furniture and shelves. Thanks so much!! The stock take will be done on a Saturday later in the year.

We have bought two new printers. The black monochrome printer, which had been donated to us, could not keep up with the computer updates, so another monochrome one has been bought to be used for general printing from the computers. We also bought a new coloured printer for administrative publications, as we have been struggling with the original one for years. It was bought in 2013!

We have retired Computer 1 which was uneconomic to repair and will not be replaced. Programs that were on it have been transferred to one of the other computers (e.g. *The Genealogist*).

This article was written in January. We cannot know the Covid-19 situation in March as we have to follow NSW Government and Sutherland Council decisions. Please keep reading our BBFHS eNEWS, which will have details about March. Hopefully we will be open for longer times and able to add Saturdays.

YOU, our members, are very welcome to come into the Centre to do some research. Our Volunteers will be happy to help you. Please book in, botanybayfhs@yahoo.com.au as we are still limited as to how many are in the Centre at one time.



ONE LEAF OF THE SHAMROCK – THE CAVENAGH FAMILY

by Roberta **Madsen** (Member)

When researching my grandchildren's maternal genealogy, I found three Irish families who settled in the Hunter Valley and became connected through marriage. This is one of the families.

Twenty-two-year-old James and eighteen-year-old Bernard **Cavenagh**¹ awoke to the commotion of the bustle of shipboard activity. After 108 days at sea the sailing ship the *John Renwick* was altering its course in preparation to enter the majestic heads of Port Jackson. As they came up on deck the sun sat suspended on the edge of the expanse of ocean in anticipation to burst its light into the sky shimmering across the water. In that moment, all sorrow, doubts and fears of their decision to leave their home and family in Annagh, County Cavan, Ireland, and travel to Australia, were forgotten.

Feeling the warmth of spring when they left Plymouth, England on 14 May 1841, they were again to feel its warmth on their arrival in Sydney on 31 August 1841. As the ship rounded the heads and they embraced the tranquillity and beauty of the harbour the Cavenaghs felt the first rush of excitement of the life that lay ahead in this new land.

In the shelter of the coves in the harbour there was constant loading and unloading of goods and people. While James and Bernard prepared to disembark, they sought out their 17 year old sister Anne, amongst the other 200 passengers, and navigated the confusion of finding their belongings. The wharves had been a hive of activity as almost two thousand immigrants had progressed wearily along them during the past week.²

The Cavenaghs made their way to the agent's offices of Nicholas **James** and Co who were busy allocating them to their destinations. This agent was paid £19 for each individual.³

The government sought to replace the labour force with the Assisted Immigrant scheme, paying agents to organise for fit men and women to emigrate. With transportation ceasing, the abundant convict labour that so many settlers in Australia had taken advantage of, was coming to an end. Young families as well as single males and females were welcomed to fill these positions using their skills in their trades, or just as labourers. The women were especially required as farm and domestic servants. The list of occupations describes most as labourers or farm servants, which is what they stated in order to meet the requirements to enable

them to be chosen as immigrants.

James, Bernard and Anne had read the posters around their village extolling the virtues of ready work and the need of young people to work the land. They listened intently at local meetings to the emigration agents talking so positively about the prospects of a good life in Australia. They made the decision to leave their parents, Bernard and Anne, and take the leap of faith required to risk a long hazardous journey and an unknown future.

The Cavenaghs having been allocated their destination, now found they had to endure another day of a sea journey as they headed northwards to the town of Newcastle. They were pleased to see familiar faces on board the coastal ship as seventy others from the *John Renwick* were joining them to find work and settle on farms. James and Bernard had found employment on the property *Dunmore* owned by Andrew **Lang**.⁴

Andrew Lang was the brother of the controversial Reverend John Dunmore Lang who was intent on bringing moral Scottish Calvinists as bounty immigrants to Australia to counteract the influence of the Irish Catholics. So, it was ironic that the Catholic Cavenaghs along with many other Catholic Irish families found ready work on the estate, amongst the Scottish tenant farmers who had arrived here in 1837.⁵ During the 1830s in preparation to cultivate the land and run livestock, the Lang's had previously cleared the thick timber and lush growth from their 1,000 acre (405 ha) property using the convict labour allocated to them.

The warmth of spring soon turned to the intolerable heat of summer as the two brothers learnt the ways of farming this rich alluvial soil bordering the Paterson River.

In February 1843 the Irish settlers experienced their first flood and may have been praying for St Patrick, as along with the sheaths of hay and floating animals rushing past in the torrent, came the multitude of snakes.⁶

It was not long, with the inevitable socialising with their Irish neighbours, that James and Bernard found partners adding a leaf to the shamrock. Winifred and Bridget were the daughters of Miles and Unity **Kelly** who had arrived on the *Herald* from County Tyrone, Ireland, in July 1841. James married Winifred Mary Kelly in 1844 and Bernard married Bridget Mary Kelly in 1846.⁷

With the beginning of his own family on the birth of his daughter Mary Anastasia in 1848 Bernard now became settled into his adoptive land. Two more daughters arrived soon after, Annie in 1850 and Ellen Teresa in 1852.⁸

The constant toil soon brought monetary rewards from the selling of crops of maize and potatoes. A homestead, farm sheds and barn were constructed over the years. This finance also allowed them to purchase the many variety of articles

required for a rural life. Pigs and fowls were added to the farm livestock as well as milking cows. Later their financial gains enabled them to employ men to help construct fencing and sheds and assist with ploughing and harvesting of the crops.⁹

From the time it united with Britain in 1801, Ireland doubled its population by the 1840s. Predominantly a rural society there was little industrialization throughout Ireland. Thousands of Irish moved to the industrial towns of northern England to find work in the newly created mills and factories.

A vast majority of the most productive farmland was in ownership of wealthy, and often absent, English landlords. The Irish people worked these lands in their employ or as tenant farmers paying rent to them. Agricultural machinery was beginning to replace the workforce of manual labourers. The small farms were handed down to all sons and consequently with each generation the holdings became too small to sustain a family.

To add to the problems, since the young Cavenaghs had left Ireland, the country from 1845 was thrown into the calamity of the failure of the potato crops. As a good cash crop, those that grew them, were left without an income and those that relied on a diet of this staple food were left starving.¹⁰

In consequence Bernard and James encouraged their father Bernard and his wife Anne and their three girls Mary aged 18, Susan 16 and Rose 14 to join them in Australia.

On hearing of the arrival of the ship *Trafalgar* on 22 February 1853 Bernard, James and Anne were devastated to find their father Bernard aged 53 had died from typhus fever, along with others, during the voyage. The ship was placed in Quarantine until 10 March but Mary and Susan were still unwell in quarantine when their mother left to travel to the Hunter Valley. Rose then also developed signs of the fever and Anne immediately took her to Maitland Hospital where she was placed in isolation.¹¹

In 1853, Bernard found himself able to lease from Andrew Lang 29.5 acres (12 ha) for £29/10/- per year for the period of seven years from 1 January 1854.¹² Then together with James they purchased Lot 6 of the neighbouring *Aberglassyn* estate comprising 20 acres 3 roods and 20 perches (8.44 ha) where they were able to run their own cattle.¹³ James who also now had a growing family purchased Lot 2 of the *Dunmore* estate of 16 acres and 10 perches (6.5 ha).¹⁴

With the birth of his son James Thomas in 1855 Bernard looked to increase his land holding. He purchased 230 acres (93 ha) of the property *Knockfin* for £621 in May 1856. It was advertised as, 'A Farm containing 230 acres on the *Knockfin Estate*, adjoining Luskintyre, about two miles (3.2 km) from Lochinvar.'¹⁵ Using the example of his Irish landlords Bernard chose to collect the rent, leasing this

property for seven years while the tenants were responsible for clearing and fencing the land and he had further land to run his cattle.

A newspaper article advertising *Knockfin* for lease again in 1862 showed the improvements since 1856. It was enclosed all round with a three-rail fence and divided into two paddocks, of which 60 acres (24 ha) are good cultivation and the rest pasture. Improvements consisted of two slab houses and two stockyards

This second leasing did not occur and the growing Cavenagh family of four more children, Sarah Laura born 1856, Bridget 1858, John William 1860, and Bernard Francis 1862, moved from *Dunmore* to *Knockfin*,

The success of his endeavours over twenty years showed when Bernard looked to sell the good will and farming improvements of his leasehold on the *Dunmore* estate:

The Good Will of this farm is for sale. It is in a very high state of cultivation, consisting 33 acres with growing crop consisting of 5 acres lucerne, the remainder maize and potatoes. There is a good dwelling house, kitchen, men's huts and a barn. The auctioneer feels a very great pleasure in impressing upon persons wishing to obtain a first-rate farm that one such as this rarely comes on the market.

From early settlement in the Hunter Valley in the 1820s, individuals sought to plant vineyards for wine making. The following decades saw this area eventually develop into one of Australia's premier wine growing regions. Bernard decided he would join those making wine but not having any expertise in the matter, advertised for a German family to plant a vineyard in December 1863. He certainly produced some wine as he advertised 1,000 gallons (4550 l) of strong wine for sale. One wonders at the quality of it.¹⁶

Bernard's appearances in the local court, showed him to be a forthright man quick to accuse others of misdemeanours against him, especially in regard to his cattle. He took offence at being charged a toll of sixpence to ride on the Pitnacree ferry on a Sunday after returning home from his religious observance, at St Patrick's Church Lochinvar. In the instance of Mrs Halfpenny's fowls wandering on to his property he showed his temper to be somewhat threatening to her and shot one of her fowls.¹⁷ This was balanced with his involvement in local affairs, one of which was a meeting of 40 inhabitants of the district held at his residence to lobby for a punt across the river at Luskintyre, in a straight line from Lochinvar to serve the families on that side of the Hunter River.¹⁸

James and Winifred were raising a family of seven children when tragedy struck on 29 December 1864 when Winifred died in childbirth.¹⁹ James eventually sold his farm on *Dunmore* in 1873 and moved with some of his children to a property at Mount Alford, Terrabrook near Boonah in the Darling Downs,

Queensland. On his death there in 1898 his body was brought back to Maitland cemetery for burial with Winifred.

Bernard and Bridget had two more children at *Knockfin*, Augustus Miles in 1864 and Winifred Susan in 1866. An advertisement appeared reflecting the importance Bernard attributed to the education for his children:

a Catholic governess is required in January 1869 to impart a sound English education to five children.

Knockfin was now a substantial property with a cottage of six rooms, kitchen containing two rooms and a large brick oven. The outbuildings consisted of one man's hut, a large strongly built barn, a dairy with all the latest improvements, milking shed, wine cellars and stock and drafting yards. There were calf and piggery pens and a fowl house. There was seven acres (2.8 ha) of first class vineyard and a one acre (0.4 ha) orchard stocked with a choice assortment of fruit trees. The farm was divided into 50 acres (20 ha) of land under cultivation with securely fenced paddocks which were well grassed and watered having a half mile (805 m) frontage to the Hunter River. His and James' *Aberglassyn* property was let for £30 per annum.

Two more children were born to Bernard and Bridget, Ada Josephine 1871, and Alice Mary 1874.²⁰

The family celebrated the marriage of Ellen Teresa to William Thomas Keys at St Patrick's church, Lochinvar on 6 March 1873. Thus the third leaf of the shamrock was added. Ellen returned to *Knockfin* so that Bridget to assist with the birth of her children.²¹

From August 1874 Bernard advertised his *Knockfin* and *Aberglassyn* properties for sale. He stated he was only selling such a bountiful property as he was moving to Queensland. This was likely to join his brother James in the productive farming area of the Darling Downs. Whilst the advertisements appeared as a private sale until January 1875 Bernard then placed the sale into professional hands with it still being advertised on 3 March 1875.²²

Unfortunately the sale and the move did not take place as Bernard died from pneumonia after a short illness of three weeks on 10 March 1875:

Death of an old respected resident.

*Quite a gloom was cast over the district on Wednesday evening when it became known that Mr Bernard Cavenagh of Knockfin near Lochinvar was dead. He was one of the few model men you find, and his loss will not only be felt by his wife and family, but throughout the district. His funeral took place yesterday (Thursday) and was one of the largest we have seen in Lochinvar.*²³

He left a wife and twelve children to deplore his loss.

Bridget was again coping with her grief in May two months later when her eldest son James Thomas was drowned when knocked from his horse herding their cattle across the river.²³

Bridget was left with young children, Alice Mary being only one year old, but she started on the journey that she would take for the next thirty years – successfully managing the development of the farms she and Bernard worked so hard for. Bridget died at the age of 89 in 1914:

*A very old and respected resident was laid to rest on Monday in the person of Mrs Cavenagh. She was a widow for over thirty years and without the commanding influence of a father she reared a large family, every member of which is held in the highest esteem. She was of a most kindly disposition, extremely charitable and an ardent supporter of the RC Church, of which she belonged. Her house was noted for its hospitality and her assistance was readily obtainable for every deserving cause.*²⁴

Bridget Mary was buried with her husband Bernard and son James Thomas in Lochinvar Catholic Cemetery.



Cavenagh family gravestone (photo: Paul Fitzgerald, <https://austcemindex.com/contributor?contributor=8>)

REFERENCES

1. Spelling occurs as Cavenagh, Cavanagh or Kavanagh
2. *The Sydney Gazette and NSW Advertiser* Page3 Thurs 2 September 1841. Accessed [Trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article](https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article).

3. NSWA&R Persons on Bounty Ships (Agents Immigration Lists) Series 5314 Reel 1330
4. Newcastle and Hunter Valley Convict and Colonial History.
Freesettlerorfelon.com/andrewlang.htm
5. Papers of John Dunmore Lang [nla.gov.au .obj244257766](http://nla.gov.au/obj244257766)
6. *Maitland Mercury and Hunter River Advertiser* Hunter River Floods Sat 25 February 1843 Page 2. Trove nla.gov.au
7. NSW BDM, <https://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au> 18442421James, 1846619 Bernard
8. NSW BDM, <https://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au> 18483088 121B Mary, 1850852 37A Anne, 1852 907 69 Ellen
9. *Maitland Mercury and Hunter River Advertiser*. Advertisements for sale of produce and farming implements.
10. R.F.Foster *Modern Ireland 1600-1972* Published 1990 Penguin Press
11. *Sydney Morning Herald* Tuesday 1 March 1853. Accessed Trove ,
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/>
12. General Register of Deeds Book (Old System Book)32 No 682 accessed Historical Land Records Viewer (HLRV)
13. General Register of Deeds (Old System) Book34 No977 HLRV
14. General Register of Deeds Bk49 No 594 accessed HLRV
15. *The Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser* 1864. Accessed Trove, <https://trove.nla.gov.au/>
16. *ibid.*, July 1849. August 1850, November 1853 accessed Trove ,
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/>
17. *ibid.*, July 1864 accessed Trove , <https://trove.nla.gov.au/>
18. *ibid.*, Dec 1864. Coroners inquest. Accessed Trove , <https://trove.nla.gov.au/>
19. NSW BDM, <https://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au>
20. NSW BDM, <https://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au> 1873
21. *The Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser* Nov 1874 accessed Trove , <https://trove.nla.gov.au/>
22. *ibid.*, 13 March 1875 accessed Trove , <https://trove.nla.gov.au/>
23. *ibid.*, 8 May 1875 accessed Trove , <https://trove.nla.gov.au/>
24. *The Catholic Press* August 1914



COPY DEADLINE

Copy for the June 2022 journal should be submitted as soon as you have it available but the deadline is **Wednesday 4 May** – preferably by email to the Editor at bbfhs_ed@yahoo.com.au . Copy may also be left in the Editor’s folder at the Research Centre, handed to the Editor or a committee member at a monthly meeting or posted to **PO Box 1006 Sutherland NSW 1499**. Please affix your name and date of submission to the copy and indicate if you want any materials returned.



The Ryerson Index at <https://ryersonindex.org> is a wonderful Australian family history resource because death and funeral notices usually give family details and connexions that cannot be found anywhere else. There are over eight million entries, with more than four million from the past 30 years, which you will not find on any of the state BDM websites because of privacy provisions. When you find a relative in the index, go to the original source in Australian newspapers to find that detail. Before 1955, use *Trove*. At <https://ryersonindex.org/lookup.htm> there are good pointers to other sources

The Genealogical Society of Victoria (GSV) provides a GSV Visitor E-Pass which gives access to a huge range of genealogy resources for a short period (six hours) from your own home at an affordable price. Normally priced at \$20, you can buy a pass online at <https://www.gsv.org.au/visitor-e-pass> at the special introductory price of just \$10. The pass gives access to:

- Catalogue plus our Milestones and Genealogical Index of Names (GIN) databases together they provide access to 4.6 million records mainly from Victoria and may include digital images.
- Webcasts (over 200 items—see website at www.gsv.org.au for subject list)
- Our award-winning Ancestor magazine (articles are indexed in our catalogue)

The National Library of Scotland's Map images website has over a quarter of a million freely-available high-resolution maps online, dating from the last four centuries – <https://maps.nls.uk/index.html>. Although it focuses on Scotland, the Library is a United Kingdom legal deposit library and receives all UK published mapping such that they have good holdings of Ordnance Survey maps of England and Wales too, so their website is a useful resource for ancestor-hunting across England, Scotland and Wales.

NSW State Records at <https://tinyurl.com/bdd6y8ez> has a large library of webinars that you can view at your convenience. The webinars provide information on many of the archives that are useful for your family history research. Just some examples include: how to tag records, asylum records, convicts, divorce, land titles, photographs, police and railway service, probate and wills, school records, shipping, and women in the archives.

The Botany Bay FHS Members Interest Directory is available on our website at <http://www.botanybayfhs.org.au/members-interest-directory.html>. By listing the names, dates and places where your ancestors lived, you enable others to know about your research interests and make it possible for them to contact you if you have ancestors in common – to exchange information, perhaps including photos. To make use of this service, members should download the submission form from

the website, complete it and send it as an attachment to our webmaster at patfearnley@bigpond.com or hand it in at the Research Centre.

If you view the interest list and find an interesting entry, note the member's number in the right hand column and email the Society at botanybayfhs@yahoo.com.au. Your enquiry will be passed on to that member for a reply, maintaining the member's privacy.

Members Peter and Sylvia Quinnell are again in the news. They work behind the scenes to distribute the printed copies of *The Endeavour* each quarter. However, Sylvia has recently had her article titled *Where the Irish First Settled in Australia* republished on the *Ireland XO/Reaching Out* website ('connecting Irish diaspora since 2010') at <https://irelandxo.com/ireland-xo/news/where-irish-immigrants-settled-australia>. Her article first appeared in the December 2020 edition of *The Endeavour*.



Peter and Sylvia Quinnell (photo: Quinnell family album)



Find us on
Facebook

Follow BBFHS on Facebook at <http://tinyurl.com/nv2xclx>

COINCIDENCES IN FAMILY HISTORY

by Rowena **Summers** (Member)

During the Christmas break I called in to see Botany Bay member Beryl **Bauld** to return a book of hers she had lent me. During our chat she mentioned the firm her husband had worked for and I honed in on the **Matheson** in its name. My husband's maternal 3 x great grandfather who was born London in 1787 was associated with Jardine Matheson & Company in England. 'Oh yes', she said, 'same one', and produced a book *The Thistle and the Jade* – a celebration of 150 years of Jardine, Matheson & Company edited by Maggie Keswick which I had not come across in my previous research.

Going straight to the index, I found listed there both Captain **Clifton** and his clipper ship the *Red Rover*. The pages referred to provided yet another image of his ship, and a colour portrait of him, along with a photograph of the china plate he used in his ship (some of which I knew was left to his sons in his Will). Googling him and his ship brought up more examples of his china plate on the website of an auction house in England which sadly appears to have gone out of business in 2008. Given that he had his clipper built to battle the monsoons en route to China, one is left to wonder how any of the china actually survived!

Some years ago while visiting London my husband and I had gone to the Greenwich Maritime Museum, and there we found a diorama of Captain Clifton and his ship. He is credited with the record for the fastest trip from Calcutta (now Kolkata) to Linton in China of 86 days return, bringing back tea and china plate for the English market.



Capt Clifton, enterprising, daring and strong-willed, was the builder, original owner and first master of *Red Rover*, the ship that continued, year after year, to make the fastest round trips from Calcutta to Canton. (artist: unknown)



The China Trade captains kept a very good table on their ships. This is part of a dinner service ordered for the *Red Rover*, now kept in the Jardine Matheson boardroom.
(photo: unknown,)



Red Rover in all her glory (artist: unknown)



Red Rover battling the monsoons in the China Strait (artist: unknown)

My mother-in-law in her early days of research had William and his wife tentatively labelled as Lord and Lady Clifton. I'm not sure she would have been impressed to discover that not only was he not a Lord, and that apart from what he inherited, he actually made much of his money as an opium runner – 800 chests full in that first record run alone! However, from the descriptions of him in various places, I nonetheless believe he was an ancestor to be proud of – far more so than his infamous eldest son who came to Sydney where he, albeit accidentally, killed a two year old child, was charged with manslaughter and was subsequently left completely out of his father's Will.

Thanks to Beryl and our random chat, I now have more to add to the story of Captain William Clifton.



Botany Bay Family History Society is a member of:

- **The NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies**
- **The Australasian Federation of Family History Societies**
- **The Family History Federation in the United Kingdom**

ERROL AND IVY – THE ALCOCKS OF *FERNLEIGH*

by Colleen **Passfield** (Member)

Errol Mortimer **Alcock** was born on 27 September 1907, the eldest of the six children of Harold M Alcock and his wife Annie Jane, nee **Johnston**. In 1926 Errol married Ivy Mary **Williams** in Cooma. Ivy had been born in 1905, the eldest daughter of the four children of Albert L Williams and his wife Elizabeth nee **Elliott**. All four children were born in Narromine.

After their marriage Ivy and Errol settled in Bega near the Alcock family property *Nobby Park* at the base of Brown Mountain. Errol's grandfather Jonas Alcock was a pioneer in the Bega area, having landed from England at Moruya in 1852 in search of gold, before becoming chairman of directors (for 27 years) of the butter factory that was the forerunner of Bega Cheese. Jonas imported one of the first motor vehicles in the region. The only problem was, he couldn't drive it. Young Errol quickly learnt how, and Jonas paid him to be his driving instructor, and Jonas received his driving licence after the age of 80. At 17 Errol drove the 'service car' that connected Bega to Cooma via Brown Mountain.

On 27 March 1927, in Bega, their only child Kevin Maurice Alcock was born. Errol worked as a motor mechanic while Ivy was a homemaker.

In 1936 the family moved to 43 North Parade, Auburn in the metropolitan Sydney. Errol became the owner of a service station in Rawson Parade, opposite the railway station. The family lived above the business. This is where Ivy's lifelong love of animals started with her keeping 'Mitzi', a small monkey, in the apartment. The move to Auburn had probably been influenced by the 1932 appointment of Ivy's father, Albert L Williams as postmaster at Merrylands and then in 1934 as postmaster at North Auburn.

Like her parents and other members of the Williams family, Ivy was a keen tennis player and competed in many local competitions. In 1944, as the oldest member of the Auburn-Lidcombe Hardcourt Tennis Association, Albert Williams, aged 73, played against two of his grandchildren in a semi-final of the local mixed doubles tournament. His partner was another grandchild, Norma **Cornford** aged 13. His wife, Elizabeth, had won a NSW hard-court title in 1902 and still played occasionally. When Kevin was a baby, Ivy was known to tie a dummy dipped in honey to the fence of the tennis court whilst playing, to keep him occupied.

During WWII, Ivy Alcock became well known as a charity worker in Sydney raising funds for Legacy, Red Cross and Food for Britain, amongst many

others. She was a familiar sight near Wynyard Station with her champion Alsatian dog Fang which she had trained to growl when the names Mussolini and Hitler were mentioned and to wag his tail at Churchill. So well known and loved was Fang that when he died aged 12 it was reported in the Sydney newspapers.



Ivy with her horses (photo: Local Studies Collection, Sutherland Shire Library)

Of particular interest was the Old Men's Home (later State Hospital) at Lidcombe which Ivy regularly visited on behalf of Red Cross to distribute comforts such as tobacco, cigarettes and books. In 1947 she noticed that there was a special need for winter overcoats and began canvassing her friends but soon realised this was not enough. She then wrote to the Minister for Health (C A **Kelly**) who made urgent enquiries and 1000 ex-Royal Navy overcoats were supplied.

In 1948 Ivy and the Old Men's Home were again news. She had befriended an elderly man who had been a resident for 25 years. Bob **Scott**, aged 74, was bedridden and had outlived all his relatives. His one terror was that he would be buried in a pauper's grave. Bob liked horse racing and had backed a winning double which paid him £25, enough to cover his cremation. Ivy promised that she would attend his funeral. In December, 1948, as the sole mourner, she placed a small wreath on his coffin with a card reading 'Bob Scott, you are not forgotten.' She had also promised to scatter his ashes to the four winds which she did.

house in the Sutherland Shire’, was constructed about 1859 and is listed on the NSW State Heritage Register. The property catered for the interests of both Alcocks – Errol was able to develop a mechanics business and Ivy was able to pursue her love of animals by turning the grounds into a private zoo.



Fernleigh House, Caringbah South, 1968 (photo: Local Studies Collection, Sutherland Shire Library)

After moving to Burraneer Bay, Errol, a keen sailor and experienced motor mechanic, set up and operated a marina on the waterfront which was known as *The Three Pines*, named for the large trees in *Fernleigh’s* front garden. Errol also purchased an ex-WWII army work boat affectionately known as ‘George’ to help in the running of the marina.

At this time there was no official Coast Guard. As a keen ham radio

operator, Errol would often intercept distress calls from boaters in trouble, in and around the Port Hacking/Bate Bay area. He would also assist police in conducting rescues any time of the night or day using his boat *Ivy* and bringing those saved back to his marina. Errol was credited with directly saving 131 lives and was awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) in 1975.

BOATS AND BOATING - Accidents and Injuries

Errol Alcock (SIC) Three Pines Boatshed, Burraneer Bay - sea rescues, etc. - 98th recorded.
The Leader 20/10/65, p.56, col. c-e.

SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS

Errol Alcock (SIC) reached 100th sea/water rescues - report and photo.
The Leader, 6/7/66, p. 11, col. b-d.

SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS

Sea rescue off Cronulla - 3 boats disabled by heavy seas - rescue co-ordinated by a private radio operator at Lilli Pilli - report and photo.
The Leader 21/2/79, p.3, col.c-g and 28/2/79, p.4 col.a-b.

Errol Alcock - sea rescues reported in the St George & Sutherland Shire Leader Index
(Local Studies Collection, Sutherland Shire Library)

Errol built a small dingy that had a car starter motor. It was run by a battery which turned the propeller and was ideal for scooting around the moored boats - possibly the first electric boat in Australia. Later he had a sea going vessel, 'Ivy II', with twin V8 engines in which he won second place in a Sydney to Newcastle race. Errol also had a passion for cars including a cream 1956 Chevrolet with a pink top, also a Rolls Royce which he drove in some episodes of the TV show *Skippy*. Local lore says that the engine from one of Errol's Rolls Royce Phantoms powered the local cinema's projector.

Errol's health declined in the 1970s, and the property was subdivided. The lovely terraced gardens were cut short and the tennis court removed to install a car park, and *The Three Pines* was sold to Jack **Gowland**, who years later sold the

business to local identities the **Stapletons**. The business now operates as the Burraneer Bay marina. Jack **Felgate** at the marina refurbished ‘George’, often seen in later years in and around local waters still towing disabled boats to safety.

Ivy Alcock had a passion for animals and developed a reputation for caring for them. As owner and operator of one of only two private zoos in Australia, she was frequently seen on TV with some of her animals which included monkeys, an orang-utan called Tarzan, kangaroos, emus, bats, Shetland ponies, Mexican walking fish, dogs and snakes. Her marmoset monkey, Mitzi, dressed in baby clothes, often appeared with Ivy on TV or charity events. The bats were named Count Yorga and Dracula and were let out each evening and returned each morning.

Ivy and her animals regularly appeared on television, and the house was the location of one of the ABC’s first ever “outside broadcasts”, with the OB vans parked on the lawns and the signals relayed back to the city by microwave transmitter. The animals also were regulars in newspapers and magazines - such as the front page of the *Australian Women’s Weekly* on 18 December 1957. Ivy and Errol were friends with many celebrities, including John **Laws** and Rolf **Harris** (his song *Tie Me Kangaroo Down, Sport* was launched on their front lawn in 1960 with promotional photos featuring Rolf with Ivy’s kangaroos, as well as Ivy and Rolf riding Tiny the Shetland Pony).

From the mid-1940s, Ivy was a well known sight driving around Cronulla in her little Fiat car nearly tipping over with her huge Great Dane, Caesar, hanging out the passenger side window. She always carried spare pet food and would stop to feed any stray animals. In later years, she drove a Daihatsu van with ZOO-001 number plates, with two Great Danes in the back and Chihuahua Emma in the front. Ivy and her monkeys were well known in shops around the area – the local chemist was enlisted to weigh the monkeys each week to check on their weights.

Ivy was a tireless fundraiser and worker for other charities such as the RSPCA, Animal Welfare League, hospitals, the blind and geriatric patients, Legacy and underprivileged children. For her 34 years of working for Red Cross, she was awarded the Red Cross Medal and Bar – a memorial to Ivy can still be found at the location of the former Red Cross Boys’ Home in Cronulla. Ivy was also an honorary ranger of the National Parks and Wildlife Service and foundation member of a number of Sutherland Shire organisations including the Sutherland Shire Historical Society. Ivy was awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) in 1957 and the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 1974 for her contribution to the community. In 1974 she was also named Sutherland Shire Citizen of the Year. Until she died, she used the Zoo and *Fernleigh* to fundraise for endless causes.

Not only was the Zoo a tourist attraction (it was open every Sunday morning for a “gold coin” donation), but the house itself was a real treasure trove. Every room contained historical artefacts and incredible pieces of history – visitors were dazzled when Ivy gave them the “Cook’s Tour” - ending with the reveal of “Basil Bones” - a skeleton hanging in the closet in the attic, supposedly of a convict buried in the garden (but in reality a medical training tool brought home by their son Kevin).

Kevin attended The Kings School, Parramatta on a scholarship from 1939-1944, then undertook a Bachelor of Science at Sydney University. During a brief stay in the Masonic Hospital Ashfield, Kevin met nurse Shirley Margaret **Gilroy**. At his 21st birthday celebration on 23 March 1948, no-one was more surprised than Kevin when Ivy stood up to make a speech, and announced that Kevin and Shirley were getting married! They married in 1950 in The King’s School Chapel. Whilst at university, Kevin changed his name from Alcock to **Alcott**, and a number of the family followed suit. However, the marriage registry records his name as Alcock.

When Ivy and Errol moved to *Fernleigh*, Kevin and Shirley followed them and in the early years, also lived at *Fernleigh* before building a home in Tullimbar Road, Cronulla. Kevin was working full time as a sales engineer but he decided he wasn’t challenged enough, so he also enrolled in a full time medical degree. Things came to a head after four years when he was so successful in sales that Vacuum Oil offered him a promotion in Melbourne, and he also had to do his full time hospital residency. Luckily he chose medicine, and once graduated, he worked as a very successful family doctor in Cronulla for 36 years.

Kevin and Shirley had three children – Margot, Errol and Yvette. Errol is well-known as the long time (28 years) physiotherapist with the Australian cricket team and known throughout the sports world as ‘the best in the business’. He has been associated with St George and South Sydney NRL clubs, Sutherland Shire Netball, Sydney Swans AFL, St George and Sutherland District Athletics and many Hollywood productions, including Russel Crowe’s *Million Dollar Baby*. He set up private clinics in the southern suburbs of Sydney and currently practices in the area.

Kevin divorced Shirley, before marrying second wife Mary Veronica (nee **Feint**). The couple had one child, Ben. Ben was introduced to the film and TV world through *Fernleigh*’s private zoo - from an early age he was featured in programs such as *Play School*, *Simon Townsend’s Wonder World*, and the *Mike Walsh Show*. 1982’s *Around the World With Dot* was shot at the property, and features Ben and the zoo’s many animals. This early introduction to film and television led Ben to forming his own production company at the age of 12, and 36 years later he is a well known television director, having worked on projects for

many celebrities including Jamie Oliver, Rick Stein, *My Kitchen Rules*, *Masterchef*, Gordon Ramsay, Mariah Carey and 50 Cent. Ben was a finalist for Young Australian of the Year, and has been featured in many newspapers and magazines, such as *Cosmopolitan*, *GQ*, and *Money Magazine*.

Errol Mortimer Alcott had many years of ill health, and he died on 27 October 1984 and was cremated at Woronora Crematorium. Ivy was in a car accident shortly after Errol died, and she never recovered from losing her life's love. Ivy Mary Alcott died on 3 October 1986. A funeral service was held in St Andrew's Anglican Church Cronulla (the 'Elephant House' she often spoke of) followed by cremation at Woronora Crematorium. After Ivy's death, the animals from the Zoo were distributed to other zoos around NSW, mainly Symbio Wildlife Park at Helensburgh and Featherdale Wildlife Park at Doonside, bringing an incredible era to a close.

Kevin moved into *Fernleigh* after his parent's death, and lived there until he passed away from bowel cancer on 30 June 2004. Both Kevin and Ivy were cremated and their ashes spread around 'Ivy's Tree' in the grounds of *Fernleigh*. Errol had his ashes scattered at sea as per his wishes.

Kevin was survived by children Margot, Errol, Yvette, Prue, Martin and Ben.

Martin Alcott is the father of Dylan Alcott, recently named as Australian of the Year 2022. Martin and his ex-wife, Resie (nee **Snepvangers**), were raised in the Sutherland Shire – their wedding reception was at *Guccis* in Cronulla. After their marriage, they moved to Southport in Queensland, and then to Melbourne. Whilst in Cronulla, they had a son Zack, and then another son, Dylan, who was born on 4 December 1990 in Melbourne. Dylan was born with a tumour wrapped around his spinal cord - this was operated on soon after his birth. The tumour was successfully removed but Dylan was left a paraplegic requiring him to use a wheelchair. This has not prevented him from leading a remarkable life, taking part in various sports and representing Australia in wheelchair tennis and wheelchair basketball.

Wheelchair tennis was Dylan's first sport of choice perhaps reflecting the involvement of his ancestors in the Auburn-Lidcombe Hardcourt Tennis Association.

Dylan won his first Paralympic Gold Medal (in Wheelchair Basketball) at Beijing in 2008, and then Gold in Wheelchair Tennis at Rio in 2016 and Tokyo in 2021. In 2021 Dylan became the third professional tennis player and only male player to win the calendar-year "Golden Slam", winning singles titles in the Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon, US Open and the singles gold medal at the 2020 Summer Paralympics.

In November 2021 Dylan Alcott announced he would retire from professional tennis following the January 2022 Australian Open. Dylan has a Commerce Degree from the University of Melbourne, works as a motivational speaker and as a radio host on Triple J. In 2017 he established the Dylan Alcott Foundation with the ‘core purpose of helping young people with disabilities gain self-esteem and respect through sport and study.’

In accepting his award, Dylan made clear his intention to improve the career opportunities for, and end discrimination of people with disabilities. His speech was inspiring. ‘Should be a ripper of a year!’

All the Alcotts still maintain a close association with the Shire, and their spiritual home is and always will be *Fernleigh*.

REFERENCES

NSW BDM, <https://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au>

Ancestry, <https://www.ancestry.com.au>

Australian Electoral Rolls, <https://www.ancestry.com.au>

Trove, <https://trove.nla.gov.au/>

Ryerson Index, <https://ryersonindex.net/search.php>

Sutherland Shire Historical Society Bulletin: Bruce Watt and Fred Midgley

St George & Sutherland Shire Leader: Bob Piper

Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/HistoricCronullaandSutherland>, Facebook Group

Rediff, rediff.com: Darshak Mehta (sports news from India)

Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org>

Editor’s Note: Colleen and I thank Ben Alcott for his help in clarifying certain points and adding extra information for this article.

RESEARCH CENTRE OPENING TIMES

Monday, Wednesday & Friday – 10am to 2 pm

Please book at botanybayfhs@yahoo.com.au while Covid is still about. And before attending, please phone 9523 8948 to make sure that the Centre is open on the day.

Closed public holidays.

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

BBFHS INTEREST GROUPS

by Barbara **Barnes** (Interest Groups Coordinator)

As a New Year begins, it is a good time to reassess our family history research goals. It can be, and often is, a huge canvas but by narrowing down our view and concentrating on a specific area we can often achieve so much more than with a ‘shotgun’ approach. So, what area should you concentrate on this year? That is up to you but perhaps one of our interest groups can focus your attention on an area that is important to you.

Our interest groups are led by our co-ordinators, who have a strong interest in the subject but are not necessarily ‘an expert’. They lead the group who all share their knowledge to help each other in the group – ‘self-help’. In this sharing situation members get to know one another and this social interaction is often a wonderful by-product of their involvement.

As I write this in mid-February, I am hopeful that the Covid-19 threat will subside significantly and our members will be more inclined to meet physically. Apart from this, BBFHS is working to develop interactive Zoom sessions where some members can meet physically at the Research Centre whilst other members can interact with the meeting via Zoom, depending on their health situation.

Meeting details for Groups are published in advance through the regular eNEWS and other Society media arms. If you would like to participate 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.

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)

Note: From March 2022, BBFHS will again be charging members \$5 to attend an interest group meeting. Bookings and payments should be made through the BBFHS website 24 hours prior to the meeting.

FRANK MARIEN, JOURNALIST (1889-1936)

by Colleen **Passfield** (Member)

Francis Joseph (Frank) **Marien** (19 November 1889-17 July 1936) was a well known Sydney journalist and newspaper editor, the son of Robert Marien (**Marianni**), also known as Sebastien or Sabatino, and his wife, Mary, nee **Leo**. His parentage was Irish-Italian. Unusually talented, he could have been a great artist, musician or engineer. He chose to become a remarkable journalist, loved and respected by all who knew him

Frank was educated at St. Joseph's College, Hunters Hill, where he became captain of the school and had a distinguished athletic record as a member of the winning 'Eight', captain and fullback of the Rugby fifteen, captain of the cricket and athletics teams. His Rugby performances were so good it was thought that he could have played International Rugby but he chose to become a journalist.

His first position was with the *Freeman's Journal* (incorporated into the *Catholic Weekly* in 1942), in Sydney in November 1910 immediately after leaving school but it was on the *Lithgow Mercury* that he made his start as a junior (cadets were unknown at that time). His training there was rigorous but made to make him or break him. It did the former making him a first class journalist and, later, a good boss.

He returned to Sydney and went to the *Daily Telegraph*, then to the *Sunday Times*. Marien then became publicity manager for J.C. Williamson Ltd. In 1919, he returned to the *Telegraph* and joined the (Sydney) *Sun* in 1922 eventually becoming news editor. Subsequently, he was Managing Editor and Director of *Truth* and raised its circulation substantially. In 1927, he joined Smith's Newspapers Ltd. as Editor-in-Chief, a position he held until his death.

Smith's Weekly was an Australian tabloid newspaper founded in 1919 by financier Sir James Joynton **Smith**, theatrical publicist Claude **McKay** and journalist Clyde **Packer**, father of Sir Frank Packer and grandfather of Kerry Packer. It mixed sensationalism, satire and controversial opinions with sporting and finance news. It also included short stories, cartoons and caricatures. At the time of Frank Marien's death, Kenneth **Slessor** was on the staff and wrote a remarkable obituary (*Smith's Weekly*, 25 July, 1936). Slessor later became editor of *Smith's Weekly*, official war correspondent in WWII and one of Australia's best known poets particularly for *Five Bells*. The paper was the launching pad for many outstanding journalists and cartoonists like George **Finney**, Emile **Mercier** and Stan **Cross**. Black-and-white female artists like Marie 'Mollie' **Horseman**, Joan **Morrison** and Rosaleen **Norton** were also on their books. It ceased publication in October 1950.

Frank's father, Sabatino Marianni, born in Italy c1863, arrived in Sydney in 1885 on board the *Golden Castle*. He married Mary Leo in 1889 and was naturalized in October 1900. He purchased land in Manchester Road, Gympie where he resided and established an orchard. This was Frank's family home until his marriage.

In 1915, Frank Marien married Marie Therese 'Maisie' **Fitzgerald** of Paddington and they had two sons, William (b1915) and Brian (b1918), and a daughter, Frances (b1922). They lived in a large house, *Pine Lodge*, on the corner of Kingsway and Manchester Road, Gympie, in the Sutherland Shire. His sons William and Brian, were also pupils at St. Joseph's College and won their places in the 'Joey's' rowing 'eight' and Rugby fifteen. Frances attended Santa Sabina College in Strathfield.

Frank Marien was a highly skilled mechanical engineer, Linotype compositor and had an elaborate workshop at his home where he made all kinds of devices for his home. A movie projectionist, he had an 80-seat cinema set up at his home, with a full-size picture-projector and sound equipment, where he regularly entertained his friends. Art critics said he could have become one of Australia's significant artists had he stuck to black and white work instead of journalism.

All who worked for him regarded him as a good boss, expecting obedience to his directions but always willing to help carry them out. Heard more than once was, 'Jump to it in a taxi, and tell the driver ten miles to an hour (16 km per hour) is no good on our jobs!' Marien's charm and human kindness were well known and Slessor told one story to illustrate it. Marien was working on a Sunday in a deserted office, when his phone rang. On answering it, a child asked, 'Is that Santa Claus?' Marien replied, 'Yes, dear. How did you get my number?' An embarrassed mother apologised but he was touched and delighted.

In his last years, Frank Marien spent much time at St. Vincent's Hospital, but making light of his health remarking, 'Hospitals are much better than hotels. The service is better, the food's better and you meet a better class of people.' He had a place in the affections of everyone there from Matron to novice.



Frank Marien, age 36.
(artist: Frank Dunne,
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article168684704>)

Frank Marien died on 17 July, 1936, ‘as most newspapermen would wish to die – at his desk, with a sheet of copy-paper before him’. He was aged 45.

Hundreds of people from all walks of life mourned his loss. On Saturday, a Requiem Mass was held at Sacred Heart Church, Darlinghurst, near St. Vincent’s Hospital, then, on Sunday, at St. Joseph’s College chapel where his remains were lying, Father Francis **Lloyd** of Cronulla (an Old Boy of the College and long-time friend)) celebrated a Commemorative Mass. Frank’s wife, children, and parents were among those attending with past and present pupils and many others including journalists. In the afternoon, the funeral moved to the Catholic Cemetery at Rookwood. Every newspaper was represented in the long cortege, which was more than a mile long. Father Lloyd was assisted at the graveside by, among others, Father W. **Hawe** (Cronulla), and Father T. **Dunlea** (Sutherland).



Pine Lodge, c1960, first home of the Tradies, Gymea
(photo: unknown, <https://tradies.com.au/history-and-awards/>)

Frank Marien was survived by his wife Maisie, sons, William and Brian, and daughter, Frances. His father died in 1938 and was buried at Rookwood. Maisie moved back to Point Piper in the Eastern Suburbs and died in 1947. She was buried at Rookwood with Frank. William (Bill) Marien became a journalist, died in 1959 and was buried in Macquarie Fields Cemetery. Frances became a physiotherapist at Prince Henry Hospital and married Dr. Alfred **Wilson**, younger son of Mr. And Mrs. R.L. Wilson of Hilston. Brian Marien became a Cinesound cameraman, supported Father Dunlea and was involved in filming the Grand March from Sutherland in 1940. He died in 1987 and was buried at Woronora Cemetery. Brian's son Kerry Francis Marien, born 7 May 1944, grew up in Gray's Point,

attended Marist Brothers at Kogarah and joined the RAN in January 1960. Promoted to Midshipman, he trained on HMAS Melbourne and HMAS Sydney. He joined the destroyer HMAS Voyager for further training in January 1964. On 10 February 1964 during exercises, Voyager was cut in two after a collision with HMAS Melbourne. Although Midshipman Marien survived the collision, in attempting to save others, he lost his life. His body was never recovered. He was posthumously awarded the Albert Medal in recognition of his gallantry. His medal is on display at the museum at HMAS Creswell, Jervis Bay.

In the 1960s, the former home of the Marien family, *Pine Lodge*, became the first 'home' of the Gymea Trade Union Club. The site, corner of Kingsway and Manchester Road, has, since then, been extensively re-developed and is now known as 'The Tradies'. I was once told by a family member that Mrs Marien had an outing to the city every week. There was a bus stop outside the home and, if she wasn't there when the bus pulled up, the driver would patiently wait until she emerged, dressed impeccably complete with hat and gloves.

REFERENCES

Trove, <https://trove.nla.gov.au/>

NSW BDM, <https://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au>: birth - 5110/1890; death – 12494/1936

Smith's Weekly - 25 July, 1936 (by Kenneth Slessor)

Truth

Lithgow Mercury

The Catholic Press

The Sydney Morning Herald

Catholic Freemans Journal

The Labor Daily

Wikipedia

Royal Australian navy, biographies

Personal Knowledge



Tune into Your local Radio Station, 2SSR 99.7 FM
for the best mix of Music, Shire News, Reviews and Interviews
Totally operated by volunteers for the local community

Volunteers are always welcome for behind the scenes/admin work

PLEASE MENTION *THE ENDEAVOUR* WHEN CONTACTING

DIGGINGS



Diggings are titles of articles in journals that we exchange with other societies. Not all articles appearing in that particular journal are listed 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

Traces Edition 17, 2021

UNITED KINGDOM

Family Tree Nov 2021

Alcohol Insanity: Victorian attitudes to mental health and the long-reaching consequences on our families

Soldiers discharged as 'lunatics' – Soldiers 'lives' on the Parish

Irish Land Records – Chris Paton gives an overview of key resources

Your DNA workshop – Karen Evans continues making DNA work for you

Your ancestors & Europe's worst earthquake. Simon Wills examines resources to find out if your ancestor was involved in the Messina earthquake of 1908

Family Tree Dec 2021

Registering the facts: the secret life of the BMD Registrar

Then All Hell Broke Loose. The Laki eruptions (8 Jun 1783) and the ensuing pan-continental chaos

Tales from the City of the Dead – Highgate Cemetery

Your DNA workshop

Compiled by Kate **Anderson** (Member)



DISABLED ACCESS

is available for Research Centre users.
Please phone the Centre on 02 9523 8948
to make arrangements.



**NSW & ACT Association of
Family History Societies Inc.**



**Annual Conference
16, 17, 18 September 2022**



Hosted by: Newcastle Family History Society Inc. www.nfhs.org.au
Maitland & Beyond Family History Society Inc. www.mdgs.org.au

New Location:

Scarborough Function Centre – East Maitland Bowling Club

www.ridingthewavesofhistory.com.au

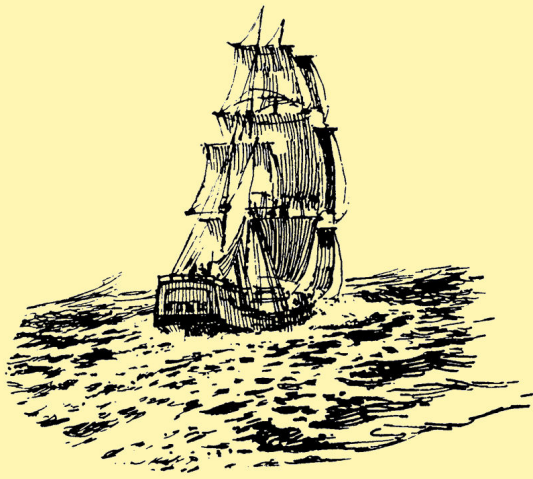
**FAMILY HISTORY AIDS – SALES TABLE ON MEETING NIGHTS OR AT THE
RESEARCH CENTRE & LIBRARY (Prices subject to change without notice)**

Split catalogue – half this quarter alternating with half next quarter

	Price
Archival materials: photo storage sheets, storage boxes, paper.....	various
500 Best Genealogy and Family History Tips – Thomas MacEntee.....	\$19.50
A Beginner’s Guide to British and Irish Genealogy.....	\$16.00
Arrivals in Australia – Kerry Farmer.....	\$32.00
Buried Treasure – What’s in the English Parish Chest.....	\$15.00
BBFHS 25 year celebrations – slide show or time capsule	donation
Citing Historical Sources – Noeline Kyle.....	\$11.50
Death Certificates & Archaic Medical Terms	\$15.00
Discover English Parish Registers – Paul Milner	\$15.00
Discover Irish Land Records.....	\$17.00
Discover Scottish Church Records – Chris Paton.....	\$20.00
Discover Scottish Civil Registration Records – Chris Paton.....	\$15.00
Discover Scottish Land Records – Chris Paton.....	\$15.00
DNA for Genealogists – Kerry Farmer.....	\$15.00
eRecords for Family History – Cora Num.....	\$12.00
Evernote for Family Historians	\$15.00
Exploring FamilySearch – Joy & Allan Murrin	\$10.00
Family History on the Cheap – Shauna Hicks	\$14.00
Family History Research in South Australia – Graham Jaunay.....	\$28.00
Finding Florence, Maude, Matilda, Rose – Noeline. Kyle.....	\$16.00
Finding the Family Redcoat – Neil Smith	\$15.00
Google – the Genealogists Friend	\$15.00
Guide to Convict Transportation – Carol Baxter.....	Part 1 – \$14.00, Part 2 – \$12.00
Handy Guide – DNA for Genealogy	\$5.00
Handy Guide – GEDmatch Tools for DNA	\$5.00
Handy Guide – Twenty Useful Irish Websites	\$5.00
Handy Guide – ScotlandsPeople	\$5.00
Handy Guide – German Words for Family Historians	\$5.00
Handy Guide – Online Newspapers	\$5.00
Handy Guide – the Moreton Bay Penal Settlements	\$10.00
Harnessing the Facebook Generation – J. Few	\$14.00
How Did They Get Here? Arrivals after 1924 – Cora Num	\$12.00
Insights into the NSW BDM Index – Joy & Allan Murrin	\$13.00
Internet Family History - Cora Num	\$12.00
Introduction to German Family History Research for Australians	\$15.00
Irish family history resources online – Chris Paton.....	\$19.50
Irish Research on the Internet – Cora Num	\$12.00

ADVERTISING RATES

Size	Annually (4 issues)	Single issue
Full page	\$160	\$49
Half page	\$80	\$29
Quarter page	\$40	\$19



©2022 Botany Bay Family History Society Inc and the authors. No article or item from this Journal may be reproduced without written permission of the authors. This Society accepts no responsibility for statements made or opinions expressed by authors of the articles published in this Journal. The Society cannot vouch for the accuracy of offers of services or goods that appear in the Journal, or be responsible for the outcome of any contract that may be entered into with an advertiser.

The Editor reserves the right to edit articles.

Australia Post Print Post Number: 100001135