

THE ENDEAVOUR



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BOTANY BAY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

Discovering Your Heritage

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Meetings

Held on the first Wednesday of the month (except January) commencing at 7.30pm. March, June, September and December meetings held at 'Tradies', The Kingsway, 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; distance – \$22. Joining fee for all categories – \$10; membership renewals due 1 July each year.

Research

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

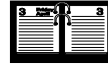
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CALENDAR



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

2022

- Dec 3** Scottish Interest Group – 2-4pm Research Centre
Dec 7 **Meeting – 7.30 pm Venue TBA. Speaker – Jennie Fairs**
Our Lives, Tomorrow's History.
Dec 17 Last day that BBFHS Research Centre and Library is open
Dec 21 **Member's Christmas Chat Meeting – 7.30 pm on Zoom**

2023

- Jan 16** BBFHS Research Centre and Library re-opens
Feb 1 **Meeting – 7.30 pm Venue, speaker and topic – TBA**
Feb 15 **Member's Chat Meeting – 7.30 pm on Zoom**
Feb 21 Family Tree Maker Interest Group – 1.30-3.30 pm on Zoom
Mar 1 **Meeting – 7.30 pm Venue, speaker and topic – TBA**
Mar 15 **Member's Chat Meeting – 7.30 pm on Zoom**



*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
in 2023 to All Our Readers*



Botany Bay Family History Society is a member of:



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Family History
Societies Inc.**



**The Australasian Federation of
Family History Organisations Inc.**



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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Since the last edition of *The Endeavour*, three months have flown by, and it is hard to believe we are once again at the end of another year. For me, I guess, it had a lot to do with a seven-week trip to England followed immediately by a week-long attendance at the Family History Down Under conference at Castle Hill. More importantly, it was wonderful to be able to go away for so long and know that the Society was in the very capable hands of the BBFHS Committee and our willing band of volunteers. Thank you.

We have just finished a genealogy course in what we hope will be a regular commitment to U3A. The course appears to have been very well received by the participants and has even resulted in several U3A ladies joining BBFHS.

We hope to present a variety of education classes next year to suit everyone from beginners to experienced researchers – don't forget a refresher class can sometimes open your eyes to what has been in front of you all along!

BBFHS continues to be vigilant with all things Covid, however, it is only too obvious now that Covid will be a constant in our future. And because of Covid, it has been difficult at times to put together a permanent roster of volunteers for the Research Centre – particularly with many of our more vulnerable volunteers remaining cautious (and so they should).

The extended break from volunteering has also resulted in some long-term volunteers deciding to finally hang up their volunteering shoes. I am sure you will join with me in thanking those volunteers who have been more than generous with their many years of service.

While we are working on returning to pre-Covid opening hours in 2023, including the opening of the Centre on Saturdays, I do ask that you appreciate the continued difficulty the above has caused.

Mornings continue to be very popular, however, we find that our researchers tend to head off after 2 or 3 hours dedicated research and, unless our volunteers on duty have personal research to do, we cannot expect them to hang around an empty Research Centre when they could be utilising their time more productively – please remember, they are volunteering *their* time.

For this reason, it remains important to ask that if you want to attend the centre in the afternoon, please telephone first to advise your intention. At the moment, we also haven't been able to secure Saturday morning volunteers, so for now we are relying on Committee to attend the Centre on Saturdays.

As this will be the last journal before Christmas, on behalf of the BBFHS Committee, I would like to wish all of you a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year. On a personal note, I want to add, as more of us become victims to Covid I hope that your symptoms are nothing more than an annoying head cold, so stay safe everyone.

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).

1900	Julie Van Gastel	Gynea Bay
1901	Marion King	Kirrawee
1902	Janene Eagleton	Caringbah South
1903	Kay Hall	Bundeena
1904	Irene Samek	Engadine
1905	Margaret Farlow	Ryde
1906	Maree Shilling	Merewether Heights
1907	Ken Shilling	Merewether Heights

NOTES AND NEWS



It is with sadness that we report the deaths of the following members:

- **Judy Allen**, d. 12 Sep 2022, age 84, member 21 yrs, no. 296.
- **Jenny Grady**, d Sep 2022, member 7 years, no. 1521.
- **Lorna Lerve**, d. 11 Oct 2022, age 91, foundation member, no. 29.

Our condolences go to their families and friends.

BOER WAR CONNECTIONS ...

WELL REMOTELY ...

by Kate (Bates) **Anderson** (Member)

Back in April of 2022, President Jennie threw the idea to her Zoom meeting members that we find some Boer War family connections to discuss at the next informal Zoom meeting in May

Knowing that I had at least a couple from stories handed down through the family which had been duly entered into my ever-growing database, I went searching and located two sets of interesting brothers among the many twigs on a very large tree. My curiosity was piqued and more research was required as I had but skimmed the surface. In the process I was reminded how family historians collect ‘stuff’ that one day might be useful! Being an avid reader and with Tenterfield connections I have in my library a number of books relating to the Tenterfield area including some which are about the Boer War (thank you Charles **Chauvel**, his son Harry and Major J. F. “Frank” **Thomas**, too).

In the mid 1800s tensions between England and Russia had been growing and with the threat of a possible invasion, several volunteer corps were formed throughout Australia. Charles Chauvel was responsible for the formation of volunteer cavalry or mounted rifle troops in the NSW/Qld border area and on 5 Oct 1885 the Clarence (Tabulam) No. 1 and Upper Clarence Light Horse (Tenterfield) No. 2 were formed. On 2 January 1886 the cavalry unit looked splendid for their first official duty when they formed a guard of honour and escort for Lord Carrington at the opening of the new Tenterfield railway station.

Many young men from the surrounding districts had signed up in the colonial force and would continue to do so until 1941. Being country lads, most were at home with a rifle and on a horse. They were used to the ‘bush’. Also, being with likeminded men they enjoyed the comradery and rivalry of their fellow troopers. Tournaments and competitions which included dress, drill and shooting were held locally and afar – particularly the annual Easter gathering in Sydney. From 1886 the NSW volunteer militia units attended what would become an annual event in the newly cleared military land at Loftus Heights. Three thousand men (infantry, mounted infantry, cavalry and field artillery) from all parts of the colony took part, arriving via the recently completed rail line.

Among the young men who joined the Tenterfield Mounted Rifles (TMR) and were involved in the Second Boer War are the **McAllister** and **Tyrrell** brothers of Tenterfield; the “twigs” of this story. Adam McAllister, son of John & Jennett, was born in Warwick in March 1869, raised in Tenterfield and had an

extremely interesting career. Being of farming stock he and his brothers were ideal candidates for the local troop. Adam most likely joined TMR before 1890 as he is known to have taken part in the combined NSW armed services review and exercises at Loftus Heights at Easter 1889. In 1891, Sgt Adam M'Alister was among the 35 men to represent the Tenterfield troop at the Warwick tournament where Tenterfield won the majority of the mounted division prizes. Later in the year Adam was chosen to be among the eight to represent the area and was sent to England to take part in the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. After review of the colonial troops by the Queen at Windsor Castle, Sgt A M'Alister and Captain AJO **Thompson** of the New South Wales Mounted Rifles were among the men presented to the Queen.

In 1893, Major-General **Hutton** presented a shield for competition, at Randwick Rifle Range, by various NSW mounted units. The Tenterfield troop led by Lieut. J. F. **Thomas** won the Hutton Shield and in 1894 it was won by Inverell (which had become with Tenterfield the joint No. 4. Company Mounted Rifles) and in 1895, again won by Tenterfield. Adam would continue to be mentioned in the local papers winning the points score in shooting and other competitions.

In June 1897 Adam was again back in England, this time for the Military Tournament with the Colonial troops where the NSW Mounted Riflemen (NSWMR) competed admirably in all events. The horse wrestling team under the guidance of Sgt M'Alister was victorious against the England team. The troops were reviewed at Windsor Castle and Captain **Vernon** and Sergeant M'Alister were among the troops presented to the Queen. Another inspection of the troops was held by the Prince of Wales at Buckingham Palace where Silver Jubilee medals were presented to the officers and Bronze medals to the men. Although their application for inclusion was received late, the NSWMR also attended and participated in the Military Tournament in Dublin before returning home.

At the outbreak of the 2nd Boer War in 1899 several of the Tenterfield militia men enlisted in the first contingent for 'action'. Recorded in 'A' Squadron of the NSWMR is Adam, Service No. 2 who was Company Sergeant Major and reported as being the tallest man in the Mounted Rifles, his brother David No. 44 Trooper/Private plus other locals Trooper/Private (later Cpl. then Lieut.) C. A. **Lee, Millar, Kelly, Bender** and **Dawson**. *The squadron comprised a picked body of especially smart men: good shots and daring riders excellently mounted (Ref: AWM.)* The reputation of the Boer War Australian soldier was built from his abilities of scouting, reconnaissance and sniper activity.

Preceded by the ships *Medic* and *Kent* transporting others of the First Contingent, 'A' squadron and horses left Sydney via the *Aberdeen* on 3 November. Under cloudy skies and light rain, thousands of people lined the streets and harbour to farewell the men. Newspapers of the day report that the: *Aberdeen arrived in*

Melbourne on Sunday and will remain there until Wednesday; most of those on board will probably have an opportunity of seeing the Melbourne Cup.

Some newspaper articles related cases of sea sickness among men and horses while another reported: *The trip across is described as having been a pleasant one, though a large number of the men suffered from an attack of influenza and in consequence of so many being in the hospital at one time, very little drill was indulged in. When the ship arrived at Port Elizabeth they found that there was plenty of fighting yet to be done. The discipline was very good. Offenders soon had some work to do, as they were sent to the stalls to rub the horses' legs.*

The *Aberdeen* arrived in Cape Town on 6 December where they met up with the second detachment before making their arduous journey north to the Orange River by train and then foot. After many engagements they reached Bloemfontein in March 1900. Adam suffered a leg injury while fighting against an estimated 8000 Boers at Zand River railway crossing on 7 May 1900. All troops earned commendation from their various officers. He spent three weeks in hospital at Bloemfontein before being sent to Cape Town. On 17 September 1900 the steamer *Wilcannia* arrived in Sydney with Adam among the wounded and sick. Returning to Australia on the same ship was none other than A. B. (Banjo) **Paterson** who had been in South Africa reporting on the war events.

Adam was awarded the Queen's Medal and three bars – Paardeburg, Driefontein/Abraham's Kraal and the Relief of Kimberley. On his return to Australia, many smoke concerts, socials and speaking engagements were undertaken to enlighten clamorous locals.

He continued to be involved in the local troop as an instructor and in October 1900 a Grand Military Encampment and Patriotic Fair was held in the grounds of the Tenterfield Presbyterian Church where Adam exhibited his large and valuable collection of war trophies. In 1904 Adam married local lass, Lucy Elizabeth **Williams**. They were to have three daughters. Following the birth in Tenterfield of his first daughter, the family moved to Lismore where Adam was involved with the Lismore troop as Warrant Officer in an instructional capacity. He became a member of the Lismore council and was Vice-President of the Richmond-Tweed Rifle Association.

On 7 June 1915 Adam enlisted in Queensland for service in WW1 and was commissioned a Lieutenant. He was 46 years 5 months old, 1.92 m tall, 95 kg; stating his previous service in the Mounted Rifles from 17 July 1890 to 16 October 1900 and Instructional Staff from 17 October 1900 to date. He was initially with 31st Battalion 'B' Company arriving in Egypt via the *Wandilla* on 7 December 1915. Shortly after on the 17th, he was hospitalised at Helouan with bronchitis and discharged on 28 December back to his unit. On 8 January 1916 he was transferred

to 8th Light Horse (LH) at Tel-el-Kebi, promoted to Captain on 2 March and was further promoted to Major at Serapeum on 17 March. The 8th LH now became part of the 3rd LH which came under Chauvel's Australian and New Zealand Mounted Division and joined the forces defending the Suez Canal from a Turkish drive across the Sinai desert. During a fierce engagement against the Turks on 20 April 1916 Adam received severe gunshot wounds to the chest and was admitted to the ANZAC Field Ambulance then hospitalised at the 14th General Hospital in Cairo where on 8th May at 1520 hours he succumbed to pneumonia. He is buried in the British Cemetery Cairo F No. 235. Much of his memorabilia was later donated to the Richmond River Historical Society Museum.



Unnamed trio. This photo from the Australian War Memorial, P0339.003, was attached to Adam McAllister. Because of his height and uniform I think he is the one in the middle.

David McAllister was born 1873 at Tenterfield where he was raised. He found that farming and grazing was not to his liking and spent much of his time in the local troop, becoming a crack shot and rider before joining the police force on 17 November 1894 as Probationary Constable No. 6788. He was described as a man of exceptionally fine physique and was well known and respected in Tenterfield and at Newcastle and Inverell where he spent time in the force.

In 1899 David, No. 44 Trooper/Private joined his brother in 'A' Squadron and was among the 206 men plus about 50 horses to depart Sydney via the *Aberdeen* on 3 November. More troops were taken on board at Melbourne. It

would appear that David became Provost Marshall on board as *Lance-Cpl M'Alister* is mentioned in an arrest and subsequent court martial of a soldier. Over the next year and taking part in many engagements, David was promoted to Corporal then Sergeant. Letters from him to his police colleagues and family at home described the conditions and meeting up with fellow Tenterfield men, including Captain Thomas and his group of men at Elands River. David was in a column of Kitchener's men which came to their relief.

'A' Squadron embarked at Cape Town on the *Orient* 13 December 1900 and arrived in Sydney 8 January 1901 and Newcastle on 12 January where the soldiers were *escorted shoulder high from the railway station to Hollinshead's hotel* and the Mayor and other dignitaries' warmly *welcomed Sergeant M'Alister and his comrades back to Newcastle*. Later, he and the returned Tenterfield men were given a hearty reception back in Tenterfield and districts; David saying *that he could not say much more than had already been related by his brother and the other Tenterfield men*. David received the Queens Medal with six bars – Wittebergen, Diamond Hill, Johannesburg, Driefontein/Abraham's Kraal, Paardeburg and the Relief of Kimberley.

David continued service with the Mounted Rifles as a drill instructor/sergeant at Tenterfield then at Inverell and Bathurst before transferring to Sydney HQ in May 1902. On leaving Bathurst he: *was the recipient of a handsome silver mounted whip as a token of the esteem he was held in by the men under his charge*.

At some stage, David returned to South Africa, joining others who had been to South Africa and then returned independently to try their luck in the lucrative gold mining and other areas. The *Tenterfield Star* 12 May 1903 reported that *Mr. Dave M'Alister who is sergeant of police at Vryheid.....*, At the time of his death at the Kleinfontein European Hospital in 1910 his death certificate notes that he was an underground gold miner. Some of the Tenterfield men who also returned to South Africa were Charles **Millar.....***Mr. C. R. Millar is doing well as a solicitor in the Transvaal....* and Charles Arthur **Lee**, *who took up a management position with a large gold mining company*. It was his friend Charley Lee who notified the McAllister family of David's death. They had kept in contact with one another in South Africa. David is buried in Boksburg cemetery

Joseph Vincent **Tyrrell** was born in 1872 at Warwick to John and Jane. He too was from Tenterfield district farming stock, served in the local troop and joined the police force in May 1899 as Probationary Constable No. 7360. He was stationed at Bourke when he joined the NSWMR 'C' Company as Sergeant No. 434. He and the second contingent under the command of Col. Knight left Sydney via the *Southern Cross* on 18 January 1900.

Letters sent to his police colleagues and family relate the many hardships endured, meeting up with men from Tenterfield including the McAllister brothers and also Captain Thomas at the Relief of Elands River. One gave his account of being taken prisoner on 7 Feb 1901. . . *“I was sent out with a patrol of 16 men for four days....there were supposed to be a party of 150 Boersbut we came up against 700. We would have held our own if we had daylight, but they were led on to us at night by a farmer name Pyward. Just at daylight I was moving out with eight of the men to patrol a few miles in front when they opened fire; the bullets fell like hail, and no matter how we tried to get out we were driven back. We fired till all our ammunition was gone and when we had not another shot left we had to give in.*

Seven of our little party were wounded, two of our horses killed, mine being shot under me; he reared in the air and fell on top of me, and when I pulled myself out about a dozen rifles were pointing at me some 20 yards off. They called on me to put my arms up, and as my rifle was under the horse there was nothing else for it. Not one of the 16 escaped, they took us with them, and gave us nothing to eat for three days, after which we were given a little meal. We suffered terribly from walking (not being used to it) and want of food.

When they found we were Colonials they were going to shoot us, but one of the Commandants objecting our lives were spared. When they released us (after about two weeks) we were properly done up, and had to rest for two days before we could make for the Railway. I don't know how it was that I was not shot; have had wonderful luck. The only bullet that touched me was on the finger of the right hand. I cut a piece out the size of sixpence. De Wet is making this way with a force of 4000 men. I believe we are to get home as soon as the new lot get out, which will be about 9th March.”

The *Tongariro* with Sgt Tyrell (sic) among 1000 troops embarked at Cape Town, South Africa on March 30 and arrived in Sydney on 29 April 1901. Vince received The Queens Medal and 5 Clasps – Driefontein, Johannesburg, Diamond Hill, Wittebergen and Cape Colony. On return, the TMR and other groups held socials at the gymnasium in honour of: *Sgt Tyrrell, Sgt Lacey, Sgt Major Fraser, J. F. Thomas, Bewers, Hurtz, Struck, McDonald, & Robb.*

Vince was selected to represent Tenterfield at the 1902 Coronation Celebrations. He once again took up a post with the NSW police and married Laura May ‘Dorrie’ **Bates** of Tenterfield in April 1902. Returning to Sydney they purchased property at Ferrier Street, Rockdale which he named *Spion Kop*. In 1905 Constable J. V. Tyrrell was among a number of ex troopers giving evidence in a Royal Commission regarding an ongoing (since 1902) pay dispute which was based on the contention *that the soldiers were entitled not only to the Colonial rate of pay but also to the Imperial rate.*

Vince, later also known as ‘Joe’ would become Chief Health Inspector of Rockdale Council. His obituary of 1944 relates that: *he conspicuously identified with the life of the community for a much extended period, having served on Council for 35 years* and had held positions of Senior Vice President of Rockdale Literary Institute and Vice President of St. George Bowling Club as well as being a member of the Masonic Lodge.

The next contingent, the NSW Citizen Bushmen left Sydney via the *Atlantian* and *Maplemore* on 28 February 1900 On board were Captain J.F. Thomas and more Tenterfield men, including Troopers **Struck, Lawer, MacDonald, Robb, Bowers, Hurtz, Grey**, and Sgt Major James **Mitchell** who would die as a result of injuries received while in action at Eland’s River. They arrived in Cape Town on 31 March but were diverted to Beira in Portuguese East Africa where they disembarked on 11 April and now became part of Lieut.-Gen. **Carrington**’s Rhodesian Field Force. From there it was a long and arduous train and foot journey to Bulawayo before heading to South Africa. Frank Thomas (later Major) would relate that: *all the men who came with me were scattered and lost their nationality as Australians.*

Although all Australian units were absorbed into the very large force under Lord Roberts, the ‘Tenterfieldites’ did occasionally meet up and were to report home about the conditions and their mates. The *Tenterfield Star* and many other newspapers were to relate letters and reports from men during the conflict.

The ‘Bushmen’ arrived back in Sydney 10 Jun 1901 via the *Morayshire*.

Leo John Bede **Tyrrell** was born 1880 at Tenterfield to John and Jane and was raised on his father’s *Black Swamp* property where he developed a love of horses. Leo purchased 64 ha of land at Timbarra in 1899 and took up cattle grazing. He too was a member of the TMR appearing at local tournaments before signing up for service in April 1902. He was enrolled in 5th Battalion, ‘D’ Squadron of the Australian Commonwealth Horse (ACH): Leo John Tyrrell, Trooper No. 402, R.C, 22 years 4 months, 1.70 m, medium complexion, grey eyes, brown hair, grocer and living at Tenterfield.

Early in the morning of May 22, with spirited music supplied by the Royal Australian Artillery (RAA) and the NSW Police Band, the men of the Fifth Battalion of the ACH under the command of Lieutenant- Colonel **Onslow** rode and marched from the Agricultural Grounds to Woolloomooloo where they embarked on the *Columbian*. They were addressed by Brigadier-General **Finn** before their departure and received a message from the Premier. A large number of people lined the streets and were at the wharf to cheer the departing soldiers. The *Columbian* then sailed for an overnight stop at Watson’s Bay before being farewelled by crowds on the Manly Ferry on the morning of the 23rd.

The *Columbian* arrived in Durban but on receiving news that the war was over (31 May 1902), the men were reshipped after spending only a few days there. The men of the Fifth departed Durban via the *Manchester Merchant* on 1 July and returned to Sydney on 30 July where a large crowd witnessed their return. Leo is listed as Lance-Corporal in 'B' Squadron on return; also mentioned is Lance-Corporal Washington **Stiddolph**, another Tenterfield man. The soldiers were marched off via Forbes, Bourke and Oxford Streets to Victoria Barracks, the RAA and Mounted Police forming a guard of honour along the route.

During a dinner for the troops at Victoria Barracks that night, The State Commandant Brigadier General Finn declared that: *he sympathised with them in their disappointment at having to return home so summarily without a chance of seeing service but was sure that they would be glad that peace had been proclaimed.*

A war gratuity was not paid and medals were not issued to any officers, non-commissioned officers and men who landed in South Africa after May 31; this meant that the men of the Fifth did not receive the decoration.

Following his return Leo John Tyrell was mentioned in a list of men to be chosen for the Commonwealth Coronation Contingent. For a short time he worked at Garden Island before returning to the country and work on his father's property near Baryulgil. In 1911 he married Ida **Doolin** and they raised a daughter who became a champion horsewoman at many country shows. In about 1914 he became an instructor for the Grafton Light Horse, a position he held for many years. He later moved to Lithgow then Sydney where he died 13 April 1954.

Mention was made earlier of Banjo Paterson. It is likely that he knew many of the men mentioned in this article as he had a long association with Tenterfield from the 1890s. In 1899 he became a war correspondent for the Sydney *Morning Herald* and the *Melbourne Argus* arriving in South Africa with the first contingent on the *Kent*. Later, on 8 April 1903, Banjo married Alice **Walker** at the Presbyterian Church in Tenterfield.

Some extra notes about other Tenterfield and district men some already mentioned and listed on the Boer War Memorial at Tenterfield: 'Billy' Bender who died 3 April 1900 at Bloemfontein of typhoid (enteric) fever which many of the men suffered from; Thomas Bewers; 'Harry' Dawson; George **Dodd**, who despite being 13 mm too short was accepted due to his riding ability; 'Joe' **Dobson**; William Frank **Everett**; Alfred **Green**; Arthur Percy Briton Grey who died 9 November 1900 at Pretoria of typhoid; Charles Joseph Hurtz; R. Fraser; Arthur **Jeffrey**; John 'Jack' Kelly; Albert Lacey; Samuel James 'Jim' Lawer; James Mitchell; Allan MacDonald; Walter Robb; C.J. 'Jim' Struck; Trooper **Steele**; and Washington Stiddolph.

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BBFHS INTEREST GROUPS

by Barbara Barnes (Interest Groups Coordinator)

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

In 2022, BBFHS members, like the general public, recognised that we had to continue to adapt to the presence of Covid-19.

Whilst Covid still demands thought and care for daily living, meeting membership requirements requires constant consideration to enable the continuing life of the Society. Thank you to the Society Committee and all the assistants for their energetic behind-the-scenes efforts.

The Society’s different forms of communication have been very important. Making use of eNews and the Society website, information is issued regularly about ‘*what’s on, how and when*’, and the reminder to partake. ZOOM is now a permanent option to attending Interest Group sessions other than in the Research Centre. Coordinators of the individual Interest Groups also update items of interest between calendar meeting dates. One 2022 innovation has been on-line payments allowing members to book and pay the \$5 to attend an interest group meeting on the BBFHS website at <http://www.botanybayfhs.org.au/payments.html>, preferably 24 hours prior to the meeting.

For the year’s efforts, under trying circumstances at times, coordinators we **Thank You**. A particular vote of thanks goes to Jennie Fairs in regularly hosting the Interest group Zoom meetings and welcoming participants. In her holiday absence other cheerfully stepped in. Zoom allows older, less mobile, unwell and distance members, to be regular and active participants of the Society’s small groups – admittedly in a slightly lesser form of community but still very much part of the larger picture. We look forward to whatever 2023 brings. Yes, in 2023 we look forward to working together to enjoy the finds and the stories of those who have gone before us. *The good, the bad and the ugly!*

After many years coordinating the Irish Group, Barbara Wimble has decided to step down and we are actively seeking a new coordinator. The Committee and members thank Barbara for her wonderful leadership and extensive Irish knowledge, which has enhanced research for many with the facts seemingly pulled



from her memory at a moment's notice. Well done Barbara and **Thank You.**

Once again we reach out to all members, especially new and distance members, who are not already participating in an Interest Group, to join one or more of the Groups offered. Participation can lead to unexpected research directions with the bonus of meeting fellow members, hearing their stories and brick wall problems and them hearing and reacting to yours. We all love stories! Coordinators will be pleased to add your name and email address to their listing, to become part of their family.

The group coordinators are:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

UPCOMING PROGRAM

AUSTRALIAN INTEREST: Saturday 18 February 2 – 4pm
By ZOOM

ENGLISH INTEREST: Saturday 11 March 2 – 4pm
By ZOOM

IRISH INTEREST: Saturday 25 February 2 – 4pm
By ZOOM

SCOTTISH INTEREST: Saturday 4 February 2 – 4pm
At the Research Centre

WRITERS INTEREST: Thursday 23 March 1.30 – 3.30pm
At the Research Centre

**FAMILY TREE MAKER
FOR WINDOWS & MACS:** Tuesday 21 February 1.30 – 3.30pm
By ZOOM

DNA FOR FAMILY HISTORY: Saturday 25 March 1.30 – 3.30pm
By ZOOM



INVISIBLE CEMETERIES – BALMAIN CEMETERY AND BALMAIN CATHOLIC (LEICHHARDT) CEMETERY

by Helen **Bain** (Member)

It's amazing the interesting places a bit of research can take you. In my case it started with the death certificate of my 3x great grandfather Thomas **Weedon** who died in Petersham and was said to be buried 27 January 1869 in the 'Catholic Ground, Elswick', attending minister Rev Wm **Kemp**, Church of England. We had taken for granted his family were Protestant so the burial in the Catholic Ground was a bit of a mystery and where was Elswick?

The thought was put aside for some time until I spotted a notice in the now defunct RSVP section of the weekend edition of the *Sydney Morning Herald*. A man named Patrick **Callaghan** was attempting the mammoth task of putting together the missing burial register of the Balmain Catholic Cemetery and was asking people who had ancestors buried there to contact him.

One of the streets that bounded the cemetery was said to be Elswick Street, Leichhardt so I got in touch with him. He was unable to help but suggested that it may be the Balmain Cemetery I was after and gave me the contact details of Tricia **Mack**, who turned out to be exactly the person I needed. She was able to confirm from her research that Thomas was in fact buried in Balmain Cemetery.

Sadly, neither cemetery can be seen today and are themselves buried.

Balmain Catholic Cemetery (1868-1902) once existed on a 1.6 hectare site, now occupied by St Columba and the Holy Souls Church, St Columba's School and associated buildings. Patrick Callaghan had been a pupil at the school in the early 1940s and had noticed broken pieces of masonry scattered in the 'Out of bounds' area of the school. When he later became interested in family history, he remembered this and thought that these could have been the remains of headstones. The area was eventually covered over for more school playground space and building extensions. Those who were aware of the demolition of the cemetery were given the opportunity to arrange transfer of headstones to other cemeteries such as Rookwood. By the 1950s all remnants of the cemetery had disappeared.

There is helpful information on the internet for those who wish to know more detail about the Balmain Catholic Cemetery and its demise. So far about 1,000 graves have been listed. Patrick has written a book on his findings and released a CD. Many family groups have been identified in the cemetery. One that stands out is the name **Tancred**, with at least 20 interments. Are any of you out

there today?

Balmain Cemetery (1868-1912) is now Pioneer Memorial Park, Norton St, Leichhardt. The burial register for the cemetery has been transcribed by Tricia Mack and she has alphabetically listed the 10,608 names of those buried there. This record can be accessed from the memorial website she has put together with its history and other relevant information.

For me, the outstanding part of the website is the remarkable piece of old film footage Tricia came across quite by chance and was given permission to include on her website. This shows the sad end of the cemetery, with workers razing the cemetery to the ground, tearing down memorials using a Shire horse to pull some of them from the ground for the waiting stonemasons who cut them down to make the wall that now surrounds the Park. A great shame. I've watched the footage many times trying to glimpse names on the headstones as the camera pans over the area.

The relatives of those buried there were also given the opportunity to have headstones relocated.

On the **Camperdown Cemetery** website you will find a list of those memorials relocated there from other cemeteries including Balmain Cemetery. Among the approximately 30 names listed is the architect, Edmund **Blacket** and his wife Sarah.

Another memorial relocated from Balmain was that of Robert **Towns**, founder of Townsville, Queensland. The headstone now believed to stand in Castle Hill Cemetery in that city.

It's well worth the effort to go through the names in the Burial Register. I have found several other ancestors there besides Thomas Weedon, the former convict who made the most of his second chance and became a successful businessman.

Just remember, if you ever go to Pioneer Memorial Park, those slabs of stone in the low wall which surrounds it are a lot more than just pieces of stone, they are all someone's memorial.

REFERENCES

Balmain Cemetery, <https://balmaincemetery.org/index.html>

Balmain Catholic Cemetery, <http://localnotes.net.au/?tag=balmain-catholic-cemetery>

Tricia Mack

Patrick Callaghan

Camperdown Cemetery, https://gutenberg.net.au/camperdownNSW/_transfers.html

NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, <https://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au>

Leichhardt Library

BBFHS EDUCATION PROGRAM

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

The Education class in September was well received with participants focussing on the storage of photos and ephemera and the use of online sites for the storage of family records.

Both digital and traditional photography were discussed. This quote from the *New York Times*: ‘*If Moses had gotten the Ten Commandments on a floppy disk, they would never have made it to today*’ provided some interesting conversation about the value of printing the pick of your photos.

A master sheet for recording the details of family keepsakes, the providence, present whereabouts, and interesting stories related to the keepsake, was shared with the class. Participants were encouraged to begin completing it for one of the family treasures that will hopefully be passed down to future generations.

As well as our education classes for members, 2022 saw a venture into the University of the Third Age (U3A) with a series of three workshops on the importance of passing on the family story. These workshops have been very successful and have resulted in all U3A participants joining BBFHS to continue the great adventure of discovering more of the family story. We were pleased to draw on the expertise of several of our members to present various aspects of family history research and recording. Pam **Heather**, Anthony **Wright**, Jean **Campbell** and Leonie **Bell** all contributed to the success of the course by sharing their knowledge and skills. Our thanks also go to Carole **Goodyer** who had the vision and was the driving force for the course and the administration that it entailed.

As the year comes to an end, planning has already begun for 2023. Dates have been set for classes and topics discussed. The final plan will be shared early in the New Year and hopefully we will see many of you at one or more of the workshops.

Remember to let us know if there is some area you would like to see covered in one of these classes.

Best wishes for a very happy Christmas and a joyous beginning to 2023.

Journal Contributions

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

A TALE OF COOGEE IN THE 1900S

by John W Shortland (Member)

This is a tall tale but true about my grandfather Thomas Willoughby Shortland and a road race he competed in and won way back in 1907. But first let me tell you a bit about his family background.

Thomas was born in Plymouth, Devon in 1859, the third son of eleven children to Dr Edward Shortland and his Italian wife Eugenia nee **Iardi** from Palermo Sicily. It is of note that Thomas' father was Private Secretary to Governor Hobson in 1841 with the duty of preparing the first purchase of the land of Auckland, which then became the capital of New Zealand until 1865 when Wellington replaced it as capital. Also, his great grandfather Captain John Shortland Snr. was the Agent for Transports to the First Fleet.

Thomas joined the Royal Navy at an early age and was a midshipman aboard the *HMS Pallas* stationed at Thessalonica, Greece in 1877. Whilst in a boat under sail from the *Pallas* he rescued an ordinary seaman from drowning and for his efforts was awarded a Royal Humane Society Silver Medallion.



Royal Humane Society Silver Medallion, awarded in 1877

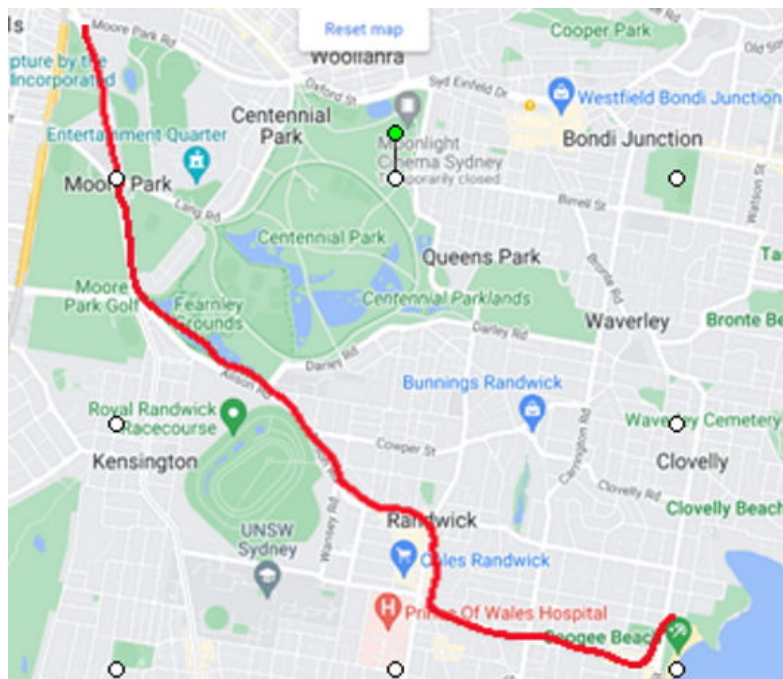
The citation extract from Case 20,121 reads:

A boat was under sail from the 'Pallas', at Salonica Bay, on the 17th May, 1877 when she capsized, all her crew being thrown into the water. They got on the bottom of the boat, except W. Nicholls, O.S., who was about two boats' lengths to windward, in a drowning state, when Mr. T W. Shortland, midshipman, seeing his danger, swam to his rescue, and endeavoured to bring him to the boat. The drowning man struggled with him, and in sinking grasped him by the legs. Becoming exhausted, Mr. Shortland called for assistance, when W H Ford, O.S., came to his aid. On reaching the spot he found Nicholls had sunk, upon

which he dived, and, bringing him up by the hair, swam with him to the boat. Mr. Shortland, though much exhausted, assisting to the best of his power.

After his serving in the Royal Navy Thomas came to New Zealand to visit his father then a practicing physician in Parnell, Auckland and after a time he ventured to Australia and acquired a position with the *Sydney Morning Herald*. Now as a resident of Sydney he met and married Frances Jane **Hamlin** (age 19) in 1887 with the consent of her mother, Catherine **Howard** nee **Ingram** from Wagga Wagga, NSW. They had 5 children William John (my father), George Edward, Frances Grace and two daughters, Eugenia and Winifred who unfortunately died as infants. They lived in several Sydney suburbs including, Newtown, Leichhardt and finally Petersham up until the death of Thomas in 1927.

Thomas or Old Tom (his nom-de-plume), stayed employed with the *Sydney Morning Herald* for a period of 29 years and was a very active sportsman and the most notable of his sporting efforts was recorded in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, 24 May and the *Sportsman* on 29 May 1907 when he competed in the event of the year for Sydney's Eastern Suburbs, 'Go-as-you-Please' race from the Captain Cook Hotel, Moore Park Road, Sydney to the Coogee Aquarium, a distance of about three and a half to four miles (5.6 to 6.4 km).



Route, Captain Cook Hotel, Moore Park Road Sydney to Coogee Aquarium

The race was simply a walkover for Old Tom who won by 3 minutes and 54 seconds at the age of 47 although he stated to officials and others that he was 54 in order, I presume, to gain an advantage of handicap. For his effort he was awarded a massive solid silver tea and coffee service valued at 50 guineas.

An excerpt from the *Sportsman* 29 May 1907 read:

Mr. Mayman made a happy speech appropriate to the occasion but when 'Old Tom' stepped to the front to receive his trophy he came in for quite an ovation.

I am not an ex-tem-pro-ra speaker said the old-un, O tempora ! O mores ! cried a classic god in the gallery. Tempus fuget, turn it up sang out another of the same school . 'Old Tom' wanted to read his written speech, and all the persuasive powers of the officials could not get 'Old Tom' off till he was quietly taken in hand by the stage manager and walked off gesticulating all the way till the fall of the curtain. He has promised his written speech for publication in one of the dailies.

A search for Old Tom's written speech in the dailies of the time was not successful and as to whether it was submitted for publication is not known. However, it is thought that an article titled *The Great Road Race, A Tale of Coogee* found among Thomas' personal papers and handed down to his grandson Ron Shortland **Israel** is almost certainly to have been in part at least, the one intended for publication, a transcription of which appears as follows:

The Great Road Race A Tale of Coogee by A Sport

Sanitary arrangements provided for workers were far below the standard requirements in printing offices 20 years ago, and to this I attribute an attack of lead-poisoning, a misfortune which overtook me at the beginning of the summer of 1906.

To combat this dreaded complaint, I accepted the advice of a medical man who had made a study of the question and so I left the printing office in which I had worked in order to take a course of exercise in the open air which brought me to the point of relating my story for the interest of the readers.

In those days it was deemed dangerous to indulge one in surf-bathing on any of the beaches in Sydney, and only a few hardy and fearless individuals had the temerity to venture into the water. But nature has constituted a human being, that where one will go, others will surely follow; in time the few fearless sports who made use of the beach at Coogee as a health resort found quite a number to join them in the sport of shooting the breakers. The craze, or whatever it pleases my readers to call it, in time assumed very large dimensions, and the suburb

began to be talked about as a desirable place in which to acquire a residence. Add to this the further stimulant of judicious advertising, and by 1906, the date of my story, all manner of people availed themselves of the luxury of a dip in the ocean adjacent to the village which was fast becoming a popular health resort. Bookies, jockeys, pugilists as well as business men, including a fair sprinkling of the tender sex were among the number, in fact the road from Sydney to Coogee, between the hours of 10 and 11 on a summer's morning was alive with all manner of persons training for the particular game it happened to be desire to engage in.

Among the many sports who resided at Coogee, at the time was a well known sporting bookmaker, who for the purposes of my story I will call Mr. A. He was a most jovial individual, fond of swimming, surfing, boxing and more particularly running. He was generous in the extreme, that is, when he was in the winning vein, and therefore had a large number of followers. He was shrewd in business, as well as energetic and one who knew him intimately was the least surprised when he inaugurated with the cognisance of the authorities, a series of long-distance road races within the boundaries of the borough of Randwick.

The Conditions of the race in which I became interested were detailed in the following handbill:

- *A handicap Road Race, 4 miles, starting from Captain Cook Hotel, Moore Park, and finishing at the Aquarium at Coogee.*
- *Open to all comers who have been regular attendants at Lloyd's Baths for at least 3 months prior to entry.*
- *All pedestrian performances for the last 3 years must be given so as to avoid disqualification.*

There will be six or more prizes donated by prominent residents of Randwick and Coogee, the first of which will be a Solid Silver Tea and Coffee Service valued at 50 guineas donated by the deservedly popular Mr. B-----, a lover of the surf, and well known as a straight-goer in any sporting affair that engaged his attention.

Entrance 1. Acceptance 2.

For particulars regarding date of entry, route etc., apply to the Caretaker, Lloyd's Baths, Coogee. (See Endnote and accompanying photographs)

At the foot of the handbill, Mr. A's name was affixed, proclaiming him to be the sole organiser as well as handicapper. The handbill was widely distributed among the sports who patronised the Baths, as well as those who

made use of Coogee Beach for the enjoyment of surfing.

It created great interest, and thus it was that the trouble that caused me to seek relief in outdoor exercise was the means of being able to procure one of the handbills for on the day of distribution I happened to be on the beach engaged in surfing.

I was no mean athlete as a young man, and it set me thinking of the days when in perfect health I stood ready on the mark with all my energies concentrated on the task of emerging successfully from the contest I was about to engage in. I thought of the prize, and how it would help to liquidate the expenses I had incurred in regard to my recent illness. No athlete, that I knew, had ever come back at my time of life therefore it behoved me to be careful, otherwise my desire to be in Mr. A's Road Race might end unhappily. But I am somewhat headstrong by nature and the more ready to engage in an affair when it presents some obstacle.

The Road Race, I learnt from a resident, the date of which was not mentioned in the handbill, was to take place at the end of April. As it was now the beginning of January it left just 16 weeks in which to train for the event. It did not take long for me to make up my mind to be a competitor, so with this object in view, I entered Lloyd's Baths the following morning and informed the man in charge that I desired to place my name on his list of regular attendants in order to ensure my right of entry in Mr. A's Road Race.

It was fully a fortnight after my advent to the baths that my presence was taken any notice of, although my regular attendance on the road had already been commented on. At all resorts where sports abound, a goodly proportion whiling away idle moments by indulging in jokes of every description and so a man of 54 years of age as I was, and training for a 4 mile race did not go unnoticed and surely a target to be made a butt of. However, this was my fate and which I had anticipated so I took all the jokes that came my way in the best of good humour, being quite content to wait the time when those responsible for their initiation would not have the laugh all on their side.

The date had arrived for the closing of entries and as nom –de- plumes were allowed, I entered for the race as 'Old Tom'. I was offered fabulous odds that I could not go the distance and bets were made that I would be glad of the services of an ambulance before half the journey was completed. To all these offers I turned a deaf ear because I knew that if I accepted any of them, it would deter Mr. A from awarding me a too liberal handicap.

Everything went well right up to the declaration of the handicaps. The condition that I was now in might be described as almost perfect, thanks to my surf bathing and training. To add to my delight, Mr. A had placed me on the

limit, this being necessary so as not to discover what chance I had of competing successfully and which also provided me with the opportunity of accepting some of the liberal odds offered by those who wagered against me.

There happened to be at the baths, a sport who could enjoy a joke as well as most people but took no delight in carrying it to its extremity, quite the reverse of some of the sports who more often than not and particularly in my case carried their joke to the limit of endurance. This gentleman was independent having made a fortune by judicious speculation on the racecourse had entered the event more for the purpose of participation than from the attraction of the prize-money. I frequently met him on the road in the course of training and we had become quite friendly. He was about 30 and a fair walker as well as a runner and knew to a nicety the capabilities of almost every competitor who had entered the Road Race. To him, I declared to impart, that I was an 'old horse' (old time athlete) and so at a favorable opportunity I produced for inspection news clippings which recorded my participation successfully in races that had taken place long before surf bathing at Coogee was thought of. As we had been walking through Centennial Park at the time, I could see that he was interested for he drew me to a seat in order to more easily read the extracts from the news clippings. I drew his attention to one in particular which recorded my win in a quarter mile handicap promoted by Frank Smith at the time of the Botany Handicaps from the 6 yard mark and a time of 48 1/2 seconds which compared favorably for that distance with noted old-time runners such as Tom **Malone** and **McGarrigal**.

After he returned me the clippings, he made the suggestion that he should give me a trial over the course set down for the race. I could see from his manner, notwithstanding the proof I had given in regard to my ability as a runner that he was sceptical as to my being able to produce anything near the form those performances represented, for he said, 'I believe every word you say, Tom, but I have never heard of any men of your age being able to compete in long-distance events with young men, and being given the limit is not much in your favour for you will still have to run the full distance.'

'Then you don't think I am capable of running four miles' I replied.

'Not in anything like the time you will have to put in order to win, for there are men in the race who have to give you only 3 minutes start, who can run the distance in 24 minutes' he answered.

I knew that I could do the distance in much faster than he was likely to give me credit for, but it was useless me telling him as I felt sure he did not believe me. However, before we parted, he had consented to give me a trial, and in order that we would have the road to ourselves we agreed to meet at the

Captain Cook Hotel on the following morning at the time when it was usual for most of the sports to be well on the road to Coogee.

My friend turned up at the appointed time (11 o'clock) both of us attired in ordinary clothing so as to be as little conspicuous as possible. Without delay and stopwatch in hand, I set the pace from the start.

'You are going too fast, Tom' my friend shouted when we arrived at the Bunnerong Turnpike, one mile from the start, in a time under 5.30.

'You will never be able to keep up that pace'

I vouchsafed no answer to his appeal to reduce speed, two miles being covered under eleven. We were now not far from the top of Jude's Hill and on arriving at the Royal Hotel my friend had very little breath to spare to shout instructions, in fact it was as much as he could do to keep up. When we got to the schoolhouse, half way down the hill, my friend was a long way in the rear, so I slowed down pulling up at the Aquarium even fresher than when I started, the stop watch reading 24 minutes.

As soon as my friend joined me and had regained sufficient breath to express his astonishment, he informed me that I was a certainty for the Road Race, if the trial could be kept a secret. He added 'there are men in the race Tom, who, if they find out how good you are won't allow you to arrive at the Aquarium sound either in wind or limb.

'You mean I will be stopped on the road, I queried?'

'Without a doubt' my friend replied, 'I will do my best to see you get fairplay' he added.

A few days after the trial took place my friend secured several wagers, on my behalf, from prominent bookmakers of 100 pounds to 3. With this I was well satisfied, for if I won the race, I should net, in addition to the prize, a considerable sum of money.

The 'good thing' was imparted to a small band of followers, whose business it was to see that I met with no interference during or after the race. They had the 'market' to themselves for a few days prior to the event, but the information spread so rapidly, that on the day of the race, much to the consternation of the jokers who never desisted in belittling my chance, I started first favorite at very short odds, 6 to 4 on.

The day on which the race took place, at 2.30 was ideal for outdoor sport. Run under the auspices of the Heads of the Borough of Randwick, it drew an enormous attendance, the road being lined on either side with thousands of spectators. 'Fancy a man of 54 years running in a 4 mile race' was the comment

of more than one spectator.

There were 52 competitors who walked in single file from the dressing room to their allotted marks. Some of those who had ‘followed the money’ were a trifle sceptical as though they thought it possible that I might meet with a breakdown before the end of the journey.

As soon as the time arrived for dispatch of the first batch of runners, I made the utmost use of the start that had been given to me, in fact from the word ‘GO’, I set a ‘cracking’ pace.

Following in vehicles were those who held pecuniary interests in many of the runners, and they exhorted their selections not to allow me to get too far away in the early stages. It was thought that I was within striking distance at the bottom of Jude’s Hill, but I was doing a long way better when we reached the summit. I held my own to the Royal Hotel, at which place the jokers were confident I would stop. The pace I set was beginning to tell on those close behind me and when I arrived at the School House, I discerned by the way the spectators were cheering that I had shaken off the opposition. At this point, the Road Race Officials in their motor car passed quite close to me and I heard Mr. A’s stentorian voice exhorting me not to win too easily. I took no chances as too much depended on the result. At the turn for home at the tram-waiting shed fronting the beach, I was just commencing to tire – –

Closing Note

Unfortunately, the story ends here as the last page of Thomas’ account has been lost or mislaid but it is believed from oral history that upon completion of his winning run, he also beat his eldest son, my father, William John Shortland then aged 20.

END NOTE

Lloyd’s Baths named after F.W. **Lloyd** the first proprietor was formerly called the ‘Bogey Hole’ prior to the early 1900s, and Lloyds Baths up and until 1929 when Oscar E **Giles** took over. The rules of Lloyds Baths not only banned dogs and swearing, but required bathers to wear trunks. Any child under 10 who could not swim had to be accompanied by an adult. The caretaker was sworn in as a special constable, so that he might have the full rights to deal with people breaking the rules. Lloyds Baths were advertised as ‘one of the few baths where the healthful past time of sun baking may be indulged in. (see <https://allintooceanpoolsinc.org>).

In the year 2000 the site was demolished, apparently for safety reasons as the building had fallen into a state of disrepair. Alas, only the facade remains for residents of Coogee and the Eastern suburbs in general to reminisce.



Coogee Beach c1902 showing Lloyds Gents Baths at the point of what is now Dunningham Reserve (photo: State Library of New South Wales).



Giles Baths c1930, formerly Lloyds Baths (photo: State Library of NSW)

THE IMPORTANCE OF PRESERVING EULOGIES AND SLIDE PRESENTATIONS FOR FAMILY HISTORIES

by Heather **Barton** (Member)

Funerals are a part of life which often provides an insight into the life of the deceased. At Family History we have been exhorted to write down our own personal histories for future generations. Having to not only face writing a eulogy but present a slide show for my mother Lorna Lerve, a Botany Bay Family History Society foundation member, these words rang true.

I was thankful to remember the stories my mother and grandparents had told me as Lorna was never one to document her life in written words. In our last conversation I was particularly glad I wrote notes on her early life from the nineteen thirties and forties but how was I going to visually document them? Mum had always kept the family history files so this was where I started, initially going through the many lever arch folders then the first drawer of the filing cabinet without any joy. In the second and third drawer I hit pay dirt; there was a trove of old family photos, of my mother growing up and photos of her with my grandparents during the Second World War as well as those I had never seen of my great grandmother, Ella. Thankfully, mum had written notes on the back of quite a lot of the photos. At this point I could cover her growing up, marrying and her first child with ease.



Lorna Lerve as a baby with her parents, Doreen and Arthur 'Tom' Horsley and grandmother, Ella Horsley. (photo: Barton family album)

As my brother and I grew my father took many photos of us as children, but somehow there were virtually none of the growing family including mum. Dad

generally used slides which also complicated matters as his slide box had temporarily disappeared. This presented a twenty year gap in the presentation, from there on family photos were in abundance.

Often the family is so deep in grief they don't think to keep records of the eulogy or slide presentation. From this experience I grasped a number of insights, the importance of families visually documenting being together at events as well as in daily life as they grow and change and how important, from a family history point of view, a well written eulogy coupled with good photographic records are to flesh out a life. The eulogy can also give a snapshot of the social history of difficult times. As the mantle of the family historian has now passed to me I will certainly will be keeping these records both physically as well as digitally and have already offered the photographic records to the young members of the family as physically seeing the images of their great and great, great grandparents were interesting to them.

Holt's Family History Research

Richard Holt
UK Based Genealogist

Richard Holt - Professional Genealogist - Based in the UK

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PLEASE MENTION *THE ENDEAVOUR* WHEN CONTACTING

COPY DEADLINE

Please submit copy for the March 2023 journal as soon as it is available but the deadline is **Wednesday 1 February** – preferably by email to the Editor at bbfhs_ed@yaho.com.au. Copy may also be left in the Editor's folder at the Centre, handed to the Editor or a committee member at a monthly meeting or posted to **PO Box 1006 Sutherland NSW 1499**. Please add your name to the copy and state if you want any materials returned.

BBFHS RESEARCH CENTRE AND LIBRARY

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

The Research Centre continues to be open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Mondays are very popular, but not so many members are researching on the other two days.

The Committee has decided to open the Research Centre on Saturdays from 10 am to 1 pm, for November and December – at this stage. The 1 pm finish will allow members time to drive home for the 1.30 or 2 pm Interest Groups via Zoom.

The 1921 census for England and Wales was made available through *Find My Past* in November this year. We have bought one seat, connected via Computer 7, for members to research this census. Because of possible high demand, please book in to use this resource (9523 8948), which we have until 30 June 2023.

Sometimes Centre Volunteers are not available on their duty day. This is understandable, with hospital visits, medical issues, holidays, visiting families, school runs and minding grandchildren, as well as cases of the flu!

Would YOU like to be a Research Centre Volunteer? You would be welcome and shown anything you need to know by experienced Volunteers who would be working with you in the same timeslot. **You learn so much that helps with your own research!** If you would like to ‘put up your hand’, only one day a month, or less, is fine. Please contact me (Jean) at botanybayfhs@yahoo.com.au.

The Research Centre will close for the holidays on Saturday 17 December – the last day for 2022. It has been a challenge to stay open for our members this year. Thank you to all the Centre Volunteers, who have supported each other and our members. Their time, assistance and knowledge have been greatly appreciated.

And in an appeal to all our members – please spend some time in YOUR Research Centre next year. There are some wonderful resources there.

The Research Centre will open in 2023 on Monday 16th January at 10am. I expect the same timeslots will apply: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 am to a time between 2 pm and 4 pm and Saturday from 10 am to 1 pm. Please read your eNEWS to stay informed.



WHEELCHAIR ACCESS

is available at the Research Centre.

Please phone 9523 8948 to make arrangements.

ISABELLA TYSON – MY CONVICT ANCESTOR

by Anne Cutler (Member)

Australia's colonial and convict history is well documented. Isabella's story is in many ways typical but also comes with variations and quirks that paint a more complex story than I had imagined. What has been less well acknowledged is the frontier conflict that occurred. In telling my ancestor's story, I have come to understand that my convict ancestor's history and the frontier wars collide in a most violent way that I hope that this case study will go some way to acknowledge.

Isabella **Coulson** was baptised at Chester-le-Street, Durham, England in 1786¹ and married William **Tyson** in 1805.² In 1808, Isabella was found guilty of stealing a leather purse and silver coins.³ She was sentenced to seven years and transported to Sydney on the ship *Indispensible* which carried 62 female convicts.⁴ She was able to travel with her baby and William (who had obtained a berth giving service to one of the passengers)⁵ arriving in Sydney in September 1809. This was a few months before Governor Lachlan **Macquarie** arrived to 'encourage marriage, less drinking and the colony to become self-sufficient'.⁶

Putts - Guilty -

Tyson Isabella

And That Isabella Tyson the wife of William Tyson late of Wakefield in the West Riding of the County of York Labourer on the twenty fifth day of March in the forty eighth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland King Defender of the Faith with force and Arms at the Parish of Wakefield in the West Riding of the County of York one leather Purse of the value of two pence three pieces of silver of the current coin of this Realm called shillings of the value of six pence and one piece of silver of the current coin of this Realm called a sixpence of the Hannah Rantfield value of two pence of the Goods Monies and Chattels of one Joseph Rantfield then and there found did then and there feloniously steal take and carry away against the Peace of the said Lord the now thing his Crown and Dignity -/

Witnesses
Elizabeth Rantfield
Mary Taylor
Thomas Shaw

Isabella Tyson's Quarter Sessions record for stealing. (Ancestry)

In 1812, the family were given a land grant of 16 ha at Airds with an annual rent of one shilling to commence in 1817.⁷ In 1814 William was appointed first constable in Appin⁸ and by 1819 they had built a house, a barn, a steel mill, and had some maize and wheat, 9 pigs and 6 ha under cultivation.⁹

Settlers and Aborigines in this area had generally been on good terms and any conflicts usually arose out of dispossession of land and lack of food sources.¹⁰ However, there were tit for tat attacks and atrocities on both sides. With no resolution in sight, Governor Macquarie ordered a punitive expedition against hostile natives¹¹ in the Nepean, Hawkesbury and Grose Valleys and in the Liverpool District.¹²

The location of Isabella and William's land grant was near Broughton Pass and the Cataract River.¹³ So, it is probably no surprise that in 1816 William was listed as a guide to Captains **Schaw** and **Wallis** who, on instructions from Governor Macquarie, were to undertake this punitive expedition.

On 17 April 1816 late at night, Captain Wallis marched into an area in Appin near the banks of the Cataract River and his troops opened fire at the camp site killing at least 14 Aboriginal people.¹⁴

Captain Wallis' report to Macquarie indicated that there had been no resistance from the Aborigines. This act of killing without provocation was against Macquarie's orders and was therefore an illegal act. This posed a problem for Macquarie as the Governor of the Colony, so in a letter to London explaining what had happened he said that the deaths had been unavoidable.¹⁵ William Tyson was commended for his assistance given during the expedition against hostile natives and he received £5 as a reward for his help.¹⁶

Note 36, page 139.

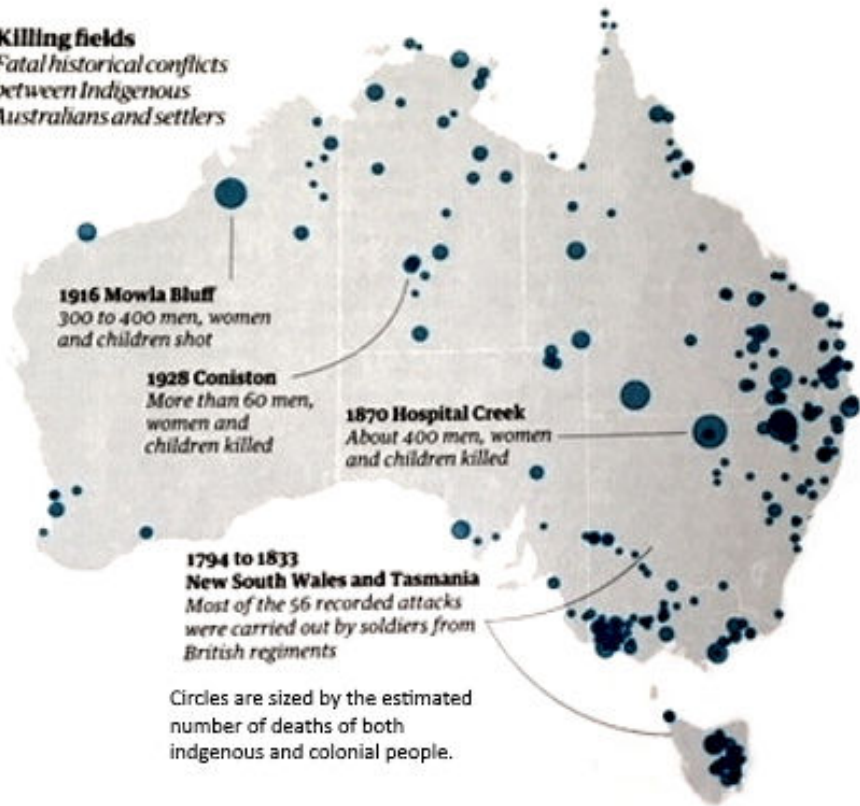
Three Detachments of the 46th Regiment.

Instructions were issued by Governor Macquarie to the three officers in command of these detachments on the 9th of April, 1816. Captain W. G. B. Schaw was ordered to proceed into the interior for the purpose of punishing the natives, who had manifested a strong feeling of hostility against the settlers on the banks of the Nepean, Grose, and Hawkesbury rivers, and had committed many cruel murders. Directions were given that all aborigines, men, women, and children, who were met with from Sydney onwards, were to be made prisoners of war; any who "showed fight" or endeavoured to run away were to be shot, and their bodies hung from trees in the most conspicuous places near where they fell, so as to strike terror into the hearts of the surviving natives. Lieutenant Charles Dawe was ordered to the Cowpasture district, and to co-operate with captain Schaw. Captain James Wallis was ordered to the districts of Appin and Airds, and was ultimately to meet captain Schaw at George Woodhouse's farm in the last-named district. The detachments set out on the 10th of April, and twenty days later Governor Macquarie sent orders to captain Schaw for their return to headquarters. The most important episode of these punitive expeditions occurred to the party under captain Wallis. This detachment had a moonlight skirmish with the natives near William Broughton's farm in the Appin district. Fourteen of the natives were killed, and a considerable number were taken prisoners. The killed included several women and children, who met their death by rushing in despair over precipices. Amongst the men killed there were several who had committed recent murders.

Macquarie's Despatch Note to Earl Bathurst. Appin massacre, April 1816¹⁷

Killing fields

Fatal historical conflicts between Indigenous Australians and settlers



The Killing Times, Confronting the Reality of Colonisation¹⁸

Together with his job as Constable for Appin, William had also been appointed Pound Keeper which entailed impounding lost animals and charging a fee to the owners who claimed them. However, in late 1816 he was found guilty of overcharging pound fees and being disrespectful to the court when called to explain. He was summarily dismissed from both Constable and Pound Keeper positions.¹⁹ This loss of jobs could explain the later need to sell the farm in 1819.²⁰ However, William applied to Governor Macquarie for another land grant in 1821 reminding him that he had been rewarded when he acted as a guide back in 1816.²¹ The family moved to 20 ha at East Bargo, which is in the same area as Appin.

William died in 1827 aged 45 and it seems that Isabella managed to continue farming the land. In the 1828 census, Isabella is recorded as being aged 41, free by servitude, a Protestant widow living at East Bargo with eight children, living on 45 ha, 9 cleared, 9 cultivated and with 4 horned cattle.²² Isabella went on to marry Thomas **Clements**, who had arrived in 1814 as a convict and had been assigned to the farm.²³ Isabella had three more children with Thomas.



Isabella Tyson.

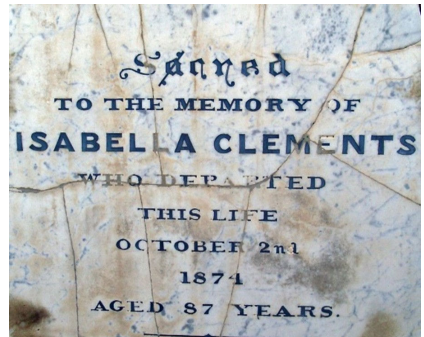
(photo: Reference 13, p 18)

An indication of Isabella and her family's adaptation to Australia is the success of one of her sons, James Tyson, who did very well by providing a butchery service to prospectors on the Victorian goldfields of the 1850/60s. He went on to establish pastoral runs from Queensland to Victoria becoming a very wealthy man. In 1898 he died intestate leaving about £2 million pounds for descendants to argue over. By all accounts he was an interesting character and Banjo **Patterson** wrote a poem about him.²⁴

Isabella died in 1874 at the ripe old age of 87. The notice in the *Sydney Gazette* noted that Isabella was 'much respected by a large circle of friends'.²⁵ I wonder if she knew the truth of what happened at the Appin massacre?

Isabella Tyson's story is an amazing tale

that saw her travel to the ends of the earth and land in a completely alien landscape. She and William were extremely lucky to have arrived at the same time as Governor Macquarie. He viewed 'New South Wales as 'a Penitentiary or Asylum on a Grand Scale' where, having expiated their crimes, former convicts could prosper and achieve respectability. In time he believed it would move beyond its convict origins to become one of Britain's most flourishing colonies and he had directed his efforts towards this end'.²⁶



Isabella Clements' Headstone.

(photo: Anne Cutler, 2012)

Isabella was indeed fortunate to have her husband as protector and provider to accompany her and set up home in the new colony. We must assume this increased her capacity to successfully navigate her sentence without re-offending. Her second piece of luck, Lachlan Macquarie's arriving at the same time to govern the colony, increased Isabella and her family's capacity to be successful, notwithstanding the strength and determination that she must have had to have survived in such a hostile environment. As a seventh generation Australian, descended from Isabella, I wish to acknowledge that this came at a cost to the indigenous population, the pain of which still resonates today in the descendants of Indigenous Australians.

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12. *ibid.*, p.45
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14. Lorena Allam and Nick Evershed, *The Killing Fields, The Killing Times, Confronting the Reality of Colonisation*, 2019, *The Guardian Weekly* p. 27
15. Radio National Life Matters Podcast, 6 April 2016, *Nearly 200 years since the Appin Massacre, what do we know about Governor Lachlan Macquarie's role?*, <https://tinyurl.com/4hex5t8z>
16. See reference 5.
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18. See reference 14 – digital image, p38.
19. Government & General Orders', *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*, Saturday 3 August 1816
20. Provost Marshall's Office, *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*, 17 July 1819
21. See reference 5.
22. Ancestry, Census Record for Isabella Tyson, 'New South Wales Census, 1828', New South Wales Government Census: Household returns', State Records Authority of New South Wales. Kingswood, New South Wales, Australia

23. Ancestry, Muster Record for Thomas Clements, 'New South Wales and Tasmania, Australia Convict Musters, 1806-1849', Home Office: Settlers and Convicts, New South Wales and Tasmania; (The National Archives Microfilm Publication HO10, *Pieces 5, 19-20, 32-51*); *The National Archives of the UK (TNA), Kew, Surrey, England*
24. See reference 13, p46
25. Isabella Tyson Death Notice, *Evening News*, Friday 16 October 1874, p.2
26. See reference 6.



WEB WATCH



BRITAIN

Gloucestershire Family History Society @ <https://gfhs.org.uk> has a list of 118 Gloucestershire born men who enlisted in Australia with the Anzacs during WW1

IRELAND

Placenames Database of Ireland has been updated on <https://www.logainm.ie/en/>.

INTERNATIONAL

Castle Garden immigration centre operated in New York from 1830 until 1890. For the next two years immigrants were processed at an old barge office in Manhattan until the opening of Ellis Island on 1 Jan 1892. In a huge fire in 1897, many of the Ellis Island records were burnt. Records for Castle Garden Immigration database can be found at <http://castlegarden.org>

Compiled by Kate **Anderson** (Member)

RESEARCH CENTRE OPENING TIMES

Monday, Wednesday and Friday – 10am to 4pm

Saturday – 10am to 1pm

Please phone 9523 8948 if going in after midday.

Centre closed after 17 December 2022, re-opens 16 January 2023

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

AUSTRALIA

- A Wealth of Women. [A.HIS.26.11LC]
- The Rush That Never Ended – A History of Australian Mining. [A.HIS.1.57LC]
- Greek Cafes & Milk Bars of Australia. [A.HIS.11.26LC]

NEW SOUTH WALES

- Explore Historic Sydney and New South Wales. [AN.HIS.41.11LC]
- Nulladolla 1988 (History of Milton Ulladulla District). [AN.LH.2538.2LC]
- In Quarantine – A History of Sydney's Quarantine Station, 1828-1984. [AN.HIS.19.14LC]
- Maitland in the Media, 1841-1845. [AN. LH.2320.3LC]
- Heroes of the Long Paddock – The Drovers of Southern New South Wales. [AN.HIS.41.11LC]
- Eurobodalla - History of the Moruya District. [AN.LH.2537.3LC]
- Notes and Sketches of New South Wales During a Residence in the Colony from 1839 to 1844. [AN.HIS.41.11LC]

OVERSEAS

- The Family Tree Detective – Tracing Your Ancestors in England and Wales. [BRIT.GUI.1.40LC]
- Scottish Clans & Tartans. [S.HIS.1.15LC]
- Genealogy Standards. [INT.GUI.1.18LC]
- Researching Irish Australians – Directory of Research with Will Abstracts & Gravestone Inscriptions. [I.SOU.20.1LC]
- Memory Lane – Belper, Ambergate and Districts. (Derby) [E.DBY.LH.1LC].

GENERAL

- Wrecks on the New South Wales South Coast. [G.IMM-SHP.AN.2.7LC]
- The Small Family in Australia, 1788-1988. [G.FH.SMA.2]
- Bathurst Pioneers – A Register of Pioneer Families of Bathurst, N.S.W. [G.BIOG.4N.34]
- Pioneer Register: Contains Genealogical Details of Pioneer Families in the Cessnock Local Government Area. [G.BIOG.4N.35]
- From Green to Gold – Our O'Grady Story. [G.FH.O'GR.1LC]
- Marine Officer, Convict Wife. The Johnstons of Annandale. [G.BIOG.7.JOH.2LC]

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

Compiled by Janette Daly (Librarian)

THE LAYCOCK FAMILY

by Colleen **Passfield** (Member)

When I was a child, I sometimes overheard family conversations about ‘Lias **Laycock**’. As an unusual name it stuck in my memory until I learned later on it was Elias Laycock they were speaking about. He had been quite famous and his family had lived in Cronulla for many years.

With the assistance of funds allocated by the Sutherland Shire Council as a 2006 Centenary Project, Botany Bay Family History Society published a book *Sutherland Shire – Some Early Residents*, compiled by Maree **McKinley** and Sue **Hewitt**. I contributed a story about Elias Laycock who was a world champion sculler and lived in Cronulla until his death in 1938. Elias Laycock’s ancestors were also prominent in their time and significant figures in the early days of the colony and what is now the Sutherland Shire. The first of these ancestors to arrive in Sydney was Thomas Laycock (1756-1809).

Thomas Laycock was born in Kingston, Surrey, England probably in late 1756, the son of Peter Laycock and his wife, Rebecca nee **Cowles** and on 17 January 1757 he was baptised in All Saints, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey. From 1777, he served for eleven years in the 2nd Troop of the Kings Horse Grenadier Guards which was disbanded in 1788. In 1789, he was enrolled as a sergeant in the New South Wales Corps, promoted to quartermaster in January 1791 and arrived in Sydney with the third fleet on *HMS Gorgon* on 21 September 1791, accompanied by his wife, Hannah nee **Pearson** (1756-1831), whom he had married in November 1782, and their four children: Sarah (1783-1820), William (1784-1853), Thomas William (1786-1823) and Samuel (1788-1832). Three more were born after their arrival: George (1792-1792), Rebecca (1794-1859) and Elizabeth (1796-1835).

In 1794, Thomas Laycock was appointed as Deputy-Commissary but had to resign his position in December 1800, after being charged, with other members of the Corps, with the shooting in 1796 of a pig owned by John **Boston**. He received no pay for the position but received land grants to compensate. In March 1804, during the Castle Hill uprising, he led a detachment of soldiers to aid Major George **Johnston** against the rebel leaders. He was praised for his action and was a member of the court martial which tried the leaders of the rebellion.

In those days, families of some standing in the colony would send their children back to England for their education. In the Laycock family, William, Samuel, Rebecca and Elizabeth were there by 1801 and in 1805, Laycock’s wife Hannah, returned to England to be with them. In 1804 the boys had returned to Sydney on board the *Experiment* and the girls returned with their mother on the *Canada* in 1810.

After Hannah's departure in 1805, Thomas was becoming mentally unstable. He was censured for indecent behaviour and, in 1806 found guilty of using mutinous language. In February 1808, he was replaced as quartermaster by the War Office. John **Macarthur** advised against appointing him as a magistrate and police officer. By 1807, he had acquired, by grants and purchase, a land area of 670 ha and, in October 1809, members of his family claimed that he was unable to manage his affairs. After a report on his health, Lieutenant-Governor William **Paterson** appointed Laycock's sons William and Thomas, his son-in-law Nicholas **Bayley**, William **Broughton** and D'Arcy **Wentworth** to manage his estates and effects. He died on 27 December 1809, aged 53, at his Pitt Street residence.

Hannah Laycock returned to the colony in 1810 and settled at *King's Grove*, on the 202 ha granted to her by Governor Philip Gidley **King** and named after him. The present suburb of Kingsgrove includes the estate. Hannah Laycock died in 1831 and her will dated 1 April 1831 is very detailed regarding the distribution of her assets among her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The City of Canterbury has erected a plaque, marking the site of *King's Grove Farm*, on the corner of Homer Street and Rosemeath Avenue.

Thomas and Hannah's son, Thomas William Laycock was born in Dorset in 1786 and arrived in Sydney with his mother in 1791. On 30 December 1795, at the age of nine years, he became an Ensign in the New South Wales Corps and was promoted at 16 to Lieutenant in 1802. He was the tallest officer in the Corps standing at 2.03 m. I was puzzled by this but Ken Laycock explained: 'Although officers were supposed to be 16 years of age before they could be enlisted, it was possible for enlistments to be made below that age in privately-owned regiments or in overseas regiments'. Thomas' younger brother, Samuel, born 1788 in Bristol was 16 when he became an Ensign in the Corps in 1805.

In 1806, after serving in Sydney and Norfolk Island, Laycock was sent to Port Dalrymple in Tasmania under Captain Anthony Fenn **Kemp**. To relieve the famine stricken northern settlement, Laycock was entrusted with delivering despatches to Lieutenant-Governor Collins in Hobart Town and made the first journey across the island. Setting out on 3 February 1807 with four other men, they arrived in Hobart on 11 February to be told no supplies could be spared. After four days rest, they made the return journey arriving in Launceston on 22 February. Laycock's very descriptive account of the journey was useful in the development of the interior of the island. For his efforts he was rewarded with a cow which because of the shortages of food and livestock was greatly prized. (On 26 January 1993, Ken Laycock, his great-great-grandson, unveiled a memorial plaque to mark Thomas Laycock's historic arrival at the junction of the South Esk and Lake Rivers which is now Longford.)

Thomas Laycock returned to Sydney and was a member of the criminal court assembled to try John Macarthur for his part in the arrest and overthrow of Governor **Bligh** on 26 January 1808. Because of his support for the new administration and as a reward for his exploration, he was granted 202 ha at Cabramatta, by **Foveaux**, which was later the site for Liverpool, but this had to be surrendered when **Macquarie** assumed office.



Thomas and Isabella Laycock, c1811.
(photo: State Library of NSW – Mitchell Library)

On 1 June 1809 at St Philips Church in Sydney, Thomas Laycock married Isabella **Bunker**, born in London on 9 September 1787, the daughter of Eber Bunker (1761-1836) and his wife Margaret, nee **Thompson**. Isabella had arrived in Sydney on 6 August 1806 on the *Elizabeth*.

After the New South Corps were disbanded most of the men transferred to the 102nd Regiment of Foot and were recalled to England. On 18 March 1810, Laycock and Isabella left on board *HMS Dromedary*. On the voyage, Isabella gave birth to their first child John Henry Brabyn Laycock who died in 1811. In September 1811, Thomas Laycock was promoted to Captain in the 98th Regiment and a daughter, Margaret Hannah Laycock was born in 1812.

He served in the American war of 1812-1814 when his regiment was based in Nova Scotia where a son, Thomas William Eber Bunker Laycock, was born on 19 January 1815 in Halifax. After the Treaty of Ghent was signed on 24 December 1814, the war ended and his regiment returned to England. He then sold his commission and sailed for Sydney on the *Fame* arriving on 8 March 1817 with his heavily pregnant wife and two children.

Soon after their arrival, Isabella Laycock died in childbirth on 13 March 1817 at Ultimo House, the residence of John **Harris** a long-time friend of the family. She was buried at the Devonshire Street Cemetery (Sandhills) later being reburied at Rookwood in 1901. The child, named John Craven Laycock, also died.

With a young family, Thomas Laycock soon remarried in July 1817 to

Margaret **Connell** (c1798-1824) the daughter of John Connell (c1759-1849) and his wife Catherine nee **Donovan** (1761-1811). The couple had two children: John Connell Laycock (1818-1897) and Elias Pearson Laycock (1821-1886).

Thomas set up a store, opened a hotel and was soon the largest supplier of meat to the commissariat. In 1819 he was one of the leading citizens applying for the right to trial by jury in the colony and built a large house called *Cottage Vale* on his 243 ha grant at Bringelly. The house was later named *The Retreat* and is now called *Kelvin* and classified by the National Trust.

Thomas Laycock died on 7 November 1823 at his estate *Cottage Vale*, aged 37. He was buried in the Devonshire Street Cemetery and was survived by his wife and two sons. Sadly, his wife Margaret died at Bringelly on 25 January 1924 and was also buried at the Devonshire Street Cemetery. In 1901 when the cemetery was redeveloped Elias Connell Laycock, their grandson, arranged for their remains to be reburied at Rookwood Cemetery.

After the death of his daughter, John Connell (c1759-1849) became guardian to his two grandsons, John Connell Laycock and Elias Pearson Laycock. John Connell was a free settler, merchant and landowner who came to Sydney with his children, John (c1790-1859) Mary (1793-1828) and Margaret (1797-1824) aboard the *Earl Cornwallis* which arrived in Sydney in June 1801. Also on board was his wife, Catherine Connell, a convict under sentence of fourteen years transportation for receiving stolen goods at their shop in Bristol. After her conviction, John sold his businesses and arranged passage for himself and his children as free settlers. On arrival, John bought land between Pitt and George Street and set up an iron foundry. Catherine was assigned to him as a housekeeper and was granted a conditional pardon. Sadly, she died aged 50 in May 1811.

John became a prominent merchant in Pitt Street and obtained grants for large tracts of Colonial land. He was awarded contracts to supply meat to Government Stores, served as a coroner and juror at various inquests during the 1810s and was involved in charities and community events. His son, John, was involved in his father's business, managed some of his estates and obtained grants in his own right.

On 10 June 1812, Connell's daughter, Mary (1793-1828), born in Bristol, married James **Cox** (1790-1866), son of William Cox and his wife, Rebecca. When, in 1807, his father returned to England for three years James had to work with his mother to develop and run the family property *Clarendon* on the Hawkesbury. This prepared him for when he and Mary settled in Tasmania naming their property *Clarendon* at Morven. He became a prominent pastoralist and one of the wealthiest men in Tasmania.

John Connell went into farming and, in 1821, acquired 404 ha at Quibry Bay

(Kurnell) and in 1828, purchased from the trustees of the Birnie Estate, *Alpha Farm* that, in 1815, was the first land grant in that area. By 1838, almost the entire Kurnell Peninsula was owned by John Connell. John Junior lived on *Alpha Farm* which he cleared heavily and sold the timber in Sydney. He transported ironbark, turpentine, blackbutt, mahogany and red cedar by having a canal dug to Woollooware Bay to float the timber to waiting ships which carried it to Sydney.

When John Connell died, aged 90, in August 1849, he left his entire Estate to his grandsons, John and Elias as tenants in common. Included was land purchased in 1830 which is now the modern suburb of Penshurst. In 1869 they subdivided it into 32 farms and advertised it as Connell's Bush, Penshurst. They agreed upon a division of all of the estate and John acquired about 647 ha of the Sutherland property mainly on the Kurnell Peninsula, adjoining Cronulla Beach.

Elias Pearson Laycock married Grace Lysaght **Longfield** (1820-1895) on 11 November 1846 at St James Church, Sydney and they had nine children: Margaret May (1846-1930), Grace Connell (1848-1917), Thomas Mountiford Laycock (1850-1900), who died at Blomfontein in the Boer War, Mary Longfield (1852-1927), Patience (1854-1925), Ada (1855-1915), John Henry (1857-1908), Richard William (1859-1881) and Elizabeth Eugenie (1862-1898)

After the division of the estate, they settled in Windsor and Elias Pearson Laycock died at Ingleburn on 22 November 1886. Grace died in 1895.

On 1 February 1843, John Connell Laycock married Mary Jane **Simpson** at St Andrew's Church, Sydney and they had five daughters and four sons: Maurice Connell (1843-1878), Elias Connell (1845-1938), John Connell (1847-1877), Mary Connell (1850-1877), Emily Connell (1853-1921), Jane Connell (1855-1945), Alice Connell (1858-1938), George Connell (1861-1951) and Margaret Connell (1863-1946).

In 1856, the Government held the first auction of land in the Sutherland area and John Connell Laycock secured over 280 ha. By 1858 he owned 1,820 ha and had settled at Kurnell. By 1860, Connell was a Member of the Legislative Assembly, owned extensive properties in Sydney, Sutherland, Liverpool and Queensland and had mortgaged most of his inheritance to Thomas Holt who was a friend and fellow Member of the Assembly. He had purchased land in Castlereagh and King Streets, Sydney upon which were the Prince of Wales Theatre and other buildings. In October, 1860, a fire broke out killing two people and destroying the theatre and the buildings which were insufficiently insured and, in 1861 he was forced to sell all his properties to pay his debts and expenses. Prior to his land sale he had shown Thomas **Holt** around his Hacking and Georges River properties and Holt purchased 1,860 ha from him.

In January 1854, after a number of wrecks at the entrance to the Clarence

River in northern New South Wales, Captain Francis **Freeburn** was appointed pilot and settled with his family and crew on the southern headland. In 1860 local residents pressured the Government to improve movement at the Clarence River bar and a contract for harbour works led to a population increase. As a Member in the Legislative Assembly John Connell Laycock was no doubt aware of this and recognising a business opportunity to revive his fortunes, on 7 May 1862, he arrived with his family on board the *Urara* to settle in the Clarence River Heads area (Yamba). Following the family on 5 June 1862 was their 17 year old son, Elias Connell Laycock, who brought 56 head of cattle and 3 horses from Sydney. He would later become famous as a champion sculler.



John Connell Laycock.
(photo: NSW Parliamentary Archives)

Laycock was elected to the Legislative Assembly as Member for The Clarence on 29 December 1864 and served until 21 July 1866. He was involved in community affairs and the development of the township until he left in 1874 after selling his assets there. He bought a farming property, *Glenreagh Station*, on the Orara River between Grafton and Coffs Harbour and acquired more land. By 1886, he was living in Villiers Street, Grafton and, as a Justice of the Peace, presided over the Grafton Police Court as PM. His letters to the Editor and various poems were published in the *Clarence and Richmond Examiner*.

In July 1897, John Connell Laycock and his wife returned to live in Sydney. Shortly after, he died at Parramatta on 31 November 1897 and was buried at Rookwood Cemetery. In June 1906, his widow Mary Jane Laycock died at the age of 83 years, at the residence of her daughter, Mrs **Grimes**, of Randwick. She was also buried at Rookwood.

Elias Connell Laycock was born in John Connell's house in Pitt Street, Sydney on 8 May 1845. He was the son of John Connell and Mary Jane Laycock, grandson of Thomas and Margaret Laycock and great-grandson of John Connell the second landholder in Kurnell. He attended boarding school in Newtown for a few years and later attended the Cleveland House School in the Cleveland Paddocks district. Growing up, he spent much time at the family property in Kurnell and became close to an old aboriginal woman, Sally **Mettymong**. She was too old to follow the tribe and assisted the household in odd jobs. She told Mrs Laycock that, as a young child she had witnessed Captain Cook's landing at Botany Bay. Elias accompanied Sally when she fished from the rocks or wandered

about the property. He listened to her stories of the past and noted the places of interest she pointed out. These recollections would prove useful in the future.

Elias worked on his father's properties and, as noted previously, assisted in the family's relocation to the Clarence River where he soon found employment on a cattle station and became adept in cattle management. He then served an apprenticeship as a boatman for the river Pilot and then for a short time was a miner at the Gilbert diggings in Queensland and then as a stockman driving cattle in Victoria. He returned to the sea as a second mate in a schooner in the intercolonial trade but by 1874 had returned to New South Wales and was cutting cedar in the rocky ranges up the Clarence River.

As he later recollected, one day in 1874 he came into town and met Michael **Rush** who asked him to row in a boat race being organised on the Clarence with prize money of £200. Aged 29, he had never rowed but considered himself a good athlete and was described as 'a fine specimen of Australian manhood being over 6ft 2in (1.88 m) tall with a splendid physique' perhaps due to genes inherited from his grandfather Thomas Laycock. He came to Sydney to train with Dick Green, went back and rowed in his first race. Michael Rush won, Edward **Trickett** was second and Laycock finished third. Later that year, he was second to Trickett in the Balmain Regatta. This was the beginning of his remarkable rowing career.

In 1875, he defeated Rush when he won the Clarence River regatta and, in September, Trickett defeated Laycock in a match on the Parramatta River in Sydney. In 1876 he rowed at Balmain against **Green** and **Mulholland** and won easily. On 26 January 1877, Laycock was second to Trickett at a regatta to commemorate the colonisation of Australia. In November, he won the Balmain regatta for the second time. Around this time, he was appointed in charge of a quarantine station at Shark Island in Sydney Harbour. He continued competing usually finishing in the top three. Trickett was declared world champion and, on 29 August 1879, Laycock raced him for the world title on the Parramatta River for a distance of 3.75 miles (6.04 km). Trickett won by 15 to 18 lengths but was using the recently invented swivel rowlocks. He also qualified to represent New South Wales against Ned **Hanlan** who was then champion of Great Britain and the United States.

In 1880, Laycock sailed for England and took part in several races on the Thames. He won the Hops Bitters regatta for a £400 purse against other leading world scullers except Hanlan who was by then World Champion. On 14 February 1881, he challenged Hanlan for the World Sculling Championship on the Thames in London but lost. On 22 May, 1884, he also challenged Hanlan in a race held on the Nepean River in New South Wales and lost again. There was big money won and lost by punters on these races and Laycock was no exception. He was at the top of his career when he broke his ankle – 'I think I would have beaten them all but

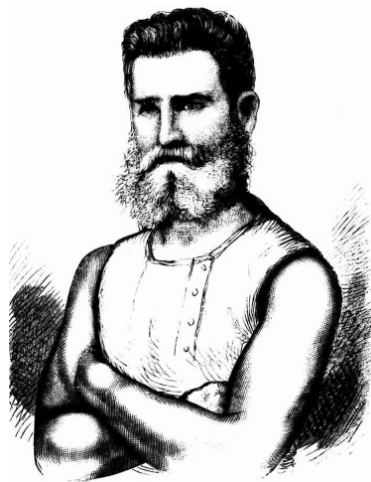
for that' was how he summed it up. Laycock, even in his early days, was only beaten by good men such as Hanlan, Trickett and Rush and he defeated many like Rush, Trickett, **Messenger** and **Boyd**.

On 14 September 1876, at St Mark's Church in Alexandria, Elias Connell Laycock married Lucy Elizabeth **Gregory**, the daughter of William Gregory and his wife, Adelaide. Children of the marriage were: Bessie Connell (1877-1838), Elias Connell (1879-1916), Maurice William (1880-1928), John Connell (1883-1915) and Reginald Connell (1885-1949).

Shortly before his marriage, he was appointed to a position in charge of the cattle quarantine station on Shark Island in Sydney Harbour. It was an ideal place for him to train and, despite some objections which were overturned, was able to obtain leave to pursue his career overseas. In 1883 he was about to resign from this official position when he slipped on some rocks on the island and broke his leg. He intended becoming the proprietor of Deeble's Hotel, Woolloomooloo, but, needing to recuperate for about four months he was unable to do so. In resigning from his position he lost the accommodation that was a perquisite of his employment and needed to support his growing family. Friends and supporters got together to raise funds to see him through the emergency. The appeal was an outstanding success and, after his recovery, he became a hotelier firstly with Bell's Hotel in Woolloomooloo and then Harris Street Hotel in Pymont.

In the next few years, he raced from time to time with occasional success but never again with outstanding form. He would continue to be involved with aquatic clubs and raced in ex-champions and veterans events until well into his sixties. His sons also competed but without his success.

The hotel business was unsuccessful and by 1896 he was in dire financial circumstances and an appeal was launched to assist him and his family. It was even suggested that he be appointed as a Ranger to the recently established park at Kurnell but enough money was raised to set him up in a boatshed on Gunnamatta Bay with three boats for hire. He took groups out fishing as he knew all the 'hot spots' and was a Fisheries Inspector and Ranger for the National Park. The Sands Sydney Directory in 1919 listed him as a bee and boatkeeper – his business located near the southern end of the site now occupied by the Cronulla Railway Station opposite Laycock Avenue. In a booklet published in 1970 by Cronulla Rotary Club, a local man, Alan Lovell, recalled purchasing fresh fish and honey there and



Elias Connell Laycock.
(photo: Wikimedia Commons)

the crossed skulls that were mounted on the wall of the shop.

Captain Cook's journal recorded that the body of Forby Sutherland, a seaman on the Endeavour who had died of consumption, was buried ashore near Cook's watering place. In the early 1920s R A Macdonald, a member of the Royal Australian Historical Society, made enquiries as to the location of this historic grave. Fortunately he met Elias Laycock who told him how, years before, Sally Mettymong had on many occasions pointed to a spot of ground just above high-water mark and said, 'White man buried there'. A committee was appointed by the RAHS and, on 14 April 1923, accompanied by Elias Laycock, they proceeded to Kurnell where Laycock indicated the grave site. On 29 April, 1933, a simple monument of a marble tablet mounted on a stone plinth, was dedicated by the RAHS to commemorate Forby Sutherland, 'The First British Subject to Die In Australia'. It is located in the Botany Bay National Park in Kurnell.

On 7 September, 1928, Lucy Elizabeth Laycock died at her residence *The Anchorage* in Croydon Street, Cronulla aged 71. She was buried in Woronora Cemetery. She was survived by her husband, Elias Connell Laycock, daughter Bessie (Mrs B C **Simpson**) and son, Reginald Connell Laycock.

In 1932, Elias Connell Laycock married Diana **Black**. On Sunday 30 May 1937, the *Sun* newspaper published, under the heading 'The Candid Camera Caught On Its Visit To Cronulla' a series of photos of some locals including Elias with details about the person.

Elias Connell Laycock died at his home in Cronulla on 29 May 1938 and was buried in Woronora Cemetery. His daughter Bessie also died later in 1938. Maurice Connell Laycock, a planter, died on 16 May 1949 in Papari Ysabel, British Solomon Islands Protectorate. Reginald Connell Laycock also died in the Solomon Islands, in 1949.

Laycock Avenue which borders Monro Park in Cronulla was named after him and is opposite where his property was resumed for the construction of the Cronulla Railway Station. Trickett Street in Cronulla was named after his great friend and rival, Edward Trickett.

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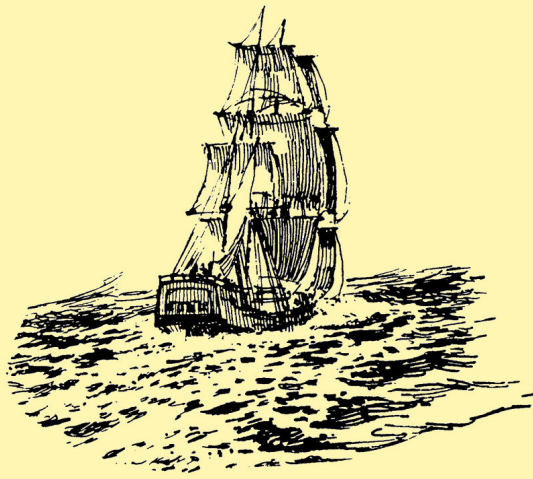
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