

MURRUMBIDGEE ANCESTOR

*The Journal of the
Wagga Wagga
and District Family History
Society Inc.*

**June 2023
No. 138**

WAGGA WAGGA AND DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

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Meetings

Committee Meetings: 2nd Wednesday each month at 9:30 am

Monthly Meetings: Third Wednesday of each month 7.30pm. Room opens 7.00pm

Location of Meetings: Society rooms, 24 Tarakan Avenue, Ashmont

Annual Membership

Ordinary Member: \$38. *Pensioner:* \$28 (Pension number required).

Family Member living at same address (Additional) \$12.

MEMBER ENTITLEMENTS

Use of Society's extensive resources; receipt of monthly newsletter and the journal *Murrumbidgee Ancestor* three times a year (extra copies \$2.50 each); guidance with research; borrowing from the library and attendance at meetings and workshops. **Research** can be undertaken using the resources of the Society's library and at other repositories around Wagga, at a cost of \$25 per hour. Contact the Research Officer through the secretary.

Research Room: 24 Tarakan Avenue, Ashmont. **Opening Times: Monday & Wednesday** 10am to 4pm; **Tuesday** 1pm to 4pm. **First Saturday of Month** 10 am to 1 pm. Closed on Public Holidays. Closing at 3 pm during Winter months.

Enquiries: ph. **02 59257217** during opening hours.

Murrumbidgee Ancestor is produced in February, June and October.

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MURRUMBIDGEE ANCESTOR
June 2023 – No. 139



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Journal Contributions 2023

Contributions for publication in the journal are welcome. Electronic copies are preferred, in Word and Times New Roman font. Paper copy is welcome if electronic form is not possible.

There are no word length restraints, and no contribution is too short, but 1200 words is the preferred maximum length (this is 3-4 pages in the journal, depending on illustrations). No article of interest to the family historian will be rejected because of word length. The Society membership number of the author (s) should be included.

	February	June	October
Articles submitted	20 January	22 May	15 September
Editing and layout	20-26 January	22 May– 5 June	18-25 September
Proof-reading	27 January-2 February	5 June-9 June	25 September-2 October
Edition to printers	3 February	9 June	2 October
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CONTINUING MEMBERS

Please remember to renew subscriptions, returning your form and payment to the Society's rooms or by mail to PO Box 307, Wagga Wagga, NSW, 2650.
Direct Deposit: Bendigo Bank, BSB No. 633000. A/C No. 169210739
Please give details of name, membership number and reason for payment.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to our Society

Ian Stewart of Brucedale

Joan Hoare of Wagga Wagga

Walter Bell of Wagga Wagga

It is hoped that you will find being a member of our Society a very productive and worthwhile experience, with a chance to meet new friends and to further your research interests, using our many resources.



Happy ladies at the April meeting. From Left: Sharon, Helen, Gwenda, Gillian. At the back, Jan.

President's Report

Rob Walker – Member No. 696

Towards the end of April the NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies held the Inaugural Annual Meeting for Presidents and Vice Presidents, as a Zoom meeting. I wasn't able to attend the Zoom part, however I made a submission, on behalf of our Society, on discussion items. The roles of President and Vice President was the first agenda item, followed by "What are the issues being dealt with currently?", "Does the size of the Society determine the issues that arise?", and "Will this be an annual meeting of the one Group or consider four Regional Groups?" As yet there hasn't been any feedback or summary of the meeting but I will wait to see if other groups have been able to buck the trend of diminishing numbers and enthusiasm. One question has been raised that I will come back to at the end.

In my June 2022 report I talked about downsizing the Quee collection to make way for some back-room files. Well, the vacuum thus created, was immediately filled by The Pastoral Review (TPR) collection but I'm not complaining as there have been positive spinoffs already. A PDF index of the First World War Volunteers (1440 photos) is now up and running on the Webpage and the corresponding images are available on the Admin Laptop. Our committee member, Geoff Burch, has rummaged through a corresponding collection to find some missing images. Our Patron, Michael McCormack, will likely make use of this collection for his 2024 Anzac booklet. One real bonanza has followed a general call to members to find missing issues of TPR. Several such copies have been unearthed from mysterious boxes in spare rooms, attics, garages etc but we still have a way to go.

At our May meeting Jillian Salzke, Collections Management Archivist at CSU, spoke on the much-anticipated reopening of the Archives on the Main Campus this month. Family historians are delighted, and Jillian left copies of the location handout with map and contact information.

There are still many books available from the Quee collection to be had as we still have to make space. Neil Dallinger has produced a Second edition of his Daily Advertiser CD with 49,500 entries.

We have broken with tradition by deciding not to hold our regular evening meetings during the cold months of June and July which we hope will be acceptable. Now, back to the one question that came out of the first paragraph considerations. "How do we hand on this Family History Library?" Is there a Plan B? With dwindling participation rates how soon will this become an issue we don't want to think about? I'll leave that thought with you.



Editor's Page

Marcia McIntyre—Member No. 840

Another edition of the *Murrumbidgee Ancestor* with interesting, very readable articles by our members. As usual Leanne Diessel has summarised the research enquiries that she has received, and it is hoped that a connection can be made between the writers of these enquiries and some of our members. In her “Notes from Wagga Wagga” Leanne has recorded funeral notices and obituaries as an example of what can be found in newspaper clippings in filing cabinets in our rooms.

Jan Hurcum on page 13 has a brief story of an unexpected photographic find. On page 14, Mavis Gaff-Smith has written the story of early Wagga Wagga midwives and their dedication to their patients, in spite of the difficulties they faced at times. The information on these midwives is taken from Mavis's book *Riverina Midwives; From the Mountains to the Plains*.

Gwenda Kenyon has written an article about her great-great grandmother, Ellen Urben nee Waddingham, and the interesting fact of the town of Urbenville in Northern NSW being given that name because Ellen's son (Gwenda's great-grandfather) was the first white child born in the district. This fact is mentioned on the page about Urbenville on the “Aussie Towns” Facebook page. Gwenda obtained much of the story of the Urben family from her great-grandfather's reminiscences published weekly in the *Tenterfield Star* newspaper every Monday from 10 March, 1975 until 28 April, 1975. Her article can be found on page 17.

I decided to write something of the interesting and exciting life of my great-grandfather's brother, the Irish patriot! My effort can be found on page 20.

Our Society now has a Facebook page, which is very ably administered by Geoff Burch. There are informative posts on the page, covering a variety of subjects. No doubt in the future, many more interesting posts will be added. Those of our members who are Facebook users, please check out this page. Look for “Wagga & District Family History Society”.



Deceased Members and Ex-Members of our Society

In the past year four of our members have died:

Beth Guy
Bill Weir
Norma Smith
Pat Osborne

The following recent members have also passed away:

Jean Lawrence
Bruce McAlister

Past members with death notices in the *Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser* include:

James Tregoe
Beryl Aitken
Don Kenyon
Peter Lawrence
Margaret Nichol
Neil Murray
Alfred Dudley
John Buik
Sue Brown

We honour all these former members of our Society and know that their research into their family history has left a valuable legacy for their relatives and descendants to build on, and expand, in the ever unfolding story.



SOCIETY HAPPENINGS

Jan Hurcum—Member No. 32

At our February meeting, our guest speaker was member Mavis Gaff-Smith, and her subject was Midwives in Wagga Wagga. Mavis is a midwife herself, and has published several books on the subject.

Mavis began by mentioning aboriginal midwife Polly, who helped many of the early settlers as well as her own people. Between 1910 and 1928 there were 26 ‘lying-in’ hospitals in Wagga; earlier ones run by women whose husbands had died and they had to earn their own living, and later by midwives trained in Sydney or Melbourne hospitals. Mavis made the talk more interesting by telling us about the history and

private lives of these women, and some of the houses which are still visible in Wagga streets today. The maternity section of Wagga Base Hospital opened in 1938, but some of the lying-in hospitals continued to be used. Today, midwives visit mothers and babies in their own homes after a short stay in hospital.

Left: Mavis Gaff-Smith speaking about Riverina midwives.



The March meeting was very different, as we watched a video on researching World War 1 soldiers with Ian Hodges, who has been a regular guest speaker as he has been visiting Wagga to research at CSU Riverina Archives for his book “He Belonged to Wagga”. Ian told us about some of the resources he used, including

local newspapers, local Police charge books, Court records, Council minutes, Repatriation records, and Lands Department for information on soldier settlers. A very enjoyable and informative meeting.

President Rob was guest speaker at the April meeting, and told us all about our collection of *Pastoral Review* magazines which were obtained from Charles Sturt University Archives. There were magazines on display so we could all see how interesting and informative they are, and then Rob showed some of the World War 1 photos of servicemen from rural areas (and some from New Zealand). The magazines are being indexed by some of our interested members.

Left: Rob Walker speaking about the Pastoral Review magazines.

The week previously, our local Federal Member, Michael McCormack, visited our rooms to check out our *Pastoral Review* collection. He is very interested in servicemen and women from any wars, and hopes to use some of our information in his 2024 Anzac publication.



Our guest speaker for the May meeting was Jillian Salzke, who told us all about the relocation of the Riverina Archives to the

Charles Sturt University campus at Boorooma on the northern outskirts of Wagga Wagga. The move was obviously a lot of hard work just in packing and moving 22,000 books, 72 bays of boxes and 40 map cabinets, plus extra goodies. The official opening will be 6 June, but it is actually open to the public now. The address is: Level 4, Building 13 (Learning Commons); carpark 24; Nathan Cobb Drive; Charles Sturt University; Wagga (open Monday to Friday 9am-5pm). There is a lift to Level 4, and there is also a café for your coffee fix! Email is now archive@csu.edu.au/archives; phone 0497 529 690 (the landline still works too). As they are now on two different floors plus a separate building, it is probably a good idea to ring first to state your requirements.

Our next monthly meeting will be held in August. We are hibernating during June and July. It has been decided that it is just too cold to venture out to meetings during the winter months.



NOTES FROM WAGGA WAGGA

Compiled by Leanne Diessel - Member No. 412

The filing cabinets in the society's library are full of family notices from the local newspapers. A lot of information can be gained from the Obituary and Funeral notices.

Funerals

Mrs I. L. Harvey

Mrs Ivy Lorraine Harvey, widow of the late **William Harold Harvey**, late of Grove Street, Koorungal and formerly of Uranquinty, died at Wagga on Wednesday, November 7, 1984, at the age of 86 years. Mrs. Harvey was born in the Wagga district and was the daughter of the late **William and Florence Bye**. She married her husband at Wagga and lived in the Uranquinty district before coming to Wagga. She is survived by one daughter, three sons, three daughters-in-law, one son-in-law, 10 grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, one sister and one brother. Mrs. Harvey's funeral was held at Wagga on Thursday, November 9, 1984. The Rev. Fred Hart of St Paul's Anglican Church, Turvey Park, officiated. The casket was carried by Messrs **Roger Harvey, Bruce Harvey, David Harvey and Arthur Priest**.

Among those present were representatives of "The Haven" Wagga, the Order of the Eastern Star Lodge, aldermen of Wagga City Council and council staff, Wagga stock and station agents and SRCC, also relatives and friends from Book Book, Uranquinty, Tumberumba, Cowra, Sydney, Wagga and surrounding districts. Arrangements by Alan Harris, McDonald and Co., of Wagga.
Source: Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, 10 November 1984.

Obituary

Mr. L. W. Angel

Mr Leonard William (Len) Angel, husband of **Mrs. Joyce Angel**, of "Springdale", Gregadoo Road, via Wagga, died at Melbourne on Tuesday, March 26, 1985, at the age of 62 years.

Mr Angel was born at Wagga and lived all his life in the Wagga district where he was a farmer and grazier. During World War 2 he was member of the 2nd AIF and was on active service in New Guinea and the Pacific area. In his earlier days he was a prominent cricketer with Wagga and district teams and was a foundation member of the RSL Club Cricket Club and was active until his retirement.

He is survived by his wife, one daughter, one son, one daughter-in-law, one son-in-law, four grandchildren and one sister-in-law. Mr. Angel's funeral will be held at Wagga on Friday, March 29, 1985. The cortege will leave St John's Anglican Church, Wagga, after a service commencing at 11am for the Wagga Lawn Cemetery.

Arrangements by Alan Harris, McDonald and Co., of Wagga
Source: Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, 28 March 1985

Funeral

Mrs E.A. Ball

Mrs Elsie Amelia Ball, late of 12 Peter Street, Wagga, died at Wagga on Monday, August 5, 1985, at the age of 85 years.

Mrs Ball was born at Humula and lived most of her life in Wagga. She was a life member of Manchester Unity and an active worker for St John's Anglican Church, Red Cross and CWA. She was the daughter of the late **Denis Daniel and Gertrude Cheney** and is survived by one daughter, one son-in-law, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Mrs Ball's funeral was held at Wagga on Friday, August 9, 1985. The Venerable Archdeacon Tony Ireland of St John's Anglican Church, Wagga officiated. The casket was carried by Messrs **Allan Bertram, Glenn Bertram, Frank Taylor and David Bertram**.

Among those present were representatives of Golden Valley Nursing Home and Wagga business houses, also relatives and friends from Tarcutta, Melbourne, Mangoplah, Peak Hill, Sydney, Dubbo, Tumbarumba, Humula, Wagga and surrounding districts.

Arrangements by Alan Harris, McDonald and Co, of Wagga

Source: Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, August 15, 1985

Obituary

Mr. R. W. Breust

Mr Roy William Breust, husband of **Mrs Edith Breust**, of 7 Fernleigh Road, Wagga, died at Wagga on Saturday, March 23, 1985, at the age of 82 years.

Mr. Breust was born at Wagga and attended primary school at Betric and then Gurwood Street, Wagga and later went to Wagga High School. He was on the property "Box Hill", Betric, until ill-health forced him to sell it and he went onto a small property at Temora and then operated the store at Collingullie, then he was a gardener at the RAAF Base Forest Hill until his retirement. Sport wise in his earlier days he played football with Methul Football Club and was a lover of cricket.

Mr Breust's funeral will be held at Wagga this (Tuesday) afternoon. The cortege will leave St. Paul's Anglican Church, Turvey Park after a service commencing at 2 pm for the Wagga Lawn Cemetery.

Arrangements by Alan Harris, McDonald and Co., of Wagga.

Source: Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser March 26, 1985



RESEARCH

Compiled by Leanne Diessel - Member No. 412

Information required on the following places and people:

For privacy reasons contact details cannot be published. If you can help with research, please email wdfhs@yahoo.com.au or write to the Research Officer (C/- PO Box 307 Wagga Wagga NSW 2650) and information will be passed on.

Information on **Little Billabong Cemetery burials.**

Contact: Cheryl CRIGHTON

Information on **Sarah May BREDIN**, who moved to Wagga from Melbourne after her husband **William** died in 1919, and her daughter **Thelma** who was born at Wagga in 1926. Thelma married **Leonard OUTRAM** in 1952. Sarah died in 1965 and Thelma in 2016.

Contact: Margaret THOMAS

Information on **Thomas Henry CUMMINS** of Wagga Wagga who died in 1907.

Contact: Elizabeth MURATORE

Information on the school residences where **Alfred Richard Duke MOYE** was a schoolteacher in the 1930s and 1940s, including, **Gumly Gumly, Ladysmith and Walla Walla.**

Also information on **MOYE's Pharmacy** 196 Baylis St Wagga Wagga.

Contact: Helen FAULKES.

Information on **Alexander and Janet GILLANDERS (nee McQueen)** and family from Inverness Scotland who came to Victoria 1861 on the ship '**Oithona**'. Eldest daughter, **Marjory** bc1850, married **Donald GEDDES** in 1868. Both families later lived at Yarrowonga. **Janet (Jessie) GILANDERS** died in 1883 at Yarrowonga, **Alexander GILLANDERS** 1905 at Wangaratta, **Marjery (Marjory) GEDDES** 1934 at Benalla. Wanting to know more of their lives in Scotland.

Contact: Deidre HENHAM

Nurse HARMER, midwife from Wagga Wagga.

Contact: Cheryl CRIGHTON

The parents of **Hannah SHAW** born 1865 Pleasant Creek Vic (**John Lees SHAW & Ann CUMMINS**)

Contact: Jason BUNYAN



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This is a valuable resource for those researching their family ancestry.

COST: \$35.00 **PLUS** \$5.00 postage & packing

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Lucky Me

Jan Hurcum—Member No. 32

My husband, daughter and I recently travelled to Bendemeer to attend my nephew's 60th birthday, which was a great party with a crowd of people, and was held in an enormous shed on his property. It was a family reunion for us, and greatly enjoyed.

One of my nieces gave me a gift, some old photos and two old photo albums which had belonged to my aunts, Val Murray (nee Osborne) and Ivy Osborne. We have had fun looking at the family photos, although quite a few have no names which has been frustrating. Aunty Val's album has a message in the front "To Val from Peter Reid, In remembrance of your kindness to me in 1919". I wonder what happened in 1919 – maybe something to do with the Spanish flu as Aunty Val was a V.A.D.! This album contained 6 pages of World War 1 photos, most likely from the Middle East, which unfortunately have no information recorded.

This is a good example of information which becomes available unexpectedly, and which creates more questions than answers.



Jillian Salzke at the May meeting with information about the relocation of Charles Sturt University Archives



**Above: Examining copies of the *Pastoral Review*.
President Rob Walker with our local Federal MP, Michael McCormack.**

Early Midwives of Wagga Wagga

Mavis Gaff-Smith. Member No. 248

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land and pay respects to Elders past and present, especially the early midwives who saved many mothers and babies during childbirth with their knowledge and skills.

Polly, an Aboriginal Midwife (practice late 1800's) - Polly was married to a blacksmith and lived in a bark hut near Kincaid Street, Wagga Wagga. Her little bark hut was swept clean with a homemade broom. Her home was decorated with wildflowers. Before attending a birth Polly bruised the eucalyptus leaves in her hands. She washed her white apron in boiling water in which twigs of eucalyptus was added. She never wore the same apron after she had taken it off. Her aprons were washed and ironed for every birth she attended. She wore a white apron over a print dress along with a white linen cap to cover her hair. Birth took place on a bed of eucalyptus leaves as poor people did not have sheets. The umbilical cord was severed apart with a coal or fire stick. (Riverina Midwives, pages. 19-21).

Between 1910 and 1928 there were 26 private lying-in hospitals registered in Wagga Wagga. Some were only one bed facilities while others had many beds.

Nurse Elizabeth Oakman - Nurse Elizabeth Oakman conducted a private hospital at 42 Simmons Street, Wagga Wagga for three lying-in patients possibly from 1903 (listed as a nurse however hospital registrars did not commence until 1910). There is a family story of Elizabeth in December 1904 saving the life of her granddaughter Elsie, who weighed only 2lbs at birth, by wrapping her well and sitting with her beside the fire. Elsie lived to the age of 85 years. There were no humidicribs in those days. (Riverina Midwives, page 109).

One midwife cared for premature twins in a baking dish on the side of a wood stove.

Nurse Agnes Jane Pownall - Trained as a midwife at Sydney Prince Henry's Hospital. She was the daughter of Dean William Henry Pownall, Rector of St. John's Wagga Wagga for many years. Nurse Pownall conducted the Bungalow Private Hospital, 53 Gurwood Street, Wagga Wagga. In 1903 she went to China as a missionary and returned to Australia in 1922. She died in Sydney in 1946 at the age of 87 years. (Riverina Midwives, pages. 188,189)

Fanny Chessells - Fanny Chessells conducted a Private Hospital in Dr. Burgess New Cottage in Peter Street followed by a private hospital in Morgan Street, then "Invermay" Private Hospital on the corner of Baylis and Forsyth Streets, Wagga Wagga. Her Private Hospital Registration was from 1910 until 1916 when she died.

Fanny had earlier sought police protection from her husband who had threatened her with violence. Constable Moore was on duty in Baylis Street when he heard screams of women and gun shots being fired. He immediately rushed to Invermay Private Hospital and found Nurse Chessells still alive although her condition was serious. Dr. Tivey was called and pronounced that Nurse Chessells had died 16 July 1916 from a shot fired at close range. Forty six years old, Nurse Chessells was found dressed in her uniform, "in a half kneeling, half reclining attitude, as if in prayer" after being mortally wounded from a gunshot wound inflicted by her husband. She was shot in the left breast. Mr. Chessells also died as he turned the gun on himself. He had previously been under the Lunacy Act for mental health problems. Other members of the family were presents at the time including grand children. (Riverina Midwives, pages. 190, 191).

The Two Hastie Midwives - Nurse Sarah "Lottie" Hastie's husband died in 1914 when she was 32 years of age leaving her with three children, Len, Jean and Eileen. Lottie trained as a midwife at St. Ives Hospital in Melbourne in 1914 and returned to Wagga Wagga to resume her life with her children and work as a midwife. The family lived at 155 Forsyth Street, Wagga Wagga. Lottie became a well-loved midwife and never lost a life in all her years of practice. She travelled long distances to attend women on outlying farms. Lottie's mode of transport was a bicycle with a hurricane lamp slung over the handlebars. Locals affectionately christened her "The Rabbit Trapper". Many of the women she did not charge for her services as they were poor. She was often paid with a pumpkin, a rabbit, a turkey or other produce.

Eileen Mary Hastie, Lottie's daughter, completed her midwifery training in 1926, 12 years after her mother at St. Margaret's Hospital. Eileen joined her mother in Wagga

Wagga as a midwife. Both Lottie and Eileen delivered babies in the home and also attended to the washing and cleaning. (Riverina Midwives, pages 181-186).

Barbara Jane Jago - Barbara Jane Jago, mother of Helen, George and Edgar took up training as a midwife at the Royal Women's Hospital, Paddington, Sydney after the death of her husband in 1920. She was then licensee of Keith Private Hospital, 66 Peter Street, Wagga Wagga. She died aged 55 years on the 29 July 1942 from 'indifferent health' (Riverina Midwives, page 196).

Nurse Jane Lindsay Scott - Nurse Jane Lindsay Scott was born 1886 in Boswell near Edinburgh in Scotland. She lost her mother and father at the age of eight years and was brought up by an aunt. As a little girl she always wanted to be a nurse. Aged 16 years she migrated to New Zealand where her brother had settled. She worked in childcare amongst the Maori women.

Eventually she came to Australia and trained as a nurse and midwife. She worked with Dr. Lewis at The Rock. She moved to Wagga Wagga about 1931 - 1932 and set up her practice as a midwife on the corner of Forsyth and Thorne Streets, then the corner of Fox and Morgan Streets before building her own premises "Edinburgh Private Hospital", 72 Thorne Street, Wagga Wagga in 1938 with money she borrowed from her brother. Nurse Scott has been described as having incredible warmth, kindness and a wonderful sense of humour who worked very hard. In protracted labours she sometimes spent beyond 24 hours with a first time mother. The women spent 10 days in bed after giving birth and their babies slept in individual white cribs. After the last breastfeed at 10pm, Nurse Scott took the babies to the Sleep Out for the night caring for them overnight and returning them to their Mothers at 6.30am. (Riverina Midwives, page 178). She cooked all the meals and did her own cleaning. Country people provided butter and eggs for cooking (Riverina Midwives, page 177). She made jams and preserves from fruit, and also recruited any male visitors to cut the chooks head off.

The largest baby weighed 13lb 8oz. The smallest baby fitted into the palm of her hand, and she placed the baby in a shoebox, lined with sterilised cotton wool and gauze. The baby did not survive. Twins were born and on one occasions a set of triplets. There were no ultrasounds in those days. (Riverina Midwives, page 179). During the hot weather, babies were placed in their cribs in the hallway to get the breeze through the open doors. On one occasion there was a terrific storm and a bolt of lightning came through Nurse Scott's front door, rolled along the hallway, out the back door and scorched the babies nappies on the clothesline (Riverina Midwives, page 179).

Nurse Scott has been included by the Wagga Wagga City Council in the "Walk of Honour" that commemorates people who have made a significant contribution to the city. (Riverina Midwives, pages 173-181)

Nurse Katherine Burke - Katherine Burke was born 1883 in Tumbarumba and trained as a midwife at St. Margaret's Hospital in Sydney in 1915-1916 (32 years of age). She worked in Sydney for many years and was one of the first staff to work in the Maternity Section of Wagga Wagga Base Hospital when it opened in 1938 (55 years of age). There is an extensive history about Nurse Burke including her Gladstone bag that held her midwifery equipment in the Museum of the Riverina on Willans Hill, Wagga Wagga

Burke including her Gladstone bag that held her Midwifery Equipment in the Museum of the Riverina on Willans Hill, Wagga Wagga (Riverina Midwives, page 191).

Source: Riverina Midwives. From the Mountains to the Plains. 2004.



My Great-Great Grandmother, Ellen Waddingham

Gwenda Kenyon – Member No. 19

Ellen Waddingham, aged 32 years, a housemaid, whose parents were deceased, left her home at Winteringham, Lincolnshire (sailing from Southampton on 15 February, 1855) to migrate to Sydney aboard the *Constitution* arriving on 27 May, 1855. Ellen had no relatives in the colony. She was healthy, could read and write AND *Ellen was to become my great- great grandmother!*

At St. Paul's Church of England in Sydney on 11 February, 1856, at age 35, Ellen married William Urban, also aged 35, a single man, a railway labourer, who arrived in Australia, in 1853 on board the *Herefordshire*, a ship carrying indentured railway workers to commence building the Sydney to Parramatta rail line.

On 11 January, 1857, at Stanmore, Ellen gave birth to a daughter, named Fanny, but the baby girl lived for only one year and one day, having been ill with diarrhoea for 14 days - baby Fanny was buried at Camperdown Cemetery on 13 January, 1858. Witnesses to the burial being her father and a family friend.

Ellen then moved from their home in Stanmore to accompany her husband to Tooloom gold diggings on the Upper Clarence River, where on 3 December, 1860, their son William Urban Jnr. was born in a calico tent – the first white child born in the area. On 18 August, 1860, William Urban Jnr. was baptised at Frome Villa, Grafton, by James Collins, Presbyterian Minister.

In less than a year, the population of the Tooloom diggings grew to 2,500, including 600 Chinese, comprising all sorts and conditions of men. For several years mining was carried on very successfully as the gold field was very rich. Ellen's husband soon gave up mining and became the manager of a hotel at the diggings, but then Ellen found that she was terrified of the brutal fights of the drunken miners on Sundays and recreation times.

One by one, the mines worked out, and as other fields opened in the colony, miners rushed off to seek their fortunes elsewhere, and the population of Tooloom declined very considerably. Ellen was teaching their son to read and write and she continued these lessons after they left the diggings in 1865 to take a position on Ellerslie Station in the ranges, where they carried on a dairy farm for 14 years, with the only machinery being a butter churn!

Ellen worked very hard to help with all the work of caring for pigs, fowls and dairy cows, as well as sowing corn, potatoes and vegetables. Their produce, pork, cheese and butter, had to be carried on horseback to the different miners within a radius of 20 miles over very rough bush tracks. Prices for butter –1/- per lb; bacon -8d; cheese - 6d; potatoes 7/per cwt; pork – 5d per lb.

When their son William turned 9 years, he was sent to school at Casino where he stayed in the gentle care of a private family who had several children and a baby. Then when Ellen's husband broke his leg (as the result of being thrown from a horse), it was necessary for her to call her son home for six months to help with the work. Ellen then arranged for their son to be schooled at Tenterfield for two years, but as her husband's health deteriorated, William had to leave school again, to help on the dairy farm.

The year 1876 proved very disastrous – pleuro broke out amongst the cattle, killing most of the milking cows which had to be replaced at a very high price. Winter set in, very wet and on 18 July, the Clarence River rose 48 ft (16 ft higher than the big flood of 1863). All Ellen's garden of potatoes, corn, pumpkins, as well as all the fowls, dairy, cheese, butter and all utensils were washed away. Sixteen fat pigs were



drowned and about 100 sheep! Dairying had to be abandoned and son William helped by taking work on a Station at 5/- per week, following by droving for a while on a Station near Grafton.

Ellen had installed into the mind of her son – his duty to God and neighbours, and this upbringing and teaching, implanted a desire in him to do all the good he could for fellow man, irrespective of creed or breed. Ellen had found it necessary to request her son to come home as his father's health had really deteriorated.

Left: Ellen Urben nee Waddingham

So in 1879 when Ellen and son William, had accumulated a few cattle and decided to take up land in a new area, *their troubles began*, as it was necessary to build a house from the timber available. And, before they could get a paddock fenced, the squatter came along and yarded up the cattle that had strayed onto his run

William Snr. was too ill, so Ellen's son had to go to the Station to release the stock. *In future the cattle were very closely guarded*, to keep them from being impounded and Ellen had to work hard to help her son complete the fencing. Ellen milked the cows, made butter, and once every week their son rode 35 miles to carry butter in a basket to the miners to make a few shillings.

One night while her son was burning off logs to create a cultivation paddock, Ellen rushed to find him and bring him home because her husband appeared to be having a fit, but within a few minutes he had died. The nearest neighbours were seven miles away, so Ellen and her son washed and laid out William's body, sitting by him until daylight, when son William went for help, riding for the nearest Police Station at Fairfield (now Drake) whilst her neighbours went out to Ellen. Ellen wished to have her husband buried at the cemetery near the gold diggings where their son was born, but as there was no road and no conveyance in the district, neighbours and friends decided to carry the coffin on their shoulders for a very considerable distance to the grave.

Ellen then had trouble from the squatter regarding stock trespassing, and her son begged her to sell the lot to the squatter. A very low sum was paid to Ellen, and by the time she paid her debts, *she had nothing.....but Ellen had reserved the right to live in the house that they had built, rent free, as long as she wished!*

For the next three years William Jnr. worked as a stockman for wages of £30 a year and rations of 8lb flour, 2 lb sugar, ¼ kb tea, 14kb beef....until he married in 1881. *Then, in every way that she could, Ellen supported her daughter-in-law and son with their busy life.*

After becoming ill, and paralysed in one arm and leg, Ellen was cared for in the home of her son and daughter-in-law Flora until she passed away peacefully, aged 89 years. Ellen is buried beside her husband at Tooloom Gold Diggings Cemetery. Her obituary in the *Richmond River and Casino Kyogle Advertiser* states that she was a *very old, widely known and highly respected resident in the area.*



An Irish Patriot—My Great Grandfather's Brother

Marcia McIntyre—Member No. 840

Bernard Sebastian Treanor was born in Manchester, Lancashire, England in 1816. He was the son of Edward Treanor and Catherine nee Knowles (or Knowland) who were both born about 1781 in Ireland.¹ They were married by banns in the Catholic Cathedral of St Mary, St Denys and St George, Manchester on 14 January, 1811. In 1841 Edward was a weaver and his wife Catherine was a hawker and they were living in Pump Street, Manchester.

Their son Bernard had two brothers, John and Thomas and three sisters, Mary, Catherine and Ellen. Bernard married an Irish lass, Mary Ann Stoker, in Manchester in 1844 and they lived in Stalybridge, 15 km from Manchester, where Bernard practiced the trade of an auctioneer. Although Bernard was born in England, he considered himself an Irishman and was heavily involved in the Young Ireland movement in Northern England in the 1840s, committed to an all-Ireland struggle for independence and democratic reform. This movement was part of a campaign to restore an Irish Parliament in Dublin by repealing the 1800 Act of Union. Another name for the Young Ireland Movement was the Chartist Movement. Bernard was a flamboyant orator and organised mass protest meetings in Manchester, Stalybridge and surrounds. He was involved in insurrectionist activities and soon fell foul of the law.

The situation got a bit hot for Bernard. Due to his political activities he was on the verge of being arrested, so fled to America.

In 1848, Bernard flees to the United States, to escape the law, his political opponents and his creditors! -- *Bernard S. Treanor, the chartist and repeal lecturer and confederate, and the publisher of an inflammatory placard, headed "Murder by Jury", recently posted in Aston, Stalybridge, and the neighbourhood, has suddenly disappeared, and the report says that he has gone to America. The report is certainly confirmed by the fact of his having been seen at Liverpool on Monday or Tuesday. He left Stalybridge on Saturday, and his wife followed him on Tuesday. It is said that nearly twenty different tradesmen had taken proceedings against him in the county courts, and many others would have been glad to have a reckoning with the orator before he left; but all now declare that they will freely forgive him, if he will not again make his appearance in Stalybridge. It is also stated that he has not confined his legacies of unliquidated debts to "the enemy" but that among his creditors are numbered some of the principal supporters of the chartist and repeal cause in Stalybridge and the neighbourhood. Amongst his other debts is said to be a rather heavy score due to a "patriotic" publican, who is one of the sureties for McDowell. Several other of the chartist leaders, all commanders of the "national guard", have also absconded.....*²

Bernard arrived in New York on 24 August, 1848. He practiced law in Boston, Massachusetts, and was a leader of the Boston Irish community. Bernard enlisted in the Union Army on 27 February, 1863, 9th Regiment, Massachusetts Infantry,³ and was

a Captain, then promoted to Major. He served in the American Civil War and died in New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1866. Bernard Sebastian Treanor is well documented and is mentioned in several publications about the history of the Chartist movement in England and Ireland. I have a copy of Bernard's application to become an American citizen and also a copy of his actual Citizenship Certificate.

In 1853, Bernard challenges a fellow Irish exile to a duel! -- The Boston newspaper reported at the time *-Trouble Among the Irish Patriots at Boston—Arrest of O'Donohue.—* *On Friday, the city of Boston was thrown into some excitement by the arrest of Patrick O'Donohue, the escaped Irish exile, as a party in a contemplated duel between Capt. Bernard S. Treanor and himself. O'Donohue was arrested but Captain Treanor managed to escape! If the duel had taken place, revolvers were to be used.*⁴

Sadly, Bernard did not live a very long life - DEATH OF MAJOR TREANOR, FORMERLY OF STALYBRIDGE. *It appears from the American papers that the above remarkable person, who will be well known by such as can remember the exciting events in this district in 1848, as a speaker at most of the meetings in Ashton and Stalybridge for repeal and the charter, is dead. He was a resident in Stalybridge for a long time, where he followed the business of an auctioneer, and many who knew him will be sorry to learn of his death at so early a period of life. The Irish American, for December 24th, 1865, says:—“ With deep regret, which will be shared by every Irish Nationalist, we have to record the death of Major Bernard Sebastian Treanor, late of Boston, who died of fever and ague on the 30th ult., in New Orleans, aged 48 years. Born of Irish parents, near Manchester, in England, Bernard S. Treanor, as he grew to the estate of man, yielded to none in enthusiastic love for the land of his fathers, or in zeal and energy in labouring for the amelioration of the hapless condition of her people. Blessed with a fine intellect, strengthened and improved by careful education, he early showed himself gifted to take a prominent position among his fellow men; and in the agitation of the charter and repeal questions, he was looked upon as one of the leaders of the Irish party in England. In 1848, in common with other patriotic men, the vengeance of the Government was directed against him, and he had to fly, a reward being offered for his apprehension. On his arrival in this country he settled in Boston, where he entered upon the profession of the law, which he continued to practice until the breaking out of the war, when, with that devotion to the Union which everywhere characterises the Irish-American citizen, he laid aside the toga to put on the harness of the soldier. He was instrumental in organizing the 9th and 28th Massachusetts Regiments, whose bravery on every field reflected so much credit on the State whose flag they carried and the poor old 'island of sorrow' which gave them birth. He was subsequently appointed State recruiting agent in Boston, and finally received the commission of Major in the Commissariat Department, and was sent to New Orleans, where he has fallen a victim to the unhealthiness of the climate. We learn that Major Treanor's family is left entirely destitute, and that an effort is to be made to raise some small funds for their aid. Major Treanor, while he lived, was ever foremost in such works for others; he was too liberal to save money. It is a duty incumbent upon all who knew him that his family should not be allowed to suffer.*⁵

My connection to Bernard Sebastian Treanor is through his brother John. John Treanor, born Manchester on 20 July, 1815, and baptised at St Chad, Cheetham, Lancashire on 6 August, 1815, son of Edward and Catherine Treanor.⁶ John, who I believe was a convict, married Rosina Matilda Curtis, an immigrant from Stoke Damerall, Devonshire, England, about 1842 in NSW, although no marriage record has been found, so it may have been a de facto relationship. They lived in Goulburn NSW, then moved to Boorowa, NSW, (where John was a settler on the Boorowa River) but eventually most of the family moved back to Goulburn. John and Rosina were my great-grandparents.

The third brother, Thomas Treanor, born Manchester in 1814, was also a convict, transported to Tasmania on board the *Neptune* in 1838. Both my great-grandfather, John and his brother Thomas wrote letters home to their family in England. John wrote to Bernard and Thomas wrote to his parents. Both letters written in the 1840s. The letters are very well written, so both John and Thomas apparently were literate and well educated. John mentioned in his letter that he believed that Bernard was Chief Constable of Stalybridge. That is not correct. As is now known, Bernard was a fugitive on the other side of the law, due to his insurrectionist activities!

I now have copies of these two wonderful, priceless letters! In 2020 I made contact with a distant cousin in London, who is descended from Mary, a sister to the three Treanor brothers. She found the letters at the bottom of a wardrobe, after the death of her parents.

Until February, 2020, I never knew that I was descended from this Treanor family. I thought I was a Jones! My birth was registered as Marcia Jones, my father's birth was registered as John Thomas Jones, and my paternal grandfather's baptism was recorded as Edward Treanor Jones.⁷ Edward was the son of John Treanor, the convict, who, when he gained his freedom, changed his name to "John Jones", thus creating the massive brick wall which I was unable to smash for a very long period of time!

There are still a few bricks which I cannot knock down - I cannot find John's date of death (Goulburn, Boorowa or somewhere else?) He was obviously a convict (judging by his comments in the letter he wrote home to his brother, Bernard), but I cannot find his date of arrival, or the ship he arrived in. If anyone ever uncovers these details, please let me know!

A daughter of Bernard Sebastian Treanor and Mary Ann nee Stoker was Mary Agnes Treanor (1852-1931), who is buried in Cedar Grove Cemetery, Dorchester, Massachusetts. Mary Agnes married Thomas F. Leavitt I. Their son Thomas Leavitt II (1872-1962) was a newspaper proprietor and editor, who owned the "Dorchester Beacon" in Dorchester, Massachusetts, from 1903. He was also the proprietor of four other newspapers in the Boston area. Thomas Leavitt II was a Republican politician and a Member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives from 1906 to 1919.⁸ The son of Thomas Leavitt II and his second wife Mildred was Dr Thomas Leavitt III, a gynaecologist, who died in Newton, Massachusetts in 2010.⁹ His obituary lists his children's names and I found one of the children on Facebook! I have not yet contacted this 2X great granddaughter of Bernard Sebastian Treanor, and I am hesitant to do so at the moment, as she may be completely disinterested in her family history.

The Treanor/Jones family have a connection to Wagga Wagga. My father's first cousin, Rose Ann Jones, (a great-niece of Bernard Sebastian Treanor and the daughter of Thomas Treanor Jones, born Boorowa in 1847 and Harriett nee Jackson). Rose Ann was the granddaughter of John Treanor, brother to Bernard Sebastian Treanor, and was born 1878 at Forbes, NSW. Rose Ann married James Parry in 1894 at Wyalong, NSW. Rose Ann and James Parry moved to Wagga Wagga about 1900. James died in Wagga Wagga in 1930.¹⁰ In 1941 Rose Ann became the licensee of the *Black Swan* Hotel at North Wagga Wagga. The license of the hotel was later transferred to her second husband, Matthew Clune.¹¹ Rose Ann died at Darlinghurst, NSW in 1960.

REFERENCES

¹Details of Edward and Catherine's birthplace (Ireland), ages (60 years), and occupations as listed in the 1841 Census for Manchester, Lancashire.

²*The Irish in Britain, 1815-1939*, edited by Roger Swift and Sheridan Gilley.

³https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/9th_Massachusetts_Infantry_Regiment.

⁴Virginia Chronicle, Library of Virginia, Lynchburg Daily Virginian, 12 August, 1853, Vol. 2, No. 10.

⁵www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk - The Ashton Weekly Reporter and Stalybridge and Dukinfield Chronicle, Saturday, 10 February, 1866.

⁶Baptism Register at Lancaster Archives, baptisms 1810-1821, page 117, Entry No.1.

⁷An article in the *Murrumbidgee Ancestor*, June, 2017, page 19, relating to my father and paternal grandfather.

⁸Volume V – Leavitt, Descendants of John Leavitt the Immigrant through his son, Samuel and Mary Robinson, by Emily Leavitt-Noyes, Tilton, N.H. 1956, pages 171 and 172, ninth generation – www.seekingmyroots.com.

⁹Obituary from funeral home website - www.costellofuneralhome.com

¹⁰Obituary for James Parry - Wagga Daily Advertiser, 22 October, 1930.

¹¹Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society website – www.wwdhs.org.au - History of the *Black Swan* Hotel by Geoff Burch.



WAGGA WAGGA & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC [WWDFHS] FACEBOOK PAGE

Geoff Burch

WWDFHS recently created a Facebook page, primarily to make more people aware of sources that facilitate family history research. Social media programs like Facebook allow us to reach a much wider audience than we normally would.

We are in our early days at present and need to maintain a steady flow of posts in order to increase the number of people who follow our page. To date we have used the site to promote WWDFHS merchandise [books and DVD's], to promote new family history publications from sources other than the WWDFHS, and to promote the various works undertaken by the society [eg. the Pastoral Review project].

We have also used the site to make members and the general public aware of items of interest that are available through other sites – online publications from the Wagga Wagga City Council, the Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council, et al. The WWDFHS Facebook page can be accessed at the following URL, <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100089366784523>

Members are encouraged to “Follow” the page and to “Share” posts when deemed appropriate.



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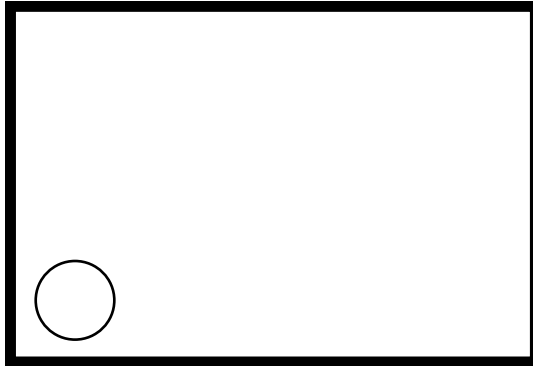
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