

THE Cedar Log

36th Year of Publication

**Winner of the Nick Vine Hall Award 2018 - Category A
Journal of the Richmond-Tweed Family History Society Inc.
Ballina NSW Australia**



Aussie Outback Christmas © Nature Wallpapers Desktop Nexus

***Sulphur Crested Cockatoo, Kangaroos, Echidna, Koalas, Kookaburra,
Jolly Swagman Father Christmas, Platypus
and Wallaby – all in the precincts of Uluru
– gather around the Christmas Tree!***



Richmond-Tweed Family History Society Inc.

(Incorporated in New South Wales)

Location: Marie Hart Library, 6 Regatta Avenue, Ballina NSW Australia

Website: www.rtfhs.org.au

All Correspondence, Enquiries & Research Requests to be forwarded to: Secretary, Richmond-Tweed Family History Society Inc., PO Box 817, Ballina NSW Australia 2478 or email: secretaryrtfhs1@yahoo.com.au

Patron: Martyn Killion, BA, Grad. Dip App. Science (Information), Dip FHS.

Honorary Fellowships: Marie Hart; Audrey Chappell; Nola Rodey; Suzanne Warmerdam; Esme Smith; Jean Cummins; Frank Harvey

President: Don Howell – 6687 4279 (email: howell.donald@ozemail.com.au)

Vice-President: Office Vacant

Secretary: Kerrie Alexander – 6628 1324

Treasurer: Bonnie Bennett – 6681 5242

Computer Coordinator: Carol Brown

Curator and Publicity Officer: Allan Ridgewell

Membership Secretary: Jan Ousby

Research Officer: Janine Thomson – 0407 628 199 (email: janinethomson@westnet.com.au)

Social Events Organiser: Gwen Clark

Web Master: Liz Marshall

Committee Members:

Carol Brown, Jackie Chalmers, Richard Goss, Jane Griffin, Jan Ousby

Journal Editor: Carol Donaghey 6618 9458 (email: carold2478@gmail.com)

Assistant to Editor/Production: Jackie Chalmers 6625 1898

Assistant to Editor: Dawn Lotty 6687 2442

Societies Exchanging e-Journals: email to richmondtweetfhs@yahoo.com.au

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Aussie Christmas Tree © Desktop Nexus





Editor's Message by Carol Donaghey

Welcome to our Christmas 2019 edition and the last journal this editorial team will produce. After five years we are saying goodbye to this role and handing it over to the new team of Jane, Christine and Judy. We wish to thank members for your support and encouragement and for sending us your stories. It has been a privilege to reproduce your writings, presentations and tales of your ancestors and we hope you will continue to send your contributions to Jane and her team.

I also want to express my gratitude and appreciation to Jackie and Dawn who are wonderful people to work with and have become good friends.

This issue has an unusual story from Jan Connor (Jan joined the Society last year) about letters saved by her Swiss ancestors. We have also included a lovely account of a beloved grandmother by guest writer Sam Patterson, a 14 year old boy. Sam's writing showed such maturity we wanted members to read it too.

Congratulations to member Yvonne Hammond who reached the wonderful age of 97 in October. Yvonne is working on polishing her family history stories for her family and is still an inspiration to the rest of us!

The USB containing all the issues of *The Cedar Log* 1984–2018 is also still available for purchase.

Don't forget to keep Jane and team informed of member news and please continue to forward your stories to Jane at griffinjane10@gmail.com

Membership renewals are now due for 2020 and a renewal form is enclosed for your convenience.

Merry Christmas to you all with our very best wishes for a happy festive season and a successful New Year filled with fascinating discoveries, tumbling brick walls and an abundance of new discoveries!



My First Family Member in Australia



by Marie Hart

What courage and optimism our ancestors possessed when they made their bold and life changing decisions to take their families to an unknown land across a vast expanse of ocean. The OVERELL family may never have even seen the open sea before their day of departure on 20 September 1820, one hundred and ninety-nine years ago!

My Overell family was to travel in *Jessie*, built in America in 1809. It had three masts with square sails, weighed 215 tons and was destined for the London to New South Wales run. It arrived in Cape Town on 24 December and *The Hobart Town Gazette* of 5 March 1821 in Ship News next announced that ‘*On Monday arrived from England, the ship Jessie, Captain Noltrow with a choice and valuable investment*’.

My three times great grandfather William James Overell married Alice Morden Nightingale on 22 April 1816 in the Parish of Shoreditch, Middlesex, and their first son William was born on 16 January 1817. Wishing to make a new life in Australia, William petitioned the Right Honourable the Earl of Bathurst stating that he had served his time as a carpenter, that he possessed some property and was desirous of proceeding as a free settler to NSW.

Permission was granted and he was informed that he would be given a grant of land in proportion to his means. By the time the Overell’s boarded *Jessie* they had not one son, but two! How did Alice and other parents cope with their infants for five long months in a vessel so vulnerable to the power of wind and sea?

On arrival William was granted 100 acres where he established Providence Farm at a time when the inhabitants of Van Diemen’s Land, according to an 1820 muster, included 714 free immigrants, those born in Colony 185, pardon holders 231, expirees 362, ticket of leave 368, serving convicts 2,588 and children 1,020 – less than five and a half thousand. Until the Gold Rush of 1851 Hobart was, after Sydney, the most populous and prosperous city in Australia.

William and Alice had six children. The youngest, Joseph, became a linen draper, importer and warehouseman at 100 Liverpool Street, Hobart and William James junior, third child born 1854, decided to move to a warmer



climate and better business opportunities in Queensland so in 1883 established a department store in Fortitude Valley. A branch was later opened in Queen Street, Brisbane which was managed by his youngest brother Joseph and branches were later opened in Charleville, Laidley, Childers and Pittsworth. Overell's became Walton-Sears Limited in 1956 but descendants are still prominent in business circles in Queensland.



*W.J. Overell & Sons, Fortitude Valley Store ca 1900
© Old State Library*

The headmistress of *Wahroonga*, Hobart Girls' Grammar School was Miss Overell and three of the teachers were Louise, Margaret and Winifred Overell. The building was formerly the home of their father Joseph James in Holbrook Place, Hobart. The curriculum extended from Kindergarten to University.

As with many of our histories there are gaps to be filled since I wrote *Overell Odyssey* in 1990, so one hopes that another family member may one day be inspired to complete my work on an enterprising family from Australia's earliest beginnings. When they discover my books on each family line enclosed in its own protective bag and within a clear plastic storage box they may say '*one day I suppose we should read all that stuff that occupied so much of Mum's time when we were kids!*'

Note: Taken from a talk given by Marie at our September 2019 meeting.



Lismore's Pioneers Old and New



by Jackie Chalmers

Lismore and its people is a product of diversity. Since European settlement both have evolved as the result of a variety of land, land use and industry – from cedar getting, sheep and cattle, tallow, dairying, sugar cane and shipping to macadamia nuts, avocados and blueberries, a wide range of climate extremes – flood, fire and drought, and an array of personal characteristics of determination, resilience, independence and individuality.



*Captain Henry Rous
from 'Men and a River',
by Louise Tiffany Daley*

Prior to European settlement the area where Lismore was established was occupied by the Widjabul Aboriginal people, of the Bundjalung nation.¹ They lived successfully off the fauna and flora of the rainforest, the 'Big Scrub', a mix of fertility, richness and vegetation which extended from the coast over an area of 75,000 ha.

The Richmond River was discovered in 1828 by Captain Henry Rous RN, the then commander of *HMS Rainbow*. He named the river after a family friend, Charles, the fifth Duke of Richmond. It was not until pastoral occupation on the neighbouring Clarence River and arrival of the cedar-getters, in 1939 or 1940, that attention was drawn to the Richmond.²

These sturdy pioneers, rough, ready, and in many cases coarse though they were, were the real openers out of one of the grandest districts in N.S.W. These stalwart, fearless giants sweated and fought and conquered, leaving behind them a good heritage.³



The main form of transport when the Richmond River area was first developing was by water. Ships sailed to and from Sydney or Newcastle and other ports, carrying passengers and goods. After the difficult and often dangerous crossing of the bar at Ballina, they could proceed up the river as far as Lismore, on the 'North Arm' (since the 1970s called Wilsons River).⁴



Model of 'The Rainbow'
Courtesy of Patch & Taylor Real Estate

According to Mr Thomas Bowden, who wrote the history of the stations on the Clarence and Richmond, Lismore Station was the first occupied in 1842 by Mr Ward Stephen who had 10,000 sheep there when Mr William Wilson bought him out in 1843.

Wilson's wife, Jane, named the homestead '*Lismore*' after an island in the Firth of Lorne, off the coast of Argyleshire, Scotland where the couple had honeymooned.



Lismore Homestead
© '*The Story of a North Coast City Lismore*', Currawong Press, 1979

Most of the cedar getters were old hands; as rough as their work and the life they lived. Cedar was bought in those days in exchange for beef. Cattle were of small value until boiling them for tallow came into vogue.



The cedar getters were like prospectors in search of goldfields. In 1841 they discovered an abundance of cedar on the Richmond and a rush set in to that river from the Clarence. Before the end of 1842 three schooners (*Elizabeth*, *Chandler* and *Sally*) were engaged in taking cedar over the dangerous Richmond River bar to Sydney.⁵

While working on the riverbanks, the cedar getters found it convenient to live in their whaleboats, moving these homes up and down the river as required. Their licences gave them permission to build huts, and this they did at suitable places such as Lismore. The licences did not, however, give them permission to cultivate the land, nor could they buy any. So they could not establish comfortable homes, and this seems to be one of the reasons for the wild lives they led when they reached the settlements.⁶

In 1856, the Wilson's homestead paddock and area were proclaimed the 'Town of Lismore'.

The doggedness of the early settlers: Few of them had much capital, most of them very little; but they had what was of more infinite value, the indomitable courage and determination to stick to it. The hardships, privations, and discomforts of the first squatters like the cedar-getters were great but no greater than those endured by their successors, the free selectors during the first decade of their residence here. They had to make their living off the land as well as clear it. The difficulties of transport were almost insuperable. Such tracks as there were, were simply quagmires. Although the NSW Government was receiving from the settlers many thousands of pounds annually in revenue from land fees, the settlers were left to make and maintain the tracks that passed for roads.

*Nor can we ever forget the glorious part played by the women who were ever the sheet anchor of hope and cheerful participation in the successes, disappointments and hardships of their men. Romance and hardship jostled one another in those old colonial days, laughter and tears; but over all that was heart breaking and comfortless shone the indomitable spirit of courage and the brave fidelities of mateship.*⁷



Many of today's pioneers are products of an upbringing on dairy and sugar cane farms. They have survived droughts, flood and bushfires. They have assisted with chores both in the morning before walking miles to school and around the farm again after school. They used their imagination to make their own fun and developed a sense of responsibility for their siblings. Many have expressed themselves through poetry and writing. Some samples of their work follow.



*Catching the punt on horseback
at Fawcetts Bridge circa 1884*

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Aileen Green Life on the Farm



by Guest Writer Sam Patterson

The country life in Australia is a place that is exceptionally close to Aileen Mary Green's heart.

Aileen was born on 3 September 1930 and the lessons she learnt and her challenging upbringing on a farm during World War Two laid the foundations for her life.

Growing up on a remote dairy farm in Kyogle with her parents, Mary and Charlie Green, along with her six siblings, this Australian's life was far from easy. Nevertheless, she remembers enjoying it *'We loved those days, I'd go back and do it again'*.

Aileen was born during the Great Depression on a farm in the NSW Northern Rivers called *Homeleigh*. She remembers how her father used to talk about how hard it was to get an income. Despite this, her family was one of the lucky ones, living off the produce of their farm. There was no shortage of milk and eggs.

When Aileen started school she would walk two miles to school then back again. Following this she had to milk the cows until dark, milking on average fourteen cows a day by hand by herself. Without the luxuries of modern day farming equipment it was a hardworking yet rewarding life and the family followed the mantra of *'as long as we have enough'*.

However, this routine changed with the outbreak of World War Two when she was only nine years old.

On 3 September 1939, Aileen's ninth birthday, she woke up excited for her special day only to realise Britain had declared war on Germany bringing with it drastic changes to her life. Aileen vividly remembers how *'scary it was'* but also how it was one of the most *'exciting'* things to happen in her life.

Following this, at home the family would don black shades over the windows to hide from possible air raids. Rations were implemented to increase supplies for the war effort. This meant limitations on food and using water only when necessary. Consequently, Aileen recounted how on a Saturday night the entire family would have a bath in a small tub in the kitchen.



At school the children were instructed to dig trenches in order to escape possible enemy fire whilst knitting clothes for the soldiers, all in addition to her already demanding home life on the farm. Aileen did what was necessary without complaint. After only two years of high school Aileen decided to leave school to help her struggling family on the farm in *Homeleigh*. *'[We] didn't think it was as serious as it was at the time. But the war did come to Australian shores'*.

For every day for almost six years this strenuous schedule was followed until the conclusion of the war in 1945 when Aileen was fifteen years old.

Aileen explained how she and her brother, despite the risk, would enjoy fooling around on the farm. She laughed as she recounted lighting corn sticks on the fire and running around with them. They also tried to steal birds' eggs from magpie nests. Both of which, evidently, didn't end well.



Aileen Aged 16

Today, Aileen looks back on her familiar yet distant past in Australia as special, safe and tough. Her childhood laid the foundations for how she would live her entire life. From her life she learnt valuable lessons that she could carry with her throughout her life, such as *'doing what you had to do and getting on with it'*.

She used her challenging upbringing to build grit and determination. Aileen Mary Green found joy in every situation. She followed her heart in making important life decisions and worked hard to support her family. She never took the easy way out and did what she had to do in difficult times.

Note: Sam is a 14 year old boy with a great love of his grandmother. His writing shows a maturity beyond his years.

Happy Birthday Nanna!

I hope you like your biography as much as I love you!
Thanks for always being the kindest grandmother in the world!

Love from

Sam

xoxo

3/4/19

Sam's Personal Birthday Wishes



Christmas Greetings!



**by another Lismore Pioneer Family
Member, Gladys Hunt**

I think of those times long ago,
When hopes were high and funds were low,
But hearts were warm and all aglow,
At Christmas time.

I think about it all again
and we all walk down memory lane,
Things seem to be quite strangely plain,
At Christmas time.

The three wise men from lands afar,
By simply following the star,
They reached their goal – the door ajar,
At Christmas time.

There they beheld the Holy Child,
As he lay pure and undefiled,
Mary, his mother, gentle, mild,
At Christmas time.

The shepherds wakened in the night,
By hosts of angels glowing bright,
It was a very glorious sight,
At Christmas time.



They told about the new born King,
Good tidings of great joy we bring,
Goodwill to all we're promising,
At Christmas time.

Those symbols we all love so well,
The Christmas bush, the Christmas bell,
Still may be found in some quiet dell,
At Christmas time.

Our friends come in so trusty true,
As welcome as the morning dew,
And many a friendship we renew,
At Christmas time.

The children come, their faces bright,
And they all sing with all their might,
They warm our hearts with pure delight,
At Christmas time.

May you all have a happy day,
Happy, peaceful, bright and gay,
And this to God we humbly pray,
At Christmas time.

*Note: This poem was written by Gladys Hunt – Caroona Nursing Home,
Lismore 17 October 1990*

It is included here with permission from the Mid-Richmond Historical Society Inc.



The Accidental Death of William Arnold



by Leigh Wilson

My father's maternal grandfather was William Arnold, born in Perth, Western Australia in 1847. His parents and their three children had migrated in 1842 from Nailsworth in south-eastern England to Australia but within a short time had moved to Perth. There, William's father (also named William) continued his occupation as a brewer. William junior was the fourth child of the marriage. Eventually there were eight children, all of whom survived to adulthood.

In 1866, aged 19, William junior left home and sailed to Victoria where he went to Castlemaine, then a prosperous and bustling town of the gold-rush era. All William's siblings remained in WA. In Castlemaine William found work as an apprentice at a local newspaper under the supervision of a young man David Drysdale. On Christmas Day 1872 William married David's sister Elizabeth.

In 1878 David took up the opportunity to run the local newspaper in Port Augusta, South Australia and in 1882 William accepted David's offer to run the newspaper's production. Port Augusta was booming, but a few years later in 1886 economic activity in that region collapsed, necessitating heavy pruning of the newspaper's overheads. William and his family went to Adelaide where William worked at *The Register* then the most prestigious of South Australia's newspapers. Eventually William and Elizabeth had six children and were living in a house at Royal Avenue, a small road at the south-eastern corner of inner Adelaide.

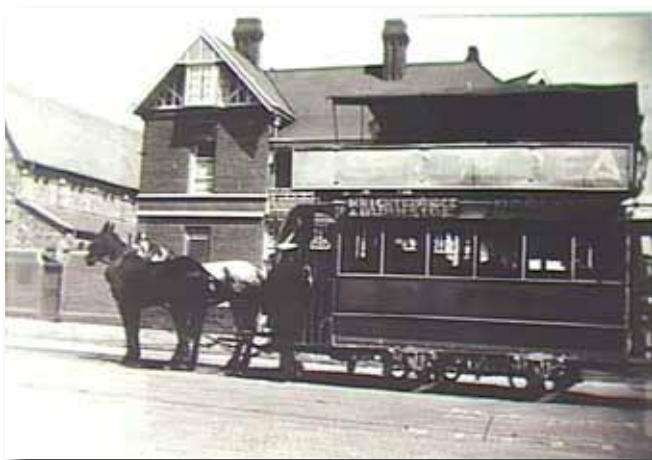
William developed a reputation as 'one of the best-all-round printers in the Commonwealth, and as a compositor he had few equals'. He had held responsible lay positions in the Presbyterian church and some community bodies. In his fifties he sailed to Perth to reconnect with his family, especially his brothers, and by 1911 all but one of his children had married. He then was 64 years old.

On Tuesday 4 July of that year he set off on his usual walk to work in Adelaide's centre. While crossing Wakefield street, one of the two biggest and widest streets in Adelaide (40 metres wide) he was watching a tram advancing along the middle of the street and so didn't notice a car coming towards him. As it got close he suddenly became aware of it and momentarily froze – probably undecided on how to avoid both the tram



and the car. Speeds at that time were very slow, and traffic on the road would have been light. But of course most of his life had been spent in the 1800s, so his experience at dodging the traffic of new-fangled vehicles would have been quite limited.

William now was some 30 metres distant from the car, which was travelling about 25 km/hour. The driver sounded the car's horn. William stopped, turned around and looked at the car which continued towards him. It is said that when the car was only some 4 metres away he attempted darting to the other side of the street. The driver swerved to the left but the mudguard caught William and he was flung to the ground.



Horse drawn tram on corner of Wakefield Street and Victoria Square south, prior to September 1911 when electric traction was introduced.

The car was owned by Mr F.A. McCarty, a prominent civil engineer from Melbourne who had a contract to renovate extensive amounts of the Adelaide tramway network, and was being driven by one of his employees with Mr McCarty as a passenger. McCarty and the driver immediately jumped from the car and promptly took William to a private hospital that most conveniently was at the side of the road. Despite a doctor being immediately available William died a very few hours later.

A coronary hearing was conducted the next day which found that the 'deceased came to his death from injuries received by accidentally being knocked down by a motor car while endeavoring to cross the street in front of it.'

There were so few motor cars on the road in South Australia in those days and they travelled so slowly, and Wakefield street was so enormously wide that it is amazing to find that a sentient human could get knocked down – and knocked down seriously enough – to cause quite a sudden death.



CASUALTIES

MOTOR FATALITY

On Tuesday morning a motor car accident befell Mr. William Arnold, an old and highly respected employe (sic) of The Register, and led to his death. Mr. Arnold was walking to work at a little before 9 o'clock, and was crossing the tramline in Wakefield street when he evidently became confused between an electric car and a motor car owned and driven by Mr. F. A. McCarty, the tramways contractor. In attempting to avoid the tramcar Mr. Arnold was struck by the petrol vehicle, and was hurled to the ground with such force that he was rendered unconscious. He was conveyed to Miss Hill's private hospital, where Dr. Todd attended him; but death ensued a couple of hours later. The deceased, who resided at Royal avenue, off Gilles street, was born in 1847, and joined the newsroom of The Register in 1876. During his 30 years of service, for there was an interval of 5 years during which he was employed elsewhere, he had been a compositor, a stone hand, and a reader. Mr. McCarty was visibly distressed by the accident. He sounded the motor horn, and after the impact leaped from his seat to assist the injured man without even waiting to bring his car to a standstill. It was Mr. Arnold who had the extraordinary experience on a Sunday evening of five explosions in his sitting room, consequent upon the presence of an old charge of powder in a mallee root which he had put on the fire. The deceased has left a widow, three sons, and three daughters. An inquest will be held this morning.



FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS WAKEFIELD-STREET FATALITY

An inquest concerning the death of William Arnold, who died on Tuesday morning from injuries received in a motor accident, was conducted by the City Coroner (Dr. Ramsay Smith) at the Adelaide Police Court on Wednesday morning.

Mr. E. C. Cleland appeared on behalf of Mr. F. A. McCarty, owner of the motor car.

Mrs. Arnold said the deceased, her husband, lived at No. 10, Royal-avenue, Gilles-street. When he left for work at 9 a.m. on Tuesday he was in good health and his eyesight and hearing were good.

Dr. Todd testified that he saw deceased shortly after the accident. There was a lacerated wound at the back of the head, part of the skull was fractured, and there was extensive hemorrhage over the surface of the brain. Death was due to the injuries, which might have been caused by an impact.

A. Sowter, an employe of F. A. McCarty & Co., said he was in the car which knocked down the deceased. It was travelling towards the city along the tramline in Wakefield-street.

Between 35 to 40 yards ahead was the deceased, about 12 or 15 ft. from the outside rail. McCarty sounded the horn and deceased stopped, turned round, and looked at the car, which continued to advance. When the car was between 12 and 15 ft. away deceased attempted (sic) to reach the other side. Witness called out and McCarty threw the car to the left and the mud guard caught him. When he first noticed deceased the car was travelling at the rate of about 15 miles an hour.

Francis Alexander McCarty corroborated the previous witness' evidence.

The coroner found that deceased came to his death from injuries received by accidentally being knocked down by a motor car while endeavoring to cross the street in front of it.



Elizabeth Aubrey



by Dawn Lotty

My mother in law Jean inherited her family's bible. A large weighty book with a heavily tooled cover it looked as though it belonged on a church pulpit. When she died in 1974 the Bible was passed on to her oldest son David. The front pages containing the family history was typed up and a copy given to his two sisters and his brother, my husband Robert. Our copy was just filed away until 2014 when I came across it in a clean up.

The inscription showed the Bible was given to Elizabeth Masters by her parents on her marriage to David Aubrey, a railway engineer, on 24 February 1863 in Brecon, Wales. Elizabeth kept the Bible up to date on the births, deaths and marriages in the family until she died.

Now I know you should not start your family history research with a great-grandmother but that is what I did.

In 1878 Elizabeth and David came to Australia aboard the *Trevelyan* with their seven children of five boys and two girls, aged between eleven and two. They bought a farm called 'Hill View' in an area called King's Bush or King's Wood and later Cambridge Park just east of Penrith.

While David drove trains around New South Wales Elizabeth set about integrating her family into the local community. When researching the Aubrey's at Penrith nearly every copy of the local newspaper was full of articles about Elizabeth who involved herself in every local activity while having three more children and running a farm of dairy cattle, pigs, chickens, an orchard and a vegetable garden - an interesting turn of events for Elizabeth who came from a family in the business of manufacturing baskets.

Elizabeth donated produce from the farm including sides of pork, baskets of vegetables, fruit and eggs for raffles to raise money for her son's scouts, the local pony club and local rifle club. Picnics were held at her farm to raise funds for the Presbyterian Church and she organised concerts to raise money for the school and the hospital. Elizabeth helped with the organising of the local agricultural show and was often awarded prizes for her exhibits.

When the Boer War broke out in 1899 Elizabeth, aware that many people could not read or write, took it upon herself to ensure every local man who enlisted received regular letters and news from home. One of the men Elizabeth wrote to was Private Charles Cope who was reported in the newspaper to have died when the 1400 Australian Citizen Bushman Contingent was ordered to relieve the besieged town of Mafeking in April 1900.



However, in November of the same year Elizabeth received a letter written by Private Cope from a prisoner of war camp. Elizabeth, anxious to set the record straight, took the letter to the newspaper and it was printed in full. It is an amazing account of the first and unsuccessful attempt to relieve Mafeking and the cost the Australians paid for with their lives.

In 1906 Elizabeth's husband David died but Elizabeth continued to run the farm and participate in community affairs. The state of the roads around her farm had long been a source of complaints to the Council and articles to the newspaper by Elizabeth and her neighbours. The roads were turned into deep ruts by timber carriers and herds of cattle. When it rained they became impassable especially for school children, who were then forced to walk an additional mile around the quagmire or stay at home. When her son Henry decided to run for Council on this and other issues he was often identified at the meetings and in the newspaper as being '*Mrs Elizabeth Aubrey's son*'.

In 1915 Elizabeth's son Sidney was shot and killed by a sniper at Gallipoli. In Elizabeth's Obituary it states that '*Sid was much attached to his mother and being single was of great assistance to her and his death was a bitter blow to her*'. She found herself in a dispute with the army when she requested Sidney's personal effects. The Army did not recognise women as next of kin even though her name was on his enlistment application. The Army sent a form letter for her to provide '*the name and of address of any nearer blood relative than herself for instance Sidney's father*'.

In bold black letters on the form letter she inserted '*his father is dead*' and returned the letter. It was a battle she would not win. On 24 November 1916 Elizabeth died suddenly of myocarditis still not in receipt of Sidney's personal belongings despite her many letters but the moment her son Edgar wrote to the Army in 1921 the belongings were immediately forwarded to him.

Elizabeth's lengthy Obituary in the Nepean News starts '*We regret to have to report the death of a greatly esteemed and well known citizen in Mrs Elizabeth Aubrey at the age of 75*' and later reported that her funeral was attended by so many people that they would not fit into St Stephen's Church.

I was delighted that a woman was given recognition for her work but I was annoyed she was not one of my ancestors! Given the age in which Elizabeth lived, the fact that she raised a family of five railway engineers and three school teachers, ran a farm and devoted so much of her time to the community I think she deserved the title of '*legend*'.

Note: This was a presentation by Dawn on Myths, Legends and Tall Tales at our February 2019 meeting.





'Twas the Night B (in Aus)

Author U

Twas the night before Christmas; there wasn't a sound.
Not a possum was stirring; no-one was around.
We'd left on the table some tucker and beer
Hoping that Santa Claus soon would be here.

We children were snuggled up safe in our beds
While dreams of pavlova danced 'round in our heads.
And Mum in her nightie and Dad in his shorts
Had just settled down to watch TV sports.

When outside the house a mad ruckus arose;
Loud squeaking and banging woke us from our doze.
We ran to the screen door, peeked cautiously out,
Snuck onto the deck, then let out a shout.



Guess what had woken us from our snooze
But a rusty old ute pulled by eight mighty 'roos.
The cheerful man driving was giggling with glee
And we both knew at once who this plump bloke must be.

Now I'm telling the truth, it's all dinki-di,
Those eight kangaroos fairly soared through the sky.
Santa leaned out the window to pull at the reins
And encouraged the 'roos by calling their names.

'Now Kylie! Now Kirsty! Now Shazza and Shane!
On Kipper! On Skipper! On Bazza and Wayne!
Park up on that water tank, grab a quick drink,
I'll scoot down the gum tree. Be back in a wink!



Before Christmas (Australia)

Unknown



So up to the tank those eight kangaroos flew
With the ute full of toys and Santa Claus too.
He slid down the gum tree and jumped to the ground,
Then in through the window he sprang with a bound.
He had bright sunburned cheeks and a milky white beard.
A jolly old joker was how he appeared.
He wore red stubby shorts and old thongs on his feet
And a hat of deep crimson as shade from the heat.
His eyes – bright as opals – oh, how they twinkled!
And like a goanna his skin was quite wrinkled.
His shirt was stretched over a round bulging belly
Which shook when he moved like a plate full of jelly.

A fat stack of prezzies he flung from his back
And he looked like a swaggie unfastening his pack.
He spoke not a word but bent down on one knee
To position our goodies beneath the yule tree.

Surfboard and footy-ball shapes for us two
And for Dad, tongs to use on the new barbeque.
A mysterious package he left for our Mum
Then he turned and winked and he held up his thumb

He strolled out on deck and his ‘roos came on cue,
Flung his sack in the back and prepared to shoot through.
He bellowed out loud as they swooped past the gates –
‘MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL AND GOODONYA MATES!’



What A Way To Go! The Demise of Rose London

by Robyn Hilan (488)

Note: In honour of our 35th Anniversary this year we have reprinted the following article This story is reproduced from The Cedar Log September 2008 (our 25th year).

'I saw a hat floating'. These are some of the most poignant words I think I have found regarding the death of my great aunt Rose London (nee Hilan). Previously I had only heard a family story that Rose was visiting her sister for her niece's wedding. On the way to be fitted for their dresses, they died in each other's arms when they drowned in the creek.

A copy of the death certificate for Rose cited the cause of death as '*Asphyxia by drowning in the waters of Coopers Creek*'. There was also a reference to the Coroner's Jury and an Inquest at Lismore on 21 January 1898.

In turn, the Coroner's Index confirmed that there were two deaths – Rose, and her niece Eliza Devine, and that they had accidentally drowned. There had to be more, and indeed I discovered some excellent reports in the local paper, *The Northern Star*.

The first item, a news report of the drowning, made quite a story. However, the real find was the report of the inquest, which included the names of jurymen and witnesses, the testimony of a policeman, a lad, a 'stranger', and Eliza's father Matthew Devine. It also gave the findings that were based largely on the evidence of William Henry Perkins, an eyewitness.

It seems that Rose and Eliza were riding side-saddle on their horses and needed to cross the Creek which was very high and running fast at the time. Young William Perkins who was with them went across first followed by Eliza who led the horse ridden by Rose. Unfortunately, the women misjudged the crossing and the horses went into deep water and began to flounder. They were washed off their horses but Eliza Devine swam ashore. Seeing her aunt struggling, Eliza swam to her assistance but got into difficulties and began to sink, unable to go on, and not able to return to the bank. Then Rose London began to sink.



One can only imagine the terror experienced by young Perkins as he watched on helplessly. He related to the inquest how he called out to a man passing by but he could not see any bodies. The lad called out to a Mrs Spedding. He then rode furiously to Mr. Parnell's who went down to the creek. Later the lad went to Bexhill to send a telegram to the police at Lismore.

The man passing by was one Timothy O'Leary, a selector at Dan's Creek, Dunoon. At the inquest his testimony reveals that the accident took place at McPherson's Crossing. His story gives an added dimension to the event. O'Leary relates that as he was passing the crossing he heard a noise *'but took no notice, thinking it was children playing'*. As he approached the crossing Perkins was leading a horse and called out *'There is a woman drowned down there'*, pointing to the creek. O'Leary says he jumped off his horse, went down to the creek toward the noise, *'had a look, but could see nobody: but saw two horses, one in the act of getting out of the water, and the other in the water at the crossing just below it'*. O'Leary said to the boy *'There must be two women drowned'* but the lad replied, *'One was all right'*.

The words of the witnesses at the inquest are reported at length in the newspaper and 100 years later are a marvel to those who read of the story, giving a sense of the unfolding saga. O'Leary continued to tell the jury he *'came to the conclusion that both ladies were drowned as I could see no one about. Saw a hat floating. I went on toward my selection'*.

A woman – presumably Mrs Spedding, asked the boy Perkins if he would cross over again to tell what had happened but he was afraid he might be washed off. She had then asked O'Leary who opted out – *'I said I did not know where to go as I was a stranger. I do not know the crossing'*.

Whilst all this is happening Matthew Devine arrived. One of his little daughters had told him a horse was coming up the road with a side-saddle on it. He immediately recognised the horse and ran to the crossing where he saw the people looking into the water and asked had they seen the girls.



When the reply was negative, Matthew Devine testified that he knew then *'they were drowned'*. He advised that his daughter was *'a fair swimmer and a good horsewoman and knew the crossing well'*.

The jury returned a verdict that Rose London was accidentally drowned whilst crossing Cooper's Creek on 19 January 1898 and Eliza Devine was at the same time accidentally drowned while endeavouring to save Rose London. The jury added their opinion the crossing was dangerous and ought to be closed altogether or materially improved. In an interesting touch the jurymen *'very considerably made a present of their fees to the bereaved family'*.

There is a saying *'the more things change the more they stay the same'* and it is evident in this story too. Much of Matthew Devine's testimony concerned the danger of the crossing. He thought, *'the Government had been asked to do something but there was no money'*. There were no guideposts and other roads were in bad condition and added distance to the journey to Bexhill. Sometimes the crossing was dry, but on other occasions such as this, there was more than three feet of water over it and a perpendicular drop of 14 feet where the women came to grief.

Whilst the report of the inquest confirms that Rose London was visiting her sister Catherine Devine (nee Hilan) there is no mention of an imminent wedding or why the women were out riding into Bexhill. The police constable John Brennan testified that he was present the next day when the bodies of the women were found. It would appear that the clothing worn by the women contributed to their drowning. The style and weight of the riding habit of that period was an impediment once in the water.

Joseph Funnell found Eliza about 70 yards from where the accident took place. An hour and a half later Rose's body was found about 60 yards from the crossing. Clearly they had not died in each other's arms. They were however buried together in the Barham Street Cemetery Lismore. No headstone remains, however Edna Tucker (Richmond River Historical Society) transcribed the headstones before the cemetery was made into a park.





My Ancestors Saved Their Letters

by Jan Connor

I always knew I had some Swiss ancestry. My grandmother, Stella Sartori, was a descendant of Swiss migrants Carlo Sartori and his father Giovanni Battista Sartori, who both arrived in Victoria in 1854.

Finding out about their lives in Australia was possible, but learning anything new about their past was difficult.

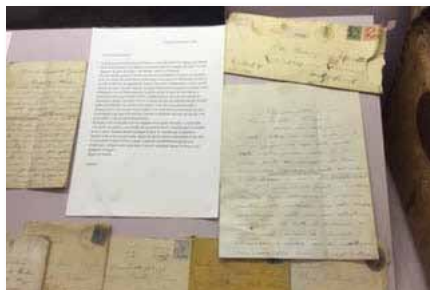
Around 1986 there was a program on the ABC about a community around Frankford/Yandiot in Victoria and the descendants of the original Swiss migrants. My father recognised some of the names from his childhood and wrote to them and later visited them. They were struggling to sort out the facts, because names had been anglicised over time, and their ancestor Simone Sartori had taken the name Charles as had his brother, my great great grandfather. Other names were misspelt on certificates.

It came to light that a Professor Georgio Cheda had written a book about Swiss migration to Victoria, but the two volume book was written in Italian.

On a visit to Sydney, I visited the Mitchell Library a few times, going through books by Professor Cheda and also an Australian, Professor Joseph Gentilli. At the back of Cheda's second book, I found copies of letters written in Italian, exchanged between migrants and their families in Switzerland. One set was titled Giovanni Battista Sartori, my third great grandfather.

I photo copied those letters and put them aside.

Our son and family were now living in Switzerland so on a visit we all travelled to the small village of Linescio, in a narrow valley in the south of Switzerland. We found a beautifully restored graveyard. I photographed every grave with the name Sartori.



Samples of Saved Letters



One worrying discovery was that Giovanni Battista was buried with a wife who was not my relative.

Upon our return to Australia I took a deep breath and rang my dad's distant, elderly cousin in Victoria. He informed me that Giovanni Battista had come to Australia with his son Carlo, then returned to Switzerland 20 years later. We already knew his son Carlo had died of TB, leaving a young family. Only two of Carlo's children survived.

When Giovanni Battista's youngest son turned 18, he travelled to California to find his fortune, leaving his mother with all four daughters.



Graveyard in Linescio, Switzerland

He returned to Switzerland at a later date.

Dad's cousin emailed me a translated letter, sent from Antonio Sartori to Giovanni. The letter was sent from California to Hepburn Springs, pleading with his father to save money and go home to his wife. Dad's cousin also sent a local government record of all the family in Linescio, including Giovanni's parents from the 1870s, noting that some of his sons were in Australia.

These documents renewed my interest in Professor Cheda's book, so I began to Google and translate the photocopied letters. This is not a perfect science, but I sent my effort off to the distant cousin and he came straight back with all seven translated letters in an email.



You can imagine my excitement as I began to piece together 20 years of the lives of my ancestors.

It would appear that Giovanni Battista Sartori, married Maria Franzoni very young and they had three children quickly, before she died. Giovanni remarried an even younger girl and they had four more children. When the youngest was two he took his 18 year old son to Australia in search of gold. His next son arrived two years later. His daughter stayed with her stepmother. Giovanni's wife enlisted a priest to write letters for her and his children added footnotes. Later her son in law wrote for her.

After twenty years Giovanni returned to Linescio to live out his old age with a wife he barely knew.

Little did this family know that by taking family letters home to Switzerland 140 years later they would be so valuable to his descendants.

On our family visit to Cevio, a town near Linescio, we found a museum which we visited at the end of a long day. My husband took photos of some old letters and envelopes with his phone. It was a long time before I found those photos and realised they were some of the original letters, written by my family.

I am so glad someone wrote those letters and grateful that someone saved them and that Professor Cheda did a study on Swiss migration.

Membership Fees for 2020

A reminder to members that membership fees are now due – \$35 single and \$45 joint.

Don't forget to sign the Privacy Statement on the back of your renewal form before handing it in. This is now a requirement.

Payment options: the next monthly meeting, the Marie Hart Library, Direct Debit (see details on form) or post cheque to PO Box 817, Ballina NSW 2478.



All in the Family



News From Within the Society by Carol Donaghey

As Editor of our journal and on behalf of the Society we extend a hearty thank you to Marie Hart for her many years of writing three contributions to each issue of *The Cedar Log*. Not only did Marie compose and write *All in the Family*, *In the Loop* and *Gleanings* but she read every exchange journal we received from Australian and overseas societies which in the days before electronic versions totalled over 100. We currently receive almost 40 paper journals and when I offered to temporarily take over Marie's role for the December issue I had no idea how much work was involved. Congratulations Marie on a job well done! Your patience and dedication has kept us all informed and up to date.

In the Loop and *Gleanings* will be combined in this edition under the heading of *Gleanings*. Don't overlook these articles. There are some wonderful stories and handy hints available for you to read about.

The new editorial team of Jane Griffin, Christine Reeves and Judy Cosgrove takes over in January 2020. Please welcome our new team and give them your assistance by contributing your stories so they are able to continue producing your *Cedar Log*.

A copy of the *USB of The Cedar Log 1984-2018* is available for purchase for \$25 (non-members \$30). Sales are going really well with several members already having purchased one. Order forms are available at the Marie Hart Library.

In September the DNA Discussion Group met again with Kerrie sharing her knowledge of this fascinating subject. Many exchange journals now have items on DNA and I have found that the more I read about it the more I understand the benefit of this genealogical tool.

Joan Fraser who runs our Writers' Group had a fall recently breaking her collar bone so many good wishes to Joan for a full recovery. Member Judy Riley looks after a Book Club for residents of Crowley Care in Ballina.

We also send our very best wishes to Liz and Terry Marshall who have had quite a lot to deal with after Terry spent some time in hospital. Robyn Hilan enjoyed a well-earned rest at Newcastle and I spent a few days R & R in Melbourne recently.

The Marie Hart Library will be closed from Monday 16 December and re-open Monday 13 January 2020.

Many good wishes to everyone for a Happy and Peaceful Christmas! However you are spending this special time of the year may you be blessed with joy and love.





Gleanings

From the Media... by Carol Donaghey

Journal Gleanings

Australian

- The DNA Diary *Port Macquarie & Districts FHS, Footsteps*, Aug 2019
Piano Maker's Apprentice to Sandpaper Inventor *Gold Coast FHS, Rootes*, Sep 2019
A Tale of Two Morgues: Sydney's Deadhouses *RAHS, History*, Sep 2019
Watching the Web *Casino & District FHG, The Crossing Place*, Aug 2019
Your Digital & Genealogical Estate *Genealogical Society of Victoria, Ancestor*, Sep 2019
DNA Research Group – Happy DNA Stories *Society of Australian Genealogists, Descent*, Sep 2019
Catherine the Capable *The SA Genealogy and Heraldry Society Inc., The SA Genealogist*, Aug 2019
How to Get Kids Hooked on Family History *Liverpool Genealogy Society Inc., Links 'n' Chains*, Oct 2019
Making the Most of the Online NSW BDM Index *Tweed Gold Coast FH & Heritage Assoc Inc., Tracks*, Oct 2019
Sydney's Suicide Brides *Traces*, Edition 8 2019
Writing Family History for Children *Traces*, Edition 8 2019

Overseas

- Errors of Fact? *NZ Genealogist*, Aug 2019
Rentals as a Family History Resource *Irish Roots No 111* 2019
When the Irish invaded Canada *Irish Roots No 111*, 2019
DNA Testing – How to Optimise Your Anonymity & Privacy *Irish Roots No 111*, 2019
Other Places to Look for London Wills *UK Genealogists' Magazine*, Sep 2019
The DNA of the Diaspora *WDYTYA*, Apr 2019
Countdown to 1921 Census *WDYTYA*, Apr 2019
Labour Pains *WDYTYA*, Apr 2019
Newspaper Archives *WDYTYA*, May 2019
The Genealogist *WDYTYA*, Jun 2019



There are a number of excellent exchange journals in the Marie Hart Library available for members to borrow and read. If you are interested in DNA most journals have articles on that subject which will broaden your knowledge and show you the benefits in exploring this topic.

An outstanding magazine is *'Traces' Uncovering Australia's Past*. Every edition of this publication is full of varied items from different States covering a vast number of topics, too many to list here. Do yourself a favour and have a look.

eJournals **by Jackie Chalmers**

The following eJournals may be read on the computer in the Marie Hart Library.

Australian (G-Y)

A History of Our Society by Paulette Flint

Genealogical Society Gladstone District Inc., Timeline, Jul 19

Reminiscences of a Cobb & Co. Coach Driver

from *Tumbarumba Post*, Friday December 12, 1924

Goulburn Historical & Genealogical Society Inc., The Argyle Bulletin, Aug 19

When William Met Jessie by Denise Juler

Gympie FHS Inc., The Gympie Gazette, Apr 19

Oh Susanna! by Cherilyn Hammond

Hawkesbury FHS, The Hawkesbury Crier, Jun 19

A Glance at Henry Edward Dodd by A. J. Gray *Hawkesbury-Nepean Chapter*

Fellowship of First Fleeters, Hawkesbury-Nepean Newsletter, Winter 19

The Murder of Mary Ann Wright by Rebecca Turnbull

Hawkesbury-Nepean Chapter

Fellowship of First Fleeters, Hawkesbury Nepean Newsletter, Spring 19

Working Agreements, 1864 Style from Sydney Mail October 29, 1864

Hill End & Tambaroora Gathering Group, Newsletter, Aug 19

Famous Hill End Nuggett from Richmond River Herald September 18, 1896

Hill End History, Newsletter, Sep 19

Whales in the Derwent – Then and Now by John Sargent

Hobart Town First Settlers Assoc. Inc., Newsletter, Sep 19

A Family Tree by Judith Hansen *Illawarra FHG, Illawarra Branches*, Mar 19

Yallaroi Soldier Settlement by Ken McLeod

Inverell FHG Inc., Voices From the Past, Jun 19

The Little Church That Time Passed By by Brian Jeffrey

Ipswich GS Inc., Bremer Echoes, July 19

Six Grand-Parents by Arthur Radford

Lake Macquarie FHG, The Chronicle, Aug 19

The Influenza Pandemic by Health Inspector, David Owen

Lithgow FHG, Lithgow Pioneer Press, Jun 19



Writing Your Family History or Memoir with ‘Speech to Text’ Technology by Jan Partridge *Maitland and Beyond FH Inc., Tracks and Trails*, Jul 19

William Wynter’s Tale by Ivan Ransom *Manning Wallamba FHS, The Figtree*, Aug 19

Floods by Lloyd Everingham *Maryborough District FHS Inc., Forebears*, May 19

Memories of Coraki Public School by Peter Redhead *Mid-Richmond HS Inc., Newsletter*, Aug 19

A Mystery Put to Rest by Ron Smith *Milton–Ulladulla FHS Inc., Pigeon House Tidings*, Jun 19

A Settlement Examination by Ken Shilling *Newcastle FHS, Journal*, Sep 19

Brunette Downs by Craig Eibeck *GS of Northern Territory, Progenitor*, Jun 19

Map of Australia Chalk Badge Restoration by Helen Roberts *Family History Association of North Queensland Inc., Relatively Speaking*, Jul 19

When Research Comes to a Halt, Consider Alternative Spelling by Carol Sharp *Orange FHG, Newsletter*, Aug 19

The Royal Dane by Christine Mackay *Queensland FHS Inc., Queensland Family Historian*, Aug 19

Charles Jarrett (1829–1908) from Ryan Family Records *Redcliffe & District FHG Inc., The First Settlement City Gazette*, Jul 19

AMWA=WAGS Project by Diane Oldman *FHS of Rockingham & District, Between the Lines*, Dec 18

William Thomas Rafter, SS Wiltshire 1914–1917 by John Rafter *Shoalhaven FHS, Time Traveller*, Aug 19

The Walker Family of Mirboo *South Gippsland GS, Newsletter*, Sep 19

Stubbies – the Men’s Fashion Trend of the 70’s by Cecily Rose *Genealogy Sunshine Coast, Kin Tracer*, Jun 19

Tenterfield Hospital Doctors Through the Years by Joyce Bryant & Kay Hurtz *Tenterfield FHG, Tenterfield Generations*, Jul 19

Daniel Corkill (1827-1862) by Rick Corkill *Toowoomba & Darling Downs FHS, The Gazette*, Jul 19

Nursing Job Description from 1887 submitted by Julie Lee *Whitsunday FHG, Branching Out*, Jul 19

A Disastrous Storm Passes Over a Town *The Mercury (Hobart)* October 5 1909 *Wyalong District FHG Inc., The Mallee Stump*, Feb & May 19

The Road Not Taken by Lynda Smith *Wyong FHG Inc., Tree of Life*, Aug 19

The Thistles of Young submitted by Emma Cockburn *Young and District FHG Inc., The Lambing Flat Leader*, May 19



Overseas (G-W)

Hiring or Mop Fairs by Nick Davey *Glamorgan FHS, Journal*, Sep 19

Servant Ancestors by Sheila Duffy
Glasgow & W of Scotland FHS, Gallus, Jun 19

Find a Will by W J Powell
Gwent FHS, Gwent Journal, Sep 19

Thomas Garrett c1763 to 1845 by Liz Summerson (née Garrett)
Herefordshire FHS, Herefordiensis, Oct 19

Another Clock Story by John Bridger *Hillingdon FHS, Journal*, Sep 19

David RAMAGE – Lost and Found by David McGill
Lothians FHS, Family Roots, Summer 19

The Lost Reformer by Anna Mayall
The Manchester & Lancashire HHS, The Manchester Genealogist, May 19

The Day the Church Fell Down – St Aloysius Church, Ardwick by Mark Campbell
The Manchester & Lancashire HHS, The Manchester Genealogist, Sep 19

Jane Thomson (née Coutts) Mountaineer by Kevin White
Family History Society of New Zealand, New Zealand Family Tree, Aug 19

Spotlight on the Daventry Collection by Angela Malin
Northamptonshire FHS, Footprints, Aug 19

Forgotten Heroes – Arthur Shrewsbury and Alfred Shaw by Tracy Dodds
Nottinghamshire FHS, Journal, Oct 19

John Westhead by the Newburgh Blacksmith by Martin Jones
Ormskirk FHS, Family Historian, Jul 19

Looking for the Sailor by Parry Richards
Powys FHS, Chronicle Powys, Aug 19

The Killing of Eliza Rudd by Colin Feltham
Suffolk FHS, Suffolk Roots, Sep 19

A Little Help from DNA by Richard Mitchell and John Scrase
Sussex FHG, Family Historian, Jun 19

Jessie, the other Js and a Gravestone by Tom Graham
Troon & Ayrshire FHS, Journal, Summer 19

Thanks to Ballina RSL Club

With many thanks the Society acknowledges a grant of \$1,000 from the Ballina RSL Club to assist with publication costs for the 2019 journals





Snippets

with Carol and Dawn

Colour Your Photos

The August 2019 edition of *The New Zealand Genealogist* magazine had an interesting article about adding colour to your black and white photos. Just upload your old photo and the free colourisation will begin. You can then save your coloured photo to your computer.

The website is <https://demos.algorithmia.com/colorize-photos> or there is another site <https://www.colorizephoto.com/converter> which allows you to do the colouring yourself.

FamilySearch – Compare a Face

If you want to have a bit of fun and maybe settle your curiosity about similarities with other family members go onto the *FamilySearch* website and see how alike people in your family are.

You will need to register for a free account to use *FamilySearch* but the process is easy – www.familysearch.org/discovery/compare. Just upload a photograph of yourself and another relative and you will receive a percentage of how alike you are. You don't need to save the photos on *FamilySearch*.

It is fun to do but it may also help you to determine if one of those unnamed photos belong in your family.

48 New Western Australian Newspapers added to Trove

In the National Library of Australia *eNews* July 2019 was an article advising that the State Library of Western Australia has partnered with *Trove* to digitise 48 Western Australian newspapers and they hope to make at least 40 more titles available in the next year.

You can check these newspapers online at www.trove.nla.gov.

Helpful Websites

Dawn Lotty found these helpful websites – the first two while searching for her convicts.



Immigration Place Australia

<https://immigrationplace.com.au/story/> and then add the name of the person you are researching

Australian Royalty

<https://australianroyalty.net.au>

Both are free sites and there can be a family tree attached to the information.

There is also another free site called **Free Settler or Felon** which covers bushrangers, convicts, innkeepers, settlers, coal miners, medical practitioners, military officers and placenames in Newcastle and the Hunter Valley. If these locations are not applicable the site still has convict ships, their Captains and Surgeons.

From Casino & District Family History Group

Casino & District Family History Group had a number of useful websites in their February 2019 journal *The Crossing Place*. You may find them worth investigating.

Index to Admissions & Discharges Sydney Benevolent Asylum:

www.sydneymbenevolentasylum.com/index.php?page=search-index

The database contains over 78,000 records and lists Asylum inmates between 1857 and 1900.

Asylum Records in NSW:

www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/webinars/nsw-probate-records

This webinar is free from NSW State Archives.

NSW Gaol Bird Ancestor:

www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/webinars/tracing-nsw-gaolbirds

Another free webinar to help you find details of your inmate.

Renewing Member

**A Warm Welcome to renewing member
from Membership Secretary, Jan Ousby**

319 Ms Kristine Pryor

Coorabell NSW 2479





Book Launch

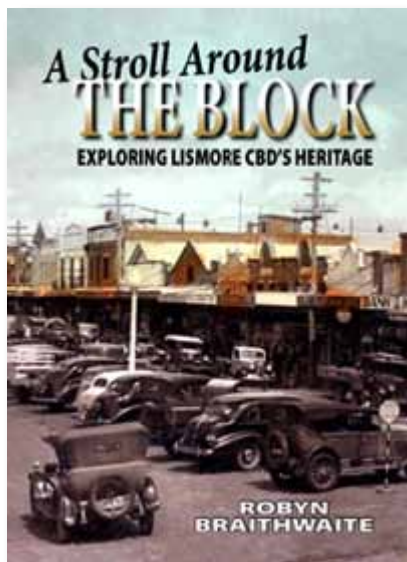
by Jackie Chalmers

Over fifty people attended the Richmond River Historical Society Inc. on Thursday 14 November 5:30 pm to witness a very special book launch. The book, *A Stroll Around the Block: exploring Lismore CBD's heritage*; The author, Robyn or 'Robbie' Braithwaite, Vice-President of the Society.

To begin the proceedings, Lismore's Mayor, Cr. Isaac Smith, officially launched the book, describing its overall affect as a '*Launch of Hope*'. Identifying his ancestors with the Palings store, the Mayor further pictured '*A Stroll Around the Block ...*' as a '*Trip Down Memory Lane*', '*A Walking Guide with 15 pages of Index*' and a '*Springboard to Further Discovery*'.

After the official launch, Robbie then gave a PowerPoint Presentation of '*The Block*' featuring high quality photos and maps to take us on a fabulous journey of discovery. Robbie added little asides, products of her extensive research, to make the tour even more fascinating – the story of confectionist Henry de Montmorency, who by 1926 employed 25 people and supplied over 300 shops throughout the region. Legend has it that outside interests sought the recipe for the famous 'Monties'; permission refused; followed by the coincidental appearance elsewhere of 'Minties'!

This is just a taste of the many interesting researched discoveries that await your perusal of '*A Stroll Around the Block: exploring Lismore CBD's Heritage*'.



*A Stroll Around the Block:
Exploring Lismore CBD's Heritage
by Robyn Braithwaite*



Your New Editorial Team



by Carol Donaghey

The new Editorial Team takes over in January 2020 and we hope you will give them all your support, particularly in sending new Editor Jane your stories or snippets of news.

Stories don't have to be long but every item, short or long, will help fill the pages of your Cedar Log. It is your journal and without your support it wouldn't exist. Below are a few lines about each team member along with their contact details.

Jane Griffin – Editor



Jane was born in the Northern Rivers and has lived in this area for most of her 55 years. Moving frequently she has resided in Lismore, Alstonville, Kyogle, Grafton and Maclean. Jane is a Registered Nurse who loves to travel. She enjoys camping, bushwalking and spending time with her three grandchildren. Jane has always been interested in researching her family history and now hopes she will have more time to pursue this hobby. Jane may be contacted at griffinjane10@gmail.com.

Christine Reeves – Production

Christine attended St Mary's College in Lismore and completed nurse training at St Vincent's in Lismore prior to her marriage to John. They moved to Sydney in 1975 and they have four children and four grandchildren. After moving to Grafton in 1985 they returned to Lismore area in 2006. Christine recently retired after 47 years of nursing from delivering babies to management of aged care facilities. She joined RTFHS in 2013. Christine may be contacted at chris110555@yahoo.com.au.



Judy Cosgrove – Proof Reader



Judy was born in Casino leaving the town at the age of 17 to pursue tertiary studies. In 1991 she returned to Lismore with her three young daughters and was employed in various government and private departments until 2003. For the past 15 years Judy has worked as a tutor teaching English and Maths to students and adults. She now resides in Goonellabah with her husband Lyle and their 20 year old cat, Wizard. Judy joined RTFHS in 2017. Judy may be contacted at judithmonica@westnet.com.au.





Monthly Speakers

by Carol Donaghey

For those members who were unable to attend meetings over the last three months this is a summary of the topics presented by our guest speakers.

September 2019

We had our very own Q & A when President Don Howell interviewed newest Committee member, Richard Goss. Richard has an underlying sense of humour which expressed itself again later in the meeting when he presented a talk on his First Family Member to come to Australia. This was such a popular topic with 12 members eager to share their accounts of their first ancestor to arrive here that we ran out of time. The remaining talks will be presented at the February 2020 meeting.



*Richard Goss
Committee Member*

October 2019

Guest speaker Helen V Smith gave two presentations. The first, *Begotten by Fornication: Illegitimacy in England* provided insight into the various ways used by the English authorities to track down the fathers of illegitimate children so they and their mothers were not burdens on the parish where the children were born.

Fishing for Cousins using Blogs as Bait! introduced us to the idea of starting a family history blog which is basically an online journal on a website. Blogs are easy to start and can reach people who are researching around the world. If an unknown cousin of yours types in one of your ancestor's names in Google the information you have put on your blog will be available for them to read. Blogs have the benefit of making contacts, sharing resources, acting as a family website and acting as 'cousin bait'. You could find the very person you have been looking for.



Presenter: Helen Smith



The free website Blogger is a good way to start <https://www.blogger.com>. If you would like to read the handouts provided by Helen on these two topics email Kerrie Alexander and she will send them to you.

November 2019

Frank Harvey took us on a metaphorical walk through Ballina streets and along the neighbouring beach fronts identifying the Shire's many artists and their public sculptures on display in roundabouts, the riverside walk and on prominent buildings.

Robyn Hilan read the story of a young Canada man that illustrated the benefit of DNA testing. The young man, given up at birth by his mother, was able through DNA to trace his family history. Sadly his mother had passed away not long after his birth but his newly found living relatives not only provided him with a long lost family but were able to take him to visit his mother's grave.



*Greg McNamara, Norco CEO
Courtesy ABC News*

Our guest speaker, Greg McNamara is the CEO of NORCO, a farmer owned dairy cooperative that is about to celebrate its 125th anniversary. Greg spoke about the growth of the company from 'three farmers in a paddock in Clunes' to the multinational business it is today. Along the way NORCO has had to navigate many challenges from world wars, mechanisation, being locked out of the European Union, the federal government's policy to move the farmers away from the coast, deregulation, drought, the \$1 milk price by supermarkets and the rise of products such as 'Almond Milk'. The answer was to diversify and look to export its products to China and beyond, something made possible by its dedicated workers and the wider community.



The Richmond-Tweed Family History Society Inc. was established in 1983 to serve the family history needs of researchers initially with a special interest in Northern New South Wales, Australia in the area bounded by the Richmond and Tweed Rivers, often referred to as the Northern Rivers.

The Marie Hart Library holds numerous local records including the Local Schools Admission Registers, Cemetery Records, Burial Records and Honour and Memorial Rolls from many locations within the Northern Rivers.

Over the years the library has expanded and now holds a wealth of information from across Australia including historical and pioneer records, war records, shipping lists, probate records, landholder returns, Colonial Secretary papers, cemetery books etc. and journals including those from other English speaking countries. Access to Microfiche, CDs and a computer connected to the genealogical websites *Findmypast* and *The Genealogist* is also available. Contact Carol Brown on 02 6687 8443 if you need assistance.

The Society is able to do small family history searches for a fee of \$15 per hour. Please include a 22 x 11 cm SAE and research fees where applicable.



THE Cedar Log

Journal of the Richmond-Tweed Family History Society Inc.

Published March, June, September & December

The Editor, Carol Donaghey, would be pleased to accept articles for inclusion in this journal. Ideally they should be sent by email to Carol at carold2478@gmail.com but typed hard copy is also welcomed. The format preferred is Times New Roman font; 12 point; single spacing.

Please add your contact details as the Editor may need to discuss with you any editing, abridgement or deferral to a future date of any material submitted for publication. It is your responsibility to ensure that your article does not infringe copyright. Items remain the copyright of the Richmond-Tweed Family History Society and the author.

Your input is important and makes for interesting and diverse reading for our members as well as to the other readers of our journal throughout Australia and overseas. We would love to hear about how you broke down those brick walls or any interesting information you have found out about an ancestor, so get those fingers typing.

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SOCIETY EVENTS

DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturday 7 December: Christmas Party at Summerland House Farm.

Christmas/New Year Closure of the Marie Hart Library: The Marie Hart Library will close after Saturday 14 December 2019 for the Holiday Season. It will reopen on Monday 13 January 2020.

Saturday 1 February: Subject: 'My First Family Member in Australia'. Coordinator: Jane Griffin.

Tuesday 4 February: The RTFHS Writers' Group meets on the first TUESDAY of each month – at 1.00 pm – at the Marie Hart Library. Phone Group Leader Joan Fraser (6686 9664) for further details.

Saturday 7 March: Vodcast: 'Uncovering family history stories with British and Irish historic newspapers'. Speaker: Myko Clelland.

Saturday 4 April: Subject: 'History of the Northern Rivers Region of NSW'. Speaker: John Rogers.

Saturday 2 May: Subject: 'Documenting Your Family History'. Coordinator: Carol Donaghey.

Saturday 6 June: Subject: 'History of Pimlico and its Families'. Speaker: Benita Parker.



Aussie Christmas Barbeque © Desktop Nexus

A Merry Christmas to All and Good Health, Wealth and Happiness for The New Year!

The Society meets at the Players Theatre, 24 Swift Street, Ballina – unless otherwise advised. Society meetings are held every month except January. The Society meets at 2.00 pm on the first Saturday of each month .