

WYONG FAMILY
founded 1983



HISTORY GROUP INC.

Tree of Life

Official Journal of

WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC.

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Emerging from COVID-19 Isolation - Baby Steps Issue.

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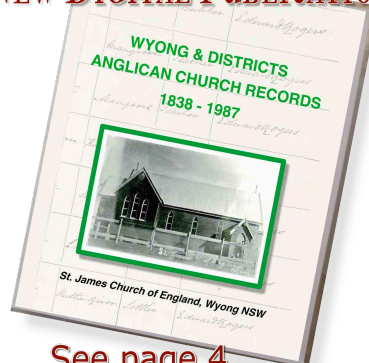
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NEW DIGITAL PUBLICATION



See page 4



Members contributions always welcome.

WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC.

Patrons: Emma McBride, Federal MP for Dobell
David Harris, State MP for Wyong

Meetings: Are held on the 2nd Saturday bi-monthly between February and October, at 'The Cottage', Wyong Community Cultural Centre, Building 9, 6 Rankens Court, Wyong. Phone 02 4351 2211

Resources and research assistance at 'The Cottage' – available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between 10:00am and 3:00pm. After hours by appointment.

Fees: non-members \$10.00 per hour between 10:00am and 12:00 noon and 1:00pm and 3:00pm. Members Free.

Office Bearers 2019 – 2020

President:	Wayne Dean
Secretary:	Pamela Andre
Vice-President:	Roger Lewis
Treasurer:	Michele Gane
Management Committee:	All the above executive plus Pamela Mansergh, Lyn Hagstrom, Regina Hogan, Dellas Johnson, Kerrie Metcalfe, John Selwood.

Assets Manager & Computer Administrator:	Roger Lewis
Bookstall Supervisors	Niel and Julie Nielsen
Cottage Co-ordinators	Tuesday: Marilyn Cridland
	Wednesday: Helen Horde
	Thursday: Lorraine Cameron
Cottage Roster:	Cheryl Whamond
Education Co-Ordinator:	Kerrie Metcalfe
DNA Interest Group Co-Ordinator:	Stuart Purvis-Smith
Family Tree Maker Interest Group Co-Ordinator:	Martin Fisher
Grant Applications:	Roger Lewis
Group Collector of Statistics:	Eileen Eliassen, Martin Fisher
Guest Speaker Co-Ordinator:	Regina Hogan
Multi-Media & Facebook Group Co-Ordinators:	Roger Lewis, Ellen Sheerin
Journal Snippet Submitters:	Lynda Smith and Meg Gibson
Librarian:	Lyn Hagstrom
Librarian Assistant:	Dellas Johnston
Membership Secretary:	Pam Mansergh
Minute Secretary:	Pamela Andre
Project Coordinator:	John Selwood
Public Officer:	Roger Lewis
Publications (Books & CDs) Printing:	Roger Lewis, John Selwood
Publicity Officer:	Lynda Smith
Raffle Organiser:	Christine McKenzie
Scrapbook (Photos):	Annette Shearer
Seminar, Events	
Trip Organisers:	Christine Randall
Tree of Life Editor + Word Interest Group Co-Ordinator:	Helen Johnston-Lord. wfhgtol@westnet.com.au
Unrelated Certificates:	Jacqueline Wieringa
Webmaster:	Roger Lewis & Kate Walter
Tuggerah Library 3rd Saturday of the Month:	Annette Shearer & Christine Randall

• *Contact Members through 'The Cottage'. 02 4351 2211*

Important Notice

Your Committee.



We are pleased to announce that on Wednesday 1st July we reopened our research centre, under the health guidelines and with permission from Central Coast Council.

REOPENING PROCEDURES

- Required hand sanitising must be carried out prior to entry
- **Social distancing of 1.5 metres applies to all areas. this does not apply to two members of the same household.**
- While in `The Cottage` please look for informative signs displayed within.
- **There will be a coordinator and a volunteer in attendance**
- Researchers wishing to attend are required to book one week in advance for only 2 hours at a time
- **Bookings received by phone on 02 4351 2211 between 10am and 2:30pm, a booking sheet will be held in the office and managed by the coordinators/volunteer**
- Research sessions are for 2 x 2 hour shifts being 10am-12noon and 1pm-3pm
- **The library may be accessed by a separate booking by phone to the office**
- Signing in and out must be completed by the members in the entry foyer, [preferably using your own pen]
- **All members must read the `Conditions of entry sign in the Foyer and acknowledged by a tick in the appropriate column in the sign in book**
- Printing/photocopying may be collected at the office entrance
- **The coordinator/volunteer will only provide verbal assistance where requested provided social distancing procedures are followed**
- Please do not arrive too early as you will be required to remain outside until previous researchers have vacated and sanitising has been completed
- **Each researcher must depart promptly at the end of the morning session to allow sanitisation to be completed before entry of the afternoon session**
- Members are encouraged to bring their own refreshments, snacks etc.
- **Food and beverages be consumed outside if possible, alternatively two people may consume food and beverages in the dining room at one time while practicing social distancing**
- Exceptions to the numbers of people within `The Cottage` can be made for membership renewal or new membership applicants will be available at the office entrance, people must vacate the premises as soon as business is complete
- **Please notify the office prior to arrival for the above, DO NOT Just DROP IN**
- Remember payments can be made via EFTPOS at the office
- **If we all follow these guidelines, we hope to see things get back to normal soon.**

Stay Safe, Your Committee. ... 🌳



WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC.

New Release

WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC is pleased to announce the release of our new digital publication: **WYONG & DISTRICTS ANGLICAN CHURCH RECORDS 1838 - 1987**

This *Windows* based program [not suitable for *Apple Mac OS*] will be available on USB and contains over 15,000 primary records including Baptisms 1838 - 1927, Marriages including Marriage Banns where available 1838 - 1967 and Burials 1838 - 1987 **with links to copies of the original church register pages** for Gosford Parish until the early 1900s and thereafter for Wyong, The Entrance and Toukley/Budgewoi Parishes.

Much more than a basic index of 15,000+ primary records, over 64,000 names have been included AND the program is able to be searched by ANY field including Last Name, First Name, Residence, Place, Occupation, Age and Year From-To. Also included is a Notes field in which remarks recorded by various Ministers in relation to their parishioners and added research undertaken by our transcribers and proof-reader may also have been included. This field is also searchable.

Price for this New Resource will be \$70.00 plus \$5.00 postage within Australia per copy.

Early Bird Special Price for August 2020 is only \$65 + \$5 p&h

Available for purchase from

'The Cottage', 6 Rankens Court, WYONG, NSW 2259

[Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 10 am - 3 pm.]

Phone 02 4351 2211. Payment by Cash or EFTPOS accepted.

This resource may also be ordered via the link on the Group's website at www.wyongfamilyhistory.com.au where payment can be made using Direct Deposit or PayPal.

WYONG & DISTRICTS
ANGLICAN CHURCH RECORDS
1838 - 1987



St. James Church of England, Wyong NSW

from our President: The AGM in COVID-19

For and on Behalf of the Committee - Wayne Dean - President -
member 489



Notice for Members

The Committee would like to advise the Members about arrangements for the 2020 Annual General Meeting. A number of options were investigated, they included having:

- The AGM at "The Cottage", this did not allow sufficient Members to attend and maintain the rigor of compliance with COVID-19 standards.
- The AGM at Tuggerah Hall, a suitable venue, far better for compliance though it still meant we were limited in the number of Members able to attend.
- The AGM at a local club, again a suitable venue, compliance issues addressed, and more members could attend.
- Whilst a generous discount was offered to accommodate us at a club the Committee decided to

'Postpone the 2020 AGM to a date to be advised due to the current ongoing COVID-19 situation'

This decision was made owing to:

- Growing concerns about COVID-19 community transmission and potential risks to the health of Members.
- Community groups have received permission to postpone their AGM in 2020, this is reflected in an extract below from NSW Fair Trading
- **IMPORTANT:** *In the current COVID-19 circumstances, associations no longer have to apply for extensions of time to hold their 2020 annual general meetings or submit annual summaries of financial affairs. Associations may conduct their AGM when restrictions are lifted or present 2020 financial information to members at the 2021 AGM.*
- The costs involved having the AGM at other venues, whilst modest, meant WFHG was incurring costs it had limited prospects of recovering.
- The Committee will continue to monitor the situation and keep Members informed.

In the meantime:

- "The Cottage" remains open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday for research, pre booked 2-hour sessions morning and afternoon.
- The library is available by appointment.
- Most importantly we ask all Members to renew their discounted 2020-2021 Membership to ensure we continue to function as a most affordable and valuable centre for family history research.

Thank you for your understanding and support during these difficult times.

We hope you stay well and look forward to your participation with the resumption of the full range of activities and events as soon as possible.

Keep safe. ... 

from your Editor

Helen Johnston-Lord member 505

Hello All!

This rather late & large issue is once again different.

Late requests for important inclusions have meant bringing on the magic that is possible using my 2012 iMac and Microsoft Word 2011.

Easing of lockdown restrictions! ... we are proceeding with baby steps in the hope we can keep everyone safe.

Again, we personally, are not venturing too far, although we have managed to have a look at the rough seas recently.

A very big thank you to those who have submitted items for publication.

Some stories are sad, however this is all part of our families stories.

Places in my family history have always held a fascination for me. Hence our introduction of Places. The Balmain Mine story explains why many of Harry's family were listed as miners.

As circumstances change, hopefully, we will keep you

informed.

At the moment, the

Cottage Newsletter is our main communications

method. We suggest you read this when it comes in your email in-box.

If we follow guidelines and stay home, this is the best way we can stay safe and hopefully stay well.

In Jean Macleay's story of her Grandfather, George Herbert Cross, we are including newspaper and other 'clippings' reporting his demise. Trove may help you find something about your research subject.

Remember, your stories help to make our publication interesting and the deadline for the next *Tree of Life* is 20 October 2020.

Good and productive researching to everyone, we are all in this together, stay safe, stay well. ... 🌳



A Danish Barber:

Kerrie Metcalfe LM (80)

It's 1916 when Hans Andersen dies at his residence, 13 Arden Street, Waverley. He was one of the most widely known men in Sydney.¹

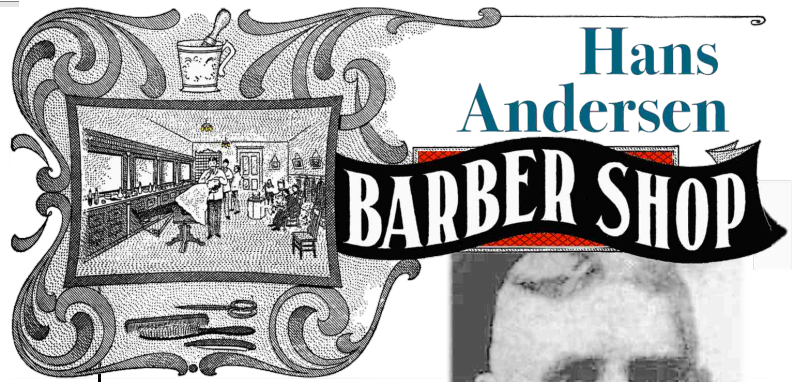
For over half a century he conducted one of the chief hairdressing establishments in Pitt Street Sydney, and claimed to be the oldest member of the trade in the State. He was a Dane by birth and learnt his trade in America.

Arriving in Sydney as a young man in the early 1870s, he saw the possibilities of his calling, as there were few barbers in the city and up to date establishments were almost unknown.

He set up his shop in Pitt Street Sydney and fitted it up elaborately. He remained there for 17 years, during which time he claimed as his customers most of the leading residents of Sydney, including members of Parliament, the legal profession and members of the sporting fraternity.

Subsequently he was compelled to vacate the premises and move to another shop at 220 Pitt street, opposite Adams Tattersalls Hotel, where he continued in business until he retired.

At the latter place he made a feature of hot towels, and was the first to introduce the mechanical hair-brushers. Mr. Andersen was proud of the fact that many of his customers had been patronizing his salon for a period of over 40 years, and he was never tired of telling of the humorous incidents that had occurred during the many years he



worked at the chair.

Hans was a prominent member of the Danish Club and in the early days took an active part in any movement inaugurated for the benefit of the trade. He was instrumental in forming the first Hairdressers Association in New South Wales, but the organisation was only short lived.²

Reflective Comment

I grew up hearing stories of Hans my two times great grandfather. Family would say he was the first barber in Sydney and that we hailed from Hans Christian Andersen (not true). As I work through my family history I learn that Hans encouraged his sons to take up his trade as well and my great grandfather Neils Andersen did just that. I think of Hans as a jolly fellow sharing stories and jokes with his clients and enjoying what he did and I am proud to think he was part of setting up one of the early establishments in Sydney that still survive today.

Notes:

1. Death Certificate
2. Obituary Evening News (Sydney NSW 1869 – 1931 Friday 11 August 1916)



How Our Language Changes

Lynda Smith LM 2

English is a living language and new words and phrases reflect what is happening in our current times. Over the last few months, our language has been inundated with additions and variations as a result of the pandemic. We now all know about being "COVID-safe". Businesses are proudly announcing that they can provide 'contactless delivery' of any manner of products and services. One has to wonder how a car can be serviced in such a fashion by mechanics though!

Words and phrases have been created- such as "jobkeeper", "frontline workers" and "social distancing". Many existing phrases have been reinvented- such as "we're all in this together" and "stay safe". The media has tried to maintain a strange balancing act between sensationalising the shortage of toilet paper, blaming cruise ships for spreading the virus, publishing the latest fatality figures, then switching to keeping our spirits up, running positive message ads, holding competitions and hosting fundraising concerts.

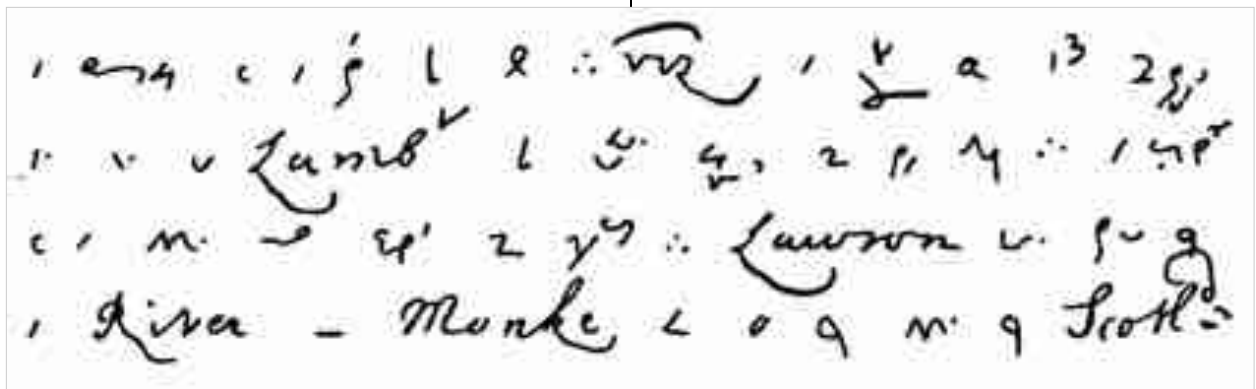
Our government has bombarded us with health and wellbeing advice - from how long to wash our hands, how to sneeze or cough safely and has encouraged us [via legislation

and fines] to stay home if we were not classed as essential service workers.

Someone has developed an APP for those of us with smart phones, so that we can be informed if we have been in contact with someone who has the virus. That is scary technology! Working from home has been encouraged, but sadly, many people in affected industries, such as tourism, air travel and retail have suffered major financial damage. There are now signs of an economic recession in our near future.


Each of us has been affected by the events of the last few months in our own, unique way. Have you been recording what has been happening to you and your family? If not, then perhaps you should. I do suggest you use standard English, rather than the shorthand and mix of languages Samuel Pepys sometimes inserted into his historic diary entries. This is a facsimile of one of his passages.

If Samuel Pepys had not written his diary entries religiously for 10 years,



we would not know as much as we do about the Plague that decimated England, the Great Fire of London and 17th century daily life in general. The first diary was started on January 1 1660 and his collected works included more than a million words. Failing eyesight affected his ability to continue this activity in 1669/70. Thankfully, he did not go blind and lived another 34 years. He held a number of important government positions, such as Secretary of the Admiralty during his career, was a member of the Royal Society and a Member of Parliament. This is a sample of one of his entries, that eerily reflects our situation in 2020.

"But, Lord! how sad a sight it is to see the streets empty of people, and very few upon the 'Change. Jealous of every door that one sees shut up, lest it should be the plague; and about us two shops in three, if not more, generally shut up."

—  *Diary of Samuel Pepys, Wednesday, 16 August 1665.*

It wasn't until the 19th century that

a man called John Smith was tasked with the job of transcribing Pepys work. As far as I know, he is not an ancestor of my husband's side of the family. It took him more than three years and he did this without the benefit of the code key that Pepys had hidden in his vast library. Since then, others have published versions, usually omitting his sexual activities and other sensitive descriptions. It wasn't until the 20th century that his complete works were published by the University of California Press in nine volumes from 1970-1983. Since then, there have been radio and television programs based on his works and a number of films.

Perhaps your diary or reminiscences of this time will not be quite so famous, but your descendants will appreciate your first hand experiences.

References:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samuel_Pepys



DNA Matches – The Power Of One

Stuart Purvis-Smith member 707

The COVID-19 pandemic has introduced us all to a new phrase - "contact tracing" – as the possible social networks of infected people are tracked and tested.

Family genealogists, many of whom have been busy during the COVID lockdown, are not unfamiliar with this laborious process – the identification of related family members, verification through the evidentiary trail of paper certificates, photographs, family stories and so on, all leading to an extended family

tree and a history to go with it.

I do wonder, however, how many family historians realise the advantages that a DNA test with one of the several testing companies can bring when added to the traditional tools of genealogy. Some have not yet engaged with their DNA, perhaps with concerns about privacy or a perception that DNA is all too technical, difficult, or not "traditional".



Two out of several examples in my own experience illustrate how rewarding DNA can be without requiring an understanding of how it works or of the “bells and whistles” used by genetic genealogists. All it required was to “contact trace” some of my more significant matches on Ancestry or one of the other sites where my DNA profile was held. No other DNA tools or tricks – just good solid genealogy.

My mother’s family are all from Northern Ireland, Killen and Todd being the main family lines with many branches, some identified as reaching back to the 1600s and late 1500s in Scotland. Some time ago I emailed one of my stronger DNA matches, a person and name unknown to me and outside the scope of my family tree at that time. A reply came back from Matthew G with details of his tree and where we share a common Killen ancestor. This has led to ongoing communication and through his excellent research, information about our legendary ancestor, William “Willie” Gilliland who as a Scottish covenantor in the 1600s fled to Ireland where his mythology lives on and he became one of my Killen ancestors. All this because of one DNA match – the power of one.

Recently, while under COVID constraints I discovered in my files, a previously unseen letter written in 1939 from a great aunt Todd in County Down, to her brother, my

grandfather William Todd in Australia. World War II had just started and the letter was about family and mutual friends who included mention of a “Miss MacDermott”. I became curious about this lady and then came across a MacDermott match in Family Tree DNA to where I had transferred my DNA data from Ancestry. Once again, I emailed an unknown person and received a warm response from “Edith” a retired GP in her 90s who confirmed that the “Miss MacDermott” was her great aunt – a friend of my great aunt Todd. My relationship to Edith is through a common ancestor married to a Killen and my own tree has once again expanded.

Beyond the linking of trees, the “MacDermott Project” has established new friendships, the discovery of other MacDermott connections and the exchange of family stories – both of us have written family history books for our families and we have new appreciation for the respective countries and families in which we were born. Constrained as we are by the coronavirus, reaching out in this way has provided some wonderful new human connections which we all need right now.

All this from just one DNA match – The Power Of One! ... 🌱



2020 Beginners Course News

Kerrie Metcalfe LM 80 Education Coordinator

The Beginners Course which started on 6 March 2020, at the *Cottage*, was brought to a stop half way through when COVID-19 restrictions were imposed.

With the easing of these restriction, the *Cottage* is open following protocols outlined on page 3.

However, Group activities have NOT resumed. It is hoped the Beginners Course will begin again in 2021. In anticipation, most of the participants

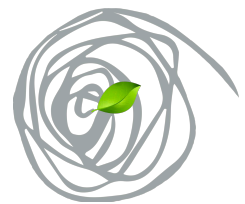


opted to leave their payment with us. We do appreciate the generous gesture.

Don't give up as we are all in this together. ... 🌱

And then She was GONE

Kate Walter member 657



It all started with one of those little green leaves. I probably had a bit less time on my hands than I'd like to admit, but I clicked on it anyway. It was a hint for my great ggg-aunt Isabella Gibson Froude (1859 – 1888). The record was about her burial in 1888. She was young and it said she died at sea. It caught my eye so I made the mistake of pulling further at the thread. It took me on a great journey through Papers Past (<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz>) which is the New Zealand equivalent of Trove. I also dipped into Trove, because there was an Australian connection.

In summary, the sad story was that Isabella was immigrating from NZ to Australia with her three young sons to be with her husband who had already gone ahead. Her sister Alice was also travelling with her. Isabella and her infant son (Henry Percival Froude Henderson Aug 1888 – Oct 1888) were washed overboard, not far from Sydney Harbour.

There were a number of articles about the awful incident, from both

sides of the ditch and so I felt like I was really able to get a sense of the tragedy that unfolded.

Not long after finding this story, I enrolled in one of the UTas Family History writing units. One of the assessments required a piece of writing about a story from the family tree. From memory, this assessment asked us to focus on the senses - what was the main character feeling, hearing, smelling etc

An interesting observation with regards to this story is that the tragedy happened on 9th Oct 1888, but Isabellas date of death is recorded as 9th Oct 1890. My guess is that this is tied up with the fact that the bodies were never recovered and there is perhaps some sort of legal requirement to wait before officially registering the death.

Below is the piece of creative writing I submitted for my assessment. (Yes I passed! The course was fabulous.) ... Kate.

Mrs Henderson

The fresh salty air filled her lungs

and the wind lifted her spirits. If yesterday (and the day before and the day before) she had felt like she was going to die, right in this moment she was prepared to consider the possibility that she might actually survive this horrendous trip.

Her weak hands gripped the rough railing as she ran her finger tips lightly back and forth over the peeling paint. A minute longer to steady herself and then she turned and took the baby from her sisters arms as she marvelled at the prospect of a stroll around the deck.

But as the weight of the sleeping baby settled into her arms, her legs turned to jelly. She quickly looked around for somewhere to sit. Not seeing anything nearby she just collapsed, right where she was. She managed a small smile when she realised she had landed on a large pile of coiled rope. Maybe someone was watching over her after all.

She leaned back against the railing and closed her eyes. The sun was doing it's best to worm it's way through the heavy black clouds and from time to time she felt its gentle kiss on the side of her face. Another smile.

The only thing that could induce her to open an eye was the sound of a seagull circling overhead. Yet another smile as she realised the insistent squawking wasn't any of

her concern, and her own little baby bird was resting peacefully for the first time in days.

The moment of tranquil bliss was interrupted by an enormous freak wave and her subsequent death. We won't dwell here on Isabella's most unfortunate and untimely demise, or that of her infant son who she was holding.

Let's return our attention to the deck of the *Mararoa*, which a few minutes ago provided scenes of gay anticipation or quite repose, depending on which way you turned.

Ropes and bodies lay strewn across the walkways. There was a moment of stillness as the cold hard shock of what had just happened penetrated to the very bones of those present, and inked it's memory on their souls.

Slowly, the hapless passengers and crew roused themselves to an awareness of the devastating scene around them. Once those present had ascertained that they were still in possession of their own lives, their thoughts turned immediately to those of their loved ones.

It is at this precise moment we find Alice, frantically looking around for her sister and her nephews. She sees young David standing along side the coil of rope his mother had been sitting on, less than a minute ago. He appears quite stunned and it is apparent that he is taking longer to work out that he didn't get washed overboard, than the adults around him.

She then spots a bottom. It is suspended in mid air, on the ocean side of the railing. Not too concerned about the fact that this is very unusual, her normal sense of "usual" being on hold for the time being, she



runs over to investigate and finds John dangling by his suspenders.

Clarence and Richmond Examiner and New England Advertiser (Grafton, NSW : 1859 - 1889), Saturday 13 October 1888

**"A Terrible Tale of the Sea.
Swept Overboard in a Gale.**

THE boisterous southerly weather which has prevailed in Sydney for the last 48 hours has borne its sad fruit. The U.S.S. Co.'s Mararoa, which arrived in port on Monday evening from New Zealand, bears the marks of having encountered one of the most terrible seas that ever broke aboard a ship and maimed humanity. During Monday afternoon last the steamer was making her usual course, and although she had fallen in with a heavy southerly gale she was making fair easy weather of it in the direction of home. About three o'clock the steamer was going comparatively comfortable, the passengers, despite the flying spray and whistling wind had mounted to the hurricane deck, when, without a second's warning, the ship heeled hard to lee-ward and a great green sea towering above the weather-rail broke with an awful crash and roar on deck. The scene, of

course, can never be described, for the ship seemed as if the overwhelming weight of water would crush her under for ever; but as the flooded deck became gradually clearer, the terrible work of that sea was manifest. It was at once ascertained that a Mrs. Henderson and her child had been swept overboard and lost. The unfortunate woman, who was it appears coming to Sydney en route to Ballarat to join her husband, was standing by the lee-rail with her child in her arms when that sea broke aboard and carried them to their death. Two other passengers named Leonard White and Stanley Herbert were struck by the same sea and hurled aft, by which each sustained a broken leg. Other passengers were more or less injured by the wave, and a sailor named Jones had his leg fractured. With sadness it has to be recorded that a sister of Mrs. Henderson's was standing near her at the time of the disaster, having in her charge two other children belonging to the unfortunate woman. One of the little ones narrowly escaped its mother's fate, being washed against the rail, upon which it hung until the sea passed from the deck.-Star" 🌿

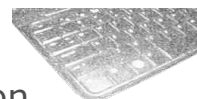
Free Ancestry Access via Central Coast Library

A message from Michelle Goldsmith at Central Coast Library

Just a quick note to advise that free remote access to Ancestry via Central Coast Library will continue at least until 31 August 2020. It will be reviewed at that stage.

You must be a member of the Library Service. Ancestry.com is accessed via the member services section of the [online catalogue](#) .

Please keep an eye on ['What's on'](#) for online family history events including our weekly History Half Hours, as well as talks from Ancestry and State Archives during Family History Month. ... 🌿

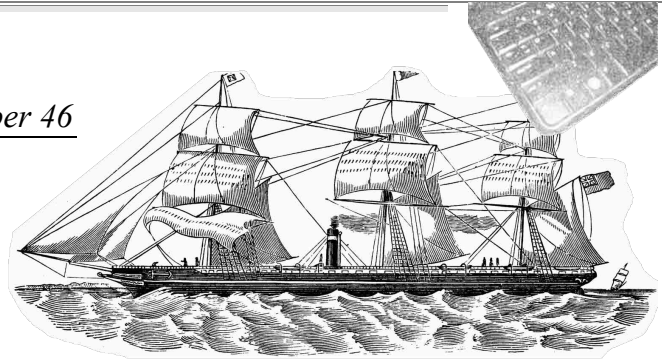


Shipping

Beryl Watson member 46

Did you know that State library in Sydney have photographs of ships, [mostly Sail] that may relate to convict transport? Known as the Nicholls collection, and you can find some ships come up several times, depending when the ship was built.

You need to do a Google search at home, to save you time at the



counter so that you go armed with the correct details of the ship your convict came on. ... 🌳

Transport

Members – Transport to and from The Cottage is a problem for some of our members.

If you have any ideas, email The Secretary: secwfhg2@westnet.com.au

or phone (02) 4351 2211 during open hours. ... 🌳



Howlong

Helen Johnston-Lord member 505

Family History has opened my mind to The World.

Place names appear fleetingly in the story of a person of interest.

I have no idea who I was researching when the town Howlong appeared in a record. This piqued my curiosity. A few more questions for Google and I found something about this town with a population of around 2,500 sitting in the crossroads of Australia's East Coast History.

The name Howlong is derived from the Aboriginal word 'Oolong', meaning a gathering of native companions (Brolga birds), and these birds still nest in the district today.

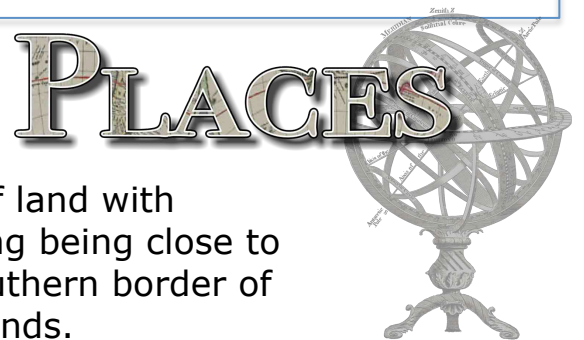
Before the arrival of Europeans the area was inhabited by the Wiradjuri people who wandered across a large

tract of land with Howlong being close to the southern border of their lands.

Howlong's colonial origins can be traced back to 1836 when NSW surveyor-general Major Mitchell set up camp on the southern bank of the Murray before crossing the river as part of his Australia Felix expedition.

In 1838 Joseph Hawdon set off from Howlong on the first Overland Cattle Drive to Adelaide, with 340 head of cattle. The same river crossing used by Hawdon was used that year for the first overland mail delivery, using horse and saddlebags from Port Phillip (Melbourne) to Yass, and then on to Sydney via stagecoach. This river crossing is now serviced by modern bridges.

The town was surveyed in 1854



and town blocks went on sale in 1856.

With historic buildings scattered throughout the town, Howlong's History Trail provides the perfect way to explore this quintessential Australian country town. The trail totals 13.3kms and covers 28 significant locations in the area.

The Flour Mill, Residence and Mill Hotel are one of the major historic attractions you will find along the trail. The mill was operated by a 26-horsepower engine that ran six millstones and commenced production in 1867. The flour won a gold medal at the Philadelphia World Fair in 1876.

The mill featured an exhaust fan that sucked refuse instead of blowing it over the countryside, indicating that Howlong was in the conservation and environmental business in 1867.

Howlong has many Memorials, not all related to conflict, however they do reflect some historic events. ie:



The Historic 100-Mile Horse Race At Howlong, 1873:

[NOTE: Description report terminology circa the year of the race slightly modified.]

"A race of a novel character was carried off on the Howlong racecourse on Tuesday.

It arose out of a dispute between brothers Jack and Tom Everitt, concerning the stamina of two horses, Viking and John Sullivan.

Mr. John Everett's brown gelding, Viking, was matched to run 8 stone up, a race of 100 miles, against Mr. Edward Brown's chest-nut horse, Jack Sullivan, carrying the same weight.

The men and horses started at 7:00 am, and the first twenty miles was done in one hour and twenty minutes.

At noon, sixty miles having been got over, a quarter of an hour was devoted to rest and feeding.

The race was then resumed, and after seven hours and forty-one minutes running, during which a distance of 88 miles was accomplished, Jack Sullivan broke down, and soon after the stake of £50 was handed over to the owner of Viking.

Police proceedings followed on a charge of cruelty against both horse owners.

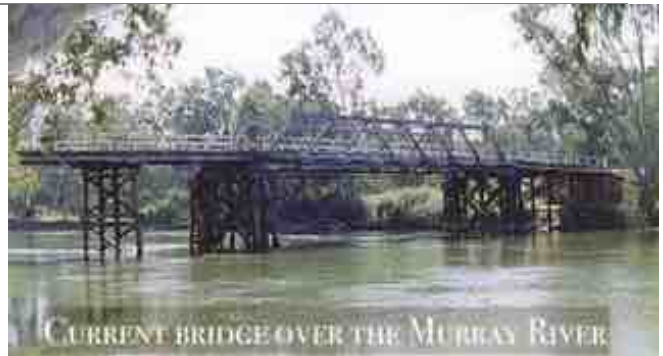
The case was tried at Howlong at the hotel and no cruelty was the verdict,



Mr Edwards 1865 flour mill then & now

based on evidence by the Police Constable at Howlong, in fact Viking, after his 92 mile marathon, his 15 stone owner mounted, jumped over a fence and headed home to Tarrawingee 30 miles away".
http://www.howlonghistory.com.au/html_stuff/horserace.html

With the recent COVID-19 closure of the NSW/Victoria border this crossing, about 28 km west of the busy Albury/Wodonga crossing, is now manned. This friendly little town has welcomed those personnel controlling the crossing as well as any visitors taking the time to visit the delightful historic town. Apparently not as popular as the Echuca/Mildura crossing, the passage is a little quicker.



NSW police patrol the NSW-Victoria border crossing in Howlong near Albury.
 Photograph: Lukas Coch/AAP. ... 🌳



Abraham Hopkins Davis

The Reedbeds Years

Helen Burkett Member 342

Abraham Hopkins Davis arrived in South Australia in 1838, two years after it was first colonised,

leaving behind him a life as a publisher of fine books but without the business acumen to accompany it. Accordingly he and his partner Frederick Westley had been made bankrupt and Abraham brought his wife and family to Adelaide to start a new life. This he did with gusto, entering into the beginnings of the new colony in every avenue available.

He kept a diary during his time at sea and sent excerpts back to the Entomological group that he had established in London and they were

published over a number of volumes but he mainly spoke of birds, animals and insects except on a couple of occasions. I will add here that the name above his on the list of members was Charles Darwin. The final paragraph of his diary stated:

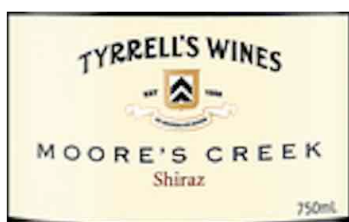
Adelaide, April 24th, 1838

We arrived safely in Holdford (sic) Bay on the 16th of this month. I went on shore at midnight with a naval officer, and accompanied him with the mail to this place. The country and climate are delightful. The expectations I had formed were moderate, I am therefore more than surprised at the rapid progress making here: houses are springing up in every direction. There are all the elements of a flourishing community here. A. H. Davis

Abraham was born in 1796 in Surrey, and married at the age of 22 to Mary Ann Williams whom he met when they sat in adjoining pews at Surrey Chapel in Southwark.¹ They had five children, four of whom accompanied them to South Australia on board the *Lord Goderich*, one daughter having died in England. What a huge shock the very new and raw township of Adelaide must have been to the family but it appears that they all made the best of it and Abraham soon commenced a business as a merchant and started to rebuild a life for them. Initially the family lived in a tent on Rundle Street.²

As soon as they could manage it, and approximately a year after arriving, the family bought a property on the outskirts of Adelaide and Abraham established Moore Farm at the ReedBeds where, as the years went by, he built up an impressive vineyard and an orchard of fruit trees. In later years his wines were chosen to be sent to the Exhibition of all Nations³ and his fruits were highly prized for jams.⁴ He acquired vine cuttings from the James Busby collection in Sydney and planted them in Adelaide Botanic Gardens for future vignerons.

Vine cuttings from the Busby collection in the Sydney Botanic Gardens were introduced to Adelaide by A. H. Davis of Moore Farm in or about 1839. These were planted in the Adelaide Botanic Gardens and these seem to have been progenitors of many South Australian vineyards (De Castella, 1942) Zante Currants were

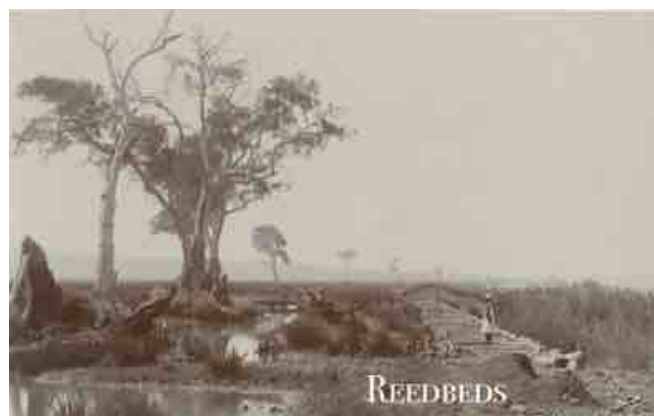


*introduced into South Australia in 1839 and in that year there were over 60 varieties of grapevines in the colony.*⁵

A Moore Farm shiraz was produced in 2008 and featured by the David Jones Wine Club as an acknowledgement of the Moore Farm influence and also stating that A. H. Davis was one of the forgotten pioneers of the South Australian wine industry.⁶

The 1840 Cultivators⁷ report states that Moore Farm consisted of 125 acres, part with dog leg fence and part with posts and four rails. Water was supplied from the Torrens and reported as an excellent supply. Under cultivation were 9 acres wheat, 11 acres barley, 21 acres oats, 2 acres maize, 10 acres potatoes and 4 acres of garden. There were 2 dwelling houses, barn, stable and stockyard on the farm – an amazing achievement in such a short space of time.

1840 was also the year that the Corporation of Adelaide was established and that made it the first



Municipality in Australia. Abraham was elected as an Alderman but went bankrupt once again during 1842, a time of great financial difficulty for the Corporation as well. He is the alderman referred to as becoming disqualified due to insolvency in the Pioneer Society Booklet 8/51 during an address given by the then Lord Mayor of Adelaide, Mr. Arthur Rymill in 1951. From that time on Abraham concentrated on Moore Farm and the wonderful production of goods he was able to grow and sell. In 1844 there were added 14 cattle, 3 horses, and 15 pigs, together with an increase in production to 65 acres wheat and 10 acres of garden, with a drop to 10 acres barley and 3 acres oats.⁸

The Adelaide Miscellany contains Extracts from "Leaves from the Note Book of a Naturalist – A walk by the Torrens" (1849) by A.H.Davis and gives a very interesting vignette of the local aboriginal people fishing on its banks.⁹ Abraham was always a strong advocate for the aboriginal people, evidenced by information given in a book written by Dr Greg Taylor in 2005.¹⁰

There are many and varied articles by and about Abraham Hopkins Davis in South Australian papers over the years but a good example of the output from Moore Farm is given by the Adelaide Morning Chronicle 18 Feb 1853 when first prizes for the following were achieved.

Honey – best sample

Wax – best sample

Wine, red – best sample

Wine, white – best sample

Also recommended for prizes were his bottled fruits, vinegar 2 varieties,

Universal Sauce, Mushroom Ketchup, Pickled Mushrooms and Liquors 11 varieties. A particularly interesting write up about the making of Moore Park jams and wines can be found in the South Australian Register 19 Feb 1863.

Moore Farm had its own listing in Bailliere's South Australian Gazetteer and Road Guide of 1866 stating it was then a property of 25 acres and was producing Muscat, Crystal, Shiraz, Verdello, Frontignac and Gouais grapes. The ReedBeds entry is listed as being "a vast area of flat swampy agricultural land lying near the coast to the south of Port Adelaide. The Torrens River and several small creeks empty themselves into this flat, these waters draining off by a few watercourses, most of which flow into the Gulf of St Vincent at Glenelg" It also mentions here that there is a troop of volunteer cavalry in this neighbourhood. Of course, Abraham was involved in the Reed Beds Volunteer Cavalry, raised in 1860 and disbanded in 1867. They took themselves very seriously and had a smart uniform described as grey doeskin with a black helmet.¹¹

A tiny excerpt from a letter in family possession and written by Ellen Francis Davis, daughter in law of Abraham, on 5 Jan 1860 to her cousin in England and when the heat was fearsome in Adelaide states that she had the job of tending over 50 ducks and chickens. She also mentioned that the grape season was upon them and they have an immense crop that summer though, because of the dry winter and hot summer every other fruit except apples and pears would be short in quantity.

From 1853 to 1859 Abraham was the first Chairman of the West Torrens District Council, just the second council area to be declared in South Australia.

Abraham Hopkins Davis died at Moore Farm on the 4th June 1866 and two comprehensive obituaries appeared in newspapers in the month of June with copies being taken up by another dozen newspapers.

Notes & References

3. The Evangelical Magazine & Missionary Chronicle 1866, Memoir of Late Rev Charles Williams, brother-in-law of AHD
4. Edmund H.D. Davis grandson interview, Worthy S.A. Pioneer The Advertiser 6 Nov 1940
5. Bailliere's SA Gazeteer and Road Guide 1866

6. Ebenezer Ward 1861, Vineyards & Orchards of S.A.
7. Krake, Scott, Rezaian & Taylor, Graft-transmitted diseases of grape vines
8. Tasting Notes
9. Register 19 Jun 1841 p4
10. S.A. Almanack & General Colonial Directory 1844
11. Darrell N Kraehenbuehl Pre-European Vegetation of Adelaide: A Survey from the Gawler River to Hallett Cove
12. Greg Taylor 'A Great and Glorious Reformation' Six Early South Australian Legal Innovations
13. L. E. Buckell, Reedbeds Mounted Volunteers

Helen Burkett: I am Abraham Hopkins Davis' 3xgreat granddaughter. ... 🌿

Three Ways to Unravel the Mysteries of Your Female Ancestors



Suggested by Lynda Smith LM 2

An old photograph. A woman sits before a plain backdrop in a white linen dress. Extraordinary wisdom is reflected in her expressive eyes.

You remember your mother saying that this was a great aunt, but otherwise the woman in the picture is shrouded in mystery. "Her story must be known!" you think. "What she must have seen and done!"

Surfacing information about your female ancestors can provide great inspiration. It can also be more challenging than discovering details about male relatives. Many historical documents only list women by their married name, or even by the name of their husband.

We all have **brave and inspiring female ancestors** – women of conviction – deserving to have their



stories told. March is Women's History Month, an ideal time to unravel the mysteries of undiscovered or little-known female relatives. Let these tips guide you!

1. Mine Male Records

Unraveling the mysteries of women relatives, says genealogist **Michael John Neill** of RootDig.com, doesn't begin with researching female ancestors. "The first step," he tells FamilySearch, "is to fully document

the male ancestor and to look for hidden clues that will lead to information about the women in his life.”

Start by looking at [probate records](#) for your male ancestors. Women in the past often didn’t receive automatic guardianship of inherited money or estates. Therefore, if a husband died owning property or a business, the remaining family members would often go to probate court in order to determine who would oversee finances.

Estate records of male relatives can also reveal names or locations of female ancestors. Fathers, brothers, and uncles may all leave part of their estate to the women in their family. Even if the will doesn’t give a female ancestor’s last name, accounting records might have more details.

You can locate probate records through FamilySearch’s [historical records search](#).

2. Let History Be Your Guide

To shine a light on the stories of female ancestors, [Lisa Alzo](#) of [The Accidental Genealogist](#) recommends creating a timeline of historical events that took place during their lives. These events can shed invaluable perspective and identify cause-and-effect situations. For instance, you might find that the Great Depression or World War II propelled your mother or grandmother into the work force.

War widows also frequently had to provide details about their relationship and life when applying for a pension after a husband’s death. If a male ancestor served in the military in the 19th or early 20th century, details about female ancestors may be contained in [pension records](#).

To create a historical timeline that matches up with your female ancestor’s life:

Establish a timeline that begins with the woman’s birth and ends with her death. Detail everything you know about her, including her marriage date and children’s birth dates and places.

Add in life events, such as migrations and hospitalizations, as you uncover them. Incorporate significant national and international events, such as wars and epidemics. Work in local events you discover in county histories, which are often available at libraries and online bookstores.

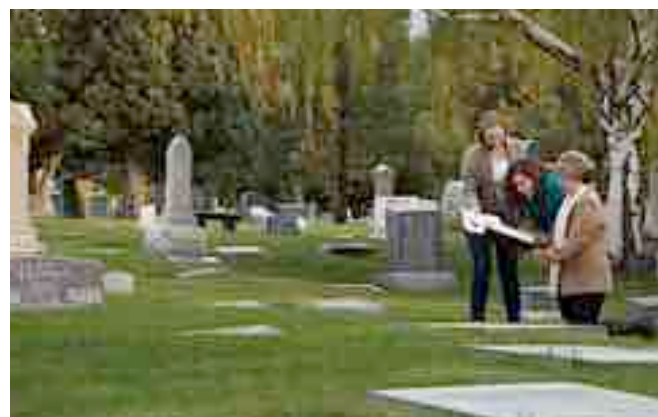
You can get started on a timeline by finding birth and death records at FamilySearch’s [Search Historical Records](#) page.

3. Hunt for Headstones

“Loving wife and mother of six dedicated to helping those less fortunate.”

We can learn so much from gravestones. These markers often vividly evoke the spirit of departed family members. Tom Comstock of [BillionGraves](#) says an ancestor’s final resting place can also be an excellent source of detail about women relatives.

The gravestone of a female ancestor may provide the last place she lived and uncover family



relationships, middle and maiden names, and dates of birth and death. Emblems on headstones can reveal religious beliefs, professions, and memberships. Epitaphs may reveal a wide range of details about an ancestor's life.

To start your headstone hunt, Tom recommends visiting the [BillionGraves Index](#) on FamilySearch. "If you can find one member of your family," he says, "you can often find many others who were connected with that person by looking at the people who were buried nearby." Researching female ancestors can be a challenge, but [just one hidden clue](#) can help you unravel the mystery of that little-known great aunt – or another relative who proves to be a woman of conviction. By piecing these stories together, you'll enrich your family legacy while honoring the heritage of female ancestors during Women's History Month.

A Mother Whose Price Is Far Above Rubies

Where electoral rolls/registers are



available, use the timeline you suggest to plot when a woman would have become eligible to vote. Usually this would have started with them being with their parents. If lucky she and her newly-wed spouse might have had to live with her mum and dad for the first years of their marriage – double bonus of finding the spouse!

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A Word about Membership Renewals

*Interruptions to our operations caused by **COVID-19***

Pam Mansergh LM 14. Membership Secretary.

It is time to renew your membership.

Renewal is due 1 July to 30 September 2020.

Your Management Committee have announced the following changes to renewal costs. *This is a one time only arrangement.*

Renewing Single Member: \$30.00

New Single Member: \$40.00

***Renewing** Family Members: \$37.50

***New** Family Members: \$50.00

* *Family Members - Up to 3 Family members who are all living at the one address.*

To **renew** on-line go to <http://www.wyongfamilyhistory.com.au/new-memberships-202021.html>

For other options phone The Cottage on (02) 4351-2211

(Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm). ... 🌿



HISTORY GROUP INC.

Birthday and Jubilee Mines

Helen Johnston-Lord member 505



Living in the Magical NSW Central Coast most of us are aware of the controversy and implications of the coal in our area.

Many of us know, whatever your ecological thoughts, Coal is an important part of Australia's economy.

Newcastle is the town that grew around the Hunter mines, expanding to become the port for one of the greatest coalfields in the world.

The Coal loading terminal at Hay Point near Mackay in Queensland is indeed a sight to see.

Balmain Colliery

The cost of transporting coal from Newcastle provided an incentive for local exploration and bores were drilled in various places from the late 1870s. In the early 1890s the Sydney and Port Hacking Coal Company found a good seam at about 900 metres under Cremorne and sought a suitable site for surface workings. Local property owners objected to a coal mine in their backyards and the company settled on a site in Birchgrove bounded by Birchgrove Road, Water Street and the Birchgrove Public School. The Birchgrove area was already semi-industrial and another major employer was welcome.

The first shaft, named 'Birthday', was sunk between 1897 and 1902. Both this and the second shaft 'Jubilee', were 5.5 metres in diameter and were fully lined with more than four million bricks. The sinking of the shafts did not always



Kooragang Island Coal Terminal, Newcastle, NSW



Hay Point Coal Terminal, near Mackay, Q'land [Eloora Studio]



Balmain Colliery

go smoothly. In 1900 five men being lowered in a bucket were tipped out 120 metres from the bottom and fell to their deaths. The sinkers went on lengthy strikes in 1902 and again in 1905. All five were buried together with a large red granite memorial to those who lost their lives over the graves in Rookwood Cemetery.

In 1902 the Birthday shaft struck coal at about 900 metres, making this the deepest coal mine in Australia, but it was a thin seam and the decision was made to extend the mine towards the more promising Cremorne bore which, being at the same depth, was assumed to be part of the same stratum of coal. This necessitated long drives in an easterly direction under the Balmain peninsula, but because the company held a license only to mine under the harbour and public reserves, a special Act of Parliament (*Sydney Harbour Colliery Act, 1903*) was needed to permit tunneling under private land.

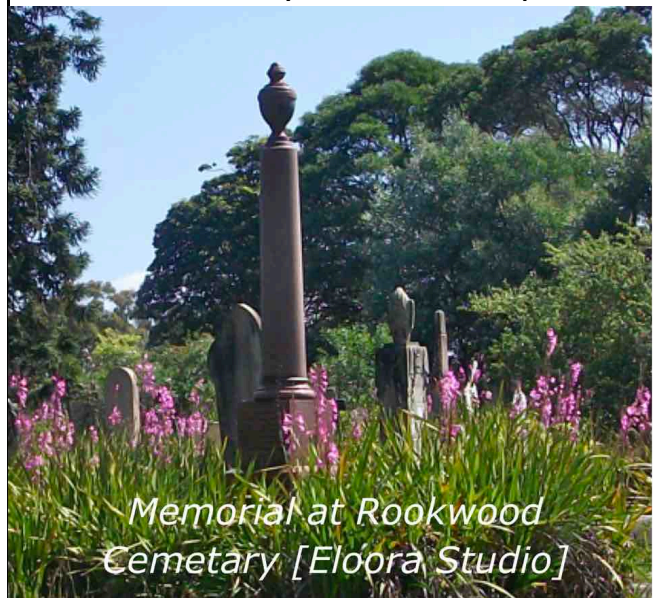
Financial Difficulties

The company faced heavy costs, not only for the extensive tunneling required but also for the cost of surface machinery and buildings. It never managed to produce enough coal from the thin seam being worked to cover these capital costs and work ceased in 1915. The mine was reopened in 1924 but as the working face advanced further and further from the shafts, ventilation became a problem, along with the logistics of transporting men and coal long distances to and from the shafts. Rather than continuing to tunnel towards Cremorne, the workings spread out beneath the harbour between the Balmain peninsula, Balls Head and Goat Island. Finances continued to present a challenge and in 1928 the company was reorganised on a semi-cooperative basis. The miners became the Balmain Coal Contracting Company and took over the running of mining operations, selling their coal to the parent company, renamed Sydney Collieries

Ltd.

About 300 men were employed at any one time, working three shifts a day. Working conditions were unpleasant. Because the working face was about three kilometres from the shafts, ventilation was poor and the mine was very hot, humid and dusty. The roof tended to break away leaving dust and rubble blocking the narrow low-roofed passageways, which were also littered by the dung from the ponies that were used to pull coal wagons.

To make a profit wages and conditions had to be compromised, which caused conflict with the Miners' Federation. The union sought to preserve and enhance miners' conditions in other collieries and feared that Balmain was setting an undesirable precedent. Sydney Collieries finally went into liquidation



Memorial at Rookwood Cemetery [Eloora Studio]



A view down the Shaft

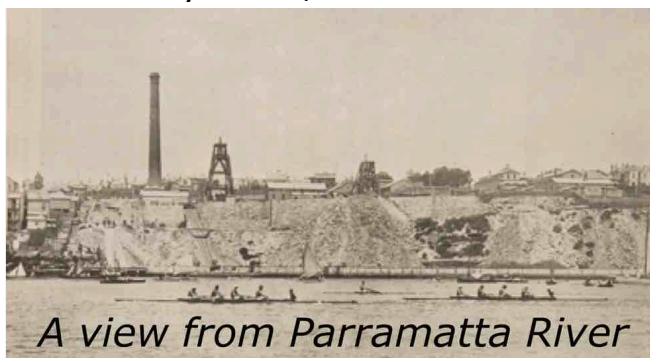
in 1931. The mothers of children at the adjacent school must have been relieved; their children had returned home every afternoon with their clothes blackened from the coal dust, which blew into the playground with every breeze.

Methane Gas Production

In 1932 the mine was taken over by the Natural Gas & Oil Corporation which expected to find oil or methane gas if a bore was put down a further kilometre or so below the bottom of the mine shafts. In 1933 two men preparing to bore were fatally injured in an explosion. By 1937 the bore had reached about 1.5 kilometres but gas flow was weak and the expected reservoir of gas had not been found. In 1945 another explosion killed three men. During and after World War II the gas was compressed and sold as fuel, but gas flows diminished and production ceased in 1950.

Reuse of the Site

In the 1950s the Birthday and Jubilee shafts were filled in with fly ash from the nearby White Bay Power Station and concrete seals placed on the shaft heads. In the half century since, it is assumed that



A view from Parramatta River



Hopetoun Quays

most of the workings have collapsed and filled with water. The site was used as an industrial depot for several decades and is now occupied by Hopetoun Quays, a development of more than a hundred townhouses. In 2014 Leichhardt Council placed a plaque at the corner of Water and River Streets, Birchgrove to mark the site and commemorate those who worked and died there.

In 1956, the 192 feet chimney was felled, although that did not go quite to plan with the back yards of some houses being filled with bricks.

At present mines in the southwestern coalfield are working at over 1500 feet. It seems certain that coal will eventually be mined again at a depth of over 2000 feet not far from Sydney.

In 2020, known for Darling Street, historic houses and blue ribbon peninsula setting, Balmain is without question one of Sydney's most exclusive suburbs. Balmain today is home to many of Australia's leading progressive, creative and social luminaries.

Hopetoun Quays now occupies the site where the pit-head once stood.

Sydney Mail 1 September 1926



A broadcasting party who descended nearly 3000 feet below Sydney Harbour, Balmain august 1926

"A broadcasting party was afforded an interesting experience on Sunday, when, in conjunction with Farmer's broadcasting service, a programme of vocal and instrumental items was

transmitted from the depths of the Sydney Harbour Colliery. About 60 people assembled at the pit-mouth at Balmain and were lowered to the bottom of the shaft, a distance of over 2800 feet. Here several selections were broadcast by the 17th Area B Military Band. Members of the Sydney Harmonic Male Voice Choir rendered solo and choral selections from a point near the coalface, three-quarters of a mile from the entrance to the main drive, and nearly 3000 feet below the surface of the harbour. Despite the illumination afforded by the electric safety lamps with which the party had

been provided, a certain eeriness was not dispelled until the silence was broken by the lusty male voices. Even then the incongruity of the situation became apparent only when one realised that, far above, busy ferries were plying their accustomed routes."

Notes & Resources:

Both names commemorated Queen Victoria.

The Dictionary of Sydney

From the collections of the State Library of New South Wales

Sydney Mail 1 September 1926)



A Reminder For Members

Members are reminded that anytime they are at 'The Cottage' for any purpose, they have to wear their membership card and do so in such a manner that it is clearly displayed.

Adhering to the strict **COVID-19** protocols as listed on page 3 is a condition of entry to 'The Cottage'. Your courtesy is appreciated. ... 🌳

Special Interest Groups

Here at Wyong Family History Group Inc. most our range of Special Interest Groups [SIG] is in recess due to **COVID-19** restrictions. Watch this space for details of resumption.

In these sessions members with common interests meet, learn, practice and share their special interest. They are free to members and go for one to two hours.

Recent Groups offered include:

- 🌳 Computer/Social Media - resuming Saturday 29 August
Booking Essential
- 🌳 Family Tree Maker - resuming Thursday 13 August
Booking Essential

- 🌳 DNA
- 🌳 Scottish/Irish
- 🌳 Microsoft Word & Office
- 🌳 [UTAS] The Diploma of Family History

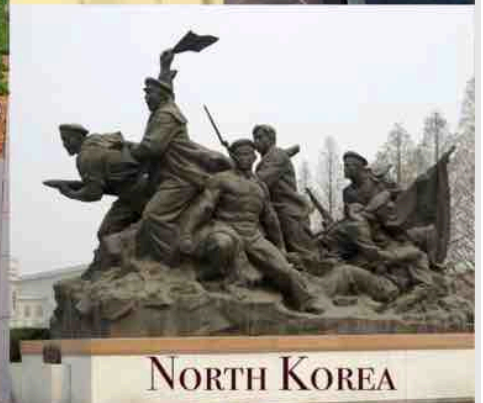
We will also run information sessions. These sessions are usually an hour or so and may just give your research and what you do with it, a boost!



Their War

They are remembered

**They sleep not in their native land,
but beneath a foreign sky,
Far away from those who loved them,
in hero's graves they lie.**



Korea – The Forgotten War

Sergeant Bill Collings, Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF): "No-one knew I was home from Korea. 'What are those medals for?' — they just didn't have a clue, really."

Helen Johnston-Lord member 505

From the days before television, I have vague childhood memories of the cessation of hostilities in Korea. I have previously mentioned family in the RAAF with my parents expressing concern for their wellbeing.

In the aftermath of the Second World War (1939-1945), communities were still coming to terms with the devastation which that conflict had caused, and the millions it had killed. Yet only five years after the end of this war, another was to break out, and again Australia would commit its forces. It was the Korean War.

Korea was a place that few Australians knew much about, until 1950.

Australia's involvement in the Korean War won much praise from other nations. Awards and decorations given to Australians during the war totalled 615, while awards given to Australians by other countries numbered 173. Australia also gained many political and security benefits, the most important

being the signing of the ANZUS Treaty with the United States and New Zealand.

Skipping forward to the 1970s, the movie *M*A*S*H* and later the TV series of the same name brought some to the early 1950s conflict. Although loosely based on a true character, this series depicted many of the problems encountered in Korea. [I understand it was basically a protest against the Vietnam War]

25 June this year marked the 70th anniversary of the start of the Korean War. Commemorations were held to mark the occasion.

From Australia, the first to be sent to South Korea was the RAAF's 77 Squadron along with the frigate *HMAS Shoalhaven* and the destroyer *HMAS Bataan* — all of which were stationed in Japan at the time.

The Korean War was primarily a land war. In September 1950 the government sent the 3rd Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment (3 RAR), followed by 1 RAR and 2 RAR. Australia did not introduce conscription for the Korean War even though this commitment required almost all of Australia's regular infantry troops.



The Australian military served with distinction during the war. At the Battle of Kapyong an Australian battalion (approximately 800 soldiers) along with another from Canada defeated an entire Chinese division (approximately 15,000 men) and prevented it from taking Seoul. Both battalions were awarded US Presidential Unit Citations.

Nearly 18,000 Australian soldiers, sailors, airmen and nurses served in the war.

Forgotten War

It is not known exactly how many people died in the Korean War, but an estimated four million Korean and Chinese people died. More than half were Korean civilians.

About 37,000 UN troops were killed. Over 17,000 Australians served during the Korean War, of which 340 were killed and over 1,216 wounded. A further 30 had become prisoners of war.

Australian servicemen and women returning from Korea were largely greeted with indifference. The Australian public was unsupportive of a war that had become mired in stalemate with an enemy that, at the time, posed no direct threat to Australia.

Legacy of the Korean War

Though the Korean and Vietnam wars were both direct conflicts with communism, the Korean War differs from the Vietnamese in that it did prevent the communist north's conquest of the south.

The newly formed UN passed this test of its effectiveness, but only just. It was the first conflict of the Cold War, and one that could have escalated into a nuclear conflict.

US Involvement

The 1951 Battle of Heartbreak

Ridge was one of several major engagements in the hills of North Korea with heavy US involvement, a few miles north of the 38th Parallel (the pre-war boundary between North and South Korea), near Chorwon. For the Chinese, this battle is often confused with the Battle of Triangle Hill, which occurred a year later.

This battle is associated with the title and backstory of the 1986 movie *Heartbreak Ridge* directed by and starring Clint Eastwood. Eastwood's character is a fictional veteran of the battle at Heartbreak Ridge (as is one other character), for which he received the Medal of Honor. The movie itself is a fictional account of events that took place during actual operations in Grenada.

Is it really over?

The armistice was signed at 10 am on 27 July 1953. Sporadic fighting continued throughout the day, but as evening fell the guns fell silent. The armistice came into effect at 10 pm, ending three years, one month, and two days of war in Korea. The end came so suddenly that some soldiers took some convincing that the fighting was really over. The former belligerent nations each withdrew two kilometres in accordance with the armistice agreement, forming the Demilitarized Zone [DMZ] which still exists today.

Australian Forces remained in Korea as part of the multi-national



peacekeeping force until 1957.

Today, Korea is still a flashpoint where much sabre rattling is often reported.

Most War Memorials in Australia have plaques dedicated to the Korean War, however in recent times Memorials to those who served and fell in this conflict have been built and dedicated around the world. ... 🌳

Armistice

An armistice is a formal agreement of warring parties to stop fighting. It is not necessarily the end of a war, as it may constitute only a cessation of hostilities while an attempt is made to negotiate a lasting peace. It is derived from the Latin arma, meaning "arms" (as in weapons) and -stitium, meaning "a stopping". ... 🌳

The Case of the Disappearing Soldier

Lynda Smith LM 2

I recently searched TROVE for some background information on the HALVORSEN line in my cousin's family tree. One of his relatives, Harriet BLAXELL, married a Danish gentleman called Georg Vilhelm Marius HALVORSEN in Stockton, NSW in 1890. Georg, later known as George or William, became a naturalised citizen. He and Harriet had a number of children in NSW before moving to WA. I don't yet know the reason for the relocation, but the story that emerged is certainly an intriguing one.

Harriet and George had Gladys in 1891 and Allan G in 1893. Sadly, Allan also died in 1893 in NSW. They went on to have William Alroe in 1895 and Harrie Blaxell in 1898, both in WA.

William, known in the family as 'Billie', decided to join up on 31 August 1915. He left Fremantle on 2 November 1915. By June 1916, he was fighting on the Western front. On 9 Sept. 1916 he was reported missing, presumed killed in action. His family was sent one of those terrible telegrams. As the family was very well known in WA, many newspapers then picked up the story. This one gives extra detail about the family.

Camp Chronicle (Midland Junction, WA : 1915 - 1918), Thursday 28 September 1916

The Late Lieut. W. A. Halvorsen

"The sad news has just been received that Lieut. 'Bill' Halvorsen, son of Sergt.-Major Halvorsen, of A.M.C., has been killed in action. The late Lieut. Halvorsen left Blackboy in November last with the 6th/28th. He was then a Sergeant, but, owing to his reinforcements being absorbed in the 51st Battalion in Egypt he lost his stripes there, but soon re-gained them in his new regiment. Latterly he was Sergeant in charge of a Battalion Intelligence Platoon engaged in the hazardous work of patrolling No Man's Land. For meritorious service in this connection he received his commission, although under 21 years of age. A letter containing the news of his promotion was received only a day or two before the sad intelligence of his death came to hand. Lieutenant Halvorsen had a hereditary vendetta against the Boches extending back over four generations. His great grandfather in Denmark fought against the Germans in 1844, his grandfather was away fighting them in the sixties at the time his father was born, the latter is now doing his bit here, while the late officer has played a worthy part against the Huns in blood-soaked Flanders. To Sergt.-Major Halvorsen and the bereaved relatives the 'Chronicle' extends its

sincere sympathy. The late Lieut. Halvorsen was formerly a telegraphist in the Postal Department, and both at Midland Junction and at the G.P.O. he was exceedingly popular with his fellow officers."

The next one covers Billie's military career in more detail.

Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Thursday 28 September 1916.

Lieut. Halvorsen Killed

A Gallant Boy Officer Concludes A Proud Career.

"A wide circle of acquaintances will learn with regret that official advice has been received of the death on active service of Lieut. William Halvorsen, son of Sergeant -Major, Halvorsen, A.M.C., Blackboy, and Mrs. W. Halvorsen, Stafford-street, Midland Junction. Lieut. Halvorsen was only 20, and was one of the youngest commissioned officers in the Australian army. His record of active service was exceptionally good. Son of a soldier, he came out of the cadet forces with a thorough knowledge of military matters, and he did not take long to distinguish himself at Blackboy Hill, where he won three stripes. Leaving here with reinforcements, he reached France with the main Australian forces, and from the time our men went into the trenches on the western front until September 3, when he fell, he was continuously/ conspicuous. To him was allotted the dangerous duties of sergeant of the patrol, and it was for the daring exploits accomplished in this capacity that he won the recognition of his superiors, and was mentioned in despatches, afterwards being promoted to commissioned rank. The patrol is virtually the eyes and ears of the battalion, and its work is done at night time, in the fire-swept reaches

of no-man's land. It is related of young Halvorsen that on one occasion, he was required to detail two men for a particularly dangerous mission between the opposing trenches. Declaring that he would not ask his men to go where he feared to venture himself, he elected to lead the party and, choosing a volunteer, went forward to the task, which was successfully accomplished. This and other like instances are recorded to the credit of the young hero, who was the idol of his platoon. Monday's mail brought the news that reward had come in the shape of promotion: on the field, and yesterday his parents were informed that he had made the last sacrifice."

A third report gives graphic detail of Bill's demise.

Camp Chronicle (Midland Junction, WA : 1915 - 1918), Thursday 23 November 1916.

The Late Lieut. Halvorsen.

"Sergt-Major Halvorsen has received a message from Lieut.-Colonel Ross, O.C. of the 51st Battalion, explaining the circumstances under which his son, Lieut. Halvorsen, was killed. Colonel Ross writes under date September 10:

'This is to say how sorry we all are about your son's death. He was killed at the head of his men in an attack on Mouquet Farm on the morning of September 3. He had risen from the ranks and was doing full justice to his commission. He was a most valuable officer, and altogether a splendid fellow of the type which we can ill spare, conscientious and brave.'

In a letter to Mrs. Halvorsen, Sergt. Les Morrison amplifies the information contained in the above letter. He writes inter alia: "Bill came in to see' me the night before the big action. Our Brigade came out of the line and his went in to do a big job. I knew

what it meant. All of our men marched back, but I remained behind for over three hours on that morning in hopes of get-ting some news of how things were going from the wounded men. Billy was O.K. up till 11 am, that was on September 4. I couldn't wait any longer and was forced to follow up our Brigade. A few days ago Bill's battalion was near us, and I took a run over and to my dismay Bill was not to be found. I was very upset when I was told the facts of the case. The charge took place early in the morning. Bill was in the last platoon of the battalion, and his Job was to connect up with the other battalion along the line. A very responsible task it was, too. He accomplished his job splendidly, and got to his objective and 200yds. beyond it and dug in. The orders were to hold on, and hold on they did — but oh, the cost! They became isolated practically and were heavily, shelled, and also suffered much from machine gun fire. How long Billy was there I have not yet been able to ascertain. Billy's bravery and devotion to duty were very pronounced. All of a sudden there was a lot of firing, which seemed to come from somewhere close. This was when Bill was hit—right through the forehead. I got my in-formation from a Sergt.-Major, and think there is no doubt as to its correctness. He was idolised by all his battalion, and was one of the finest soldiers that ever came away to crush a common enemy. He had a fine military career ahead of him, but died for his country before it was attained."

One can't imagine the grief experienced by his family. His body had not been found, but in the trenches of the Western Front, this

was a too common event. Life continued, just a little sadder, for some months, until the family received word that Billie was, in fact, a wounded prisoner of war, in a German hospital! So much for the shot through the forehead. The family must have been ecstatic!

Camp Chronicle (Midland Junction, WA : 1915 - 1918), Thursday 14 December 1916:

Lieut. W. Halvorsen. Back to life.

Some two months or more ago Sergeant-Major Halvorsen received word that his son (Lieut. W. Halvorsen) had been killed in the attack on Mouquet Farm early in September. Last Mon-day the news was received at Head-quarters that the young officer was not killed, but was wounded and taken prisoner by the Germans. We congratulate the relatives on the good news, and trust that later Lieut. Halvorsen will be numbered amongst that select company of men who have been privileged to read their own obituary notices.

The family then received an actual letter from Billie, which they had published in the newspaper. His youthful bravado and sense of humour shine through.

Swan Express (Midland Junction, WA : 1900 - 1954), Friday 5 January 1917:

A letter from Germany.



"Lieutenant W. A. Halvorsen, 51st Battalion (son of Sergt.-Major Halvorsen), who was wounded and taken prisoner in France, on September 3, by the Germans, writes from Mulheim. Germany, under date October 15 to his parents at Midland Junction :— At last I am able to write you a short letter or note, for it is not much more. The words on the envelope ("Kriegsgefangenen sending") mean "prisoner of war sending." If you write to this address I may receive a letter, but as it will probably take ten weeks or more for a reply, I will most likely be away in some camp by then. I will leave my address in any case. Our writing is restricted, but there is no block to our inward mail. Anyway, all my writing is going to be home. I will tell you how I was wounded and captured. It was our second time in the big push, and we were the last battalion of all the Australians to go in and of course had to go over. We attacked at 5.30 a.m., and took the place, advancing about 500 yards and then had to dig in. Just as we started to dig a field gun's shrapnel hit me in the stomach, leg (near groin), arm and head. Of course I was knocked out and lost a lot of blood. I could not go back, as the artillery fire was too great, so I stayed in a shell hole, and while there was hit by shrapnel again near the shoulder and on the arm. I was then too weak and stiff to move, so had to stay. When the counter-attack came we were too weak to hold our line, so



AUSTRALIAN PRISONER OF WAR OFFICERS AT CREFELD POW CAMP IN GERMANY

* LT WILLIAM ALROE HALVORSEN, 51ST BATTALION, FROM PERTH

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P08451.002

tried to get back, I thought it better, to make an effort to escape certain capture, and with difficulty crawled from my shell hole to another and was shot through the left side. Altogether I had nine wounds, so you can see I had more than my fair ration, but I am thankful to God that He spared me that I may soon hope to return to my family for good. The hospital treatment is all right, although I receive no different treatment to the private soldier, not as it would be in England. The Sisters at my first hospital in Cauchy in France were splendid. The surgeons were also very good. It was an immense hospital, taking up an old factory from which the machinery had been removed. Our journey here lasted about 20 hours in a hospital train given by the Kaiserin, and our treatment on board was very good. The doctor and nurse could speak English. On arrival we were brought here by-Red Cross tram car. On our journey we came through part of Belgium, and now are right in the middle of the coal and iron industry here. It is simply marvellous. Do not worry about me. I will write as often as I can, and when I get into camp will look for letters from you all. My wounds are healing up well, arm O.K. now, and ribs nearly as good. It seems years since I had a letter from home. Don't worry about me: am feeling tip top, but, of course, still in bed."

In a postcard, dated October he says:

"Still in hospital, although, thank goodness, up at last, I am not quite all right yet: wounds still being dressed. Wish I could get a parcel from you containing something good to eat."

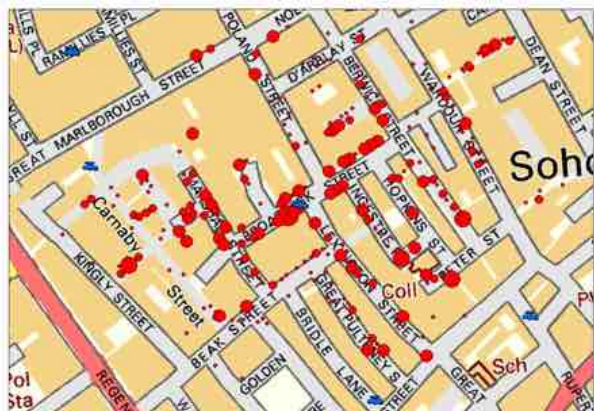
After the war ended, Billie's Army records show that he was repatriated to England, arriving in January 1919.

He was welcomed by his relieved family at the end of February 1919. He eventually returned to work with the Postal Service. Billie married Hilda Phillips in 1928. I don't have any details of his family at this time, but his name features quite frequently in newspapers over the next few decades. He became a Postal Inspector in the 1940s and by 1959 was Mail Director of Posts and

Telegraphs. Billie died on 18 July 1989. What an amazingly long life he had after all.

An album titled: William Alroe Halvorsen collection of [181] photographs of post offices of Western Australia is currently held by the State Library of Western Australia. ... ed.

References: Trove, WW1 Army records, family research. ... 🌳



A man called John SNOW determined that a water pump in Soho, London, was responsible for the 1853/4 outbreak in the area. He did a local street map that plotted the cases of cholera and discovered that the water from a Broad St. public pump was coming from a polluted section of the Thames. More than five hundred people died within two hundred and fifty yards of this water pump within a ten-day period.

He concluded that cholera was spread via sewerage mixing with water, or infecting food, not from the air as previously thought. At this time, most people did not understand the concept of germs, or the need to wash one's hands. Cholera is a severe intestinal infection that causes violent and frequent diarrhoea. This can lead to dehydration and death within hours. In 1850s England most people did not have their own privy, and used chamber pots and communal facilities. No commercially made toilet paper was on hand. [Again, a little like

My Family Connection to Cholera

Lynda Smith. LM2

today!] In the confined spaces of small cottages or below deck on a ship, it is no wonder that cholera spread so easily and quickly.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Snow

Jonas and his wife, Susan, nee TAYLOR sailed with their children: Mary 14, Jonas 12, Martha 11 and Emma 4. They arrived in Newcastle on 31st October 1854. Jonas gained work on the railways. They had survived the journey and later made a new life in Australia.

From the London Times of July 14, 1854:

Australian Emigration.--Southampton, Thursday, July 13.

--The splendid East India ship **Ellenborough**, Captain Thornbill, left the docks this afternoon, and will sail on Friday (this day) for Port Newcastle, New South Wales, taking out about 370 souls, equal to 330 statute adult emigrants, which have been shipped from the Government emigration depot in the Southampton Docks. The Ellenborough has also a full general cargo for the Australian markets, and a portion of her emigrant passengers comprises 50 labourers, who are to be engaged

upon the construction of the Hunter River Railway.

The Ellenborough is a noble-looking frigate-built ship of 1,200 tons, and has attracted considerable attention while lying alongside the wharf in the inner dock.

Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser (NSW: 1843 - 1893), Saturday 4 November 1854

NEWCASTLE. - Arrival. - October 31.

Ellenborough, ship, 1084 tons, Captain Thornhill, from Southampton, July 14. Passengers—Mr. James H. Atkinson, Dr. Stolworthy, Surgeon Superintendent, and 399 immigrants. The Ellenborough has had rather a long passage of 107 days from Southampton, which has been occasioned by her being very deep, having encountered most dreadful weather, and losing a number of her spars on the passage. She brings 399 immigrants, principally English, and all in good health, 100 of whom are for the Railway Company, the remainder are chiefly agricultural labourers. There have been 7 deaths and 2 births on board during the voyage. We believe the immigrants speak in high terms of the kindness and attention shown them by Dr. Stolworthy. The cargo of the Ellenborough consists principally of iron for the Railway Company.

Sadly, Jonas' brother James did not have the same success on the **Lord of the Isles**, pictured here.



South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Monday 4 December 1854

The Lord of the Isles.

This Government emigrant ship arrived on Saturday last from Southampton, after a passage of 93 days. We have learned with deep regret that this splendid iron ship has not escaped the ravages of cholera. Out of 23 cases, which all occurred north of the equator, several proved fatal. The following is the official classification: — Married couples: 63 [126], Single men: 16 Single females: 84

Children under 14 years: 71, Infants under one year: 11 Total: 308

Birth on the voyage: 1 Total: 309. Deaths during the voyage: 12. Total number arrived: 29.

*The surgeon-superintendent, W. M. F. Chatterley, Esq., is of opinion that the dreaded contagion was brought on board at Southampton. Every possible precaution was used during the voyage, and in each undoubted case of cholera the patient's bed was thrown overboard. The following are the names of those who died on the passage: — Frank Beeching, aged 4 years; Bridget Connors, aged 26 years; Robert Gee, aged 1 year; Emily Heading, aged 1 year; Rachael Jackling, an infant; Mary A. Kavanagh, aged 26 years; Caroline Morley, aged 18 years; Eilen Morley, an infant; M. A. Mullins, an infant; **Lewis Munns**, an infant; Elizabeth Papworth, aged 44 years; Caroline Smith, an infant (from the effects of a scald).*

South Australian Government Gazette 1855.

‘Lord of the Isles:

An iron tea clipper built in 1853 by Robert Scott & Co., Greenock, Arrived from Southampton on the 2nd December, after a passage of ninety

five days. Twelve deaths and two births were the casualties at sea. In consequence of several complaints having been made against the surgeon-superintendent, the Immigration Board sent to enquire into the circumstance. After investigating the complaints, the Board were of opinion that the surgeon-superintendent had greatly neglected his duty in not attending to the cleanliness of the ship, and mustering of the people according to his printed regulations-that, consequently filth and vermin prevailed among the people. The Board recommended that the gratuity of the surgeon should be reduced from 10s. to 7s 6d. on each immigrant landed alive ; and further, the Board, considering the surgeon quite incompetent, recommended that he should not again be entrusted with the charge of an emigrant ship. His Excellency the Officer Adminstrating the Government was pleased to ratify and confirm the recommendation of the Board ; and further to direct that a copy of the report should be forwarded to the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners. In this ship there were five deaths from malignant choler; but, as in the case of the **James Fernie**, the disease ceased as soon as the ship had left the latitudes where cholera was epidemic.'

James, his wife Mary and 2 sons, Alfred Aveley [aka Avely] and Lewis endured this journey. Sadly, baby Lewis lost his life. In 1856 James and Mary had twin girls [Martha and Fanny] in South Australia, but they both died shortly after birth. After such tragedies, James involved himself with the local Methodist Church and became a noted choir master. His son Avely, became a Minister and had a large family.

Mercury (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954), Wednesday 21 September 1898

MUNNS-On Monday, September 19, at Brighton, in his 74th year, James Munns, father of Rev. A. Munns, Congregational minister. Avely was so close to his father that his death affected his own health. He took to his bed and never recovered.

Emu Bay Times and North West and West Coast Advocate (Tas.: 1897 - 1899), Tuesday 22 November 1898,

Death of Rev A. A. Munns. Launceston, Monday.

A telegram was received today from Richmond (Vic.) announcing the death of the Rev A. A. Munns, who was formerly stationed at Devonport. Death is reported from hemorrhage of the heart.

The ripple effect of disease can be astounding, both in the 1850s and in 2020. My husband's ancestors survived and through him, our children and grandchildren exist today. We have family in Queensland and on the coast. His cousins stretch to other states, and even to America and England. May we all get through this latest pandemic.

Stay safe and well.

Notes and Resources:

Remittent fever is a generic name for high temperatures that fluctuate over time, but do not return to normal. In babies, this leads to listlessness and poor feeding responses. Fevers are generally caused by an infection, which could be bacterial or viral.

Internet sites listed, Trove Newspapers, Findmypast, Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org., Nancy Potter's research, NSW BDM, SA BDM, Victoria BDM, Tasmania BDM.



Funeral By Bus

Harry Johnston-Lord member 504

Harry recently found this article posted by [Matt Kay to Old Sydney Album Facebook page](#)

“Sydney Mortuary Station

Sir – last Wednesday afternoon something quite of a novel character might have been witnessed at the Sydney Mortuary.

At the time fixed for the dispatch of the funeral train for Rookwood, an omnibus marked “Woolloomooloo” and numbered “32” was driven up, and from it emerged several mourners; a coffin was next taken out of the ‘bus, conveyed to the platform, and placed in the usual van.



Much surprise was evinced at this strange proceeding, and I venture to ask if omnibuses are allowed to be used as hearses?

As it has not been long since these vehicles were prohibited from carrying baskets containing soiled linen, I should think it equally necessary, as a safeguard to public health, that their licenses to carry passengers should not apply to both the ‘quick’ and the ‘dead’.

Yours, etc

SANATARIUM, Sydney, June 11, 1877”

(Letter to the Sydney Morning Herald, June 1877

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/13387336/1437959> –

Photo from NSW State Library shows the Mortuary Station with a line-up of actual Hearses, no omnibus, its job was done. ... 🌳

George Herbert Cross

Jean Macleay member 359

Continuing My Grandfather's Story

We continue Jean's story including informative newspaper clippings ...

I recently had lunch with Ida's daughters Trish and Jan and my sister and was telling of my search for the truth about George. Trish could remember her mother telling her Dad that she had received a telegram from Aunt May advising that George had drowned at sea. Trish could pin this date down to 1949. At this time the National Library of Australia put digitised copies of many newspapers including The Sydney Morning Herald on line to search by comprehensive

index.

Thanks to these two happenings **I finally found Grandfather!**

Considering that she was 92, and Aunt Vicki had suppressed these unhappy memories, her story was quite close to the facts of the matter. The only mention of George was confined to the one front page item of the Sydney Morning Herald on 2nd May 1949. This shows that he died on the night of 28th April



1949. The Newcastle Morning Herald is not yet on line, but it is able to be read at Newcastle Library where I found three further items. So far I cannot find a record of a Coroner's enquiry, but this is work in progress. I also have permission to search the Police Gazettes, held at the State Archives in Kingswood, past the date normally allowed because of my special interest

Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Monday 2 May 1949

Two Feared Drowned In Sea Collision

NEWCASTLE, Sunday – Police believe two men drowned at sea on Thursday night after their fishing boat collided with another craft.

They think one of the men bought the boat last Tuesday.

*The men are: **Vincent Denicolo**, 32, married, of Harris Street, Ultimo; and **George Cross**, 70, of Laughtondale, near Wiseman's Ferry.*

Wreckage washed up in a heavy sea on Bar Beach, Newcastle, on Thursday night has been identified as part of a boat, in which Denicolo and Cross left Wiseman's Ferry on Thursday for Sydney.

The wreckage was identified at Bar Beach tonight by Mr. Arthur Rose, senior, and Mr. Arthur Rose, junior, father and son.

The Roses built the boat at Wiseman's Ferry, and sold it to Denicolo last Tuesday.

It was a new boat, in sea-worthy condition, with a new engine. It was 22½ feet long, with an 8ft beam.

"Strong Southerly"

The condition of the wreckage shows that the boat was in a collision. The bow of the boat had been sheared off.

Mr. Rose said that the boat was probably smashed up off Newcastle, or slightly south of Bar Beach.

"I think they ran into a strong southerly at sea, and, meeting with some difficulty, turned to run before it. This run would bring them off Bar Beach, or south of it, on Thursday night.

Denicolo was a fisherman, but Cross was a pensioner living at Laughtondale.

"Cross was an old-time sea-man who had sailed most of his life on the coastal trade, and knew every inch of the coast." He went in the boat at Denicolo's invitation, to navigate."

Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate (NSW: 1876 - 1954), Monday 2 May 1949

Two Believed Lost off Launch

Beach Wreckage Identified

Two men are believed to have been lost from the wrecked launch that was washed up on Bar Beach on Friday morning.

They are Vincent Denicolo, 32, of Harris Street, Ultimo, and George Cross, 70, of Wiseman's Ferry.

The wreckage has been identified as coming from a launch on which the men had cleared Broken Bay on Thursday.

Last night Messrs. A. Rose senr. and A. Rose. junr., accompanied by Mr. G. Law, of Wiseman's Ferry, visited Newcastle police and identified planking gathered from the beach. Later they identified the remnants of the hull at Bar Beach.

The launch, which had been built at Roses' yards, Wiseman's Ferry, had been sold to Denicolo on Tuesday. Accompanied by Cross, a well-known pilot and fisherman, Denicolo set out to take it to Sydney.

Mr. Rose, senr, said the launch cleared Broken Bay between 11 a.m. and noon on Thursday.

After a close examination of the wreck age Mr. Rose said marks on the

planks indicated that the craft had been in collision with a bigger vessel, which cut away part of the bow.

Driven North

A strong south-easterly, wind was blowing when the vessel cleared Broken Bay, he said. He had been going to sea for many years, but would not have put out in such conditions. The trip to Sydney from Broken Bay should not have taken long.

Mr. Rose believes Denicolo and Cross decided to return to port soon after they had reached the open sea, were unable to do so and were driven north before the wind.

Cross, who was ... craft, knew the coast well. He was recognised as a skillful navigator. Denicolo was a seasoned fisherman. He was married and had a wife and three children.

Was Overdue

First indication that the wrecked launch may have been from Sydney area was received at Regent Street police station yesterday, when inquiries were made, about it's being overdue.

Regent Street officers immediately wirelessly Newcastle for a description of the wreckage on Bar Beach. They said L.F.B. 554 was missing.

Police who inspected the wreckage soon after it was washed ashore could find no identifying mark. Letters "L.F.B.," painted on some of the planking in bright blue, indicated that it had been a licensed fishing boat, but the number was missing.

The Officer in Charge of Water Police (Sergeant R. Mason) searched the beach at the weekend. He gathered up the smallest particles of shattered planks.

By piecing together those bearing signs of light blue paint, he formed three figures, which looked like "551," "331," or "554."

In Sydney yesterday, police interviewed relatives of Denicolo. The relatives said they knew Denicolo and another man were leaving Wiseman's Ferry to bring a launch to Sydney, but they had not heard from him since.

After having interviewed the men from Wiseman's Ferry, police believe the launch travelled under its own power to within a few miles of Newcastle before the collision.

They say that if the engine had been out of action or the craft had driven helplessly before the wind it would probably have gone ashore miles south of Newcastle.

In any case, a water-logged hulk would not travel fast even if driven by wind and current.

The launch was 22ft. 6in. long with a 7ft. beam. It was fitted with a powerful marine engine.

The wreckage was only about 20 feet long, indicating that about 2ft. 6in. had been cut away in, the collision.

New South Wales Police Gazette – 8 June 1949

MISSING PERSONS

VINCENT DENICHOLO and GEORGE CROSS, left Wiseman's Ferry in a motor launch on 28th April 1949, with the intention of going to Sydney, but there is no evidence of them having reached their intended destination, and on the following morning the launch was found wrecked at Bar Beach, near Newcastle, and fear is entertained that the men have been drowned. Denicholo, 31, 5ft. 10in., a stout build, dark compl. dark-brown hair, clean shaved; grey trousers with brown stripe, blue shirt with red and dark-blue stripes, brown shoes and a dark-grey overcoat. He was wearing a wristlet watch and a ring with "V.D.N." thereon. Cross, 71, 6ft. strong build, ruddy compl. hair turning grey, bald on top, clean shaved, artificial teeth in upper jaw,

has scar on left side of head extending from near temple to back of ear, second and third toes on each foot webbed; brown trousers, grey cardigan, white shirt, brown topcoat and black heavy boots which had been recently half-soled. Inquiry at the instance of Theresa Denicholo, 590 Harris-st., Ultimo, and Frederick Cross, Wiseman's Ferry.

This description has to have been supplied by Frederick, George's older brother, who together with Theresa Denicholo are described as "Inquiry at the instance of". Frederick appears to also live with his mother at Wiseman's Ferry.

It is mentioned in these items that

George was "an old-time seaman who had sailed most of his life on the coastal trade and knew every inch of the coast". At what stage in his life then did he spend all this time on the coastal trade. He was 23 when he married and was 30 years old when he moved to Bonville. Assuming he was maybe 14 when he left school, was he at sea during these 15 years? He could also have gone to sea between 1922 and 1930 when he was at Wiseman's Ferry.

We hope we can conclude this fascinating tale. Given our recent powerful seas, reports of missing experienced seamen is a fact of coastal living. ... ed. ... 🌿

Life Members

From time to time our Group awards a Life Membership. To date the following fourteen members have been recognized for their commitment and contribution, helping us become the Family History Group we are today. ... 🌿



Name	Memb No.	Date of Award
The Late Keith Shakespeare	01	Sept 1994
Lynda Smith	02	08 Dec 1995
The Late Patricia Irwin Sharp	03	14 Sept 2001
Marilyn Cridland	11	13 Sept 2007
Pam Mansergh	14	13 Sept 2007
The Late Esther Dean	23	13 Sept 2007
Janice Barrett	43	13 Sept 2007
Kerrie Metcalfe	80	9 Sept 2010
Roger Lewis	127	20 Sept 2012
Robin Wright	133	20 Sept 2012
Trish McDonald	194	09 Oct 2014
Glenise Clery	284	09 Oct 2014
Michele Gane	174	03 June 2018
John Selwood	79	03 June 2018



Census 2021

The next Australian Census will be taken in 2021 and as family historians we all need to encourage others to agree to have their census form retained for 100 years. The family history community fought hard to get this question included in the census, but in the last Australian census held in 2016 less than half of all respondents (48%) agreed to do so. This was a fall from the 60% who ticked 'yes' in 2011. As we get closer to the next census date you'll hear more about this, but it's a good time to start encouraging everyone you know to have their form saved for posterity and for the benefit of future family historians. (Taken from the *December Descent*). ... 🌿

News from Joy Murrin

Joy and Allan Murrin, Emily, Kieryn and Diane

We trust that your society members are well and keeping safe during these uncertain times.

It is a difficult time for societies with the closure of Family History Societies and Libraries. However with access to Birth, Death and Marriage Index and other databases it is possible to research from self-isolation or social distancing. We want to assure you that we are still able to provide NSW

Transcriptions. The NSW Registry has provided us with continued and safe access to the NSW Registrations. Could you share with your members that we are still able to provide transcriptions.

Also during these isolating times, we have reduced the cost of Full Transcriptions to \$18.

Wishing you well and please stay safe. ... 🌿

Convict Records – NSW State Archives

Pam Mansergh LM 14

Attention all convict researchers! Thanks to our awesome volunteers we have a new online index on convict assignments. It contains 6000+ entries covering Dec 1821 to Dec 1825.

On arrival, a convict was either retained by the Government for labour

on public works or was assigned to an individual. Very few records of assignment have survived - can you find yours here?

Start searching

<http://ow.ly/KU5X50AAGuH>



WFHG Inc Planned Events

Although The Cottage is now open observing *strict* **COVID-19** protocols, again, no Calendar is published in this issue.

Committee Meetings, General Meetings, The AGM has been deferred see page 5, some Special Interest Groups are resuming below, Courses, Research Outings and other events will resume and be scheduled as soon as practicable. However, our Christmas Party is booked for Sunday 6 December.

- Subject to change.
- Note: Unless otherwise stated, All our meetings, interest groups, **master classes** and **courses** are held at 'The Cottage'.

	2020	Event
August	Mon 3	Committee Meeting 10:00 am
	Thu 13	Bookings Essential Strict limit of FIVE plus presenter in meeting room at one time. Family Tree Maker Interest Group 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Family Tree Maker Interest Group 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm
	Sat 29	Bookings Essential Strict limit of FIVE plus presenter in meeting room at one time. Computer/Tablets/Social Media Interest Group 10:00 am – 12 noon

National Family History Month

August is National Family History Month for details see
<https://familyhistorymonth.org.au/2020/07/>

News from 2020 & 2021 NSW Annual Conference



Regrettably, it has been necessary to defer the 2020 Conference due to circumstances beyond our control.

Social distancing and the restrictions placed on conference venues due to **Covid-19** has necessitated this decision.

Planning has begun for the 2021 Conference to be held in Port Macquarie during the second half of next year so we have something positive to look forward to in the not too distant future.

The work which our Conference Committee has already undertaken will transfer to 2022 where we will endeavour to host a wonderful conference for everyone.

Watch for further details. ... 🌳

News from NSW Family History Transcriptions Pty Ltd

Marilyn Row

To celebrate National Family History Month. Family History Transcriptions Pty Ltd are offering a special rate of \$18.00 for Full NSW Certificate Transcripts until midnight 31st August

2020.

<http://nswtranscriptions.com.au/index.php>. ... 🌳

Cessnock Family History Group News

Publicity Officer, Cessnock Family History Group

Just letting you know that we now have a Facebook page with all our information and this has links to listings of local families etc. We do have a lot of information still in printed format that we are starting to put on databases.

We are happy to respond to all

emails with requests and also photograph headstones/ buildings if needed.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Society---Culture-Website/Cessnock-Family-History-116969660089354/> 🌳

Publications For Sale

More details at: <http://www.wyongfamilyhistory.com.au/publications>

NEW DIGITAL RELEASE

Wyong & Districts Anglican Church Records 1838 – 1987 **USB** \$ 70.00 + p&h

BOOKS & CDs

Bowden Family Funerals – Wyong. July 1999 – January 2016	Book \$ 20.00 + p&h CD \$15.00 – p&h
Brought in by the Tide. [A guide to tracing convict ancestors in one place.]	Book \$ 10.00 + p&h
Central Coast Roll of Honour. [Includes the full names, rank, type of service & date of death where known of over 12,000 men & women of the Central Coast who were in the Armed Forces. 400 pages fully indexed. Includes 138 stories and photographs.]	Book \$ 20.00 + p&h CD \$ 15.00 + p&h
Gosford Times Marriage and Death Notices 1892-1954 incorporating the Wollombi Express (1892-1906) and Wyong District Advocate (1906-1920) Contains enteries for 5892 Deaths and 1400 Marriages with many relevant details	Book \$ 27.00 + p&h CD \$ 20.00 + p&h
People of Wyong Book 1: Health and Service Providers – includes: Doctors, Dentists, Fire Brigade, Ministers [298 pages]	Book \$ 35.00 + p&h
People of Wyong Book 2: Includes: Bank Managers, Public Servants, Business People, Organisations. [252 pages]	Book \$ 40.00 + p&h
People of Wyong Book 3: Includes: Timber Industry, Dairying, Agriculture, Poultry, Fishing and Transport. [297 pages]	Book \$ 42.00 + p&h
Place Names of the Wyong Shire	Book \$ 7.00 + p&h
Simplicity Funerals Bateau Bay NSW 1963 – 2006 – Out of Print – available on combined CD.	
Simplicity Funerals Bateau Bay NSW 2007 - 2011 + Wyong & Toukley	Book \$ 20.00 + p&h
Simplicity Funerals Bateau Bay NSW, Toukley and Wyong 1963 - 2011	CD \$ 25.00 + p&h
Simplicity Funerals Erina 1985 – 2013	Book \$ 30.00 + p&h CD \$ 15.00 + p&h
Simplicity Funerals Woy Woy 1991 – 2013	Book \$ 20.00 + p&h CD \$ 15.00 + p&h
Wyong Agricultural Association [248 pages]. Covers the history of the Wyong Agricultural Association as reported in local newspapers; lists of Office Bearers; photos of founders and first Committee; plus the minutes of all meetings held from 1 May 1913 to 18 June 1930 with fully indexed list of names	Book \$ 35.00 + p&h CD \$ 15.00 + p&h
Wyong Courthouse Death Records 1930 – 1953	Book \$ 20.00 + p&h CD \$ 15.00 + p&h

Wyong & District Pioneer Register (Published 2013) [673 pages]. Fully indexed compilation of all previous Pioneer Book entries, extensively updated references to over 13,500 individuals. Contains: Birth, Marriage & Death details; some photos, personal stories, obituaries for some individuals. Includes a brief history of Wyong.	Book	\$ 50.00 + p&h
	CD	\$ 35.00 + p&h
Wyong & Lakes District Advocate, Personal Notices (1932 – 1995) (available separately- see below)	Two Volume set	
Contents Volume One – 514 anniversary notices, 1078 birth notices, 4,000 marriage notices, 4,790 in memoriam notices & 238 miscellaneous event notices, includes church photographs	Book	\$ 45.00 + p&h
Contents Volume Two – 11,973 deaths, obituary & probate notices includes Church and cemetery photographs	Book Volume 1	\$ 25.00 + p&h
	Book Volume 2	\$ 25.00 + p&h
	CD	\$ 35.00 + p&h
Wyong Remembers: The history of the Wyong War memorial and Centenary of ANZAC events (53 pages)	Book	\$ 19.00 + p&h
Wyong Township Residents Index 1930 – 1939	Book	\$ 10.00 + p&h
	CD	\$ 10.00 + p&h
The Anglican Parish of the Brisbane Water Area [Baptisms, Burials and Marriages with notes from Albert Glennie's Diaries and Miscellaneous Entries. Includes Kincumber, Mangrove, Wyong, Tuggerah, Cooranbong, Woy Woy & the Hawkesbury River.]	CD	\$ 10.00 + p&h
Jilliby Cemetery, Wyong Shire, NSW [Updated 2009]	Book	\$ 20.00 + p&h
Noraville Cemetery, Wyong Shire [1869 - 2012]	Book	\$ 20.00 + p&h
St Barnabas & Yarramalong Cemeteries, Wyong Shire NSW [1886-2001]	Book	\$ 15.00 + p&h
Ronkana Cemetery, Wyong Shire NSW [1825 - 2016]	Book	\$ 15.00 + p&h
All 4 Cemetery Books		\$ 50.00 + p&h
Wyong Shire Cemetery Records Index to August 2016 [220 pages] This index has been compiled from the Wyong Family History Group's cemetery database. It includes burials (and niches) at Jilliby and Noraville Cemeteries and the burials at Ronkana, St Barnabas (Yarramalong) and Yarramalong Cemeteries. Books have been produced for each individual cemetery that provide additional details such as photographs, headstone inscriptions and, in the case of Ronkana, St Barnabas and Yarramalong cemeteries, newspaper death, funeral or probate notices for some of the burials. The WFHG Inc. acknowledges the work of Mr Vince McKenzie and his son Clive, gravediggers, whose records form the core of our index. We also acknowledge the CC Council Bereavement Officers for their contribution to our records. Contains: Cemetery maps; Deceased details – name, age, date of burial, grave location (section, row, plot), some records have birth dates and maiden names. Includes all Graves including Unmarked Graves.	Book	\$ 25.00 + p&h
	CD	\$ 20.00 + p&h
Palmdale Cemetery [30,000 names, not all from Wyong]	CD	\$ 10.00 + p&h
Genealogy Recorder		\$ 10.00 + p&h

Wyong Family History Group Inc. Research Centre

'The Cottage', Wyong Community Cultural Centre,

6 Rankens Court, Wyong (entrance via the old school grounds)

Open: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 10.00am – 3.00pm.

At other times by appointment. Public Holidays – Closed.

Tuggerah Library, Westfield: Workshop 3rd Saturday 9.00am – 12 noon
(WFHG members available to help)

Contact the Group as follows:

The Secretary

Wyong Family History Group Inc.

P O Box 247

Wyong NSW 2259

Telephone: (02) 4351 2211

Email The Secretary: secwfhg2@westnet.com.au

Website: <http://www.wyongfamilyhistory.com.au>

WFHG thanks Ms Emma McBride, for her assistance in the production of this issue of the Tree of Life.

Remember, Member contributions are always welcome and 20 October 2020 is the closing date for items to be included in the next issue of the "Tree of Life".

Local LDS Family History Centre

Akora Road, Wyoming [near ALDI]

Opening Hours: Tuesday 6 – 8 pm,

Friday 10 am – 2 pm

Generally closed during school holidays.

Open at other times on request

Free access


Ph: 4329 3603

Email: au_gosford@ldsmail.net

The WFHG has an affiliated agreement with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints which permits our members to access restricted files and images from the computers in The Cottage.

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AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE GROUP

To promote and encourage the research and preservation of family and local history, to assist members and others in family history research. To develop and maintain a Public Library and research, collect, preserve and maintain its resources in its Library.

Members contributions are always welcome.