

WYONG FAMILY
Founded 1983



HISTORY GROUP INC.

Tree of Life

Official Journal of

Wyong Family History Group Incorporated

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This Issue

A Special Feature on Alison Homestead Page

Member contributions are always welcome

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2011 Christmas Dinner at Wyong RSL Club.

Wyong Family History Group Inc

Patrons: Craig Thomson MP for Dobell
Jill Hall MHR for Shortland
Darren Webber MP for Wyong
David Harris

Our meetings are held at 7.00pm on the 2nd Thursday night of each month between February and November, at 'The Cottage', Wyong Community Cultural Centre, 6 Rankens Court, Wyong.

Resources and research assistance at 'The Cottage' is available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between 10.00am and 3.00pm.

Fees: non-members \$5.00 per hour between 10.00am and 12.00 noon and 1.00pm and 3.00pm. Members Free.

Office Bearers 2011 – 2012

President:	Kerrie Metcalfe	02 4351 5430	
Vice-President:	Jan Barrett		
Secretary:	Esther Dean	02 4359 1263	
Treasurer:	Michele Gane		
Assistant Treasurer:	Frank Gero		
Committee:	The above executive plus Helen Burkett, Marilyn Cridland, Wayne Dean, Trish McDonald, Pam Mansergh, Kaye Moss and Russell Welham		
Asset Manager:	Russell Welham		Guest Speakers: Janice Barrett
Bookstall Coordinator:	Trish McDonald		Librarian: Glenise Clery
Bookstall Assistant:	Glenise Clery		Librarian Assist: Jean Macleay
Branch Editor:	Russell Welham (russellwelham@bigpond.com)		Membership Secretary: Pam Mansergh
Catering Organiser:	Anne Lee		Project Coordinator: Marilyn Cridland
Computer IT:	Roger Lewis		Public Officer: Esther Dean
Convict Group Organiser:	June Johnston		Publicity Officer: Max Berry
Cottage Co-ordinators			Raffles: Eileen Wheway
Tuesday:	Marilyn Cridland		Research Officers; Robin Wright
Wednesday:	Kerrie Metcalfe		Trish McDonald
Thursday:	Frank Gero		
Cottage Roster:	Ann Cooke		Research – Local Jan Barrett
Course & Workshops			Snippets: Lynda Smith
Beginners	Esther Dean & Kerrie Metcalf		Meg Gibson
FTM	Marie Helbrunn		
PAF	Trish MacDonald		Tree of Life Editor: Helen Johnston-Lord
Field Trips:	Frank Gero		0418 228 232 - (heloor6@bigpond.com)
Fund Raising:	Esther Dean		Webmaster: John Owen
Grant Applications:	Doug Thomas		Welfare Officer: Jan Barrett 02 4392 1353
			Volunteer Representative: Helen Burkett
			• Contact Members through 'The Cottage'.

FAMILY HISTORY TRACING SERVICE

Australian, International or Local Lookups

Trace your Ancestors and Discover their Past

Also available

Church & Headstone e-Photos in Wyong & District

Enquiries to: The Secretary, WFHG Inc.

P O Box 247 Wyong, NSW, Australia, 2259

Email: secwfhg2@westnet.com.au

WFHG Inc Planned Events

	2012	Event
February	Fri 3	Research Volunteer Training Day 'The Cottage' 10 am
	Wed 8	Convict Group 'The Cottage' 10 am – 12 noon
	Thu 9	General Meeting 'The Cottage' 7 pm
	Sun 12	Social BBQ at 'The Cottage' 11 am
	Sat 18	Workshop – Tuggerah Library 10 am – 2 pm
	Tue 21	'French' Workshop 'The Cottage' 1 pm – 3 pm
	Thu 23	Scottish Interest Group 'The Cottage' 10 am – 12 noon
	Tue 28	Committee Meeting 'The Cottage' 10 am ½ hr lunch break.
March	Thu 1	FTM (Family Tree Maker) Workshop at 'The Cottage' 1 pm – 2 pm. Cost: members \$4.00, non-members \$6.00
	Thu 8	General Meeting 'The Cottage' 7.00 pm
	Fri 9	PAF (Personal Ancestral File) Workshop at 'The Cottage' 10am – 12 noon. Cost: members \$4.00, non-members \$6.00
		No Scottish Group
	Sat 10	Bus Trip State Records Kingswood
	Wed 14	Convict Group 'The Cottage' 10 am – 12 noon
	Sat 17	Tuggerah Library 10 am – 2 pm
	Sat 24	Seminar; Wyong RSL 10 am – 3.30 pm
April	Fri 27	Family History Course Week 1 'The Cottage' 10 am – 12 noon
	Thu 5	FTM (Family Tree Maker) Workshop at 'The Cottage' 1 pm – 2 pm. Cost: members \$4.00, non-members \$6.00
	Wed 11	Convict Group 'The Cottage' 10 am – 12 noon
	Thu 12	General Meeting 'The Cottage' 7 pm
	Sat 21	Tuggerah Library 10 am – 2 pm
	Wed 25	ANZAC DAY - CLOSED
	Thu 26	Scottish Interest Group 'The Cottage' 10.00am – 12.00 noon
	Thu 26	Irish Interest Group 'The Cottage' 1.00pm – 3.00pm
May	Thu 3	FTM (Family Tree Maker) Workshop at 'The Cottage' 1 pm – 2 pm. Cost: members \$4.00, non-members \$6.00
	Fri 4	Family History Course Week 2 'The Cottage' 10 am – 12 noon
	Wed 14	Convict Group 'The Cottage' 10 am – 12 noon
	Thu 10	General Meeting 'The Cottage' 7 pm

The First Fleet in a Nutshell

From Jean Macleay



The First Fleet consisted of 11 ships. Two were naval vessels, 3 were supply vessels and the remaining 6 were chartered to carry convicts. 1373 persons were landed, 23 having died on the voyage. Of the dispirit group landed on this foreign shore 245 were marines, 31 wives of marines, 543 male and 189 female convicts; the remaining 367 persons would be officers, sailors, ship's surgeons and ministers of the church.

For obvious reasons only 14%, that is just 192 of the First Fleeters have living descendents in this country. That makes us

Smalls quite unique, particularly considering John and Mary were both part of that beginning 14%. TOL

from the President

Kerrie Metcalfe (80) LM, President WFHG Inc.



We are all gearing up for what looks to be a busy and active year for the Wyong Family History Group Inc. with a number of workshops planned for the coming months, as well as a seminar in March and two bus trips to Kingswood State Records. I'm sure our members will have every chance to achieve breakthroughs and further their knowledge on tracing their ancestry.

I encourage members to use the resources available at the Cottage, a place where you can come and enjoy the journey of tracing your ancestry and talk with like-minded people. There is a wonderful and varied library, internet access, microfiche and microfilm readers and most importantly volunteers who can help you along the way.

If you have achieved your research goals or are looking for a new adventure why not volunteer and help others on their journey, you never know what new avenues you might find when helping others along the way. The more volunteers we have the more services we can provide to our members, which could include additional days that the Cottage is open and available to members. If you are interested in volunteering please feel free to contact us at the cottage 4351 2211

A few months before Christmas we held our annual AGM in September where I was elected President, along with a dedicated Committee. The Committee manages the day-to-day running of the WFHG Inc. as well as aiming to ensure continued growth of researching our forebears and their lives, preserving local history and keeping up with the ever-changing technology.

Adjusting to new ideas, new technology and the digital world can prove challenging at times, however, with the expanding digitisation of records the rewards are much sweeter than ever before, like the British Library's India Office Records (IOR) which will become available on the findmypast.uk website and the Freedom of City Admissions Papers 1681-1925 Collections on Ancestry.co.uk which includes more than half a million records.

The Annual Christmas Party was held at the Wyong RSL and was well attended. With great food and wonderfully donated gift baskets to raffle the party was



enjoyed by all. The Country Women's' Association from Mannering Park provided entertainment with skits such as Jake the Peg, My Girl Lolly Pop and the Wiggles. If you have not attended an Annual Christmas Party I encourage you to come along this year and if you have any ideas for this year's party please let us know.

Although the Cottage was closed over the Christmas/New Year period much was still going on. Computers have been upgraded, maintenance preformed and a "Clean Up" day was held on 8th January. The Clean Up day was attended by 20 volunteer members who worked extremely hard cleaning both inside and out and we thank them most heartily for their efforts in providing us with a clean cottage and manicured gardens. The Cottage reopened on Monday, 10th January 2012 with the year's first Committee meeting taking place on Tuesday, 11th January.

I would like to thank and welcome Michele Gane for stepping into the position of Treasurer and thank you Frank Gero for your commitment, standing in for the past few months.



L to R Helen Burkett, Trish McDonald, Rosalie Walker, Russell Welham, Marilyn Cridland, Kerrie Metcalf, Esther Dean, Ann Cooke, Anne Lee & Doug Thomas with the Awards they received at the Christmas Dinner.

Whatever your New Year Genealogy Resolutions are for 2012, the WFHG Inc. is here to help you succeed, so don't be shy please come along to the cottage and make use of the facility provided or feel free to sign up to volunteer, or even email us your suggestions or comments. Together let's make 2012 another wonderful year for the members of the WFHG Inc. TOL



Tracing your French Ancestors

On Tuesday 21 February Frank Gero is conducting a French Workshop. He would like to pass on what he has learnt from his own research. This will include the structure of French records. Where/how to search for records. Websites he has found to be useful etc.

Frank says 'If anyone has any certificates they want to bring along to have translated, we can work through them.' TOL

from the Editor

Helen Johnston-Lord Member 505



Welcome to the first edition of the 'Tree of Life' for 2012.

To all those who have submitted articles and information, my heartfelt thanks. A salute to John Owen for all his work on the 'Tree of Life'. This edition sees the first of our Member profiles.

Harry and I moved to Warnervale mid 2009 and had planned a visit to Alison Homestead, with the grandchildren, these school holidays. Sadly, that was not to be. I have learnt so much about the site whilst researching the feature Kerrie and I put together, and we are both saddened at the loss of this or any historic building. We in Australia have such a short history and so little is being kept for future generations. I have included extracts from "Wyong Flashbacks" in the feature as I found them interesting.



Email me your articles or anything you think appropriate to include or if you need help with turning facts into an article, please ask, and we can collaborate. Not everyone is into email, so I am working on an alternative. Some items are so interesting and informative, they may have to be serialised. My email is heloor6@bigpond.com.

A little about me: I have been interested in my family's history for as long as I remember. I started getting serious in the early 1980's. Fortunately, my mother was also very keen on the history of our family and had acquired and kept all sorts of resources including In Memorium cards, letters, newspaper cuttings, lots of photographs and other items. My father's family did not escape her interest either. Mum died in 2007 in her Lane Cove home still telling me about the family, she was 94. I have so many slips of paper and other things I am gradually filtering through. She threw very little away.

Mum's family moved to the Central Coast in 1915, first to Narara and then Erina and later The Entrance. Space permitting I would like to publish what I feel is interesting and appropriate.

This photograph of my mother's father Thomas Dunning Birtwistle (1873 – 1949) was taken at The Entrance, I do not know who is on his right or the date of the photograph. Can anyone help?

I do hope you find this and future editions of 'Tree of Life' informative and interesting. Remember deadline for May 'Tree of Life' is 27 April 2012.TOL

Alison Homestead

a Special Feature compiled by Kerrie Metcalf and Helen Johnston-Lord

2011 ends with tragedy for Wyong History

Most of you will remember, we joined for the first time with Wyong Historical Society Inc. in hosting a 'Ye Old Colonial Day' on 3 September 2011, held at Alison Homestead in Cape Rd Wyong and what a wonderful day it was. There stood the beautiful homestead in all its glory, the gardens were well manicured and the homestead reflected the charm of Colonial times.



Then in the early hours of Saturday the 3 Dec 2011 just three months after this glorious day an Arson Attack took place on our beautiful heritage building (Alison Homestead) and it was burned to the ground by

the hand of an uncaring arsonist. Everyone in the local area and beyond was devastated, and sad, and angry at losing all those wonderful pieces of history given by the descendants of the pioneering families of our area. These included pioneering family records, old photographs and books relating to Wyong, Toukley and The Entrance, heritage furniture and clothing from the turn of the century.



Many years of hard work by volunteers made this homestead a Museum we could be proud of. So much of our pioneering history, all gone by the hand of a person with no feeling or regard for our history. Wyong Family History Group offers their sympathy and offer their assistance and support.

You can contact the Wyong Museum & Historical Society Inc. by email at alisonhomestead@westnet.com.au, or use the P.O. Box 241, Wyong 2259.

A Little History of the Museum

Alison Homestead was the home of Wyong District Museum & Historical Society. Set on two hectares in a rural setting on Wyong's first land grant, built by William Cape in c1875 then extended when owner Charles Alison married the granddaughter of Blue Mountains explorer, William Cox. The property passed out of the family in the 1890s and was used for market gardening between 1898 and the 1970s. Its rooms were full of local and historic artifacts.

The homestead became a Museum in 1992. The Society had been housed in an old church in Anzac Road Tuggerah (All Saints Anglican Church). This has since been demolished.

Although the damage bill has been conservatively estimated at \$1.2 million, some items were saved from the end of the building and there has been a lot of support and donations from all over. Just goes to show what people still have in their homes.

Quotes from Phillip Morley
President of Wyong Historical
Society

"It took twenty years to get what we had and it may take 20 years to rebuild but we will rebuild"

'We've got the beautiful grounds and several outer buildings fully intact and bookings to use the facility are still coming in. We have no intention of giving up the fight.'

RR

Extract from Wyong Flashbacks

23 October 1978

Prepared and presented by Edward Stinson

THE GOSFORD TIMES, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1902

W Y O N G .

RIVER BANK SUBDIVISION.

Comprising the Southern Portion of the
WELL-KNOWN ALISON HOMESTEAD

The Estate has been subdivided into 47 Blocks Ranging from
Half an Acre to four Acres. Each Block will have the advantage of a
frontage to both Main Maitland-Wyong Road and a

WATER FRONTAGE TO WYONG CREEK.

Wyong Creek is Navigable from this Subdivision to Tuggerah Lake, where the best of Fishing is obtainable. The Land is most suitable
for Vegetable Gardens and Orchard Purposes.

The Property is within easy walking distance of the Railway Station and Town, being situated three-quarters
of a mile from Post Office and Station.

Terms: 10 per cent. Deposit and Balance in 36 equal monthly instalments, bearing
interest at 5 per cent. per Annum. The Title will be Torrens

FOR SALE IN SUBDIVISION ON THE GROUND.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, AT 3 P.M.

HENRY F. HALLORAN & Co.,
Surveyors, 94 Pitt-street.
Sydney.

RAINE & HORNE,
(In conjunction with C. J. Turner)
Auctioneers.

Vendor's Solicitors: Messrs Thompson & Ash, 90a, Pitt-street.

REFRESHMENTS GRATIS ON THE GROUND.

We are publishing a
facsimile of an
advertisement that was
published in the Gosford
Times dated Friday,
December 19, 1902,
announcing the
subdivision of the Charles
Alison homestead
property which was
located west of Porters
Creek, the small stream
which drains Alison's
Swamp and joins the main
Wyong Creek at the north-
western corner of Wyong
High School grounds.

Actually, the sale was carried out under instructions from J.F.L. Measures, who had purchased the property from Alison only a short time before – probably with the set purpose of subdivision and quick profit.

99



Prepared and presented by Edward Stinson

Last week we featured a facsimile of the advertisement published in the Gosford



Times dated December 19, 1906, announcing the sale by auction of the subdivision of the southern portion of the Charles Alison homestead property.

These blocks were west of Porters Creek, south of the main road and bordering the main Wyong Creek.

Today we show a picture of the Charles Alison homestead as it looked, probably about that time.

It is one of our district's oldest and most historic buildings, and is the first house on the right as one enters the Dooralong Road at its southern end near the Wyong Co-operative Dairy Society Buildings.

Recently [1974] I had a pleasant interview with Mr. Arthur Pearce, the present owner and occupier of this old dwelling, and had the happy experience of being shown through it.

Mr. Pearce suggests that the oldest (or northern) section was probably built during the period 1895 - 90. It had a shingle roof originally and was constructed on log foundations, not on piers as the more modern practice: and these old logs, averaging about 15 inches in diameter, are still there after nearly 90 years.

Alison, he said, had gone for a trip to Europe and returned with an English bride, and then added the later section in the south of the original structure.

And from what source did Mr. Pearce get this information?

One of pioneer Matthew James Woodbury's daughters, Maud (Mrs. Thomas Lloyd), lived near him for many years. She lived in the time of the Alisons, knew them very well and was well informed as to their activities and told Mr. Pearce stories of them.

According to Mr. Pearce, this old home came into the possession of the family of Mayo, about 1908, and was later acquired by another family named Dunstan before passing into the hands of his own family about 60 years ago.

Charles Alison was, by repute, a fine gentleman and a distinguished citizen. TOL



Our Pioneers

Extracts from an article written by Marion Wood, a member of a Wyong Pioneer family. It was given to our member Bruce Wassall by Marion's daughter Dot Lee over 40 years ago. It is an account of life in times gone by. Further extracts will be published soon.

PP Historical Societies are doing a good job in preserving old mansions, inns, barracks, and churches, etc. But they seem to have neglected the most interesting and important buildings of all – the houses of the pioneer families, the people who settled, far from any town, in the lonely bush. Surely, these wonderful people deserve memorials?

Could we not honour them by restoring and re-furbishing some of their former homes as they were when “early settlers” lived in them?

A few of these solid, slab-walled old houses are still standing. If we do not act quickly, they will be destroyed and can never be replaced.

Their “tin” roofs should be replaced with shingles. Cracks between the slabs will have to be plugged again with clay and rags, to keep out draughts. Calico ceilings will need to be replaced. Pioneer women put them under the shingle roofs to protect their families (and food) from a steady rain of fine wood dust in dry weather. The floors (if not of earth) should be of boards, with a few “hooked rugs” on them. Heavy, old wooden furniture (some of solid cedar) should be in the rooms. As there were no tanks, every drop of water required for home needs had to be carried, (usually in buckets, by the women) from a well or waterhole. Occasionally, a man would bring a wooden cask of water on a “slide”, from the nearest creek or waterhole. In dry times, the waterhole would have to be dug first, in a green patch of earth where there was a “soak”. Similarly, water would have to be provided for the “stock”. No wonder “bush people” hate to see a drop of water being wasted!

The men and boys had to fell trees and bring home loads of firewood. This was stacked, and allowed to dry, before it could be used. Every day, men and boys (or the women and girls) chopped wood, to keep fires burning for heating and cooking purposes. This wood was carried to the house, and stacked neatly beside the great open fireplace, or in a box, on the verandah, beside the door. On fine days, women and children always gathered “kindling” (bark and wood chips), for starting fires; and some had to be carefully sheltered from rain, for use on wet days. Often, the kindling was stored in a “skillion” – a sloping bark roof built on to the side of a house. 99

PP Women swept the floors with brooms they made from bundles of twigs bound on to the end of a stout stick. They swept the ashes from the hearths of the great, open fireplaces with bunches of wing feathers. They “white-washed” the walls of their homes and the insides of the lower parts of the chimneys with clay dug from creek banks. Their home-made brushes, for spreading the clay, were bunches of coarse grass, bound on to pieces of flat board. Men made much of the furniture, long-lasting and comfortable. 99

PP But these bush homes were cared for by the hard-working courageous and self reliant pioneers themselves. They “opened up the way” for us. I doubt if visitors would sigh for “the good old days”, when they saw the lack of our modern conveniences, and labour-saving devices.

But I am sure they would go away with a greater respect for those wonderful ancestors of ours Australia's Pioneers. 99 TOL

Bits and Pieces

Explore Australia's convict history at the World Heritage Listed Hyde Park Barracks Museum. Learn about the forced transportation of convicts, their daily lives and how they built the colony. Wander the streets of 1820s Sydney on their giant map; try on a set of leg-irons; lie in a convict hammock; look for your relatives on the convict database and discover the intriguing stories of some of the 50,000 convicts who passed through the barracks doors between 1819 and 1848. Bring your kids for dress-ups and the convicts' Kids Trail. The exhibition is ongoing until 31 May, 2013. Visit http://www.hht.net.au/whats_on/exhibitions/exhibitions/convict_sydney.



If you use **ancestry.com** sites, you will be pleased to know that a New Advanced Image Viewer has been released - currently in Beta. When you view an original image of a record (not a transcription) whilst on one of the ancestry.com sites or when using Family Tree Maker's search facility, you can click on the 'Options' button above the image and select the Beta viewer in preference to the basic one. Ancestry, which has not updated its Advanced Viewer for a number of years, claims that this new Beta version is faster downloading images and provides more tools you can use whilst viewing an image. You can read all about this on the Ancestry Blog at <http://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2011/11/16/beta-image-viewer-now-available-2>



This year is the 70th Anniversary of the sinking of **HMAS Kuttabul**. In brief, three Japanese midgeet submarines attacked vessels in Sydney Harbour on 31 May 1942. As a result the converted ferry HMAS Kuttabul was struck by a torpedo and 21 men were killed. Findmypast is looking for the descendants of the men who perished on this vessel. On 31 May 2012 it is planned that a commemoration ceremony will take place to remember the 21 men who lost their lives on this

day. Findmypast would like to connect the descendants with the organisers so that they can be involved in this special event. If you are a descendant of these men or have any information please email Findmypast at ekelly@brightsolid.com



"Susan Effenbeger, Senior Natural Resource Officer, Crown Lands Maitland is interested in trying to arrange some workshops to compile a history of Norah Head/Cabbage Tree Harbour.

There are a number of people in the area all doing individual history and the idea is to pool all together and put on a CD. They are looking at a date in March 2012 to get the ball rolling. If you have an interest in this project please contact Cate Inwood catecc@bigpond.net.au *more Bits & Pieces on page 13*





Profile #11 Marilyn Cridland Life Member.

Marilyn joined WFHGIInc. on the 10 December 1993 and became a life member on 13 September 2007.

She currently serves the Group in the following capacities -

- Committee Member since September 1997;
- Tuesday *Cottage* Supervisor & Research Helper since October 2005;
- Projects Coordinator since 2009;
- Working on new Wyong & Tuggerah Lakes Pioneer book; and
- Helper at Bunnings' BBQs.

Her previous contributions include -

- Research helper at Tuggerah Library on 2nd Saturday of month over many years;
- Typed 2nd Edition Cemeteries of Wyong Shire;
- Research helper at Tuggerah Library on Tuesdays from March 1999 - November 2005;
- Worked on Noraville Cemetery Publication 2001 -2002;
- Typing and proofreading Palmdale Cemetery records 2003-2006;
- From 2005 many hours compiling Central Coast Roll of Honour which was published in 2009;
- Cottage Roster Supervisor September 2006 - March 2007;
- Guest Speakers Coordinator September 2007 - August 2009;
- Committee Member for the 2009 State Conference Nov 2007 - Nov 2009; and
- Many other less significant activities too numerous to mention here.

There can be no question that Marilyn is a dedicated and loyal member who has served the Group over and above her call of duty! She is reliable and puts her hand up to help with any events the Group has planned, working many hours at home and at the *Cottage*.

We are very fortunate and blessed to have Marilyn as part of the team! TOL



More Bits and Pieces

From Megan Hitchens, an interesting web site. **Worcester Council** in the UK is hosting a tithe and Inclosure mapping project. The aim is to eventually have the whole of Worcestershire done. You can see who owned the land and who occupied it when the acts of Inclosure were passed and when the tithe laws were changed (these two things contributed to many country people losing their land and migrating to the cities or to other places, such as Australia). You can zoom right down to the farm level. Lots of information can be gleaned from the maps. Well worth visiting. <http://gis.worcestershire.gov.uk/website/tithesmapping/> TOL

Louis Frederick Pittard

Part 2 (Continued next issue)

Beryl Watson, Member 48

There were fowl and duck yards and sheds for housing newly hatched chickens. When there wasn't a hen with newly hatched chickens, there was usually a dozen or more mixed day old chicks bought and housed in an incubator. I fancy Fred may have built the incubator, as it was lined with galvanized iron and had a tank underneath where kerosene was held. A wick was inserted and lit to keep the whole thing warm. In really cold weather, an old blanket was usually thrown over the chicken wire top to keep the chicks warm.

As they walked around in this large tray, their feet used to become very heavy with food clinging to them and it was a normal exercise to warm some water and soak the debris off their feet every day. When a mother hen abandoned her chicks, they were brought into the kitchen and put into a blanket-lined basket and placed by the fuel stove. Sometimes Maud would wrap the chick in a piece of flannel and put it into her blouse or dress and carry on with her work. Most times the chick would recover and join his mates in the incubator. It was the custom to eat chicken at Easter and Christmas, as it was classed as a special treat.

Always a businesswoman, Maud had several shops, including a Produce Store at Auburn and several mixed businesses at Auburn and Homebush. When she could no longer run a shop, she knitted baby wear for the local shop and those that her daughter-in-law, Violet Pittard had at West Ryde.

Maud bought a car and learnt to drive but she could never manage to reverse, so Fred built a turntable in the drive at Cumberland Road, Auburn. Before this, Maud drove a horse and cart. By the time I was born in 1933, the third block up from Provincial Street had been sold to the Little family and they had built and were living there. The two remaining blocks remained in the family till 1940.

The family home was built by Fred in time for the birth of their sixth and last child Clarence Edward Goulette Pittard, born 6 January, 1912 (named after a famous bicycle rider of the time). The block on the corner of Provincial Street was, up till the start of World War Two, used for fruit trees, vegetable growing, chickens, ducks and flowers. In the thirties, Maud and daughter Amy raised ducks and chickens for sale at Christmas and Easter. They also made wedding bouquets and floral wreaths for funerals. I remember "helping" with this activity. Eggs were also sold throughout the year and we also grew mushrooms under the front bedrooms. At this time Fred and Maud were in their sixties and had not applied for the Age Pension. It took their son Charles to persuade them that they were entitled to it.

Two more blocks of land were purchased in Albermarle Street, Narrabeen in the late twenties and Fred built a holiday cottage and later, on Clarence built a garage for his sailing boat, which was used on Narrabeen Lake.

Fred was a strong swimmer. I remember him swimming beyond the breakers at Narrabeen beach, with me at the edge entreating him to come back in away from the sharks! He couldn't hear me, he was enjoying himself too much. ..*To be continued...* TOL

New Members

A very warm welcome is extended to all new members and we look forward to meeting and helping you at 'The Cottage'. Contact any of these members by sending an enquiry to: Member's Name & No.

C/- Wyong Family History Group Inc.

P O Box 247, Wyong NSW 2259

No	Member	Research Interest
548	Pauline O'SULLIVAN	Smith, O'Sullivan, Clark & Montague
549	Mark WALKER	Walker
550	Lana FRY	Hatley, Hawkins & Taylor
551	Ian WEDDELL	Weddell & Dakers
552	Helen HORD	Hord, Coleman, Hockey, Sharp & Boorman
553	Peter HOARE	Hoare, Snape, Stirling, Maguire, Cann, Vincent, Jackson, Taber, McAllister & Voller

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. Bags are not allowed past the foyer. Please use the lockers provided. You may take in research folders and a purse. Food and drink are not allowed in the research areas.

Books which can be borrowed from the library (i.e. Books without a 'NOT FOR LOAN' mark), can only be out for two weeks at a time. Please record them in the red 'Loan Book' When returning any journals, books or magazines, please note the date returned in the book and then place them in the tray on the Library table. They will be placed back on the shelves by the volunteer on duty that day.



Little Betty Blue

Meg Gibson Member 43

Little Betty Blue lost her holiday shoe.

What will little Betty do?

Buy her another to match the other

And then she shall walk in two.

The explanation of this nursery rhyme from a 70 year old children's book in my possession is as follows:

All About Betty Blue

Originally a rhyme about a certain member of the 'Blue Gowns', who had lost the King's patronage. The 'Blue Gowns' were a class of licensed beggars in Scotland, to whom, formerly, the Scottish kings annually distributed certain pensions on condition of their praying for the Royal welfare. The pensions consisted of a blue gown and shoes, a purse containing as many shillings as the years of the king's age and a badge bearing the words 'Pass and Repass' – which protected the wearer from all laws against begging. Betty Blue, it is presumed, lost this pass, which is interpreted as 'her holiday shoe'. TOL

Anderson Not O'Neil !

Submitted by Beryl Whatson Member no. 46

Whilst writing the other article on the Anderson & O'Neil families, there was still the niggling doubt, as to why the name change.

Yes, everything fitted together nicely, but I didn't have a convict who fitted the time- frame exactly. **Charles O'Neil per "Albian 1827" looked good, but the name Charles didn't figure in any of the descendants.** I decided to contact my cousin who has been researching for about 40 years and has written and published several books.

Her first question to me, [after looking at all the facts on Anderson and O'Neil] was, could he have been an Anderson right from the beginning? Well yes he may have been, so she had a look at all the convicts named Anderson, and found one. Also she looked at the 1837 muster and found that the O'Neil lady & children had resided with her husband **Patrick O'Neil**, a constable in Sydney.

So, armed with these facts my cousin researched **John Anderson per "Susan 1826"**. Since starting this project, a transcription for the deaths of John and Jane Anderson had arrived, so I was armed with more facts. This convict was only 15 when convicted, so his age fitted "our John". He was also born in Dublin, although tried in London at the Old Bailey. This John was found to be working for the "Misses Brooks" at Goulburn in 1837, so again in the right district, everything again fitted the known facts.

Given that we have found a John Anderson in the right time period and place of assignment, this convict looks to be a better man for "our John Anderson". What John was doing between 1837 and 1850, when he married Jane Lewis, remains a mystery. Why did they go to Sydney to marry is also a mystery, but his first child was born at Picton the same year of the marriage and the next two were born in the Monaro, where the family stayed until the 1920s.

Here are two convicts, born in the same year in Ireland, came to the Monaro district, and had the name of O'Neil as surname and middle name. In my case used it as a second name for three generations, and completely fouled up my research and proved that **I was wrong**.

I am left with two main questions....

1. Why was the O'Neil name used as Neil, for three more generations in my grand daughter's ancestors?
2. Who were our John's parents?

Two questions that may never be answered and does it really matter, because I now feel I have the right ancestor for my granddaughter. TOL



Convict Interest Group

June Johnston, Member 307 (Coordinator)

The group meets at 'The Cottage' on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. The time of the meeting is 10 am to 12 noon. Any member is welcome to join us and bring their stories, queries etc. TOL

The Clarence River Smalls

By Jean Macleay

Whilst the stories of the Smalls of Ryde are well documented not so much is generally known of the Clarence River .

Our first John Small, a 'First Fleet' convict married Mary Parker in October 1788. Their land grant was where the intersection of Victoria and Devlin Road, Ryde is now. In John and Mary's time, however, the locality was called 'Kissing Point'. Their sons John and William lived nearby when they married. Another of John's sons Thomas was a ship builder on the Parramatta River.

Richard Craig was a convict who had escaped from Moreton Bay and had lived amongst aborigines for 2 years gradually making his way south to Port Macquarie where he was apprehended. Richard was very impressed with the fertility of the Clarence River valley and the wonderful stands of red cedar. On obtaining his freedom Craig came to Sydney endeavouring to interest a businessman to fund further exploration of the Clarence area and finally found a willing ear in Thomas Small. Thomas set out in his ship the "Susan" with John Small. The first time they arrived off the Clarence they were unable to cross the bar and returned to Sydney where they collected a whaleboat, returned and navigated the bar safely. On

board the "Susan" were Captain Henry Thorn, mate John Boyle, seamen, twelve pairs of sawyers, Mr. Gillett, part owner of the Susan, John Small and his son, John Frederick Small then 17 years old. They landed on Woodford Island at the location now know as Woodford Quarry. Three months later in late 1838, the whole of the Small



family came to the river in the 'Susan'. This party consisted of Elizabeth Small nee Patfield and children Anne b.18 Jun 1825, Eliza b.10 Sept 1828, George b.26 Feb 1832, Mary b.14 Jan 1836 and baby James b.26 Nov 1838. John Frederick b. 24 Dec 1821 was already there (infants Sophie b.1831 and Jane b. 1834 died shortly after birth). Three more children were born to John and Elizabeth in Woodford Island. They were Harriet Small b.1 Feb 1842, Rebecca b.20 Aug 1845 and Henry b.26 Sept 1847.

The first cattle brought to the 'Big' River as it was known, came by the 'Susan'. The Smalls prospered on the proceeds of selling the much sought after cedar which was worth 6/- per 100 ft in the log, sawn or axe squared.

John Frederick was granted a large area of land at the southern end of Woodford Island . This grazing property "Arkarowa" is where the Small family cemetery stands. The Smalls in the early days held the whole of Woodford Island under



lease and used it to run cattle. John Frederick successfully carried out grazing pursuits for many years holding other properties 'Taloumbi' and 'Newton Boyd' stations. John

The Small family cemetery on 'Arkarowa' as it is today

endowed the first

school on the Clarence organising a building, (the first home of John Small snr.), furniture and selecting a teacher.

John Frederick was married twice. His first wife was Mary Matilda Chowne who had four children, John Frederick jnr. 1850, Matilda Maria 1854, Mary Elizabeth 1856 and Frederick William in 1860 when she died in childbirth John then married her niece, Louisa Henrietta Chowne.

Louisa bore a further nine children: Arthur Herbert 1863, Louisa Henrietta 1865 (died in infancy), Henry Edward 1866 (my grandfather) Louisa Henrietta 1869, Thomas George 1872, Leslie William Australia 1875, Rowland James 1877, Morris Chowne 1880, and Hunter Melville 1884.

It appears that after 50 years of prosperity the Smalls suffered a severe financial downturn. Records show that John Frederick jnr, and brothers George and Henry Edward were separately declared bankrupt in the 1890's.



Henry and Mary on their wedding day 12 Oct 1892

Henry Edward, my grandfather, was described as a butcher at Tynedale, at the time of his bankruptcy proceedings in 1895. It appears he was the tenant on a property "Glenmore Paddocks" on Woodford Island, Clarence River where he had his slaughtering shed and ran his cattle. It was claimed that he had not paid his rent for over 12 months and there were other parties including the bank who held his promissory notes.

Henry Edward, known to all as 'Joe', had married Mary Jane McLucas on 12th October 1892. Mary Jane would have believed that she had married one of the well-off gentry of Woodford Island and the bankruptcy would have been a terrible come-down for her. All of my cousins agree that they remember grandma as being a somewhat bitter lady and wonder if this was the cause. At the time of the bankruptcy they had one son and another was on the way.

Joe and Mary Jane lived virtually all of their married life at 9 Union Street, Maclean where they raised their eight children. Stewart Campbell b.1894, Keith Campbell b.1896, John Lindsay Campbell b.1897, Allan Campbell b.1899, Mary Louisa Campbell b.1902, Winifred Campbell b.1904, Jean Campbell b.1909, Colin Campbell b.1913.

Their middle name of Campbell reflected the fact that grandma had been brought up by the Campbells, her mother having died in childbirth. The house in Union Street was the usual four room timber cottage with a hall down the middle and the kitchen,



bathroom and laundry in a separate building out the back and the dunny further up the yard. There was no water in the house when I was there as a child, we had to pump it up by hand in the yard. Grandma was quite old before she got a kitchen and bathroom within the house. Grandfather who was described as a carter at Maclean kept his horse and cart in the paddock next door.

My cousins and I didn't care about any of this. We all spent all of our holidays up on the river either at Union Rd or at Aunt Mary and Uncle Stuart's dairy and cane farm on Palmers Island, about 7 miles down river from Maclean. We loved every moment of our time up there. We all slept together in a big feather bed at grandmas. My farm cousins say they had a laugh at us city kids but we loved our taste of rural life and there was no better aunty than our Aunt Mary with her warm, sweet smelling kitchen and happy laughing way.

Grandma Mary Jane was determined that all of her boys would all get a good education, "no cane cutters for her", and do well. And they did. Uncle Stewart first came to Sydney and set up a business in the Sydney Arcade. One by one the boys followed him, stayed with him at the boarding house belonging to the Miss Frazers at Burwood and graduated from Sydney University.

Of all my aunts and Aunt Mary was the only one who remained on the Clarence. She married Stuart McIntyre and of their children Margaret, Jeannie, Bob and Louise, the latter two still remain, Lou who married Brian Ferrie lives on Woodford Island and Bob remains on the family cane farm.

We all agreed that we are most fortunate to have this sense of 'belonging' to this wonderful family.

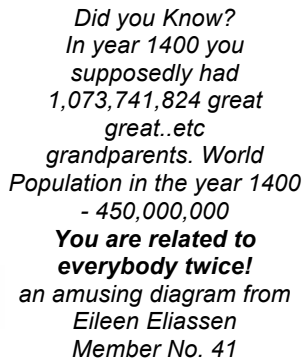
Stewart – Helen and Heather

John – Jean and Anne

Mary – Margaret, Robert (his party), Jeannie and Louise

Jean - Did not marry

TOL
◆◆◆◆◆



A French Connection

Owen S. Powell J.P. Member No180

The question

William Aitken (b 11/12/1777 Penicuik, Midlothian, Scotland) Surgeon in the Royal Navy from 1801 to 1814 (ADM/104/12). After that period he lived at Quimperl?. Finis? re in France on half pay and signed a will (ADM45/25/93) to his English "beloved wife" on the 4th April 1839 before dying on the 29th April 1849 in this town.

So his widow received a pension and their 2 boys (Charles Frederic and William Henry John) were admitted to the Greenwich Hospital School (ADM73/155/93).

I expected in this folder to find the marriage certificate of his parents.

Unfortunately it was returned to Mrs Aitken.

I just found a written paper follow as: "certificate of marriage of William Aitken surgeon R.N. and Indiana Harriet Nisbet at Nantes (protestant church) France 19th Nov 1832, taken place in presence of Henry Newman, His Britannic Majesty's Consul at Nantes.

I did not find anything in the French records; perhaps it would be a Consular Certificate.

Can you advise me of the best way to discover the original record?

An Answer

Yes, the fact that it took place in France and that William Aitken was Scottish may confuse things.....If French Law required any kind of marriage registration at that time, then some sort of record might exist in France, perhaps among records of the individual church, rather than the State?

I'm sure that I don't have to point out that Scotland has a separate legal system to England. According to www.Scotlandpeople.gov.uk, marriages of Scots abroad before 1855 may (just may) have been recorded among "minor records".

But having just looked at the site, discovered I had some credits left (which I had forgotten about) searched for a marriage for "William Aitken" 1830-1834, and used one of them to have a look, none of them appeared to refer to marriages in Nantes, or to a Miss Nisbet.

So the Consular route may be the only one open to you. It would appear that some U.K. consular marriage records survive in the National Archives; see <http://tinyurl.com/6tfrcha>.

There is a guide to overseas marriage sources here: <http://tinyurl.com/ybmyqgc>

But what about this "written paper" you mention? Might this be the marriage certificate you seek?? TOL

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Are You A Descendant of the First Fleeter Thomas Akers/Acres

To mark the 225th Anniversary of the arrival of our ancestor, Thomas Acres/Akers, members of the Thomas Acres Society (TAS) will hold a reunion between 12pm and 4.30pm on Saturday 2nd February 2013, in the Fitzroy Room at the Campbelltown Catholic Club, Campbelltown NSW.

The cost of the Reunion Lunch will be \$45 per adult and \$22 per child aged 4-12 years inclusive.

There is a limit of 240 seats available due to the size of the venue; a non-refundable deposit of \$20 per adult is required as soon as possible to meet the required deposit for our room

The Committee is planning a Power Point presentation along with a display of photographs, maps of the early Sydney and Campbelltown areas, as well as a Genealogy Chart of Thomas and Ann.

Should you wish to bring your family information or photographs to share with us, you are more than welcome to do so at your own discretion. Copies may be best rather than originals please.

We are also looking into suitable accommodation in the Campbelltown area for those needing rooms, and we will post those particulars on the TAS website when they become available.

Further Information and Registration is available from the following Committee Members:

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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
(7.00pm on 2nd Thursday of the month). Saturdays by
appointment only. Public Holidays – Closed.**

**Tuggerah Library, Westfield: Workshop 3rd Saturday 10.00am
– 2.00pm (WFHG members available to help)**

Contact the Group as follows:

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Wyong Family History Group Inc.
P O Box 247
Wyong NSW 2259**

Telephone: (02) 4351 2211

Email The Secretary: secwfhg2@westnet.com.au

Email WFH Group: wfhg06@westnet.com.au

Website: <http://rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nswwfhg/>

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