

Footsteps



**Port Macquarie & Districts
Family History Society Inc.**

SOCIETY ORGANISATION AND CONTACTS

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Acquisitions/Archives..... Clive Smith
Footsteps Magazine..... Margaret Blight
General Meetings Roster..... Gwen Grimmond
Journals..... Alastair Moss/Greg Hearne
Library Roster..... Sue Brindley
Membership/Minutes..... Jennifer Mullin
Museum Heritage Group..... Diane Gillespie
InfoEmail..... Diane Gillespie/Jennifer Mullin
NSW & ACT Association – Delegate..... Clive Smith
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Public Officer..... Clive Smith
Research Queries..... Research Team
Ryerson Index Transcribers..... Kay and Terry Browne
Social Coordinator..... Margaret Blight
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DNA Support Group..... Ken Hunt
Family Search..... Robyn Denley/Pauline Every
Research Support Group..... Clive Smith/Rex Toomey
RootsMagic Support Group..... Brian and Lin Panisset
Writers' Group..... Diane Gillespie
Convict Studies Group..... Clive Smith

CURRENT PROJECT COORDINATORS

Port Macquarie's Last Convicts..... Clive Smith
Port Macquarie Rate Books..... Rex Toomey
Small Debts Register for Port Macquarie Sue Brindley

Life Members: Terry Browne, Kay Browne, Frank Maskill

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Cover Photo: *The L’Estrange family on a camping trip along the Tweed River, NSW, circa. 1904. Photo from Creative Commons Public Domain, via Queensland University of Technology.*

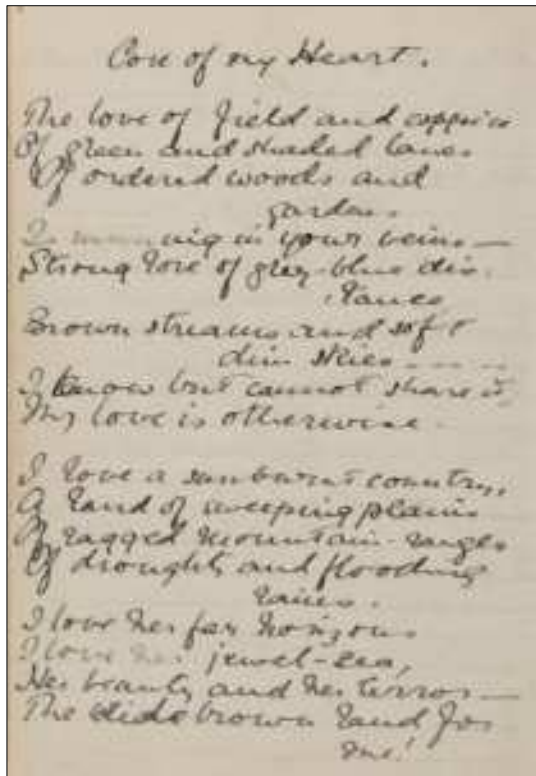


PRESIDENT’S TWO CENTS’ WORTH

Diane Gillespie

Dorothea **McKellar**’s poem “Core of My Heart” or “My Country” talks about a sunburnt country. We have been in the thick of the Sunburnt Country for the past six months or more and still our wonderful country continues to suffer from these devastating bushfires.

Our “sweeping plains” have been consumed by a monster that takes all in its path, leaving nothing but burnt sticks that point helplessly to leaden skies. Australia is certainly a country of extremes, but it is greatly loved by the people who live here.



We have seen the “beauty and the terror”, both of the land and its people, where volunteers have willingly given their time fighting to save others while their own homes have suffered and sometimes been lost in an unprecedented Summer of Disaster.

Our unique wildlife has also suffered greatly from these fires, but the true spirit of generosity has seen much money raised to aid these animals and once again volunteers have displayed their true nature in assisting in their recovery.

Dorothea **McKellar** penned these words in 1904 when Australia had grown from a collection of colonies and was a new country in a new century. Yet we still face the same perils and traumas over one hundred years later in this “wide brown land” that we lovingly call home.

It is hoped your family has not been impacted by these summer disasters. It may be the time to consider how we store our records and what contingencies we have in place for our precious family history collections.

2020 looks like being another busy year for members of PMDFHS as we prepare to host the NSWACT Annual Conference in September next year.

We will also be continuing with our activities throughout this year beginning with our involvement in ‘Sensational Seniors’ Expo on Monday 17 February; a Summer BBQ on Saturday 22 February, to which everyone is invited; then we will celebrate Heritage Week with activities in April. We have also begun discussions with some interesting speakers who will address our meetings in 2020 and I hope to see many of you there.

*(The complete poem ‘Core of my Heart’ comprising six verses, handwritten by Dorothea **Mackellar** (1885-1968,) can be viewed at en.m.wikisource.org. Dorothea began writing the poem whilst she was in England and it was first published in the London Spectator in 1908. Ed.)*

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the following new members. We hope you will enjoy your association with our Society and that you will benefit from the resources and workshops available to you.

Ted **Campbell** from Port Macquarie
Lyndall **Nairn** from Port Macquarie

Mike **Dodkin** from Port Macquarie
Lis **Hannelly** from Port Macquarie

36TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF NSW & ACT ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES 2020

The next Conference will be held from Friday 11th September till Sunday 13th September this year at **WESTS New Lambton, Newcastle NSW** and will be hosted by the Newcastle Family History Society Inc. with Maitland & Beyond Family History Inc.

Further information is available from the website: www.ridingthewavesofhistory.com.au

FROM THE EDITOR

Margaret Blight

Welcome to 2020, and hopefully to a year that improves as the days go by. We all seem to have been touched in some way by the recent bushfires, but I hope it was still possible to enjoy part of the holiday season with friends and family, albeit a little more comfortably than the family on the front cover!!

This edition of Footsteps has an eclectic mix of articles: one focuses on the search for information about a relative, while another outlines the search for the truth about their ancestor. A precious letter written by a great uncle records how a family name mentioned in a newspaper led to contact between two brothers, and another article outlines the travels and activities that spanned an eight-year period before a Scottish family finally settled permanently in Australia.

Also included is some historical information about the first European settlement in Port Macquarie, leading up to the 200-year anniversary of that event in 2021, and some personal reflections and musings about life and family, contributed by the dedicated members of our Society. I'm sure you will enjoy reading all their contributions.

ON NOT FINDING THAT ELUSIVE ANCESTOR AGAIN!

Dr Noeline Kyle

I have been looking for my maternal great grandfather for over 30 years. As assisted immigrants from Belfast, Northern Ireland, Nurse Mary **Kirkpatrick**, her husband Hugh and eleven-month old David 'Dave', arrived in Sydney in 1884. They moved to Armidale in the later 1880s where their second son George was born in 1889.

Unfortunately for Mary, (or at least according to family legend), Hugh spent the money saved for the baby's layette on gambling and Mary told him to leave! Hugh disappears, and in 1891 Mary appeared in the census return in Rankin Street, Armidale, as the head of household with two sons.

My research since has uncovered no further information about Hugh **Kirkpatrick**. Research on deaths in all States (and including New Zealand), and possible other marriages, produced no result. I have looked at criminal records, bankruptcy, passengers returning to Ireland – every record I can think of that might yield some information about Hugh after the separation.

Mary called herself a widow on documents in later decades but that could have been because she did not want to be known as a deserted or separated wife. And so, I have continued to search for Hugh and as new records have come online, I have looked closely, searched thoroughly but all to no avail. I was told that he could be an unknown death in Armidale as there are several of those in that district, and this does remain a possibility.

More recently I was interested to hear of success stories from DNA tests completed on male descendants. Hah, I thought, I can do this as the family have a direct male line of descent from my great grandfather. But, alas, that was not possible as the person, quite rightly, felt unable to do so. So here I was again at a research impasse. What to do? Well, I thought, maybe I can do more research on the **Kirkpatrick** family in Belfast. I have completed much more research on Mary, finding her life story in Belfast and in Australia interesting and relatively easy to do. I have completed much less research on Hugh's family as a result.

I had only a few clues from family stories about Hugh before immigration. I knew that Hugh's father, James **Kirkpatrick**, was a butcher and had a shop in Albert Bridge Road, Belfast. Hugh also worked as a 'flesher' when he moved to Armidale, so it did appear to be a family occupation.

It was by chance, during this research, that I found myself on the webpage *Belfast Forum* and here I posted a short message about Hugh and his father James. I did not expect much from this, but I had an instant response from a forum member who directed me to Irish BDMs for Hugh's siblings and some newspaper reports featuring Hugh, his father, and his brother James.

Hugh was the eldest in his family with one sister Janet, and two brothers, James and David. His mother Jane died five years after he and Mary left for New South Wales and his father remarried to Eliza producing a stepbrother Joseph.

Hugh's brother David and his wife Maggie also emigrated to Australia in 1884, but on a different ship, the *Warwick*, (Mary and Hugh had sailed on the *Cambodia*). Finding this out was my first clue that there are other family in New South Wales as neither Nurse **Kirkpatrick**, nor my grandfather Dave mentioned any of these people during their lifetimes. David and Maggie had no children, but I found a cousin to Hugh and David, his name also James **Kirkpatrick**, living at Narrabeen. James and his wife Mary Jane had eight children, one of whom, James Hunter Kirkpatrick served in World War II.

When Hugh's brother David died in 1926 the funeral notice was placed in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, and other notices alongside the death notice suggests that this was a close family. As noted in the newspaper the cousins were close to David, and a Mr and Mrs **Brown** of Glebe, as well as James **Kirkpatrick** (both noted as cousins), inserted separate notes as follows:

*"The relatives and friends of Mr and Mrs James **Kirkpatrick** and family of Narrabeen (and also Mr and Mrs **Brown** of Glebe) are invited to attend the Funeral of their beloved Cousin, David **Kirkpatrick** to leave 7 High Street, Marrickville this Thursday..."*

In addition, an 'esteemed friend Mr Charles **Baker**' placed a similar note in the newspaper. I wondered if this points to David **Kirkpatrick** being held in high regard by the community.

After checking the family events around these related **Kirkpatricks**, I began to read the entries in the Belfast newspapers. Hugh, his father James, and a younger brother also named James, were charged with rowdy and threatening behaviour in 1877, these events seven years before Hugh and Mary left Belfast. The three **Kirkpatrick** men turned up at a house late one night with knives and various weapons to harass a man who had, allegedly, forced a woman out of the house. They were purportedly doing a favour for the woman, but their efforts did not go down well with the authorities. They did not get a prison sentence but were reprimanded severely. The question might be asked if these events were a further motivation for Hugh and Mary leaving Belfast? Did these events tarnish Hugh's reputation, not just with the authorities, but also in his community? Did they decide to leave so they could make a fresh start in New South Wales?

All of the above leads to the conclusion that maybe Hugh was in more trouble than just gambling the baby's layette when Mary tossed him out! And, leaving Belfast might not have provided the new life and fresh start that Hugh, in particular, might have been seeking. However, I have searched Police and Criminal records, probates, TROVE, and much more, but I cannot find him anywhere. I do not think Hugh would have returned to Belfast as very few immigrants had the resources to do so and he and Mary were not wealthy but young, poor Irish settlers as were most at that time.

As Hugh and his brother David came out from Northern Ireland in the same year it is likely that they were in contact with each other. After Hugh and Mary separated did Mary keep in contact with them? Did she know about their deaths? Nurse Mary did not die until 1943 and should have had some idea of the events in Sydney. But nothing has survived in the family to tell us whether she knew them or indeed kept in touch.

Did Hugh go to Sydney to see his brother and cousin? Did he ask for help when he and Mary parted? Or was he the 'black sheep' and not welcomed by family? Perhaps, perhaps not, but nothing survives to tell me anything more. Perhaps Hugh is that unknown death somewhere and I will never know the details anyway.



"For the growing good of the world is partly dependent on unhistoric acts; and that things are not so ill with you and me as they might have been, is half owing to the number who lived faithfully a hidden life, and rest in unvisited tombs".

... Quotation from **Middlemarch, A Study in Provincial Life, 1871** by George **Eliot** -
contributed by Rex **Toomey** ...

AN UNRESOLVED CURIOSITY – WHO WAS MY MATERNAL GREAT, GREAT, GREAT GRANDFATHER?

Peter Aitchison

I have recently prepared a book for my children on five generations of my ancestors. I am fortunate that this was not as complicated a task as it would be for many other people, as all my direct ancestors for five generations were born in England, Scotland or South Australia.

But inevitably there were some surprises and some question marks.

For me, the most interesting (and unresolved) question is the identity of my maternal great, great, great grandfather. Was he a Knight of the Garter and one of the most important people in the whole of Britain, or was he a lowly coal miner in Devon? I must explain.

My parents told me decades ago that my great, great, great grandfather was the Duke of **Montrose**, and apparently this has been very widely accepted without question for generations. I do not know where this belief came from, but in support of it, my great, great grandmother Ann's second Christian name was Montrose (her maiden name was supposedly **Green**, and her full name after marriage was Ann **Montrose Torr**). The name **Montrose** has flowed on to subsequent generations, for example, it was the second Christian name of my grandfather Kenneth Montrose **Torr**, as well as two of my mother's siblings Barbara and Graham, and two of Graham's children; and a family property in Adelaide that belonged to Ann Montrose **Torr's** daughter and son-in-law, where Ann Montrose **Torr** died, is called "*Montrose*".

However, after significant research, I am dubious as to whether the Duke was really my great, great, great grandfather. I have also learned while exploring this issue, that many other family researchers (including people who put far more effort into their research than I), have been investigating this issue but it remains a question mark for them too.

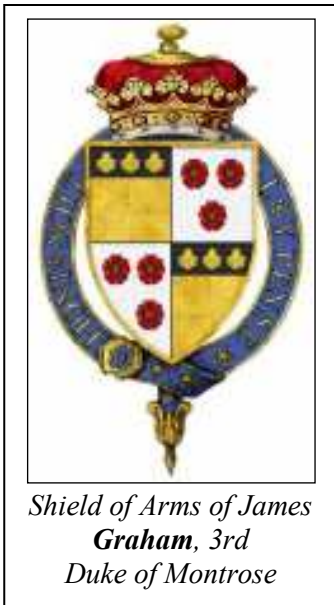
It would be exciting to think that James **Graham** K.G., K.T., P.C., 3rd Duke of Montrose and very close associate of the royal household, is my ancestor. So, who was he?

The 3rd Duke of Montrose was a Scottish nobleman and statesman who was born James **Graham** on 8 September 1755. His parents were William **Graham**, 2nd Duke of Montrose and Lady Lucy **Manners**. He married Lady **Ashburnham** in 1785 but she died in 1786 following the death of their infant son. Then in 1790 he married Lady Caroline Maria **Montagu** and records show that they had six children, but not one of the children was called Ann.

The Duke was a Member of Parliament from 1780 to 1790, when he succeeded his father in the Dukedom, and supposedly Scotland can thank him for the repeal in 1782 of the Act of 1747 prohibiting the wearing of tartans. He served as Lord of the Treasury from 1783 to 1789 and as co-Paymaster of the Forces from 1789 to 1791. He was appointed a Privy Counsellor (P.C.) and Vice-President of the Board of Trade in 1789. After that he held many more positions including Master of the Horse (1790-1795 and 1807-1821), Commissioner for India (1791-1803), Lord Justice General of Scotland (1795-1836), President of the Board of Trade (1804-1806), and Lord **Chamberlain** (1821-1827 and 1828-1830). He was appointed a Knight of the

Thistle (K.T.) in 1793, then a Knight of the Garter (K.G.) in 1812. He was clearly an extremely important person and was close to the royal household and especially the Prince Regent. He died on 30 December 1836.

But there are two main reasons why I doubt whether the Duke was really my ancestor. Firstly, his surname was **Graham**, but records seem to indicate that Ann's maiden name was **Green**, not **Graham**. And secondly, Ann was born in the mining town of Tavistock in Devon, so it is highly likely that her father, whoever he was, would also have lived in the Tavistock area; yet the Duke lived in Scotland.



Shield of Arms of James
Graham, 3rd
Duke of Montrose

In relation to the first issue, the Duke's surname, some researchers have suggested that he threw something in the king's face and then changed his surname from **Graham** to **Green** to establish a new identity to keep out of trouble. But nothing I have read suggests that the Duke fell out of favour with the royal household. Indeed, he seems to have been very influential and in favour in the Palace, especially with the Prince Regent. For instance:

- Saunders's Newsletter of 13 February 1813 reported that *'On Saturday the members of the Queen's Council met to take into consideration and report the state of the King. The Archbishops of Canterbury and York accompanied the Duke of Montrose in his carriage to London, and arrived at the Queen's Palace about five o'clock, and held a council with Her Majesty'*.

- The Morning Chronicle of 5 July 1813 reported from Windsor that *'The Queen, Princesses Elizabeth and Mary, and the Duke of York, arrived here soon after 11 o'clock, from London. By 12 o'clock the Members of the Queen's Council, consisting of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Chancellor, Lord Ellenborough, the Duke of Montrose, Earl of Winchilsea (sic), Lord Arden, &c, had arrived at the Lower Lodge, where the five Physicians attending the King were in waiting to receive them.... The Members of the Council afterwards proceeded to the Castle and held a council with Her Majesty.'*
- The Sussex Advertiser of 8 November 1813 reported that *'His Royal Highness entered the state-coach exactly at half past one o'clock, accompanied by the Duke of Montrose and Lord Boston, and saluted by the full band, playing God Save the King'*.
- On 30 March 1814, two days before Ann's birth on 1 April 1814, the Morning Post reported that *'the Duke of Montrose had a long interview with the Prince Regent yesterday'*.

With regard to the second issue (the probability that my great, great grandmother would have been conceived in the Tavistock area), it is possible of course that the Duke may have visited Tavistock in mid-1813, nine+ months before Ann was born, and that he and my great, great, great grandmother could have 'got together' so to speak. But I think it unlikely that the Duke

would have had reason to go to a mining town so far from both Scotland and London, and even if he did, would a Knight of the Garter 'lower' himself to have a 'liaison' with the daughter of a coal miner? Personally, I doubt it.

It is possible of course that the Duke really was Ann's father, because there seems no other logical reason for her second name to be Montrose and for that name to be carried on through subsequent generations. If he actually was her father, then maybe Ann was conceived out of wedlock and was given his name for some reason - possible reasons might be that the Duke agreed to support the young baby in exchange for her being given his name, or that Ann's mother (also called Ann) could have been proud of having a daughter to the Duke and decided herself to give her baby daughter the name Montrose.

I do not know, and it seems that no-one else does either...but it is interesting to contemplate!

TREASURED LETTERS FROM MY GREAT, GREAT UNCLES, ROBERT AND WALTER PASLEY

Contributed by Val Friederich

Kilbirnie

Via Gladstone, Queensland

Feb. 15th, 1886

Dear Robert

The receipt of your letter gave me great pleasure, as I thought I would never hear from a Pasley again - I am glad to find that you are well, and married, getting surrounded with olive branches.

What a host of questions I am tempted to put - such as:- how long are you married? What are the names of the little angels in human form? Would you mind sending a photo or two?

Your surmise as to how I found you out is correct, - through the Langworthy case - Mrs. Mundell, of Bangalow Station, to whose children I was Tutor for some years - first drew my attention to a paragraph in the Forbes paper anent the notorious trial.

I was at first inclined to think it a mere coincidence in names, still I fancied there would be no harm in writing - About a fortnight after writing to you - Mrs. Mundell sent me the pamphlet you speak of, and the signature "Mildred Long" convinced me instantly it was Elizabeth's daughter who was the heroine - the R. Pasley consequently must be yourself.

I remember in Randalstown, we often had a walk in Thames' Castle Park and I generally carried Milly, she was nearly two years old then. In the pamphlet she is reported as being born in 1856, but we mustn't be too critical about Ladies ages.

I heard from Louisa long ago that Percy was dead - now I learn that it was a blow from a cricket ball which caused his death. Walter was the second boy; I wonder what he has turned out - The next to Milly was Arthur - I fancy it is he who is the Clergyman.

There is a striking resemblance between Mildred and her Mother. I wonder what the upshot of the whole affair will be, surely, she will not be wheedled into living with him again and getting poisoned perhaps! At any rate she seems to be an extraordinarily clever but simple woman and I hope all her troubles are over.

You remember the Linnets of Geelong, I wrote there about ten years ago as a forlorn hope, enquiring as to your or Louisa's whereabouts – I got an answer from William Linnet saying he didn't know, but that he would make enquiries. After a few weeks he wrote again – said he heard the McDonalds had gone to New Zealand but that he was ignorant of your address.

In 1880 an acquaintance of mine was called home to inherit a fortune in Bedfordshire, he promised to make enquiries about Mr. Long and family as he was likely to visit Ireland, he kept his promise and in the beginning of 1881 I had a letter from Elizabeth. It was from her I learnt that M.J was dead and that my mother was very ill, that one of the boys was a Barrister and another a Clergyman and that none of the girls were married. They were living in Belfast in, I think, "Clifton Park Avenue" but I forget – I was glad to hear from her and answered her letter, begging her to send me a photograph of some of them, but I waited in vain, mail after mail arrived but I never heard from her more – She told me William was in Liverpool, idle, as he was subject to Epilepsy fits, nobody would give him command of a ship – I hope he is not in want.

As for myself, I cannot say there has been much of a sensation in my whole career – The one thing remarkable in my life being the uniform law of never being worth anything worth speaking of, which I am sure you will not doubt for an instant. However, since I came to Queensland twenty-nine years ago – I have never been in want, and as I don't think it likely that I ever will be, I consider that I am as happy as the average.

About twelve years ago I accepted the office of Tutor in a squatter's family and, being successful, I took a liking to the occupation and have followed it ever since. The last I lived with, Mr. Morton, Prairie, went to New Zealand a few years ago, I was with his children three years. He was so pleased with the boys' progress (they having headed the list in the Rockhampton Grammar School (Ex) that he wanted me to accompany them to New Zealand. I had a letter lately from Archie, the eldest, hoping I would go and join them – I am afraid I am too old now to go such a long distance over the sea – ten years back I would not ask better sport – I may make my mind to go yet!

How often have I called to mind, (while explaining, say a problem of Euclid) – the old Blue Coat School – the wooden headed way the teachers had of trying to make us understand any knotty point – I declare 'tis a wonder to me how any of us left the school with a particle of knowledge in our addled heads. I wish I had taken to teaching twenty years back, The Queensland National Schools offer fair remuneration for competent teachers.

I would like to have Louis's address, and so her daughter is to be married soon. If I don't forget, one of her children is named Francis Catherine. She told me so in her first letter to me 22 years ago. The last letter I had from her was in I think 1870. Perhaps it was only fancy, but I suspected by the tone of it that she and her husband were not pulling well together – I hope I was mistaken for I liked Louisa very much.

*How quick the years seem to fly past now; here I am getting letters from some of my old pupils telling me of their marriage or approaching marriage and who were but mere children as it were yesterday. Why Louise must be 45 now, yet I always picture her in my own mind as I saw her last .. a very lively and loquacious lassie of thirteen. I suppose you never hear of the **Wilsons** of Wexford. If **John Wilson** is alive still at Lissinstown, I wonder how he acts the Landlord and how does the "Plan of Campaign" affect him.*

*Well I thought once I was to marry **Fanny Wilson**, she was to wait I know now how many years, but confound the luck I never made enough to start housekeeping with and at last she faded from my memory like a dissolving view.*

I hope you are prosperous and happy, I take it from your letter that you are Dairy Farming – a very lucrative undertaking in Queensland, where there is grass, which has been but seldom of late years. Tis raining now as I am writing, for the first time for months. If I had money to invest in farming, Queensland would be the last place I would choose to settle in.

Of course, now that you have a family of your own, your whole thoughts and energies will be centred in the home circle and you won't care about wasting time on "outsiders". (I have found the majority of married people inclined that way) Still I hope you will write a few lines to me now and then; I will be rejoiced to hear that you are well and thriving – so Good Bye,

*With love to my new sister and nieces,
I remain Your Affectionate Brother
Walter Pasley*



*(Articles relating to the **Langworthy** Case appeared in several Australian and overseas newspapers in the 1880s and they are interesting to read - a brief account is given at www.edwardianpromenade.com. Sadly, after Walter found his brother, Robert, through the article in the Forbes newspaper, he passed away in 1889, as advised in the following letter - Ed.)*

*Kilburnie
Sept. 26th, 1889*

*Mr Robert Pasley
Dear Sir,*

It is my painful duty to inform you that your brother, Mr. W. Pasley died in my house on the night of the 19th or morning of the 20th inst.

He had been living with us for the last two years and eight months. For the first twelve months after coming here his health was bad. He had been very ill just before he came, but he rallied and has had very good health for the last eighteen months.

About three weeks ago he complained of a pain in the left breast, but a few mustard poultices seemed to have removed it.

On the evening of the 19th he seemed in his usual health, after tea the two of us sat on the verandah for some time, talking among other things about his early days in California. We then went round to the kitchen and after sitting some time, Walter rose and went to the sitting room. He sat reading till 10 o'clock and then retired.

He did not come to breakfast next morning, but as he was always supposed to come when it suited him, we took no notice of that. However, at 8 o'clock am I went to his room and found him in bed. He seemed as if in deep sleep. I caught his hand and, it was cold. I felt his heart, it was still. He had passed away very peacefully during his sleep. The bed clothes were not disarranged. I hardly think he had moved after lying down. It was a terrible shock to us.

I went for the nearest magistrate; he came and concluded the cause of death was heart disease.

The Justice being an old friend, made the coffin and we buried him the same evening. The Church of England Burial Service was read at the grave. We had been much attached to your brother, we have five children who loved him dearly and all that loving hands could do was done for him at the last.

If God had so willed it, we would have preferred nursing him a while, but his Father and our Father willed otherwise.

His absence has left a void here which time cannot fill. So far as I know, your brother led a very temperate life and he is buried 50 yards from the door beside a peach tree of his own planting.

I finished fencing around his grave today, enclosed is a lock of his hair. If it is your wish at any time to come and see his resting place, we shall be happy to see you

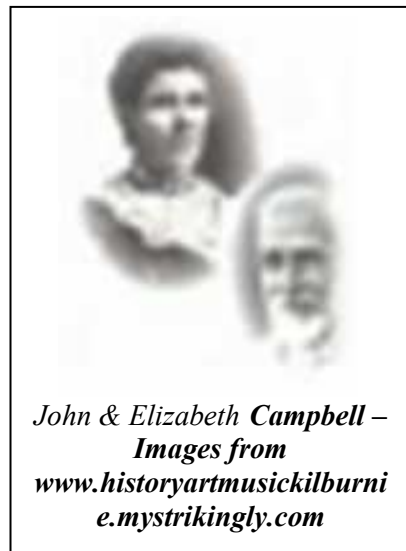
I remain very sincerely yours,

John Campbell

Kilburnie
Gladstone, Queensland



The homestead on Kilburnie Cattle Station established by John & Elizabeth Campbell in 1883
Photo from Kilburnie Homestead website



John & Elizabeth Campbell –
Images from
www.historyartmusicickilburnie.mystrikingly.com

HEADSTONES

Contributed by Yvonne **Toomey**

Most Headstones bear wonderful tributes to our Ancestors. This 18th Century example is particularly poignant:

“In Grateful Remembrance of the Greatest of Fathers”

and it prompts us to think about the sentiments expressed in the following poem by F. W. **Brazier**:

*If with pleasure you are viewing
Any work a man is doing,
If you like him or you love him, tell him now.*

*Don't withhold your approbation,
Till the priest makes his oration,
And he lies with snowy lilies over his brow.
For no matter how you shout it,
He won't really care about it,
He won't know how many teardrops you have shed;
If you think some praise is due him,
Now's the time to slip it to him,
For he cannot read his tombstone when he's dead.*

*More than fame and more than money
Is the comment kind and sunny
And the hearty warm approval of a friend
For it gives to life a savour,
Makes him stronger, braver,
And it gives him heart and courage to the end.
If he earns your praise, bestow it
If you like him, let him know it,
Let the words of true encouragement be said;
Do not wait till life is over,
And he's underneath the clover
For he cannot read his tombstone when he's dead.*



LETTERS FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

Lyndall Nairn

On 19th December 1991, my grandmother, Alice **Murray** (nee **Perry**) celebrated her 100th birthday in Parklands Village, Port Macquarie. Beforehand, my mother had planned the birthday party and contacted the local Member of Parliament to arrange for congratulatory letters to be sent from the Queen, the Prime Minister and other dignitaries.



I was overseas at the time, so I didn't attend the celebrations, but when I returned to Australia six months later, I visited my grandmother and asked her about her 100th birthday party.

"It was lovely," she said with a big smile. "So many people came, including the Mayor of Port Macquarie. Would you like to see my letters from the Prime Minister?" she asked brightly.

"Yes", I replied, "But don't you mean 'letter'?" I was puzzled because I could not imagine why the Prime Minister would send more than one letter.

"No, I received two", she answered, looking pleased with herself.

I waited patiently while my grandmother went to the bedroom to get them. As soon as I saw the signatures on the letters, I understood. The 19th December, 1991 had been the day that Bob Hawke had stepped down and Paul Keating had taken over as Prime Minister. So my grandmother had indeed received congratulatory letters from two Prime Ministers, one signed by Bob Hawke in the morning and another signed by Paul Keating in the afternoon!

As I looked up from reading the letters, my grandmother smiled proudly and said, "Most people don't even get one letter from the Prime Minister, but I got two!"

OUR COMING BICENTENARY

Richard Grimmond

Next year we will be celebrating the Bicentenary of the beginning of Port Macquarie. That was not one single event but a series of events over a four-year period. It began with John **Oxley's** discovery of Port Macquarie in 1818. Admittedly the Birpai were here for thousands of years but John **Oxley** "came across" Port Macquarie on his way home from searching for an inland sea on the Macquarie River. When he reached the coast, he was impressed with the large port at the entrance of the Hastings River. There was no Pelican Island then and he immediately saw its potential as a penal settlement and recommended it to Governor **Macquarie**.

Newcastle was too close to Sydney and convicts were escaping and making their way back to Sydney, so a new penal settlement was needed. Jervis Bay was considered but **Oxley's** descriptions of Port Macquarie influenced the Governor's decision.

In 1819 Governor **Macquarie** sent John **Oxley** and Phillip **King** to Port Macquarie to survey the entrance and port to see if it was suitable for shipping. They measured the depth of water on the bar, and at the entrance and along the river and concluded that Port Macquarie was safe for coastal vessels whose “*draft does not exceed 9 to 10 feet*”. They advised entering with caution and they recommended using warping buoys, i.e. pulling the ship in using a capstan and anchored buoys. They noted that the deepest channel was along the northern side of the entry and warned of a large rock just below the surface at the southern side of the entrance. (This rock is now covered by the southern break-wall.)

On this 1819 trip they rowed two longboats up the Hastings River as far as today’s Bain’s



*The entrance to Port Macquarie - Watercolour painting by Phillip **King**, 1819 - Image from Creative Commons*

Bridge west of Wauchope. On the way Phillip sketched King’s River, (today’s King Creek) that John **Oxley** had named after him, and he named Cairncross after his friends, Barron and Jane **Field**. **Cairncross** was Jane’s maiden name. The Aborigines called it Coolapatamba. **Oxley** and **King** also discovered and named Rawdon Island and gave fishing lines and hooks to the Aborigines at Blackman’s Point. Phillip **King** sketched the entrance to the river and the interior of the port while he was here on this visit.

As soon as Earl **Bathurst**, in England, gave Governor **Macquarie** approval to establish the penal colony at Port Macquarie, Governor **Macquarie** sent John **Oxley** to Port Macquarie again in 1820 to select a site for the new settlement. He took Francis **Allman**, who was to be the first Commandant, with him to be familiar with the area. They looked at Blackman’s Point and Rawdon Island as potential sites (**Oxley** designed Brisbane well back from the coast) but finally **Oxley** selected the flat area on the southern side of the port, mainly because of the freshwater stream that came from the tea-tree swamp. The stream entered the Hastings River between the present Police Station and the El Paso Motel. It still runs today, underground, and enters the river through two large concrete pipes at the same place.

It was decided to send sixty convicts with the first fleet to establish the new settlement. They were specially selected and were offered a Ticket of Leave or a Conditional Pardon after eighteen months of willing work. The sixty convicts included three carpenters, two sawyers, one blacksmith, one tailor, two shoemakers and fifty labourers and they were accompanied by forty soldiers. Lieutenant William **Wilson**, who was Francis **Allman**’s wife’s brother, was appointed Second-in-charge.

After a frustrating four days in Sydney Harbour waiting for a suitable wind, our “first fleet” consisting of the **Lady Nelson**, the **Mermaid** and the **Prince Regent**, eventually set sail on 21st March 1821. The westerly wind that got them out of the harbour soon turned into a stormy headwind and created huge waves. The storm was so fierce that the fleet was forced to take shelter in Port Stephens where they stayed for fourteen days waiting for the storm to abate

before they continued. (It is not known for sure, but it is believed Nelson Bay was named because the *Lady Nelson* sheltered there on this trip.)

When they arrived off Port Macquarie the strong westerly wind and crashing waves prevented them from entering the port, so they went on further north to Trial Bay where **Oxley** had sheltered on a previous occasion. The storm continued for a further eleven days - all they could do was to wait.

Governor **Macquarie** had suggested that they take livestock, so a bull and two cows were on board. However, they soon ran out of feed with the long stop at Port Stephens, so Captain **Allman** had to organise trips ashore, between showers, for the convicts to cut fresh grass for the animals at both Port Stephens and again at Trial Bay.

Eventually on 17th April 1821 the storms eased, and all three ships left Trial Bay and headed for Port Macquarie. The *Lady Nelson* entered successfully. The *Prince Regent*, with Commandant **Allman** aboard, hesitated and sailed back and forth waiting for a break in the weather. At 7.30 pm in the fading light the ship's captain decided to attempt to enter the port. However gusty wind blew the ship on to the large submerged rock that John **Oxley** had warned about at the southern entrance.

The *Prince Regent* was stuck firmly on this rock for some time and its fate was of great concern. Fortunately, though, a huge wave lifted her off the rock, but considerable damage had been done. The rudder had been dislodged from its bearings, some rigging was lost, and it was reported that the "*braces had been torn away*". However, it was able to enter port without loss of life.

Meanwhile the *Mermaid* was still sailing back and forth waiting for the winds to improve. She waited overnight and until 1 pm the next day, 18th April, when she attempted to enter but her keel stuck fast in the sand on the bar. She rocked from side to side while waves crashed over her and she was feared doomed until the high tide at 8 pm floated her off and she was able to enter the port.

Not only were two out of three ships badly damaged on entering the port, but the *Lady Nelson*, when leaving the port on 2nd May to obtain desperately needed supplies, ran onto the same rock that the *Prince of Wales* had hit on the way in, and was badly damaged, then completely wrecked and washed ashore on today's Town Beach. In desperation Richard **Neave**, the Mate of the *Mermaid* and seven volunteers, rowed a longboat to Sydney for food and repairs for the damaged ships.

And so this was the disastrous beginning of our town, Port Macquarie, with our "first fleet" taking 28 days to sail from Sydney, (instead of the usual three or four days), and with two ships damaged on the way in, and the third one completely wrecked on the way out.

(When someone asked the Historical Society's President if there would be a "re-enactment", of the beginning, he replied, "Do you know anyone who would give us three ships to wreck?")

37TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF NSW & ACT ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES, PORT MACQUARIE 2021



The 2021 Conference will be held from Friday 10th September till Sunday 12th September in Port Macquarie, hosted by the Port Macquarie & Districts Family History Society – watch this space for details – planning is in progress!!

FOOTSTEPS CONTRIBUTIONS

The next edition of Footsteps will be published in May 2020 and members are encouraged to submit stories and articles about yourself and/or your family, or about web sites, or books and magazines that you have discovered and found useful when undertaking your research.



For the May edition, perhaps the focus could be centred around your school years or the schooling/education of your ancestors; or around any interesting, unusual or now obsolete employment that you or your family members have undertaken; or perhaps you can tell us the reasons/activities that led to your becoming involved in researching your family's past - see Kay **Browne**'s article on the following page.

If possible, include photos and/or illustrations in your article as these can add interest to your story. These can be attached separately as JPGs if you prefer, but if attached separately, please indicate if you have a preference as to where you would like them positioned in your article.

Articles should be limited to between 1500–1550 words with up to four photos, or up to 1800 words without photos. It is always important when researching to cite your references and sources. When inserting the references or sources in your articles, it is requested that you use numbers i.e. 1,2,3, etc. (not Roman Numerals) and that you place them as 'endnotes', not 'footnotes.'

Stories that are submitted for publication in Footsteps should generally be the work of the author or the contributor submitting the story. If the writing is not the work of the author, please seek permission from the original author where possible, and indicate the source of the work when the article is submitted.

All contributions are subject to copyright unless otherwise indicated and no portion of this journal may be reproduced without written permission of the Society. The views expressed by authors and contributors to Footsteps are not necessarily those of the Society.

Stories and articles may be submitted at any time, but it would be appreciated if they can be sent to the editor@pmdfhs.org.au by **Friday 17th April 2020 so they can be included in the May issue**. Members whose articles are published in Footsteps, will have their names included in a draw in May 2020, for a chance to win a one-year Port Macquarie & Districts Family History Society membership.

GENEALOGY NEVER STOPS – MY RESEARCH JOURNEY OVER THE YEARS

Kay Browne

Great excitement. The mailman has arrived. There may be a letter with a family connection, or a certificate that will take me a few steps back. This was a daily expectation in the early days of my family research journey.

Family history was an interest from childhood. I loved to sit with my Grandparents and listen to talk of family. Later as an adult I learnt to contact the women in the family as they would spend time together sharing information a lot more than the men.

In 1984 I was given a wonderful opportunity to follow this interest. The Archives Authority of NSW (now State Archives) selected various rural libraries to receive their Genealogical Research Kit Stage 1, as part of the Government's new policy of extending services throughout the State. The kit held records such as births, deaths and marriage registers from 1787 to 1856, assisted immigrant records and convict records. The records were on microfilm and microfiche. The State Library supported this as it was encouraging local libraries to build their own collections, and they offered grants to enable the purchase of equipment such as microfilm readers. This was incredibly new for libraries and I was given the task of learning to use the machines and the records in order to assist and encourage library users. The best way for me to learn was to research my own families.

I was hooked. Terry, my husband, also got involved because I couldn't find his grandfather's birth. We wrote many letters to family, to historical and family societies, and through the Port Macquarie & Districts Family History Society were able to pass on our research names through various publications. With both of us undertaking this research, we purchased our own microfiche reader and the IGI for areas of our interest overseas. We also made up simple forms to record our families. It was exciting. So exciting that we would often forget to document the source of our records, something that we later regretted.

My role as Family History/Local Studies Librarian opened the door to a new position at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. Canberra opened its doors to more research availabilities, mainly through the National Library. By 1992 we knew we had to buy a computer and a family history program as the best method to record our genealogies. We spent our weekends at the National and Terry was often able to spend weekdays at the Library. The government kept us both cool and warm while we researched!

It was about 1989 when I found my first English family. **Butterworth** was my maiden name and I had recorded this at a Latter-Day Saints (LDS) library earlier in Newcastle. The **Butterworths** I had, were Johns and Josephs and according to IGI records there were many of them, so I used my great grandfather's brother's name as my interest – he was Garibaldi **Butterworth**. A researcher in England saw this and couldn't believe his luck. Even though we had changed our address his letter finally arrived via Port Macquarie. This was worth an immediate phone call and resulted in us visiting England in 1990 to meet him. Similarly, I found another overseas researcher through her entry in a Middlesex Journal and another family was extended through sharing information.

These were exciting moments. It is the writing of family histories that we work on now. With access to so much we have been able to develop them with the advent of the internet, the use of Trove, and with access to overseas newspapers.

Many people can't understand how you can still be researching after all this time.

Genealogy never stops, every year there are changes to records and to families. That's family life and family history!

THE MODERN-DAY MIGRATION OF THE MAITLAND FAMILY

John Stephenson

Migration has always been an extremely traumatic affair, right from the early days of Australian settlement to our current times. Sometimes the event becomes more difficult and complicated due to the attitudes of the immigrants and the conditions faced by them. The following story is a brief description of the extended migration of the **Maitland** family in the mid twentieth century, when it would have been considered a step up in lifestyle and conditions from that experienced in war torn Britain.

The year was 1949. After spending another bitterly cold Scottish winter's day at work in the Rolls Royce factory in Hillington near Glasgow, 38-year-old James **Maitland** travelled home to his wife, Frances, and his four children, two sons and two daughters, all aged under 12 years. With the post war food and fuel rationing still disrupting normal life, James made up his mind to migrate to Canada, a place many of his companions had talked about with enthusiasm, as being the place to live. His interview with the Canadian Embassy Officials highlighted the fact that Canada might be warm in Summer, but in Winter the temperature was colder than in Scotland. With this knowledge and having viewed the advertising posters of a tropical land 'down under' (Australia), with promises of work, housing, sunshine and a land of plenty, his mind was quickly changed.

The family, without discussing the idea, were abruptly advised of James' decision. Applications for assisted migration were posted and following a wait of over 12 months, approval was granted. Inoculations quickly followed, as well as the disposal of furniture, the packing of keepsakes, and the payment of £20 to cover the assisted emigration fare for the two adults (children under 13 years travelled for free).



The family of six finally boarded *S.S. Otranto*, and after sad farewells from Frances's ten brothers and sisters, her parents, grandparents, and aunts and uncles, they sailed for Australia on 8th March 1951.

After a non-eventful journey via Aden and Port Said, they arrived in Fremantle on 4th May 1951. Frances was disgusted when witnessing the abominable sights of children running around the Fremantle wharf without shoes. What was

the state of Australian culture? To her, this behaviour was unacceptable...civilised people should wear shoes! Little was she aware of what other culture shocks were in store for the family when they eventually arrived at their destination.

Their destination was Sydney and the promise of accommodation and employment was fraught with disaster. Construction of the East Hills Migrant Hostel in Western Sydney was not complete and so the ship load of migrants were herded onto an old steam train and transported through the night to a disused Army Camp at Kelso, near Bathurst NSW. It was the start of winter and freezing cold, with no heating in the showers and toilets which were located in a distant ablution and laundry facility. There was very little or no work available and a very limited bus service to the nearest shops in Bathurst. Hardships at Kelso lasted for over six months before the family were eventually relocated to the newly completed East Hills Migrant Camp.

The domed galvanised Nissan huts at East Hills afforded the family better living conditions, however the range of meals in the communal dining facilities, staffed by German cooks, (with the aftermath of World War II fresh in all the migrants' memories) were not



Nissan Huts in Migrant Camp S.A.-Photo Creative Commons

acceptable to the family. This led to meals being prepared on a kerosene stove in the family's living quarters. However, this was a breach of camp regulations, so the family was evicted!

A caravan was purchased and sited on a property owned by an acquaintance, Mrs **Sommerville**, at Hammondville. The family lived for some time in the caravan until they could afford a rental house. The experiences in migrant camps were not at all pleasant for the family. They were extremely difficult years of adjustment for Frances who was missing her family, loathing the extreme heat and cold, and experiencing financial difficulties. It was at this point that she made the decision to return to her family in Scotland.

James's employment opportunities were satisfied with work as a tool setter at Hawker de Haviland at Bankstown where he achieved the position of Quality Assurance Officer for their extremely precise and expensive production components for Military and Aircraft companies. He remained there until his sudden death in 1968, after suffering for many years with a brain tumour.

Prior to his demise, Frances, totally unsatisfied with life in Australia, saved enough money from her work as a machine operator with 'Cablemakers' at Liverpool, to start the return of the family to Scotland. It was clear from the start that James was not leaving.

The eldest daughter, Rosina aged 13, was returned to Scotland aboard the **Orcades** and arrived at Tilbury Docks in London in October 1953, and she was followed by 12-year-old, Ian on the **Strathaird**. They both travelled with 'sponsors' (friends they had befriended on the voyage to Australia, who were also returning home). Accommodation for them was arranged with one of their aunts in Dalkeith, Scotland. Frances worked and saved for another year and without

James, she sailed back to Scotland with Denis, aged 11 and Frances aged 7, on the *Orontes* in 1954.

On arrival back home in Scotland, Frances was asked by Rosina and Ian “*when are we going home to Australia, Mum?*” Frances’s mother chided her, reminding her that her place was with her husband and for the sake of the children she should go back to him. Frances found employment at Duncan’s Chocolate factory in Edinburgh and with a lot of saving and help from family, fares were purchased for Rosina and Ian and they sailed back to their father on board the



Strathnaver. With more saving, Frances managed to pay back the earlier family debt and on 2nd January 1957, she returned to Sydney on the *Orcades* (above) with the younger children, Denis and Frances.

Frances regained her employment at ‘Cablemakers’ and worked there as a Senior Supervisor in the Blow Moulding department until her retirement. Both her daughters, Rosina and Frances had moved with their families to Canberra in 1968. With two daughters deserting her in Sydney, and her two sons married and doing their own thing in Sydney, it was inevitable that she too would move to Canberra. She achieved this in 1982. With lots of contact with her daughters, Frances spent many happy years in Canberra, but as a reward for her earlier work in Scotland, she received a British pension which allowed her to travel frequently back to Scotland.

Frances agreed before her death that life in Australia was best for her children, however it was on one of her frequent holidays back in Scotland in 1992, that she sadly passed away. Her ashes were scattered over Loch Lomond where she and James had honeymooned.

A migration which started in 1949, took six (6), half-round-the-world cruises on five (5) different cruise liners, and finally reached an end in 1957. It was an eight-and-a-half-year journey that the four children were pleased to see end. All enjoyed the rest of their lives in Australia.

MY MOTHER’S LEATHER CASE

Pauline Every

My mother, Betty **Court**, was born in Wales in 1925. When she passed away in 1988, I inherited a small leather case with her initials ‘**BC**’ stamped on it in gold lettering. The case was a gift from her father, Frank, and was given to her when she first started work. It contained small personal treasures and family mementos that were precious to its owner and now precious to me.

Mum’s father (my grandfather) was a Policeman and received country postings. When my mother was almost fifteen my grandfather was posted to Taree. I thought my mother, together with my grandfather’s new wife Minnie and baby son Kevin, would have moved with him, but

in the suitcase I found a letter of authority from my grandfather giving his consent for my mother, then aged 14 and 10 months to take up a tailoring apprenticeship with Murdoch's Clothing Manufacturers in Surry Hills in Sydney...what a young age to be separated from her family!



*My mother, left, holding her Leather Case –
Photo from Every family collection*

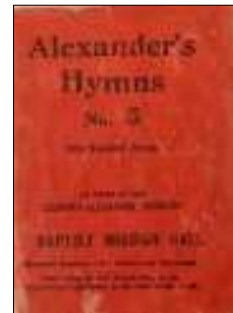
Was it her choice? I don't know, but I do know she was living in Sydney at the Tremayne YWCA in Kirribilli when she married my father in 1947.

The training at Murdoch's prepared my mum for employment in the retail and garment industries. She was able to make her own clothes and of course mine as well, as many women did at that time.

Other treasures in the suitcase were a Holy Bible presented to my mother, when aged three and a half by the Calvary Sunday School of Rogerstone, Monmouth, Wales, upon her departure to Australia with her mother, Doris, plus two Hymn books which were owned by my grandmother, Doris Davies, prior to her marriage.

The Hymn books were from the Baptist Mission Hall in Rogerstone, Also included was my mother's small New Testament book which had been presented to her by the Rev. Ralph Ogden, of St. John's Anglican Church, Milsons Point, Sydney, on the day of my parent's marriage in 1947.

Another treasure was a postcard showing the steam ship **Berrima**, that my grandmother and mother had boarded in 1928 in London. On 22nd November 1928 they arrived in Sydney to join my grandfather Frank. He had arrived 18 months earlier to meet up with his brother Eric, who had come in search of work and a better life in Australia. Both brothers subsequently joined the New South Wales Police Force and had long and successful careers in the Force. Tragedy struck when my grandmother passed away in 1934 from Tuberculosis.



There were also several of my mother's work related and personal References in the suitcase. One Reference was from Farmer & Co. Department Store in George Street, Sydney (located where the Myer Department Store is today) dated September 1946. It told me of another event I that I never knew: Mum had applied to join the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (W.A.A.F) but her application did not go through due to the end of World War II.

Before my parents married in 1947 my mother worked in an exclusive ladies' clothing store in George Street, Sydney, not far from Farmer's. The owner, an Austrian lady, would call my mother Bettina (not Betty) in front of the customers. Perhaps it sounded more 'up market',

and certainly it sounded more European - with my mother's dark hair and tanned skin she was often thought to be of Spanish descent, especially when her hair was pulled back in a bun, and she wore large gold hoop earrings.



The store owner obviously thought very highly of my mother because when she resigned before her wedding (as was expected in those days), the owner gifted my mother a white afternoon tea dress which she wore on her wedding day.

The Australian movie, “Ladies in Black” was set in the era, and the industry, in which my mother worked as a young woman, and it illustrates the social expectations of women in the 1940s and 1950s in Australia. It is one of my favourite movies because it reminds me of the work environment which was a large part of my mother's life.

THE BUSH FIRE

By Henry Lawson, 1905

(Contributed by Margaret Yates)

Ah, better the thud of the deadly gun, and the crash of the bursting shell,
Than the terrible silence where drought is fought out there in the western hell;
And better the rattle of rifles near, or the thunder on deck at sea,
Than the sound — most hellish of all to hear — of a fire where it should not be.
On the runs to the west of the Dingo Scrubs there was drought, and ruin, and death,
And the sandstorm came from the dread north-east with the blast of a furnace-breath;
Till at last one day, at the fierce sunrise, a boundary-rider woke,
And saw, in the place of the distant haze, a curtain of light blue smoke.

There is saddling-up by the cockey's hut, and out in the station yard,
And away to the north, north-east, north-west, the bushmen are riding hard.
The pickets are out and many a scout, and many a mulga wire,
While Bill and Jim, with their faces grim, are riding to meet the fire.
It roars for days in the hopeless scrubs, and across, where the ground seems bare,
With a cackle and hiss, like the hissing of snakes, the fire is travelling there;
Till at last, exhausted by sleeplessness, and the terrible toil and heat,
The squatter is crying, 'My God! the wool!' and the farmer, 'My God! the wheat!'

But there comes a drunkard (who reels as he rides), with the news from the roadside pub: —
'Pat Murphy — the cockey — cut off by the fire! — way back in the Dingo Scrub!'
'Let the wheat and the woolshed go to — — ' Well, they do as each great heart bids;
They are riding a race for the Dingo Scrub — for Pat and his wife and kids.
And who is leading the race with death? An ill-matched three, you'll allow;
Flash Jim, the breaker, and Boozing Bill (who is riding steadily now),
And Constable Dunn, of the Mounted Police, is riding between the two
(He wants Flash Jim, but the job can wait till they get the Murphys through).

As they strike the track through the blazing scrub, the trooper is heard to shout:

'We'll take them on to the Two-mile Tank, if we cannot bring them out!'

A half-mile more, and the rest rein back, retreating, half-choked, halfblind;
And the three are gone from the sight of men, and the bush fire roars behind.

The Bushman wiped the tears of smoke, and like Bushmen wept and swore;

'Poor Bill will be wanting his drink to-night as never he did before.

'And Dunn was the best in the whole damned force!' says a client of Dunn's, with pride;
I reckon he'll serve his summons on Jim — when they get to the other side.

It is daylight again, and the fire is past, and the black scrub silent and grim,

Except for the blaze of an old dead tree, or the crash of a falling limb;

And the Bushmen are riding again on the run, with hearts and with eyes that fill,

To look for the bodies of Constable Dunn, Flash Jim, and Boozing Bill.

They are found in the mud of the Two-mile Tank, where a fiend might scarce survive,

But the Bushmen gather from words they hear that the bodies are much alive.

There is Swearing Pat, with his grey beard singed, and his language of lurid hue,
And his tough old wife, and his half-baked kids, and the three who dragged them through.

Old Pat is deploring his burnt-out home, and his wife the climate warm;

And Jim the loss of his favourite horse, and Dunn his uniform;

And Boozing Bill, with a raging thirst, is cursing the Dingo Scrub —

He'll only ask for the loan of a flask and a lift to the nearest pub.

Flash Jim the Breaker is lying low — blue-paper is after him,

And Dunn, the trooper, is riding his rounds with a blind eye out for Jim,

And Boozing Bill is fighting D.Ts. in the township of Sudden Jerk —

When they're wanted again in the Dingo Scrubs, they'll be there to do the work!

DID YOU KNOW?

- In January 1905, Australian newspapers reported the “*tremendous conflagrations*”, “*immense damage done*” and “*many lives lost*” when bushfires raged across NSW and Victoria. The fires in 1905 were in many of the areas destroyed by recent outbreaks, namely: Adelong, Tumut, Gundagai, Goulburn, Bowral, Bungonia, Exeter, Wingello, Corrong, Delegate, Towrang, western Sydney, the south coast of NSW and coastal Victoria. Numerous schools, churches, homes, properties, livestock, crops and lives were also lost at that time.
- In 1896 the first Bush Fire Brigade had been established at Berrigan, NSW in response to a series of large fires in northern Victoria and south western NSW in the 1890s.
- In 1901, the Careless Use of Fire Act was introduced, and
- In 1906, a Local Government Act was passed to ensure that Bush Fire Brigades could be formed through local shires and municipalities.



Firemen with Smoke Helmets, 1905
Photo Creative Commons



THE DINA DIARY – NO 12

Using Genetics for Genealogy

Ken Hunt

Last year was an interesting one for genetic genealogy. Family history DNA added a few extra tools to its belt and the science moved forward quite rapidly during the year with most of it beneficial for us as genealogists.

- **DNA News**

2019 was the year that GEDmatch made major changes to its internet page – now called GEDmatch Genesis (GG). It was to be a troubled year for this company. It became the first to let law enforcement access its database with some spectacular results in catching cold case major crime offenders. In February, FamilyTreeDNA (FTDNA) followed suit.

This euphoria was to come crashing down by the end of the year due to resistance from many of its users who claimed GEDmatch had breached its terms and conditions and which, in turn, may have hastened the sale of the company to little known Verogen. Meanwhile FTDNA is still the only major company to offer Y and mitochondrial DNA tests and its prices have dropped considerably over the year.

By May, Ancestry announced its consumer DNA network has reached over 15 million completed samples.¹ Meanwhile in Britain MyHeritage DNA Kits were on sale in Costco. There were lots of discounts throughout the year and my advice is to wait for discount time before buying a DNA kit this year.

- **A number of major DNA Conferences were held – both internationally and at home.**

RootsTech is a popular family history and technology conference held each year at Salt Lake City, Utah. 2019 saw the first International RootsTech conference which was held in London in October.

During August 2019, Australia held its first DNA Down Under roadshow in most of the capital cities (Hobart missed out once again). The star of the show was US genealogist and DNA blogger Blaine Bettinger. The conference culminated in a three day event in Sydney, which a number of Port Macquarie FHS members attended. It was hugely successful and it bodes well for a bigger and more exciting event in 2021.

In 2018 the family history company MyHeritage held their first conference in Oslo. It was so successful that there was little doubt about it happening again. Last year Amsterdam hosted MyHeritage Live during September and in 2020 it will be held in the company's home city of Tel Aviv. One of the benefits for us is that MyHeritage shows free on-line videos of many of the presenters following the event.

- **DNA Tools**

The concept of auto clustering our matches arrived at the end of 2018 and left many of us struggling over the Christmas period to try to understand what it was all about. According to blogger Jim Bartlett, "*Clustering analyzes your InCommonWith (ICW) Matches at a company, and groups Matches who are ICW each other the most.*"² Started by Evert-Jon Blom through his company Genetic Affairs, it is now available for My Heritage, Ancestry, GEDmatch and FTDNA.

MyHeritage introduced the "Theory of Family Relativity", which uses both family trees and historical records to explain how DNA Matches are related.

Ancestry released a swag of changes including MyTree Tags, ThruLines, coloured tags and improved DNA matches and ethnic regions. We saw the demise of DNA Circles in the middle of the year.

DNAPainter from Jonny Perl was very popular despite having a huge learning curve. Ancestral Trees let us build a tree or load a gedcom file and an auto cluster file can now be downloaded to Painter.

- **In all areas of DNA, the science is moving forward rapidly. Here are some topics that directly affect us.**

A Brisbane company called [totheletterDNA](#) has been leading the way analysing DNA from the backs of stamps and envelopes. 2019 saw exciting news that they will now include artefact tests on teeth and hair.

The Fromelles project identifies WWI soldiers enabling them to be buried with a name and with their relatives. More were identified this year through a mix of hard evidence – badges, buttons etc. – as well as DNA matched to living relatives.

2020, I believe, is going to be a very exciting year for us DiNAs – hang on tight!

¹ <https://www.ancestry.com/corporate/newsroom/press-releases/ancestry%C2%AE-surpasses-15-million-members-its-dna-network-powering-unparalleled>

² <https://segmentology.org/2019/04/04/clustering-programs/?fbclid=IwAR04MY15eIwf8Bsbe7sVpg9JXr3DNv3YR2TctLR-MNRtCELxFEOG-GeJIv4>

NEW RESOURCE BOOKS

Bettinger, Blaine T. & **Wayne**, Debbie Parker, *Genetic Genealogy in Practice*, National Genealogical Studies, Special Topics Series;

Jones, Thomas W., *Mastering Genealogical Proof*, National Genealogical Studies, Special Topics Series;

Woodford, Mel & **Richards**, Jan, *They Sent me North – Female Convicts in the Hunter*, Newcastle Family History Society Inc. 2019;

Frost, Lucy, Editor, *Convict Lives at the Ross Female Factory*, Female Convicts Research Centre;

Alexander, Alison & **Hodgson**, Alice Meredith, Editors, *Convict Lives at the Cascades Female Factory, Volume 2*, Female Convicts Research Centre;

Alexander, Alison, *Convict Lives at the Georgetown Female Factory*, Female Convicts Research Centre;

Frost, Lucy & **Hodgson**, Alice Meredith, Editors, *The Launceston Female Factory*, Female Convicts Research Centre;

Stacker, Lorraine, *Chained to the Soil on the Plains of Emu, A History of the Emu Plains* Government Agricultural Establishment 1819-1832;

Monumental Inscriptions of Cowra Cemetery 2018.



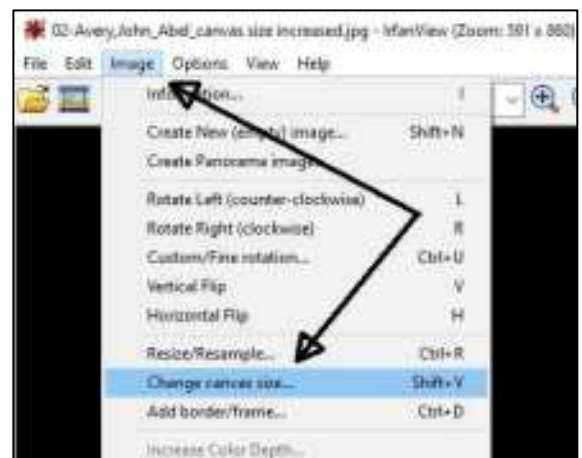
THE COMPUTER CORNER NUMBER 58 (Information for Family Historians using Computers)

Captions on Digital Images

Digital images on computers come from many sources – scanners, digital cameras, mobile phones, CDs, DVDs, USBs and of course, the internet. Most likely, none of these images will be captioned, other than the file name. However, there may be times when it would be useful to have a caption on a digital image, for example, when sending a copy to a relative or friend. That way there will be no ambiguity about the photograph and what it represents.

A caption can easily be added to a digital image using computer software that is available today. The main technical term to remember is ‘canvas size’ and this is where the size of the display is increased without increasing the size of the actual digital image. In other words, a border is added to the original digital image. Because a caption is all that is required, the canvas size is usually only increased across the bottom of the digital image. Using the freely available (and preferred) image software Irfanview, the steps to creating an image caption will now be explained.

To begin, click the ‘Image’ menu pad from the Irfanview menu and select the option to ‘Change canvas size...’ as shown at right.

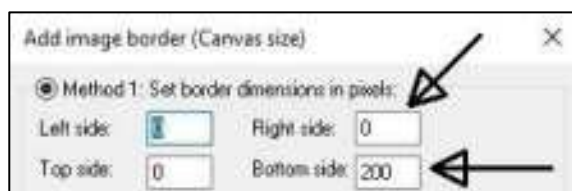


This then opens the ‘Add image border (Canvas size)’ options window at left where the new border sizes may be set in pixels. These may be the left, right, top or bottom sides. The default size for all options is 50 pixels but these may be changed as required with the resulting border size dependent on the resolution of the original image.

Because this example will have the caption added to the bottom of the image, the settings for all sides have been set to zero, except the bottom side which has been set to 200 pixels.

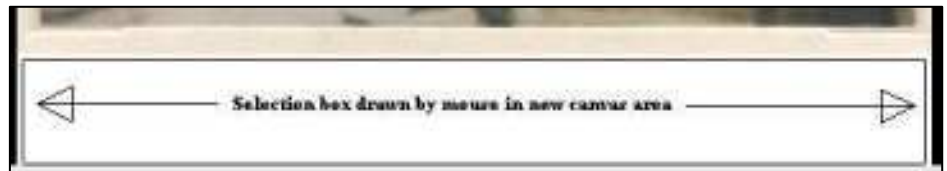


The image below now has the canvas size increased by 200

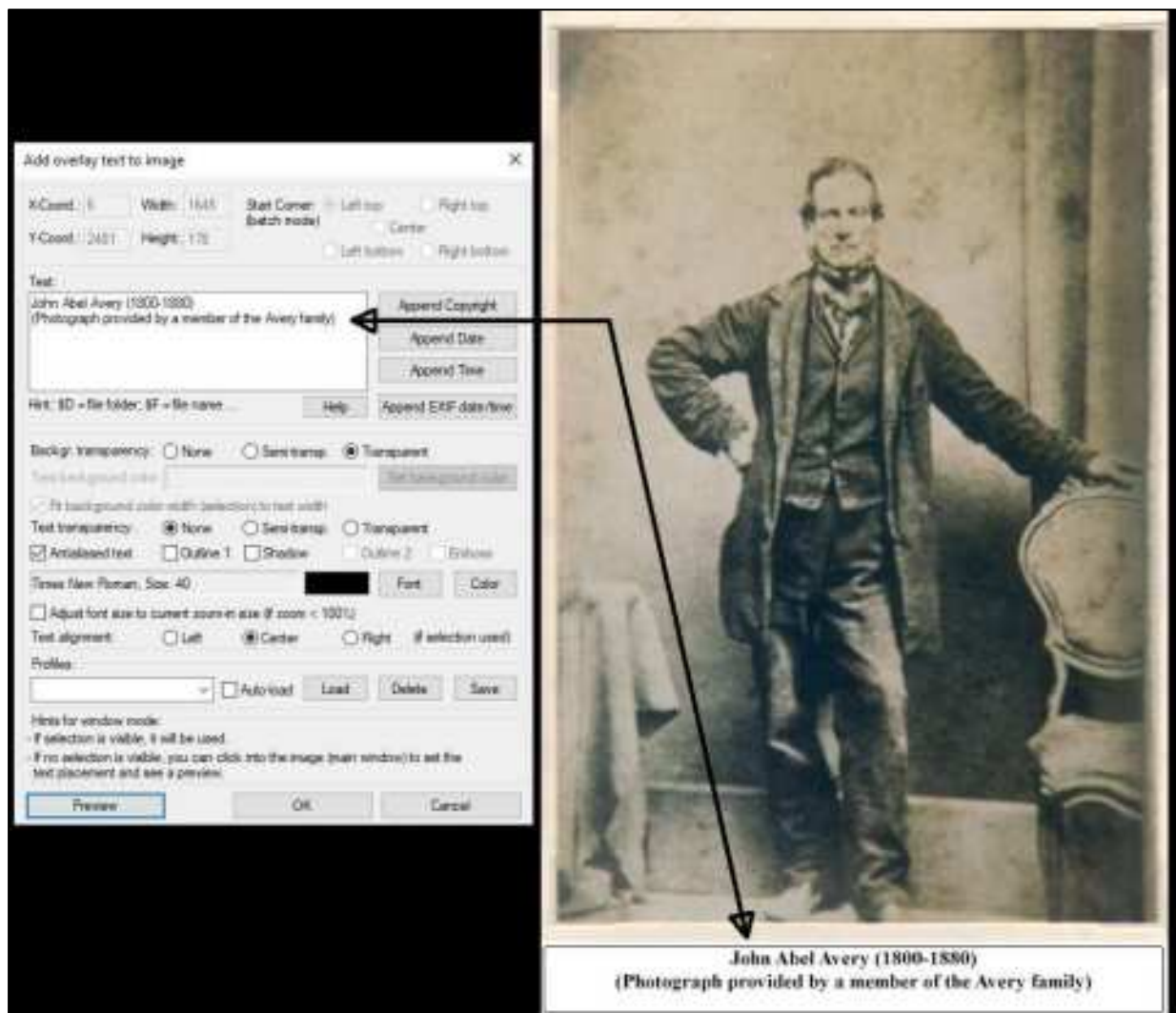
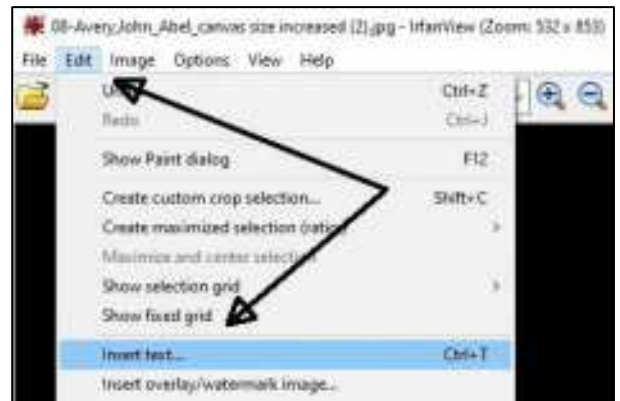


pixels across the bottom and this is where the caption will be placed.

The next (and very important step) is to indicate to Irfanview where the caption is to be placed. This is done by using the mouse cursor to draw a line inside the new canvas area at the bottom of the image as shown. If the selection is NOT made, Irfanview will place the caption over the image.



The last step is to select the Irfanview 'Insert text...' option from the 'Edit' menu pad and open the 'Add overlay text to image' window.



The above image shows the caption in the 'Text:' box and a 'Preview' below the digital image in the caption/selection area when the [Preview] button has been clicked. This allows for the position and font characteristics of the caption to be viewed. If the font size is too small or too large due to the resolution of the image, it may be changed to a more suitable size. Once the [Ok] button is clicked, the caption becomes part of the digital image itself. Finally, do not forget to save the changed image with the new caption.

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FEES

	Renewals	New Members*	
	Payable at 1st July each year	1st July to 30th June	1st Jan to 30th June
Single	\$30.00	\$35.00	\$20.00
Family	\$40.00	\$45.00	\$25.00
<i>Footsteps</i> Journal editions—November, February, May, August	4 issues included in Membership fees		
	Subscription is available to Non-Members at \$15.00 for one year.		

*Includes a one-off \$5.00 joining fee.

FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

The Society will undertake family history research for an initial fee of \$20 and will include a list of records used, entry into *Footsteps* (where appropriate) and suggestions regarding other resources. There may be an additional fee for further research.

Please make your initial enquiry to the Research Officer at secretary@pmdfhs.org.au and include as many details as possible about the person/family and any other relevant information including sources already researched. Alternatively, enquire via mail and include a business size, stamped, self-addressed envelope to the Research Officer, PO Box 1359, Port Macquarie NSW 2444.

INFOEMAIL

Our Society newsletter, *InfoEmail*, is emailed on a regular basis to members who have provided an email address. Remember to keep your email address up to date so you do not miss out. Please email us if you are not receiving the *InfoEmail*.

If you do not have an email address, but have a computer with internet access, the *InfoEmails* are available on our website at www.pmdfhs.org.au to download and read. Journal reviews now have their own separate tab on the left side of the Society's website.

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

General assistance with family history – local, Australian and overseas – is available for members and non-members in the Local Studies Room at the Port Macquarie Library. Our volunteers are on duty to help on most Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10am to 3pm, with a break over Christmas.

RESEARCH SUPPORT GROUP

The Research Support Group for members is held at Port Macquarie-Hastings Library in the Technology Room, from 1pm to 3pm on the Wednesday after the General Meeting. The topic will be advertised in the latest *InfoEmail* and at the most recent General Meeting. The discussion is followed by general family history assistance. Afternoon tea is available. Bring your laptop if you have one, but it is not essential as there are a number of computers available in the Technology Room.

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

Port Macquarie & Districts Family History Society Inc.

Publication Name	Member Price	Normal Price	Weight
Tile Tales; Stories behind the names on the front wall of the Port Macquarie Swimming Pool, 752 pages, hard cover	\$60	\$60	2kg
Cemetery Trail; Port Macquarie – Hastings Full colour, 224 pages (glove box sized)	\$27	\$30	425g
Can You Remember? Memory Joggers for writing a Life Story (A5 booklet – pink cover – 16pp)	\$3	\$3	25g
Starting Your Family History (A5 booklet – yellow cover – 20pp)	\$3	\$3	30g
Pedigree Chart & Family Group Sheets 1 chart, 16 group sheets (A5 booklet – blue cover – 40pp)	\$5	\$5	54g
Certificates of Freedom Records for PM Convicts: Runaways, Robbers & Incurable Rogues (CD-ROM)	\$8	\$10	n/a
Port Macquarie Index to Colonial Secretary's Papers 1796-1825 (CD-ROM)	\$8	\$10	n/a
Harvesting the Hastings – Farming Families (CD-ROM in colour)	\$17	\$20	n/a
Sydney Gaol Records for Port Macquarie Convicts April 1821-1826 (CD-ROM)	\$8	\$10	n/a
General Cemetery Port Macquarie – Transcriptions & Images (CD-ROM)	\$8	\$10	n/a

Note: All CD-ROM purchases include postage

Postage Australia Wide		
Up to 250g (Large letter)	\$5	Holds one book only
250g to 500g (Large letter/Package)	\$10	
Over 500g (Prepaid satchel)	\$18	Holds several books

Postage charges must be added to the cost of the items purchased. When ordering several books, calculate the total weight and use the table above to calculate postage cost. For ALL overseas rates, please contact the Secretary. To collect items instead of paying postage, please also contact the Secretary (see telephone number on page 2).

An order form is available at: www.pmdfhs.org.au – please complete the order form and send with your payment to: The Secretary, Port Macquarie & Districts Family History Society Inc. PO Box 1359, Port Macquarie NSW 2444.

Cheques and money orders should be made payable to Port Macquarie & Districts Family History Society Inc. or alternatively, send an email to secretary@pmdfhs.org.au to obtain the Society's banking details, and direct deposit reference, in order to pay by direct deposit via the internet. Pre-payment is required; however Local Government Libraries can be invoiced.

PORT MACQUARIE & DISTRICTS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

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Our Research Home

Local Studies/Family History Room
Port Macquarie-Hastings Library
Corner of Grant and Gordon Streets
Port Macquarie NSW 2444

Our Meeting Room

CC Mac Adams Music Centre
Gordon Street
Port Macquarie NSW 2444
(between Port Macquarie Olympic Pool and Players Theatre)

Port Macquarie & Districts Family History Society is affiliated with:

Royal Australian Historical Society
Parramatta Female Factory Friends
Australian Federation of Family History Organisations Inc.
NSW & ACT Association
of Family History Societies Inc.

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