

# *Footsteps*



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

## **SOCIETY ORGANISATION AND CONTACTS**

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

*President:* .... Diane Gillespie.....0416 311 680 ..... president@pmdfhs.org.au

*Vice-Pres:* ....Alastair Moss.....02 6584 2509 ....akmoss@bigpond.net.au

*Treasurer:*.... Clive Smith .....0418 206 330 ..... treasurer@pmdfhs.org.au

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### **AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY ~ 2021–2022**

Acquisitions/Archives..... Clive Smith  
Find a Grave..... Carol Smallman  
Footsteps Magazine..... Narelle Milligan  
General Meetings Roster..... Dawn Stephens  
InfoEmail..... Diane Gillespie/Jennifer Mullin  
Journals..... Alastair Moss  
Library Assistant..... Pauline Hincksman  
Library Roster..... Janet Brown  
Membership/Minutes..... Jennifer Mullin  
Museum Heritage Group..... Diane Gillespie  
NSW & ACT Association – Delegate..... Clive Smith  
Public Officer..... Clive Smith  
Publicity/Facebook..... Pauline Every  
Research Co-Ordinator ..... Trysha Hanly  
Ryerson Index Transcribers..... Kay and Terry Browne  
Social Coordinator..... Dawn Stephens  
Website ..... Sue Brindley  
Welfare..... Narelle Milligan

### **SUPPORT GROUPS**

Convict Studies Group.....Clive Smith  
DNA Support Group.....Ken Hunt/Pauline Every  
Family Search.....Robyn Denley/Pauline Every  
Research Support Group.....Clive Smith  
Writers' Group.....Diane Gillespie



### **CURRENT PROJECT COORDINATORS**

Port Macquarie Rate Books.....Rex Toomey

Forget-Me-Not (convicts) .....Trysha Hanly

*Life Members:* Terry Browne, Kay Browne

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### ***Cover Photo:***

*This photo was taken in Port Macquarie in the tornado of 2020 which devastated much of Wauchope, Settlement Point, and the North Shore. Some "Storm Chasers" call it a "straight line wind"*

### **NEW MEMBERS**

A warm welcome is extended to our new members. We hope you will enjoy your association with our Society and benefit from the resources and workshops available to you.

Phoenix **de Carteret** from Kew, Jan **Potter** from Lake Cathie, Stan **Barron**, Lynne **Hogan**, Peter **Day**, Carol **Burton** from Port Macquarie, and Terry **Chaban** from Bonny Hills.



## PRESIDENT'S TWO CENTS WORTH

*Diane Gillespie*

The past few months have been very busy for members of Port Macquarie & Districts Family History Society (PMDFHS) as we have continued our journeys of discovery about our ancestors. Members have had the opportunity to refine their research skills, learn how to date photographs, hear of the Feisty Females from Port Macquarie, and wonder at the many illustrious deeds of a former Irish ambassador.

I enjoyed sharing my research with other members and while I surprised some members with my research, others have also taken the opportunity to share their stories with all of us. These may have been in the form of research undertaken or through sharing their personal memories within our Writers' Group.

Our social calendar has been filled with two visits to the cinema – to marvel at the elaborate costumes of the Downton Abbey characters and to croon along with the songs of Elvis. We have welcomed new members and educated them with a 4-week Beginners' Course that was very capably organised and conducted by Sue. Thank you, Sue!

Our education program continues with the 'Next Steps' Course that is currently being presented by Jennifer, Amanda, Sue, Clive, Ken, and Brian who will join me in presenting the various topics as part of a 6-week course. This course follows the Beginners' Course and covers the 'Dash' – the line between a birth date and a death date. We are looking at how to find more details of our ancestors' lives and there will be a different topic each week. These topics include Print Media Online, including Trove, Papers Past and British newspapers online; Shipping Records; State Archives; Convicts and how to identify them; British Records; Ancestry; Find My Past and MyHeritage databases; as well as Family Search.



In May we heard about the Feisty Females of the Port Macquarie Convict Settlement who spent time in the small Female Factory that was located here in Port Macquarie. From this presentation we launched the 'Port Macquarie Forget-Me-Not' Project that will endeavour to capture the essence of the lives of the convict population of Port Macquarie, not merely as a name on a list but finding out what their lives were like in this outpost of civilization between 1822 and 1847 when the convict establishment was closed.

The AGM of Port Macquarie & Districts Family History Society occurs in August, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the committee for their passion and contribution to furthering our aims of promoting family history. To those of you who have decided to resign or stand down from the committee I thank you for your contribution to our Society and I wish you well with your research in the future.

The past two years have been challenging but with the support of members we have progressed and strengthened the Society and I look forward to more activities that are being planned for the up-coming year.

## FROM THE EDITOR

*Narelle Milligan*

Although there was no theme for this edition, a pattern of success for some forebears is reflected in some of the articles. Clive Smith's contribution reminds us of how important proof is when researching ancestors and, indeed, some of our members emphasise they always record three pieces of evidence.

Articles by our regular contributors, Pam **Moodie** and Kay **Browne** tugged my heart strings so I'm sure you will enjoy reading their recollections. ...and I discovered 6 degrees of separation with Beryl **Walters** as our families have business connections.

As this Journal goes to print, we see the ABC celebrating its 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday. The radio (or wireless as we called it) had quite an impact on me as a child and was an invaluable aide when I was teaching at the two-teacher school at Beechwood. Perhaps you would like to reminisce for our publication in November?

We also heard from the Commonwealth Government that they are to progress on the Referendum to give our First Nations a voice to Parliament. At the same time a powerful voice, Archie Roach, died so I encourage you to contribute to our future editions with wonderful memories of your involvement with Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander peoples



*Internet –Clip art - Mycoolteam*

## BEWARE THE BANNS OF MARRIAGE

Clive Smith

Sometimes it is not easy to find a definitive record of a marriage, that is an entry in a register recording that a marriage ceremony had taken place. In such cases, it can be tempting to rely on the fact that the banns of marriage had been read the requisite three times. However, it is not wise to do so – here are a couple of examples that show how unreliable the marriage banns can be.

### *Sarah Bateup and Thomas Watts*

Sarah, nee **Reed**, married Daniel **Bateup** at Wadhurst, Sussex, on 16 September 1823<sup>1</sup>. (She had previously given birth to a daughter, Ann, on 1 December 1821<sup>2</sup>, and although no documentary evidence has been found, it has been generally accepted by succeeding generations that Daniel was the father.) Daniel and Sarah had a second daughter, Charity, in 1825 (see below), but this was soon followed by Daniel's death on 8 March 1826<sup>3</sup>.

As a widow with two young children, Sarah clearly needed some support, and it seems she entered into a relationship with Thomas **Watts**. The Wadhurst Parish Registers record the baptisms of three children<sup>4</sup>, all recorded as “illegitimately born of Sarah Bateup, Widow”:

- William Watts **Bateup**, born 20 August 1827 (baptized 24 October 1827)
- Thomas Watts **Bateup**, born 31 January 1829 (baptized 8 July 1832)
- Catherine Watts **Bateup**, born 4 December 1830 (baptized 7 December 1830)

On 29 May 1831, the Banns of Marriage between Thomas **Watts** “Bachelor of this Parish” and Sarah **Bateup** “of this Parish Widow” were published in the Wadhurst Parish Church for the 1<sup>st</sup> time, followed on 5 and 12 June 1831 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> times.<sup>5</sup> However, the marriage did not take place.

On 16 October 1831, the Banns of Marriage between Thomas **Watts** “Bachelor of this Parish” and Sarah **Bateup** “of this Parish Widow” were again published in the Wadhurst Parish Church for the 1<sup>st</sup> time, followed on 23 and 30 October 1831 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> times.<sup>6</sup> However, again, the marriage did not take place.

Sarah and Thomas **Watts** had three more children, again all recorded in the Register of Baptisms as “illegitimately born of Sarah Bateup, Widow”:

- George Watts **Bateup**, born 24 April 1833 (baptized 7 July 1833)
- Edward Watts **Bateup**, born 9 July 1835 (baptized 12 July 1835)
- Henry Watts **Bateup**, born 20 January 1838 (baptized 25 February 1838)

It is unclear why Sarah and Thomas **Watts** never married, but according to the 1841 Census, they were living together in Wadhurst with their six children (the children are listed after Thomas **Watts**, with Sarah “**Batup**” listed after them, described as “Housekeeper”).<sup>7</sup>

Thomas **Watts** died at the Ticehurst Union Workhouse and was buried at Wadhurst on 5 January 1846.<sup>8</sup> On 8 September 1848, Sarah married Jonathan **Stapley** at Wadhurst; in the marriage register, her name was written as “Sarah **Baytop**”, and she was described as “Widow”.<sup>9</sup> It is unclear why Thomas and Sarah never formalized their relationship with a marriage ceremony. Some of their children in later life took the name **Watts** as their last name;

others (including Edward Watts **Bateup**, who subsequently migrated to New South Wales under the sponsorship of his half-sister Ann, by then married to Henry **Smith**) kept the name **Bateup**.

*Charity **Bateup** and Jesse **Bateup***

As mentioned above, Charity **Bateup** was the daughter of Daniel **Bateup** and Sarah **Reed** – she was born on 4 May 1825 and baptised at Wadhurst on 5 June 1825.<sup>10</sup> Jesse Bateup was the son of Thomas **Bateup** and Winifred **Hawkins** – he was born on 18 July 1818 and baptized on 2 August 1818 at Wadhurst.<sup>11</sup> As Daniel and Thomas **Bateup** were brothers, Charity and Jesse were first cousins.

The Banns of Marriage between Jesse **Bateup** and Charity **Bateup** “both of this Parish” were read in the Parish Church at Mayfield, Sussex, on 8 February 1846 for the 1<sup>st</sup> time, and again on 15 and 22 February 1846 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> times.<sup>12</sup> The marriage did not proceed, and the Banns were subsequently read again in the Parish Church at Mayfield on 8, 15 and 22 November 1846.<sup>13</sup> Again, the marriage did not proceed – there is no record of a marriage between Jesse and Charity in the Mayfield parish registers. (Mayfield is only 10km from Wadhurst.)

Charity **Bateup** had previously given birth to a daughter, Sarah Jane, on 26 December 1842, who was baptised at the Ticehurst Union Workhouse on 5 January 1843.<sup>14</sup> The baptism register does not disclose the father. At the Parish Church at Mayfield on 1 February 1846, John **Bateup**, son of Charity Bateup was baptised<sup>15</sup> - again the father was not disclosed. This was a week before the first round of Banns was read at the Church for Charity and Jesse. John, however, died a few months later and was buried at Mayfield on 10 May 1846.<sup>16</sup> On 1 August 1847, Faith Hope **Bateup**, daughter of Charity **Bateup**, was baptised at Mayfield<sup>17</sup>; again, the father was not named in the baptism register.

Jesse and Charity did get married, but not in a church. On 26 March 1848, they were married in the Superintendent’s Office in the District of Uckfield, County of Sussex<sup>18</sup>, their last name being recorded as **Batup**. It is also unclear why Jesse and Charity did not get married in the Parish Church. Perhaps some relatives, or other members of the congregation, objected on the grounds of consanguinity and the Parish Priest then declined to perform the ceremony.

<sup>1</sup>Wadhurst Marriage Register 1813-1837 (East Sussex Record Office (ESRO): PAR 498/1/3/1), p.54

<sup>2</sup> See baptism recorded in Wadhurst Baptism Register 1813-1838 (ESRO: PAR 498/1/2/1), p.68

<sup>3</sup> See burial recorded in Wadhurst Burial Register 1813-1852 (ESRO: PAR 498/1/5/1/), p.59

<sup>4</sup> Wadhurst Baptism Register 1813-1838 (ESRO: PAR 498/1/2/1) , pp.114,151, 137

<sup>5</sup> Wadhurst Marriage Banns Register 1823-1838 (ESRO: PAR 498/1/4/1), pp.66, 69

<sup>6</sup> Wadhurst Baptism Register 1813-1838 (ESRO: PAR 498/1/2/1), pp.157, 175,198

<sup>7</sup> TNA: HO 107/1116/9, p.15

<sup>8</sup> Wadhurst Burial Register 1813-1852 (ESRO: PAR 498/1/5/1), p.161

<sup>9</sup> Wadhurst Marriage Register 1837-1867 (ESRO: par 498/1/3/2), p.102

<sup>10</sup> Wadhurst Baptism Register 1813-1838 (ESRO: PAR 498/1/2/1) , p.96

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*, p.40

<sup>12</sup> Mayfield Marriage Banns Register, 1809-1974 (ESRO: PAR 422/1/4/1), p.51

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, p.53

<sup>14</sup> Ticehurst Baptism Register, 1839-1865 (ESRO: PAR 492/1/2/2), p.43

<sup>15</sup> Mayfield Baptism Register, 1832-1851 (ESRO: PAR 422/1/2/2), p.147

<sup>16</sup> Mayfield Burial Register, 1846-1880 (ESRO: PAR 422/1/5/2), p.2

<sup>17</sup> Mayfield Baptism Register, 1832-1851 (ESRO: PAR 422/1/2/2), p.163

<sup>18</sup> Entry No 20 in the Marriage Register kept by the Superintendent’s Office, District of Uckfield, County of Sussex (GRO Reference Information: Year 1848, District Uckfield, March Qtr, Vol 07, Page 645)



## GERMAN RESOURCES

*'Researching in German civil and church records'* by Eric **Kopittke** answers the question 'How can I obtain birth or marriage certificates from Germany from an immigrant ancestor?' What the new researcher may not realise is that in Germany the system of registration of births, deaths and marriages by civil authorities, and the issue of associated certificates, has some significant differences to the system that the researcher may be used to.

This book is a practical guide, that with the aid of many illustrations, will allow the reader to become familiar with the types of information available on civil certificates of birth, marriages and death, and church records of baptism, marriage, and burial. The book then explains how to access these records and builds on the information given in the companion volume *Locating Your German ancestor's place of origin*.

## VALE MAY WATSON



May **Watson** joined PDMFHS in 2002 and was a valuable and active member for all her 20 years of membership. She served on the committee as the social organiser and organiser of speakers for our general meetings. May was a dynamic person and organiser. Her legacy lives on in that role, which has been modelled on her methods. After she left the committee, May took on the role of meeting and greeting at the door of the monthly meetings. This role even included being babysitter for our members' babies.

At her funeral several of our members heard a eulogy read by a close family friend. It came from May's writing which was a unique way to tell her own story.

May was not only a valuable and dedicated family historian, but she also had a deep love of family, learning of her adoption at a very late age. May also enjoyed & was very involved with other community groups and her church.

Members of the Society were proud to say they attended the funeral of a lovely lady and member of our society.





## ROBERT BURDETT SMITH (1837-1895): Succeeding Against the Odds

- *Lyndall Nairn*



Robert Burdett **Smith** represented the Hastings and the Macleay districts in the colonial NSW Parliament between 1870 and 1890. He made significant contributions that benefitted both his constituents and the people of NSW. In 1870, his first task in the Legislative Assembly was to act as secretary of the committee charged with setting up a statue of Captain **Cook** in Hyde Park to commemorate the centenary of Cook's exploration of the east coast of Australia. After the statue was erected in 1879, the committee presented him with a replica silver statuette.

Robert served as chair of the committee of elections, which considered questions of representation and wrote the 1880 Electoral Act, which increased the number of districts in NSW from 61 to 72. He also focused on law reform in the areas of bankruptcy and probate law. He was an examiner in admission of attorneys and solicitors in the 1870s, and in 1882, he became a director of Sydney Hospital. In 1890 when he resigned from the Lower House, Robert was appointed as a lifetime member of the NSW Legislative Council.

Robert's efforts in his electorate were also appreciated. For example, in 1875 he applied for the construction of a Post and Telegraph Office in West Kempsey, and in 1880 he established the Macleay District Hospital. When people living in a small settlement on the Macleay asked for their own post office, he made the appropriate arrangements, and in 1877, that settlement was named Smithtown. He set aside land for parks and sporting fields and helped establish the Kempsey showground. The inhabitants of Kempsey expressed their thanks by renaming their main street Smith Street.

In the nineteenth century, the main way of promoting trade was through exhibitions. Robert organized the display of merchandise from NSW and Australia at a number of exhibitions:

Sydney in 1879, Melbourne in 1880, Amsterdam and Calcutta in 1883, London in 1886, Paris in 1889 and Chicago in 1893. One example is the Portobella fortified wine from the Douglas Vale Vineyard in Port Macquarie, which won four awards at international exhibitions in the 1880s. In this way, Robert helped to boost the fledgling economy of NSW.

All of Robert's achievements as a politician are commendable. However, his personal story and family background are also noteworthy. What would be the chances for a boy born in Sydney in 1837, while his convict father was still serving his sentence, growing up to become a solicitor and a member of parliament? Given the stratification of Sydney society in the nineteenth century when convicts were looked down upon, I would say that Robert's chances of achieving that degree of upward social mobility would be close to zero. How did he do it?

First, Robert's mother, Mary Ann **Salmon**, seems to have been resourceful. It is likely that she was the one who heard that the private school run by W.T. Cape was giving scholarships to emancipists' children. During most of the 1840s, Robert's father, John Lloyd Smith, was serving his second sentence at Norfolk Island and Port Arthur, so he certainly was not an emancipist. Robert's application must have been a bit vague regarding his father's status and location because he was admitted.

At Cape's school, Robert mixed with the sons of graziers and the well-to-do of Sydney society. He did not attend Sydney University, but during the 1850s, he continued his education with two well-known academics, who were involved with the establishment of Sydney University and Sydney Grammar School.

Then in 1858, Robert became an articled clerk, working in Goulburn for the solicitor William **Roberts**, who later became a member of parliament. The connections Robert made through his education and early work experience were crucial for his later legal and political career.

In 1863, Robert was admitted as an attorney and solicitor to the Supreme Court of NSW. At this time, he changed his middle name from Lloyd to Burdett, so breaking the association with his convict father. He then set up his own legal practice in King Street, Sydney, which he continued until his death.

In the early 1860s, Robert began considering his future as a politician. However, he would have no chance of being elected if people knew that his wayward father was now serving his fourth sentence, doing hard labour digging out the sandstone to make the dry dock on Cockatoo Island in Sydney Harbour. Then, lo and behold, in July 1865 a miracle happened: John Lloyd **Smith** was granted a pardon on the condition that he leave the Australian colonies and never return. A month later, John was put on a coal freighter bound for San Francisco.

The details behind this conditional pardon are scanty, but it seems as if Frederick **Kostin**, one of the victims of Robert's father's most recent fraud exploits, petitioned Governor Young, suggesting that the NSW Government would benefit if John Lloyd **Smith** were to be exiled. Because **Kostin** was one of John's long-term friends and business associates, he even offered to pay for John's passage to another country. Such an offer from a fraud victim to his perpetrator is highly unusual, so it seems likely that Robert was pulling strings behind the scenes to arrange for his father's exit.

Robert did his best to hide the convict stain in his family, but it was impossible to keep it completely secret. During his twenty years in the Legislative Assembly, some of Robert's political opponents tried to discredit him by mentioning his convict father. Robert ignored them. He neither confirmed nor denied the accusations; he simply pretended not to hear them.

Robert's whole family tried to cover up their close association with a convict, especially since John Lloyd **Smith** had been a repeat offender. Robert was one of five children, only two of whom married. From our twenty-first century point of view, it looks like Robert and his two unmarried sisters decided not to enter any close relationships so that they wouldn't have to explain why their father was absent. The convict shame was so deeply felt that even as late as the 1970s, some of my family members were destroying documents and denying the existence of any convict ancestors.

Given Robert's humble origins and the deep levels of shame associated with anybody who had convicts in their family, it is surprising that Robert could have had the career success that he did. His determination to overcome this obstacle makes me proud to count him as one of my forebears. (An earlier version of this article was presented on 30 March 2022 at the History Open Day, at Douglas Vale vineyard. Port Macquarie.)

Ancestry.com. Robert Lloyd **Smith**. Birthdate 25 Aug 1837, Sydney, NSW. *Australia, Births and Baptisms, 1792-1981*.

Cunneen, Chris. 'Robert Burdett **Smith**', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Vol. 6, 1976 (print), 2006 (online) <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/smith-robert-burdett-4613>

*Douglas Vale Historic Homestead & Vineyard* website. [www.douglasvale.com.au/history](http://www.douglasvale.com.au/history)

Lloyd, Helen V. *Exiled: Colonial Prisoners Banished from NSW*. Sydney, 2004.

NSW Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages. Death Cert of Robert Burdett Smith, 7065/1895.

Storey, Leslie A. 'The Hon. Robert Burdett **Smith**, CMG, MLC, Solicitor and Politician, 1837-1895'. *History Magazine of the Royal Australian Historical Society*, No. 41, June 1995, pp. 10-12.

Image credit: Picture of Robert Burdett **Smith**. NSW Parliamentary Archives. [https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/members/Pages/profiles/smith\\_robert-burdett.aspx](https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/members/Pages/profiles/smith_robert-burdett.aspx)

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## RESEARCHING MY HUSBAND'S FAMILY TREE

*Evelyn Parr*

New to genealogy, I recently began researching my husband, William James **Parr**'s family tree. His father was George Robert **Parr** (28 Feb 1927 - 21 Feb 2006). It has not been an easy task as the family either have short memories or are not really interested.

After a long and convoluted discussion with a friend, about the dos and don'ts of Trove, none of which I understood at the time, I decided to just have a quick search and see what happened. There was an old family tale about an incident at Melbourne Zoo and it seemed like a good opportunity to prove or disprove.

I typed in "George **Parr** shoots Polar Bear." Here is the result! A truly amazing story of three brave men which appeared in the press all around Australia!!

# Bear Mauls Keepers Before Being Killed

**MELBOURNE:** A seven foot polar bear severely mauled two of its keepers before being shot dead at the zoo today.

One of the keepers ran 200 yards to get a revolver in an attempt to save his mate.

The injured men are Stanley Gittos, 20, and Roy Gorham, 50. They were both admitted to Royal Melbourne Hospital suffering from multiple lacerations. Their condition is serious.

**Zoo officials believe Gittos was cleaning the bear's den. It is customary to lock the bear in a cage at the back of a pit while he does the cleaning.**

The bear got out of the cage and jumped on Gittos.

Gorham, who only started at the zoo yesterday ran to the keepers' quarters about 200 yards from the pit to get a .45 revolver. When he returned, he attempted to shoot the bear from behind, but it turned and knocked him down.

## Shot In Head

**George Parr**, the Zoo miniature train driver, came on the scene and saw the bear standing over Gittos. He ran to the keepers' quarters and returned with a rifle.

Parr said, "I took a quick shot at the bear, but it did not even disturb him. He continued to maul Gittos. I went to take another shot, but the rifle jammed and the bear started coming for me."

"I ran back and managed to clear the rifle with a pen-knife. With the next shot I got him in the head and he went down."

The bear, Ben, was imported from San Diego Zoo last July. He was valued at £500. He weighed about 750lb.

When officials realised the bear was loose in the public part of the grounds they had keepers clear the zoo.

*1. Brisbane Telegraph. Qld. 15 March. 1950. Trove.*

## PORT MACQUARIE'S TORNADO - 60 YEARS AGO

*Richard Grimmond*

Your 95 years old member remembers the tornado that struck Port Macquarie on the 9<sup>th</sup> July, sixty years ago. I was a young teacher doing playground duty at Port Macquarie High School when the students came running up to me saying, "Look at the waterspout on Oxley Beach, Sir!"

There was a huge column of swirling water, just beyond the waves and it was slowly moving closer. The tops of the pine trees in its path touched the ground and we felt seaweed hitting our faces.

All the pupils ran into the canteen for protection, just as it struck the school. It ripped off the whole roof of the Industrial Arts block and sucked it up into the sky. Then it went past the main classroom block and sucked out every window, covering the playground in broken glass. Luckily, all the pupils were indoors.

As it went through town, the sky was filled with swirling sheets of corrugated iron from Port Macquarie's roofs. As they came down they wrapped around the tall TV antennas we had at that time and bent them over. People lost their washing, their fowls and even their pets.

As the tornado rushed up Gordon Street, it not only sucked the glass out of the many shop fronts but all the contents of the shops as well.

A two-storey building, near the present-day traffic lights, collapsed and killed three workmen. It then roared its way to Wauchope leaving a path of destruction through the trees until its force was dissipated.

Quite a few older residents still remember the tornado that hit Port Macquarie in 1962.

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### FAMILY HISTORY RESOLUTIONS

1. No more subscribing while intoxicated.
2. Stop citing *The da Vinci Code* as a source.
3. Read at least one book that has nothing to do with family history research.
4. Go for a daily jog somewhere that doesn't require hurdling tombstones.
5. Interview those relatives most likely to die from bird flu (or any other virus) in 2022.
6. Stop calling the Obituary department of capital city newspapers for leads.
7. Post no more than thirty message - board queries on any one day.
8. I resolve that if my beloved husband John should die, I will marry another John.
9. I will move to a new town or new state at least once every 10 years just before those pesky Census staff come around asking silly questions.

(A version of an article from 'The Genealogue' 2005)

## WHAT A TRIP TO HAMILTON HOUSE SUNDAY MARKETS CAN REVEAL

*Jennifer Labone*

I recently purchased a small but interesting wooden box. Nestled within the handmade box rests a wonderful hand-turned oyster knife. The limited-edition box and knife were crafted by the hands of local retired oyster grower, Cec Radley. Cec used 100-year-old Red Cedar for the box, and 125-year-old Camphor Laurel, along with a stainless-steel blade and Marine Grade Alloy grip to make the unique oyster knife.

The aged timber came from components of the local historic fishing trawler, “*XLCR*”, which is a 50-foot trawler built in 1900, then owned by T. **Radley** and Sons of Port Macquarie. The **Radley**’s regularly trawled and trapped along the Eastern Seaboard for fish prawns and lobster.

The *XLCR* often functioned as a rescue boat for the sailing regattas which were once held locally, as well as for surf club carnivals.

On 29 April 1943 *XLCR* and her crew became famous for the heroic rescue of five survivors from the sinking of the *SS Wollongbar* near Pt. Plomer, north of Port Macquarie. The ship had been torpedoed by a Japanese submarine.

*XLCR* has since undergone a five-year restoration by students attending Newman Senior College and is used as a practical teaching aide in navigation, ships’ maintenance, and engineering. The proud owners of such a worthy and practical piece of local interest and history, believe Cec ran the same oyster lease as they, the current lease holders of the Old **Radley** lease.





## LETTER WRITING – ALMOST AN OLD ART!

*Kay Browne*

People who could read and write used letters to contact one another. Letter-writing has been a means of communicating for hundreds of years and even with our changing technology it still provides written contact between people. The family researcher who finds old letters has an insight into a moment of an ancestor's life.

I was given copies of a few old letters relating to my **Harris** family. These letters are in the period from 1898 to 1908. Some are from a brother to his sister and the others are between a niece and her aunt, both being written from England to Melbourne, Victoria. What can we gain from these old letters? Addresses are provided as a point for further research and letters contain names that may prove useful.

There are two letters from Charles **Harris** to his younger sister, Charlotte **Lowe**. He has retired from his silversmithing business leaving his sons as managers. A letter dated July 22, 1904, gives an insight to his daily life; his house is leased; he takes a 2-hour drive (by coach) with his wife who is better now. They are going to the seaside for a rest in September. He enjoys his garden; he has lime trees, lots of strawberries and is expecting a lot of apples; with over 50 chickens and 8 ducks they get many eggs.

From these two letters I gained quite a bit of information. There was a third letter from this family, dated 1906, announcing the death of Ann. I learnt that Arthur **Masters**, Ann's brother was visiting from Tasmania and Walter **Allen** and Will **Lowe** were in England. What I don't know even now is who the writer was. It is signed Pattie and speaks of Ann as Mater and Charles as Pater and yet none of his sons' names seem likely so a nickname.

The other letters are between Emily **Beilby** in Manchester and her aunt Emily Harris in Melbourne. They do not have much information except that Emily has had a daughter and that she is touch with of her cousins in Australia and one living in Ireland. She also mentions the **Rintoul** family who live in Highgate. Rintoul is the name of her grandmother's family, and what to buy for a trousseau. It mentions names that do connect with the **Cooper** family. There is also a baby mentioned by the name of Ruby.

He often has visitors, and he mentions, Walter **Allen**, a nephew from another sister in Australia and F. **Brooks**. Fred **Brooks** was my GG grandfather's half-brother. We knew little of him and here he is here visiting in London. Charles says 'he is a brave young lad and I hope he will return to his native land and spend many 'happy days' and that statement led me to the Boer war records.



His next letter is dated 1908, slightly different address and the first page is bound by black. This indicates he is still in mourning since the death of his wife, Ann. This letter reveals his loneliness from the very beginning. It also shows his feelings regarding his sons who never visit unless it is to get money from him. He does try to change his tone, talking personally about walking daily, riding his horse every day and that he even had a cold bath at 6am 26 times this month. He also has tickets to various exhibitions trying to keep himself busy, but the loneliness creeps back into the letter. He also mentions Will, Charlotte's son who is studying medicine and how well he is doing.

This family have kept together through letters.

I hold one other document that is very unusual. It is signed off as a letter and those names are children of Elizabeth **Cooper**, Charles **Harris'** sister. Possibly the first page is missing as I have no idea who it was to, nor when. The writing is continuous running writing and very hard to read. I have transcribed it and yes, it reveals things such as how much to pay for coal, an illegitimate child and her future marriage is often mentioned. I have never found a Ruby in the family.

Further reading gives me goosebumps every time I read it, as it seems to be written by people who have died and foreseeing the future for this girl. It is like ghost-writing. The names at the bottom were nicknames of Mary and Jane **Cooper**, who died 1893 and 1904. There was an Uncle Willy who also died in 1904.

Will I ever work this out and the bigger question is do I want to?



Quill —→ Pen —→ Fountain Pen —→ Biro —→ Typewriter —→ Computer

### SAVE THE DATE – ALL DAY SEMINAR

Conducted by Michelle Patient  
At the MacAdams Music Centre  
On 24 September 2022.

Subject - Research in the Twenty-first Century, Up Over from Down Under.

Lunch will be catered Cost \$40 members & \$50 non-members

Enquiries – Secretary Jennifer Mullin..... m.0475 132 804 / [secretary@pmdfhs.org.au](mailto:secretary@pmdfhs.org.au)

## INTRODUCING FAMILY HISTORY TO YOUNGER GENERATIONS

Kay Browne



*Internet, Clipart, Generational Insights and the Speed of Change*

When our grandson Mitchell turned 30, I decided to give him a photographic family history.<sup>1</sup> It was a bit of a chance because I was unsure whether he would appreciate this as a gift. I knew his wife liked looking at our old photos, so I went ahead with it. It was only his maternal side: the **Brown-Butterworth** connections. Years ago, when his dad entered the family tree, we did a little bit of family history but not much. This meant that I could print a genealogy of his dad's side to accompany his gift.

After thirty odd years and much better records available it was time for some updating of the **Shephard** family. Initially I had traced back five generations but only the barest information. Using resources like Australian Cemetery Index, Ryerson Index and using the tricks on NSW BDMs, I managed to get full birth, death and marriage dates and then dived into Trove for further details. I knew that most of them were born or married in NSW.

As many of you know, families tended to carry the same names, so in one family I got to a brick wall, with Williams, Walters, and Marys. **Bradbury** was the surname. I was looking for a Walter who married Mary **Seabrook**. That was okay but his death was confusing. Originally, we had his death or so I thought until I searched Trove. Immediately I found a Walter dying in Armidale in 1924<sup>2</sup> but his wife was Alice. There was an obituary that indicated that he had been married to her for many years. The only thing that connected to the family was that he had come from the Camden area and that was where many of the family had lived. Checking their marriage indicated that he had never had a wife named Mary.

This Walter **Bradbury** was confirmed as the son of William **Bradbury** of Taralga, and with a bit more searching it was clear that William and my Walter were brothers. With some more searching I found more brothers and a sister for Walter and to make it complicated the parents were Walter and Mary. So now I had the births of brothers and sisters in the 1840s but no Walter. Obviously, he was not born here, I was confused so I left it.

A week went by, and I could not resist I went searching again on Trove. In Walter **Bradbury**'s death notice of 1924, I found information relating to his father who was still alive at 85 and his uncle, Walter aged 90. With further research I found him; there he was, Walter **Bradbury**, formerly of Taralga celebrating his 100<sup>th</sup> year birthday in October 1935.<sup>3</sup> So much information about him. He had arrived in Australia with his parents in December 1837. Walter was 2 years old when they arrived, and he was born in Chatham Barracks in Kent in 1835. His father was

a colour sergeant in the 80<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot, guarding convicts onboard the *Asia* and Major William **Kemp** was his commanding officer. Walter senior retired from the Regiment in 1843. The **Bradbury** family had land granted to them in Taralga area near Menagle, and that is where they raised their family.

Walter married Mary **Seabrook** and they had eight sons and four daughters and continued living at Taralga until his last four years. These years were spent in Apsley near Wellington with his only surviving daughter, Mrs George **Maynard**. He travelled to Taralga to celebrate his 100th birthday with family and friends, quite a lengthy trip for a man of his age. Walter died just before his 101<sup>st</sup> birthday, on in 1936.<sup>4</sup>

Walter's descendant, Mitchell **Shephard**, was quite intrigued with his ancestors and thrilled with his present. The last page of his book contained a photo of him and his family with the words, 'The influence of the people who formed our families is passed on through the generations. Our backgrounds are made by others, and we in turn, are creating family history for future generations.'

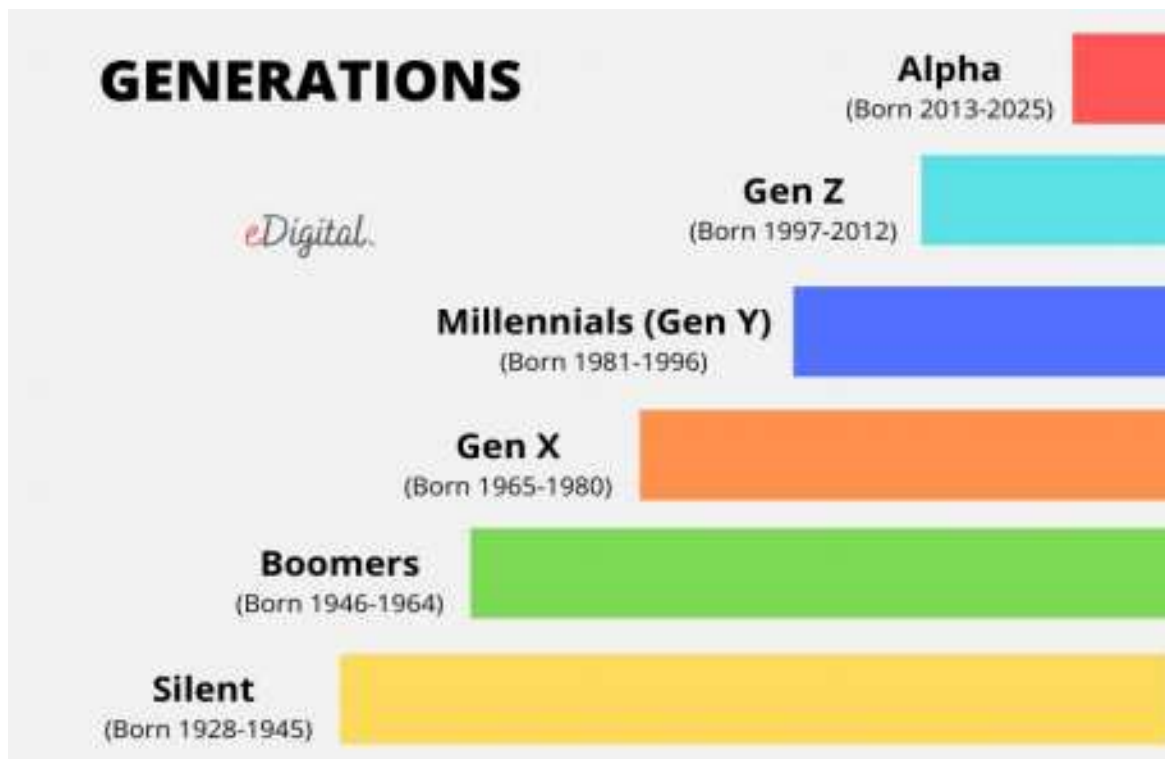
#### References

<sup>1</sup> Snapfish photo book

<sup>2</sup> Crookwell Gazette 9 July 1924

<sup>3</sup> Crookwell Gazette 30 October 1935

<sup>4</sup> Crookwell Gazette 10 September 1936



Internet, Clip Art, eDigital

## THE LEGEND OF A LEDGER: a glimpse at life in a small country town café.

Beryl *Walters*

‘Don’t ever call me a “Bogan” just because I come from Bogan Gate! “Where is it?” you ask, “West of Parkes NSW” and you all know Parkes because of ‘The Dish’ and the ‘Elvis Festival’. When I came into the possession of the following item, ‘The Ledger’, my interest was renewed in the town where I spent the first three and a half years on my life, and which I have visited for many family and community reunions:

**Business Ledger for S J McKeowen and LS Frauenfelder trading as the ‘Back and White Café’ in Bogan Gate NSW for the years 1941 to 1945, containing 349 pages.**



The word ‘Ledger’ is just visible on the spine, and the blue cover is still stiff but damaged on the tan corners.

It would have been quite splendid when new with its blue marbled end papers, but now it shows well-turned pages - smudged a little – but sound, and free from water and cockroach damage. It measured 33.5 cm by 21.5cm (13 ¼ inches by 8 ½ inches) and it’s quite heavy. I read that “The First recorded ledgers were found in the city of Mesopotamia, today’s Iraq, around 7,000 years ago. Clay tablets were used to record lists of expenditures and good received and traded. At the time, ledgers of Mesopotamia were safe, kept in temples that were considered the banks of the time” (Safe as a bank!).

This ledger, very similar to one I saw in a photo dated 1828, is probably a ‘general ledger’ – as its pages have ‘Double Entry’ which records debts - which are goods sold – in the left-hand column, and credits - which are payment for the same in the right-hand column. The customers’ names are at the top. There must always be a balance between the credit and debit amounts.

My sister-in-law passed it on after my brother’s death and because I hadn’t known of its existence, I missed many opportunities to talk to him about it and about his written memoirs of our years there. What a pleasure it was to leaf through the 349 pages of entries - penmanship with great style and flourish – and occasionally my mother’s more sedate entries. I noted with amazement the volume of business they conducted there even though more stores and variety were offered at Parkes to the east – not too far away over a corrugated dirt road - and Condobolin to the west.

So, who were the principals in this business called 'The Black and White Café'? S.P **McKewen** was my father, Jack, working with my mother, Isabel (Belle), and L S **Frauenfelder**, who was my uncle Sebastian, married to Jack's only sister, Kathleen (Kit). Jack and Seb were in partnership for a few years before Seb and Kit moved to Parkes, then Dubbo. This ledger covers the war years of 1941- 45, and mention is made of 'stocks of coupons'. There would have been an earlier ledger for the years 1935 to 1941.

My father was born in Bogan Gate and my mother moved there from Wollongong. They married in 1931 and had three children, Janet, John, and me. In 1935 they purchased 'The Black and White Café', and as the shop came with family accommodation attached, they moved in there and leased our house in Hutton Street to another family until 1942, when they moved back to their own residence. My parents worked very hard and had considerable involvement in community affairs.

I understand that they served confections, groceries, drinks, some hardware, and their home-cooked meals which were most popular with the Commercial Travellers, farmers, shearers, visiting clergy, railway workers and the nearby Army Depot personnel. During harvest time their day started at 5am and didn't finish until well after midnight. Heatwaves and dust storms were a summer challenge and winters could be very cold.

The town offered a good lifestyle and many activities such as the RSL, CWA, The Younger Set, Boy Scouts, the Patriotic Committee, horse racing and trotting. There were also balls and dances, concerts, sports of many kinds along with churches, a Parents and Citizens Association, a resident doctor, and a visiting dentist. The railway was a lifeline to this and so many towns and villages and no doubt my parents took advantage of it to receive their goods.

We sold out in 1945 and moved to Trundle, purchasing 'Trundle General Store', a much bigger business with a large staff, several departments, a big variety of good and fuel supplies.

When leafing through the extensive pages of Accounts and Cash sales in the Ledger, I was surprised to find entries for three families from Bedgerabong, who obviously chose to make the trip to Bogan Gate to patronise my parents' stores. Imagine my delight when I told my Duty Roster partner, John **Peasley** of their names – Orton **Field**, T **Godden**, and E **Peasley**. He was able to identify them as his relations. What a serendipitous moment for me, originally from Bogan Gate, and John, originally from Forbes. As well, we have been working colleagues in a past life, so we have a lot in common - such a small world!



*Bogan Gate Clock Tower/Memorial and Hotel*





NSW & ACT Association of  
Family History Societies Inc.



**Annual Conference**

**16, 17 September 2022**

**Via Zoom & YouTube**

**18 September Local Trade Fair**

**“The Barracks” Maitland & Beyond FHS**

Check website, Facebook, & Conference Newsletter

# Riding the Waves of History

Newcastle Family History Society Inc. [nfhs.org.au](http://nfhs.org.au)

Maitland & Beyond Family History Group Inc. [mdgs.org.au/](http://mdgs.org.au/)

[ridingthewavesofhistory.com.au](http://ridingthewavesofhistory.com.au)

If you wish to attend via Zoom / YouTube, Cost \$10:00  
Please contact the Secretary. M. 0475 132 804 or [secretary@pmdfhs.org.au](mailto:secretary@pmdfhs.org.au)

## Virtual Conference Raffle

Thanks to our generous sponsors we have some fabulous prizes including:

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See full list on website.

## 14 SILVER BANGLES



*Pam Moodie*

My grandmother, Bessie Mae **Goldring**, died when I was 16. She was the only grandparent I knew. We called her Granny. I wasn't close to her; in fact, I realise now I didn't know her well. However, I did love her, and I know she loved me, as she did all her four grandchildren. She was a strong woman, with a big personality, and an open, friendly smile.

From my earliest memory, Bessie was living in Roseville, Sydney, with her older sister, Ethel, who we called Auntie Nan. Their house was very grand, filled with antique furniture and delicate ornaments and paintings which I always thought were beautiful. We children were often told to "look but don't touch", and we never sat on the lounge or dining chairs! Children, in her opinion, were "to be seen and not heard". However, there were times when she would play with us (she taught us all to play poker) and she was generous with her cuddles. I would often sit beside her, snuggle into her warmth, and squeeze her soft upper arms. I never missed an opportunity to count the silver bangles on her right arm. There were fourteen of them, and they fascinated me. She told me they would go to my sisters and me when she died.

I have two older sisters, so it was difficult to share 14 silver bangles amongst three. I, being the youngest I suppose, received 4. My Mum added to mine to make it fair by giving me a bangle that she had received when she was 13. I have worn those bangles ever since my Granny passed away, only removing them for hospital procedures or airport security scanners. (Ironically, neither of my sisters still wear theirs). I have added to the collection myself, and now wear 9. I don't know for sure, but I have always believed that Granny collected her bangles on her big overseas trip.

Granny's husband Alwyn, my grandfather, died in Sydney in 1944. His only son, Richard (my father), was serving in the RAAF, based in England at the time. Bessie and Alwyn had been living in Tamworth, but it wasn't long before Bessie came to live with her sister Ethel. Ethel had been estranged from her husband for many years and was happy to have the company of her younger sister. No doubt it was a blessing too for Bessie, as Richard had by now married and was busy with his growing family.

Early in 1953, Bessie and Ethel sailed for England on the *Oronsay*, for an extended holiday and to be a part of the crowd celebrating the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. They spent approximately 18 months overseas. Most of this time, I believe, was spent in the UK and Ireland, although they also visited France and perhaps more of Europe. I wasn't born until 3 years later, but I remember Granny and Auntie Nan often reminiscing about their trip.

A few old photographs show them on horseback on a country road, as well as sitting atop a horse-drawn wagon in Killarney, Ireland and kissing the Blarney stone at the castle in Cork.



In all the photographs they are dressed immaculately in hats, coats, gloves, and pearls. A couple show them dressed up with fur stoles and coats, possibly ready for a night out. The two sisters seemed very happy, and it would appear this was the trip of a lifetime for Bessie



*Bessie **Golding** nee **Cox**, (on the left ) in Killarney, Ireland, c 1953*

*Bessie **Golding** nee **Cox** on the left, and Ethel Ennor nee **Cox** on the right  
Date unknown*



As well as Granny's bangles, there were other souvenirs, brought home as gifts, which gave clues as to the places they had visited. My older sister had a small Scottish doll wearing a red kilt, whose orange hair became very tangled as subsequent sisters played with her. My brother had a toy leather camel, which for all of us was unique. There were also small dolls from Greece and a sailor doll obviously from the ship's collection. I imagine the ship stopped at a few ports along the way.

50 years after Granny's big trip, I was travelling through Ireland on a tour, and we stopped at Killarney for a wagon ride through the park. I remembered the photos I had seen and realised that I was following in my Granny's steps! We were even given blankets to keep our knees warm, just as Granny had. Needless to say, I was most excited when we came to Blarney castle, as I felt determined to kiss the stone as Granny had done. I do believe Granny's effort was more daring than mine, as I don't remember seeing any handrails or safety barriers in her photo, as they were in mine.

I feel a connection to Granny (and my Mum) as I wear their bangles, and I like to think a bit of them is with me all the time. Sadly, two of Granny's are so worn that I can't wear them anymore. I have kept the tradition though, and a few of my extra bangles were bought as souvenirs from my own overseas travel. Perhaps one day my granddaughter will cuddle up to me to count my silver bangles.

## THOMAS ELFORD AND ROSETTA BARRETT

Terri Topp



Thomas Elford

Thomas **Elford** was born on 27<sup>th</sup> December 1833 in Hamble le Rice, Hampshire, England to John **Elford** and Ann **Patience** and was baptised there on 2<sup>nd</sup> of February 1834. At the age of 13 years and 6 months Thomas enlisted into the Merchant Navy on 14<sup>th</sup> July 1847. Thomas had 10 years of intermittent sailing under his belt before he embarked on his biggest journey of his life. At the age of 23 Thomas joined the crew as an Able Seaman on board the *Beejapore*. One hopes he got to see his mother before he left this time, because he never returned to England. Anne died in Hamble on 28<sup>th</sup> February 1861. Did she ever hear of Thomas' marriage and first child? Thomas' older brother George also joined the Merchant Navy, but it appears the brothers didn't meet again. Family rumour has it that George went to America but that has never been confirmed. John, his father, is not heard of after Thomas' baptism.

So, Thomas was free to make his own life.

Rosetta **Barrett** was born on 5<sup>th</sup> March 1840 in Sutton Bridge, Lincolnshire, England to Samuel **Barrett** and Mary **Canham**. She was fourth oldest out of 13 children. At the tender age of 16, and having worked as a servant girl, Rosetta boarded the same ship as Able Seaman Thomas Elford the *Beejapore*. Little did she know their destiny. One can imagine the family debates that took place as she travelled with her Uncle Neave Canham, his wife and two daughters, and her Uncle Crome **Canham** and his wife to Australia.

Because of her youth Rosetta was considered under the wardship of two other uncles, already in Australia. The Government liked immigrants to already have some contacts. Little did it matter that these two uncles were once convicts!

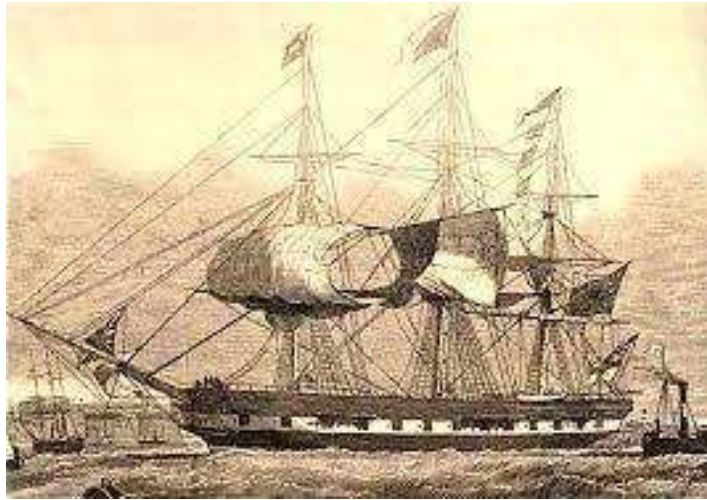


Rosetta Barrett

The *Beejapore* left Port of Southampton, London on 19<sup>th</sup> November 1856 and arrived in Sydney at Moore's Wharf on 14<sup>th</sup> March 1857.

The *Beejapore*<sup>1</sup> was a rigged clipper ship weighing 1,676 tons. The ship was Captained by Edward **Drenning**, Surgeon-Superintendent W. J. **Howard** and Chaplain the Rev. W. **Farrer**. The ship also consisted of 52 crew and 417 passengers. The trip took three months and 12 days

and within that time there were 7 deaths from diarrhoea, marasmus – a wasting condition, and inflammation of the bowels.



*Internet. The Beejapore 1853*

Within the journey to the land down under, it is unconfirmed if an on-board courtship occurred between Thomas and Rosetta or whether their journey after arriving in Australia bought them together. More research is required to determine how they become husband and wife.

A year and 4 months after arriving in Australia, Thomas married Rosetta in a quaint little Parish Church in Brookfield, Dungog, NSW on 10<sup>th</sup> July 1858.

In November 1858 Rosetta fell pregnant at the age of 19 with her first child. Ann Mary was born on the 18 July 1859 followed by Eliza, 20<sup>th</sup> September 1861. But Eliza's life was to be short-lived. She passed away on 27<sup>th</sup> of October 1861, succumbing to an inflammation and was buried at Cundletown, NSW. The last of their children to be born around the Chatham, Dumaresque Island area before moving north was Thomas Henry 08/11/1862.

The family moved to Rawdon Island sometime after November 1862 and before 28<sup>th</sup> April 1865 when their fourth child was born, John William. Then George Edward, 29<sup>th</sup> March 1867, Samuel Augustus, 14<sup>th</sup> March 1873 and James Douglass, 16<sup>th</sup> March 1876.

A year after the birth of James Douglass, Thomas, and Rosetta's first child, Ann Mary, was married to William Henry **Garrett** at the age of 17 years old on 6<sup>th</sup> March 1877. William Henry Garrett was prosecuted by Thomas Elford for perjury. William Henry **Garrett** believed Thomas' consent for Ann Mary to marry under the age of 21 years, was given. His sentence for making a false declaration was a £10 fine and one month's imprisonment.

Rosetta, aged 41, then gave birth to another son, Edward Sydney Elford, on 16<sup>th</sup> July 1880 and then Charles Hastings Macquarie **Elford** on 16<sup>th</sup> February 1883. Rosetta was 44 years old when her final child was born. It is now 1884 and it seems Thomas ventured to Sydney without his family to take up the licence for The Duke of Wellington Hotel in George Street, Waterloo. Thomas was the licensee only for a short period of time before transferring his licensee to his future son-in-law, William Henry **Hooper** in the same year, December 1884.

While Thomas was away in Sydney working, his son George Edward at the age of 18 years, succumbed to blood poisoning, through a wound on his leg on 2<sup>nd</sup> October. George was buried in the Historic Burial Grounds in Port Macquarie.

After Thomas transferred his publican license to William Henry **Hooper**, Thomas returned home to take up the license at the Shamrock Tavern in Port Macquarie in August 1885.

Thomas Elford acquired 40 acres of land for forty pounds on Rawdon Island before March 1889. In March 1889, three roads were deemed for Rawdon Island. It was decided that one of them would go through the property and was called Freemans Road.

On 26<sup>th</sup> January 1899 a tragic accident occurred. Rosetta aged 59, her daughter Ann Mary aged 40 and son took a drive to Mr T. **Connor's** residence at Beechwood. Rosetta's son handed the reins to her so he could get down out of the buggy to take down the rails. He was in the act of taking the bottom rail out, when the horse was startled by something flapping on a log close at hand. The horse rushed through the opening, knocking him and the rail down. At the same time the horse turned, and Rosetta was thrown out of the buggy and fell against the log and the front wheel of the buggy which jammed her against it. Ann Mary was also thrown out of the buggy. When they released the buggy wheel off Rosetta it was obvious that she had received severe injuries to which she succumbed within an hour. Ann Mary received some injuries, but they were not considered serious. Rosetta is buried in the General Cemetery in Port Macquarie.



In July 1902, Thomas visited Sydney and upon his return home he contracted a severe cold. He struggled with broncho pneumonia for 18 to 20 days and passed away from exhaustion on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1902. Thomas was 72 years old and is buried in the same plot as his wife in the General Cemetery, Port Macquarie.

Thomas and Rosetta **Elford**  
Gravesite in the General Cemetery,  
Port Macquarie, NSW

1. *The bad ship Beejapore brought 967 government-sponsored emigrants from Scotland to Australia in 1852-3, including about 240 Paisley weavers. Half of the adults were said to hail from the Isle of Skye (Source: <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/36267964?>). The passengers included 342 children; 56 passengers died enroute, mostly of measles, 55 of them children (including newborn infants) and one a teenager.*



## MARY ANN AND CAPTAIN PIPER

*Information supplied by Trysha **Hanly**  
Compiled by Narelle **Milligan***



This book is based on facts, but a story has been woven in to highlight them. There is a reference to Ann **Poor** who lived in Port Macquarie and was a mistress of Captain **Piper**. How many mistresses did the dashing Captain have?

Trysha Hanly and I did some detective work and found the Port connection. Ann was born to convict parents on Norfolk Island as was Mary Ann (Piper). The author states that she and her family “set up” with Mary **Randall**, a convict friend at Port Dalrymple, Tasmania, who had a family and all of them later moved to Port Macquarie.

In 1820 Ann was working for the Government in Newcastle and was living with George Greenaway, a convict. However, on her return to Port Macquarie she married Joseph **Connor** in the Public School House, and the Reverend Thomas **Hassall** conducted the first recorded Marriage Ceremony of a free female in our town. The Commandant gave his permission, and the banns were declared.



Sadly, Ann died of cancer at the age of 32 and was the first free female to be interred in the Historic Burying Ground. No grave survives but her name is recorded on the plaque at the entrance to the Historic Cemetery.

Ann Poor is recorded as part of our “Forget-Me-Not” Project.

1. *‘Mary Ann and Captain Piper’ author Jessica North.*
2. *St Thomas Early Parish Register, Port Macquarie.*
3. *Winding Sheet*



Convict clothing, State Library of New South Wales



## DNA SUPPORT GROUP

*Ken Hunt*

Our DNA Group meets regularly at the Port Macquarie Library. The next meeting is Monday 22 August. 2022.



We also have a closed Facebook page which can only be accessed by invitation. We find it the easiest way of offering items from the DNA world to each other. One of the great benefits is that anyone in the group can post articles of interest or ask and answer questions.

If you are on Facebook and wish to join us, simply make a request on the home page. It is a private place to ask questions as well as read about the latest happenings in DNA genealogy.



Of interest was the documentary “Marilyn: Her final secret” shown recently on SBS. This French-made documentary claims to have definitely identified the question of her paternity using DNA technology. Filmmaker Francois **Pomes** says he has new and “irrefutable” evidence of Monroe’s father. He and his team managed to obtain Monroe’s DNA from a lock of her hair. It is available to watch on SBS-On Demand.



Dana Leeds has a video called “Using Clusters to Quickly Identify DNA Matches Relevant to Your Research Questions” on 6 October this year on LFTW. If you register now, the video will be free for you to view either live or (for non-LFTW subscribers) for a week following its release.

Upload your Ancestry DNA to other sites.



There are a number of DNA sites to which we can now upload our Ancestry DNA. For a good article on how to do it, look at Louise Coakley’s blog: DNA transfers: How to download a copy of your raw DNA data file & upload it to other database to get free matches. Other data bases include:

MyHeritage  
GEDmatch  
Family Tree DNA



## FOOTSTEPS CONTRIBUTIONS

The next edition of Footsteps will be published in November 2022 so the deadline for contributions will be 15 October. Members are encouraged to write about traditions and practices of their families at Christmas and New Year as well as reflections involving Armistice Day or related military stories of your forbears



**We all enjoy reading about how you tracked down your elusive relatives or about any significant incidents or special activities in which you and your ancestors have been involved. Funny snippets and interesting newspaper articles will also be most welcome.**

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 indicated 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.

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### SOME HINTS FOR WRITING ARTICLES

#### Topics

General – select a story from your family’s past about a specific person or group of people.

Cookbook – Choose a favourite family recipe and write about their family- include the recipe.

Image - From a family image, person, or subject, write down your thoughts – include the image.

Research - Enlarge on a newspaper item, for example, that you found whilst researching.

Themes - Immigration, how your ancestors arrived, ship, plane, their journey etc.

Successes – ‘rags to riches’ such as gold mining, successful farming etc.

Conflict - just about everyone has a family member who served their county.

#### Scope

Try to limit the article to one about no more than two pages - this helps to limit the ‘waffle’.

#### Sources/References

Add these as endnotes. Some readers may find them useful when doing their research.

(Some of this article was suggested by an internet article by Kimberly Powell – [thoughtco.com](http://thoughtco.com))



## 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](mailto: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](http://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 normally 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 following the general meeting. The topic is advertised in the latest *InfoEmail* and at the most recent General Meeting.

## PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

Publication Name	Member Price	Normal Price	Weight
Port Macquarie's Last Convicts; The story of the end of the convict establishment in 1847, 204 pages, soft cover	\$18	\$20	737g
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	\$12	n/a
Port Macquarie Index to Colonial Secretary's Papers 1796-1825 (CD-ROM)	\$8	\$12	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	\$12	n/a
General Cemetery Port Macquarie – Transcriptions & Images (CD-ROM)	\$8	\$12	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)	\$12	
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, or to collect items instead of paying postage, please contact the Secretary (see telephone number on page 2). **Some of the above publications can be purchased via our website: <https://www.trybooking.com/BSNGD>**

However an order form is also available at: [www.pmdfhs.org.au](http://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. Alternatively, please email [secretary@pmdfhs.org.au](mailto:secretary@pmdfhs.org.au) to obtain the Society's banking details to direct deposit into our account via the internet. Pre-payment is required; however Local Government Libraries can be invoiced.

## **PORT MACQUARIE & DISTRICTS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.**

PO Box 1359  
Port Macquarie NSW 2444  
Website: [www.pmdfhs.org.au](http://www.pmdfhs.org.au)  
Email: [secretary@pmdfhs.org.au](mailto:secretary@pmdfhs.org.au)  
Mobile: 0475 132 804

### **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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