

Footsteps



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

SOCIETY ORGANISATION AND CONTACTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Diane Gillespie.....president@pmdfhs.org.au
Vice-President:..... Sue Brindley
Treasurer:..... Clive Smith
Secretary: Jennifer Mullin.....secretary@pmdfhs.org.au
Society Contact Number.....0475 132 804

SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Janet Brown
Neryl Kirton
Narelle Milligan
Dawn Stephens

Areas of Responsibility ~ 2022–2023

Acquisitions/Archives..... Clive Smith
Find a Grave..... Carol Smallman
Footsteps Magazine..... Wendy Haynes
General Meetings Roster..... Dawn Stephens
InfoEmail..... Diane Gillespie / Jennifer Mullin
Journals..... Neryl Kirton
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..... Narelle Milligan / Pauline Every
Research Co-Ordinator Peter Best
Ryerson Index Transcribers..... Kay and Terry Browne
Social Coordinator..... Dawn Stephens
Website Sue Brindley
Welfare..... Margaret Blight

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

CURRENT PROJECT COORDINATORS

Forget-me-not Project (Female Convicts)Trysha Hanly / Clive Smith
Forget-me-not Bonnet Project.....Margaret Blight
Port Macquarie Rate Books.....Rex Toomey

Life members: Terry Browne, Kay Browne.

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COVER PHOTO

Photo – www.commonswiki.org/wiki/File:Anzac_Cove_encampment_1915

NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS

We hope you enjoy your association with our Society and that you will benefit from the resources, meetings and workshops that are available.

A warm welcome is extended to:

NEW

Debbie Harris, Wauchope
 Helene Bonney, Port Macquarie
 Sue Chesshire, Port Macquarie
 Helen Clunas, Rosewood
 Karen Roberts, Port Macquarie
 Kayla Evans, Port Macquarie
 Cassie Jackson, Port Macquarie

Jeanette Scriven, Port Macquarie
 Fiona Coyte, Beechwood
 Wayne Roser, Auckland New Zealand
 Bernice Darby, Lake Cathie
 Bruce & Barbara Simpson, Kew
 Kathleen Dowler, Wauchope

RETURNING

Margaret Myers, Port Macquarie



PRESIDENT'S TWO CENTS WORTH

Diane Gillespie

Members of Port Macquarie & Districts Family History Society were delighted to learn of the continuation of funding for Trove, which is the single entry point to the collections of hundreds of Australia's libraries, universities, museums, galleries, and archives according to the media release from the Minister for the Arts. Tony Burke advised that the 2023-24 Federal Budget will deliver the National Library of Australia \$33 million over 4 years. As family historians, academics, researchers, and students know, Trove is a world-leading valuable resource that enhances the social tapestry of times past. There will be \$9.2 million in indexed ongoing annual funding beyond the 4-year period.

Trove holds over 14 billion digital artifacts and stories from Australia's cultural, community, and research institutions which are accessible to all Australians, regardless of where they live.

Academics, researchers, family historians, and historical societies all use this indispensable tool that enables us all to connect with our communities' history.



Clive Smith & Rex Toomey at State Records

Photograph: Lis Hannelly

2023 has seen the return of many Society activities, such as an excursion to State Archives and Museums, Seminars, and social gatherings.

March proved to be an extremely busy and productive month as members enjoyed participating in RootsTech, where finding distant relatives and famous people were all part of the fun. Have you watched the many and varied webinars presented?

Members of our Society visited NSW State Archives in March where the Colonial Secretary's Correspondence was investigated as part of our female convict project and some members found some intriguing facts about their individual ancestors.

We also hosted Michelle **Patient** for a full-day Seminar which covered many aspects of research. Michelle based her seminar on popular topics nominated by our members, and these included Irish Research, RootsTech, and finding elusive ancestors.

Our Beginners' Course in April was well attended and expertly conducted by our Vice President, Sue **Brindley**. Participants were introduced to the basics of Pedigree Charts and Family Group Sheets as well as learning how to acknowledge their sources. At the workshops, the attendees used the various databases on Ancestry, MyHeritage, and FindMyPast as well as learning about FamilySearch. They accessed Trove, learning some shortcuts and tricks to make their searches more efficient.

Our current projects – Port Macquarie & Hastings Rates Projects and our Female Convict Project are nearing completion, and the co-ordinators are happy with the progress achieved.

Our Support Groups for members continue to be well supported as the Group leaders strive to present something new or challenging for members to consider. I would like to thank the Group leaders, Clive **Smith**, Robyn **Denley**, and Pauline **Every** for their continued support and enthusiasm.

We are looking forward to the next NSWACT Annual Conference which will be held at Toukley NSW on 8-10 September. Some members have already secured their place at the Conference and booked accommodation.

FROM THE EDITOR

Wendy Haynes

It has been so interesting reading what our members discovered on their trip to the State Archive. I had intended to go but alas other commitments pulled me in another direction. It is the eve of ANZAC Day as I write this and though this issue has an open theme, now is a good time to remember the sacrifices made on our behalf. I know my great grandfather, and my grandfather on my mother's side volunteered to join the army, though they never left for foreign shores. So, I'm lucky to have no sad tales to tell.

It's lovely to learn how well the Forget-Me-Not project is going and the wonderful support it is receiving from our members. I'm looking forward to reading the book.

WHAT DID WE FIND AT STATE ARCHIVES?

Jennifer Mullin

Sue found the signature of one of her convicts in Colonial Secretary's papers; signatures of ancestors from probates; certificates of naturalisation which confirmed the place of birth of non-UK ancestors; and a death certificate in a probate package.

Clive was able to view and photograph coloured copies of Colonial Secretary's Register of Convicts sent to Port Macquarie which allowed him to read information written in pencil and red ink – which did not show in the photographs on the films; he also found certified copies of marriage certificates in Divorce Files for his family.

Jennifer was able to record the value of her great-grandfather's estate which she couldn't read on a previously photographed document.

ARCHIVES TRIP

Cath Norton

As this was my first (but definitely not my last!) trip to the Archives, I wasn't sure what to expect and whether my requests would yield positive results...

I was thrilled with the results! I found 4 x death certificates amongst various probate packets, 10 x wills that gave me specific children's names and marital/spouse details and the most interesting find of all was the court transcript of the murder trial of my son's great-grandmother Ruby May (who was found innocent)!

The court transcript gave a fascinating insight into the family relationships and also the relationships the family had with other townsfolk in a small, rural community. I think it would be fair to say that for a small country village, there was an enormous amount of drama and gossip at large!

It was also interesting to note that after the birth of her sister's child, it was agreed that Ruby May would raise the child as her own. No formal adoption was entered into, just an agreement between the family. Luckily, we already had knowledge of the adoption, but the identity of the biological mother had been kept secret and never been revealed to the child involved until they were well over 60yrs old. It was in the court transcript, but of course, being a child, they were not privy to that information.

The hardest part of the trip was/still is sorting out and saving the information gathered and updating the charts!

THE PERILS OF FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

Peter Day

A couple of years ago, I was excited to find that my brother had been holding onto my father's photo album, the existence of which I had previously been unaware. The album stops shortly after his marriage to my mother, but had a lot of photos from before that, including from his time in Palestine and northern Africa during WWII. Dad seemed not to have been a great photographer, which is why this photo, bearing the stamp of a professional photographer on its back, stood out. The photo was dated by Dad as 11 September 1948.

I could recognise some of the faces in the photo – Mum and Dad (in the middle and right of the middle row) and an aunt and uncle or two – but not all. The gentleman at the bottom left was wearing clothing suitable for the father of the bride, maybe the lady next to him was the mother of the bride, and all are dressed up.



So, possibly a photo of the family gathered at a wedding. But whose? Michael **Day** (I have no other photo of him) and Sarah **Heilbronn** were Dad's parents; perhaps they were the couple at the bottom left? Apart from Daisy and Mary, all of Michael and Sarah's surviving children were married by that date. Daisy and Mary were close, so it would make sense for one to be a bridesmaid at the other's wedding, and for both to be missing from the family group photo, but as far as I knew, they married two brothers in 1959, and 1960 respectively. There were photos of a bride and groom adjacent in Dad's album, but they did not look like any of the family. Dad had labelled the bride "the Duchess of Dillwater", apparently a reference to the 1933 film *Excess Baggage*, but that didn't help me identify her. 1948 is too recent to obtain a marriage registration in Queensland; I searched Trove but had no luck.

I couldn't ask any of Michael and Sarah's children and their partners, they being deceased by this time (including my parents), so I asked one of my cousins, who was well acquainted with the family history and close to Daisy and Mary if she knew anything about the photo. That drew a blank. I asked someone else and they suggested it was an early marriage of Daisy. Back to the cousin, and she opened up. It was indeed Daisy's first wedding, but the marriage didn't last. The groom proved a very unsuitable husband apparently, and Daisy divorced him in 1957. And my cousin had the divorce papers!

Armed with this information, we were able to identify all those in the photo, who proved to be Michael and Sarah, all of their surviving children except Daisy and Mary, most of their partners, and a granddaughter. Quite a find really.

The bride's photo in Dad's album doesn't look at all like Daisy as I remember her, but then my memories of her are much more recent than 1948.

The moral is that, when asking family members about the family's history, one doesn't always get the right answer until one asks exactly the right question!

REPATRIATION OF FAMILY MEMBERS

Lis Hannelly

When I lived in Sydney the Archives were readily available and I had been successful in tracing the handwritten letters where my 2x great grandfather Patrick **Conlon**, alias **Conway**, supported by his local parish ministers, sought permission to marry Margaret **Blackwood** alias **Elliott**. This was a long and bumpy process with interference by his 'betters'. That is definitely a story for another day.

Patrick had a life sentence for horse theft in Longford, Ireland but his ability to read and write saw him assigned on arrival as a clerk for a bailiff and eventually assisting in tracking escapees and then appointed as a police constable in Dungog with a Conditional Pardon in 1846.

Margaret (and her sister Mary) when arrested in Edinburgh, Scotland for coining (forging coins) were lucky not to swing for their crime and when transported for seven years Margaret

was listed as having a child. There was no evidence of the child during her assignments or records but without a first name, I struggled.

A notation by the wonderful Jen **Willetts** had me always searching for a repatriation order for a child.

My recent visit to the archives led me to discover that Patrick had applied to have “his child” from EDINBURGH brought to Australia... a sleight of hand perhaps since Patrick came from IRELAND on the ship the “City of Edinburgh” ... and Margaret's child was in Edinburgh

Thanks to this recent visit, I have the document showing that the Governor approved this repatriation. Now I know she was allowed to come I will have to find out when she did!



BUT this has given me another mystery ... and it is probably a rabbit hole....

While Margaret was pregnant before the marriage permission was finally received, giving birth to Catherine four months later in East Maitland in April 1841 the records also show another child’s birth registration down in Sydney in 1841 of another daughter, Bridget (Parish not stated) ... Was this the child brought to Australia with the permission of the Governor in 1849?

Could they ‘back date’ register a birth? Why register down in Sydney?

Margaret's child, left with family in Edinburgh, would have been three years old in 1841 but if able to backdate the registration in 1849 she would have been genuinely 11 not 8, and perhaps easier to fudge. A slightly built undernourished child from Edinburgh's slums could pass for 8.

My next task will be to find the shipping record of a child probably named ‘**Conlon** or **Conway**’ not ‘**Blackwood** nor **Elliott**’ arriving in Sydney after that permission was granted.

Still searching!

MORE ARCHIVES DISCOVERIES

Diane Gillespie

Original death certificates in Probate packets are a treasure to behold! I found two death certificates for collateral families hidden within a probate packet – one for the person named in the packet as well as his wife who had pre-deceased him. She was to be the beneficiary of his estate.

A visit to State Archives saved the purchase of certificates and allowed me to view original records pertaining to my family.

A DISCREPANCY IN COMMUNICATIONS

Pam Moodie

Gordon **Goldring** was my great uncle. He was born in Potts Point, NSW, in 1885; the firstborn of three sons to Eugene and Marie **Goldring**. When he was 17, his younger brother Harold, aged 16, died in an accidental drowning while trying to save a friend. The youngest brother, Alwyn, who was my grandfather, was the only one of the three sons to survive beyond 30. Gordon died, aged 30, at Gallipoli.

Gordon was working as a station hand in Queensland when he enlisted. This was a vastly different occupation and lifestyle to that of his father and younger brother, who were both bankers in Sydney. He must have had a desire for adventure and an interest in seeing other parts of the country. All three sons had attended Scots College, in Sydney. Here, Gordon would have met other students from all walks of life. Perhaps he befriended a boarder whose family came from Queensland. Regardless of what took him to Queensland, or how long he had been there, it was on 17th September 1914 when he joined the AIF in Townsville at the age of 29.

His initial training was in Queensland, where he became part of the 15th battalion of the AIF. This was followed by a short period of training in Victoria before the battalion embarked overseas in late December 1914. They disembarked at Alexandria on 3rd February 1915. On 10th April, they were bound for Gallipoli. Gordon's battalion was part of the second wave of troops who landed at Anzac Cove on the afternoon of 25th April.

Gordon was single when he enlisted. His next of kin is recorded on his enlistment papers as his father. I don't know whether he would have had an opportunity to see his parents after his enlistment, or how long it had been since he had seen them. I guess as a young man, fired up with the excitement of the adventure that lay ahead, this may not have overly concerned him. However, as a mother myself, I can imagine how distressing this would have been for Gordon's parents – knowing that he was headed overseas to war, with the high possibility that he may not return. And that is what happened. Gordon became one of the thousands who died in battle before twelve months of service was up.

Gordon's story, or more precisely, his father's story, tells of a discrepancy that no doubt occurred in many households around the world during the Great War. Communication and the relaying of information from a battlefield to a humble home on the other side of the world was understandably slow and perhaps not always reliable.

On 6th August 1915, the 15th battalion attacked what was known as Hill 971. Gordon was killed in action on 8th August. Just over a month later, on 12th September, Gordon's father, Eugene, received a telegram from the Department of Defence officially reporting Gordon as missing and wounded. A letter had also been written to Eugene from a Corporal E W **Simon**, from a hospital on Lemnos, dated 14th August, just 6 days after Gordon's death. I have no record of when this letter was received by Eugene. It is possible he received it before he got the official telegram, but subsequent letters indicate that this was not the case. In the letter, Corporal

Simon describes the circumstances of Gordon's death: how they were together when they each were hit in the leg by a bullet, then as they attempted to crawl behind a bush Gordon was hit in the chest by a sniper. His dying request was that Corporal **Simon** write to Gordon's father. It is a heartbreaking letter to read.

After receiving the official cable, Eugene wrote to the Department of Defence to seek details of Gordon's situation. He most pointedly poses the question of how it could be known that Gordon was wounded if he was missing. He is arguing the terminology. This question was answered in a cable dated 23rd September: evidence of his casualty had been supplied by witnesses, but being untraceable, he was reported missing. Eugene possibly replied to Corporal **Simon's** letter, perhaps to confirm the truth of his news, because he received a cable from him dated 14th January, containing a signed statement of the fact of Gordon's death.

Eugene continued to write to the Department of Defence regarding this matter. The responses that he received contained no further official information regarding Gordon's death. They continued to report him as wounded and missing. Eugene had supplied the office with copies of Corporal **Simon's** letter and cable. By February, he was obviously becoming exasperated and enquired as to the period of time that had to elapse before a missing and wounded soldier could be officially reported as dead. He states that in England the time is four months, and it was then six months since he had heard the news from Corporal **Simon**.

A court of Enquiry was held on 28th April 1916, where it was established that Private Gordon **Goldring** had been killed in action on 8th August, at Gallipoli. There was no record of a burial. Eugene was informed of this via a cable.

Gordon **Goldring** died as he had fought; bravely, and for his country. It was nearly nine months before his death was pronounced officially, and his parents were formally notified. How many other parents, wives, and families were sent conflicting information, and suffered a long wait before they had certainty? In some ways, the plight of Eugene and Marie was possibly made easier by the letter they had received from Corporal **Simon**. They had proof from a witness long before they had official documentation. How long would some families have hoped and prayed before they were given the final devastating news?

Gordon became one of the many unknown soldiers. Like all those others, he made the ultimate sacrifice. Lest we forget.



DISCREPANCIES IN THE RECORD

Lyndall Nairn

The marriage certificate of my great-grandparents, Robert Kerr **Campbell**, and Emeline Burdett **Smith**, gives rise to three questions. At first glance, each of these questions seems insignificant, but taken together, they create doubts about the arrangements for their wedding and perhaps even about the basis of their marriage itself. Did they organise it as an elopement rather than as a conventional wedding?

Robert and Emeline were married on 17th March 1886 at Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Grenfell, NSW¹. The first question is, why Grenfell? That is where Robert's parents were living, but at that time, it was customary to hold weddings at the church or home of the bride, not the groom. Why didn't they get married in Temora, which was the closest town to Emeline's home? The Grenfell location explains why Robert's parents were the two witnesses to the wedding, but the second question of why Emeline did not have a witness from her family remains unanswered. The third question involves a white lie: why did Emeline say that she was working as a domestic servant on her parents' property, when actually, she was the eldest daughter of a well-established grazier, not his employee? Because almost 140 years have passed since my great-grandparents were married, we will probably never know the true answers to these questions; nevertheless, I can't help wondering about these discrepancies on their marriage certificate.

Henry and Mary Jane **Smith** had made it clear to their eldest daughter Emeline that they did not approve of her plan to marry the telegraph operator who worked in the nearby Morangarell Post Office². In addition to his athletic achievements, he was known to be a drinker and a gambler, so they worried that he was unreliable and would cause her grief. However, Emeline was completely smitten by the charming Mr. Robert **Campbell**, so instead of getting married in the church she regularly attended with her father to give her away, Robert suggested that they avoid any unpleasantness with her parents and go to Grenfell, where his parents were living. As soon as they arrived, Emeline felt relieved because his parents accepted her warmly and did not embarrass her by asking why no one in her family had come with them.

However, Emeline was still worried about how to explain her residence and occupation on the marriage certificate, but fortunately, Robert easily came up with the solution. He suggested that she give her residence truthfully as Corumbie Station and that she says she was employed there as a domestic servant. Well, in a sense this claim was true because in her role as the eldest daughter in a large family, she did do household tasks in the homestead. As she walked down the aisle on the arm of Robert's older brother, Emeline was hoping that her parents would be quick to forgive her defiance and would come around to seeing Robert in a favourable light.

Unfortunately, Emeline's parents' doubts were realised because Robert and Emeline's marriage was not a "happily-ever-after" story. As the years went by, Robert's drinking problem became more serious, so much so that in the late 1890s he lost his job as a telegraph operator with the post office. Then in March 1900, when they were living in West Maitland and Robert

was working for the Singer Sewing Machine Company, Emeline reported him to the police as a missing person³, probably as a result of him going on a bender. The breaking point in Robert and Emeline's marriage came in November 1901, when Emeline's seventeen-year old brother, Ivo Smith, was staying with them. He unexpectedly developed appendicitis and died of peritonitis several days later⁴. Shortly after that, they moved to Sydney, where they separated. For many years, Emeline ran a boarding house in Paddington, and in her old age, she lived with one of her married daughters in Marrickville. Robert is hard to trace in the early decades of the 20th century, but according to the oral history in our family, he worked as a clerk for the Sydney Metropolitan Water Board. Emeline passed away in 1938⁵ and Robert in 1939⁶. They were eventually reunited in death when they were buried together at Waverley Cemetery. Soon after, my grandmother won some money in the lottery, which she used to order a headstone for their graves with the inscription, "Our Parents"⁷. It gives the misleading impression that the difficulties hinted at by the discrepancies in their marriage certificate were overcome.

Sources:

1. Marriage Record of Robert Kerr Campbell and Emeline Burdett Smith, married 17 March 1886, Grenfell, NSW, Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages, New South Wales, 5224/1886.
2. Ancestry.com. *New South Wales Public Service Lists. New South Wales, Australia, Government Gazettes, 1853-1899.* [Online database].
3. Ancestry.com. *New South Wales, Australia, Police Gazettes, 1854-1930.* [Online database].
4. Death Record of Ivo Bland Smith, died 23 November 1901, West Maitland, NSW. Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages, New South Wales, 14199/1901.
5. Death Record of Emeline Burdett Campbell, died 21 August 1938, Ashfield, NSW. Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages, New South Wales, 15179/1938.
6. Death Record of Robert Kerr Campbell, died 9 May 1939, Ashfield, NSW, NSW. Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages, New South Wales, 7343/1938.
7. Ancestry.com. *Sydney, Australia, Cemetery Headstone Transcriptions, 1837-2003.* [Online database].

125 YEARS OF BOGAN GATE

Beryl Waters

It was the 'third time lucky' for the '125 Years of Bogan Gate' celebration held on 11-12 March 2023 at Bogan Gate, a village 30 kilometres west of Parkes NSW. The pandemic and floods caused earlier postponements in 2022 but finally, the weather was perfect and big crowds of local residents and visitors were able to enjoy both days of the event. Who doesn't love a reunion? My earliest years were in Bogan Gate so I have attended numerous reunions there over many years – You can take the girl out of the country, but you can't take the country out of the girl!



Anzac Bogan Gate 1920

There were four very good reasons for attending with the added bonus of catching up with my cousins and second cousins. The Official Program of Events began on Saturday with the Official Opening of the new 'Bogan Gate', at Rawsons Road, where Chairman of the '125 Years of Bogan Gate' celebration, Graeme **Hunter**, invited various dignitaries, and Parkes Shire Mayor Ken **Keith**, to launch the new gate, accompanied by Parkes Town Band, a vintage cars display, and a Horse and Sulky feature – didn't we love the horse and sulky!

A sizeable crowd appreciated the historical significance of the Gate and the pioneering spirit it has inspired over many generations. Other activities followed at the Golf Club and surrounds, to round out a successful day.

On Sunday, after a free community breakfast at the Memorial Hall, a large crowd of all ages witnessed the solemn 100 Year Commemoration Ceremony at the nearby War Memorial Clock Tower. The Master of Ceremonies, the local Historian, and the Repairer of the Monument-Cenotaph over many years, all made the most stirring speeches I have ever heard and enthralled the crowd with their knowledge and memories. At 11 am the Time Capsule, buried in Memorial Park during the 100-Year Celebration in 1897-1997, was recovered but the ravages of floods and time had destroyed the contents.

However, another attempt will be made with superior sealing of the capsule, and I hope to be there in 25 years' time for the opening – at least in spirit! It was an opportune time to give a public farewell to a local couple who have been outstanding citizens in every way for many years, who exemplify what country people are all about, and whose contribution to the community has been immeasurable. Devonshire teas and arts and craft workshops and exhibitions kept everyone occupied for the rest of the day.

The first known inhabitants of the region were two large tribes namely the Wongaibon and the Wiradjuri. It is said that Bogan means – the birthplace of a great leader. The Gate's name an actual gate on the boundary fence between the 100,000-acre Burrawang Station and the 650,000-acre Gunningbland Station, which gave access to stock routes to the Bogan (River) Run which lie further to the north. It was a large wooden double gate, about 6 metres between posts, and painted white. The new Bogan Gate is symbolic, constructed in metal by local citizens, with sponsorship from Parkes Shire Council and North Parkes Mines.

Explorer John **Oxley** passed through the area in 1817. An early reference to the name Bogan Gate is in the New South Wales Government Gazette on 19 May 1876. Tenders were called for the conveyance of mail to Bogan Gate in May 1877. Bogan Gate Post Office opened on 15 December 1896.

John - Dadda and Matilda **McKeowen** came from Northern Ireland in 1855, landing in Port Phillip Bay, then moving and settling for various periods through Victoria and New South Wales.



Bogan Gate Post Office

Great Grandfather John and his sons Alexander and Christopher were among the original Selectors on Burrawang (Pastoral) Station. More than 50 settlers took up blocks on Burrawang when that huge estate was made available to establish the village of Bogan Gate during 1897.

The **McKeowen** family, father and seven sons, were tank sinkers and sank many tanks throughout the Bogan Gate – Trundle area. One surviving daughter Jane, along with William, John (Jnr.) – my grandfather, David, Samuel, and James completed the large family.

When Matilda died on 12th May 1897 ref: #0442, her address was ‘Carlisle’, Trundle NSW. She was buried on 14th May 1897 at Trundle. John died on 9th July 1911 ref: #9719, at Bogan Gate in the care of his daughter Jane. He was buried on 11th July 1911 ref: #9719 at Trundle. I haven't been able to find their graves.

Now a little more about the Gate, the Railway, and the War Memorial Clock Tower.

The arrival of the rail line in 1896 to Bogan Gate transformed it and agriculture in the region. The settlement, some short distance away, then moved south to relocate near the railway station.

The land for the township was surveyed in 1897 and a public school was built the following year. Gradually a hotel, bank, butcher shop, hall, churches, Post Office and Police Station were built. The new century brought drought, frosts, bushfires, plagues of grasshoppers, and even snowfall on Burrawang Station – climate change? – and gold and other miners, railway fettlers, and others seeking work.

Most importantly the silos opened in 1919, which allowed the farmers to re-use their bags as wheat farming had become established. In the 1920s trucks made their appearance, gradually replacing horses and bullocks. The railways – the lifeblood of towns conveyed huge amounts of business, so the silos and the railway played a major role in the development of the town. The busiest times were during shearing and harvesting. The railway made it possible to grow commercial wheat crops in the area by providing economies of transport. The expansion of wheat growing was boosted by the introduction of Share Farming in 1893, a practice that was begun in the United States.

The magnificent sandstone War Memorial Clock Tower was unveiled in 1922 and stands at the



Bogan Gate Clock Tower

intersection of Hutton and Lachlan Streets. It is 6.6 metres high, the base is 1.98 metres square, and the tower is 1.1 metres square. It honours ‘all who fought and died for us.’ In 2002, local donations and funding from the Federal Government Grants Program titled – Their Service Our Heritage, allowed the Bogan Gate Memorial Hall Committee to return the clock to running order after it had stopped approximately seventy years earlier.

Multiple honour roll plaques are attached citing the following conflicts: the South African War (Boer), 1899-1902; the First and Second World Wars, the Korean War, 1950-53; the Malayan Emergency, 1950-60; and the Vietnam War, 1962-75. It was dedicated on 9th September 1922 – thus our celebration of 100 Years.

In 1931 it was decided to form a sub-branch of the Returned Soldiers, Sailors, and Airmen's Imperial League of Australia. The Bogan Gate RSL instigated the formation of the Light Horse Troop in Trundle in 1937, with enlistments boosted by enrolments from Tullamore and Albert. Some of the original members of the troop gained commissioned ranks in the 1939-1945 conflict. All saw service and six were killed.

Notably, the Army has had a remarkable presence for many years. Seven Central Ammunition Depot was planned in 1941-42, the actual site was selected early in 1942, and activities commenced that year.

The original depot site was on land acquired from the Stack Estate, and buildings and facilities projects included a rail siding, camp accommodation, and later 70 storehouses. Upgraded housing and administration buildings were constructed in 1961-64, and amenities provided plenty of recreational pursuits, shared with the appreciative local population. In early 1971 the name of this depot was changed to 221 Supply Co.

My Grandfather John **McKeowen** was a blacksmith, tank sinker, as well as a carrier. Blacksmiths were heavily relied on in a community which depended almost entirely on the horse as a means of transport. Not only did he attend to the needs of the horses, but also to the maintenance of important farm equipment such as ploughs. There was obviously work available, with the railway and silos generating business.

He married Louisa Jeane **Le Lagadec**, from Tichborne, in 1901, and they had 4 children – 3 sons and a daughter, all born at Bogan Gate. They were Alfred Peter born 9 May 1903 ref: #20332, Kathleen Matilda born 5 May 1905 ref: #12354, Stanley John born 23 Oct 1907 ref: #34361, and Frank born 13 Nov 1911 ref: #39155. All four children went on to marry, and moved away to live in Dubbo, Sydney, and Wollongong, where they raised their families.

John was born c1861 ref: #23463 at Chiltern, Vic, and died 9 Jan 1926 ref: #00297, aged 64 at Bogan Gate. His Death Certificate states medical problems only – N.B Also, **McKeowen** and **McKeown** in records. A surprise discovery in Trove's digitised newspapers reports that John **McKeowen** died as a result of an accident at the Bogan Gate Silos on 9 Jan 1926, which were managed by Agent Alfred **McKeowen**, his son, and where John had only been working since November 1925. His Death Certificate makes no mention of the accidental death but only records medical problems. Louisa was paid compensation in due course.

In 1933 when her cottage burnt down only Frank was still living at home. Louisa then built a cottage a little distance away with the insurance money and this became her permanent home for many years. Louisa died 8 Feb 1955 ref: #06412, aged 79 years at Dubbo NSW, in the care of her daughter Kathleen. John and Louisa are buried at Bogan Gate.

My father, Stanley John (Jack) **McKeowen** was born at Bogan Gate on 23 Oct 1907 and married my mother Isabel (Belle) Maud **Whitehead** on 5 Aug 1931 ref: #9619 at Parkes NSW. Jack died on 27 Jul 1960 ref: #27645, aged 52 years, at his residence 46 Sturdee Street Towradgi, NSW 2518. Isabel was born 26 Oct 1911 ref: # 44719 at Yerranderie, Reg, Picton NSW, and died on 27 May 1984, aged 72 years, in Bulli Hospital. Both have niches at Warrawong Crematorium.

They had 3 children: Janet Anne (Mrs. George Maina), John Thomas, and Beryl Jean (Mrs. John **Walters**). All of us have been to reunions at Bogan Gate and kept close family connections. Soon after their marriage Jack and Belle became shopkeepers at Bogan Gate where they owned the Black and White Cafe and Store with Jack's brother-in-law, L.S. **Frauenfelder**. They sold groceries, hot meals, confectionery, and some household and hardware items. Living and working conditions had improved over the years with the connection of water and electricity supplies. The hard-working district community enjoyed many activities such as recreational and sporting clubs, the CWA and other community service organisations, and church activities. Balls and dances were ever popular, and the suppers were superb.

They traded there until 1945 when they bought Trundle General Store and Fuel. In 1950 they sold out and moved permanently to Wollongong, where Jack had shops at Mt Keira and Thirroul. This gave their family opportunities for education and employment. Jack and Belle had an interesting life. During their time at Bogan Gate, when the district was served by hard-working and charitable people; and at Trundle, where the post-war boom years were resulting in prosperity for those who strove for success. Then at Wollongong, which was benefiting enormously from unbounded industrial growth, the influx of talented and industrious migrants, and the attraction of coastal living and climate.

Back to Bogan Gate Day has been held at the Sydney Botanical Gardens, every year since it began in 1953, and is still held on the first Sunday in February, near the specially designated seat which commemorates the establishment of Bogan Gate in 1897 and honours all who have lived there. Celebrated as a picnic day, it is attended by anyone who still lives there, and those who have moved elsewhere yet wish to rekindle memories. Uppermost in our minds is our heritage, and the following quote:

‘In memory of the pioneers of Bogan Gate who paved the way for those who followed’.

When writing this I must mention a serendipitous moment for me at the Kmart parking area recently. I approached a man wearing a green t-shirt with Bogan Gate emblazoned on it, so I had to introduce myself and seek an explanation. I soon found out that he and his family had just attended the same celebration that I had – such a coincidence!

Bogan Gate people are everywhere but don't call us ‘Bogans’.

A WONDERFUL FEELING

Robyn Anderson

Most of us dream that our research, our passion, and our family histories, will be cherished by someone else. In this past week, I have felt the sunshine from within. The first came after a woman recently read my August 2021 Footsteps article on the *Turkington Family Mystery*. She took the time to write thanking me for the information I had provided as we share the same ancestors. The second came from a friend and her sister. I took advantage of the Covid lockdowns to build their family tree. My friend has taken advantage of a brief family holiday with her sister in Queensland to work their way through their tree together. I have now been asked to add to this tree.

What greater praise can a researcher get!

I must also thank our president, Diane **Gillespie**, who went out of her way to hand deliver the letter from my distant relative.



PORT MACQUARIE 'FORGET-ME-NOT' PROJECT Remembering the Female Convicts in Port Macquarie

Margaret Blight & Trysha Hanly

The research to identify and record all the female convicts who passed through the settlement of Port Macquarie is gathering momentum, as is the story-writing to capture the stories of the women beyond their crime and sentence for a book that will be published later this year.

Not only are many of our Society members writing stories, but we appreciate that some descendants of our ladies are contributing personal stories and memories of their ancestor convict.

As well as research and story writing, there is a team involved in making bonnets. Enthusiastic members are cutting, sewing, and decorating bonnets as a tribute to many of the convict women who were in Port Macquarie. These will be ready when the book is launched and for display afterward.

Thank you to member Jan **Robson** who embroidered this bonnet for Bidy **Vernor**. Following is a little part of Bidy's story – you will read more about her in the Society's forthcoming book!

Bidy Vernor, later known as Bridget **Smith**, was aged 19 when she was tried at the Kent Lent Assizes (19 March 1810) for stealing one piece of scarlet print and a piece of check, valued at two pounds¹.

A harsh sentence of death was recorded for Bidy but commuted to transportation to life² and she arrived in New South Wales on the ship *Friends* in October 1811.

In April 1822, Bidy and fellow convict Catherine **Hurley** who had arrived on the ship *Rolla*, went out to a public house one evening and for some reason, they ran off with two drinking glasses. Not a good move ladies! The Court of Criminal Jurisdiction of Sydney found them both guilty³ and they were sentenced to the new settlement of Port Macquarie for 12 months.



At the end of that time, they were both sent back to the Parramatta Factory. The Factory was almost Bidy's home away from home as she continued to be in trouble with the authorities. One of her more memorable misdemeanours was when she was brought before Windsor Court for being drunk at the public house where she was a servant. It must have been quite a sight because she was so excessively drunk that she had to be carried from the public house to the watchhouse in a wheelbarrow.⁴ This earned her another stay in the 3rd Class of the factory.



This reminded us of a similar episode in Port Macquarie.

In 1828, 25-year-old Mary **Gaffey** from Roscommon was convicted of stealing blankets and received a sentence of transportation for seven years. She arrived in New South Wales on the ship *Edward* in 1829. Her infant daughter Jane came with her.

In March 1833, Mary was one of ten females, all bond, all servants, who were sent to Port Macquarie from the Parramatta Female Factory.

Mary was initially assigned to Major Archibald **Innes**. A few months later, Mary appeared before the Port Macquarie Bench for being absent from the Factory. When the Matron could not find Mary, a search party was sent. Constable Henry **Brown** found her that night and brought her back, very tipsy, so much so that she had to be brought in on a barrow⁵. She was sentenced to three weeks in the cells.

There will be many more stories about our Port Macquarie convicts, well beyond the facts of their crime, trial, sentence, and ship.

¹ *Kentish Chronicle*, 27 Mar 1810

² TNA. *England & Wales Criminal Register*. Kent 1810

³ NSWSA:NRS-897. *Colonial Secretary's Papers*. Apr 1822

⁴ *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*, 15 Mar 1827, p. 3.

⁵ NSWSA:NRS-3331 4/5638, pp.143, 144 *Port Macquarie Commandant's Bench Book*

TO TELL OR NOT TO TELL THE SECRETS IN YOUR PAST

Noeline Kyle

When I researched and wrote the **Kyle** Family History, I was so bedevilled by the many family conflicts, secrets, and perceived hurts of close or extended family, that I decided I would only publish details of ancestors up to or around 1940/1950. Everyone else, sons/daughters, grandchildren, and other possible descendants would receive, at most, a name and year of birth. In answering queries, I usually talked about time, cost, and the fact that Joyce (my research colleague) and I were simply exhausted. For those of you who finally get to the stage of writing and publishing a family history, you will understand the enormous task it is once the research is finished. We are our own editors, formatters, book, and cover designers, photographic ‘experts’, production workers, publishers, printers, publicists, and promoters. We do the book ordering and ensure that orders are filled. For the few years that we had the book for sale, it was a constant task advising people of the cost and postage, packaging up the book/s, and trotting to the post office when necessary.

I have talked to family historians about the ways in which we might deal with conflicting perceptions of family events, or how best to deal with events such as adoption, illegitimacy, old but intense family conflicts, divorce/separation, bigamy, and much else. I grew up in the 1940s and 1950s when children were not told the ‘truth’ about their family and many of my cousins and friends from that era found out about painful events relative to their own lives when they were older.

Two examples illustrate this. One elderly distant relative (whom I did not know) contacted me to ask if I could leave out her first and short disastrous marriage. She had remarried happily, had no children and I thought she was quite within her rights to shape her story how she wanted.¹ Another phone call was more problematic. A mother with her children was left alone, homeless, and vulnerable when her husband went to prison. No one thought about her welfare as they sold up her home and her belongings to pay outstanding debts. A local bushman took her in, and they lived together producing one child. One of the original children rang me to say they did not want that ‘illegitimate’ sibling included in the family story. After some thought and further discussion, I decided to include the younger sibling and hoped that family memories and difficulties could be resolved over time.

It is true that as generations move through and to more recent times that the conflicts and secrets can fade and lose their significance. At the same time, older generations still living can be hurt by the disclosure of long-held secrets, and as family historians, we should be mindful if such reservations exist. Always contact family members to ascertain their perceptions and willingness to see the events in print. Be sensitive to the feelings of the relatives of the persons you are writing about—occasionally it may be a better strategy to simply leave some stories untold.

¹ With BDMs, TROVE and much else it is of course easy to determine such previous family events.

WOOLGOOLGA VOLUNTEER RESCUE ORGANISATION

Anne Gaffney



Woolgoolga Beach c1965

The Organisation was formed in 1965. A meeting of the public and boat owners was convened at Woolgoolga by Mr. John **Small**. The chair was occupied temporarily by Mr. **Small** and later confirmed with Mr. Harry **Riorty** as Secretary-Manager. A committee comprising the chairman, secretary-manager, and boat owners with public representatives was formed.

The Organisation proposed to purchase small radio sets with a base station between sets, a master set was available, and Mr. George **West** offered his services in its operation. The small walkie-talkie sets would cost approximately £25 , to be used for boat-to-base or set-to-set communication.

A decision was made to purchase a base unit after £80 was guaranteed by those at the meeting. A simple exercise was staged with three craft launched, these would then proceed to the headland and radio communication would be used which would include a mock rescue etc.

A board with a disc system was set up, fishermen before leaving the beach would call at the caretaker's cottage (my parent's George and Dulcie **West's** home) where the board was situated and they would turn the disc identifying him and his craft outward. They would then reverse this on the boat's arrival back to shore.

Their first rescue was carried out the next year when a boat carrying three men overturned. The base station had 24-hour radio surveillance firstly by George and Dulcie West then by Don and Judy Hall.

Over the years many rescues were carried out, later a jet boat was purchased by the people of Woolgoolga and Grafton. A number of these rescues were undertaken in cyclonic conditions and at night.

The Organisation eventually became affiliated with the Volunteer Rescue Association of NSW

At the twenty-first celebrations, a plaque was presented to George and Dulcie **West** in recognition of their service.



George West (caretaker Woolgoolga Beach Caravan Park c1965)

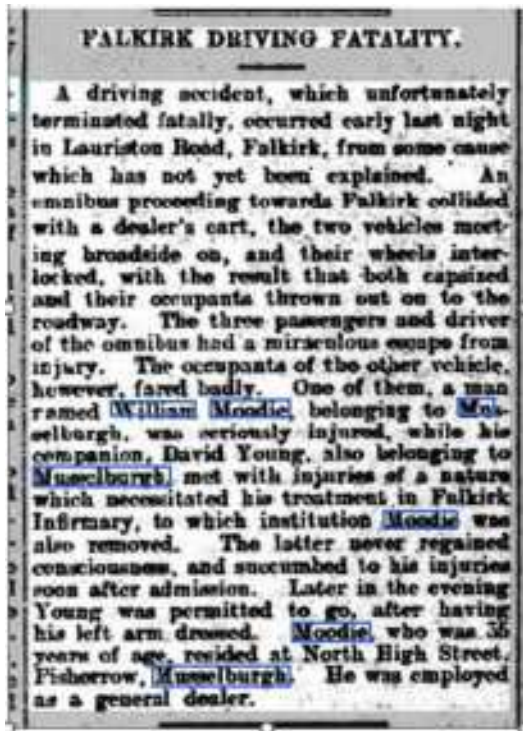
Shirley Mann 4th April 1930 - 1 April 2023

It is with much sadness that we announce the passing of an active member of our Society. A full Vale will appear in the next edition of Footsteps.

A FALKIRK TRAGEDY: BAD NEWS AT THE DOORSTEP

Pam Moodie

Recently, our writing group were tasked with choosing an article from Trove to provide the base for a story or to expand on the article. The article I chose prompted me to consider the life of my husband's grandmother.



Greenock Telegraph and Clyde Shipping Gazette 5th June, 1909

The year: 1909

The setting: Musselburgh, Scotland.

Betsy Moodie sometimes wondered about the hand she had been dealt in life. However, she knew there was no point in dwelling on the past or worrying about the future. She accepted her lot and got on with things. And most days, things weren't that bad anyway. She had her three boys, Willie, George, and John, who kept her busy, and her dear eldest, Janet, who was such an angel. At only 11 years old, Janet was a great help to Betsy. She mothered those boys like they were her own, watching over them like a hawk and doing her best to keep them out of trouble. Betsy was grateful she had Janet, especially as it was harder nowadays to chase after the boys herself, as she had little Jimmy to tend to.

Only last week, her husband Will had commented on how alert and happy Jimmy was: how he seemed to be slowly making progress. But at only 11 months old, Betsy knew there was a long road ahead and it would be years before they knew if Jimmy really would be okay. He had been born with severe curvature of the spine, and at first, the doctor didn't think he would survive, but here he was, in a brace on his back, on the little trolley Will had made for him. Betsy was determined to give him the best chance possible.

But it wasn't easy for Betsy. She had her five children to look after, and house to keep, and the money Will gave her was barely enough to make ends meet. She'd had another row with Will this morning about the money and told him that she was going to ask the vicar if she could help at the manse with cleaning or washing. For payment, of course. At first, Will wasn't too keen on the idea, but then he seemed to have a change of heart and begrudgingly agreed. He left the house in a huff, and it was only later that Betsy realised that his pride was probably hurt. No doubt he would end up at the pub again tonight, more than likely hoping that she gets a job with the vicar, as then he wouldn't feel so bad drinking his pay-packet.

Will's drinking had definitely got worse in the last couple of years. It may have drowned his sorrows, but it didn't solve Betsy's problems. She really didn't know what she would do. But right now Betsy didn't have time to worry about that. The day was drawing to a close and the children needed their dinner. Will would hopefully be home before too long.

Later that evening.....

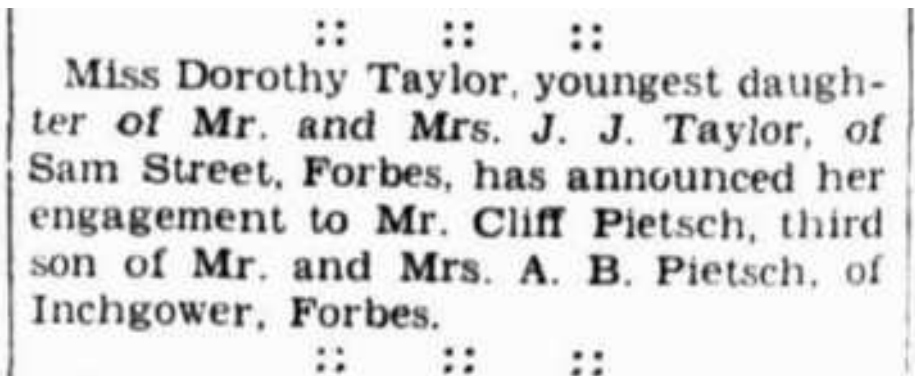
Once again, Janet had helped Betsy with the dishes, bathing the boys and getting them tucked up in their bed. She'd not long dragged herself up the stair too. Now Betsy sat mending by the candlelight, with little Jimmy asleep in his trolley beside her. When she heard heavy footsteps on the path outside, she knew they weren't Will's, and a cold dread passed over her. Betsy opened the door to two policemen and steeled herself for what was to come. Betsy would visit the vicar tomorrow and would be forever thankful for her Janet.

TROVE DISCOVERY – AN UNEXPECTED ENGAGEMENT

Rex Toomey

At the previous months Writers Group meeting, it was suggested that an item from Trove be taken and used to create a story. So, I chose the Forbes Advocate. For no reason, I entered my mother's maiden name and discovered a piece of information that I had never known.

There it was, jumping off the Trove results page in the newspaper dated 4th April 1939: *'Miss Dorothy Taylor, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Taylor, of Sam Street, Forbes, has announced her engagement to Mr. Cliff Pietsch, third son of Mr & Mrs. A. B. Pietsch, of Inchgower, Forbes.'*



Miss Dorothy Taylor, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Taylor, of Sam Street, Forbes, has announced her engagement to Mr. Cliff Pietsch, third son of Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Pietsch, of Inchgower, Forbes.

I was very excited and interested to know more about this news item because I have no recollection of my mother ever mentioning being engaged before she married my father, Walter **Toomey**, four years later on 16th October 1943.

The first thing I did was to see if the engagement had resulted in a marriage. I searched both Trove and the NSW BDM Index, but this was unsuccessful. I wondered if Cliff **Pietsch** had gone to war and was possibly killed. A search of the Second World War service records in the National Archives of Australia also proved unsuccessful.

Next, I searched Trove for the father's name, August Bernhard **Pietsch**. I discovered an unsettling court case in March 1942 where he pleaded guilty. This was three years after the engagement; therefore, I considered it an unlikely cause for the cancellation of the engagement. Then I found an extensive obituary of August **Pietsch** in the Forbes Advocate on 29th April 1947. This listed seven children, six boys and one girl (who died as a child), and the name Cliff **Pietsch** appeared amongst them, which indicated I had the correct parent.

With it now unlikely that I would be able to know the reason for the engagement not going ahead, I decided to see what happened to Cliff **Pietsch**, the man to whom my mother had become engaged in 1939. This turned out to be quite a challenge.

In the NSW BDM index, most of the children were registered but there was no record of the birth of a Cliff **Pietsch** to parents August and Clara. Using different search strategies, such as wild cards, mother's name only, etc, I still had no success. I wondered if perhaps the birth had not been registered as I had come across this before.

Going back over my saved documents, I re-read the father's obituary. It stated, 'Mr. **Pietsch** then made one of his worst moves to Queensland'. I searched births for **Pietsch** between 1900 and 1920 and discovered the name 'Ratcliffe Rayburn **Pietsch**' to parents August Bernhard and Clara in 1913. At last, I had found his birth despite the name being quite unusual, which just goes to prove you never know what you will find when undertaking family research. It seems that the word 'rat' at the beginning of his name was dropped to just 'Cliff' later on.

Lastly, I searched the NSW BDM index and found that 'Cliff' had married in Forbes on 15 April 1941 to Kathleen **O'Malley**. They had a long life together with Cliff dying on 9 November 1998 and Kathleen dying on 3 December 2001. They were buried together in the Forbes Lawn Cemetery.

I wonder how my life would have been different if my mother had stayed in Forbes and married Cliff **Pietsch** and not moved to Sydney and met my father.

SPIT SPAT PART 2

Margaret Yates

Extract from the article (*originally published in Footsteps May 2017 pg10*)

“ wait I did,... patiently.

The results came back. How can that be?

I always understood I was

ENGLISH – SCOTTISH and a weeeee bit of Irish

But alas they tell me differently

They say I'm Europe West 59% - Aghast!

Irish 23% - Devastated, *with all due respect to the proud Irish*;

Great Britain 9% - Shocked; Scandinavian 5% and Other 4%.

Where's my SCOTTISH?

With Ancestry's improved algorithms, updated June 2022, my SCOTTISH has been found, see image, I'm more Scottish than I thought!!!!



MyHeritage algorithms are slightly different, and they show me as being more in line as I had always understood to be the case. It is through these results, along with those of my sister and two 2nd cousins (who are 1st cousins to each other) that on my paternal line, we all match a lady, Robyn **Roper**, from NZ. Robyn is a 5x great grand-daughter of Owen **Cavanough** 1762-

1841 who was an Able Seaman on board SS *Sirius* in the First Fleet as well as my 4x great grandfather PG **King** 1758-1808. They no doubt would have known each other to some degree, but how am I, my sister, and cousins be related to her?

The section of my tree to look at is small, whilst hers is large, but not a single name match. The curiosity also becomes a question of how we are related to Malcolm **Turnbull**, yes, our former Prime Minister, as Robyn is a 5th cousin to him. Are we genetically related or only via marriage/s?

Playing 'Spider Solitaire' is easier than finding the way through this web of family relations. But what surprises DNA opens for us, who'd thought, yet another political figure attached to my family.



MUG GUNNERS

Marg Hill

It was the last day of the old year,
On New Years Eve we will say
When five mug Lewis Gunners
Stood in a fire bay

They gazed across the parapet
Over yards of rusty wire
They had a gun and ammunition
But had orders not to fire

They had to stand and perish
For sixteen hours a night
And watch the line for S.O.S
Save our souls or shoot on sight

Now the merits of this gun team
If you'd listen, I'll unfold
They were only just mug soldiers
But with hearts as staunch as gold

There was Bartlett from Delungra
A Lance Jack brave and true
And our Sergeant from Uralla
With a heart as bold as two

There was Mac from Tambaroora
Who was long and lean and light
And Tommy Cox from Coolatai
The town of beer and skite

There was Collins from Tuena
Who has met a lot of strife
So, you can see our little gun team
Have seen a bit of life

And if Fritz dares to attack us
We'll not scoot or run
But line up on the fire step
With Tom Cox behind the gun

And Collins will stand beside him
With magazine in hand
Why to watch him change them over
The sight is something grand.

And though shells are bursting around us
We'll show not the slightest fear
We are fighting for Australia
On the last day of the year.

FOOTSTEPS CONTRIBUTION

The next edition of Footsteps will be published in August 2023. The deadline for contributions will be 15 July 2023. Members are encouraged to submit stories and articles. This issue calls for articles found in Trove about relatives and their occupations. You may know what their working conditions were like; or the hours they worked; or their take-home wage. What can their story tell you? Or any funny snippets; interesting research breakthroughs; or just what you have recorded about your family.



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. 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, positioned at the end of the text.’

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.

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 thought – 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 country.

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.

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 for two hours 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 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 Library Meeting Room, from 1pm to 3pm each month on the Wednesday following our 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 – 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 send an email to 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.

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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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