

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 Day
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

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?search=Spinning+and+weaving+machines&title=Special:MediaSearch
&go=Go&type=image](https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?search=Spinning+and+weaving+machines&title=Special:MediaSearch&go=Go&type=image)

NEW 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:

Maria O'Malley Lake Cathie
Kerri Argent Port Macquarie
Neville Ram Port Macquarie
Andrew Thorn Port Macquarie

Martin Hodges Rawdon Island
Murray Gibson Port Macquarie
Dianne Grendon Kerewong via Kendall
Bob McPherson Kerewong via Kendall



PRESIDENT'S TWO CENTS WORTH

Diane Gillespie

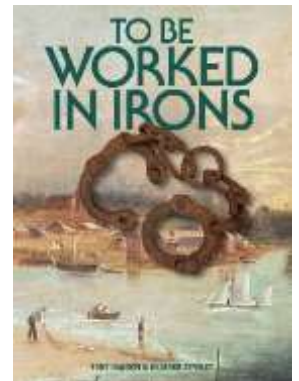


An old Chinese proverb states 'To forget one's ancestors is to be a brook without a source, a tree without a root'. Is this why family history has such appeal for us? Realising that you are but a link in a chain connecting your grandparents (and beyond) with your grandchildren impels us to find out more about the people who have gone before us. Merely knowing dates is not enough – the dates only provide the framework on which your family history is based. Knowing what your ancestors did, how they interacted with other family members, neighbours, friends, and work colleagues allows us to form a more complete picture of each ancestor.

As we approach the AGM for Port Macquarie & Districts Family History Society, we can look back at a very busy time with many activities, courses, and events occupying members of the Society in this past year. We have held full-day seminars and attended various online events from Roots Tech to Webinars presented online such as those offered by Scottish Indexes and Legacy Tree Webinars.

Members of our Society travelled to NSW State Archives, finding many tantalizing snippets to add to the story of our ancestors. We held a Beginners' Course to help those interested in their family history to begin the journey and as this journal goes to print, we are conducting a 'Next Steps' Course where we will look at many other aspects of family history beyond the basics.

We have heard from many interesting speakers in the past few months. Anne Hutchison kept us on the edge of our seats relating her journey to discover her family's involvement in both World Wars. Tony Dawson's presentation of Port Macquarie convicts, based on his latest book, 'To Be Worked In Irons', proved enlightening. In June some members took the opportunity to present their family history discoveries at our general meeting, telling us about unusual events in the lives of their ancestors. We heard about an artist's model, some tricky and involved marriage complications, and the bombing of Hartlepool in World War 1 as well as an illegal lottery that ended in court appearances.



'To Be Worked In Irons' by Tony Dawson & Heather Aynsley

These activities and courses are only possible because of the enthusiastic support of the many volunteers in our Society.

We were very pleased to host our many volunteers at several coffee mornings during June and I am sure they enjoyed the social aspect of these as well.

Our social activities have been well attended as members gather to chat with others who share the same interests and I thank Dawn Stephens, whose organisational skills have come to the fore this year.

Our current project of transcribing the Port Macquarie & Hastings Council Rates books is nearing completion. The names will be added to the 'Port Macquarie People' database that has nearly 900,000 entries linking to 1.2 million names. These names relate to people who have some connection to Port Macquarie. There are some duplications but also many unique sources.

Our 'Forget-Me-Not' project based on the 360 known female convicts who came to Port Macquarie is nearing completion and we expect to publish a definitive book early next year.

An enthusiastic team led by Trysha Hanly, with input from Clive Smith and many others, has been working on this comprehensive project. I look forward to its completion.

As a tangible link to the unfortunate women, who were dispatched north, is our burgeoning bonnet display. Margaret Blight has led a team producing some exquisite bonnets that will be displayed in the library during National Family History Month (NFHM).

Narelle Milligan is coordinating 'Our Family History Journey' display in the library during National Family History Month, with examples of family trees, wills, photos, and other material. Please come and view our display.

It has been a fascinating and busy year within our Society. I would like to thank everyone for their support and involvement.

FROM THE EDITOR

Wendy Haynes

I was amazed by all the different occupations that came through in the articles submitted for this issue of Footsteps. From the bravery of a firefighter in Robyn Anderson's family, to a ginger beer brewer in Rex Toomey's family. Leonie Hile related how her ancestor processed flax for linen. What amazing finds. How things have changed. The next issue calls for highlights or gems you have found about your ancestors. Have you uncovered a new or different family tale?

FOLLOWING THE WORK OF MY ADAM(S) FOREBEARS

Leonie Hiles



The Mearns or Kincardineshire in Scotland is a historic county along the North Sea coast, south of Aberdeen. It is now part of Aberdeenshire.

Flax had been grown in the Mearns for centuries when the swampy lowland was ideal for its growth. Flax is the oldest cultivated fibre plant in history, and its qualities make it a luxury fibre.

Linen was at the centre of the Scottish economy in the 17th century.¹ An Act of Parliament in 1686 required all Scots to be buried in linen winding sheets.² In addition, the Act of Union (1707) united the English and Scottish Parliaments to form the Parliament of Great Britain, giving new impetus to the linen trade.

My 4x great-grandfather, Joseph **Adam**, was born around 1730 in Arbuthnott, Kincardineshire, where his children were born on farms nearby. Records give no indication of his occupation.

However, I can assume he was involved with the growing or processing of flax, which was extremely labour-intensive.

His son, my 3x great-grandfather, James **Adam** (b. 1761), is recorded as living with his wife, Margaret (nee **Graham**), at the lint mill at Pitnamoon³ which is about 10 miles west of Arbuthnott. In 1728, Scottish lint mills⁴ began using scutching machines to process flax. Driven by water, the scutching machines broke the outer straw of the flax to release the fibre within to make it ready for heckling. Heckling is the process of separating the fibres ready for spinning into yarn for weaving into cloth. Machine scutching and heckling were dangerous work, causing many injuries.

James and Margaret **Adam** lived at Pitnamoon all their married life, where by the late 18th and early 19th centuries, wages were good, so workers were able to gain education, buy books, and involve themselves in cultural pursuits.⁵ James and Margaret, however, were the subject of the following newspaper cutting

BIRTH

On 23rd April, the wife of J. **Adam**, a lint-miller and cobbler at Pitnamoon, of a fine boy, her 20th child, all by the same husband. Seventeen of them are alive. They have all been nursed by herself, besides two others, being 22 children, she has nursed. It is scarcely necessary to add, that, from the extent of their family, they are in indigent circumstances. – Tyne Mercury.

*Extract from The Examiner
May 1815, page 336*

Their thirteenth child, my 2x great-grandfather William **Adam** (b. 1805), spent his working life in Laurencekirk⁶, 7 miles southwest of Arbuthnott, where the chief occupation of many people including children, was spinning and weaving.⁷ William's occupation in the 1841 census was 'Linen HLW'. The workers of this cottage industry lived at one end of their home and worked at their looms at the other end. Apprenticeships lasted 18 to 36 months with the master's fee being one-third of an apprentice's earnings. During the 1820s handloom weaving was the highest-paid occupation of the working class; five shillings a week was the average wage for a weaver in the 1820s. By 1836 it was common for handloom weavers to work 15 hours a day while the more able and industrious seldom earned more than seven or eight shillings a week. Some handloom weavers were working 70 hours a week for declining wages. In 1837 a Royal Commission was set up to enquire into the unemployment and poverty of handloom weavers.⁸

Although the first steam-powered weaving machine had been invented in 1785, it wasn't until 1822 that Richard Roberts invented a reliable power loom that led to the rapid adoption of power weaving. The number of power looms in the whole of Great Britain grew from 2,400 in 1813 to over 115,000 power looms in 1835.

In the 1851 census, my 2x great-grandfather William Adam is recorded as a 'Weaver' in Laurencekirk with his wife Margaret (nee Ross) and their six children. My great grandfather, James Ross Adams, was born in 1853, the seventh of their eight children.

Handloom weaving began to decline rapidly from around 1815. The volume of imported cotton from America and the West Indies to the Glasgow area meant the cotton industry quickly overtook that of linen. Handloom weavers lost their independence, and as markets expanded, they found themselves becoming permanent wage earners tied to manufacturers who dictated their work practice.

By the time of the 1861 census, William had died, and Margaret and her children were living in Brechin, Forfarshire, a county adjoining Kincardineshire. By 1864 Brechin⁹ had three linen factories with three hundred power looms each and by 1867, Forfarshire had 108 factories with a total of 11,329 power looms employing 46,571 workers, comprising more than half of the entire linen trade of Scotland.



From the internet
Old Loom weavers Laurencekirk

The floor of a weaving factory was completely covered by machinery, and overhead was a maze of belts and shafts all in motion. The incessant noise was like a huge waterfall including high-pitched metallic sounds. The atmosphere was dusty with particles of vegetable fibres in the atmosphere. Deafness and lung disease were possible long-term outcomes for all workers. Because work had to be close to moving machinery, accidents involving loss of fingers, limbs, eyes, or even lives were not uncommon nor were repetitive stress

injuries and physical deformities due to repeated movements. Children were employed, and a twelve-to-fourteen-hour working day was usual. Discipline could be brutal with penalties for mistakes, lateness, or falling asleep.

Although trade unions were present during the years from 1760 to protect workers, the movement was vigorously resisted by both governments and employers. However, a legal case in 1835 first acknowledged that an employer owed a duty of care to his employee. Various Factories Acts were passed in subsequent years requiring the safety of machines and stipulating hours of work for women and children, until in 1878, comprehensive factory legislation applying to all trades was passed with The Factories and Workshops Act. This was followed by The Employers Liability Act (1880) and The Workman's Compensation Act (1897).¹⁰

Meanwhile, the steel industry at that time was expanding.¹¹ In 1828 James **Neilson** from Glasgow invented the blast furnace for smelting iron with coal; this revolutionised the Scottish Iron Industry. Before the iron could be used to make bridges or rails for the expanding railway industry and plates for ships, it had to be made into malleable iron (a mild steel). Eventually in the 1880s when this process was perfected with the open-hearth production of steel, Scotland's steel industry expanded phenomenally, and Scotland became the world's leading shipbuilder. Between 1879 and 1890 the tonnage of steel ships launched in the Clyde River in Glasgow grew from 18,000 to 326,000 tons.

In the 1871 census, my great-grandfather, James Ross **Adams**, aged eighteen years, was still listed in Brechin as a 'Millworker'. However, he chose not to stay in Brechin. Weaving factories employed mechanics who made and repaired the machinery, so machine shops and foundries were incorporated into the running of factories. I can only assume that the work in the machine shop interested my great grandfather because ten years later in the 1881 census, he is listed as an ironworker and no longer living in Brechin. He had moved to Bothwell, which is a hundred miles away in Lanarkshire, south-west of Glasgow, an area that became the centre of Scotland's iron and steel industries, supplying both the railways and shipbuilding industries.

By then, he was married with three children. In the 1891 census he is listed as a steelworker and living at Berryhill. In 1901 he is listed as a 'Foreman (steelworks)' and in 1910, records show his occupation as 'Mill manager' at the Glasgow Iron and Steel Company.¹²

Steelworkers were exposed to risks and hazards caused by moving machinery, crushing, and impaling from machinery and equipment, hot metal breakouts, electric shock, asphyxiation from hot gases, and falls from heights. Serious permanent injuries were common. More regulations were passed in The Factory Acts (1891) and (1895) and The Factory and Workshop Act (1901) in which the minimum age of children working in factories was raised to 12 years of age. During 1910 to 1914 there was an enormous increase in trade union membership and unions became stronger in fighting for better wages and working conditions for workers. The largest trade union in Scotland was The Amalgamated Society of Engineers which represented factory workers and engineers.¹³

My grandfather, Joseph Ernest Ross **Adams**, was born in 1883. He also worked in the iron and steel industry at Alexander Jack & Co, an engineering works at Motherwell in Lanarkshire, Scotland. In 1910 my grandfather married and was living in West Hartlepool, a busy port and shipbuilding city in the north-east of England, where he worked as an Engineering Draughtsman at South Durham Steel and Iron Co. After the First World War, industrial workers across Britain feared for their jobs. The war had given a temporary boost to industries, but soldiers returning home created more competition for jobs. Strikes and demonstrations about wages and working conditions were prevalent.



Alex Jack & Co, Engineers, Motherwell c1898
My grandfather, Joseph Ernest Ross Adams is in the front row

After a brief change of location to Workington on the north-west coast of England my grandfather found work at a steelworks. This unrest was probably part of the reason why my grandparents decided to migrate. The BHP in Australia had made huge profits during WW1 making steel for ships and munitions, and they commenced operation in Newcastle in 1915. They developed and consolidated their manufacturing and financial position during the 1920s. My grandparents and their three young girls migrated to Australia in 1924, when my

grandfather found work as Chief Draughtsman in the BHP drawing office in Newcastle. From the 1930s my mother worked as a Tracer in the drawing offices at the BHP and the Department of Main Roads. Years later, both my sister and I also trained and worked as Engineering Draftspersons, and we lived through the transformation from the drawing board to Computer Aided Drafting – but that's a story for another day.

¹ Flax... From Seed to Fibre <https://static1.squarespace.com/>

² The Industries of Scotland Linen and Jute Manufacture
<https://www.electricscotland.com/history/industrial/industry10.htm>

³ <https://www.canmore.org.uk/site/357130/pitnamoon>

⁴ The Mills of Blairgowrie and Rattray <https://www.blairathistory.org/mills>

⁵ Craftworkers in 19 Century Scotland Stana Nenadic Edinburgh University Press

⁶ Statistical Accounts of Scotland 1791-1841

<https://www.stataccscot.edina.ac.uk/static/dist/parish/Kincardine/Laurencekirk.org.uk>

⁷ My Genealogy Home Page: Information about Andrew Petrie <https://www.genealogy.com/ftm/p/e/t>

⁸ Sessional Papers of the House of Lords in the Session 1840, vol 32, 'Handloom Weavers'

⁹ The History of Brechin to 1864 <https://www.electricscotland.com/history/brechin/chapter12.htm>

¹⁰ Timeline – History of Occupational Safety and Health <https://www.historyofosg.org.uk/>

¹¹ History of Steel Industry in Scotland <https://bellacaledonia.org.uk>

Scottish Steelworks History <https://cfindlay17.wixsite.com/clydebridge/history-of-iron-and-steel-in-scotland>

¹² Glasgow Iron and Steel Co <https://www.scottishbrickhistory.co.uk>

Railscot Glasgow Iron and Steel Co https://www.railscot.co.uk/companies/G/glasgow_iron_and_steel_co/

¹³ History of Trade Unions in the United Kingdom

https://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_trade_unions_in_the_United_Kingdom

FINDING ANNIE MARSHALL – HOW TROVE CAME TO THE RESCUE!

Bernice Darby

The Preliminary Searches – My great-grandmother, Annie **Marshall** married Philip John **Heydon** in 1864 in Princes Street, The Rocks, in Sydney. However, the marriage certificate was devoid of any information except for their names, the date, and addresses. I had been searching for my **Heydon** family for a number of years and had already found Annie's death and burial and the extended families in Newtown and Wagga Wagga.

Annie's death certificate stated that her parents were John **Marshall** and Marie **Minnot**. Later, I found **Minnot** proved to actually be **Menhinnett** and the 1851 UK Census had the family living in Stoke Damerel, a separate village at the time, but now a suburb of Plymouth. It showed that her parents and an older sister (Catherine) had been born in Bodmin, Cornwall, nowadays just a half-hour drive to Plymouth.

Annie's mother died in 1852 and was buried in the Ford Cemetery, Plymouth, and searching for John and the two girls after that date, produced NOTHING.

I had previously checked the shipping records in NSW, VIC, QLD and WA, but nothing fitted, SA was not online at the time. There were dozens of John **Marshalls** in the NSW BDMs and trying to follow each of these entries, wasn't a reasonable way to proceed. So how did she get here, by herself, with her father and sister?

A casual comment from a family member mentioned that Annie had arrived in Australia aged about 11 years, but there was still no Annie **Marshall** turning up in the records.

In frustration, I decided this search was to be put on the shelf for a later date.

Trove was released online – In my usual fashion when something new becomes available, I started typing in my various family surnames to see what turned up. I had already spent many weekends at the NSW State Library, searching through Death and Funeral notices, as these notices usually occurred close to the event. However, I had never looked for any marriage notices.

To my astonishment, Trove displayed a Marriage Notice, one month after the event – at the Mission Church in Princes Street for Philip John **Heydon** to Anne Maria **Marshall** '*second daughter of John **Marshall** of Adelaide, Farmer*'.

Within half an hour, I had found that some kind soul had transcribed some shipping arrivals into Adelaide, and John, his second wife, and two daughters had arrived in 1853. And yes, Annie was 11 years old. This now required a quick trip to Adelaide to search the SA State Library, State Archives, and Lands Department. John ended up in Gawler and is buried in the cemetery with two sons by his second wife.

I found a marriage for Annie's elder sister and noted a large gap between their marriage and the birth of their first child in SA. The NSW BDMs listed the first three children born to the couple in NSW. As I hadn't found Annie in the NSW shipping records, I decided to look for her sister between her marriage and the first child in NSW. Up they came and the entry immediately below them, written in very 'scritch' writing was A. **Marshall**. GOT YOU! For unknown reasons, Annie decided to accompany her sister and husband when they travelled to Sydney and while her sister and husband travelled throughout NSW, Annie stayed in Sydney and met Philip John **Heydon**. Thank you, TROVE.

Did you know that besides gazettes and newspapers, TROVE is a wonderful resource which hold information on diaries, maps, images, and artefacts which could prove useful in your family tales.

THE KEOUGHS OF TELEGRAPH POINT

Diane Palos

The **Keoughs** were an enterprising and prosperous family in Telegraph Point. My great-great aunt Winifred **McCue** (1829-1919) married Denis Keough (1821-1894) in her parish church at East Maitland in 1850.

They had six children. John (1851-1872) and Timothy (1855-1937) were born in East Maitland. Patrick (1859-19?), Edward Denis (1861-1924), Mary. S. (1863-1891) and Sarah Ann (1866-1944) were born in Port Macquarie.

Sometime after 1837 Winifred and Denis moved to Rawdon Island located in the Hastings River west of Port Macquarie. Later they moved to Telegraph Point, a village between Port Macquarie and Kempsey, where they pursued dairy farming and hotel management.

Denis' family ran the Royal Mail Coach which provided almost – daily service for mail and passengers between Kempsey and Port Macquarie. The coach travelled alongside the family's Telegraph Point property, and the family soon opened the first inn and public house servicing the area.¹

In 1872 Winifred's and Denis' son, John, drowned in a creek near the Wilson River. He had to be constantly watched by family members to prevent him wandering from home. Sadly, he escaped from the notice of those in charge. John was buried in Telegraph Point Cemetery, but his grave is not marked.²

Denis died in 1894. There are no records of his funeral or burial but it is believed he is buried in Telegraph Point Cemetery or Port Macquarie General Cemetery.

Winifred carried on their dairying business until she suffered a stroke in 1913 at the age of 79. Until then she was 'of very active habits and was noted as a fearless and accomplished

horsewoman. She could round up cattle with the best of them, no matter how difficult the class of country might be.’³ Winifred was buried in the Roman Catholic section of Port Macquarie General Cemetery on 18 July 1919. There is no headstone.



The **Keoughs** were active members of their small community. At a meeting to establish the organisation of the School of Arts in 1905, Winifred’s nephew J. J. **McCue** moved that her son Timothy Edward **Keough** be elected Trustee.⁴

Timothy Edward married Catherine **Ryan** in Kempsey in 1884. They had four children: Bede Denis (1885-1973), Amelia (1886 -1969), Leo Augustine (1888-1916) and Timothy Leslie (1890 - 1965). Timothy and Catherine ran the Telegraph Point Hotel before moving to Port Macquarie where

they resided for a number of years.⁵ Bede was Headmaster of the Stockton Public School. Leo was killed in action in the Great War and Catherine died in 1928. Now a widower Timothy returned to farm life at Telegraph Point with his son, Timothy Leslie. Young Timothy had married Mary, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael **Haydon** of Maria River at St. Bernard's Church,



St Bernard's Catholic Church, Telegraph Point

Telegraph Point on 20 May 1931 with the Rev. Father Fillodeau presiding.

In 1937 Timothy Senior went to Sydney to seek hospital treatment. He passed away at Lewisham in the care of his daughter Amelia (Mrs. L. **O'Neill**).⁷

Tragedy struck Timothy and Mary when Terence, their seven-year-old son, was accidentally killed on the afternoon of Friday 27 February 1948. He was returning home from school with his brother Fred, aged 11 and sister Colleen, aged 9. Fred and Colleen dismounted their bikes to avoid a lorry carrying timber. As Colleen dismounted, she accidentally bumped against Timothy causing him to fall under the rear of the truck. He was killed instantly. His funeral took place at St Agnes Catholic Church, Port Macquarie. Timothy was buried in the Catholic section Row H at Port Macquarie General Cemetery.⁸

Patrick **Keough** was a farmer at Telegraph Point. He participated in a shares system for others to run a dairy on his property. He lived adjacent to his brother Edward and they built drains in preparation for houses to be erected on their land. In 1890 Patrick was awarded the contract for conveying mails to Bellingen and Nambucca. He was at that time running the Port Macquarie mail service.⁹

In 1893 he was awarded a contract for the conveyance of post office mail to towns and localities including Taree, Cundletown, Ghinni Ghinni, Croki, Coopernook, Camden Haven Punt and Port Macquarie. The contract was extended to include Telegraph Point, East Kempsey and Kempsey. The service was supplied three times a week by a four-horse coach. In 1925 at the age of 64 Patrick auctioned off his dairy farm at Comboyne. He had 15 Jersey and Durham cows, 8 of which were in full milk, the rest being backward



Springers (cows ready to calve). These cows were very carefully selected and were recommended to prospective buyers.¹⁰ Patrick must have been running the Riverview Hotel at Telegraph Point later in his life. It was reported in 1932 that “an old landmark at Telegraph Point went the way of its former neighbour, the well-known Riverview Hotel conducted by Mr. Patrick **Keough**”.¹¹ Some sources claim that Patrick passed away in 1926. There are no vital records for Patrick and the article implies he was alive when the fire destroyed the hotel. He may be buried in an unmarked grave in Telegraph Point Cemetery.

Edward Denis **Keough** married Lily **Newberry** in Port Macquarie in 1902. They had two sons Edward Dennis and Victor James, and two daughters Winifred Agnes and Lily May. Edward was a prosperous businessman who engaged Mr. W. A. Rosenbaum, master craftsman from Port Macquarie, to build a new shop opposite the railway station at Telegraph Point. Edward was a strong supporter of community events using his shop as a venue for concerts to raise funds for local churches. His sudden death in January 1924 shocked his family, and the community. It was surmised that after loading wood on a hot day he had several drinks from a contaminated water hole. A few hours after he took violently ill and died.¹² Following his funeral at St Agnes Catholic Church, he was buried in Port Macquarie General Cemetery RC Section Row B.

Mary **Keough** married John Joseph **McInherney** in 1890. She died in Port Macquarie in 1891. According to NSW BDM a baby Mary J, was born in 1891.¹³ It is highly likely her mother Mary died in childbirth. It appears that Baby Mary died in Taree in 1895. Widower John married twice more and had one surviving daughter, Jessie. He was a skilled stockman, farmer, blacksmith, and builder. He donated £100 to the construction of the new Catholic Church in Port Macquarie. John died of heart failure in June 1940. He was buried in Port Macquarie Cemetery.

Sarah Ann married Herbert J. **Moses** in Port Macquarie in 1885. They had four children: Winifred Elizabeth (1886-1987), Mary Minnie (1888-1980), Frank (1890-1968) and Esther “Essie” Josephine (1894-1983). They resided at Frederickton and East Kempsey, and finally settled in 1895 at Greenhill, where Herbert was engaged in storekeeping and shipping for nearly 40 years. After retiring from business Sarah and Herbert built a fine home at Greenhill and lived there till Herbert passed away in Sydney in 1944 at the age of 91. Sarah died in hospital at Kempsey in October the same year. Mass for Sarah was celebrated at All Saints Catholic Church Kempsey. The casket was placed on the Kempsey mail and another funeral took place at the Catholic Church, Chatswood. Sarah was buried at Macquarie Park Cemetery.

14

References

- 1 <https://www.telegraphpoint.com.au/history/>
- 2 Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser 5 September 1872
- 3 Port Macquarie News and Hastings River Advocate 19 July 191
- 4 Port Macquarie News and Hastings River Advocate 22 July 1905
- 5 Port Macquarie News and Hastings River Advocate 8 December 1928
- 6 Port Macquarie News and Hastings River Advocate 11 July 1931
- 7 Port Macquarie News and Hastings River Advocate 13 February 1937
- 8 Port Macquarie News and Hastings River Advocate 5 March 1948
- 9 Macleay Argus 13 June 1890
- 10 The Wingham Chronicle and Manning River Observer 13 November 1925
- 11 Macleay Argus 1 April 1932
- 12 Macleay Argus 8 January 1924
- 13 NSW BDM 29427/1891
- 14 Macleay Argus 31 October 1944

KINGSWOOD TRIP 2023

Sharada Boyce

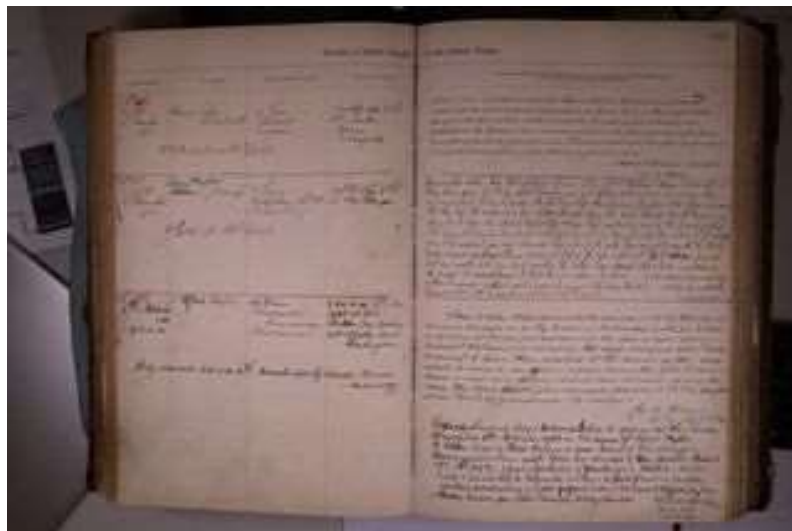
I hadn't done much research on my great-grandfather Alfred **Taylor** for a few years and had fairly well despaired of finding anything new. Enter the wonderful people at the State Archives who are willing to think around a problem for you.



I knew that Alfred had shot himself in the office of the toy factory that he and a partner co-owned. Nowhere could I find the name of the business – not Sands Directory, Firms Registration, newspaper ads. Newspaper reports were 'bare bones' – stone wall! Then, one of the Archives helpers said, "leave it with me for half an hour." She duly returned with – of all things – 'The Register of Bodies Brought to the Sydney Morgue'. Surprise, surprise! I thought that this would be just the 'bare bones' report saying that he'd been shot in the head and died as a result. But NO. The

entry began with the date and time the body was received, his name, age, where he was born, occupation, when and where he was found, and the name of the Undertakers – all pretty standard, but informative.

A lengthy paragraph in the entry (as there seemed to be for most of the 'clients'), told me his residence address, his business (Toy Maker) and its address, his partner's name, and the facts of the incident. Wow!



As well as these gems, it gave a list of all items found in his pockets – among these was a 'Witness Notice' to appear at the Quarter Sessions on 1st November 1923, plus a letter stating that deceased was 'tired of the struggle'. (Probably exacerbated by the attempt to defraud the Company by the defendant).

However, I STILL didn't know the name of his Toy Manufacturing Business.

After another "leave it with me" from the Archives staff. She reappeared sometime later, with the box of the Quarter Sessions hearings from the 1st of November 1923, saying, "I don't know if this will tell us anything, but you never know. Never was a truer word spoken – you REALLY never know!"

Even though the case against the defendant was postponed to a date after Alfred's suicide, it did indeed contain his witness statement which FINALLY gave me the name of his business – The Hiker Toy Manufacturing Company. Not only that, but the other witnesses were his partner and two other workers at the Company.

Not finished yet! Because the judge could not find anyone who had actually seen Alfred's dead body, the Death Certificate was included amongst the depositions!

To top it all off, one of the archivists who gives lectures on various topics in the Archives asked permission to photograph sections of the information because it was so unusual – the witness statement being given at the postponement of the hearing AFTER the death of the witness. So – success all round! I found my much sort after information and the State Archives found something unusual to use in their presentations.

Who'd have thought that "The Register of Bodies Brought to the Morgue" could be such a lifesaver?

CRUEL DECEPTION

Kay Browne

When the first soldier started to walk down the gangplank, the crowd on the wharf went wild, cheering and waving frantically. Mothers, fathers, and wives all searching the faces for their soldier as they disembarked.

For one young woman waiting with her in-laws, it was only weeks ago in January 1919 when she had leaned over the deck rail of the *Zealandia* with her fellow companions and looked with amazement at the many people on the wharf below waiting to be allowed closer to meet those on board. A band was playing national tunes from home and there was an overall gaiety to the whole event. Eventually the gates were opened, and the 20 soldiers and officers were the first to leave. She saw Sister **Duffy** disembark, a most caring nurse who had helped many of the women and children on their voyage, Sister **Duffy** was returning home after serving in Army Hospitals during the war and was surrounded by family or friends on the wharf.

It was exciting but also scary – a new life for her in this new country. She was an English war bride and now she was to be reunited with her husband. Suddenly her mother-in-law grabbed her arm and was waving frantically. A soldier rushed over – to his parents, all hugging and crying while she stood silently in awe. She had never seen this man before.

This story was based on a small article in our local paper, 22 February 1919. This young bride had been warmly welcomed by his family in Sydney and she stayed with them until his arrival, when the deception was discovered. She had married someone who had assumed another's identity, left her home, to find herself stranded in Australia. One can only imagine how devastating this would be for a woman to leave her family and friends, to travel to a very different country, and then to be left abandoned. Apparently, this was not an isolated case and other unfortunate English brides failed to find anyone who they could claim as their husbands on reaching addresses given to them.

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FOLLOWING THE GOLD: THE SPICER FAMILY

Narelle Milligan

I'd never enquired about my more distant relatives until my mother came back from visiting her relatives in Parkes NSW in the 1970s and said she'd seen the headstones of her great grandparents, George, and Susannah **Spicer** in the Anglican section of the Parkes cemetery. A lover and student of history, I was curious and started to research their lives.

The only clues I had were their birth and death dates and it was the early days of recording family history online so a typewritten letter to the NSW Archives resulted in a prompt response, also typed, that gave full details of their migration. ¹

I then found that they were joining an uncle, Joseph **Spicer**, another agricultural labourer from Great Hornead, who went on to buy land at Taralga, not far from Goulburn. Goulburn was mentioned by another family member, so I wrote to the Goulburn Historical Society and again, a prompt but handwritten letter came back from Miriam Chisolm ², a descendant of one of the early pioneers, with some useful details but they regretted that records I wanted were in the National Library of Australia (NLA).

Fortunately, I was living in Canberra so the NLA Librarian informed me that I could access the details from the Rare Documents Room, and I had to seek permission from the Anglican Diocese to access them. ³

Another letter to and from the Diocese, then I booked into the Rare Documents Room. With much anticipation, I put on gloves as directed, and looked around at the researchers and scholars poring over our Australian history in almost complete silence except for turning of the pages. I was not sure what I was going to find. The librarian brought in a large ledger from the Anglican Diocese of Goulburn and as I had the migration date, I quickly found the entries of the baptisms of their children.

My great-great-grandfather, George **Spicer**, and his wife Susannah **Bardwell** were agricultural labourers who migrated to Australia in 1857 from Great Hornead, Hertfordshire. UK with George's cousin, Henry.

They were employed at one of the big Goulburn. NSW properties, "Maxton", owned by the **Kinghornes**. Like dozens of others, they travelled by cart from Sydney along what was known as the Great South Road.

Today the trip by car takes less than three hours but then the trip took about three weeks by dray. The road was a target of criticism for many years. Work was started in 1819 on a cart track built on the trail blazed in 1818 by Surveyor Meeham, Hamilton Hume, and Charles Throsby. ⁴

Some distance from Sydney, the Razorback Mountain was the abject dread of travellers, and an 1847 account suggests why:



George Spicer

“From the village of Camden to the foot of the Razorback, a distance of five miles, the public road passes through the magnificent estate of Camden Park. It then attains that pandemonium of weary bullock drivers who ever and anon, with bitter jibes and horrid blasphemy, goad their unwitting teams against the hill. With many a weary halt from noon to noon they reach the summit, where improvident of water kegs, they sit and pant and think of Atkins’ Ale or Brenan’s’ Beer...”

The family story says that “Grandma slept under the wagon on the first night. There were tarpaulins around. The fellows used to sit up with guns at night, frightened of an attack.”

Arrival at “Maxton” must have been so welcome but so strange. I think of my ancestors arriving in the winter when it was summer back in Great Hormead; the grass deadened by severe frosts, icy winds off the Snowy Mountains, the fruit trees bare, acres of cleared land with strange trees, and the mixture of accents they heard.

The original stone house (storage shed when I visited) has three small bedrooms with two fireplaces and was built in 1832 according to the date chiseled into the wall at the back. A larger homestead with servants’ quarters at the rear was built about 1840.

There was an orchard to the south and remnants of very old fruit trees that were pulled down in 1982. It is probable that the **Spicers** tended these trees as they imported considerable agricultural skills from their County of Hertfordshire, known for its fruit and vegetable production for many hundreds of years.

I was able to track the birth of their four children – Edward born in 1858 at Lake George, Collector, NSW between Goulburn, and Bungendore. His brothers, my great-grandfather, William **Page** born in 1860, followed by Arthur in 1862 and Herbert in 1864, were born on “Maxton”.

Sometime after Herbert’s birth, the **Spicers** made a momentous decision to leave the district and “Follow the Gold”. The move may have been prompted by a change in ownership of the property, but it also coincided with the “Poor Man’s Gold Rush.” While this was less spectacular than the rushes of Bathurst and Ballarat in the 1850s, many of the goldfields of Central Western NSW yielded significant quantities of gold in the late 1860s and early 1870s.

The **Spicer’s** journey around the goldfields was most probably a cautious one, particularly with four young sons to feed. They first moved to Lambing Flat (Young), then Grenfell where the family met Henry Lawson’s family, then on to Trunkey Creek, and Mudgee.

When they left Mudgee, one of the sons said gloomily “We’re going to Forbes to starve” but starve they did not as their skills of baking and butchering combined with successful gold mining, enabled them to buy land, and developed what is reputed to be the first orchard in the area, between Forbes and Parkes.

“The night too quickly passes
And we are growing old,
So let us fill our glasses
And toast the Days of Gold
When finds of wondrous treasure
Set all the South ablaze
And you and I were faithful mates
All through the Roaring Days!”
(Henry Lawson)

1. NSW Archives.1977.
2. Goulburn Historical Society.
3. National Library of Australia
4. "History of Goulburn" W.R.T. Wyatt.
5. "Communications South of the Cow Pastures. Berrima District Historic Society. Seminar Proceedings. 1979.

DO YOU HAVE MEMORY PHOTOS?

Pam Moodie

Though not tangible, thank goodness we can still have memory photos. A mental snapshot of a moment from our past. They are hard to share, but they can privately transport us back in time, and remind us of good things and good people. I have many random memory photos from my childhood. I can conjure them at a whim and often they appear without being sought. They help me remember to be grateful for the wonderful upbringing I had. I'm sure you have lots of memory photos too.

OUR PAST IS OUR FUTURE

Robyn Anderson

TROVE is a resource that many family historians have grown to simply expect will always be available and at our beckoning. Many of you will also know TROVE, and its many faceted arms, was recently under threat of a slow extinction. The numerous petitions from many Australians resulted in a change in policy and funding was restored. It makes our focus on TROVE and the information we have gained about our ancestors even more worthy of our attention.

I knew my great grandfather, Angus **Smith**, had been a member of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. I also knew his son-in-law, my grandfather Archibald W **Anderson**, was a member of the NSW Fire Brigade. So how could TROVE possibly give me information I didn't already know? To answer this question, I must start with who these men were.

Angus **Smith** was born in November 1874 in Carloway on the Isle of Lewis, in the Scottish Western Hebrides. Gaelic was his first language; English his second. Angus arrived in Australia in the 1890s. His brother Murdo arrived in 1883 and John, as a merchant seaman, was regularly based in Sydney where he died in 1941. While British records are not available, Angus says on Australian documents that he served one year each in the Royal Naval Brigade



and Imperial Navy, and five years as Able Seaman in the Royal Naval Reserve. It is not until 10 May 1899 that I can confirm his employment in the NSW Fire Brigade.

This initial employment did not last long. Angus is one of two North Sydney brigade members who joined the NSW Naval

Angus is said to be the second man from the left, back row. Refer 1

Contingent that served in China during the Boxer Rebellion.

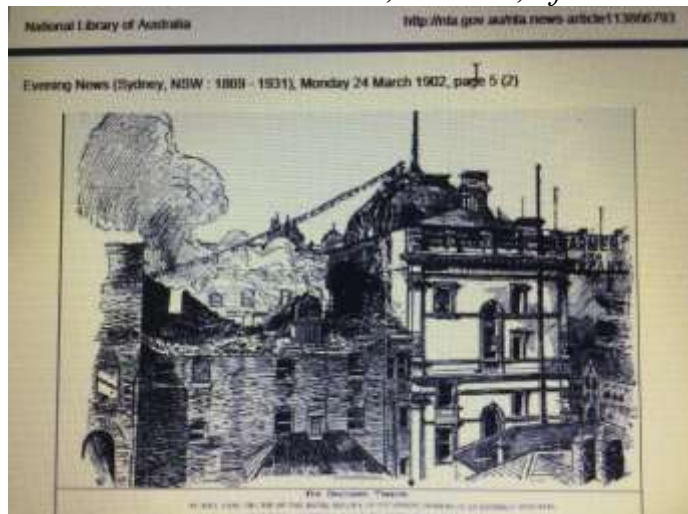
Angus safely returned to Australia and rejoined the brigade on 4 July 1901.

His service with the fire brigade was not without its own dangers.

“One of the most sensational fires in the history of Sydney’s greatest conflagrations occurred on Sunday morning when the finest theatre in the metropolis – Her Majesty’s – was swept out of existence in an hour by a fire . . .” It was 23 March 1902 and just hours before Angus’ second child, my grandmother, was born.

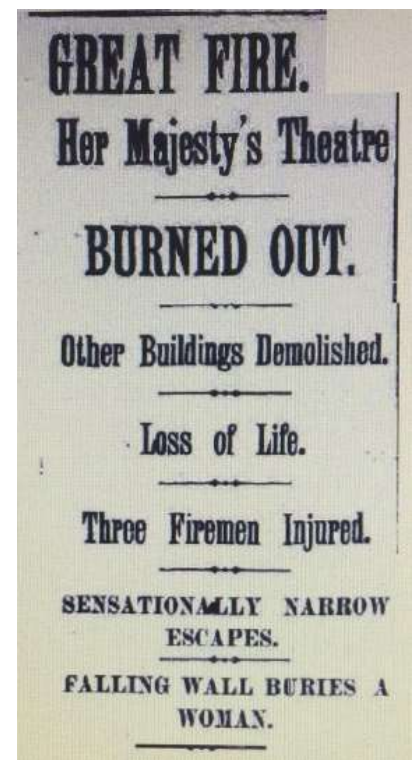
“For an hour the contest went on . . . Nine or ten fire engines . . . gasped and throbbed with unabated power, as the stokers crammed fresh supplies of coal into their furnaces and kept the pressure up to the maximum of safety. Some of the lines of hose had had to be taken over a dozen intervening roofs, and upon these the firemen were standing when several of them met with an accident, through a roof collapsing. Three of them were rather badly hurt. Their comrades rescued them, and they were carried to the street, and afterwards sent away to the hospital. Their

*names are — George **Gray**, of the Alexandria detachment (one of the oldest firemen in Sydney); Angus **Smith**, also of Alexandria; and Edward F. **Macartney**, of the Headquarters Station. **Gray** was the more seriously hurt of the three. . . . The injuries which **Smith** and **Macartney** received were less severe, . . . and, after treatment, they were able to leave for their homes.”²*



*“Owing to the smallness of the openings, the seat of the fire could only be reached with considerable difficulty. Men were sent down between the decks and continued to pour water into the burning mass. At 20 minutes past 4 o’clock the flames were practically extinguished. Five of the firemen — Sub-station Officer **Nance** and First-class Fireman **M’Laughlin**; First Class Fireman **O’Toole** of Circular Quay Station; First-class Fireman Angus **Smith**, of George Street West, and Fourth-class Fireman **Nelson** of headquarters - who were playing on the flames were overcome with smoke, and had to be carried to the upper deck, but were soon revived when brought into the fresh air.”³ Dawn on Monday 29 July was nearing.*

These articles lead me to more information. I am very grateful to the ‘Museum of Fire’ in Penrith for making available Angus’ service record. As it turned out, his firefighting career was to last just two more years. In 1905 Angus was awarded a Good Service Badge. Then in May 1907, he lost the badge when he “left the station in private clothes without permission of



On Saturday 27 July 1907 “the French mail steamer *Ville de la Ciotat* arrived from Noumea and berthed at Circular Quay” with a cargo of copra.⁴ It was late on Sunday 28 July, that the ship’s fireman noticed smoke coming from the vessel. “When the (metropolitan fire) brigades arrived dense volumes of smoke were arising, and for a long time it was difficult to locate the seat of the fire.”

It would be many hours before they found the fire was in the sail and ropes’ store, adjacent to the store of copra.

his officer”. In June 1908 the Good Service badge was again awarded to him only for it to be removed in Oct 1908 after he was “25 minutes over leave and under the influence of drink”. On the 12 July 1909, Angus was discharged.⁶

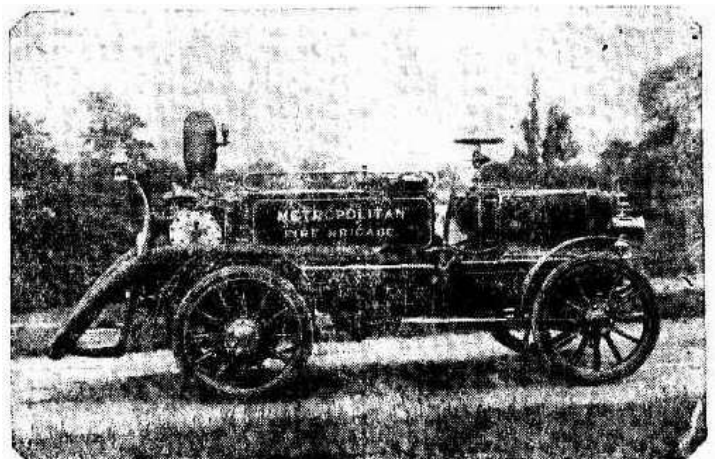
If I was not aware of the trauma he must have experienced whilst firefighting, as described in the TROVE articles, I might have thought he was of poor character. Imagine entering a fire with just your woollen uniform and a helmet, no breathing apparatus, no protective eyewear, no means of communicating with your colleagues beyond yelling with a chest full of toxic smoke and no post-trauma counselling. I am proud to say I am his descendant.

In 1836 the first fire brigades, funded by insurance companies, came into existence. They consisted largely of volunteers using buckets and ladders supplied by the companies. These brigades were followed by numerous smaller town based units. In 1884 the NSW Fire Brigades Act came into effect creating the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. In 1910 the Board of Fire Commissioners oversaw the establishment of the NSW Fire Brigade.⁵ “The first use of the term *training* in Brigade records occurs . . . in early 1941 when classes were arranged for those with an interest in learning about Fire Brigade practices in relation to the national emergency (World War II)”.⁷

It is now that my grandfather appears in the NSW Fire Brigade.

Archibald **Anderson** saw himself as an Australian born Scot. His parents were from Glasgow. He originally trained as a carpenter and was one of the many men who built the original Parliament House in Canberra. After returning to Sydney with my grandmother and father, Archie joined the brigade in August 1928.⁸

When Angus was in the fire brigade in 1905, the first motored fire engine was put into service in NSW.⁹ Men were being trained on the job and there were no women in the brigade. Then in the early 1940s the first training programs were introduced to improve firefighting effectiveness in case of attack during WWII. Amongst these trainees were the women of the Women’s Fire Auxiliary.



From September 1945 to January 1951, Archie had gone from being trained on-the-job to being a trainer at the new Fire Brigade school. In 1948 “Sub-Station Officer Archibald **Anderson** (#226)” was appointed to the training school as Drill Instructor. “**Anderson** was at the school for the period when a lot of change occurred and so is a key figure in the change and adaption of how training is undertaken today”.⁸ During Archie’s period of service, the equipment changed significantly. While the TROVE article associated with this photo does not say who the ‘masked man’ is. According to an inherited original copy, the masked man is Archie. Today we would squirm at the notion of being engulfed by an asbestos suit, but that was the necessary garment for fighting aeroplane fires as was anticipated on this occasion.

Fortunately, the suit was not needed as the aircraft, a Lockheed Civil airliner, made a safe landing. Its undercarriage had jammed on retraction during take-off from Kingsford Smith airport. After burning off fuel, the decision was made to land and hope the undercarriage remained in place.¹⁰

TROVE has generally educated me and has enhanced my own family's history as seen by Angus **Smith** and Archibald **Anderson**. Hopefully it will continue to document the history we make today, through and by the decisions we make as they affect the Australians of the future. Postscript: Angus was at Gallipoli when he suffered a bullet to his head and subsequently lost an eye and was left disfigured. The group photo is one of only two that I have of Angus. He refused to have any taken after Gallipoli – not even at my grandmother's wedding.

References

Personal knowledge and documents I have inherited or purchased plus

- 1 – TROVE: - Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser (NSW: 1871 - 1912), Saturday 11 August 1900, page 323
- 2 – TROVE: - Evening News (Sydney, NSW: 1869 - 1931), Monday 24 March 1902, page 5
- 3 – TROVE: - Evening News (Sydney, NSW: 1869 - 1931), Tuesday 30 July 1907, page 4
- 4 – TROVE: - The Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW: 1883-1930) Monday 29 July 1907, page 1
- 5 – website: fire.nsw.gov.au – Our History and repeated in 6 (below)
- 6 – personal service record supplied by the Museum of Fire under GIPA legislation
- 7 – Museum of Fire document: 'Fire and Rescue Emergency Services Academy 1884-2018', page 4
- 8 - personal service record supplied by the Museum of Fire under GIPA legislation
(I have used the station locations noted on his service record to determine that he was stationed at the training school for the period from Sept 1945 to Jan 1951.)
- 9 – TROVE: - Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW: 1883 - 1930), Monday 11 September 1905, page 7
- 10 – TROVE: - Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW: 1883 - 1930), Tuesday 19 February 1946, page 1

BENJAMIN HILL –A BREWER OF SPRUCE AND GINGER BEER

Rex Toomey

Benjamin **Hill** was the husband of my 3x great-grandmother Hester **Hill** (nee **Halford**). He was born in Gloucester, England in 1782 and transported to Australia on the convict ship *Ocean* in 1816¹ after being convicted of receiving stolen goods, viz, four sacks of coal². By January 1820, he had received his Ticket of Leave³ and was on his way to getting back into society with various forms of employment.

One of the first jobs that he undertook was to set himself up as a brewer of spruce and ginger beer. This is confirmed by an advertisement he placed in the Sydney Gazette newspaper in November 1820 in which he states '... he was induced to offer to the public his highly approved and very superior brewings of spruce and ginger beers...' from his premises at 19 George Street, Sydney (near Dawes Point). In addition, he was offering wholesale supplies for ships, together with retail sales from '... Mr. G. **Williams**', near the Wharf; at Mr. **Rickards**', near the Lumberyard, George Street; and other Vendors of respectability.' In the 1822 General Muster, he is described as a 'ginger beer brewer.'⁴

Whilst ginger beer is brewed using crushed ginger root, the spruce beer is attained from the short, angular, needle-shaped leaves of the spruce tree, conifer genus *Picea*. It is not known what species of spruce that Benjamin used but it is likely the spruce would have had to be imported.⁵

BENJAMIN HILL, having removed from Castle-street to No. 19, George-street, begs leave most respectfully to return his sincere acknowledgments of gratitude to those Friends in particular whose patronage he was induced to offer to the Public his highly approved and very superior Brewings of **SPRUCE** and **GINGER BEERS**; and trusts, from the very liberal encouragement he has hitherto experienced from most Families of respectability in Sydney that he need not endeavour to explain the beneficial effects of such wholesome Beverage, more especially derivable therefrom at this season of the year.

☛ Sold wholesale by Benj. Hill, 19, George-street where ships may be supplied; and retail at Mr. Williams's, near the Wharf; at Mr. Rickards's, near the Lumber-yard, George-street; and other Venders of respectability will be selected.

(Advertisement from *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*, 25 November 1820, page 2a)

Death.

On Thursday morning, 7th instant, Benjamin Hill, of Upper Pitt-street, Sydney, gentleman, who after twenty-three years residence in the colony, died without leaving an enemy in the world. Reader, go though, and imitate his virtues.

(Notice from *The Sydney Gazette*, 2nd August 1822, page 1c)

Death.

On Thursday morning, 7th instant, Benjamin Hill, of Upper Pitt-street, Sydney, gentleman, who after twenty-three years residence in the colony, died without leaving an enemy in the world. Reader, go though, and imitate his virtues.

(Obituary from *The Australian*, 9 February 1839, page 2g)

Problems arose in July 1822, when the Superintendent of Police D'Arcy **Wentworth**, advertised in the same newspaper that those selling ginger, spruce or other beers must be licensed to do so. Otherwise, they will incur a penalty prescribed by the government. This related back to an obscure regulation enacted in 1811⁶. There is some suggestion that this was brought about to ensure there was no impact on the sale of intoxicating beverages.

At the time, there were other ginger beer brewers in Sydney including Samuel **Thornton**, George **White** (George Street), and Benjamin **Hitchcock**, who together with Benjamin **Hill** petitioned the governor to rescind that decision. The petitioners stated that spruce and ginger beer had always been sold in England as quite separate commodities to that of strong beer⁷. Unfortunately, there is no information available about the result of the petition or whether the petitioners ended up having to pay the licence fee.

In my case, it seems that Benjamin **Hill** gave up on his ginger beer enterprise because in the 1825 Muster, he is shown as still occupying the George Street premises but now described as a publican⁸. In the 1828 census of New South Wales, he had another occupation as a shopkeeper in Pitt Street⁹. In the same year and just before Christmas, Benjamin **Hill** was informed his wife Hester had died whilst coming to Australia as a passenger on the convict ship *Midas*. He was granted permission to board the ship and collect the child who had been travelling with the mother¹⁰.

After receiving his Certificate of Freedom in 1829¹¹, Benjamin acquired land in Upper Pitt Street which was rented out providing an income for him. He made at least one trip back to England before his death in 1839 in Sydney. In a Sydney newspaper at the time, it was reported that he was 59 years of age and had spent half of his life in Sydney, several years of which were dedicated to the ginger beer industry¹². As an aside, his will was finally proved 14 years after his death, in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury in England on the 13th of July 1853¹³.

¹ State Archives NSW; *Convict Indents*, Series: *NRS 12188*; Item: [4/4005]; Microfiche: 636. Convict Ship Ocean 1816.

² Old Bailey Proceedings Online (www.oldbaileyonline.org, version 8.0, March 2018), Jan 1815, trial of Benjamin Hill (t18150111-82).

³ Ticket of Leave Records unavailable. The number and date appear on the Certificate of Freedom – see endnote 11 below.

⁴ 1820 'Classified Advertising', *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser* (NSW: 1803 - 1842), 25 November, p. 2, viewed 15 Jul 2023, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article 2179907>.

⁵ Jones, D; 2009; *Thirsty Work, The Story of Sydney's Soft Drink Manufacturers*, p375; Ligare, Riverwood.

⁶ Jones; *Thirsty Work*; p375, and Police Office, (1822, August 2). *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser* (NSW : 1803 - 1842), p. 1. Retrieved July 15, 2023, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article 2181207>.

⁷ State Archives NSW: *Colonial Secretary's Papers, 1788-1856 (Brewers Petition)*. Series: NRS 897; Reel or Fiche Numbers: Reels 6041-6064, 6071-6072, frame 14871 of 32008.

⁸ Baxter, C J; 1999; *General Muster List of NSW, 1823, 1824, 1825*; 1st ed.; ABGR a Project of the S.A.G.; Sydney.

⁹ Johnson, K & Sainty, M; 1980; *1828 Census of New South Wales*; 1st Ed.; Library of Australian History, Sydney.

¹⁰ State Archives NSW: *Colonial Secretary's Papers, 1788-1856 (Permission to collect child from Midas)*. Series: NRS 897; Reel or Fiche Numbers: Reels 6041-6064, 6071-6072, frame 24480 of 32008.

¹¹ State Archives NSW: Series: *Butts of Certificates of Freedom*; Series Number: *NRS 12210*; Archive Roll: 984.

¹² 1839 'Family Notices', *The Australian* (Sydney, NSW: 1824 - 1848), 9 February, p. 2, viewed 15 Jul 2023. <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article 36859847>.

¹³ National Archives of the United Kingdom, Kew, Richmond, Surrey: *Records of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury*, Call No: Prob 11/2175, Electronic Page/Ref No: Vol no: 11 Quire no: 501-550, image 494/408.

WHO'S HOLDING THE RIFLE?

Peter Day

In 1930, my father, Frank Day, joined the Australian Militia, a part-time volunteer force. He put his age up to join, which I suspect was because his older brother Henry joined at the same time. Their battalion would regularly hold shooting competitions. Dad wasn't the best shot, but he regularly finished near the top of those competitions. Henry, on the other hand, regularly finished near the bottom. The irony is that, during World War II, Dad, a dental technician, served in a field ambulance, whilst Henry, a clerk, was the one holding a rifle in the infantry. Incidentally, both were at Tobruk during the famous siege.



PORT MACQUARIE 'FORGET-ME-NOT' PROJECT

Remembering the Female Convicts in Port Macquarie

Trysha Hanly

Our Forget Me Not Project team has, so far, identified 360 female convicts who have records that, for any reason, contain a reference to Port Macquarie. While our aim is to record their stories beyond just their crime, trial, sentence, and ship, sometimes we are distracted by some of the activities that brought them before the Port Macquarie Bench.

Perhaps it's a yearning for freedom, a desire to escape from the drudgery of their assignments, that is at the back of their mind when they commit offences such as insolence, disobedience, drunkenness, being useless in their service, absent without leave. Perhaps they prefer being sent back to the Port Macquarie Female Factory and the companionship of their fellow prisoners there.

An example is Ellen **Kelly** who was an Irish woman who had arrived on *Elizabeth II* in 1828. In July 1830, along with Mary **Burke** and Eliza **Smith**, who had also arrived on the *Elizabeth*, she was sent to Port Macquarie and in September that year, she worked as a Cook in the Female Factory¹ when she was on the receiving end of another prisoner's disorderly conduct. She had taken on Mary **Savage**, who abused Ellen and threw the food over her and she had to retreat to the kitchen.

On arrival in New South Wales, Ellen had been noted as 'unserviceable from venereal disease', however, she was later assigned as a servant to Rev John **Cross**. On 5 January 1831, Rev **Cross** brought her before the Court² because she had been regularly absenting herself from the house without permission. Although she had promised not to do so again, the day before the court hearing, Rev. **Cross** had seen her returning to the house at 6 am, then at 3 o'clock that afternoon, she had again been absent. Not only that but on her return, Rev **Cross** heard Ellen say to Mrs. Cross that "she would go out whenever she liked". He then ordered her into custody.

Not surprisingly, Ellen was found guilty and sentenced to have her head shaved and then to be returned to the service of her Master.

But not for long! Ellen appeared again before the court³ two weeks later. Reverend **Cross** heard her screaming in the kitchen and told the court that her conduct was tumultuous and she was continually creating confusion in the kitchen and with the male servant. This time Ellen was sentenced to spend 48 hours in the Cells and returned once again to her Master's service.

In May 1831 Ellen was once more missing from her duties in Rev **Cross**' house, so he arranged for the constables to search for her. Constable **Powell** found her drunk in **Callaghan's** hut and took her back to Rev **Cross**. When she refused to go to bed, Rev **Cross** and the constable took her to Gaol by 'main force'.

This time Ellen received a sentence⁴ of one month to 3rd class in the Factory, then to be returned to the Factory and not back to the service of Rev Cross.

Reverend John Cross may have felt a little satisfied when he refused to allow the marriage of 27-year-old John Robertson Lang (alias William Robertson) and Ellen Kelly, aged 44, as on her arrival in New South Wales, she stated that she was married with two children. We have found no other records for Ellen.

¹ NSWSA:NRS-3331 4/5637, p.38 *Port Macquarie Commandant's Bench Book*

² NSWSA:NRS-3331 4/5636, p.82 *Port Macquarie Commandant's Bench Book*

³ NSWSA:NRS-3331 4/5636, p.86 *Port Macquarie Commandant's Bench Book*

⁴ NSWSA:NRS-3331 4/5636, p.146 *Port Macquarie Commandant's Bench Book*



Margaret Blight

Whilst Trysha Hanly and a small group of helpers have been researching, recording, and writing stories about the female convicts who were sent to Port Macquarie between 1822 and 1842, another group has been busy with needles and threads and sewing machines, making bonnets to visually remind us of these ladies.

Initially we wanted to make a bonnet to acknowledge every one of the 360 convict women who were sent here, but since our Society doesn't have permanent premises, the storage of such a large number was not practical. We therefore decided to concentrate on the most noteworthy ladies and those with the most interesting stories to tell. To date, thirty-eight bonnets have been fully completed and we are hoping to display some of them in the Port

Macquarie Library during Family History Month this August. All will be displayed again at the launch of the Society's book *Rowdy Voices and Quiet Whispers* in the coming months.



The inspiration for making the bonnets came from the worldwide 'Roses from the Heart' Project which was initiated by Dr Christina Henri who was the artist-in-residence at the Cascades Female Factory in Hobart. Over 25,500 bonnets were made for that Project, with each one honouring a female who landed in Australia as a convict. In addition, some of our members who attended the NSW-ACT Annual Conference late last year were inspired by the display of more than 2000 bonnets made by members of Maitland & Beyond Family History group

to remember those who were sent to the Maitland and Newcastle areas.

To date the team of wonderful needleworkers whose works are already completed includes Lis Hannelly, Pauline Hincksman, Shelley James, Jan Robson, and Anne Phillips – special thanks go to Pauline who made 15 bonnets, even working on them whilst on a Cruise!

DANIEL CUBITT - A 'JACK OF ALL TRADES'

Jennifer Mullin

Daniel **Cubitt** was born in in 1768 in Bacton, Norfolk. His profession was a shoemaker, but he found himself on the wrong side of the law at the Lent Assizes in 1788 when he was convicted of stealing some material, stockings, a coat, and a couple of other items. His accomplice turned crown witness and was fined one shilling. Daniel was sentenced to death - but it was commuted to transportation for life to Australia.

Daniel was transported to New South on the *Guardian* in July 1789. The *Guardian* was sent out between the First and Second Fleet to provide the colony with cows, horses, sheep, and other livestock. There were only 25 convicts on board. However, disaster struck 400 leagues (1931 kilometres) from Cape of Good Hope when the *Guardian* was swept into an iceberg whilst the crew were trying to gather fresh water from the iceberg. The ship was ripped open by a combination of the hidden part of the iceberg and the unexpected currents. About a third of the ship's number abandoned ship. Daniel was one of the convicts who stayed aboard, keeping the ship afloat. They were found by a Dutch packet-boat from the Spice Islands and Batavia, which assisted them with material and crew to sail back to Cape of Good Hope.

The convicts were distributed between the ships of the Second Fleet, with Daniel joining the infamous *Neptune* which arrived in Sydney in January 1790. For his part in assisting the crew on the *Guardian*, Daniel and the other convicts landed in Sydney as completely free men¹.

Daniel and Maria **Cook** are recorded as a de-facto couple in 1792². There are reports of them having 12 children, one of whom was Charlotte, born in 1805, who married Thomas **Currey** in 1820. Thomas died in Port Macquarie in 1824.



Part of the crew of his Majesty's Ship Guardian endeavouring to escape in the Boats, July 1st 1790, Dodd Robert.

Daniel was confirmed as Gaoler and Constable at Sydney³ in December 1810. His appointment was reported in *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser* (NSW : 1803 - 1842) on Sat 5 Jan 1811 Page 2

Mr. Daniel Cubitt is confirmed as Jailor of the Gaol in the Town of Sydney, with a Salary of Sixty Pounds Sterling per Annum; and is not to act in future as a Constable, nor in any other capacity than that of Jailor."

During his time as jailor Daniel appears to do numerous repairs to the Gaol - such as whitewashing, stonemasonry and carpentry work, supplying candles, and general

improvements. He made claims to the Government for the materials and labour. Daniel's retirement was announced in 1817⁴. Between 1817 and 1820 Daniel appears to be Publican of the Cat and Fiddle public-house at the corner of George Street and Brown Bearlane. He is reported to have built it. He has also acquired land at Bringelly and Minto.

In February 1820 Daniel and Edward **Ewing** were appointed Master of Row Boat Guard by His Excellency the Governor. Their duties were to 'prevent or detect smuggling and to keep boats from holding correspondence with convicts before being landed'⁵.

The New South Wales, Australia, Returns of the Colony, 1825 records Daniel's salary as £52. In 1826 he was earning £52.10 -. The 1828 census records him as a 'master of the Guard boat, Sydney.'

Daniel's death in 1831 was reported in the Sydney Gazette on Tue 15 Feb 1831 on page 3 - *DEATH. On Saturday evening last, at his residence Harrington-street, Mr Daniel Cubit in the 62d year of his age. Daniel Cubitt is my 5x great grandfather.*



Sydney Gaol | The Dictionary of Sydney

¹ 1913 'OLD SYDNEY.', *Truth* (Sydney, NSW : 1894 - 1954), 2 February, p. 10.

² Born in the English Colony of New South Wales 1801 - 1810 Dr J C Smee.

³ The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser (NSW : 1803 - 1842) Sun 14 Jan 1810 Page 2

⁴ 1889 'Retirement of Sir John Cecil Read.', *Evening News* (Sydney, NSW : 1869 - 1931), 1 January, p. 8.

1816 'GOVERNMENT AND GENERAL ORDERS.', *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser* (NSW : 1803 - 1842), 9 November, p. 1.

⁵ 1820 'GOVERNMENT AND GENERAL ORDERS.', *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser* (NSW : 1803 - 1842), 5 February, p. 1

HORSE THIEF TO CONVICT TO POLICE CONSTABLE TO LAND OWNER

Lis Hannelly

Some of you met my 2x great-grandfather, Patrick **Conlon** alias **Conway**, in a recent *Footsteps* edition...

I thought I would tell you a little about his occupation, which affected how he came to be transported to NSW, where his education brought a career change. It is with thanks to Patrick's granddaughter (my grandmother) that we have his tale.

Patrick was working with a horse stud in County Westmeath, Ireland as a stockman and was trusted to deliver horses that had been sold and collect the fee, returning each time to the stud and give the money to his boss.

The delivery of a mare in foal was to cause Patrick a nightmare he could never have imagined. During the journey the mare went into labour and with only Patrick to assist, had her foal in a field along the journey. Not wishing to move her along too soon, Patrick made camp in the field and settled down for the coming night fall.

During the next morning he slowly led the mare and foal to the future purchaser who was only willing to handover the money for the mare but was keen to take the foal as well.

What was Patrick to do? Keep the foal with its mother to feed? Not push for more money. There was no instruction from his boss to solve this problem! He asked to stay the night with the mare and foal and leave in the morning.

When morning came the new owner had moved the mare and foal into his field and told Patrick the fee was as agreed and to be on his way.

Hastening back to his employer, Patrick must have felt sick with worry; and he was right to be. His boss was already sure Patrick had absconded with either the mare and foal or the purse of money as he had taken so long to return.

When Patrick arrived with his story the boss was furious! He accused Patrick of stealing the foal away when it was born in the field and had him arrested. No amount of assurance was taken or begging to speak to the customer who was an important man (not likely to be disbelieved).

Tried on 21 July 1831 at the Longford Summer Sessions Court, Patrick was found guilty of horse stealing and given a Life sentence, arriving on the *City of Edinburgh* on 27 June 1832.

Initially Patrick was assigned as a stockman to the Australian Agricultural Company. It soon became known that Patrick could read and write and was good with horses.

It was here that Patrick's life changed when he was appointed to Thomas Cook, who was the Police Magistrate, as a clerk to the Bailiff, a Police Constable and eventually Bailiff to the Dungog Petty Sessions Court.

His description in Police registers listed him as efficient and he received good pay. He moved around with his appointment. Initially with Thomas Cook he was stationed in Port Stephens, then later in Newcastle, Port Macquarie, and Dungog.

On June 25, 1836, Patrick was appointed a Constable in Dungog. He was granted a Ticket of leave in August 1840 which was recommended by the Dungog Bench. Patrick was issued with a Conditional Pardon (2C type pardon) on 2 Mar 1846 as listed in the NSW State Records.

It was during these few years that Patrick and future wife Margaret **Blackwood** alias **Elliott** had met when appointed in the same town. They applied three times to marry and after two denials (a story in itself) they were married on 'Bickers Farm' in November 1841.

A year later Patrick was appointed Bailiff of the Court of Petty Sessions, Dungog, NSW and his wages and good standing must have seen him in a position which was listed in the NSW Gazette of purchasing two Town lots of Coal-bearing land in Dungog in May 1855.

While his Conditional Pardon said he could go anywhere except back to Great Britain nor Ireland, Patrick, Margaret, and their growing family seemed to be content in Dungog, NSW.

I have found several articles in Trove archives that mention Patrick as a Police Constable and in the early days a Police tracker of escapees etc but as he aged his appointments were more sedentary. In 1858 Patrick was appointed pound keeper at Dungog by the Bench of Magistrates. No more working the beat, roaming the countryside on horse. Just five years later, at just 53 years old, Patrick died after a lingering illness, his obituary lists that he leaves a grieving wife and five children. Patrick's Will was generous and left everything to his *beloved wife*, Margaret appointed as his sole executrix. From a stockman working for another man and no real future to a convict, a bailiff's clerk, a policeman and land, stock, and property owner able to provide for his large family well into their futures.

Sources

Arrest record - Ancestry

Shipping Indents - Ancestry and NSW State Records

Ticket of Leave and Conditional Pardon (2C type pardon), NSW State Records

Marriage requests and hand written letters NSW records

The Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser, 10/3/1847

Also, SYDNEY CHRONICLE (N.S.W. 1846-1848) - Saturday 6 March 1847 Trove

9/5/1855 purchase Lots of Land in Dungog, NSW, Trove

21/5/1858 Pound keeper, Trove

On 21 /4/1863 Patricks death was announced at age 53 leaving his beloved wife Margaret and 5 children: 21/4/1863 Trove

Will and Testament – Ancestry

Family stories.

DNA GENEALOGY – ANOTHER TOOL IN THE BAG

Ken Hunt

This is a snippet from Ken's article in the February 2015 Footsteps Journal.

When the paper trail lets us down, which inevitably it does at various points in our research, DNA testing may be the answer. Of course, while it may not be the answer to every problem, if you're prepared to spend a little time thinking through it's amazing how many puzzles can be solved – maybe not immediately, but over time. Not using DNA testing for genealogy is like refusing to look at census or baptismal records in your search for ancestors, why deny yourself another tool in your bag of genealogical techniques?



VALE NORMA CRAWFORD

Our thoughts are with her husband Morton and the family.
Norma was a member of the society for just a short time.

LAUREL SHIRLEY MANN ‘SHIRLEY 4TH APRIL 1930 ~ 1ST APRIL 2023

It is with regret that we say goodbye to one of our most willing workers in the Society - Shirley Mann.

“Bill and Shirley joined the Society on 9th November 1998 and by September 2000 were both actively involved in Society work as research officers and performing library duty together through to 2002. They also were very involved in the Adopt-A-Port Macquarian Family Project at that time.” from Bill’s Vale in Footsteps 133 November 2014.

Shirley was a member of the PMDFHS committee for many years. Her quiet, unassuming nature and reliability whilst she served on the Committee were acknowledged by all members, but especially appreciated by the other members of the committee. She held the position of ‘Loans & Publications Manager’ and was an active contributor to ‘Footsteps’, submitting articles for publication.



After stepping down from the committee, she was still at the fore by being the friendly face that greeted everyone at meetings and activities for many years.

Shirley was on the Volunteer Library Roster, assisting members and the public with their family history enquiries for many years only resigning this position in 2017. Shirley was also very supportive of ‘Chat and Coffee’ prior to Covid and was the person who manned the door, supplied morning tea, and brought the newsletters to the room for members to borrow.

In recent years Shirley could often be seen at our General Meetings, enjoying the social aspect of meetings with her friends. She was always friendly and had a kind word for new members. Rest in Peace, Shirley. Your presence will be missed by many members of PMDFHS



FOOTSTEPS CONTRIBUTION

The next edition of Footsteps will be published in November 2023. The deadline for contributions will be 15 October 2023. Members are encouraged to submit stories and articles. This issue calls for articles about you. The next issue calls for highlights or gems you have found about your ancestors. Have you uncovered a new or different family tale? 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

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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.



This Journal is printed by Snap Printing
1/106 Horton Street, Port Macquarie NSW 2444 – phone: 02 6583 7544