

E - Muster

Central Coast Family History Society Inc.

April 2017

Number 17



A beautiful flowering gum
at the front of our Research Centre

Central Coast Family History Society Inc.

PATRONS

Lawrie McKinna, Chris Holstein
Lucy Wicks, MP Federal Member for Robertson

Members of NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc. (State Body)
Australian Federation of Family History Organisation (National Body) Federation of
Family History Societies, United Kingdom (International Body) Associate Member of
the Royal Australian Historical Society of NSW.

Executive:

President: Wendy Condon
Vice President: Kay Rawnsley
Secretary: Heather Yates
Treasurer: Margaret Ertner

Public Officer: Marlene Bailey

Committee:

Sue Breckenridge, Bennie Campbell, Marlene Davidson,
Carol Evans, Belinda Mabbott, Trish Michael, Margaret Morters.

RESEARCH CENTRE

Building 4, 8 Russell Drysdale Street, EAST GOSFORD NSW 2250
Phone: 4324 5164 - Email admin@centralcoastfhs.org.au
Open: Tues to Fri 9.30am-2.00pm; First Saturday of the month only
Thursday evening 6.00pm-9.00-9.30pm
Research Centre Closed on Mondays for Administration

MEETINGS

First Saturday of each month from February to November
Commencing at 1.00pm – doors open 12.00pm
Venue: Gosford Lions Community Hall
Rear of 8 Russell Drysdale Street, EAST GOSFORD NSW

MEMBERSHIP FEE - GST INCLUDED

Single Membership \$45.00 Joining Fee \$10.00
Joint Membership \$65.00 Joining Fee \$10.00

The E-Muster

April 2017 – No: 17

The *e-Muster* is the Official Journal of the Central Coast Family History Society Inc. as *The Muster* it was first published in April 1983.

The new *e-Muster* is published to our website 3 times a year - April, August, and December.

The Society does not hold itself responsible for statements made or opinions expressed by advertisers or authors of articles appearing in *e-Muster*.

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JOURNAL EDITOR
Sue Breckenridge

All articles to:
admin@centralcoastfhs.org.au

e-Muster deadlines are
March 20
July 20
October 23

REGULAR FEATURES

Editorial.....	4
President's Piece.....	5
New Members List.....	6
Society Events and Information	
Seniors Seminar Report	7-8
Speakers.....	9
Membership Information.....	10
Assigned Duties.....	11

BOOK REVIEWS.....	12-13
WWI Central Coast Soldiers Memorial.....	14-22
Trove to the Rescue.....	23
Pt Frederick: CAIN/SMITH families	
.....	24-27

FAMILY HEIRLOOMS and KEEPSAKES

Articles from Committee Members.....	28-32
--------------------------------------	-------

TRENCH ART

Articles from Committee Members.....	34-37
Reminiscence from Judy GIFFORD	
Member #333.....	38-40

Bookstall Must Haves.....	41
Transcription Agents & Advertisements.....	42
Central Coast Mobile Computers.....	43
Central Coast SHARP DC.....	43
Website Guy.....	43
Publications available for purchase.....	44-45

EDITORIAL – SUE BRECKENRIDGE

Once again, we acknowledge and commemorate the service of those World War 1 soldiers who gave their lives 100 years ago. I have chosen to focus on the two Battles of Bullecourt which began in April of 1917. Therefore April 2017 marks the 100th Anniversary. We record in this E- Muster, the names and background of twelve local men who died in those battles.

Bennie Campbell has completed a wonderful data base of local soldiers, the source of our local men included here. As you will see, the community support of the Central Coast was very much alive and well in those times, just as we see today.

Human spirit and human ingenuity were very evident in the art of the times during the First World War. Trench art was a term used as was Sweetheart Jewellery.

Maybe you have some of this among your family treasures?

Why not write a short story about it for the next E-Muster?

The Committee members were asked to submit their stories of family heirlooms and keepsakes for this edition of E-Muster I hope you enjoy reading their stories which record links close to us all. Please consider submitting your heirloom or keepsake stories for the next issue of the E-Muster.

I thank all those members who have submitted contributions to our journal for the April edition. It is lovely to be able to include the stories from our own members. It is through these real stories that we are strengthened by the challenges, sacrifices and resilience of those who have gone before us. It also strengthens the camaraderie between our members and initiates many a conversation at meetings.

Be inspired to contribute to your E-Muster journal.

At the Research Centre we have an excellent library. You may be aware that the library has recently been reorganized and we hope, easier to find your desired material. Make sure you visit the library as there are so many good books and resources available to assist your research. In each E-Muster we review four of our library books and this edition we feature two Convict books and two Australian social history books.

There are so many stories behind our members. Family historians are the links between the generations.

If you don't know your family history.....

“You are a leaf that doesn't know it is part of a tree”. Michael Crichton

Sue BRECKENRIDGE -Muster Editor

PRESIDENTS REPORT – WENDY CONDON

What a great year it has been with your new committee! It has been a learning experience for some of them and they have done very well.

I would like to thank Margaret Ertner for all of the help she gave me, it has been a lot of work but we made it.

Marlene Davidson, thank you for the great bus trips we had to Windsor and Maitland. We had 45 members on both trips and everyone had a great time. And also for the great Speakers you sourced for our meetings and the grants you worked so hard to get for us.

To all the librarians and team leaders, thank you for all of the work you have done, we can't survive without you!

Our Lands seminar with the Royal Historical Society and the Seniors Seminar that was held last month were both huge successes.

Sadly this year we have had the passing of a few of our members and also few with illness. We hope all the members with ill health will be better soon.

The NSW & ACT Family History State Conference will be held in September at Orange and we look forward to seeing some of our members attend. We are confident that it will be a great event.

We anticipate a trip In October to Goulburn and Canberra for the weekend with the RedBus Company which we are very excited about.

Please write your name on the list at the Research Centre if you are interested.

Wendy CONDON-President

NEW MEMBERS

We wish to extend a very warm welcome to our new members. We hope they have many happy researching and social hours with us. Please remember to lodge your Members' Interest with Belinda Mabbott for inclusion on the Website.

2028J	Hans & Carol Gotfredsen
2029	Roger Davis
2030	Garry William Green
2031	Estelle Huckle
2032J	Richard Van Wirdum & Lyn Pickering
2033	Janice Matts
2034	Peggy Crayge
2035	Peter Fisher

You've read the books. You've searched in the databases. But did you know that one of the best resources in a genealogy library is often the Librarian? Get more out of your visits to our library by asking these three things.

1. "Can you help me?" I've noticed that there seems to be a hesitation about asking a Librarian anything. The reasons people give are often, "She looks busy" or "He'll think this is a stupid question." Here's the scoop: *The librarian wants to help you.* Yes, she has some work with her while she's at the reference desk. But when she is at the desk, her main responsibility is to help you. As for the "stupid questions," I think most Librarians would agree with me that the only truly stupid question is the one that isn't asked.

2. "Do you have any collections that aren't in the catalogue?"

Just because the library has it, doesn't mean that it's in the catalogue. Things like obituary files, newspaper clipping collections, vertical files, and rare books may not be included. Be sure to ask the librarian about these hidden gems.

3. "Are there other places that could have the resources I'm looking for?"

This is an especially useful question when you have a very specific research focus. The Librarian might be able to point you to those "off the beaten path" places — the tiny historical society, the obscure museum, the church archive — that could have just what it is you're looking for.

JOHNSTON REUNION NOTICE

Descendants of **WILLIAM** and **ISABELLA** (nee Cunningham) **JOHNSTON** from Whitsome, Scotland, who arrived in Australia in 1817 and settled in the Bathurst and Wingham districts are invited to a reunion to celebrate 200 years since their arrival in Australia, 5-6 August 2017 at Wingham Golf Club, Wingham, NSW.

Enquiries to Margaret Chaffer – margareetchaffer@bigpond.com

SENIORS WEEK SEMINAR REPORT

SENIORS INSPIRING SENIORS.

What a happy, sharing experience as we celebrated the beginning of Seniors Week at Central Coast Family History Society on Saturday 4th March. Despite the most awful stormy, wet weather, the East Gosford Lions Community Hall was set for lectures. As well as four lecture periods representatives from the five local and family history groups joined with six CCFHS personnel. All organised displays and resources ready for chat sessions with visitors.



The day was sponsored by Seniors Week and was designed by CCFHS to meet the many different research stages at which participants are currently involved.

Two morning lectures for beginning historians emphasised basic research principles and the use of primary sources.



Much advertising suggests all one needs to do is to join an online agency and use and copy an already online family tree. So much primary sourced information is free and available on internet sites from State BDM registries and government agencies. Newspapers, libraries with local and family history societies provide the social contexts. Hasten slowly and research thoroughly to avoid adopting an incorrect relative.



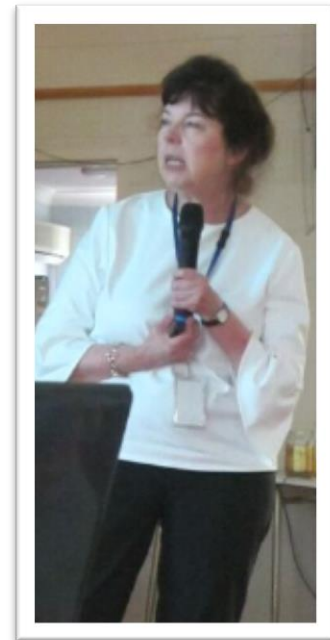
Snack times refresh the senses ready for the next session.



Participants then had time to chat with each of the Central Coast family and local history societies and Family Search. CCFHS groups offered assistance with oral history, writing, Trove, Ryerson Index, cemetery research, general research and convicts. What an excited happy buzz in the hall ensued, only interrupted by two more short sessions with information about Family Search and First Fleeters.

State Records archivist Gail Davis told of the many resources, beyond immigration documents, which may be used to help find an ancestors arrival.

Finally Mark Bundy from Rookwood Cemetery Trust told of the cemetery's historic development during the last 150 years. He answered many questions relating to religious customs and of course tips for searching for that ancestor's elusive burial place.



During and at the end of the day, many expressed their appreciation for the most enjoyable day with comments like

Thank you for such an informative day.... I'm so glad I was able to come.... Great to be able to talk to the experts... I'm going home to get started.

One CCFHS member observed *"There really were "beginners" in the audience who would have gained such a lot of invaluable information from the presenters and consequently felt confident to start their own research."* It was indeed a good day in terms of the Seminar program, the genuine warmth and friendship and the spirit of sharing the wealth of experience and knowledge that was in that hall.

SPEAKERS FOR 2017

APRIL 1st



Cathy Cole, Manager - TERRIGAL SURF LIFESAVING CLUB

The role of women and the impact of war on this historic club will be just two aspects that Cathy will explore for us.

MAY 6th

Jason Reeve from ANCESTRY.

Jason will inform us about DNA testing, what to expect from your results and the benefits of privatising your Ancestry Family Tree.



JUNE 3rd



Member Talks

Our Members will deliver short talks on their specific interest areas.

JULY 1st



Martyn Killion- "Breaking down the brick walls"

Martyn has been involved in family history for 40 years. He has also been a Councillor of the Society of Australian Genealogists since 2000. He served as the Society's President and Honorary Archivist between 2001 and 2005 and is currently serving a second term as President. He is also a Fellow of the Society and holds its Diploma in Family Historical Studies.

AUGUST 5th

Geoffrey Morgan-Smith, "Planning for your Future"

The FOUR DOCUMENTS Every Australian Adult Should Have:-

1. A Will
2. Power of Attorney
3. Enduring Guardianship
4. A Living Will (Advanced Health Directive)



MEMBERSHIP FEES 2017 – effective 1st April



MEMBERS - REJOINING Membership Fees for 2017-2018 will be:

Single Membership	\$45.00
Joint Membership	\$65.00

A Members Day user fee of \$2.50 now applies to assist in offsetting the cost of online subscription sites.

All Saturday workshops will incur a fee of \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members unless otherwise stipulated.

OUR MEMBERSHIP FORM is available to download from the website. From the front page click on the ...read more information under Membership on the banner and all will be revealed. Remember the website is

www.centralcoastfhs.org.au

Please read the two additional questions on your membership form regarding the Rotary Raffle donations to the Equipment Maintenance and Replacement Fund. You can chose to have Tickets sent to you to the value of \$10 or if you prefer you can make a once per year donation of \$10.00 to the Equipment Maintenance Fund.

EFFECTIVE 1st OCTOBER OF ANY GIVEN YEAR

A half yearly membership is offered

Joining Fee \$10.00

Single Membership: \$22.50

Joint Membership: \$32.50

No. 18

August 2017

e-Muster

Deadline for articles for the April edition of the Muster is 20th July 2017.

SOCIETIES MAILING LIST

The email address for our Society is admin@centralcoastfhs.org.au

You can also Like Us on Facebook!



ASSIGNED DUTIES

The following is a list of who does what to keep the society running as smoothly as it does.

Assistant Treasurer	Carol Evans
Bookstall Coordinator	Margaret Ertner
Bookstall meeting helpers	Carol Evans
Bus Trips and Tours	Marlene Davidson
Christmas Party Organiser	Wendy Condon
Event Coordinators	Marlene Davidson
	Wendy Condon
Grant Applications	Marlene Davidson
Grant Application Proofreader	Committee
Guest Speakers	Marlene Davidson
Housekeeping	Rosemary Wiltshire
IT and Computer Network	CC Mobile Computers
LDS Film Hire – Family Search	Heather Yates
Librarian	Bennie Campbell
Librarian's Assistant	Belinda Mabbott
Membership Secretary	Wendy Condon
Membership Secretary's helper on meeting days	Kay Rawnsley
Members Interests/Facebook Administrator	Belinda Mabbott
The e-Cluster Editor	Sue Breckenridge
Pelican Press Editor	Heather Yates
Overseas Book Monitor	Heather Sushames
Property Officer	Margaret Morters
Publication Projects & Public Officer	Marlene Bailey
Publicity and Advertising	Bennie Campbell
Raffles	Carol Evans
Catering	Trish Michael
Research Officer	Margaret Morters
Rotary Raffle	Wendy Condon
Unrelated Certificates	Bennie Campbell
Website Administrator	Margaret Ertner
Website Designer	Zac Hall – Websiteguy
Welfare and Hospital Visits	Marlene Bailey

BOOK REVIEWS from our LIBRARY

UNWILLING EMIGRANTS... letters of a convict's wife. By Alexander Hasluck.

"In 1931, a small bundle of tattered letters was handed in to the West Australian Historical Society at one of its meetings by a member, Mr. John Stoddart. The letters were in a grey kangaroo skin pouch, fur side out, envelope shaped and a bit torn."



This book tells the story of William Sykes and his fellow convicts—all unwilling emigrants.

The book is written with “compassion, giving an extraordinary insight into the effects of transportation upon individual lives”.

The letters were from Myra Sykes to her convict husband, William Sykes.

For Myra, poor and illiterate, it was abandonment. For William it was a life of privation and pain.

This book makes an interesting study of Western Australia's convict era as well as a study of William Sykes's life. For those interested in convict history in Western Australia this book is well worth a read.

REMEMBER WHEN...Reflections on a changing Australia by Bruce Elder.

The book poses questions such as

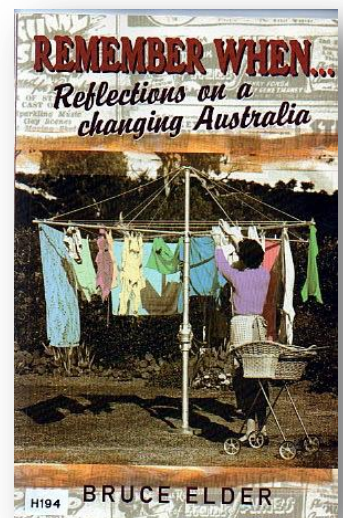
What happened to a sense of community?

What happened to ethics and honour?

What happened to Australian uniqueness?

One chapter is entitled “The crap we eat now”.

This book is a very worthwhile read and also tackles the issues of globalization and environment; economics and egalitarianism.

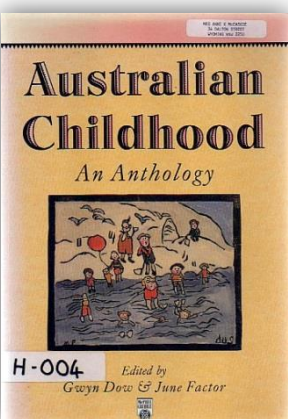
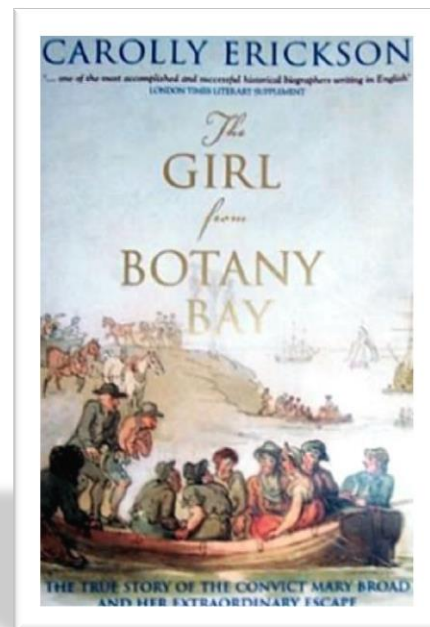


The GIRL from BOTANY BAY.

The true story of the convict Mary Broad and her extraordinary escape.

By Carolly Erickson.

From the Publishers Weekly...The author is a veteran biographer, whose focus in this book is Mary Broad, who was arrested for highway robbery in 1786 and transported in sordid conditions to the new penal colony in Australia. But, the book is, more generally, a stark and fascinating account of what prisoners endured; in England, where harsh laws protected property in an era of unsettling social change; on board ship; and in the penal colonies themselves, where the convicts and their guards carved a bleak existence out of the inhospitable environment. Life was particularly harsh for women, who, in addition to the usual privations, also endured the threat of rape and the responsibilities and sorrows of raising children in dire conditions. Mary Broad, along with several male convicts and her own young children, made a daring escape in a small stolen boat. Perhaps fortified by stories of the survivors of the *Bounty*, they sailed along the Australian coast and across open sea to the Dutch settlement of Kupang in Indonesia, where they enjoyed a few months of ease before their recapture. Despite Erickson's speculations, little can be known concretely about Mary as an individual. Her story draws in the reader, nonetheless, and Mary's brief moment of celebrity, when the escape and the well-timed intervention of the writer James Boswell earn her a royal pardon, provided a satisfying end to the unrelenting hardship of her life."



Australian Childhood. An Anthology, edited by Gwyn Dow and June Factor.

With the focus on children, the chapters relate to children in the goldfields, the outback, children at play, at school and at work. There is a section titled "Old Ways, New Ways" 1890-1929. The period from 1930 -1949 is termed our "Growing Up With Uncertainty" This book provides a good read to expand your general knowledge of childhood in earlier times in Australia. There are illustrations included.

Books reviewed by Sue BRECKENRIDGE

The members of the Central Coast Family History Society Inc. honour the memory of all those who lost their lives in the service of their country.

In particular we honour twelve local men who lost their lives at Bullecourt as they fought for our country and its' freedom.



THE FIRST BATTLE OF BULLECOURT

From the Australian War Memorial:-

Bullecourt, a village in northern France was one of several villages to be heavily fortified and incorporated into the defenses of the Hindenburg Line in 1917.

In March 1917, the German army had withdrawn to the Hindenburg Line in order to shorten their front and thus make their positions easier to defend. This move was rapidly followed up by the British and Empire forces, and they launched an offensive around Arras in April 1917.

To assist the Arras operations, an attack was launched on Bullecourt on 11 April 1917 by the 4th Australian and 62nd British Divisions. The attack was hastily planned and mounted and resulted in disaster. Tanks which were supposed to support the attacking Australian infantry either broke down or were quickly destroyed. Nevertheless, the infantry managed to break into the German defenses. Due to uncertainty as to how far they had advanced, supporting artillery fire was withheld, and eventually the Australians were hemmed in and forced to retreat. The two brigades of the 4th Division who carried out the attack, the 4th and 12th, suffered over 3,000 casualties; 1,170 Australian were taken prisoner-the largest number captured in a single engagement during the war.

“Bullecourt, more than any other battle, shook the confidence of Australian soldiers in the capacity of the British command; the errors, especially on April 10th and 11th, were obvious to almost everyone”.

Charles BEAN, Official Historian.

THE SECOND BATTLE OF BULLECOURT.

Three weeks after the first battle of Bullecourt the Australian 2nd Division, now with the British 62nd Division attacking on their left towards Bullecourt itself, assaulted over the same ground where the Australians had been defeated on 11th April. This time the Australian infantry attacked without tanks but was well supported by artillery. On the first day of the battle, 7th May, one Australian brigade on the right flank was unable to reach the German first line, and the British obtained only a foothold on the southern edge of Bullecourt, but the main Australian attack was successful in capturing the same German trenches that the Australian 4th Division had been ejected from on 11 April. The battle continued for two weeks, the Australians and British committing four more divisions. The Germans, also reinforced, made numerous unsuccessful counterattacks. By 17 May the Germans admitted defeat by ceasing attempts to recover their lost ground. Of 150,000 men from both sides who fought at Second Bullecourt, some 18,000 British and Australians, and 11,000 Germans, were killed or wounded in Battle.

“The Second Bullecourt (battle) was, in some ways, the stoutest achievement of the Australian soldier in France”

Charles BEAN, Official Historian.

April 2017 marks the 100th Anniversary of the First Battle of Bullecourt. Ninety five soldiers from the Central Coast died in WW1 on the Western Front. Twelve of those died in the Battles of Bullecourt.

WILLIAM BOYD came from Tuggerah; he was 27 when he enlisted and he worked as a saw miller. He embarked from Sydney in October of 1916 bound for England. In February of 1917 he proceeded to France. He was K.I.A on May 5, 1917. William left a widow. In December of 1921 a Scroll was issued by His Majesty's Government as a memorial to those who lost their lives through the war of 1914-1918. Issued with the scroll was The King's Message. William's Will left money to his son Morrill on his attaining the age of twenty one. In the event that the son died before the age of twenty one, the said monies were to be given to his wife, Ellie Margaret Boyd.

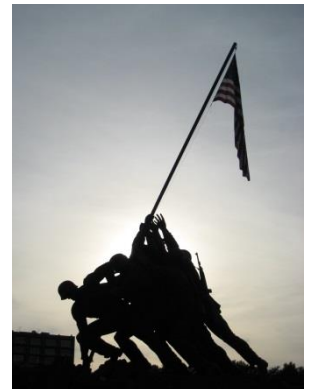
ROBERT GEORGE CRANE was a 21 year old unmarried labourer from Wyong at the time of his enlistment. Within three months he rose from the rank of Private to Lance Corporal in the 4th Machine Gun Company. Robert was K.I.A on 11th April, 1917. Following the death of Robert, a letter from France was published in the Gosford Times. The letter had been sent to the mother of Robert.

The words in the letter expressed respect and appreciation for the life of Robert and hopes that his mother “bear up and always think of your gallant son as one, who, like many Australians have done, both on Gallipoli and those bloody fields of France, made the greatest sacrifice for his people and country”.

ARTHUR OLIVER DENTON was attached to the 2nd Pioneer Battalion having joined in February of 1915 at the age of 19. He left Australia on A40 “Ceramic” for training in Egypt.

He was a carpenter by trade; was promoted to Lance Corporal in February of 1916, one year after his enlistment. He was K.I.A. 5th May, 1917. His “effects” of tobacco pouch, 4 badges, 2 testaments, 2 buttons, letters and cards were sent to his father. A newspaper item headed “KILLED IN ACTION. A Jiliby Lad” described Arthur as the youngest of three sons, all of whom served at the front. There is no known grave for Arthur Oliver Denton. His name is commemorated on the Australian National Memorial, Villiers-Bretonneux, France. One of the witnesses to his death stated “we could not have had a better chap as Corporal he was so kind to us”. He was described as a tall, broad, stout man, very active with no nickname.

WILLIAM GREGORY FARGIE of Gosford was 29 years old at the time of his enlistment at the Gosford Showground in June of 1916. William was a single man who worked as a brass dresser in civilian life. He served with the 54th Infantry Battalion having left Sydney on the A11 “Ascanius”. William Fargie was K.I.A. on 15th June, 1917.



SAMUEL GARTON was a 39 year old fisherman at the time of his enlistment. His next of kin was a brother whose address was Hawkesbury River, Mooney Creek. He was reported K.I.A. 3rd May, 1917. A Court of Enquiry was held 4th December, 1917. Commemoration details are on the Australian National Memorial, Villiers-Bretonneux, France.

FRANCIS GELL was born in Gosford and was 26, married and employed as a horse driver at the time of his enlistment in March of 1916. He embarked from Sydney in August of 1916 on board A18 “Wiltshire”, disembarking at Plymouth 13th October, 1916. He received training in England before proceeding overseas to France in January of 1917.

Francis Gell was K.I.A on 11th May, 1917.
Francis left a widow and two children.

A pension was paid for the wife and each of the children.....2 Pounds per fortnight for the wife, 1 Pound for the daughter and 15/- for the youngest child, a son.

The Gosford Times, 25th July, 1918 reported on donations made by many locals of the Woy Woy area for The Gell Fund.

Several death notices appeared:-

GOSFORD TIMES 7 JUN 1917

Private Frank GELL.



On Thursday last the sad news was received by cable that Private Frank Gell, eldest son of Mrs. William Gell, of Gosford, had been killed in action in France. Deceased soldier was born at Wamberal 27 years ago, and enlisted in January 1916 with the 19th Reinforcements, 1st Battalion. After a couple of months at the Salisbury Plains camp in England, he was sent across to France, where, with many other noble young Australians he met a soldier's death. He was married to Miss Hall, daughter of Mr. Thomas Hall, of Gosford, and leaves a widow and two young children. Deep sympathy is expressed for the bereaved ones.

Other examples include the following:-

Private Frank Gell, aged 27 years, eldest son of Mrs. Gell, Gosford, has been killed in France. He was employed by Messrs. Simpsons and Graham, Parramatta. He leaves a widow and two children. A younger brother Sapper Lloyd Gell is serving in Palestine.

Mrs. F Gell, Harris Park, has received word that her husband, Private F Gell, has been killed in action in France, May 6-8, 1917. He sailed in August last year. His brother is with the forces in Egypt. The young soldier leaves a wife and two children.

GELL:-Killed in action in France between the 5th and 8th May 1917, Frank, dearly loved eldest son of the late William Gell and Elizabeth Gell, of Frederick Street, Gosford. Aged 27 years

TOM MACKLEY was a 24 year old tram conductor at the time of his enlistment 28th May, 1915. He was sent to Alexandria for training and before going with the 1st Battalion to Gallipoli. Tom was awarded a Military Medal for "Conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty" while serving with the Australian force. This award appeared in the London Gazette of 16th November, 1916. Tom had been suffering from bronchitis and had only rejoined the day before he was killed.

Tom was K.I.A on 11th May, 1917. Private Tom Mackley had been “an old Spencer boy”.

Several notices were inserted in newspapers following Tom’s death. “A good son, staunch comrade and a man respected by all”; “He died that we might live”; “Greater love hath no man than to lay down his life for his friends”.

A precious one from us has gone.
A voice we loved is stilled.
A place is vacant in our heart.
That never can be filled.

Inserted by his broken-hearted mother, brothers and sisters

ALFRED DUNLEAVY NESBITT was 18 years old, 5 feet 2 inches in height and a glassblower when he enlisted at Casula, 8th December, 1915. His mother gave permission in a letter to confirm that he had turned 18. Alfred joined the 19th Battalion. In June of 1916 Alfred had been evacuated to London, dangerously ill with appendicitis and early in 1917 was again ill with bronchitis.

K.I.A. 2nd May, 1917. Interred at Vraucourt Copse British Cemetery

From a newspaper Killed in Action column

Private Alfred Dunleavy Nesbitt, who for some years worked for Mrs. S Dermody, at the Boys’ Home, was killed in action in France, May 2, 1917, aged 18 years.

In his work he was most careful, thorough and persevering, no task appearing too difficult to his confident nature. He enlisted in in Sydney and sailed shortly afterwards, but was detained in England, having to undergo two operations which laid him up for 7 months. Within a very short time of leaving hospital, he paid the supreme penalty “somewhere in France.”

Roll of Honour

NESBITT-Private Alfred Dunleavy Nesbitt killed in action in France, May 2, 1917. Aged 18 years.

“Though not my own, to me as near
Was he whose memory I hold dear”

Inserted by Mrs. E. Dermody, Boys’ Home, Gosford

ALBERT VICTOR SINGLETON lived at Wisemans Ferry, Hawkesbury River. He was 21 years old when he enlisted and was employed as a farm hand at Sackville Reach, Hawkesbury River. Albert embarked with the 13th Battalion from Sydney on the “Port Nicholson”, 8th October, 1916, before proceeding on to France.

Albert was reported as Missing in Action for some time before an enquiry established his death. The Base Records Office contacted people who had received letters from him in an effort to establish evidence of his whereabouts. Albert was K.I.A on 11th April, 1917.

Following his death his “effects” were returned to his father. Those “effects” were an identity disc and 2 razors.

VALENTINE MONTGOMERY STARKEY joined the 19th Regiment of the 4th Battalion on 28th January, 1916 at age 21. He was a surveyor’s chainman prior to enlistment and was living at Mangrove, Hawkesbury River. Valentine embarked on the A18 “Wiltshire” 22nd August, 1916 and first saw active service in France in December of 1916.

Valentine Starkey was K.I.A. 8th May, 1917.

The Will of Valentine Starkey revealed him as an orchardist whose Will was prepared while a member of the AIF. He bequeathed his property to his sister and appointed his brother-in-law as the Executor of the will.

A newspaper Memorial notice appeared...

STARKEY- in sad but loving memory of our dear brother, Val, who was killed whilst fighting for King and Country in Bullecourt, France, May 8th, 1917.

We pictured his safe returning,
We longed to clasp his hand;
But God has postponed our meeting,
Till we meet in a better land.
In a hero grave he’s sleeping.
Inserted by his loving brother and sister-in-law,
Herb and Gladys

HERBERT KEITH SOWELL joined the AIF on 1st February, 1916. He was initially given the rank of 2nd Lieutenant at the age of 22. In civilian life he had been a motor engineer. His father was deceased at the time of his enlistment. Herbert embarked on the A14 Euripides on September 9, 1916 and disembarked at Plymouth October 26, 1916. He received training at Officers School of Instruction at Tidworth before proceeding overseas to France in March, 1917, where he joined the 18th Battalion.

Lieutenant Herbert Sowell was K.I.A. 8th May, 1917.

Following his death his possessions were returned to his mother.

Ex. C.S.A. 23.5.17.

ONE VALISE (sealed)

Wallet, Certificate, 2 Coins, 2 Stars, Unit Colours, Snapshots, Diary, New Testament, Military Books, Mirror, Money Belt, Pr. Puttees, Whistle, 1 Primus Stove, Thermos Flask, 2 Brushes, Compass in Case, Cap, Watch & Chain (damaged), 3 Handkerchiefs, Steel Mirror, Pyjama Suit, Shirt, Air Pillow, 1 Pr. Bed Stockings, 1 "Sam Browne" Belt, S.D. Tunic, Pr. Breeches, Raincoat, Rug.

This man had many possessions and a crate was returned containing unusual items.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Ex Kit Store 24.4.18.

ONE CASE (SEALED) containing :-

1 Zenith Motor Cycle (damaged), 1 Head Light, 1 Generator, 1 Speedometer, (damaged), 2 Pieces of Driving Belt, 1 Wheel, Mudguard, 2 Connecting Rods belonging to Side Car, 1 Tool Bag, 1 Tube.

Shipped per "Barunga" 20.6.18.

While service records provide considerable information about the service life of our soldiers, it is the obituaries and articles complete the life story of so many men.

Lieut. Keith Sowell.

Lieutenant Herbert Keith Sowell, who fell in France on 3rd May was the younger son of Mrs. Sowell, Guilford, and grandson of the late Rev. C. R. Sowell, B.A., St. Goran, Cornwall. About six years ago he was engaged for a time on the Gosford TIMES staff. At the introduction of compulsory training he was immediately appointed Color-Sergeant, and being moved up with the first draft to the militia was appointed Sergeant. In 1913 he was commissioned provisional 2nd Lieutenant, and subsequently 2nd Lieutenant, Provisional Lieutenant and Lieutenant. Afterwards he became Signalling Officer to the 20th Paramatta Infantry, and then O.C. D Company of the same Battalion. He enlisted soon after the commencement of the war, and was for nearly two years detained in the Liverpool and Cootamundra training depots. He left Sydney in command of reinforcements in September last. His self-sacrificing nature and regard for duty won the personal esteem of all with whom he came in contact. His cousin, 2nd Lieut. Donald Sowell (Devonshire Light Infantry), only son of Rev. R. H. Sowell, M.A., Truro, Cornwall, was also recently killed on the Somme.

FREDERICK STUART aged 27 was a motor launch driver and crewman before his enlistment at Liverpool on 20th September, 1915. He had attended Woy Woy Public School. His mother's address was given as Brick Wharf Road, Woy Woy.

Private Frederick embarked from Sydney on HMAT Mooltan on December 1915. Sickness was to plague Frederick as he was admitted to hospital in March of 1916 with Influenza. Frederick was to be evacuated to England in December of 1916 because he was suffering from Trench Feet. Mumps in February of 1917 saw another hospital admission.

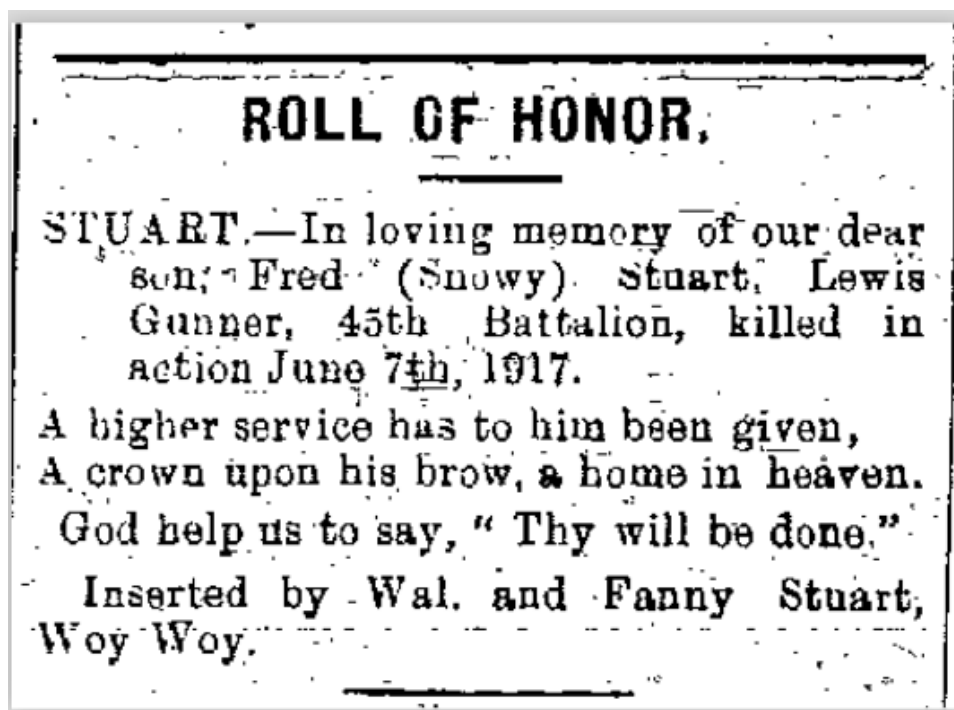
Private Frederick Stuart was K.I.A. 7th June, 1917.

A local obituary referred to Fred Stuart as a popular, prominent lightweight boxer reared in Woy Woy.

The Sydney Morning Herald published a Death notice in August of 1914

Inserted by his parents, his sister Leila, and brothers Bert and Walter (on active service).

Fred's parents inserted a notice in a ROLL OF HONOUR column.



Compiled by Bennie CAMPBELL Member 901

TROVE TO THE RESCUE.

If one is unable to find a record of death, an alternative source could be the Coroner's Records. I took this course of action after searching the NSW BDM records without success in finding a definite match for the record of death to my ancestor, John Noonan (convict on the Larkin).

For many years, I wondered if the John Noonan appearing in the Coroner's inquest dated 3rd September 1842 was my ancestor. There being a number of John Noonan (Nunan) names in the colony at that time, I could never be certain if this John Noonan was my ancestor who resided in the Monaro area at the time of the 1841 Census.

Then last year a fellow researcher found this article in the SMH dated 6th September 1842, page 2.

John Nunan, a blacksmith, residing at Bungalore Gap, was drowned on the night of the 1st instant. He had been on a visit to a neighbour, and was returning after night; the road on which he had to go being very difficult to find, and his horse being stubborn, it is supposed he backed into a water-hole, where both master and horse were found drowned by the deceased's two sons, who, on account of their father not coming home at the time expected, went in search with a lanthorn, and found the cart upset in a water-hole. Deceased is said to have been a very steady man, and will be much missed, from his obliging disposition.

So, don't despair of ever finding that elusive record, after all I have waited since the early 1980s.

Pam WILLIAMS Member 52L.

Pt Frederick: CAIN family and SMITH families

My grandmother Margaret Smith, b 20 August 1882 was the daughter of John Smith and Margaret nee Cain. Margaret in turn married William ROGERS of Mona Vale, Frederick Street, East Gosford January 1906. Margaret and William are my grandparents.

William Nicholas CAIN (1831–18 July 1893)(Ref. NSW BDM #6272)

His death certificate states he was born in Newcastle on Tyne and had been 43 years in NSW, which tallies with the information that he arrived in Sydney from Port Phillip Bay 17 January 1849, as a steerage passenger on the brig *Christina* (State Archives COD 63).

He married **Maria COBDEN** at St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney 21 January 1854, he a Roman Catholic and she a Protestant. They must have travelled very soon after to the Victorian Goldfields as 2 children were born there. The eldest is Margaret CAIN, later Mrs John SMITH, also buried at Pt. Frederick (and my great grandmother). Her obituary said born at Eaglehawk, but the VIC records have no record of these 2 births. A son Charles was born in 1857 and the subsequent 8 children were born in the Brisbane Water District.

Various snippets from local newspapers mention him as working as a shell gatherer in Woy Woy. Between 1873 and 1876, he was the licensee of the Miners Inn in George St, East Gosford and he won the tender for the weekly mail run to Kincumber in 1881, taking it over from Coulter.

In *Agnes Fagan's Diary 1885* (Gosford Local Study Group 1991), he is referred to as the local inspector of fisheries. To quote:

Net fishing, however, will according to Mr. W.N. Cain, the local inspector of fisheries, have to be stopped and the Broadwater temporarily closed. This will have to be done in the interest of future fisherman as the breeding is now seriously interfered with by injudicious fishermen.

His Deceased Estate file refers to him as a Fisheries Inspector. His Estate was valued at £237, most of which in the block of land he owned at the corner of Wells and Melbourne Streets, East Gosford.

Maria CAIN (nee COBDEN) (c. 1834–22 August 1916 (Ref NSW BDM #10545)

She arrived per the *Wilson Kennedy*, 27 December 1852 (Reels 2136, 2463), a single female aged 19, a general servant, from Middlesex, probably Walworth. Her parents were John and Miriam. She had no relatives in the colony, was in good health and could read and write. She paid £1 pound for her passage.

She died 22 August 1916. Her death notice in the *Gosford Times* 25 August 1916 noted her death at Redfern and that her remains were brought to Gosford to be interred at Pt Frederick. At the time of her death 5 of her children were still alive and 5 had died.

The connection with the SMITH family of Stonehurst near the Punt Bridge at East Gosford.



Stonehurst East Gosford photo c.2017

Margaret SMITH (nee CAIN) c. 1856–6 July 1901 (NSW BDM #9300)

She was the eldest daughter of William and Margaret CAIN and was born at Eaglehawk near Bendigo on the goldfields. There appears to be no record of that event, which is not surprising because of the chaos of the time) but the fact is confirmed in her obituary. (*Gosford Times* 12 July 1901).

She grew up in East Gosford and married **John SMITH** (c. 1850–26 February 1908) junior, son of another **John SMITH**, also a butcher (1817–11 February 1892).

The marriage took place 18 October 1875 (NSW BDM #2128) at Christ Church East Gosford and they had 11 children. He and his father kept the cattle behind *Stonehurst* (more or less where Hylton Moore playing fields are now) and killed the cattle near Erina Creek. All the boys were trained as butchers though only one continued as an adult. Margaret died 6 July 1901. Her headstone reads:

*Farewell, my husband dear, farewell
Adieu to Thee, Adieu
And you my dearly loved ones all,
Farewell, farewell to you,
Though I am gone and you are left,
To tread this vale alone
I'll hope to meet again in heaven.*

John Smith remarried 15 months later to Louise Hillas SPEARS, the widow of the licensee of the Union Hotel and thus he became its licensee. He died 26 February 1908 but, unlike other members of his family, is buried at Brady's Gully where Louise's first husband is buried.

John SMITH (1817–11 February 1892) (Ref NSW BDM #5542) (*NB. This date is wrongly recorded in the Combined Central Coast Cemetery Index as 1872*)

He was born c. 1817 in Oving, Buckinghamshire (parents George and Anne) and married Elizabeth **LLOYD** (born c. 1821 in Oving (parents Jeremiah **LLOYD** and Selina **PARROTT**) 27 March 1843. (I have a copy of the marriage certificate). They arrived in Sydney 30 March 1855 per the *Lord Hungerford* (Reels 2137, 2470). Their 2 sons were Thomas aged 11 and John 4. He was employed as a butcher for Mr Nunn (an early landowner).

In May 1869, he purchased 4 parcels of land from the insolvent estate of Samuel Peek, much of it swampy and built *Stonehurst* (now heritage listed) on part of it. He died intestate. The deceased estate file shows that his property was valued at £200, 4.5 acres with frontages to George and Russell Streets.

It is noteworthy that his headstone shows his age correctly — 73, yet his death certificate and the information on the obelisk at the cemetery shows his age as 59 — patently incorrect given the information on his marriage certificate and the shipping records. (Some people can't read or add up!)

Elizabeth SMITH (nee LLOYD) c. 1821–22 July 1899) (Ref NSW BDM #9293)

Wife of the above John SMITH. Her only surviving child was John SMITH junior. A boy and girl died in Oving and her eldest son, Thomas Lewis, died shortly after they arrived in Gosford. (See next). (Her BURIAL is not cited in the Cemeteries index, though the death certificate records her burial at Pt Frederick.)

Thomas Lewis SMITH (1843–21 January 1856)

Thomas was born 1843 in Oving Bucks and arrived with his parents John and Elizabeth SMITH per the *Lord Hungerford*, 30 March 1855. The details of his death are recorded in *Reverend Glennie's Journals 1855–1869*), page 54. He referred to his death aged 12 at Wyoming thus:

That afternoon (January 21 1856) a melancholy accident occurred which caused the death of a little boy, son of Smith. Mr Nunn's butcher. He was sitting on a bullock dray when it was overturned and killed him on the spot. On Tuesday morning I went up to see the poor parents, with a view of trying to lead them in the true sense of consolation under their heavy affliction, and found them deeply afflicted, and fear there is in them but a small portion of that truly religious spirit, so requisite to make them resigned to the chastening Law of God. I read, and prayed with them, and then, after visiting Mrs Nunn, returned and went down to the burial ground to give directions about the grave. The funeral took place on Thursday I was writing all morning. Towards evening, I went up to visit the Smiths again on Wednesday about noon.

(It is hardly surprising that they were not resigned to the 'chastening Law of God', given they had left their family to come to Australia and had been only 10 months here. He was 12 and of an age when boys at the time were expected to work.

Judy GIFFORD Member 333, a direct descendant of these families.

HEIRLOOMS AND KEEPSAKES

The literal meaning of an heirloom is something, such as an antique, piece of furniture or jewellery that has been passed on through the generations. Heirlooms are possessions we value dearly, not necessarily in terms of monetary value but certainly in sentimental value.

As you will recognize, part of the word heirloom includes the work “heir” which implies a person’s entitlement to receive the property on the death of another. We cherish these items because of their link to the past.

In some ways, heirlooms are a bit of a lottery. People may determine via their Will or a letter, who will receive certain possessions. Other families sort out heirloom possessions as they do all other possessions. It is never too late to organize what you determine to be your heirlooms. Consider creating an “Heirloom Register” for your family. This could be for an individual family or it could be an extended family register. In this way family members have a point of reference as to who has what and where it is. Include in your register a photograph if possible, a description of the item, and its’ provenance.

Potential heirloom items might include a recipe book, scrap book, dishes or ornaments, souvenirs, letters, diaries, dolls, needlework, books, magazines, jewellery. If possible have a written page for such items to explain the significance or history of the item. This could be kept with your register.

We would like to include “Heirloom” articles in the Muster this year and so to begin with, in this edition, we have asked Committee members to submit an item and story. We hope you will enjoy this feature and submit items of your own.

KEEPSAKES FROM MUM AND DAD

Many of my family's heirlooms were left behind when my parents emigrated to Australia in 1982.

However 2 very prized possessions that made the cut were my mother's plait that she had as a child/teenager. I think she would be about 14 in the photo and still has her hair in what appear to be bunches.



My father was an apprentice toolmaker and I am now the owner of his toolmaker's tool chest. Dad was born in 1922 so probably started his apprenticeship about 1937. Sadly not many tools have survived but nevertheless I am pleased to be able to pass it down to one of my 3 sons.

Trish MICHAEL Member 1163

Unusual Keepsake

Frank Edward McHugh

During his time in the 2nd AIF in Papua/New Guinea my father had something made for his wife, my mother.

It was this small ring which to all intents and purposes looks like a child's plastic ring which might be found in a packet of Corn Flakes.



It is actually made from the Perspex windscreen of a downed plane (possibly a Japanese one)

The top shows his regiment colours, the same as those on his uniform patches

This ring was called by the men who made them a

A Sweetheart Ring.

It was found amongst my brother's possessions when he died and was almost thrown away as rubbish when his eldest son stopped us. He knew exactly what it was and so it is now in my possession in a special box with a description so there is no chance of it being thrown out again by accident.

Kay RAWNSLEY Member 874L



My father in 1942.

Family Treasures

Many hand-me-down objects become family treasures for many different reasons. I have great uncle Fred's only surviving letter from WW1. When Boyce grandparents moved from Walcha to their own property at Duncans Creek, a first purchase was a water tank. This was the first item recorded in the new cheque book. Grandma's cream delivery docket to Tamworth butter factory, which record the hard working daughters who ran the dairy, are also treasured family history items.

Each day I am reminded of those dairy times, and the importance of this handmade stool, made from hard wood timber grown, cut and shaped by hand tools. Note the unique design - double reinforced edges, legs set to ensure a balanced seat and sunken through the inches of rigid frame work. The whole item so sturdy to ensure it remains in an always upright position, the seat height set at a height for sitting and rising easily.



These were important qualities for a stool used constantly in the cow bails at milking time. It was just the correct height too for sitting with milk bucket between knees pressed close to that friendly cow chewing hay as its morning treat. I can still hear that sharp sound made by each stream of milk, as Aunt Marjorie began the rhythmic hand milking process left, right, left ring, and milk hit the metal bucket. Then soon the softer rhythmic sounds as the bucket began to fill with warm creamy milk.

Stool design was critical. Originally it was painted in a reddish brown stain sort of paint but repainted white later by a granddaughter to fit the 1950s colour scheme.

Whenever I need that extra height to reach into a tall cupboard, or step up to fix a picture that stool turns into a mini ladder. No other metal ladder feels so safe.

Today that more than a century old stool has become a safe, practical, used every day household treasure. It would never to be valued on the Antiques Road Show, but rather is an item with treasured family memories of past generation.

Marlene DAVIDSON Member 327L

The Keepsake Watch



On my desk, near my computer, lies a very incomplete Royal Albert watch.

It is just the back and the glass frame with the makers name on a white card disk pressed into the inside of the watch back. The makers name was W C DAVIES, of Mountain Ash Glamorgan. One of my Gt 2 grandfathers, John Webb ATKINS died at Mountain Ash in 1882.

A question I should have asked but didn't is why did my parents bring this with them to Australia back in 1971? Pretty sure Dad didn't know his great grandfathers name. He couldn't remember his grandmother (J WATKINS daughters name) when I asked him some 25 years ago. To him her name was Gran.

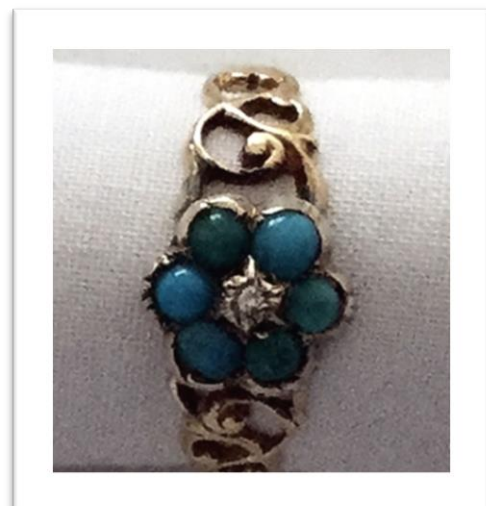
Margaret MORTERS Member 406

THE VICTORIAN TURQUOISE RING.

This story begins with my g-g-grandfather, Alexander McCorquodale, born in Gourock, Renfrewshire, Scotland in 1840. Alexander's father was a baker with a big business of five ovens. The McCorquodale family had previous connections with baking and the flour trade. Alexander had two brothers and three sisters, none of whom married. Alexander had begun his working life with Cunard, the shipping company. This led him to entering into flour sales which took him to the USA. However this was at the time of the outbreak of the American Civil War. Alexander had previous army experience with the 1st Lanarkshire Rifle Volunteers which enabled him to be readily accepted as a training officer. In this role his duty was to instruct the original Scottish battalion, which fought right through the Civil War. After the war, Alexander returned to Glasgow and engaged in commercial life.

On a second journey to the USA, Alexander was sent to St. Johns, Newfoundland and there he met another Scot, Mary Wright from Port Patrick who was staying with her uncle. He was immediately smitten with Mary but she was engaged to someone else. However, Alexander was not deterred and proceeded to woo Mary with the result that six weeks later she agreed to marry Alexander. October 7, 1865 was to be the celebration of their marriage at St. Johns, Newfoundland.

For their honeymoon they journeyed in a small brigantine to Brazil. The Captain, who had been best man at their wedding, was an old friend. On the return journey to Britain the vessel caught fire and was burnt to the water's edge. They were forced to take to the lifeboats, and were fortunate to be picked up by a passing ship, which returned them to Glasgow. They arrived in borrowed clothes, without a penny between them to start married life. However, Mary's engagement ring survived this drama and it is now enjoyed by the eldest daughter of the descendants of Mary Wright. I have the ring at this time and it will go to my daughter Mary-Ann, and then on to her daughter, Caitlin. Within our family this is one of the family heirlooms which fascinates us with its' charming and romantic history.



Following his marriage and return to Scotland, Alexander then joined one of the leading flour milling firms in Scotland where he remained for 21 years rising to the position of general manager. In 1886 the mill was burnt to the ground and it was decided not to rebuild. With that decision Alexander and his son Duncan went to New Zealand. By 1883 he had reared a family of five sons and one daughter. The family had settled in Auckland. With considerable success in New Zealand it was decided in 1896 to look for a site in Sydney and establish a new mill there. This was the beginning of McCorquodale Bros "Torquil Flour Mill" in Sussex Street, Sydney.

Sue BRECKENRIDGE Member1561

A FAMILY HEIRLOOM

An object that is a significant heirloom in our family is a copper cooking pot from Denmark. It has been in our possession since 1985 when my husband's parents passed away. It was something of his family that he brought back from Denmark after their estate was sorted out among the family.



The pot is a very well-worn item. It is 25 cm wide, 10cm deep and has a 22cm handle with a hole in the end so it can be hung up in the kitchen near the stove.



The bowl of the pot is copper lined with tin and the handle is pure copper with a seam running along the top where the copper has been folded and beaten flat and smooth.



While examining the pot, I found a stamp of three towers and a date of 1796 on the handle that I further researched and found to be an Assay Mark. The Three Towers denotes the item was made in Copenhagen and the date underneath the mark of 1796 is when it was made.. The Three Towers is the Coat of Arms of Copenhagen granted to the city by King Frederick the Third in 1661.



The pot is known to have been passed down through the family on my mother in law's line from her great, great grandmother Ingeborg FREDERIKSEN who was born in 1842 in Denmark. There is nothing known about when the cooking pot originated or who was the first owner.

It has become an important object in our family as my husband migrated to Australia from Denmark in 1968 bringing only his personal possessions This is a substantial item that links the generations between two countries and especially the women who would have used this pot. It signifies the family gatherings that would have taken place; the food that was cooked in it and shared at the end of a day

For our family history it is a connection between two cultures and a significant piece that binds the past with the present. It is also significant because it is part of my husband's identity. It is a reminder of the family he left in Denmark and it also links our children and grandchildren with their Danish heritage. The fact that the pot has been repaired and looked after is also part of my husband's upbringing of looking after items and repairing when able to instead of replacing with something new. The pot provides an opportunity for our children to talk about family history when questions are asked about its origins.

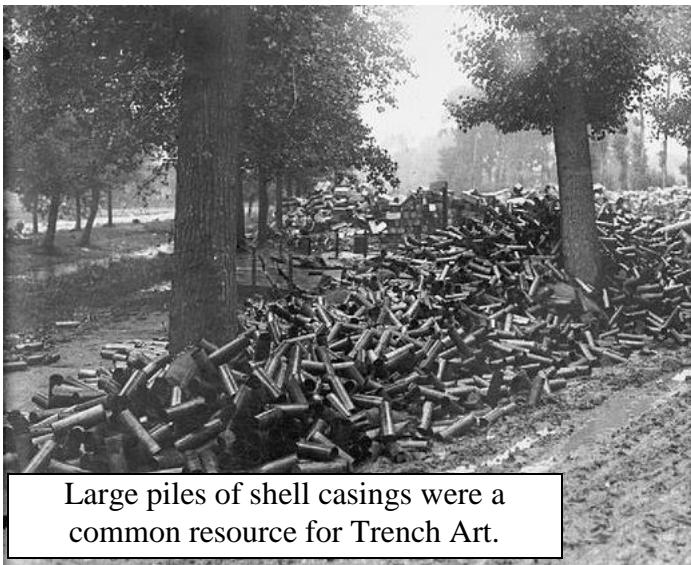
Margaret ERTNER Member 1252L



TRENCH ART

Trench art refers to decorative items made by soldiers, be they prisoners of war or civilians.

Historically, trench art dates from the Napoleonic wars to present day. Objects were made from the debris of war. The artwork gives us an insight into the circumstances, the materials that were available, and emotions and memories about war. The art work may take many different forms but probably the most popular were items made from bullet shells and casings which were available in huge quantities.



Large piles of shell casings were a common resource for Trench Art.

Trench art can be categorised according to the circumstances under which it was created. Soldiers made items in the trenches using regimental buttons and pouring molten lead from shrapnel balls resulting in an impression of the crest.

Carvings into the chalky rock outcrops around the dug-outs were photographed or drawn, then made

into souvenir postcards confirming a soldier's existence in a battle zone. Wounded soldiers were encouraged to do craftwork as a therapy. Prisoners of war and internees had endless time to test their creative talents despite their very limited resources. Some POW work was done with the intention of trading the finished article for food, money or privileges.

Civilians in and around the conflict zones made items to be sent "home" as gifts or souvenirs. The Belgians were renowned for embroidery and painted designs elaborated with dates and flags. The French developed a cottage industry with embroidered post cards. Often the cards had regimental or patriotic flags and symbols. When the war ended civilians began to reclaim their shattered lives, and a new market appeared in the form of pilgrims and tourism.

Discarded shell casings and equipment were recycled to provide town crests being stuck onto bullets, casings, fuse caps or anything that could be sold to tourists. Souvenirs of downed planes were readily available. Civilians were able to make a living in war torn areas by using the rubbish of war as a resource in the creation of Trench Art.

Purely commercial production also developed with governments selling and converting surplus materials. Ship breaking resulted in much wood from the ships being converted into such items as miniature barrels, letter wracks, boxes etc. Small brass plaques would authenticate the origins of the timber e.g. "Made from teak from HMS EYS whose guns relieved the" Lady Smith" in the Battle of Jutland.

DINNER GONG

My Dad was a mechanical engineer in World War 2; he would fix trucks, cars, jeeps anything with an engine.

He made my mother a dinner gong from scraps which were shell casings from a wheel gun and the end of the striker was a knob made from a choke cable.

It has been my pride and joy ever since Dad gave it to me.

Wendy CONDON Member 838L



The Rising Sun

My Grandfather, Cecil Joseph Robert Miles, born at Tumbi Umbi on 17th July 1901 served in the AIF in Palestine in WWII. He was a Mason and a very talented potter, leatherworker and craftsman. Along with many other items he made, I treasure a beautifully carved brooch made from the inner lining of a

seashell, in the image of the insignia which adorned his military slouch hat. He has fashioned it carefully, carving the design from the original badge faithfully. It is an amazing likeness and can easily be worn as costume jewellery. **Heather YATES Member 675**

WORLD WAR 1 SWEETHEART JEWELLERY

During World War 1, young soldiers, facing unknown horrors, found the exchange of letters and keepsakes very important to them. In this way the tradition of sending "sweetheart" jewellery back home to girlfriends, wives, sisters and mothers began.



Mosaic
Brooch.



Gold Medal Fob.



Boomerang Brooch. *I go to return.*

For the recipients who wore them with pride, it was a tangible link with their loved ones.

In the community so much of this type of jewellery was visible symbolizing the patriotism, pride, support and affection for those serving at war.

Gold and silver medals were popular as a fob on watch chains. As times passed, many of those medals were converted to brooches or worn on necklace chains.

Jewellery of this time could also be described as “Farewell and Welcome Home” jewellery. This term applied more to jewellery that was presented to departing soldiers by their local shire councils at ceremonies or public occasions.

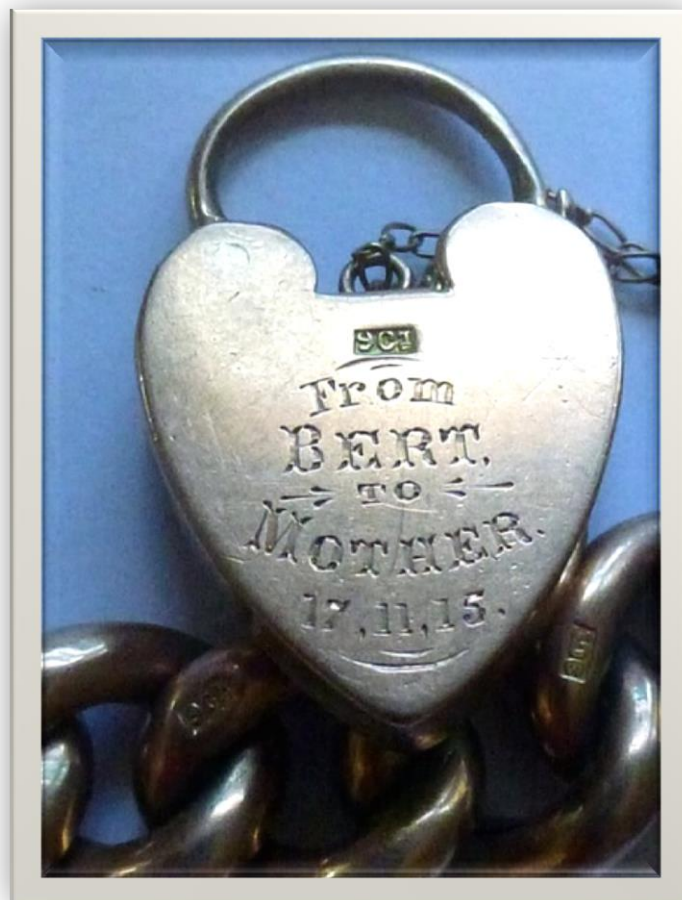


Gold link “day and night” bracelets with a heart shaped padlock and safety chain were “de rigueur” for late Victorian and Edwardian ladies.



“In memory of dear Dad”.
30.9.1913.

World War 1 saw many of these given as gifts with personally inscribed messages engraved on the back of the padlock. Now these are highly prized antiques and were very popular some years ago. The genuine articles will have each link inscribed and the link may be tubular or solid rose or yellow gold.



Sue BRECKENRIDGE
Member1561

A Reminiscence from a Member of CCFHS.

Elsie Skiller (nee Robinson) 31.7.1889–1 April 1988

I was always very fond of my maternal grandmother and saw a lot of her while I was growing up and afterwards, of course, as she lived to the age of 98. She was born in Balmain, one of 6 and helped raise her younger brothers after their mother died.

She had a limited education as was the case for working class girls of that era. One of her younger brothers was George ROBINSON ('Wee Georgie'), famous for his exploits sailing 18 footers on Sydney Harbour. She married George SKILLER on 12.12.1912, had one son John George (Uncle Jack to us) born 18.9.1913 and a daughter (my mother) Lorraine (Lod) born 8.10.1916.

In 1917, as a result of the general strike they moved to Kincumber at the suggestion of her half-sister May SMITH and began farming on Cullens Rd, Kincumber. Jack left home after the Leaving Certificate and worked all his life for the Land Titles Office in Sydney, ending up as the Deputy Registrar General. He never married.

Every week she wrote to him, even though he rang her as well. When I was helping sort out his belongings before he moved into hostel accommodation at the War Veterans at Narrabeen, in 2001, I found a stash of the letters she had written him — at least 300 is my guess. Despite his unwillingness to throw out what I considered was junk, his first instinct when we found these letters was to throw them out. I refused and took them home with me and have kept them in a cupboard for over 15 years. My aim now is to re-read them and summarise bits of them, as they are a real snapshot of a very simple loving mother and grandmother.

My parents, William and Lorraine ROGERS, lived in Frederick Street East Gosford after their marriage, a stone's throw from where the CCFHS cottage now stands.



I am the eldest and have 2 brothers John and Derek. They used to drive their little black 1946 Ford Anglia from Cullens Rd each Friday after an early lunch into Gosford to do their weekly shop and would call in on us on their way home for afternoon tea.

They also followed us in our various sporting exploits — tennis, cricket and football — and were very keen that we got the education that they were denied.

The first letter I have found is dated 15 June 1961 and I will type in full, as is:

Dear Jack,

I hope this finds all well at your place.

It has been a lovely day today also yesterday a change from the weekend wasn't it a terrible holiday weekend. To make matters worse as soon as it started to rain last week the grader did the road. It was just a sea of mud on Friday and Saturday when we went to Gosford the car was going sideways. He did not fill the holes so they were full of water. The Family were well when we saw them on Friday. (In 1961, I was at UNE, Armidale, John at Teachers College in Newcastle and Derek in his last year at Gosford High).

Saturday we went to the football. It was a good match and Derek scored all that was scored for Gosford. He is easily the best in the team. As you know, Davidson got hurt and was out for most of the match. They had a good crowd there. I don't think Lod was there. We could see Bill and John on the other side of the ground. They had a tennis tournament at Vaughan Park. Lod would be busy over there. Saturday was the only fine day. It was for 3 days and they had 350 entries so had to have a lot of food ready. It would mean a big loss to the tennis club. I do not know much else. I have not heard from Judy yet and did not see John last weekend.

Doris and Tom Tincknell (Kincumber identities — Doris was a member of the famous FROST family) are back home after their trip to England and Europe. They visited the Isle of Capri and Switzerland. They were away about 6 months.

Well, Jack, I think that will have to do for now as there is nothing to write about. I have not seen Dorothy for a fortnight. She generally knows a bit of gossip (Dorothy LINDSAY who lived opposite them in Cullens Rd and was my mother's childhood friend).



I have been cleaning my gardens with the poppies, stock, ranunculi, anemones and nemesia and cineraria. It was a job as it is very wet and the winter grass is close to the plants. I have most of them clean now.

So hoping this finds you well. Lots of love from Pa and your loving Mum.

14 September 1961 (excerpts)

It is looking like rain here again. We have been getting the weeds out of the beans today and yesterday, it only leaves half a row to do now. The garden looks nice and bright at the moment. The summer fruit is all in blossom except the apples. John is better but has not gone back to college yet.

Derek got the chicken pox on Monday and Judy got it on Monday night. She was going back to Armidale on Tuesday morning. She is not so good but Derek only has a few and is getting round the house. He will have to stay away from school for a fortnight. The trial leaving started today. The (tennis) championships start on Sunday. Did you watch The Merchant of Venice on Channel 2 last night? It was very good we thought. I think the actor who took the part of Shylock was the one who took the part of Governor Macquarie.

How are the birds doing? It seems to rain every night here. The grader has just done the road. He made a very good job of it on our piece. We will see the rest tomorrow.

(My 2 brothers and I all got chicken pox together, we think from another tennis player. John and I were extremely sick and were covered literally everywhere and in all crevices. I can remember Mum helping us get into baths with some lotion to ease the itching. Less than pleasant. It was serious for me as I ended up missing the first 2 weeks of the final term of 3rd Year University, but fortunately I passed with 2 credits, the highest you could get then, to get my BA. Brother Derek was thrilled not to have to sit the trials but less pleased about the prospect of missing playing in the tennis championships. However, by the weekend he was fit enough to play and actually win the event at the age of 16, still the youngest district champion. He was only allowed to play, if he sat in the car between matches!)

21 September 1961

It has been a real summer's day here today; perhaps the spring has started at last. I found it a bit hot doing a bit of gardening. I put in a few runner beans, they might be alright. There are plenty of flowers around and the summer fruit trees look a picture, they have a lot of blossom this year. Pa has not been able to get on the beans this week; it is so wet on the ground.

As you know we went to the tennis on Sunday. It was a nasty day, raining on and off. John was not playing the best at first but improved as he went along. Lod and Derek played alright winning their mixed and Derek won his singles. Derek and John won their doubles. Lod and Mrs Sterland lost their first set but won the next so they have still one to play.

Judy is better and most likely will go back to Armidale tomorrow morning. She will have the weekend to try and catch up a bit. The exams are only 6 weeks away. Derek will go back to school on Monday. There is really nothing the matter with him but he has to stay away 2 weeks. John went back on Sunday night. Derek is playing cricket on Saturday. He is in Gosford's 1st team again. I think John is going to play with Belmont.

Did you see Mr Jarvis' death in the paper? He was 74. John Lindsay was coming home today. He has finished one exam so will not have to go back for a fortnight.

The Gosford Show is on tomorrow.

Judy GIFFORD Member 333

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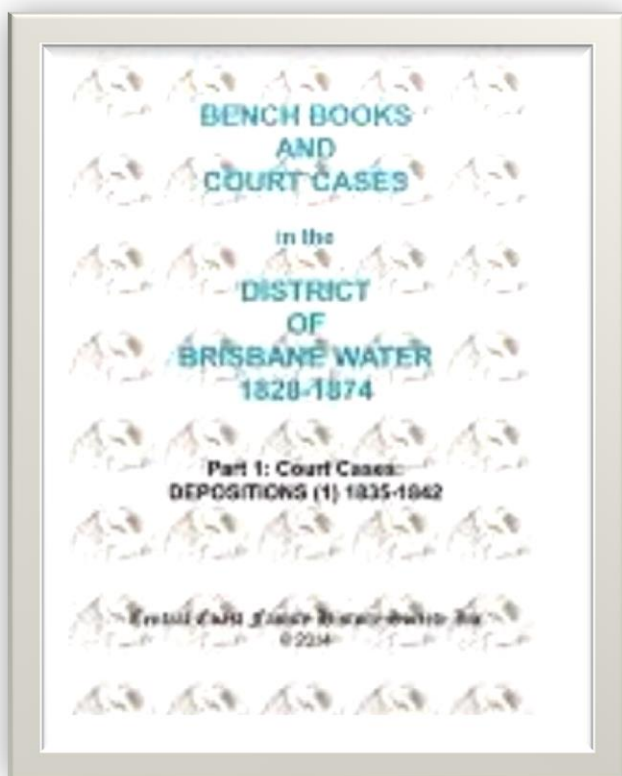
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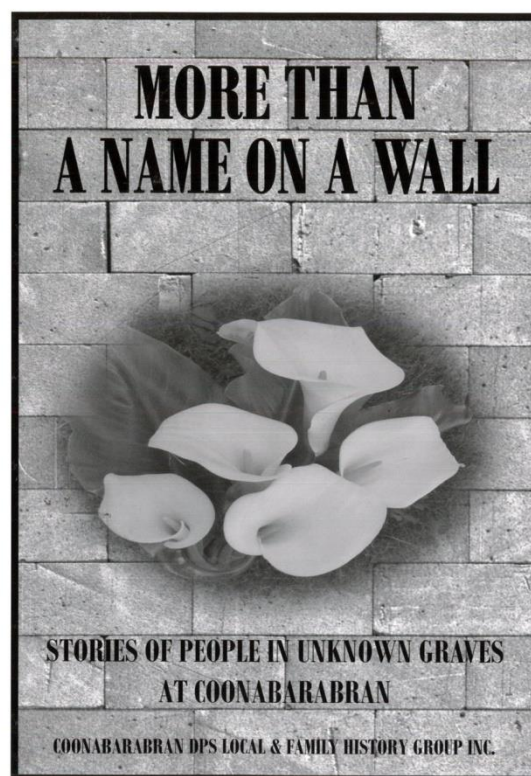
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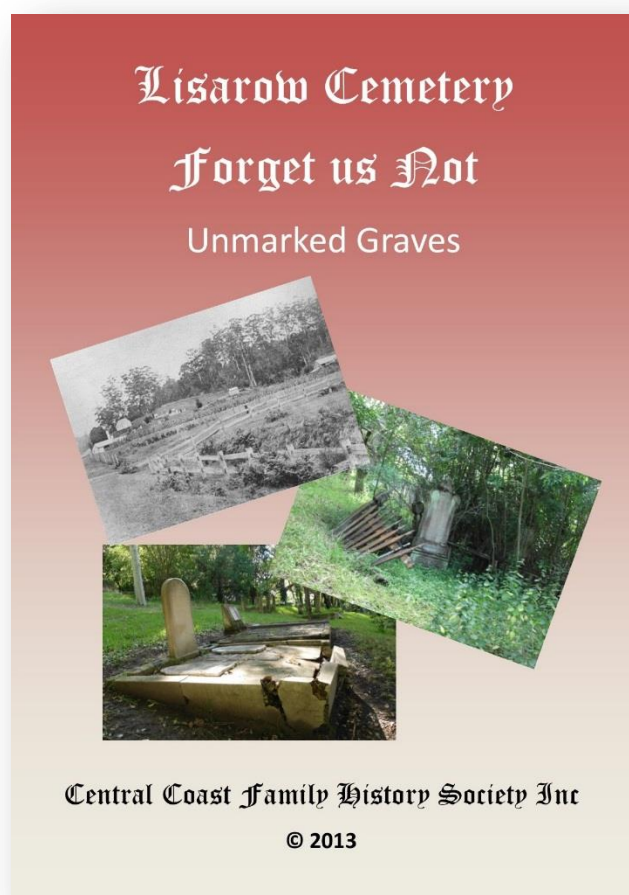
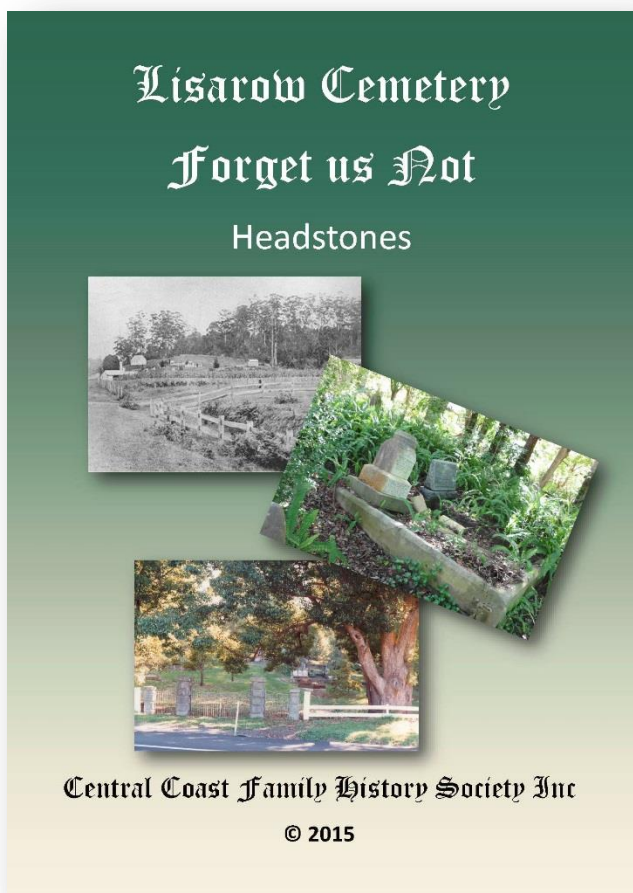
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