

E-MUSTER

Central Coast Family History Society Inc.



August 2021

Issue 30

WAMBERAL BEACH 1950



Gostalgia website <https://www.flickr.com/photos/gostalgia/>

***THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL COAST
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.***

CENTRAL COAST FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

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RESEARCH CENTRE

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Phone: 4324 5164 - Email admin@centralcoastfhs.org.au

Open: Tues to Fri 9.30am-2.00pm;

Thursday evening 6.00pm-9.30pm

First Saturday of the month 9.30am-12noon

Research Centre Closed on Mondays for Administration

MEETINGS

First Saturday of each month from February to November

Commencing at 1.00pm – doors open 12.00 noon

Research Centre opens from 9.30am

Venue: Gosford Lions Community Hall

Rear of 8 Russell Drysdale Street, EAST GOSFORD NSW

THE E-MUSTER

August 2021 – No: 30

The **E- MUSTER** is the Official Journal of the Central Coast Family History Society Inc. **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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All articles to:
admin@centralcoastfhs.org.au

E- MUSTER deadlines are
March 20th
July 20th
November 20th

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to the August 2021 *e-Muster*.

There are currently many other online resources to assist in your research, some of which are outlined in this journal.

Thank you so much to the contributors who have provided articles in this latest issue of the *e-Muster* for our enjoyment and interest. If you have a story you would like to share in our next *e-Muster* please put pen to paper, we would love to hear from you!

Heather Yates- Editor

PRESIDENTS REPORT

It's now the last month of winter and soon we'll be having warmer days and nights and the enjoyment of warming soups and slow cooked meals will be behind us for another year. This winter has unfortunately taken us back again to the dark ages with the onset of Covid 19 locking us up once more. The Cottage has been closed and general meetings have ceased. There have been several interesting guest speakers who have been unable to tell their stories but I have no doubt that soon we'll be back together once more. Hopefully the restrictions will have ended at the end of August but at this stage the outlook is not looking good. Even the big day which was planned in the Lions Community Hall on 11th September for the NSW-ACT Association of Family History Societies conference has been cancelled due to the uncertainty which surrounds us all.

In spite of the lockdown, the committee is functioning well with email and Zoom meetings keeping everyone informed. Committee members are working their way through grant applications and the business relating to keeping the Society working is going on in the background.

At the moment we all have plenty of time on our hands and what better way to brighten your spirits than to sit back and enjoy reading the August edition of the *e-Muster*. Heather Yates has once again compiled a great read with interesting stories and factual information. If you would like to contribute and tell your story, there's still plenty of time for the next edition in December.

Keep safe and enjoy this edition of the *e-Muster*.

Rod Horton
President CCFHS

LATEST NEWS

Due to COVID-19 changes at C.C.F.H.S as follows:-

- **Research Centre:** We are closed at present due to the Greater Sydney Lockdown
- **General Meetings: Postponed until further notice.**

MEMBERSHIP

The Management Committee is entrusted with the appropriate operation of the Society and this includes the health and wellbeing/safety of the members while on the premises and during activities. By law we are required to comply with the directives of the Gov. Medical Authorities during the pandemic.

We are also required to comply with any directives applied by our landlord, Central Coast Council/Properties. Irrespective of what other organisations are doing as to how they may be applying these directives to their circumstances, we have to consider the general age and health of our members and it is with these facts we will continue with our designated Covid-19 action plan until the Committee deems it fit to alter it based on further information being provided to us.

Not to do so, we could be imposed with fines, not just the Society itself but also individuals who are not compliant and none of us can afford that impost. Therefore, we will continue with the appropriate social distancing and restricted use of some of our resources.

Discover SLM: talk series

Every Tuesday, 12pm–12.30pm, free via zoom

Join Sydney Living Museums curatorial team as they discuss their current research in this relaxed online talk series. Each week a different curator will tackle subjects ranging from architecture to cookery.

When & Where

TUESDAY 3 AUGUST 2021 12PM–12.30PM
TUESDAY 10 AUGUST 2021 12PM–12.30PM
TUESDAY 17 AUGUST 2021 12PM–12.30PM
TUESDAY 24 AUGUST 2021 12PM–12.30PM
TUESDAY 31 AUGUST 2021 12PM–12.30PM



REGISTER of QUALIFIED GENEALOGISTS

GENEALOGY AND SOCIAL HISTORY: KNOW YOUR ANCESTORS

A free conference on Zoom

Saturday 25 September 2021

The Register of Qualified Genealogists (RQG) is pleased to announce that our 2021 conference “Genealogy and Social History: Know your Ancestors” will be held online via Zoom on 25 September 2021.

You can now register for this free genealogy and family history conference!

We will also have several short paper presentations based on the abstracts submitted through the call for papers.

This is a great opportunity to come together to share good practice and the latest ideas in genealogy. There will also be a breakout a session for student delegates in the afternoon. We will publish the full conference programme on the RQG website shortly.

There is no charge for the conference, and we look forward to welcoming up to 500 people to join us for the day. We are looking forward to seeing you there. You can register for the conference through Zoom. Please follow the link below.

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_mG3J8F9YSbyEse48ADiwdA

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Please email admin@qualifiedgenealogists.org if you have any questions or need any help with registering.



Female Convicts Research Centre Inc.

A not-for-profit organisation run entirely by volunteers

FCRC Seminar 2022: Sunday, 1 May 2022.

Venue: Hobart Town Hall

Topic: Young female convicts in Van Diemen's Land

Call for papers

Many female convicts were under the age of sixteen. What was their experience of convict life? How did they cope, forcibly separated from their families and everything that was familiar? What was their post-sentence experience?

The next Female Convicts Research Centre seminar will focus on the experiences of young female convicts in Van Diemen's Land. Little research has been done on this aspect of female convict history. If you would like to submit a paper, either about one convict, a group of convicts, or an aspect of the life of young female convicts (including health, work, marriage and motherhood), please send an abstract to submissions@femaleconvicts.org.au by 1 September 2021.

Regards

Dianne Snowden

President

Female Convicts Research Centre Inc



<https://www.rahs.org.au/rahs-news/>

The RAHS website link above will enable you to have many hours of interesting reading and a huge amount of information where there will be sure to be something to grab your attention.

Give it a go!!

Tips and Techniques for Dating Historic Photographs

August 25 @ 11:00 - 13:00

[Online via Zoom](#)

\$32 – \$35

Newcastle University Archivist Gianni Di Gravio OAM will demonstrate the different methods of arranging and dating historic photographs. This session will examine the different methods of arranging and dating photographs adopted by archivists and allied professionals for historical research. The presentation draws on many years of experience working on archival photographic collections relating to Newcastle and its environs in the University's Special Collections (Archives), Auchmuty Library.



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION



A Gold coin donation is gratefully received when attending the Research Centre to assist in offsetting the cost of online subscription sites. A Day Research fee for Non-Members is \$10.

All Saturday workshops will incur a fee of \$10 for members unless otherwise stipulated and must be paid for prior to the day.

OUR MEMBERSHIP FORM is available to download from the website. From the front page click on the ...read more information Tab 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 to the value of \$10.00 and/or a once per year donation of \$10.00 to the Equipment Maintenance Fund.

You can choose to collect the Tickets from the Centre or send in a stamped addressed envelope and we will post them to you.

Next Issue

No. 31 December 2021 E-MUSTER

Deadline for articles for the December edition of the Muster
20th November, 2021.

ARTICLES from our MEMBERS

THE MEMOIRS OF Jeannie Mitchell TAYLOR nee WYPER.



Jeannie Mitchell Wyper b 29 Jan 1908 at Tollcross, Glasgow, Scotland father Isaac, coal miner, mother Elizabeth Robertson a bleach field worker. Isaac arrived in Australia in 1913 followed by Elizabeth and 3 children in 1914. Family lived in areas on the South Coast, NSW and then Leichhardt areas of Sydney. Jeannie was a widow and approx.90 years of age when she wrote these memories. She died in 2008 aged 98.

Jeannie

My name is Jeannie Mitchell Taylor nee Wyper. My father's name was Isaac Wyper and my mother's name was Elizabeth Robertson. I had two sisters: Robina Watson and Elizabeth; and one brother, Robert. This is the story of my life as I remember it.

Part 3.

When I started school at Coledale I was just six years old and, having just arrived from Scotland, I had a very broad Scottish accent. The headmaster loved the way I spoke and when we assembled in the schoolyard he would say, "There's ma wee Jeannie." School was a bit different from today. All children assembled in the playground and we had to salute the flag and sing the National Anthem, then we did exercises and then marched to our classrooms. There were not enough classrooms and some subjects were held in open verandahs.

They were very cold in winter. Bruce, my son, and his wife Ailsa took me back to my school about eight years ago and the school had not changed much since I left it. The main changes were that the verandahs had been closed in and where we played on grass they have laid asphalt, which to me had a very hard look about it. I suppose it was cheaper to do that than to pay someone to mow the grass. Our popular games were rounders, sheep sheep come home, prisoner's base and skipping and the boys played cricket and football. The kids of today would scream laughing at our games.

While I was visiting the school I had a talk with some of the children and I could not help smiling at some of their questions. One boy asked if I rode a skateboard to school and I told him there were no such things as skateboards then; another asked if I rode a bicycle to school and I had to tell him that we had no bicycles -you were lucky if you had a pair of shoes to wear! The headmaster showed me some school enrolment records that had been rescued from a rubbish tip and there were entries for my brother, sister and myself. He made photocopies for me and said that I must have been among the first pupils at the school.

At school I remember sitting next to a girl with ginger hair. Her head was full of lice, and they were ginger too. I would sit and watch them crawling up and down her hair. I had been sitting next to her for a while and eventually told my mother, and she came down to school and had a talk to the teacher. The teacher was very discreet about it and she said to the class, "I am going to move the class around a bit," so I got separated from her. My mother did not want me to bring them home as there were four children and it wasn't easy to get rid of them.

Sir Ross and Sir Keith Smith were Australian aviators who made the first flight from England to Australia in 1919.



Vickers Vimy Aircraft

After the trip they flew around the country and, when they passed over our school, all the children were out in the playground to see them fly over. It was the first time we had seen an aeroplane.

Snakes were very common at Coledale Heights; they were black snakes with red bellies. One day my father was sitting on the verandah reading the newspaper when out of the corner of his eye he saw a snake coming towards him. He called to me to get a sapling. I could not find one so I brought him the hammer, which he threw at me. He killed the snake but I don't know how, as I ran for my life when he threw the hammer. Each snake has a mate and in the afternoon the other snake came looking for his mate. It was near our place and a neighbour saw it and went and got his gun and shot it.

One afternoon a friend came to play with me and, as she had to walk about half a mile home, I was walking part of the way with her and we met the biggest snake I had ever seen up there. It wasn't the usual black snake, it was grey and it was so big we were not game enough to step over it. Its head was in the bush on one side of the road and its tail in the bush on the other side. Mr Goudy was a neighbour nearby and when we ran and told him that my friend could not get home because of the snake, he brought his gun and shot it. My friend never came to play again. I suppose her mother was afraid to let her. It was a lonely life living up at the Heights. When I was eleven years old my mother had to go into hospital for an operation.

The hospital was in Paddington, Sydney, and my father was away working at Wolgan Valley so we kids were farmed out to friends. Elizabeth and I went to stay with a Mrs White and Bob and Robina went to people called Campbell. Elizabeth was only three years old and I had to do everything for her. Robina and Bob had a rough time where they were staying. My father came home and got a job in the mines and brought us children home. I stayed home from school to look after the five of us. I had to cook and also to make sure I lit the fire to boil the water in a kerosene tin on the outside fire for my father's bath. One day I didn't have the fire lit so no hot water, so was I in trouble? I never forgot again. The problem was I was only a kid myself and wanted to play with my sisters and brother.

Dad liked currant scones and he asked me to make some. I told him that I had never cooked them and did not know how so he said he would help. We put flour and currants and milk together and he said to dump and bang them, so I did that and cut them out and put them in the oven and out came little hard biscuits. As you know scones have to be handled lightly and baking powder and butter should have been used as well. That was the end of that kind of cooking. There was no water laid on at Coledale Heights and we had tanks to catch rainwater for household use, like drinking and cooking.

A pipe led from a spring into a big tub and we used that for washing up, baths, laundry and also for the garden. It was a dreadful life for the mother as there was no laundry. The water had to be carried from the tub at the spring and boiled in kerosene tins on the outside fire. The tin would hold about one sheet so you can imagine what washing day was like. The fireplace was built up with bricks on each side and iron bars were put across to hold the tins. It was a wonder my mother never scalded herself. There were no ice chests, refrigerators or freezers and the grocer would put your butter into a packet made of cardboard with a lid and even then it was almost running out by the time you got home.

Groceries came from Bulli, which was about four stations from Coledale, and eventually a Cooperative was built at Coledale which was good. The meat was still sent from Bulli twice a week by train and I had to collect it at the station, take it back up the mountain to home and then run back down again in time for school. No wonder I was thin. People by the name of Carrick had an orchard and dairy and we bought our fruit and milk from them. I used to go through the orchard to get the milk everyday but I wouldn't dare touch any fruit on the trees as my mother said if Mr Carrick saw anyone picking fruit he would shoot them. I used to like going when we had rain. I would wear an old coat of my father's which had big pockets and I could pick the fruit up off the ground.

We did not have a sink in our house and washing up had to be done in a dish. As usual, I had to do the washing up and the water had to be thrown away down in the bush.

As I was coming back in I heard our gate closing, so I told my parents someone was coming to see us and we waited for a knock at the door. No one came so they thought I had imagined it, but when we went to bed we were not long in when someone threw a dish of water in the window. The bottom of our bed was close to the window and my screams brought my father in to see what was wrong. The bedclothes were all wet so they could not deny that I had heard the gate. We never found out who had thrown the water.

On Friday afternoons I had to come home from school to scrub the floors. I was the skivvy and that is why I can't relax because I had to work so hard all my life. My mother did not like housework and she also never asked my sister Robina to do anything. I remember when I was fifteen, I was working in Sydney and my mother got a job at a very elite Women's Club in Sydney doing the cleaning early in the morning. She made me get up at four o'clock and go with her by tram into town and we would be in the club when the Town Hall clock struck six. I will always remember that. We had breakfast, and then I had to scrub floors and do dusting, then go to my own work.

For a while Mum was ill and I had to do the entire cleaning by myself, open up a large building and lock up again before I left. I do not remember seeing anyone at all the whole time we worked there. Mum returned for a while when she was better, but had to give it up. I can't imagine any young person doing that these days.

One day after lunch my parents went to visit friends at Thirroul, leaving us on our own. They were late getting back home as there were few trains and we started to be afraid and, as we lived near the mine, we went to watch the blacksmith shoeing the ponies that worked in the mine pulling the skips out filled with coal. When my parents arrived home and couldn't find us they searched the well to see if we had fallen in and drowned.

Years after, much the same thing happened again. My son John who was two years old was staying with my parents and when my father left to go to work John followed him through the bush and ended up in the middle of a corn field crying. Mum searched for him and had to call for help when she couldn't find him. There was a big deep pond in the yard and they started dragging it thinking he may have fallen in. Then Mum realised he may have followed my father so they searched through the bush and a lady had heard crying in her corn field and found him with his dog. He was lucky, as corn fields are alive with snakes. This happened at Parramatta and the farm is now part of the Kings School.



Coledale School
today

.....to be continued.....

Thanks to **Ailsa TAYLOR Member 596** for sharing this memoir with us, more to come in our next issue December 2021.

A Tale of the Unexpected

To paraphrase Forrest Gump, family history is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're gonna get. That's one thing that keeps me addicted to finding out more about my ancestors.

This is a follow up to an article I wrote for the April 2015 muster about the war service of my great-grandfather John 'Jack' Davies, my grandfather Roy Sidney Davies and great uncle Edwin Davies in the First World War – 'A Father and Two Sons at War'. I was proud of the way they stepped forward to fight for their country and the sacrifices they made. Since that time I have discovered another side to their lives that I had no inkling of. In hindsight, there were clues in that article where I mentioned that Roy '*received several field punishments and fines for disobeying orders*'.



Roy's enlistment papers dated 22 June 1915 contain a question '*Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power?*' to which the answer was '*No*'. So it came as a surprise when I discovered his name mentioned in Criminal Court Records and Police Gazettes in early 1915.

He was charged with 2 counts of breaking and entering businesses in Sydney in company with several others. All the others were released on probation to be of good behaviour for 12 months, but Roy was committed for trial (another clue?). He was convicted and sentenced to 6 months hard labour. He was discharged on 1st June 1915 and enlisted 3 weeks later.

Past issues of the Muster are available on the CCFHS website if you are interested so I won't go into his war service, other than to say that he lost a leg at Passchendaele in October 1917. He was repatriated to Australia and arrived on 7 March 1918. He wasted no time and married Amy Louisa Wallace on 22 March 1918.

Until recently I believed that love had turned his life around. But then I searched State Records and found a mugshot and record of nine more convictions through till 1941. Most of these were for drunk and disorderly and indecent language.

The next revelation was that Roy did not have a normal or happy childhood. His father Jack deserted the family so his mother was raising a large family on her own.

Roy took to the streets and at age 9 fell foul of the law. He was arrested for breaking and entering in 1905 and appeared in the Children's Court on the day it opened. He was sentenced to five years detention in an institution.

He absconded within a week but was brought back 2 days later. The wanted notice described him as *'9 years of age, very small for his age, thin features, fair hair and complexion, blue eyes; dressed in blue serge knickers, flannelette shirt, no coat, boots or hat'*.

NSW State Records Child Care and Protection Indexes show that Roy was moved to the Mittagong Farm Home in 1907. The Mittagong Farm Home for Boys was established at Mittagong in 1906. It was a government-run Probationary Training Home for boys aged 8 to 17 who had been convicted in the Children's Courts. He was released in 1908 for good behaviour and went back to his mother. Although only 12 he was allowed to work.

But he is in trouble again in June 1910 after being caught stealing ladies handbags. This time he is sent to the public industrial school on the ship *Sobraon* moored at Cockatoo Island. I found the details in The *Sobraon* Entrance Books. The children would remain there until they were apprenticed out after the age of 12, discharged, or reached 18 years of age. The schools included religious instruction, moral, industrial, and nautical training, as well as elementary schooling. He was released back to his mother in June 1911. There is no further mention of him until his conviction in 1915.



The Sobraon record is quite detailed. It contains his history and appearance. My very tall 6 year old granddaughter stepped on the scales here the other day and she was nearly 28 kg.

'Healthy, no marks or bruises on body. Rather delicate looking little fellow, evidently another victim of bad company. Height 4' 6.25"

Hair Black

Chest 27"

Eyes Dk. Gray.

Weight 69lbs [31kg] 74lbs

Complexion Pale'



People may wonder how I turned out to be such an upstanding citizen with criminals in my past.

I refer you to another article in the December 2015 Muster 'A Skeleton in the Family – Literally' where my g-g grandfather, in another line, killed my g-g grandmother. But in Roy's case, I'd say this is an example of nurture (or lack of it) over nature.

In 1922 Roy's mother Annie (born Sleath but known as Lincoln hence A.L. below) signed a declaration saying her husband left her 14 years earlier. And the NSW Police Gazette of 30 November 1898 shows: *A warrant has been issued by the Central Police Bench for the arrest of John Davies, charged with wife desertion. Description—39 years of age, 5 feet 1 or 2 inches high, slight build, fair complexion, dark hair, shaved except ginger moustache, bald on top of head, tattoo marks on both forearms, with the letters "A.L." on each [is this where I get my good looks?]; a tailor; He left Sydney about a month ago for Dubbo to work at his trade there. His wife and seven children (the eldest being only 15 years), are in needy circumstances.*

None of this was ever known by our family. And although it's not always what we want to hear, the lives our ancestors lived shaped them and helped to shape us too. I'm still proud but sad that these people's lives were framed by circumstances beyond their control.

Jack and Annie were reconciled later in life and lived out their last years together. I have a photo of them together in front of their home in Greenacre not long before Annie died in 1932.

Roy and Amy went on to have 11 children. Roy was an invalid pensioner for most of his life and died of lung cancer in 1962. My memories of him are of a tiny, pale, frail man sitting in an armchair smoking. There was constant stream of family visiting him. I could see he had a sense of humour, so from my perspective as a child he was content.

Brian DAVIES. Member 1698

**TOWNSHIP OF BRISBANE WATER – EVENING NEWS
TO BE SOLD BY PUBLIC AUCTION**

By Isaac Simmons & Co

At the Royal Hotel, THIS DAY, the 20th instant at seven o'clock in the Evening at the request of numerous intending Purchasers.

SEVENTY SEVEN (77) Allotments of LAND, adjoining the Township of Brisbane Water, containing from half an acre to one acre each, having a fine frontage to the Broadwater and the advantage of the first approach to the Township.

These Allotments have been accurately surveyed by one of the most eminent Surveyors in this Colony, laid out with great judgement and being the first Township Allotments put up for sale in the prosperous and rising district of Brisbane Water unfettered by the Government Regulations, are peculiarly adapted for the man or family wishing to settle Town Allotments on his children, as it is impossible to contemplate the enormous increase in the value of town property in this quarter; the steps now taking for the establishment of two Churches, the proposed settlement of a large body of Emigrants, the establishment of steam communications, added to which that of the North and South Shore Steam Company, which will bring the Township within nineteen miles of the Metropolis by land, with a safe harbor by water, will render this Township one of the most flourishing in the country; witness Maitland, which within five years has become to Sydney what Liverpool is to London, a fact beyond the contemplation of the Colonists in a few years.

As a safe investment of money, yielding a larger interest in the aggregate than any speculation that could be offered to the Colonists at large, these Allotments will prove to be a matter of the first importance.

It is worthy of remark that the Rev. Mr. Rogers is already appointed to do the duty of the Church of England, and the Rev. Mr. McIntyre to the Presbyterian Church in the Township.

It is a matter of great importance that before the bills given for the purchase of the land shall become due, vast improvements will have taken place in the Township; a large profit may be safely calculated on by the transfer of the present purchases, should it be necessary for any of the purchasers to effect a sale.

To heads of families among the tradesmen of Sydney, this property is particularly recommended as portions for the various branches of their families.

The plan is now in the hands of the Surveyor, and will be ready for inspection at Simmons and Co.'s in a few days.

Heather SUSHAMES – Member 651L

A Different Type of Tree.

I am a tree lover, both my genealogical family tree and also the horticultural variety. I often gaze upon particularly beautiful specimens around the Central Coast.

This e-Muster I have included a stunning local tree situated at Erina Heights Public School.

The autumn season changed its normally green foliage to this absolutely beautiful hue.



I am inviting you to share a tree with us in each issue of the *E-muster*, one that has enraptured you or one that is your favourite. Please email details and a photograph to our email address and we will feature them in our Journal.

Australian Women of Mark

'Gunner' Curley: a woman with a dream

Author: Claire Hunter

07 July 2021

Warning: this article contains images of deceased persons.



Elizabeth Anzac Lorraine Curley was born on Anzac Day 1925.

The significance of the date was not lost on her parents. They gave her the middle name Anzac in memory of those who had served during the First World War and had landed on Gallipoli in April 1915.

It was meant to have been “the war to end all wars”, but Elizabeth Curley soon found herself in the midst of a second world war.

At the age of 18, she volunteered for the Australian Women's Army Service, becoming affectionately known as "Gunner" Curley for her work with the "big guns" on Rottneest Island.

Danusha Cubillo, a researcher at the Australian War Memorial, learnt of Gunner Curley's story while conducting research into Indigenous service during the Second World War.

A proud Larrakia woman, Cubillo has been working with the Memorial's Indigenous Liaison Officer Michael Bell to research and identify Indigenous Australians who have served or are still serving.

She was seconded to the Memorial from the Department of Defence through Defence Indigenous Affairs in 2020, to work on the Memorial's Second World War Indigenous Service List.

Gunner Curley's story is one of the many she has uncovered during her research.

"She was a pretty amazing woman," Cubillo said.

"She was born in Subiaco, Western Australia, on the 25th of April 1925 and was the daughter of Horace John Bozal Curley and Margaret Louisa Maher.

"Her maternal grandfather, Aboriginal man John Maher, was part of Australia's first Aboriginal cricket team. They were quite exceptional players, and they even went over to England to play.

"He was actually in the second iteration of that team, the Second New Norcia Cricket Team, in 1881, and was an opening bowler and prolific wicket-taker."

His granddaughter, Elizabeth Curley, was one of the thousands of Indigenous Australians who volunteered during the Second World War, despite laws that often prevented them from doing so.

"She grew up in Sandstone and in the Wheatbelt area of Western Australia," Cubillo said.

"There were only two schools in the district where she grew up, and travelling to and from school was often a dangerous task.

There were many hazards – poisonous snakes, bull ants, swooping magpies, fallen logs, flooded creeks – and to get to the two schools you had to cross big creeks that were waist high on a child.

"The teachers would scold them for coming to school wet, but they couldn't get to school any other way. These were kids who didn't have a horse and buggy to take them to school, so they walked five kilometres there, and back again, which is some distance for a young child."

Curley completed her high school years by correspondence because there was no high school in the area. She would study under a tree, collecting her work from the stations that her family stayed on while her father worked.

When the Second World War broke out, Curley was determined to do her bit for the war effort.

“She enlisted in Perth in September 1943, and joined a group of enthusiastic recruits from across Western Australia,” Cubillo said.

“Women were posted to the army, anti-aircraft batteries, search light batteries, records and finance offices, ordnance units, and training schools in order to gain qualifications in wireless operation and transport driving.

“Gunner Curley was stationed for a short time in Victoria, doing repair work on radios, and was posted near Fremantle, working on heavy artillery. And that’s where she was given the nickname, ‘Gunner’ Curley.”

Curley enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force in the early 1950s, hoping to achieve the goal of serving in all three defence services.

“She had this idea, this dream of joining the army, navy and air force, but she was discharged from the air force when she met and married Arthur Eden Blanchett,” Cubillo said.



“At the time, married women were not allowed to be in the defence forces, so she didn’t get to achieve her dream of joining all three services, but she certainly came close.”

Curley left the air force on 11 December 1953 and was married on the 19th of December 1953, dressed in lavender, her favourite colour.

In 2013, she returned to Rottnest Island as a special guest to mark the 75th anniversary of artillery on the island.

Today, her name is one of more than 4,400 names list on the Australian War Memorial’s Second World War Indigenous Service List.

Cubillo is encouraging anyone with more information about Indigenous servicemen and servicewomen to contact the Memorial and share their stories.

“It’s about respect and giving that person their due,” she said.

“They fought for this country, and we want to acknowledge them for who they are, and be able to tell people proudly who this person was.”

Curley’s last ANZAC Day was on her 95th birthday. She celebrated her birthday in lockdown at a nursing home in Western Australia. She proudly wore her medals all day and cut a cake with nursing staff. Her family had to video call her, and wave to her from the window.

She died a few months later in August 2020, survived by five children, seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

“Gunner Curley was a young woman who had a dream, and was proactive about wanting to do something with her life,” Cubillo said.

“Her story shows that if you’ve got a dream, you can work your way towards achieving it.

“And for Gunner Curley, that dream was to contribute to society by enlisting in the services to help defend her Country.”

Michael Bell is a Ngunnawal/Gomeroi man and the Indigenous Liaison Officer at the Australian War Memorial. If you have information about the contributions of people of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent who have served or are currently serving in the armed forces, or who have contributed to wartime efforts, he would love to hear from you. He can be contacted at Michael.Bell@awm.gov.au.

Author: Claire HUNTER

Mary ‘Polly’ Gratton

She attained local fame due to her involuntary participation in a crude practical joke that went amiss. Returning from Hill End after a heavy day, she went into the Tambaroora General Cemetery to sleep it off behind a headstone.

On that particular night Billy McCudden had decided to scare Tambaroora folk who were returning from a Hill End concert. Dressed in a sheet and unaware of Polly’s presence, Billy stood on the cemetery gatepost and, as the home-comers drew abreast, intoned in a sepulchral voice, “Arise ye dead, and come to judgement.” The summons penetrated Polly’s fogged brain.

Anxious to placate the heavenly messenger, she scrambled noisily to her feet and replied from the shadows, “Yes, my Lord, I am come.” Billy is said to have been running before he hit the ground. Though handicapped by the sheet he reached Tambaroora well ahead of the home-comers, who also were making good time.

Polly convinced her call had come, staggered down to the undertaker and tried unsuccessfully to make arrangements for her own immediate burial.

Source: Hill End and Tambaroora Gathering Group www.heatgg.org.au

Sue HORTON Member 1280J

The Findley Family in Australia with connections to others on the Central Coast.

Our family arrived on 11th June 1879 and settled in Balgownie, the family expanded to Newcastle, Sydney and the Central Coast where some of my distant cousins were in St, Albans, Windsor and Wollombi on farms when they were granted land.

I have in my research found that the Everingham family are now widespread in Australia.

The first to arrive was Matthew Everingham who married Elizabeth Rymes in Parramatta and had ten children. One of them- the youngest married an adopted aboriginal lady, who was adopted by William Saunders.

Matthew's other children went on to become lawyers and politicians.

My family came to the coast in 1960 when my parents moved out of Sydney. Upon attending Gosford High school I found out a lot later that I was related to some of my school friends, and some of my extended ancestors came here before we did.

Some of the names are, Starkey, Woodbury, of the Woodbury's my step grandfather's sister Stella Martin married Lyle Woodbury in Gosford and they lived out at Wamberal until 1963.

The Bridge, Chick, Hollingshed and Jurd families are also related. One of my cousins in Queensland is a descendent of Robert Roy MacGregor. I did find that two of his son's descendants are in Newcastle and Grafton.

Robert FINDLEY. Member 2018

EATING IN THE 50'S

Kitchen Verbs



1. Pasta was not eaten
2. Curry was a surname.
3. A takeaway was a mathematical problem.
4. A pizza was something to do with a leaning tower.
5. Crisps were plain; the only choice we had was whether to put the salt on or not.
6. Rice was only eaten as a milk pudding.
7. A Big Mac was what we wore when it was raining.
8. Brown bread was something only poor people ate.
9. Oil was for lubricating, fat was for cooking.
10. Tea was made in a teapot using tea leaves and never green.
11. Sugar enjoyed a good press in those days, and was regarded as being white gold. Cubed sugar was regarded as posh.
12. Fish didn't have fingers.
13. Eating raw fish was called poverty, not sushi.
14. None of us had ever heard of yoghurt.
15. Healthy food consisted of anything edible.
16. People who didn't peel potatoes were regarded as lazy.
17. Indian restaurants were only found in India.
18. Cooking outside was called camping.
19. Seaweed was not a recognised food.
20. "Kebab" was not even a word, never mind a food.
21. Prunes were medicinal.
22. Surprisingly, muesli was readily available, it was called cattle feed.
23. Water came out of the tap. If someone had suggested bottling it and charging more than petrol for it, they would have become a laughing stock!
24. And the things that we never ever had on our table in the 50s and 60s: elbows or phones!

The Streets of the Rocks- Sydney.

My 3rd great grandfather Thomas Glover and his twin brother Joseph were born on 11th June 1795 in Shipham, Somerset England. At the age of 18, he was tried in the Somerset Assizes on the 31st March 1814 for "taking rabbits out of a warren".

He was sentenced to Transportation for 7 years, arriving as a convict in the Colony on the *Indefatigable* on the 25th April 1815. He worked as a stonemason, quarrying sandstone used to construct many of our beautiful buildings in Sydney.

He married Mary Kearns, nee Chitty in 1821 at S.t Philip's, Sydney.

(Mary had a daughter, *Bridget Kearns, to her first husband Lt. Matthew Kearns.)

Thomas and Mary had three sons, Thomas, (1821-1883) James (1823-1874) & John (1825-1897) and one daughter, Mary Ann. (1827-)

All were born at the Sailors Return Inn, Cumberland St. Thomas junior lived there until his death in 1883.

Mary died, and was buried at St Thomas' North Sydney on 11, April, 1834.

Thomas then married Eliza Papps, they had one daughter, Ellen Elizabeth. (1835-1909)

He is built the first attached houses in the colony in the early 1820's. They exist to this day in Kent Street in The Rocks and are known as "The Glover Cottages".



He eventually owned about 70 acres of land and a few hotels and houses in The Rocks area of Sydney. He was recorded as a Publican on his daughter Mary Anne's death certificate. He suffered from delirium, a condition apparently exacerbated by heavy drinking. In 1835 he severely assaulted his wife's maid and in 1836 during a severe delirium he cut his own throat.

He is buried along with his wife and other family members in the grounds of St. Thomas Church. North Sydney.

Whilst researching his life in the Colony and his descendants. I came across the following very interesting information about this historically rich area of Sydney.

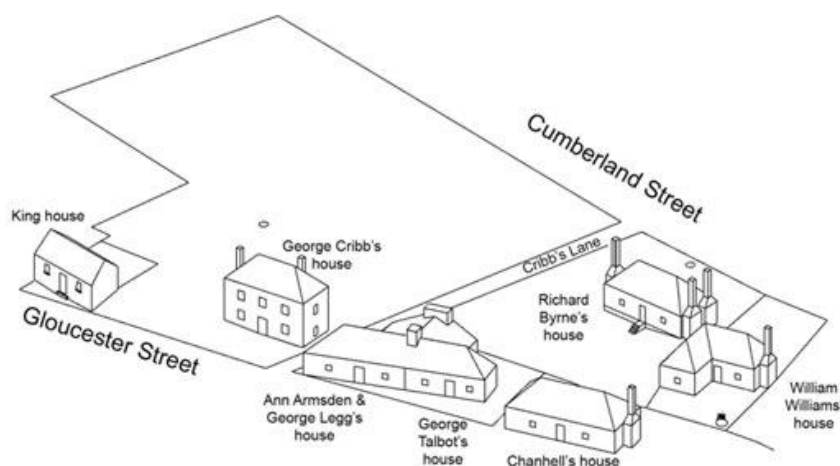
The Pre-European Landscape and the Cadigal

The people who lived on the shores of the harbour were the Cadigal, a clan of what were known as the Eora, or coastal Darug, people. To them the end point of this peninsula was Tarra, and the cove to its east Warrang. These people ranged over the harbour from the coast inland to the bay that is now known as Darling Harbour.

No remains of the Cadigal's presence were found on this site. The ruggedness of the sandstone no doubt made it a fairly hostile and exposed place. The soils here were thin, supporting shrubs and small trees clinging to the crevices in the rock. With the arrival of the Europeans the landscape was cut, terraced and drained, in all likelihood destroying evidence of earlier occupation.

The History and Archaeology of the site, 1788-1915

The Rocks quickly became home to many convicts who set about transforming the rugged landscape - initially setting up temporary tents and huts.



Cumberland / Gloucester Streets Archaeological Site
Occupants c1809-12

Tracks led up from the harbour. One of these, Cribbs Lane passed through the site pre-dating Cumberland and Gloucester Streets - part of the regularised street pattern created in 1810.

Ann Armsden and her First Fleeter husband, George Legg, first built a house on the site around 1795. Following George's death in a boating accident on the harbour in 1807, Ann married her neighbour, baker George Talbot and rebuilt their house in stone.

Irish rebel, Richard Byrne, lived here from around 1805. Byrne was a stonemason, and may have been responsible for some of the quarrying for his neighbours' houses. One pre-1820s quarry can still be seen, and it is most likely houses here were constructed from materials from the site.

For fresh water a number of wells were cut into the rock. A well dug by the Byrne family has a few steps cut into the sandstone leading to it. It was here, or a similar well in Cumberland Street, that a small child drowned in 1810.

The Byrne family remained here until the 1850s. Their descendants can still be found living in The Rocks area.

George Cribb, also a convict, lived on the site from 1809 to the late 1820s. George was typical of many of the early convicts who prospered in the new colony. He was a butcher, and though working for the government as part of his sentence, in his own time he slaughtered cattle, sheep and pigs sold as meat both within the colony and to ships leaving Sydney. His slaughterhouse was in the centre of his property. George brought soil in, and buried the discarded skulls, horns and limbs of his animals here. Thousands of animal bones were found, relating to George's work and tell us much about the cuts of meat enjoyed by the people of Sydney.

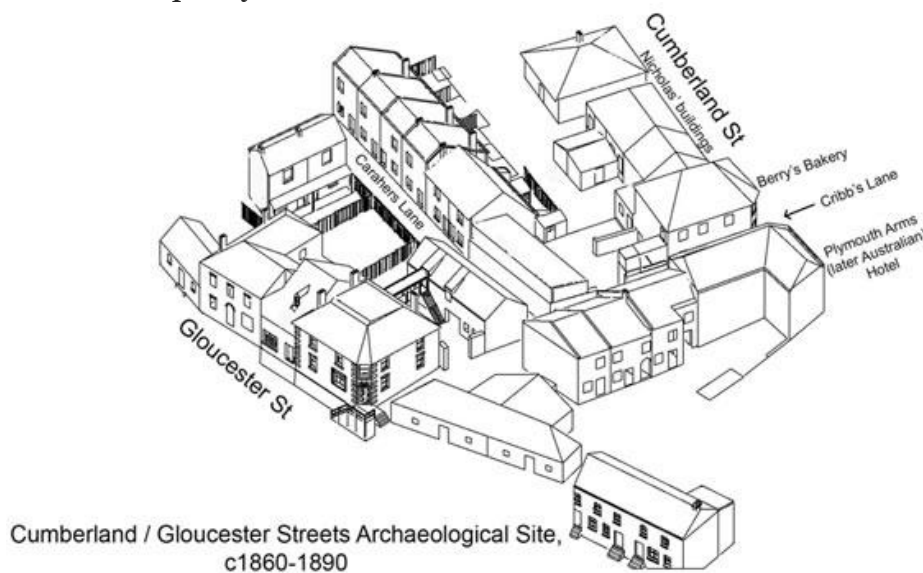
As Cribb's fortunes grew, he built and rented out a row of four tenements. In 1817, following his marriage to widowed *publican* Sophia Lett, he built a butcher shop and a hotel, the Turk's Head.

Around this time, George filled in his well with household "rubbish" including fine hand-painted Chinese porcelain and a butcher's filleting knife.

For some time, George had been under surveillance by the authorities for suspicion of dealing in illegally produced alcohol. Although arrested, no evidence could be found to convict him. Among the items found in the well, however, was a small ceramic and tin ware still.

By the late 1820s George found himself in financial difficulties and his property was purchased by land speculators Raine & Ramsay. They subdivided it in the 1830s, creating Carahers Lane to provide access between Cribbs Lane and Longs Lane to the south. In 1830 Cribbs' house was enlarged and became the Whalers Arms pub, a two storey stone building with stables at the back. Albert Nicholas bought the land on Cumberland Street and built five cottages over the former quarry.

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On Carahers Lane six two-storey terraces were built, with three more on Cribbs Lane. Over the next 70 years these, and other houses on the site, were occupied by immigrants and their families, originating from Ireland, England, Scandinavia, Portugal and other parts of Europe. The Byrne family sold off their land bit by bit in the 1840s and 50s. At the top of Cribbs Lane, Robert Berry established his bakery in 1844. It was here the families of The Rocks often brought their Sunday roasts to be cooked in the baker's ovens.

On the other side of the Lane, Berry's sister Jane and her husband Thomas Share operated a pub called the Plymouth Arms Inn, later renamed The Australian. Jane and Robert Berry's younger brother John died as a result of an epileptic seizure at the bakery in 1844.

His body was taken to the cellar of the Plymouth Arms where a coroner's inquest was later held. That same cellar was uncovered during archaeological work. When the pub was demolished in 1913, a new Australian was built nearby and remains today. When the bubonic plague arrived in Sydney in 1900 it was thought the densely occupied Rocks would be hard hit. The Rocks had long been considered a "slum", mainly because Sydney was spreading out into the suburbs and many no longer considered the old part of the city to be healthy. Water and the sewer had been connected from the 1850s; however negligent landlords had apparently allowed the systems to fall into disrepair. Likewise, some of the houses were poorly maintained.

In many houses rubbish was disposed of under the floorboards. In this way up to 40 centimetres of rubbish accumulated.

The rubbish discarded has told much about the inhabitants. They ate well; lamb, oysters, fish, chicken and duck, applied salad oils to salad and vegetables, added pickles and chutneys as side dishes and often ate off the finest bone china.

The well near the Byrne family's house was filled with household rubbish, including a 3-legged iron cooking pot.

The insides of the houses were decorated with figurines, vases of flowers and often curios such as cowry shells and coral. The inhabitants adorned themselves with fashionable jewellery, sewed their own clothes by the light of the front and back doors, smoked clay pipes by the fireside, and the children played with dolls, miniature tea sets, marbles, toy soldiers, chess and dominoes.

Despite the fear that the bubonic plague would have disastrous effects on the crowded district, only three people in The Rocks died. The total number of deaths in NSW was just over 100. One of those who died was a 15-year-old paperboy named James Foy. He lived in a terrace in Cribbs Lane, but probably contracted the disease on the waterfront.

The Rocks was condemned to demolition, and the area was bought up by the Government after 1901.

Over the next 14 years the site was cleared, as were other parts of The Rocks. Of the people who lived here, some moved to the suburbs, others stayed nearby. Apart from the engineering shed here between 1917 and the 1930s, no other substantial buildings were built, preserving the archaeological remains.

The book *Inside The Rocks: The Archaeology of a Neighbourhood*, by historian Dr. Grace Karskens, is available from The Rocks Discovery Museum, Kendall Lane, The Rocks.

This information was of great value to me when I was researching my father's ancestors the Glover and Keller/ Kelleher families.

Cumberland Street, The Rocks, (called York Street North 1912 to 1919). Before Governor Macquarie called it Cumberland Street in 1810, it was called Church Hill.

(Note: Bridget Kearns PASHLEY (stepdaughter of convict Thomas Glover) died at **41 Cumberland Street**) A Thomas Glover dies **206 Cumberland St.** 7 Oct 1883.

James GLOVER - at his residence, No. 85, **Prince-street**, 2 Jan 1874. Wife, Jane Glover **99 Princes-street**, Dec 1889. (Princes Street was roughly parallel to Cumberland street. Now under the roadway to Sydney Harbour Bridge)

John Glover dies 130 **Kent St.**, 1 Sep 1897, then 126 to 130 Kent Street is for sale. John Glover's son died before him at 124 Kent St. (At one time he probably owned 6 in a row and gave one to his sister Mary Ann Glover (Keller). Two houses survive as Glover cottages (semi-detached) today)

Heather YATES Member 675

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