

# E-MUSTER

Central Coast Family History Society Inc.

April 2025    Issue 41



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

# CENTRAL COAST FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.



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, Royal Australian Historical Society of NSW.

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Vice President: Belinda Mabbott  
Secretary: Lorraine Greve  
Treasurer: Brent Jones

**Public Officer:** Ken Clark

## **Committee:**

Ken Clark, Brian Davies, Marlene Davidson,  
Robyn Gregg, Yvonne Potts, Jacqueline Smith, Heather Yates.

## **RESEARCH CENTRE**

Building 4, 8 Russell Drysdale Street, EAST GOSFORD NSW 2250  
Phone: 4324 5164 - Email [admin@centralcoastfhs.org.au](mailto: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

April 2025 – No: 41

The **E- MUSTER** is the Official Journal of the Central Coast Family History Society Inc. **THE MUSTER** was first published in April 1983.

The **E-MUSTER** is published to our website  
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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](mailto:admin@centralcoastfhs.org.au)

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

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## EDITORIAL

It is the Central Coast Family History Society that has enabled me to gain so many skills necessary to be a good researcher. I thank all those volunteers who have shared time and knowledge to assist me in research. It is through this Journal that I hope we can inspire others to share their discoveries and stories. I know you will enjoy reading the stories in this edition and as the Editor of your April 2025 **e-Muster**; I thank the contributors who have provided articles for our enjoyment.

The e-Muster is published three times per year. It is your Journal so please share your research and resulting family stories.

**Heather YATES Member 675**

## PRESIDENTS REPORT

I had that awful feeling I'd been trapped in a time warp as the last few months have flown by so quickly. I'm slowing down naturally due to age but time sure seems to have sped up. Now that April is here, we can at least look forward to cooler weather, comforting slow-cooked meals, and, of course, plenty of time to read the E-Muster. Perhaps you'll even start thinking about what story you'll contribute for the August edition!

With the AGM just a month away, I'm looking forward to see if any new members will step forward to join the committee. The Society is run entirely by volunteers, and unfortunately, only a small group takes on the responsibility of managing its operations. I want to extend my gratitude to the current committee members for their dedication over the past year. Your hard work keeps everything running smoothly.

A special thank you also goes out to those who contribute behind the scenes—whether it's assisting with the daily operations of the Society, scanning historical records, or meticulously digitising old files and images. Preserving our history is an ongoing task, and no doubt, new advancements in technology will require us to revisit this work in the future. Just think about how far we've come in a short time—from floppy disks to USBs, solid-state drives, and beyond!

We recently hosted another successful seminar in collaboration with the RAHS, and it was a huge effort from everyone involved. From setting up the day before to preparing food, serving, washing up, selling raffle tickets, renewing memberships, to stacking everything away and cleaning up at the end of the day. The event required a tremendous team effort so a big thank you to everyone who contributed their time and energy to make it a success.

Finally, I want to thank those members who have shared their stories with Heather for this month's E-Muster. Your contributions help entertain, educate, and inspire us all. Until next time!

**Rod Horton Member 1280J**

**President CCFHS**

## LATEST NEWS

### 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.

We are also required to comply with any directives applied by our landlord, Central Coast Council/Properties. We have to consider the general age and health of our members.

### E-JOURNALS

Societies and Groups send their journals and newsletters to us via email. They are downloaded on to Pelicanet and are available for you to read on Computers 1-4 and 7-10 at the Research Centre. How? From the desktop select the Pelican logo, and then select E- Journals.

## SPEAKERS 2025

**Annual General Meeting. 1pm start.**



**Guest Speaker 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2025.  
Justin Holmwood Maritime Museum.  
“From Wives and Sweethearts to Comrades in Arms.”**

This is the story of how women came to be in the Royal Australian Navy, of some of the people who made that possible and some who tried to prevent it. But most interestingly, it is also the story of what went before these events

**Guest Speaker 7<sup>th</sup> June 2025**



**Patricia Skehan will be speaking about her new book, “The Secrets of Anzac Ridge, In Flanders Fields.”**

Jim Armitage was the last surviving Central Coast WWI veteran, dying in Brentwood Village in Kincumber in 1999, after he turned 100 years old. His previously unpublished war diary was given to Trish by his niece, Jane. Letters from other soldiers, nurses and doctors, tell amazing stories in and out of the trenches. Supporting extracts from Monash diaries included.





**Guest Speaker 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025**  
**Dr. Matt Lohmeyer**  
**President**  
**Fairview Homestead Association Inc.**

Fairview is a heritage-listed traditional Australian homestead located on Ten Mile Hollow Road in Upper Mangrove, Central Coast, New South Wales Australia. It is a historically significant landmark, being the last remaining example of the settlements and farms along Mangrove Creek.

Fairview Homestead stands on a 50 acre lot in the heart of Mangrove Creek valley. The land was first offered for sale by the Crown as lot 32 on 5 Jan 1835 and sold to John Dakin at auction on 8 April 1835, but the purchase was never completed

Dr Matt Lohmeyer, President of the Fairview Homestead Association will showcase some of the extraordinary history discovered in their research, and how it is made accessible to the world. The mission of the Fairview Homestead Association is to preserve the unique history of the Mangrove Creek community and to restore the homestead for future generations.

### **RAHS Day Lecture – Charles Darwin in Australia**

**Event Date & Time:** Wednesday, 7 May 2025 @  
1.00 pm – 2.00 pm

**Event Location:** History House, 133 Macquarie St,  
Sydney NSW 2000

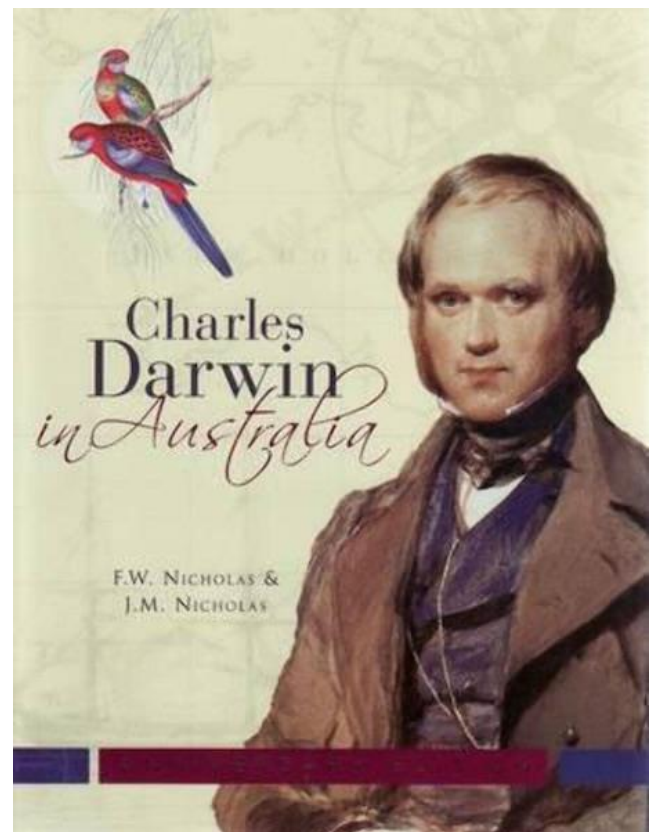
**Cost:** Free

**Event Description:**

Early in 1836, Charles Darwin spent two months in Australia as part of his voyage around the world on HMS *Beagle*. This lecture will be based on Darwin's diary entries, illustrated with contemporary sketches and paintings by former fellow *Beagle* shipmates Conrad Martens and Augustus Earle. The complete story is told in the book *Charles Darwin in Australia*, co-authored by Frank and by his wife Jan, who, having worked in the pictures section of the State Library of NSW, was familiar with the relevant Martens and Earle illustrations.

**About the speaker:**

Frank Nicholas has been an academic at the University of Sydney for 50 years. As such, he has spent decades telling other people's stories.



## Soldier Settlement in NSW



This webinar will explore records in the NSW State Archives Collection that tell the stories of these soldier settlers

Thursday 24 April 10.30am–11.30am

- Webinar

## Featured exhibition

### Seeing Sydney, Knowing Country



This exhibition depicts the development of the NSW colony through a selection of historical maps, plans, sketches, artworks and objects.

Opens Thursday 17 April 2025/

## Convict Reference Sites

This is a short list of various sites which are of assistance when researching convict ancestors. Hopefully it will be of use to those just getting started on this journey. There are also many helpful Facebook groups which are worth searching for.

### Free Claim a Convict

<https://www.hawkesbury.net.au/claimaconvict/search.php>

Established by genealogist Lesley Uebel, the Claim a Convict website originally went online on the 19 August 1998. The site offered researchers a free service that enabled those researching the same convict ancestors to contact each other directly by email.

### Irish Convicts to NSW <http://members.pcug.org.au/~ppmay/cgi-bin/irish/irish.cgi>

Provides a free searchable database thanks to Peter Mayberry Digital Panopticon

<https://www.digitalpanopticon.org/>

This website allows you to search millions of records from around fifty datasets, relating to the lives of 90,000 convicts from the Old Bailey. Use our site to search individual convict life archives, explore and visualise data, and learn more about crime and criminal justice in the past.

### Convict Records

<https://convictrecords.com.au/> This website allows you to search the British Convict transportation register for convicts transported to Australia between 1787-1867.

## NEW MEMBERS

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

2258	Sharon Rochford	2267	Deborah Gavenlock
2259	Murray Vaughan	2268	Trish Griffiths
2260	Maureen Finnane	2269	Jan Marie Tai
2261	Sandra Thompson	2270	Jennifer & Graham Debenham
2262	Steve Bamforth	2271	Colleen O'Sullivan
2263	Jenice Alliston	2272	Julie Barwick
2264	Mark Tancred	2273	Linda Langmaid
2265	Lynne Schofield	2274	Adam Smith
2266	Susan Bassett		



# MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION



**The Research Centre is open Tuesday-Friday  
9.30am until 2.00pm  
A Day Research fee for Non-Members is \$10.**

All workshops will incur a fee of \$25 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](http://www.centralcoastfhs.org.au)

Please read the additional question on your membership form regarding a once per year donation of \$10.00 to the Equipment Maintenance Fund.

You can choose to donate to this fund to assist us in the regular Maintenance of our computer network and other equipment.

## Next Issue

### **No. 42 August 2025 e-MUSTER**

Deadline for articles for the next edition of the e-Muster  
20<sup>th</sup> July, 2025.

### Genealogy Cruise Experience

Here I sit with a cup of herbal tea and some delicious delicacies on board the Celebrity Edge cruise ship contemplating all I have learnt so far from my first Genealogy Conference.

I have been an avid Family Historian since the 1980s but have so far not succumbed to the call of a Genealogy Conference. So, with a friend who is also suffers the same affiliation we booked the last of the Unlock the Past ocean conferences on board the Celebrity Edge leaving Sydney for 10 days.

This is also my first time on an Ocean cruise ship, which perhaps is a story for another day.



So, on a very wet Sydney afternoon we boarded our ship and were smoothly ushered to our cabin where we were shown how all the technology worked in our room. Who would have thought you would need four different modes for your room lighting and automatic curtains!

The first night was meeting our group of speakers such as the jovial Chris Paton, the knowledgeable Mia Bennett and the indomitable Helen Smith.

I did not know what to expect however day one started with an explosion of information from Chris Paton “Discovering your Scottish Ancestors.”

We learnt of different records held in Scottish Civil Registration such as the registration of irregular marriage which occurred in Scotland from 1855-1939. Two people with a written declaration from two witnesses could marry (not in a church), they then had 3 months to make an application with the Sherriff and then with the witnesses appear before the Sherriff with the petition. If satisfied by the authorities the parties would be fined 5 shillings and the registration of the marriage granted.

Just one of the interesting items presented to us by Chris. If your Scottish relative died with a will (testate) the confirmation document is called testament testamentar (English equivalent of the grant of probate).

Helen Smith spoke of using timelines as a genealogical tool to assist the family historian in summarising a person’s life and analyse any brick walls.

Mia's first DNA lecture gave us an idea of strategies for working through your DNA matches. Her talk on Intelligent Clustering helped me understand the concepts of clustering and dealing with polluting matches which join together two clusters when not intended.

Australian Genealogy Online by Shauna Hicks gave us key points for searching and some helpful websites.

There have been so many interesting and informative sessions over the four day conference it is impossible to write about them all so I will pick a few that resonated with me.

I am a first generation Australian with all my family lines going back to "old blighty." So, Mia Bennetts' lecture "Probate: where there is a will" was particularly helpful.

Locating probate for your English family can be at times challenging and Mia gave very handy websites and information to locating those documents that can hold so many clues for your research.

Did you know? - In 1858 the main administration for English probate was transferred from the church courts to the civil courts changing the tracing of records from that date.

Chris Paton is such an engaging speaker and his talk on Sharing your Family History Online gave us all some vital tips.

Writing up family stories is so important so they are not lost for future generations, then sharing these stories through articles, blogs or social media platforms. Images can be shared on Instagram, Pinterest or Flickr but remember copyright on images not taken by you.

The more you share the more you are likely to find a relative or clues to finding a relative.

Talk to your family and try to engage them in their family heritage, there are sneaky ways to engage those grandchildren.

Finally, Chris impressed the need to read those Terms and Conditions on websites like Ancestry just so you know your rights and what you own or not!

Helen Smith gave a fascinating talk on the treasures you can find within government documents such as reports, inquests, bankruptcy documents and inquiries.



Who would think that the bureaucracy of government would actually be helpful for the family researcher?

If you had an ancestor sentenced at the Old Bailey in London the website (<http://www.oldbaileyonline.org>) has 239 years of published trial records up to 1913.

Royal Commissions and Select Committee can also assist in tracing that illusive ancestors and inquests have great information on the deaths of people who have died in unusual circumstances.

School records can give information on where your ancestor lived, their parent's occupation, religion, process through the grades and date of leaving school. Rosemary Kopittke pointed out that some registers in Australia are still held by the schools and others held in state archives.

These records can give us information about the community our families grew up in which helps in adding to the story of our families.

I have no Irish family; however Chris Paton's talk on What is Ireland? Understanding the lay of the land I found fascinating. He gave a brief history of the Irish people and then spoke about the boundaries in Ireland – provinces, counties, baronies, civil parishes and townlands.

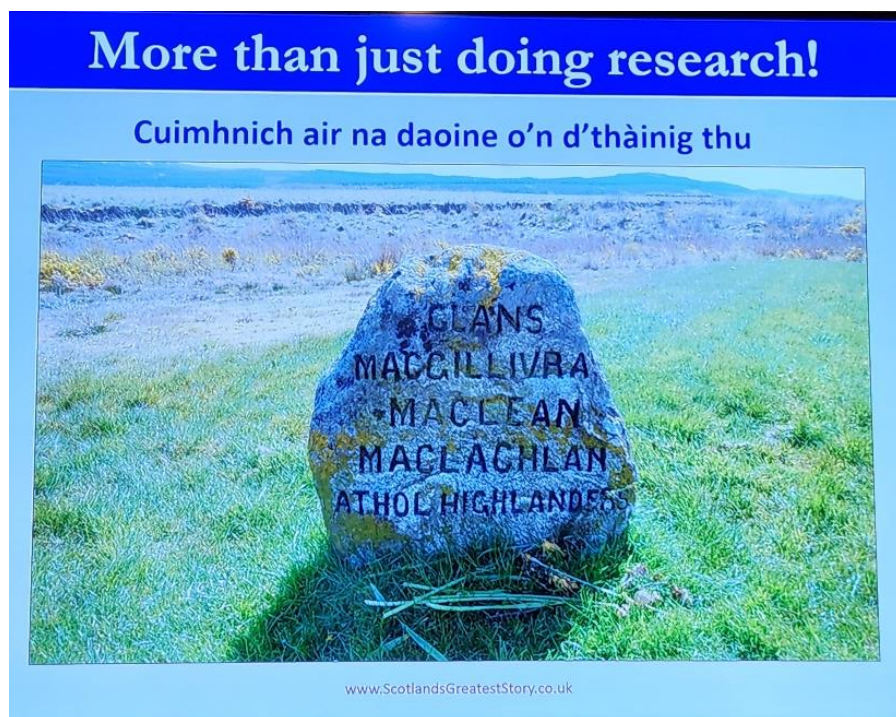
I am not saying I now have a working knowledge of the many differences of these different divisions but I now know there are websites to assist in locating information for researching those sometimes challenging locations in Ireland.





I have really enjoyed my first Genealogy Conference, the speakers, networking with other family historians from across Australia and quietly sailing from Sydney to Hobart, Adelaide and Melbourne.

The last talk by Chris Paton had the best last slide, a stone in Scotland in their mother tongue, Gaelic and I finish this article with this poignant quote – *Remember the people you came from.*



All of the handouts from the conference with very useful information and websites have been printed out and are available in the centre.

Happy Researching

**Jacqueline SMITH Member 2148**

## CENTRAL COAST MARITIME HISTORY



Central Coast Maritime History with Lance Godwin is featured each week on CoastFM96.3 and then Podcasted on the 'Coastfm963' Podcast.

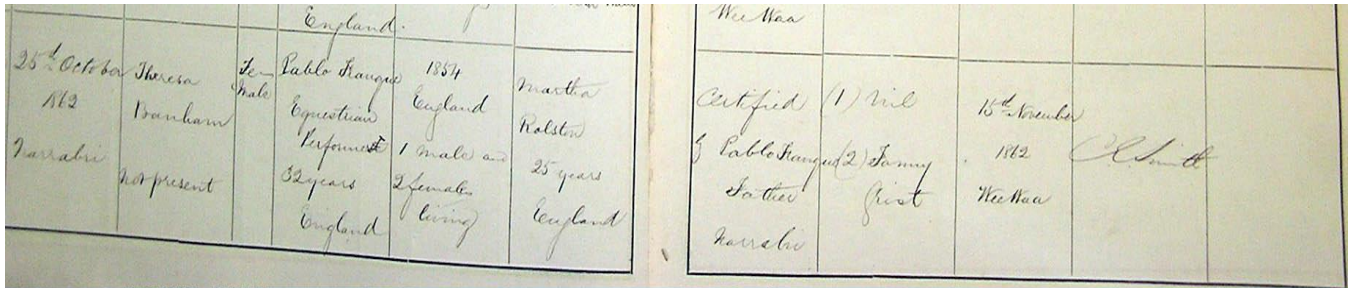
Episodes are on each Tuesday morning around 10:40 am and repeated on Sunday at 8:15am.

Tune in and listen to learn about the history of shipping on the Central Coast.

Very informative and entertaining with a cast of characters depicting maritime events from the early days when shipping was the main link to Sydney.

## The Mysterious story of Pablo Franque.

During recent documentation of births in the NSW town of Wee Waa, an interesting birth drew the attention to the transcribers.



25 October 1862 at Narrabri Theresa Banham was born to Pablo Franque- Equestrian Performer 32 yrs. England married 1854 England issue 1 male and 2 females living. Mother Martha Rolston 25 years, born England. Certified by Pablo Franque father Narrabri witness Fanny Grist (witness on many birth registrations. Registered on 15 November 1862 Wee Waa.

No other children were found to these parents under the name Franque but children born to a William Fanque and Martha were found.

### Births Search Results

Name	Registration Number	Father's Given Name(s)	Mother's Given Name(s)	District	PDF availability
<input type="checkbox"/> ? FANQUE (MALE)	1840/1865	WILLIAM B	MARTHA	SYDNEY	Unavailable
<input type="checkbox"/> ? FANQUE JOSEPH D B	15972/1864	WILLIAM B	MARTHA	WELLINGTON	Unavailable
<input type="checkbox"/> ? FANQUE SUSAN B	9630/1860	WILLIAM B	MARTHA	MUSWELLBROOK	Unavailable

An alternative spelling of the name was uncovered

### Deaths Search Results

Name	Registration Number	Father's Given Name(s)	Mother's Given Name(s)	District	PDF availability
<input type="checkbox"/> ? FRANQUE THERESA B	6207/1863	PABLO	MARTHA	WEE WAA	Unavailable
<input type="checkbox"/> ? FRANQUE SUSAN B	6208/1863	PABLO	MARTHA	WEE WAA	Unavailable

Sadly Theresa was then seen in a death register in 1863. Joseph B Fanque died 1935 in Canterbury, NSW.

Searches did not find any further deaths for the name Fanque or Franque.

Other records found for the couple include a trip from Launceston to Melbourne in 1855 as Mr. and Mrs. Pablo Franque. A Trove search found the following Pablo performed with the Jones Circus in Cooma on 3 Jun 1860.

**Pablo Fanque**



<b>Born</b>	William Darby 30 March 1810 <a href="#">Norwich</a> , England, United Kingdom
<b>Died</b>	4 May 1871 (aged 61) <a href="#">Stockport</a> , England
<b>Occupation(s)</b>	Circus proprietor; equestrian performer
<b>Years active</b>	1821–1869
<b>Spouses</b>	Susannah Marlaw (died 1848) Elizabeth Corker (m. 1848)

Pablo was charged with theft of clothing items at Muswellbrook 3 Sep 1860.

Pablo Franque and Troupe performed in Sydney 27 Jun 1867.

Pablo performed with Ashton's circus in Singleton 27 May 1885.

Pablo was in a boxing contest in Sydney 24 Apr 1886.

Pablo was at Broken Hill boxing in 1888.

Pablo was boxing in Sydney 1891.

Found boxing at the California Athletic Club in Sydney in 1892.

No Death was found under Pablo's name.

THEN further research showed another Pablo Franque/Fanque both equestrian performers in circus troupes.



This Pablo was not recorded as leaving the United Kingdom. His poster was used as inspiration for a Beatles song “Being for the Benefit of Mr. Kite”



This Pablo had 2 sons with his first wife and 2 sons and a daughter with his second wife.

The story is now yours to follow up on.

If you are interested try this link for more about the 2 Pablo's.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-01-31/being-for-the-benefit-of-mr-kite-story-behind-beatles-song/8204080>

**Robyn GREGG Member 2077**



## ROBERT DONALD MATHESON PATERSON

Sergeant Robert Paterson, 1/6 Battalion Highland Light Infantry



Born: 15<sup>th</sup> August 1874 Glasgow,  
Scotland  
Died: 10<sup>th</sup> November 1939 Ipswich,  
Queensland

The only information I knew about my Grandfather was that he had suffered lung damage due to inhaling Mustard Gas during WW1 and that was the reason for him coming to Australia.

My son was interested in his military history and discovered that he had an eventful war service.

Robert enlisted in the Highland Light Infantry (Territorials) in 1908 in Glasgow. Territorials were Reserves. He was fully enlisted from 5<sup>th</sup> August 1914 until 26<sup>th</sup> March 1919.

Record of the Highland Infantry:  
May 1915-- Gallipoli and Moudros

July 1915-- Action at Gully Ravine, Achi Baba Nulla, Krithia Nullas and evacuation of Helles.

January 1916--Moved to Egypt and concentrated at Abassia near Cairo, Suez Canal defences, action at Dueidar in April and the Battle of Romani in August.

1917—In action during First, Second and Third Battles at Gaza at Wadi el Hesi, the capture of Junction Station, Battle of Nabi Samwell and Battle of Jaffa. They were relieved and proceeded to France in April via Marseilles.

Then they took over a section of the front line near Arras, Battles of Albert, the Scarpe, Drocourt-Queant Line, Canal du Nord and the final advance in Artois. At Armistice Division was north of Mons canal engaged in clearing Herchies.



This is a painting of the Highland Light Infantry at the Battle at Arci Baba Nulla, Gallipoli the day Robert PATTERSON was wounded.

During service he was hospitalised several times and imprisoned by Germans. In November the prisoners were repatriated to Hull, Yorkshire per SS Archangel.

Most World War 1 soldiers could only receive 3 medals except in special circumstances.

Robert PATTERSON was one of 34,000. He had earned the Long Service Medal, due to his Reserve time; he served from 1908 until 1920 and was issued with 4 medals.





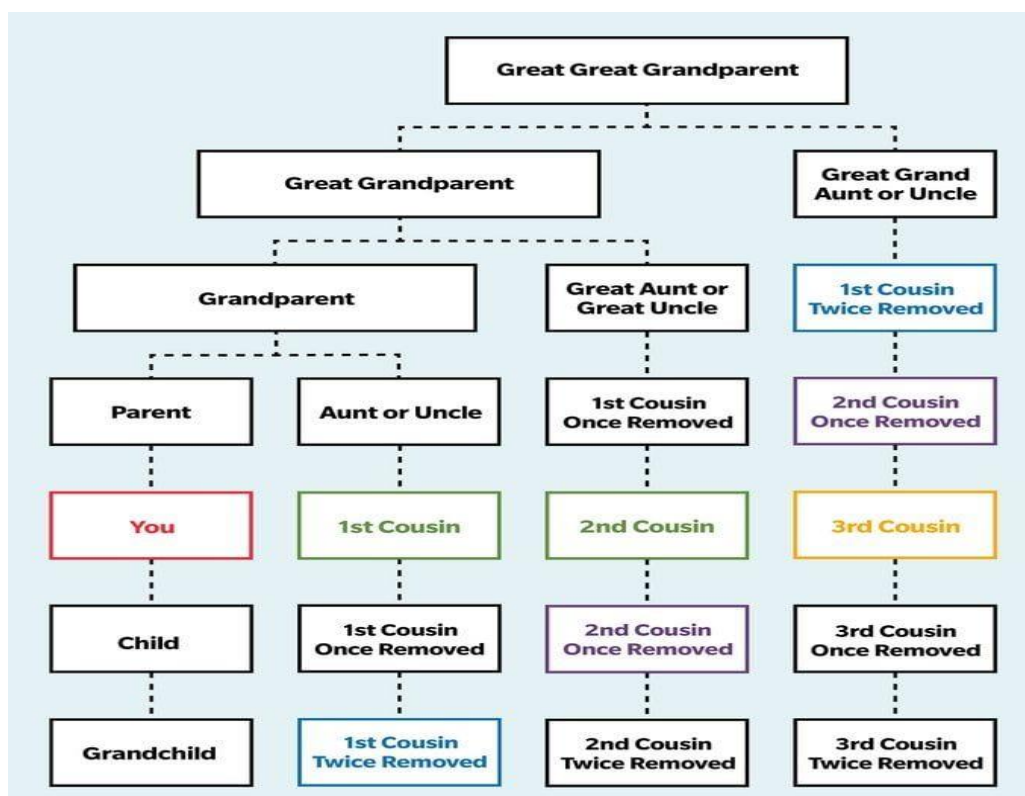
Robert migrated to Australia in 1932 and worked at Apple orchards at Stanthorpe in Queensland and on a property called “Hidden Vale” in Grandchester, QLD. He died in Ipswich Hospital in 1939 from Pneumonia.

Where these medals were for 100 years is a mystery as they were found and bought from a dealer in 2022.

- 1914-15 Star (61 Sgt. R. Paterson. High. L.I.)
- British War Medal. Silver issue
- Interallied Victory Medal (61 Sgt. R. Paterson. H.L.I.)
- Territorial Force Efficiency Medal (240004 Sgt R Paterson. 6/High. L.I.)



Ailsa TAYLOR Member 596



## Bushrangers on or near the Central Coast

### Early Bushrangers:

From the earliest days of the Colony convicts tried to escape their penal sentences by running away to live in the bush. These early bushrangers were known as 'bolters' and they supported themselves by living off the land and stealing what else they needed.

One of the first bushrangers on record was John or Black Caesar, who arrived with the First Fleet and continually absconded from penal custody, surviving in the bush around Port Jackson until he was killed in 1796.

Bushrangers continued to flourish with 'Bold' Jack Donohoe reaching notoriety in the late 1820s. He was known as the 'Wild Colonial Boy', who escaped his own hanging and was a Robin Hood like figure. The gold rush era of the 1850s and 1860s brought more well-known bushrangers, including Ben Hall, Frank Gardiner, Captain Thunderbolt and John Gilbert. The *Felons Apprehension Act 1865* (NSW) allowed for anyone to shoot a bushranger on sight and signals the beginning of the end of the bushrangers era, which draws to a close with Ned Kelly's death in 1880.

While the Central Coast of NSW isn't known for major bushranger activity like areas further inland, it did have a few incidents involving escaped convicts and petty thieves, including a notable case involving "Black Bowen" and a bushranger named Casey.

Here's a more detailed look at bushrangers and their activities on the Central Coast:

- **Black Bowen:**

A police tracker and customs officer, Bowen, was shot and killed by a bushranger named Casey in 1853 near Bushrangers Hill in Newport.

**"Black Bowen" and the Northern Beaches:**

Bowen reported to police the activities of two assigned servants (convicts) who had escaped and become petty thieves on the Northern Beaches. **Bushranger's Hill:** A location in Newport, Bushrangers Hill was associated with bushrangers and petty thieves.

- **The Jewboy gang:**

A group of bushrangers operated in close proximity to heavily populated settlements, raiding medium-sized establishments, such as inns, and occasionally bailing up to twenty or more people for up to six hours at a time. They were centered around the Lake Macquarie area.

- **The Clarke Gang:**

The Clarke brothers, Tom and John, were bushrangers who were part of a manhunt that resulted in a shoot-out with police.

- **The Governor Brothers:**

Joe and Jimmy Governor were the last proclaimed outlaws in New South Wales, and were responsible for the largest manhunt in Australian history.

- **Jessie Hickman:**

**Elizabeth Jessie Hickman** (née **Hunt**; 6 September 1890 – 1936) was an Australian bushranger. She had multiple aliases but is often referred to as **The Lady Bushranger**.



- In the 1920s she established herself as leader of a gang of cattle thieves in the area that is now Wollemi National Park. Forgotten for several decades after her death, she has been the subject of two recent books: *The Untold* by Courtney Collins (2012), and *Out of the Mists: The Hidden History of Elizabeth Jessie Hickman* (2014).

Jessie Hickman was born in either Burruga or Carcoar, New South Wales. At the age of eight she was sent to live with a travelling circus, attaining a reputation as a skilled roughrider – she was named Australian Ladies Roughriding Champion in 1905 and 1906.

**Jessie Hickman**



**Prison photograph taken 15 August 1913**

Hickman eventually became the Ringmistress of Martini's Buckjumping Show, and may have been married to its one-time owner Martin Breheny (known as James Martini).

In 1913 she had a son with Benjamin Hickman; the two married in 1920 and separated in 1924.

She is rumored to have been married to an abusive third man, John Fitzgerald (known as "Fitzy"), whom she is alleged to have killed in self-defense.

Jessie Hickman was jailed twice in the 1910s for thefts.

In the 1920s she established herself as leader of a gang of cattle thieves in the area that is now Wollemi National Park. She was charged with cattle rustling in 1918 and 1928, but was acquitted on both occasions. Her legendary exploits included escaping from custody while in a locked toilet aboard a moving train and stealing cattle in a police holding yard.

Hickman died of a brain tumor in 1936 and was interred in an unmarked grave in Sandgate Cemetery. *Information from Hunter Heritage media,*

<https://www.hunterheritagemedia.com/post/jessie-hickman-australias-last-bushranger>

## Baradine Tassells

Afternoon tea with Rae, the senior Tassell family member and the local Baradine historian is indeed a delight. Listening to stories of her Underwoods and other families living in the small Wooleybah village in the Pilliga forest, takes you back decades. Her parents, Tom and Mary Underwood, had the Wooleybah saw mill. Rae remembers their bonfire nights, tennis on the court her father had built and as youngsters, their Friday afternoons.



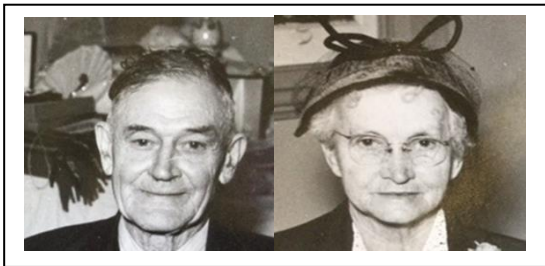
The delight was hopping on old Jimmy White's cart and horse for a five mile bush ride to the ramp. Then jump down for a quick run back home before the end of work day, when the mill whistle sounded at 5 o'clock. Bush workers came to collect their pay on Fridays, and snigger, Jimmy who moved the logs had strict rules for kid's rides as he went home.

The *Wooleybah Mill* is now heritage listed.<sup>1</sup> Rae's mother, Mary Underwood, managed the mill after husband Tom's death. Rae after her intermediate certificate at Saint Sabina College, Strathfield, also worked in the office doing the government required monthly reports and calculating daily required log dimensions.

There were lots of chat and stories from Rae, about her Baradine wedding to Stanley Tassell, their 4 children, Ann, Richard, Ken and Jennie and their Baradine days. I wondered and asked.. "Do you have any stories about Stan's family, his parents John and Eva Tassell at *Oak Hill* Baradine?" Rae said that "The men never spoke about their family." What an interesting challenge and what Tassell information can we discover? I don't know the family or the district.

My initial research began with four questions. Answers came randomly and lead to another aspect to be discovered and noted, associated with each family and generation.

### 1. Who were the original Baradine Tassells - John Love and Eva Eliza Mary Tassell?



NSW BDM confirmed their marriage in 1917 at Biddon, NSW. John's death in 1959 noted father as Frederick. John's birth is not on NSW BDM. So I searched TROVE. There were lots of Tassells in Hay. Are there any connection? John and Eva's 1917 marriage in Biddon, NSW appeared with details in the newspaper. Their wedding reports gave hints.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Wooleybah Mill Heritage

<sup>2</sup> John & Eva Wedding NSW BDM 2713/1917 Gilgandra.

## 2. Where is their Baradine, Oak Hill property?

*Oak Hill* is not known as that today. Several miles from town it was suggested. A Trove search (Tassell Baradine) had the answer in a most unexpected source. Son Colin aged 10 had 5 reports posted on the Junior Farmers page in the newspaper... He writes "*I live on a farm situated two miles west of Baradine.*"<sup>1</sup>

COLIN TASSELL, (Baradine).—I live on a farm situated two miles west of Baradine. Dad has got the crop in and

**3. Why and when did they arrive in Barradine?** Why Baradine was chosen is still not specifically answered, but certainly wishing to settle on their own land is the obvious reason. When they arrived it appears to be after second son Stanley was born in Gilgandra. Both sons, Colin and Stanley were registered there, it being the closest registry to Eva's, Gilmore parents. No further clues until recently when son Stanley's birth certificate (which was included in mother Eva's probate package) noted they were **Living at Oak Hill, Baradine** in 1921.

**4. Can overseas links be found?** Family Historians are always anxious to discover links with earlier generation. I recently took my research to CCFHS with the question "Is there enough evidence to discover where and when Frederick Tassell arrived in Australia?" Yes that can be the next research of the Tassell from Baradine in Faversham, Kent.

## Some unexpected successes.

### 1 Who were the Baradine Tassells? John Love and Eva Eliza Mary Tassell

A Trove search, noted in a family obituary, that the family and children left Victoria for NSW. BDMs in NSW and Victoria found John's siblings and only youngest brother William was born in NSW in 1887. Children were registered by John's parents Frederick and Honora Tassell in different Victorian places. The NSW registry at Parks, confirmed Eva's 1890 birth to parents Colin and Mary Gilmore. That's four known generations.

**2. Where is their Oak Hill property?** TROVE was searched (Tassell Baradine) and discovered John & Eva's eldest son Colin aged 10 had 5 reports printed on the Junior Farmers page about Oak Hill, school and farm life.<sup>2</sup>

Maps on NSW Lands Department HLRV (Historic Land Records Viewer) show many map references for Eva's land Portions 134, 135, 63 and 64, a total of 521 acres and the nature of the specific leases that EVA E M TASSELL had for her family until her death in 1961. These leases are also noted in the newspaper and paragraph available through Trove.

<sup>1</sup> The Farmer and Settler Sydney, Fri 28 Jun 1929

<sup>2</sup> The Farmer and Settler (Sydney, NSW : 1906 - 1955) / Fri 28 Jun 1929

### 3. Why and when did they arrive in Barradine?

Why they chose Baradine is still not apparent. Son Stanley's birth certificate says living at Baradine in 1921. Is there any evidence of earlier?

Just recently, searching the hard and depressing times of the 1930's, the government help available in the *Farmers Relief Act Files* came into view.<sup>1</sup> In part of those tables of Eva's application it is noted CP 22.12.19 (i.e. In 1919 Eva has a conditional purchase. Living there was part of the condition). Imagine having to live on that original 1919 uncleared Baradine block with a babe and then a second son Stanley in 1921.

### 4. Can overseas links be found?

Just ask CCFHS. I have no English research skills. The family of Frederick Tassell was found in Faversham, Kent. Aged 20 he came in Steerage, on the *Sussex*, to Melbourne Victoria. **Sept - December 1858**,

His occupation noted as Farmer from England.<sup>2</sup>  
That reference is currently enough.

PASSENGER LIST.									
SCHEDULE (B.), referred to in the 16th Section of the 18 & 19 Victoria, cap. 119, entitled "The Passengers' Act, 1855."									
Ship's Name.	Master's Name.	Tons per Register.	Aggregate number of superficial Feet in the several compartments set apart for Passengers, other than Cabin Passengers.	Total number of Statute Adults, exclusive of Master, Crew, and Cabin Passengers, which the ship can legally carry.	Where bound.				
<i>Sussex</i>	<i>W. F. Forthright</i>	<i>959</i>			<i>Melbourne</i>				

I hereby certify, That the Provisions actually laden on board this Ship, are sufficient, according to the Requirements of the Passengers' Act, for *122 1/2* Statute Adults, for a Voyage of *140* Days.

(Signature) *William F. Forthright* Master.

Date, *24 September* 1858.

NAMES AND DESCRIPTIONS OF PASSENGERS.												
Ports of Embarkation.	Names of Passengers.	Age of each Adult of 12 Years and upwards.				Children between 1 and 12 Years.		Infants.		Profession, Occupation, or Calling of Passenger.	State whether English, Scotch, or Irish.	Port at which Passengers have contracted to land.
		Married.	Single.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.			
	<i>Tassell Fred</i>									<i>Farmer</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>Melbourne</i>

<sup>1</sup> Government Special Assistance Applications NSW State Archives Number NRS 19669 Farmers relief Act Files. At NSW State Records

<sup>2</sup> Shipping Victoria,



YES... The final challenge.

Organise the facts and Rae's wonderful oral history for the current and future generations. With the further assistance of Rae and her children Ann, Richard, Ken and Jennie, a printed version is almost ready.

Already Rae Tassell, her brother Tom and their mother Mary Underwood have their recorded interviews on line via the Macquarie Project and available via the National Library. The simple Google 3 word search (Rae Tassell interview) (Tom Underwood interview) and (Mary Underwood interview) allows you to listen to these talks on line.

As well as discovering the Tassell family I have explored NSW & Victorian BDMs more extensively, The NSW Lands Department HLRV Maps in NSW, Victorian Shipping Unassisted passengers, and been assisted whenever I needed by CCFHS members.

All these on-line records are most helpful. But most precious are the family oral histories we each have, perhaps as yet unrecorded.

Enjoy the challenges family history brings. Oops I'm an older generation myself.. I am gathering photos and stories, but I wish my chats with an earlier generation Aunt Marjorie had been recorded.

**Marlene DAVIDSON Member 327L**

## **The Recollections of Stephen Augustine Donnelly- Representative of Miners in the Australian Parliament and Public Works Dept. of NSW.**

**Stephen Augustine Donnelly** was an Irish-born Australian politician. He was born in Cork on 01/01/1835 to Cornelius Donnelly and Mary O'Leary, and grew up in Oxford in England. In 1850 he and his family migrated to Western Australia, following the gold rush to Victoria in 1852. He later mined at Lucknow in New South Wales. In 1864 he was elected to the New South Wales Legislative Assembly for Goldfields West, but he resigned in 1866.

On 2 May 1868 he married Catherine Agnes Cummings, with whom he had seven children. He worked for the Public Works Department, eventually becoming roads superintendent at Armidale. He retired in 1896 and around 1898 moved to Waratah, where he died in 1910.

*My first impressions of Sydney and New South Wales (cont...)*

### **The Bathurst Plains**

Two or three groups of farm like steadings indicated that farming pursuits were carried on indeed; but not nearly to the extent that could have been with the advantages for such, as here existed – viz. a splendid soil and no heavy forest clearing required to fit it for the plough – which grand instrument of civilisation could be at once inserted in the rich virgin soil.

Unfortunately however, for the progress of Australia, the same baneful reason for its retardation was in evidence in N.S.W. (even in a greater degree) as it was in all its other colonies – viz. That much of the best lands had passed into the hands of a comparative few highly favoured personages for nothing at all in many cases, and for almost nothing in very many more.

Most of which unjustifiable concessions to class interests were made before the Australian colonies had obtained Responsible Government – by which measure the control of the Crown Lands of Australia was handed by the Crown to the several colonial governments.

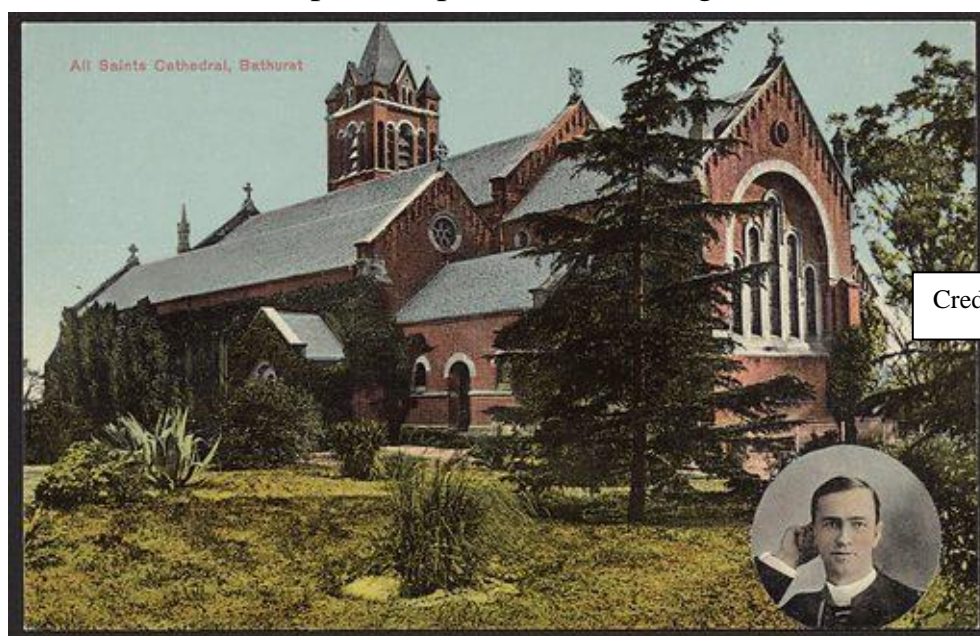
That measure became law in 1856, but it was not for six or seven years later, that a popular land act came into effect in any of the colonies, and in the meantime many “smart” and wealthy persons succeeded in securing for themselves thousands upon thousands of acres of the best lands whether regard be had for fertility of soil, advantages of situation or to both. And in no localities were the evil consequences of such a vicious course of action more to be noticed than in the neighbourhood of most of the inland towns – which even now (1910) is plainly to be seen in many parts – expansion almost blocked and local industries paralysed.

Onward we continued our journey, passing through Kelso (one of the oldest settlements in the west) and crossing the Macquarie river, by a heavy looking, double tracked laminated arched timber bridge, we soon found ourselves at Bathurst, where our coach pulled-up at Denis Gaynor’s “Royal Oak” hotel, and my journey, by that coach, was at an end.

Bathurst presented a very dull – indeed an almost dismal appearance, as I thought, although it was then (1863) regarded, as the second most important centre in N.S.W.

Nearly all the buildings were built of a dull crumbling kind of red brick; many of them even in the principal business streets, were but of one storey, and very dingy to boot. In the centre of the town was a horrible ghastly looking prison, a disgusting survival of the old convict days but happily long since removed and its site transformed into a beautiful urban park.

The Catholic Church held pride of place as a building.



Credit\_ State Library Victoria

The Anglican Church harmonised with the general appearance of the town. I noticed one fairly large store with plate glass windows. There were several smaller ones, and public houses seemed very plentiful.

The streets were broad (1½ chains), not over well kept; footpaths kerbed with short lengths of unknown columnar basalt – which rock abounds in the neighbourhood. Bathurst, as a matter of course, suffered much from the cause to which allusion has already been made, viz. the holding of the suburban lands for miles in every direction by private individuals who chiefly retain them for speculative purposes much to the detriment of the town; as well – if their greediness had not made them blind – as to their own interests.

But I had not much time to examine the town to any appreciable extent, but enquiring my way to Cobb's offices secured my passage in that afternoon's coach for the Wentworth mines, for which accommodation I paid £1.

The coach left Bathurst about 3 p.m. The "turnout" – coach, horses and all – was all that could be desired but the driver was the most shabbily dressed, and as I soon found, the surliest, I had ever travelled with for which reasons, as I afterwards learned, he was known as "Jimmy the pig". He was a good driver however and generally in that respect performed his duties with skill, care and punctuality.



First Cobb & Co. coach leaving Bathurst for Forbes via Orange, 1862, image courtesy of Orange City Library

He asked me, as I was the only male passenger, to go on the box seat with him (Cobb's drivers being prohibited to carry women on the box seat). I of course complied. The inside of the coach was occupied by four young women who carried on a lively and cheerful chattering among themselves as we drove along. Not long after leaving the town we passed between two lodges like cottages, from which onward for several miles, the road ran between fences.

The unusual appearance, in Australia, of lodges, such as are to be seen at the entrance to gentlemen's estates in the old countries led me to make some enquiries of "Jimmy", who, after some delay, condescended to inform me, that the lodges were built a long time previously by Colonel Stewart.



He had nearly forty years before been governor of N.S.W. for a very short time, but in that short time had transferred to himself the whole of what was now known as the Mount Pleasant estate, comprising many thousand acres of excellent land lying to the west and northwest of Bathurst, and almost touching the municipal boundary and the lodges referred to, had been intended for the main gate entrance to his estate

A hill was pointed out, a mile or two to the north, upon the top of which an obelisk or some kind of monument was conspicuous. That monument, my informant told me, marked the site of “General” Stewart’s grave.



Credit: Michael Gardner- “Find a Grave”

Here indeed was another instance of the facilities given by the laws to easily secure lands - in the good old days of lagom – to those who may have been in a position to possess them.

I found out afterwards that Colonel Stewart had been “acting Governor” for a period of eighteen (18) days, during the interregnum caused by the retirement on 30th Nov. 1825 of Governor Brisbane, and the accession of Governor Darling on 19th December of the same year, yet it was asserted by common report that it was during this eighteen day governorship, the vast and important Mount Pleasant Estate passed from the ownership of the King to that of his astute proconsul.

It does seem that the proposed gates were ever erected, and when I first passed that way, what was the Great Western Road, for a distance at least, coincided with the line originally set down for Colonel Stewart’s carriage drive. The lodges were used as dwellings by a couple of the tenant farmers who then subsisted and eked out a precarious livelihood upon the vast and naturally fertile Mount Pleasant Estate.



The plains were soon passed over, and ranges of moderate elevation fairly timbered follow. Very little in the way of road construction, or improvement were met with, except a very narrow timber bridge over Evan's Plains Creek, and a similar structure at The Rocks. Few farms were noticeable, for after passing through the Mount Pleasant Estate the soil seemed to be very poor, and almost unfit for cultivation. Soon after we passed "The Rocks" night closed in. Consequently, although, once or twice, I noticed several lights coming from what I deemed to be village-like clusters of dwellings, as well as the passing of two or three roadside inns – the darkness of the night prevented my observing, to any extent the country we were travelling over.

After passing Frederick's Valley P.O. and approaching the Wentworth mines, the miners' huts became very numerous, judging by the many dim lights coming from the side of a hill, or rising ground on our left hand and such increased as we drove on.



Credit :- Orange City Council Heritage Collection

At length after bumping and pitching for about a mile over deeply rutted and almost impassable track that beggared description, the coach pulled up in front of the then only inn in the place, which, by the crowd around seemed to be doing a roaring trade, but I soon found these people in waiting comprised more men desirous of seeing the coach arrive with the mail, and to get their letters and newspapers than it did of those who were patrons of the hotel.

I stepped down from the coach and entered the hostelry for the purpose chiefly of making enquiries for my brother, Denis, whereupon a respectable looking man followed me, who in a Scotch accent asked me if "if I was Denis Donnelly's brother?" for Denis and I bore a strong resemblance to each other.

I replied in the affirmative. The enquirer then told me his name was David Provan, and that he was a member of the Mining Company which Denis had just formed. He also invited me to go with him to the place where they both boarded, where supper would be provided at once. I willingly – nay gladly accepted my kind albeit newly found friend's invitation – for I had eaten nothing since I had breakfast at “Ferngrove” nearly 12 hours before – and it was now after 9 p.m.

We started together, and as we went on the way he informed me, Denis had gone to Orange (5 miles away) that afternoon and that he did not expect him to return until next morning, also he stated the prospects of the mine were all that could be desired, although latterly they had not been getting any gold for the reason that much preliminary cleaning out of the old workings had to be done, as well as other preparations to be made before the actual work of gold getting could be fairly entered upon, and which would yet occupy some weeks longer.

I was sorry Denis was absent, but, accustomed as I had been to the difficulties and delays incidental to gold mining, the report Provan gave me of the mine did not in any way cause me disappointment. We soon reached the boarding house, where my kindly guide introduced me to all present as “Denis’ brother” whereupon I was warmly welcomed and my hand shaken by all.

After which a plentiful if somewhat homely meal with a pleasant log fire made me feel very comfortable. And shortly after – on a shake down on the floor of a back room, I soundly slept the sleep of the weary and the just, until the dull light of the following dawn was sending its feeble rays through the chinks of the door of the windowless room.

I was quickly dressed and out; and if the valley did not lay smiling before me it was because the morning had been ushered in by a copious downpour of rain, which marred a scene that in other respects, was naturally a beautiful one, but whose charms had been disfigured by the numerous tents, bark huts, humpies and mounds of freshly turned earth which had always proclaimed the early gold seekers settlements as well as his avocation.

Not that all the habitations were of the temporary character indicated above, for there were three small sized one storied cottages) including the boarding house and the inn), but which being built of the dark basalt stone of the neighbourhood, had, if possible, a more dingy and dismal appearance than most of the smoke begrimed bark huts which abounded in several directions.

The old mill and machinery had not as yet been taken possession of by Denis and his party, and therefore was still employed in grinding wheat and turning out flour The heavy groaning and noise made by the old fashioned Cornish boiler and engine reminded me of the terrible sounds I had heard emitted from the steam boat “Phantom” on the Sunday before.

It also brought to mind a passage I had read in the life of Watt, the great improver of the steam engine, to the effect that his improved engines found but little favour among the miners of Cornwall; and their introduction to that county was resisted for a long time on the ground, that they (the engines) did not make enough noise to please the fastidious ear of the sturdy Cornish miner.

In conversation with my newly formed acquaintances, I was informed that some years before when the Wentworth mines had been first worked, an almost fabulous amount of gold had been taken out of them, but much of it had been stolen.



Patrick William (1858-1939) *Stage coach hold-up, Eugowra Rocks*, oil on canvas, 137.5 x 183 cm

Prominent business men of Orange had been suspected of being connected with, (one of them had been arrested) the robberies in question, and such men started their places of business from the proceeds of such ill-gotten gains.

Further it was also affirmed that several buckets of almost pure gold had been hidden in the old workings by the thieves with the intention of taking them away should a favourable opportunity present itself, as well as other stories of a similar character, all of which I took in with a considerable allowance of salt.

Denis returned about 10 a.m., the cause of his not returning the previous night, being that the man who owned them conveyance which plied between Orange and “The Wentworth” had had his vehicle seized by a busy bailiff late in the afternoon, and therefore Denis had to wait in the town until other arrangements had been made that morning. We were rejoiced to meet again after a separation of over a year.

To be continued...

**Rosalie DONNELLY Member 2224**

## 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:-**

The Tibouchina, or originally named Lasiandra, is a small evergreen tree native to south-east Brazil. These trees typically grow to a height of five metres, but can also be trained as a shrub.



Tibouchina are most easily recognised during the autumn months when they are covered in small, purple flowers. The leaves of this tree are small, dark green with a pale green underside and are covered with fine hairs.

Tibouchina “Alstonville” is named in honour of Alstonville, on the far north coast of New South Wales, as it was the first area of Australia where this tree was grown.

In South America people use the masses of purple blooms to decorate churches at Easter. In Brazil, an infusion of the leaves, stems and flowers of some species are used for stomach problems.

**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.**



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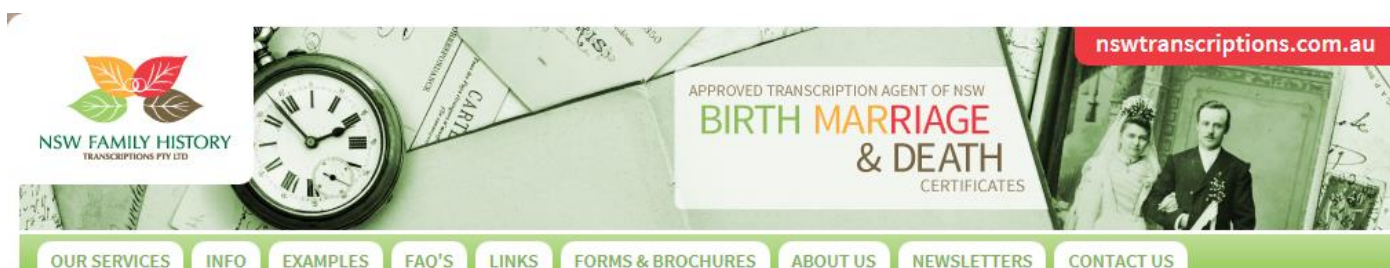
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