



THE FIG TREE

JOURNAL OF THE

**MANNING WALLAMBA FAMILY
HISTORY SOCIETY Inc. TAREE**

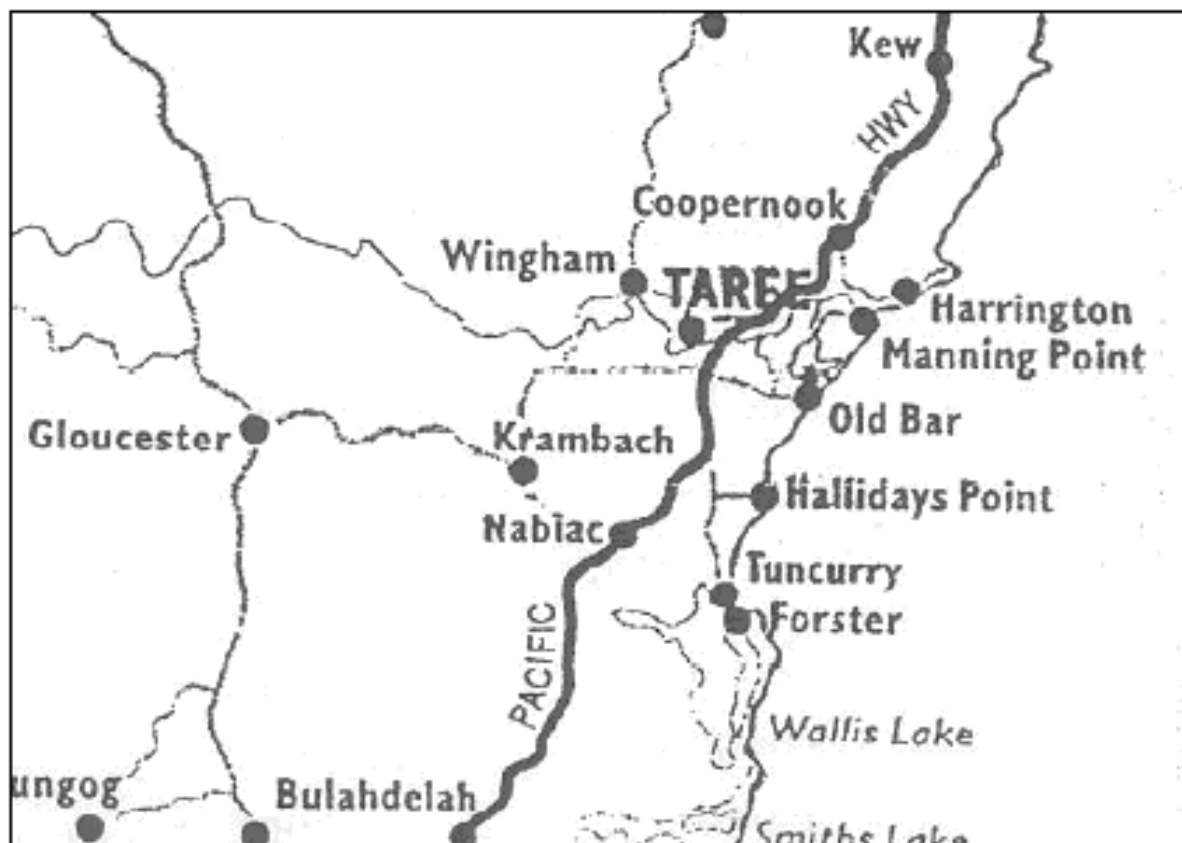
OPERATING IN OUR 27TH YEAR FROM THE GREATER TAREE CITY LIBRARY

No 119

July-September 2011

Postal Address: PO Box 48 Taree NSW 2430
ABN 50 373 809 536

Website <http://www.manningwallambafhs.com.au>
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MANNING WALLAMBA FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY Inc. Taree covers the whole Manning region as shown in the above map and includes the following areas:

Manning Valley, Wingham, Taree, Kendall, Coopernook, Old Bar, Forster, Harrington, Manning Point, Nabiac, Bulahdelah, Kew, Krambach, Oxley Island, Mitchells Island, Tinonee, Moorland, Lansdowne, Killabakh, Failford, Rawdon Vale, Tuncurry, Coolongolook, Bungwahl, Smiths Lake, Wallis Lake.

OFFICE BEARERS:

President:	G Sawyer		
Vice Presidents:	G Troth	L Kidd	
Secretaries:	J Jones (Correspondence)	S Robinson (Minutes)	
	A Ranger (Membership)		
Treasurer:	C Troth	L Haynes	
Librarians	E Sawyer	N Swan	
Research:	G Toohey	N Swan	
Committee:	B Haynes	G Martin	A Calvert
Public Officer:	L Kidd		
Publicity:	G Sawyer	G Toohey	

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



A hearty welcome to all new members who have joined us since our last "Figtree."

The year is progressing rapidly and it is now time for membership renewals.

It is also timely to remind members that Annual Meeting time is almost upon us and consideration should be given as to what one can do for our Society, be it a position on the committee, holding an executive position, or helping out at our fundraising barbeques. I am sure some members have untapped hidden talents which could benefit our Society. Please do not hide your talents- make yourself available for the betterment of your Society.

MWFHS Inc has gone from strength to strength and our membership at date is around 160. Sadly, only a small number of members participate regularly in our activities.

On a sad note I must record the recent passing of one of our Patrons in Bruce Cowan who was a great supporter and one keen on the concept of the recording of family history. Our condolences go to his family.

I must applaud our happy band of duty volunteers who attend our alcove at Taree City Library on a daily basis to help with genealogy queries from the public. Sometimes it is almost a "riot" with the excitement of finding information for either visitors or members. Seating and computer terminals are at a premium frequently.

Our attendance at sister society Port Macquarie's recent fair was most enjoyable, educational, and profitable, with good sales of our books. Congratulations Port Macquarie on such a well organised fair with interesting speakers.

As co-publicity officer with Gloria Toohey, we recently attended a seminar on dealing with the media. This was educational and entertaining, giving insight to hints on preparation of media releases including photographs etc. The day was organised by Greater Taree City Council as a benefit to its many volunteers and as a celebration of Volunteers Week.

HAPPY RESEARCHING TO ALL!
George Sawyer.

SOCIETY NEWS

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL: Membership is now OVERDUE. To keep your membership privileges renewals must be received prior to the Annual General Meeting

EMAIL UPDATES: Please ensure that your email address is currently correct. **If you don't get an email** about meetings and workshops, could you please update your address by emailing
secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: Saturday, 20th August in the Greater Taree City Council Library at 1.30pm. Meet outside the Library at 1.20pm.



BUNNINGS BARBECUES: Remember the dates: July 31, October 30, November 27. If you are able to spare an hour or two on any of these days, please add your name on the list at the Library.

NEW MEMBERS: Welcome to: Sheryl Humphries, Vicki Lambert, Christine Nichols, Janice Parslow, John Dillaway, Caroline and Peter Hanley, Joan Wisely, Colleen Hall. We hope you enjoy your genealogy journey.

ISOLATED AND UNMARKED GRAVES: Thank you to all who have contributed to this project. We have had a steady stream of information coming in from both Society members and the public.

RESEARCH SERVICE: Research Form can be downloaded from Society website. Initial Research Enquiry \$20.00. Research enquiries will be published in our newsletter 'Fig Tree'. All correspondence must be addressed to Secretary, PO Box 48 Taree NSW 2430

NATIONAL FAMILY HISTORY WEEK: 29th July- 8th August
National Family History Week is an initiative of Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations.

SAVE OUR CENSUS: The Australian census will be taken on Tuesday 9 August. Australians will again have the choice to have their personal information stored for 99 years. To have your information saved you must say yes to question 60. Family historians can make a difference!

“DIGGING AROUND THE ROOTS OF YOUR FAMILY TREE”:

This full day course will be held again on Wednesday 24th August from 10am to 3pm with a break for lunch Places are limited so book your spot at the Library front desk.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

<i>Saturday</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>Workshop</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>General Meeting</i>
<i>Friday 29th July – Monday 8th August</i>			
<i>FAMILY HISTORY WEEK</i>			
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>Bunnings BBQ</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>August</i>	<i>Workshop</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>August</i>	<i>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>August</i>	<i>“Digging” course</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>Workshop</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>General Meeting</i>



RESEARCH ENQUIRIES

W Willison	re Ancestors of James Hugh STEWART
A Minnet	re A book on the MINNET family
E Smith	re birth of Annie McINNES
J Dumbrell	re George Edward HOMEWOOD
A Mahoney	re burial of ALLAN at “Aikenfield”
G Murphy	re Charles MURPHY

If you can help with any of these enquiries please contact the Research Officer



LIBRARIANS' REPORT

Annual stock take has been completed and 3 CD's have not been found.

1. Schubert Family Tree
2. Family History 2007-Cluse/Cluss, George/ Peters, McCay/Mann, McDean, Schubert -Both by J Bolton
3. British Isles Gen.Reg.Big R 2000

28 Newsletters, Journals, Magazines have been received.

New acquisitions during the last two months:

CD'S Muswellbrook Cemetery Photos
Clandestine Marriages in the Chapel, Fleet Prison 1680-1754
Sydney Gaol Records for Port Macquarie Convicts April 1821-1826
Old Registers 1-9 Assignments and other Legal Instruments 22-1-1794 to 15-5-1824
CD & Book- Lord Howe Island Burial Register

BOOKS Index to NSW Probates 1800-1952 Hastings & Surrounding areas
Port Macquarie- Hastings Pioneer Register 1821-1900
The Descendants of Jeremiah & Jane Willis of "Bendage Farm" Rob Roy.

DONATIONS

By Helen Branch- Journey of the Zucker and Turner Families
By Darryl Murray- The Hugh Murray- Margaret Beattie Family
Various Birth, Death and Marriage Certificates/Transcriptions



The trials and tribulations in Genealogy copied from Moonraker Email.

"Suzy Lee fell in love. She planned to marry Joe.

She was so happy about it all, she told her pappy so.

Pappy told her, "Suzie Gal" you'll have to find another.

I'd just as soon yo maw don't know, but Joe is yo half brother.

So Suzie forgot about her Joe and planned to marry Will.

But after telling pappy this, he said "there's trouble still.

You can't marry Will, my gal and please don't tell yo mother

cause Will and Joe and several mo I know is yo half-brothers."

But mama knew and said "Honey chile, do what makes you happy.

Marry Will or Joe, you ain't no kin to Pappy!" (Thank you Jan)



FREEDOM AT A COST- THE FIRST PARDON WAS GRANTED IN 1788

There was a need to find someone to undertake the task of dispatching condemned felons via the hangman's noose, and who better than a convict who could hardly refuse the job offer, given the alternative.

James Freeman was transported to Australia on the ship Alexander. Freeman was found guilty at the Criminal Court on 29 February 1788 for stealing flour. The fledging Colony was barely a month old and supplies of food were limited. Theft of such items was therefore viewed with the utmost seriousness, hence the draconian death sentence that was handed down. The punishment was at once severe, merciful and pragmatic

Freeman was pardoned on the condition of his becoming the common hangman which he accepted. Freeman had to think a little before taking the job of hangman as "while under the ladder, with the rope around his neck, he was offered his free pardon on condition of performing the duty of the common hangman as long as he remained in this country; which after some little pause, he reluctantly accepted."

James Freeman served the remaining 3 years of his sentence as the public hangman: he then worked as a farm labourer until his death, He lived with Mary Edwards and they had two children He died at the age of 67 a pauper at Windsor 28 January 1830

The first woman to be hanged in Australia was Ann Davis who was executed on 23 November 1789. She was about 30 years old

Ann was found guilty of stealing clothing and goods from the house of convict Robert Sidaway, who co-habitated there with Mary Marshal. Davis was in the habit of calling by and smoking a pipe with them.

When they were away on November 14 she gained access through a window. After upsetting a tub of water in the house, she made off with her booty; it was later found in her possession.

When the prisoner claimed to be pregnant and thus that she could not be executed, the court ordered a trial by matrons. The jury of matrons was the most important function that women performed in eighteenth century courts

"On her condemnation she pleaded pregnancy, and a jury of venerable matrons was empanelled on the spot to examine and pronounce her state, which the forewoman, a grave personage between sixty and seventy years old, did by this short address to the Court "Gentlemen, She is as much with child as I am ."

Sentence was accordingly passed, and she was executed .

Sydney Cove. Nov 23 Ann Davis has been hanged, the first woman in the colony to be "turned off" by the executioner. On 2 Dec 1789 James Freeman's (the executioner) worst moment may have come when he killed Ann Davis the first woman executed in Australia Found drunk a week later he was punished with 100 lashes.

(Collected from various sources- Thank you Brian)

THE FLOOD IN THE MANNING

Following the recent flooding of the Manning River, we went to the Trove newspaper website (<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/home>) and searched "Manning River" flood. There were hundreds of articles, one of which is printed below:

(.From the Manning River News, July 28 1866)

In addition to the facts placed before our readers last week, a correspondent, writing from Tigras Flat, (Mr. Brims' station, near the head of the river), tells us :-" About twelve o'clock on Thursday night Mrs. Brims got up, and finding the water approaching too rapidly, all hands were aroused, and everything removed to higher ground. We stood all night in the dark, and during a pitiless rain watched anxiously for the approach of day. There was still a great deal to save, in the shape of corn and bacon. Fortunately the water stood at about the same level for an hour and a half, and then about daybreak it rose again a few inches. At nine o'clock it began to subside. Our precautions only involved unnecessary labour, but it is better to be safe than sorry. As soon as it was practicable, Mr. Brims went to see how his neighbour, Paddy Connelly,

fared. Not being able to cross the rivers, he cut his way through a mountain pass. On reaching the place he discovered that all Connelly's effects were swept away, and his family sheltered under a couple of sheets of bark. Connelly has lost about one hundred pigs, sixteen of which were just fit for the knife; all his poultry; one hundred and fifty bushels of corn ; bedding ; and all his household furniture and utensils ; in fact a clean sweep had been made. The house had been carried away, and also his straddle, dairy, and other outhouses; not a vestige of any of them remained. It was only the casual presence of strangers passing the night under his roof, that saved the life of his family- for these strangers carried the females through the water to a more elevated locality. Mr. Brims states that Connelly's inventory now consists of two or three tea cups, a camp oven, and kettle." In a postscript to this communication, it is further stated " that with the assistance of Mr. Brims and his man, a hut has since been put up for Connelly, and he has been supplied with provisions. The water rose here thirty feet perpendicular."

Another correspondent tells us that at Giro Flat, on the Bernard, a tributary of the Manning, Mr. Cobb suffered severely ; having lost, among other things, a great many sheep. The water rose two feet after entering his dwelling.

We are also informed that the Gloucester River was very high, being up to the hotel.

A letter from Dumaresq Island has reached us, which mentions severe losses. Mr. John Slaney lost half his barn, and about 300 bushels corn, besides pigs, poultry, pumpkins, &c, to an indefinite extent. Two of the Messrs. Clune were also flooded out, and their corn much damaged, besides which they lost a quantity of fencing and other articles. The letter also says "all our neighbours on this island suffered severely."

Our Kempsey correspondent gives a sad account of the Macleay. He says things were not quite so bad as they were after the last great flood, but they are bad enough. Many landslips have again occurred, and a large amount of property was destroyed.

In reference to the Dingo Creek, we are authorised by Mr. John Wallace, the owner of the land upon which Mr. Herkiss resides, to state that the damage done to his property is not so great as has been represented. Mr. Wallace says, that with the exception of three or four acres, the land is as good as ever. Of course this remark does not extend to the houses or fencing, which were damaged to a considerable extent.

After having carefully weighed all the information that has reached us from every part of the Manning we believe we may safely say there are not fifty who have lost everything. A still smaller number have been very heavy sufferers, but the losses of the remainder will be overcome in a year or two, if Heaven should bless us with good seasons and remunerative prices. Upon the whole, we are more hopeful than we were last week ; and more grateful, we trust, on finding, now that the storm has

passed by, we shall not be called upon to record the loss of a single life. Life, and health, and energy remain -and these, with the blessing of Providence, will soon enable us to surmount our present troubles.

During all the week we have had fine drying weather-another blessing, for it has enabled sufferers to save much property that would otherwise have been lost. (Editors note: The article gave the river name as Bernard, not Barnard.)

FAMILY FOLKLORE REGARDING 1929 FLOOD ON THE MANNING

At the time of the great flood of 1929, my Great Grandfather, John William Sawyer, affectionately known as “Chiselwhiskers”, was staying with his Son Wm George Sawyer and wife Eliza Agnes and children Connie and Jack on the farm at Taree Estate.

The adults were churning cream making butter when the flood struck and in their haste to evacuate, left the dish of butter on the kitchen table. The waters rose so high that the kitchen table floated to ceiling height and swirled around the room with the butter being streaked all around the ceiling surface. The family lost all their possessions in that flood.

The photo below of the same house in the 1978 flood shows the water receding, but it had been at guttering level. The house is built low on the ground and is situated on one of the lower areas of Taree Estate making it vulnerable in any flood.
George Sawyer



PUBLICITY OFFICERS' REPORT

We have had good media coverage in the Manning River Times lately, keeping our name and activities before the public. Additionally, Gloria has had some effective on air interviews with Cameron Marshall, ABC Mid North Coast.

Recently, at the recommendation of Margie Wallis, City Council's leader Cultural Services, we attended a Council sponsored media seminar as a Volunteers' Week activity.

Much was learnt on how to submit publicity reports and how the media prefer articles to be submitted.

Time constraints (deadlines) with newspapers were explained and hints on submitting photographs were also given.

In all, a very informative seminar, including a delicious luncheon.

George and Gloria



WEBSITES

Victoria: Public Records Office Indexes

<http://www.access.prov.vic.gov.au/public/PROVguides/PROVguide023/PROVguide023.jsp>

Queensland Archives

<http://www.archives.qld.gov.au/research/indexes.asp>

Western Australia Police Gazettes

<http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/resources>

UK Sites

World War One: <http://www.1914-1918.net/>

Wills and Death Duties: free search but pay for copies

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/willsdeathduties.asp>

Looking For A Person

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/looking-for-person/default.htm>

England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1861-1941 now available on Ancestry.com

Dorset Parish Records <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~engdorse/PRBT.html>

Many counties have Parish Records on line. Google "Parish Records " with the County name.

DO YOU HAVE DUTCH ANCESTORS? Genlias gives you a quick way to find your Dutch forebears, both in the Netherlands and overseas. Your search is in the most accurate source for Dutch genealogy, the Civil Register.

<http://www.genlias.nl/en/page0.jsp>

NEWEST GENEALOGICAL RECORDS ON THE INTERNET

http://www.genealogyintime.com/GenealogyResources/NewGenealogyRecords/newest_genealogy_records_on_the_internet.html?awt_l=Cn98g&awt_m=JoSIdOP14Qk.Vy

HUNTER REGION SITES

<http://www.hunintervalleygenealogy.com/>

Cemeteries (includes short historical sketches)

http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/about_newcastle/city_and_suburbs/cemeteries

Searchable database

http://www1.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/library/cemetery_search.cfm

History and Heritage start page

http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/about_newcastle/history_and_heritage

Gregson's history of the AA Co.

http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/services/newcastle_library/local_studies/digital_collections/digital_books2/australian_agriculture_company

Lake Macquarie Suburb history:

<http://www.lakemac.infohunt.nsw.gov.au/library/lhist/suburb/suburb.htm>

and the Library photo collection

<http://www.lakemac.com.au/pagephoto.aspx?tmpt=search&pid=481&vid=17>

Maitland

Council heritage pages (includes link to cemetery database)

<http://www.maitland.nsw.gov.au/Heritage>

Singleton

Family History Society Singleton inc

<http://www.xroyvision.com.au/singleton/sfhspage.htm>

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

Price List for Burial Books available through our Society

Prices include postage & handling within Australia

MWFHS members receive 10% discount on all Burial Books

Oxley Island, Mitchells Island, Scotts Creek - 2007 edition Book or CD	\$20.00
Gilwarra, Taree Estate, Woola - 2008 edition Book or CD	\$20.00
Tinonee, Bo-Bo, Bight, Murray Hills, Easton, Dunvegan	\$19.00
Cooperbrook, Moorland, Harrington	\$19.00
Lansdowne	\$17.00
Wingham Anglican [Old Section]	\$17.00
Wingham - All other Denominations	\$17.00
Wingham Beams	\$10.00
Killabakh, Marlee, Woodside	\$17.00
Redbank 2008 edition Book or CD	\$20.00
Failford, Willow Point	\$15.00
Krambach	\$15.00
Dawson 1 - Methodist Section	\$18.00
Dawson 2 - Anglican A - L	\$18.00
Dawson 3 - Anglican M - Z	\$18.00
Dawson 4 - Roman Catholic Section	\$18.00
Dawson 5 - Presbyterian & other Sections	\$18.00
Dawson 6 - Columbarium, Rose Gardens & Burials from Undertakers Records & other sources. No Grave Numbers	\$18.00
Dawson 7 - Lawn Section A - L	\$15.00
Dawson 8 - Lawn Section M - Z	\$15.00
Columbariums in Church grounds, Graves on private property, Norwood	\$15.00
Index, includes Map showing locations of all Greater Taree Council Cemeteries and Name entries from all above books & their cemetery location	\$25.00
Forster & Bungwahl Cemetery Transcriptions	\$13.00
Tuncurry & Coolongolook Cemetery Transcriptions	\$15.00

No members' discounts on these books

Pre 1860 Pioneer Register - Book 1 \$32.50 + \$10.00 p&p

Pre 1860 Pioneer Register - Book 2 \$32.50 + \$10.00 p&p

Orders to Secretary PO BOX 48 Taree NSW 2430

Website <http://www.manningwallambafhs.com.au>

Email: secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au