



THE FIG TREE

JOURNAL OF THE

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

OPERATING IN OUR 28th YEAR
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GREATER TAREE CITY LIBRARY

No 121

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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, Cooperbrook, Old Bar, Forster, Harrington, Manning Point, Nabiac, Bulahdelah, Kew, Krumbach, 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. Toohey | L. Kidd |
| Secretaries: | J. Jones (Correspondence) | S. Robinson (Minutes) |
| | A. Ranger (Membership) | |
| Treasurer: | J. Parslow | L. Haynes |
| Librarians | E. Sawyer | N. Swan |
| Research: | G. Toohey | N. Swan |
| Committee: | B. Haynes | G. Martin |
| Public Officer: | L. Haynes | |
| Publicity: | G. Sawyer | G. Toohey |

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



Christmas 2011 has been and gone and the New Year has begun.

Our Christmas Luncheon at Harrington was most enjoyable with guest speakers enlightening us all on past shipping on the Manning River. It was not realised that the Manning was one of the most prominent rivers on the coast for ship building.

I do hope all members had a happy Christmas and that the New Year brings good health and prosperity.

The past year has been a rewarding one for our society with our bonding with Greater Taree City Council Library management and staff becoming stronger.

Workshops for beginners in conjunction with the Library have been most successful and are ongoing, due to the increasing popularity of genealogy. The provision of Ancestry.Com and Find My Past by the Library has been a boon and all four terminals are mostly fully used during our opening hours. Installation of additional terminals is anticipated with changes at the Library which will give us additional space. The replacement of the reader/printer with a digital reader/printer will make viewing of the ARK reels and newspaper reel archives so much easier. This will allow downloading to USB sticks and digitising of records.

Our membership is growing steadily, with new members being gained from the free beginners workshops.

The approval of a grant to purchase new equipment will assist our operations and reduce printing costs.

Our intention to have more social interaction among members commences in February and more details will issue in that regard shortly.

I look forward to more participation by local members in our activities, e.g. helping at our Bunnings Barbeques for a couple of hours and being available for Library Duty occasionally will be appreciated. Neither task is onerous, and little tuition is required. Library Duty entails being placed with an experienced member to “learn the ropes”.

This year we hope to finalise some projects which have been ongoing.

I shall look forward eagerly to meeting with you all this coming year.

Happy researching!

**George Sawyer
President**

SOCIETY NEWS



Condolences go to those members who have lost love ones over the past few months. Our thoughts are with you.

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



BUNNINGS BARBECUES: Remember the dates: 22nd January, 29th July, 30th September and 25th November. 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: Karen Kelson, Janice Merry, Robert Merry and Julie Swetland.

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

"DIGGING AROUND THE ROOTS OF YOUR FAMILY TREE":

This full day course will be held again in 2012 at dates to be set.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

<i>Saturday</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>January</i>	<i>General Meeting</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>January</i>	<i>Workshop</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>General Meeting</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>Workshop</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>General Meeting</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>Workshop</i>

MONTHLY WORKSHOPS have been changed to the 4th Saturday of the month. This will give members a chance to have some of the training courses which have previously been conducted during the week.

RESEARCH ENQUIRIES

- Thomas CONNOLLY – shipping and origin
- Lyall Ernest GREGORY & Emily Ann MITCHELL- parents and children
- Cecil Louis MOSCATT & Phyllis Mary McEwan MOLE – details of parents

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



WANTED

We are always looking for Articles, Things of Interest or Upcoming events to be included in “The Fig Tree”. If you have anything you would like included, please email them to **editor@manningwallambafhs.com.au**



Christmas Lunch 2011

On a hot November Sunday, thirty people attended our MWFHS Christmas lunch held at the Harrington Memorial Hall. We were joined by special guests Ian Goulding, Lyn Workman, local author Rebecca Linton and her husband David. Everyone enjoyed a roast dinner followed by plum pudding for dessert. This delicious meal was prepared and served by the ladies of the Harrington Hall Committee. Our guest speaker was Ian Goulding, ably assisted by Lyn Workman. Ian spoke about the life of the “Rosetta Joseph”, a ship that operated in the Manning Area. Ian has a passion for ships and has built many models of ships with Lyn researching their history. On display in the hall was a model of the “Rosetta Joseph”, old photos of ships, shipwrecks, families and early Harrington, for all to browse. It was a most enjoyable and informative day. A special thanks to my helpers, Elaine and Ann, to Gloria and Nancye for their contributions to the Christmas cups, to those who brought photos and also to the Muir family for old photos of Harrington. (Pam Jarman)



STORAGE OF PHOTOGRAPHS



If you have access to a quality scanner, take some time to scan all of your printed photos. It is quite an undertaking, but unless you want to pay a company to scan them for you, this is your best option for backing up your prints. On the scanner's settings, make sure you choose to scan them at a resolution of at least 250 dpi (dots per inch), and select the "colour photo," or "black & white photo" setting accordingly. If you want your photos to be scanned at a higher resolution, such a 600 dpi, keep in mind that the scan will show more imperfections on the

surface of the image (such as lint, watermarks, or hair), but those can in many cases be removed in a good photo editing program like Photoshop. With some exceptions, scanning your photograph at a higher resolution will likely give you more options later as far as sizing and detail for prints. Also remember the larger the resolution the larger the file will be. Just be sure not to scan your photos at web quality (72-100 dpi), because you will not then be able to print them out clearly later. The general rule is, you can go from big to small (you can make a high resolution image look good as a lower resolution image), but you don't want to try to go from small to big (if you try to start with an email or web quality photo, you are not generally going to be able to make a nice print out of it - it will be fuzzy and pixelated).



CARING FOR DIGITAL IMAGES

Make the time to organize your digital images. Transfer them to your computer from your phone or digital memory card. There are a variety of image software programs to help you do this. These programs can manage your images by date,

location, or name, and provide editing functionality such as sharpening, cropping, and red-eye removal.

Be aggressive about deleting bad images. Delete blurred, duplicate, or unwanted photos. This can be done on the camera before you transfer pictures to the computer or after. If you do this on the camera, you don't have to worry about the need to delete an image twice. When you have transferred your images and are happy that they are all there, **reformat your memory card using your camera's formatting function.**

Photos usually import into computers with a string of letters and numbers that is part of the camera's default naming standard such as DSCN0073.JPG and provide no description about the images themselves. Some newer cameras do allow you to set some of the naming formats.

Consider renaming the set of images to something more meaningful.

Backup your images. Don't rely only on the images stored on your computer. Keep at least 2 copies on CDs, external hard drives, or thumb drives (be mindful that these devices can and will fail without warning). **Also recommend is to keep at least one of these backups somewhere away from your house or office in case of fire or theft.**



PHOTO PRESERVATION

Acid-free and lignin-free - The acid content in a lot of paper can cause paper materials to deteriorate over time, making them brittle. This includes photo storage materials, such as photo boxes, and scrapbooking papers, or even the photographs themselves. Lignin is a chemical substance found in wood that makes paper stronger, but it eventually breaks down, turning paper brown and releasing acids. When storing your photographs, look for products that are acid and lignin-free (or make them acid-free with an archival spray).

Archival safe - The term 'archival' indicates that a material has a life range estimated between 50 and 150 years. If something has been tested to be of "archival" quality, it is supposed to have been scientifically tested to be safe for photos and paper products.

What to avoid - It's important to photo preservation that your photos, as well as photo CDs or portable storage be kept from adverse or extreme temperatures, moisture, light, and pollution.



I'd rather look for dead people than have them look for me.

FAMILY FILE ORGANISATION

Are you getting overwhelmed by the information you have accumulated? This system just might help you. It can be used on a computer or with paper files in a filing cabinet or folders.

CREATE A MASTER FILE WITH ONE FAMILY NAME THEN
SUBFOLDERS

Eg BROWN

FRANCIS ROBERT BROWN (1940-2001)

JOHN EDWARD BROWN (1910-1987)

JOHN EDWARD BROWN (1935-1963)

MARTIN BROWN (1892-1960)

MARTIN

JOHN JOSEPH MARTIN (1899-1962)

JOHN MARTIN (1862-1938)

JOHN MARTIN (1834-1898)

WILLIAM JOHN MARTIN (1929- ----)

MAREE ANN MARTIN (1953- ----)

WILLIAMS

KATHLEEN WILLIAMS (1911-1975)

HENRY EDWARD WILLIAMS (1874-1934)

All items pertaining to each person goes into their folder. Some items will need to go into more than one folder (eg marriage certificates. Scan or copy documents and store originals in a safe place.

In each folder place a pedigree chart to show that person's direct-line ancestors and a family group chart which outlines all children born to that person.



Wills and Administrations before 1858

Most wills and Administrations before 1858, when the Principal Probate Registry was established, are among the records of the court where probate was granted. Until 12 January 1858 all wills had to be proved (that is, a judge had to approve a will as containing the last wishes of the deceased) by the church and other courts. In cases where no will was made letters of administration were granted to the next-of-kin, giving him or her, the authority to distribute the intestate's estate. The term 'estate' refers to the chattels, cash, debts and leases of the deceased. The ecclesiastical courts had no jurisdiction over bequests of freehold property.

Over 250 different ecclesiastical courts dealt with wills and administrations. The records of most of these courts are kept in local record offices. Details of local archives are available on the ARCHON database. You may be able to order copies of wills or administrations by post from the relevant record office, citing the full reference from the index if you have been able to locate it. Some local archives will look in their indexes for you, if you can supply name and date of death.

For maps of the areas covered by each church court and details of their surviving records, see Jeremy Gibson's *A simplified guide to probate jurisdictions*. For a table showing where to look for records by county, see Amanda Bevan's *Tracing your ancestors in The National Archives*, chapter 9.5.

There were three main factors determining in which court a will would be proved: where the person died, the value of the goods, and how these goods were distributed geographically.



DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU HEAR OR READ.
(Even From The Family)

By IAN HERFORD (Member 560)

Information gathered from an Obituary¹ and Journal Editorial² says that my Great Grandfather John Herford arrived in Australia with his parents Thomas & Fanny Herford and their family, on a vessel called the "Birkenhead" in 1856 or 1857.

Immigration shipping records³ show the family arriving on the vessel "Alfred" in Sydney on 25 July 1857. It left Liverpool on 19 or 22 April 1857.

In the obituary of John Herford, in the Nepean Times 19 March 1927, it was stated that the "Birkenhead" arrived in Sydney about a week before the sinking of the "Dunbar".

The "Dunbar" sank off Sydney heads on 20 August 1857⁴ approx 3 weeks after the "Alfred" arrived.

To date I have found no evidence to show that a vessel named the "Birkenhead" ever arrived in Sydney. The only information I have found of a vessel called the "Birkenhead" was a British Navel troop ship ("HM Troopship Birkenhead") which sunk off the coast of Africa on the 26 February 1852⁵.

Further research⁶ of the Lloyds Index of Vessels carried out for me at the Maritime Museum in Liverpool, England, shows that there was only one vessel named the "Birkenhead" (as stated above) and it did not sail to Australia.

It is obvious that the family arrived on the “Alfred” in 1857. It could be that they left from a berth at Birkenhead (on the River Mersey) opposite Liverpool. Over the years verbal information can become corrupted, by passing it on from one person to the next, and also strong accents can also play their part in misinterpretation.

More investigation is still needed.

If anyone can add further information, I would appreciate your input. I can be contacted through the MWFH Society.

- 1) John Herford, Nepean Times. 19 March 1927
- 2) Australian Leather Journal, Boot and Shoe Recorder. 15 June 1926
- 3) State Records. ARK Reels No's 2138 & 2475
- 4) Archives in Brief 67 - The wreck of the Dunbar.
- 5) Log of Logs Vol. 2
- 6) Liverpool & S W Lancashire Family History Society.



WILLIAM HENRY “HARRY” GREEN 2-12-1862 to 17-10-1950

Harry, my maternal Great Grandfather was born at Goulburn and moved to Sydney with his mother at an early age. His parents had separated and his mother had little control over him.

At age 11 years he was charged with being out of control, and, in the company of others, stealing lead from the roof of St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney. The boys were apprehended by Sergeant Larkins with 60/70 pounds of lead which they intended selling to a scrap metal dealer.

At the time of his arrest he had been absent from home for over a week and the night before his arrest had slept in a cowshed He and his accomplices were charged under the Act for the Relief of Destitute Children

Harry was committed to the Nautical School/Training Ship “Vernon” based on Sydney Harbour. Parents of such boys were obliged by law to pay for their keep and instruction if able.



Sister Ship to the Vernon, NSS Sobraon

Harry's time on the ship is not known, however, he made good eventually, selecting land at Tiri on the Upper Manning , marrying Isabella Mills of Knorrit Flat with whom he had 12 children, the first born being my Grandmother in 1884. Isabella died in childbirth at the age of 42 on 10th May 1911.

Harry went back to Sydney leaving the family behind and married Ann Pilling in 1914.

He died at Kings Cross 17th October 1950 and is buried at Rookwood Cemetery.



William Henry "Harry" Green



WEBSITES

Internet History Resources <http://www.ihr.com.au/>

Over 20,000 pages of online records for family history research in New South Wales, Australia.

Directories, Electoral Rolls, Land Records, General and Miscellaneous Records, Mining Records, Pastoral and Agricultural Records & Other Occupations.

Adoption Search Reunion

<http://www.adoptionsearchreunion.org.uk/default.htm>

The site contains two searchable databases: a directory of agencies offering support, counselling and intermediary services, and a database to help people find out where adoption records are held.

British Library <http://www.bl.uk/>

Main Integrated Catalogue of over 12 million books, serials, printed music and maps, Newspaper Catalogue of over 52,000 newspaper and periodical titles and India Office Select Materials.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission <http://www.cwgc.org/>

Debt of Honour Register of Commonwealth forces who died in WWI or WWII.

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
Cooperook, 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

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