



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 123

July- September 2012

Postal Address: PO Box 48 Taree NSW 2430
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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

A warm welcome to all new members.

Our new printer has been installed in our area of Greater Taree City Library and has been used for only basic printing jobs thus far. We will soon need to replace stocks of saleable items when full use of the unit will realise its value and potential. Some of our larger books are on USB sticks and the task will be simpler and more economical.



Our recently acquired standing banner for use at functions and fairs has been well received by members and had its first “outing” at the local fair. It proved most suitable on the occasion.

Ongoing projects as outlined at last report are progressing well.

Our recent luncheon at “Sailo’s” was well attended and most enjoyable. The next proposed social function will be a Christmas Dinner in early August with details still under plan.

Please members, your input and suggestions for social activities and genealogical matters are always welcome. Do not hesitate to make suggestions!

Please remember also that August is Annual Meeting time and that nominations are required for most positions.

Proposed changes at the Library are progressing slowly and some duty members anxiously await the coming of the coffee shop! Some renovation is needed and our area should receive enhancement as a result. Some sound treatment throughout the library has been mentioned.

Library hours are still being debated and the outcome should be made known soon.

Our rapport with Library staff and executive is most cordial and very much valued, with regular meetings held to keep each other informed of matters pertinent.

Happy researching
George Sawyer

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

DUTY ROSTER: We have gaps to fill in its calendar regarding duty at the library and need these filled to maintain our good service to the regular enquiries from the public. Can you help out filling these gaps on a regular or casual basis.

TRAINING WILL BE AVAILABLE TO THOSE INTERESTED IN HELPING OUT.



BUNNINGS BARBECUES: Remember the dates: 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: Marilyn Carney, Stephen Anderson, Gloria and Douglas Davidson, Kathleen McDonald, Joan and Ivan Ransom, Pam and Warren Whitley, John Britton. 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

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL: The membership year ended on 30th June. Please complete the renewal form on the back page and be sure to renew before the end of July.

LIBRARIANS' REPORT

Donation of copies of death certificates
Exchange journals and newsletters have been received and are available for reading and borrowing.
Stocktake should be complete by mid month.

NEW ACCESSIONS

IRE: 083R- The Irish Family & Local History Handbook
NP : 156C- Tears Often Shed Vol 1 & 2

Elaine and Nancye

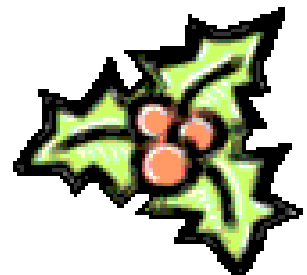
UPCOMING EVENTS :

<i>Saturday 21</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>General Meeting</i>
<i>Friday 27</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>Meryl Bolin Workshop</i>
<i>Saturday 28</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>Workshop</i>
<i>Sunday 29</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>Bunnings BBQ</i>
NATIONAL FAMILY HISTORY WEEK 27 July– 5 August		
<i>Sunday 5</i>	<i>August</i>	<i>Social Gathering</i>
<i>Saturday 18</i>	<i>August</i>	<i>Annual General Meeting</i>
<i>Saturday 25</i>	<i>August</i>	<i>Workshop</i>
<i>Saturday 15</i>	<i>Sept.</i>	<i>General Meeting</i>
<i>Wednesday 19</i>	<i>Sept.</i>	<i>“Setting Off...” Course</i>
<i>Saturday 22</i>	<i>Sept.</i>	<i>Workshop</i>
<i>Sunday 30</i>	<i>Sept.</i>	<i>Bunnings BBQ</i>

“CHRISTMAS IN JULY in AUGUST”

Sunday 5th August

Arrangements are still being finalised for this function. Watch you emails or the Society Noticeboard for details. We hope to see a good attendance of members.



It's all about YOU

NATIONAL FAMILY HISTORY WEEK
27TH JULY—5TH AUGUST

Short Courses will be held every day **BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL**
We have been fortunate to arrange 3 workshops with well-known graphologist Meryl Bolin. She will give you insight into your ancestors simply by studying their handwriting.

If you have samples you would like to submit could you please bring them to the library or send a scan to Gloria (gdtoohy@bigpond.com) so they can be shown on the screen in the meeting Room.

Meryl's workshops will be **Friday 27th July 10am—12 noon Taree Library**
Tuesday 31st July 1-3 pm Taree Library
Wednesday 1st August 1-3pm Hallidays Point Library.

Other short courses: All held at Taree Library

Monday	30 July	10am -12noon	A TROVE of treasure– Newspapers
Wednesday	1 Aug	2 pm -4 pm	Unchain your CONVICTS
Thursday	2 Aug	10am -12noon	Vital Statistics—BDMs
Friday	3 Aug	2 pm -4 pm	Did they really swim? MIGRATION

For all these courses please book at the front desk of the Library or phone 65925390

“SETTING OFF ON YOUR FAMILY TREE JOURNEY”



Wednesday 19th September 10am—3pm
Taree Library **BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL**

How to get started, tips and pitfalls, research methods, recording your family history, using ancestry.com, find my past. Morning and afternoon tea provided.



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.



WANTED

We are always looking for Articles, Things of Interest for 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** or leave them in the Editor’s folder at the Library.



RESEARCH ENQUIRIES

August ANDERSON born Sweden Died Taree 1943 and his descendants

Henry Augustus SMITH

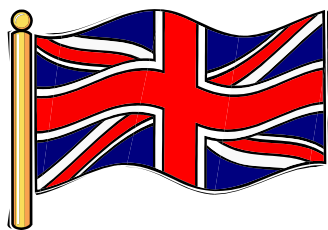
Robert SIMPSON

MOIR family– Wingham

Dr John GORMLEY

William John FALLOWFIELD

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



ENGLISH WEBSITES

Sheffield Indexes

<http://www.sheffieldindexers.com/BMDRecordsIndex.html>

Lincolnshire Marriages:

<http://mi.lincolnshiremarriages.org.uk/>

Toxteth Park Burials -Liverpool

<http://www.toxtethparkcemetery.co.uk/dbase/toxsearch.htm>

THOMAS RICHARDSON

27.11.1821—27.6.1905

The seventeenth birthday of Thomas Richardson must surely have been one of the most memorable occasions of his life, for on that day, November 27, 1838, he sailed into Port Jackson on the “Lady Nugent” along with his parents, William and Elizabeth Richardson and his brothers and sisters, from Romney, Kent, England.

He would have settled with his family at “Mulconda” on the Williams River, and possibly remained there until his marriage. This event took place at Paterson on 30 January, 1843, when he married Eliza Morse, daughter of William Morse, a carpenter from Gloucestershire, England. She had arrived in Australia about 1840 at about 20 years of age. Thomas and Eliza spent the early years of their marriage on the Allyn River where all their children were born, except the youngest Eliza, who was born on the Williams River in 1843.

Some time after this, Tom and Eliza moved to the Manning where they purchased a property at Kimbriki, which was later called “Vine Hill” because of the extensive planting of grape vines. This land was adjoining his brother Alfred’s property “Mulconda”, land formerly owned by the A. A. Company.,

With his sons, Tom would have worked hard with axe and saw, harvesting the only immediate cash crop, red cedar, and clearing the property for cultivation. The method used by most settlers was to fell timber in such a way as to obtain a good “burn” when sufficiently dry, and follow this by planting maize, pumpkins etc amongst the ashes. The battle then began between the settler and the various vermin to see who would get most of the crop.

Thomas was involved in winemaking for profit. It is known that on one occasion, a hogshhead (cask) burst and the contents flowed down to a waterhole in the creek bed, where all the ducks promptly became drunk. With the poorer crops he made vinegar which he sold to the local store at Kimbriki. The late Ruby Murray, a grand-daughter of Tom, recalled playing as a child amongst the wine casks in the cellar down near the river.

In 1886 Thomas purchased land at Kimbriki: Lots 193 and 194 of 52 and 50 acres for the sum of 205 pounds (\$410).



Thomas and Eliza had seven children:

Harriet born March 30, 1843 and baptised April 23, 1843. No further record of her has been found, so it is presumed that she died in infancy as did one unnamed male whose birth details have not been traced.

Emily born May 11, 1844

Frederick born October 20, 1845

Richard born July 14, 1848

Maria born June 5, 1850

Eliza born July 5, 1853

Eliza senior died on November 24 1888 from “general breaking up of the system” which had been evident for eleven months. One wonders what the diagnosis would have been today. She is buried in Bo Bo Cemetery.

Some time after her death Tom went courting again. His choice fell upon a widow, Elizabeth Reynolds, whose husband had been killed in a mill accident at Tinonee. She lived with her parents at their boarding house at Coolongolook. Tom reportedly told her she was a “bonny bird” and that he had “just the cage for her”.

They were subsequently married and he took her to Kimbriki, riding on the pommel of his saddle. When Tom became so old and feeble that he needed nursing, the “bonny bird” flew the coop and returned to Coolongolook.

His daughter Eliza, married to Fred Martin, came to live at “Vine Hill” to look after him.

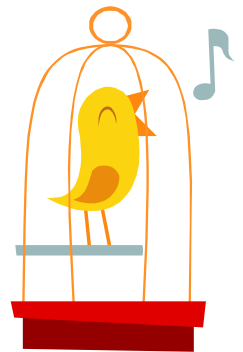
It is known that in his declining years or possibly earlier, Tom suffered and was partially crippled with arthritis so much that he was unable to ride a horse and could not oversee his sons’ activities on the property. . He overcame this difficulty by enlisting the help of his daughter who “piggy-backed” him around the farm when required.

On his death Tom left the farm to Eliza and this caused much ill-feeling amongst the rest of the family, for the boys thought it was their right to inherit the property.

Tom died at “Mulconda” on June 17 1905 in his 84th year and is buried with his first wife, Eliza in the Bo Bo Cemetery with the word “re-united” on their tombstone.

His obituary states:

It is with deep regret that we are compelled to report the demise of Mr Thomas Richardson, an old and highly respected resident of Kimbriki at the advanced age of over 80 years. The old gentleman expired on Saturday, the remains being nterred on Sunday. We express heartfelt sympathy to those left to mourn his loss.



Many years later "Vine Hill" was sold to Walter Thomas Richardson, son of Frederick, and grandson of Thomas, so the family thought justice had at last been done. Son Frederick, according to family legend, was associated with Fred Ward, alias Thunderbolt the notorious bushranger, and possibly kept a look out for good quality saddle horses for him.

William Henry Richardson (Frederick's second son) is reputed, to have supplied his teacher secretly with wine from his grandfather's winery. Teachers in those days were not permitted to imbibe.

(This information was extracted from the book produced for the Richardson Family Reunion in 1988) George Sawyer member 533



REUNION NOTICES



A reunion to celebrate 160 years since the arrival of the 'Zes Gezusters' aka 'Six Sisters' emigrant ship will be held on SUNDAY 13 JANUARY 2013
AT GEELONG, VICTORIA

For more information, please contact reunion organizer, Rob Newland at robjnewland@yahoo.com.au

Descendants of William & Isabella Johnston

"Johnston Clan Reunion" 2013

For details contact the organisers

Margaret Bottom – email: byronspares42@hotmail.com Telephone: 02 67210541
or Mob. 0408 368 308 or Lyn Johnston – email: lyn@resetsl.net.au



ABOUT IRISH RECORDS

Ninety years ago, 30th June 1922, the biggest explosion seen in Dublin before or since took place at the Four Courts. Mines exploded in the basement of the Public Record Office, which was at the western end of the Four Courts complex, and the records of the Irish administration from the 13th to the 19th century were almost totally destroyed.

Read the article from the Irish Times. (Copy in the Magazine box at the Library)
<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/opinion/2012/0630/1224319037948.html>

An excellent guide to Irish Research can be found at

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~donegal/genbooklet.pdf>

(Copy also in the magazine box)

BROWSING IN THE TAREE LIBRARY

Whilst browsing a displayed book "Forgotten Fleet" by B & R Lunney, I noticed that quite a number of boats/ships were built for the World War 2 effort. Small ships were built at Taree by Haden Engineering and W Ryan and Sons. Hadens constructed boats on the bank of Brown's Creek in Stevenson Street with access to the Manning River and their slipway at the foot of Macquarie Street still exists today.

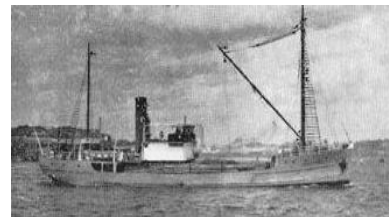
Ryans' boatyard was also based on Brown's Creek.

At Forster and Tuncurry, Wright's shipyard built a number of small ships of three main sizes, 35, 66 and 85 footers. Exact numbers are not known, but there were orders for 37 45 foot tugboats.

"Eldorado" owned by the Nicholson family, used as a port duty boat at Forster/Tuncurry, towed the hulls from Tuncurry over the bar and on to Stockton, Newcastle for the final fit out. The founder, John Wright, moved to Tuncurry in 1875 where he established a timber mill and shipyard. He built ships until his death in 1910. Business was continued by his son and grandson until 1954.

Other ships well known along the Mid North Coast to be seconded for wartime use were the "Melinga", built in Copenhagen in 1928 for the North Coast Steam Navigation Company and later renamed "Etmor" and used as a gravel barge on the Brisbane River in later years.

The "Alma Doepel", now restored, has been moored at Port Macquarie in recent times.



"Melinga"

"Canonbar" of the North Coast Steam Navigation Company was a former coastal sugar boat. "Comera" was also a NCSN Co boat.

The "Forster" was a wooden hulled coal burning tug built for bar use at Forster.

"Nambucca II" was built by Wrights of Tuncurry for the NCSN Co.

Other boats mentioned in the book, with local names and possibly built locally were the 45 foot wooden tugboats "Kimbriki" and "Kolodong".

An interesting snippet on a New Zealand boat seconded for the war effort was the "Tuhoe" under the caption "Another Lucky Ship"

"Tuhoe" left Auckland in a second convoy of ships in October 1943. Her two antiquated Beardmore engines managed only 6/8 knots and began breaking down en route across the Tasman Sea to Sydney. She was refitted with the only then available engines, two Chrysler truck 8 cylinder petrol motors, capable after conversion of running on kerosene. These were later replaced at Bundaberg by two Cummins diesel marine engines. She was fitted out with two 50 calibre Browning heavy machine guns which were never to be used in action.

"Tuhoe" took its first load of supplies from Sydney to Milne Bay in June 1943 with the manifest listing a variety of goods among which were 10 tons of Motor goggles for dispatch riders, 10 tons of fountain pens, tobacco pouches and 20

tons of Cadbury Chocolate, all under cover of 40 tons of flour to discourage pilfering. After arrival in Milne bay, no claim was made on the cargo and two weeks passed before the consignees were found, "Tuhoe" survived the war and returned to New Zealand after some argument about her repurchase from the United States Navy, and was later restored.

Earlier ship building on the Manning, whilst well documented is not generally well known. More than 30 ships of various sizes and tonnage were built from 1840 and 1870

The "Forgotten Fleet" is quite a revelation of ships used during the war effort and the personnel involved. The book is a very enlightening read.



Websites of interest on ships, including those in the local area:

http://www.boatregister.net/NSW_Builders.htm

<http://www.flotilla-australia.com/ncsnc.htm>

<http://www.flotilla-australia.com/>

MANNING WALLAMBA FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

PO Box 48, Taree NSW 2430

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2012-2013

Single \$25.00 Family \$33.00

NAME: _____ NO: _____

ADDRESS: _____ +

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

DATE: _____

REC. NO : _____