



# THE FIG TREE

JOURNAL OF THE

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

OPERATING IN OUR 28<sup>th</sup> YEAR  
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GREATER TAREE CITY COUNCIL LIBRARY

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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, Nahiab, Bulahdelah, Kew, Krambach, Oxley Island, Mitchells Island, Tinonee, Moorland, Lansdowne, Killabakh, Failford, Rawdon Vale, Tuncurry, Coolongolook, Bungwahl, Smiths Lake, Wallis Lake.

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Publicity:	G. Sawyer	G. Toohey	
Roster:	C. Troth		

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

A hearty welcome to new members who have joined us since last issue, and a happy new year to all. I do hope you all enjoyed the festive season.

Our Christmas Dinner, this time held at East Court Chinese Restaurant, was well attended and all had an enjoyable time. 2013 is now under way and we will be discussing plans for the year at coming meetings. There are several projects pending and helpers will be needed to see these come to fruition.

Many members have skills in various forms, be it typing, editing, writing, photography etc, and we will be delighted if you would offer your services in any capacity. Many hands make light work!

Our Society has seen the need to acquire a Scan Pro 2000 Digital Scanner/Reader which would make viewing and digitising micro film newspaper archives and micro fiche records to a much user friendly basis. We have sought grants unsuccessfully for this purpose, so it is worth considering an outright purchase of the unit mentioned from our own resources. There would be a considerable cash outlay involved, and we have accumulated close to the amount required. Some additional fundraising will achieve this end. The continuing success of our Bunnings' Barbecues should take care of any shortfall.

This then raises the need to ensure we have regular volunteers available and willing to help out on BBQ days. BBQS are held on the last Sundays 8 AM until 4 PM on alternate months, commencing 24th February next. These days are real "Fundays". Please consider helping, even if only for a couple of hours so others can have a break. Five people need to be at the work front at any time, with others taking over as and when needed.

We still have need for more volunteer duty people at the library between the hours of 10AM to 12 Noon. Training is available and learners will be placed in tandem with an experienced volunteer. These days too can be most enjoyable. We now have available to us a new coffee shop within the library adding to the comforts we already enjoy.

I must at this point thank Gloria for carrying the extra workload in my absence over the last several months. Thanks Gloria!

Our Society continues to prosper and membership is increasing as more are "bitten" by the genealogy bug.

More participation by members in Society activities is strongly encouraged. Until next issue, happy researching!



George Sawyer

## SOCIETY NEWS



**BUNNINGS BARBECUE:** 24th February; 28 April; 30 June.  
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.

**SOCIAL EVENTS:** The Christmas Dinner was an enjoyable evening. Thank you Pam, Jan and Elaine. Watch for our next event—the plans are afoot!

The Library's Christmas Morning Tea for Volunteers was well attended by our Volunteers.

**“HOW TO” COURSES:** We have planned several different “How To..” activities for 2013. The first will be “How To Be a Duty Volunteer: Are you the U in VOLUNTEER?” on Saturday 23rd February. In Seniors' Week we are running an all day “How To ..” for both beginners and experienced genealogists. Short courses will be held later in the year.

Watch out for these courses and put your name down when they are announced. They fill up quickly.

**NEW MEMBERS:** Welcome to the following new members: Ian Belford, Phillip Carter and Jennifer Lornie. We trust that you will enjoy your genealogy.

### UPCOMING EVENTS :

<i>Saturday</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>January</i>	<i>General Meeting</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>January</i>	<i>Australia Day Holiday</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>January</i>	<i>Library Closed</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>General Meeting</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>Workshop “How To ..”</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>Bunnings BBQ</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>General Meeting</i>

### *SENIORS' WEEK*

<i>Thursday</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>“How To ....” all day course</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>Workshop</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>GOOD FRIDAY</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>Easter Monday</i>



## **Our Society's most valuable resource is its volunteers**



### **NEW SOUTH WALES BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES:**

From January 1st another year has been available on the online indexes. Births can now be searched to 1912, deaths to 1982 and marriages to 1962. This extra year becomes available at the beginning of every year in line with the Privacy embargos of 100, 30 and 50 years. Remember that births can be searched to 1918 on the microfiche at the Library.

Other states have different search years. All states except Victoria have free online indexes. Victoria charges \$0.99 a page to view Indexes.

The Society has CDs of Victorian BDM Indexes.

### **NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS FOR FAMILY HISTORIANS (adapted from *LostCousins Newsletter*)**

Here's a list of resolutions that will make a real difference - not just to your research but also to you and your relatives.

**Check your older research - does it need updating or revising in the light of newly-published or newly-discovered data?**

There will be parts of your tree where you could add lots of extra information now that there are so many online resources.

#### **Focus on different lines**

We all tend to focus on particular family lines - it's natural to follow our paternal ancestors and our mother's paternal ancestors. This is understandable - after all, they're the surnames that we're most familiar with - yet in terms of who we are, not just genetically but in other ways, our other ancestors are just as important. During 2013 why not research the 'forgotten' lines - you may be surprised what you discover!

#### **Handle some original documents**

So much of our research is inert - looking at transcriptions or onscreen images, peering at gloomy microfilm. For once ask to see some original documents when you next visit an archive - even if it's not immediately obvious how they might be relevant to your research. Old documents helps to bring history to life - and I suspect you will too!

#### **Check your contacts list - and get in touch with any relative you didn't communicate with in 2012**

Finding cousins is the easy bit - keeping in touch with them is more difficult. But they're not only useful sources of information, they're our flesh and blood, so we owe it to them - and to ourselves - to keep in touch. Make an extra effort to keep in touch with elderly relatives.

#### **Remember that it is better to give than to receive**

At this time of year it's particularly appropriate to remember that - especially where our own relatives are concerned - we should be focusing more on giving, and less on taking. Ask not what research, photographs, and certificates your cousin can give you, but what you can give your cousin.

#### **Think the impossible**

So many of the 'brick walls' that we're faced with seem impossible to scale, so why not try an experiment - after all, you've got nothing to lose. Imagine for a moment that you have already found the answer you're seeking - feels good, doesn't it? Now ask yourself how you did it - I bet you'll come up with at least one new approach, and quite possibly several ways of cracking the problem.

#### **Learn a new technique**

When we first start our research we're forced to learn new ways of doing things, because we don't have any old ways of doing them. But as seasoned researchers we tend to stick to what we know, often shying away from learning new ways of doing things - especially if it means accepting that the old ways aren't quite good enough. For you it might mean going back over your research and noting the source of the information, even if it is a secondary source (such as someone else's tree). There's nothing worse than being unable to answer the question "Where did that information come from?"

#### **Visit your local archives**

Even if your ancestors didn't live in the same part of the country, visiting your local archives will enable you to get a better feeling for the types of records that you generally won't find online, from militia lists to rate books, creed registers to electoral rolls. You might even decide to find out more about the area where you live - local history and family history have a lot in common.

#### **Visit your society**

Our society has transcriptions or microfiche copies of registers that are only available to members (or non-members at a small fee), and we offer a research service, again at a fee. You might even be able to contribute to a society, by becoming a transcriber, a volunteer, or an officer.

#### **Visit your nearest FamilySearch Centre**

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (often known as the Mormons) not only operates the FamilySearch website, the biggest online repository of free genealogical information in the world, it also provides FamilySearch Centres all over the world, where anyone - not just Church members - can access both online and microfilm resources. You will be amazed by how much information is available free. The Taree Centre is in Bruntnell Street.

#### **Try some different websites**

We all have our favourite websites, but it's important to remember that whilst there's an overlap between the records you'll find at different websites - most have the censuses and GRO indexes - other records are often unique to a particular site.

For example, Ancestry and findmypast both have lots of military records from the National Archives but they don't overlap. It's the same when it comes to passenger lists: Ancestry has the incoming passenger lists, whilst findmypast has the outgoing passenger lists (which on the whole are the more useful).

Greater Taree City Libraries have subscriptions to Ancestry and findmypast. By using resources at libraries (or at records offices, family history societies, and FamilySearch centres) you can greatly expand the range of records available to you at little or no cost!

## **WANTED: ARTICLES FOR THE FIG TREE**

Can you supply articles for the upcoming issues of your journal The Fig Tree?

Suggested articles are

- A story about an ancestor, family, place or journey
- How you got started in Family History
- That elusive ancestor- perhaps someone can help you find him/her
- How you found an ancestor/broke through a brick wall
- Items of local history/interest.

Articles can be sent to [secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au](mailto:secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au)



### **Was your ancestor a MACHINE-LACEMAKER?**

**Approximately 700 machine-lacemakers and their families, primarily from Nottingham and Calais, migrated to Australia in 1848 and early 1849. Most of these people travelled on one of the following ships: *Fairlie, Agincourt, Harpley, Andromache, Baboo, Bermondsey, Emperor, General Hewitt, Harbinger, Navarino, Nelson, or Walmer Castle*. If your ancestor was one of these, then you are one of us!**

**Contact: Australian Society of Lacemakers of Calais  
Mrs Carolyn Broadhead — Hon. Secretary  
PO Box 293 GALSTON NSW 2159  
<http://www.angelfire.com/al/aslc/>**

### **REUNION NOTICES:**

#### ***GORTON FAMILY REUNION 2013***

*Descendants of Noel and Elizabeth (Adams) GORTON are invited to a family reunion to be held on 5th October 2013 at the Nabisac Showground Hall.*

*Updates on all descendants sought for inclusion in book.*

*Associated names include Bailey, Boulden, Britton, Fernance, Hancock and Harragon.*

*Contact Joanne Gorton 496 Comboyne Road, Wingham 2429 or email [wayneandjo\\_gorton@hotmail.com](mailto:wayneandjo_gorton@hotmail.com)*

#### **Johnston Clan Reunion 2013**

Descendants of William and Isabella Johnston

For details contact the organisers

Margaret Bottom—email [byronspares42@hotmail.com](mailto:byronspares42@hotmail.com)

Telephone 0267210541 Mobile 0408 368308

Lyn Johnston—email [lyn@resetdsl.net.au](mailto:lyn@resetdsl.net.au)

*I chase dead people – like chasing parked cars, it sounds easy since they haven't moved in centuries – but the trick is finding which lot they are parked in.*



## ***JOURNEY THROUGH TWO FAMILIES***

I have found over the years many willing helpers with family history, complete strangers send information that they have come across that might be that little bit of the puzzle that makes the whole picture. I try to do the same and over the years have built up a large resource of helpers from all over the world without whom my considered success could not have been achieved.

I decided to take a look at our family roots – mainly because of rumours about the family of my Grandmother – that my Gt. Grandmother was a servant in the house of my Gt Grandfather and that they had married because she became pregnant by him and as a result the family had cut him off without a penny.

Turned out to be untrue – my Gt. Grandmother was a servant in a big house but not to my Gt Grandfather's family and she was not pregnant when she married.

My Gt Grandmother Emma Maria born 1864 was a country girl from Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk England And as so many country girls did at that time, she was sent to London into service at a young age.

Her father died young – he was a Shoemaker and Cordwainer who worked in fine leathers –her mother Emma had three mouths to feed and no husband so times were hard. Emma ended up as a housekeeper in Norfolk England. It was looking t this side of the family that I discovered that Emma’s father was a bit of a lad: he had two families at the same time. His legal wife Mary whom he married in 1831 bore him three daughters and a son.

The son Thomas born 1842 in Norfolk England- it would appear came to Australia in 1864 on board the “Naval Reserve” as an unassisted migrant, arriving in Melbourne, settled in South Australia, married having two wives and raising a large family. He died in Adelaide SA in 1920.

His sister Jane born 1832 Norfolk England also came to Victoria in 1852 as an assisted migrant on board the “Theodore” Jane married in Victoria in 1853 and she also had two husbands and large families – by both husbands. She died in 1906 in Collingwood Victoria.

Another sister Julia born 1836 stayed in England but her daughter Florence married and with her husband went to Canada – taking their two girls with them.

His other family, from which I descend , stayed in England .After Maria had given him three daughters and three sons, he married her in 1853 following the death of his legal wife.

The daughter Elizabeth born 1839 from this union moved with her husband and five children from a small village outside Bury St Edmunds to Shipley in Yorkshire – to work in the Woollen Mills.

What a change in life style from fresh fields and clean air to the dirt and squalor of a heavy industrial area. They had eleven children in total most married and stayed in the Shipley area – one son returned to Bury St Edmunds married and also has descendents there.

Of my Gt Grandfather, he was the youngest of eleven children born 1848 in Bethnal Green London .

His mother was of French Huguenot descent and the family line can be traced back to Caen in Normandy France to around 1540.

She died in 1852 and was one of the last people to be buried in Bunhill Fields Cemetery a Non Conformist Cemetery which has many famous names buried there.

Her nephew a Silk Weaver married and came to Gympie Queensland in 1862. The eldest son from this union went on to Gisborne New Zealand in 1901 with his family after one of the worst droughts in Queensland’s history. His son was killed in France in WW1 one of the original ANZACs. He is buried there.

A daughter wrote a book on her experience of coming from Queensland to New Zealand and another son who was a photographer took pictures in San Francisco when the earthquake struck in 1906.

My Gt Grandfather’s father was an upholsterer with good business skills and was by all accounts a rich man for the times – he had a large house servants and a carriage.

My Gt Grandfather married late in life – he was a Calvinist as was his mother being of Huguenot descent – he appears not to have had a profession as such – just seemed to flit from one job to another – from his fathers Will it would seem that he was a worry.

His father made provision for him in his Will of 1893 leaving a large trust account which enabled him to rent a very up market house – he died in 1917 and my Gt Grandmother Emma Maria was able to stay in the house until she remarried in 1923 she died in 1944.

The family would never have known about our Australian and New Zealand connections or the two concurrent families had I not decided to test the rumours of the Great Grandparents marriage.

What a valuable experience- what history – what determination to come to such a foreign land at such a time .

I came in late 1969 to N.S.W. What brought me here - who knows, maybe the ancestors ???

*Jean Chaplin Member*

**Jean has offered to assist with English research. If you would like her help please contact [secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au](mailto:secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au) and a message will be passed on to her.**

## **WEBSITES OF INTEREST:**

### **The War Graves Photographic Project**

[www.twgpp.org/index.php](http://www.twgpp.org/index.php)

### **Lorraine’s Burial Records Pages**

[www.ozburials.com/](http://www.ozburials.com/)

### **Western Australian Police Gazettes**

[www.slwa.wa.gov.au/find/eresources/police\\_gazettes](http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/find/eresources/police_gazettes)

### **Navy Deserters 1788-1900**

<http://freepages.history.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ausnavy/Deserters.htm>



**50% of my forefathers were female.**

## ***ELIZABETH GORE*** 15 August 1848 – 11 January 1927

Elizabeth was born the first child of Henry and Mary Ann Gore (nee Pearce), both illiterate, who emigrated from the village of Hinton Blewett near Bath in England as Bounty Passengers on the "Emigrant" in 1848 aged 21 and 19 respectively. Elizabeth was born on the journey and was the first of 13 children. The last birth, twin boys, also took Mary Ann's life on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1868 aged 40 years. Henry, soon after arrival in Australia bought land at East Maitland and sold it to buy land at Kimbriki. He then went on to the goldfields at Rocky River near Uralla on the New England for some 6 or 7 years then returned to buy more land adjacent to his Kimbriki holding from the AA Company.

Mary Ann contracted "lockjaw" (Tetanus) after the birth and was fed liquid through a gap in her teeth but did not survive. One of the twin boys died soon after birth and the other some weeks later from lack of suitable nourishment. There was no milk or milk substitute. They tried to make a gruel type mixture which failed to nourish the child.

Mary Ann is buried with the twins on the original Gore property at Kimbriki. Granddaughter Alice Richardson who died of burns aged 4 is buried nearby. She was accidentally burnt when brother Tom was playing with matches.

Henry Gore, a road builder of the district, built the Brushy Cutting, linking Tinonee and Wingham and was involved with the building of the original Killawarra Bridge over the Manning above Wingham. Following Mary Ann's death in 1868, Henry married 11-4-1877, widow Esther W Sawyer (Nee Walker) whose husband John was killed in a tragic bullock wagon accident near Dungog 24<sup>th</sup> Feb 1859 which also took the life of his first son William.

Elizabeth married Frederick Richardson and they farmed at "Orange Grove" Kimbriki and had 10 children-Richard, William, Frederick, Mary, Esther, Eliza, Thomas, Alice-burnt to death, Ruby and Elsie. Henry Gore's daughters Martha and Alice later married Esther Sawyer's sons, John W and James D thus linking the Sawyer Gore and Richardson families.

Ironically, Esther was pregnant with John W Sawyer when her husband and son William died, and she gave birth to James D Sawyer some seven years later. The father of James D Sawyer is not recorded. A mystery still unsolved.

Alice Sawyer was the celebrated Nurse Sawyer, midwife, who operated the "maternity hospital" in Mill Street Tinonee which until recently was the Terrace Theatre. Nurse Alice was reputed to venture out in all weather with husband James in a sulky to assist at births. It is recorded that the only patient she lost in childbirth was her own daughter.

A bedspread crocheted by Elizabeth Gore (Richardson) has been passed through the family as a heirloom and was last year donated to Manning Valley Historical Society. The bedspread is on display on a bed within that Society's museum at Wingham.

Elizabeth and Frederick are buried in the Methodist Section of the Tinonee Cemetery.

George Sawyer, Great Grandson of Elizabeth Richardson

### **GenealogyInTime Magazine**

*Is a very informative online magazine which gives the latest additions to databases etc, It is available at [www.genealogyintime.com](http://www.genealogyintime.com)*

Of particular interest is their list of **Top 100 Genealogy Websites for 2013**.

The list reviews and ranks the websites and classifies them by country, category and Free/Pay.

**The GenealogyInTime website** also helps you keep up to date with the most comprehensive list available on the internet of the **Latest Genealogy Records** and **Latest Genealogy Records by Country**.

RESEARCH ENQUIRIES:

Early BELFORD family; Burial site of Elsie COLLARD

**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
Coopernook, 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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