



THE FIG TREE

JOURNAL OF THE

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

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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GREATER TAREE CITY LIBRARY

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

**Website <http://www.manningwallambafhs.com.au>
Email: secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au**



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

OFFICE BEARERS:

President:	G. Rose		
Vice Presidents:	G. Toohey	L. Kidd	
Secretaries:	S. Robinson	J. Mitchell	
Treasurer:	J. Parslow	L. Haynes	
Librarians	J. Mitchell	C. Troth	
Research:	G. Toohey	N. Swan	
Committee:	I. Hardy	P. Jarman	L. Kidd
Public Officer:	L. Haynes		
Publicity:	G. Rose	G. Toohey	
Fig Tree:	I. Hardy	J. McGeachie	

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Dear Members, all 129 of you,

This number of members is an indication that George Sawyer & the previous executive have created an organisation of which we can all be proud.

I wish to express my appreciation to the members who voted me into the role of President of the Manning Wallamba Family History Society. The new executive is fortunately made of many from the old to pass on the “history” of the MWFHS.



I hope to grow into the role so please speak up to shape the Society into one that serves your needs & engages you.

My researching only started in early 2009 although my maternal auntie had done a lot of research, writing letters of enquiry & visiting FHSs in Bathurst & Katoomba. You can see my results under Graeme Rose on wikitree.com.

I am still an active researcher of my family tree so my suggestions for additional resources are to satisfy my own needs & hopefully yours too.

My first step on this path is to be the 50% contribution by the MWFHS to the purchase of the ST Viewscan digital scanner in the Greater Taree City Library. With this scanner all microfilm and fiche records held in the Library can be viewed with many options & printed or converted to a file on a memory stick & taken home.

I have used this technology at the NSW Records Office & compared to a near illegible paper copy the advantages in transcription are great. The paper original of the Coroner's Inquest fiche I copied was written on both sides & the jury members had signed with their inked thumb prints as well as their signatures. With an electronic copy I was able to enhance the contrast, expand the writing & change to “white on black”.

I invite all members to come in & see the advantages of the new ST Viewscan.

This ST Viewscan contribution & most other resources are only partially funded by members' subscription. Most Society resources

are paid for with the money raised by the Bunnings BBQ. Attending for 3 hours as I do gives me a feeling of “ownership”.

On 29th October Gloria & I attended “Get that Grant” one day course offered by GTCC at Wingham Services Club. Great information from Carole Isaacs of GTCC as the Council has to depend on so many grants to get done the amount we see. Reducing amounts of grants are available from all levels of government but are increasing from private organisations. All donors expect 50% input in money or time from applicants.

On 4th November Gloria & I attended “Volunteering Forum 2013” offered by the Volunteering Centre of Port Macquarie at Port Panthers.

Much time was spent discussing how to treat volunteers in the workplace.

“Exactly as paid employees”

Also how to reward volunteers eg. Port Macquarie Volunteering Centre offered awards to numerous deserving individuals & groups in their area. Only two individuals accepted. I feel we need to discuss reward options at our next meeting.

If sufficient local interest can be shown then Certificate 4 in Volunteering Management may be offered by Taree TAFE.

On 6th November I had the pleasure of handing over a \$6000 giant cheque to Paul Hogan Mayor of GTCC towards the Digital Scanner. This cheque was provided by Holiday Coast Credit Union and is now on display adjacent to the scanner. Heather from Holiday Coast also invited us to submit a request for a grant in February of 2014 if we have projects that need funding.

I look forward to introducing myself to members at the MWFHS Christmas Party being held at Lunchtime at Martine’s Café in the Vic Hotel (Old Foggs) on the 7th December.

Regards
Graeme

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to: Brigitte Miller, Shirley Jane McCaffrey, Louise Goonan, Alan Lewis, Lesley Mays-Lewis and Bernadette Sandison.



SOCIAL EVENT

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Christmas Luncheon

Saturday 7th December at 1.00pm.

Venue- Martine's Riverview Wine Bar,

Pulteney St Taree

\$20/person



**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY
NEW YEAR**

TO THE MWFHS MEMBERS

ALL THE BEST FOR 2014

WANTED: ARTICLES FOR THE *FIG TREE*

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 OR
ihardy1@bigpond.com



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**

RESEARCH ENQUIRES:

William Edwin **DENNIS** Family Research
John **SMITH**/Mary **CORDWELL** Family Research
Grave location **BLUNDEN/BLUNDELL** in Dawson Cemetery
Grave location Michael Gardiner **HORN** in Dawson River
Cemetery
Grave location William Henry **SHELTON** in Dawson River
Cemetery
Grave locations William and Elizabeth **STONE**

If you can help with any of the enquires or any other unmarked burial locations, please contact the Research Officer.

NEW WEBSITE

For searching Trove Newspapers

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<http://dhistory.org/querypic/>



To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism.

To steal from many is research

CORNISH ADVENTURE

By Robyn Neufeld

This year in May and June was our big trip to Cornwall, UK.

Firstly, on a 15 day tour for just a taste, then 15 days in Cornwall on our own, trying to find out more about my mother's family, staying in Penzance and Truro.

Through a contact here, I was able to E-mail and arrange for a semi-retired tour guide, Hugh Trevarthan to pick us up at our hotel for two days running and show us the sights.

We were glad we didn't try to drive as they have traffic lights at roundabouts and rock walls covered in vegetation along the roadside that you can't see over or see past at a corner.

Hugh took us to Breage near Porthleven where my Grandfather, Edward Thomas Bawden was born in 1871, although he is not the person I was looking for, it was his father, Thomas Bawden who was murdered in Mexico in 1871.

Prior to going away, Gloria Toohey had located the family for me at Breage and the street where some had lived in 1871.

The post office lady tried to help and another customer put us onto the local museum, only to find the man that helps was very ill and not available.

Next stop, Paldark Tourist mine where the owners have a long connection with Mexico and the Cornish miners that went there in 1800's to mine silver. When speaking to Pam Williams, we found out her husband had passed away the year before, leaving her to run the place and keep the connection with Mexico. She was

the chef that day.

A trip on the local bus to Truro and the Family History Society on Lemon street. Easy to find and nice people who said they have visitors from Oz, regularly.

They had not heard of the murder of Thomas, but did let us look, (for a fee) through the books they had on Mexico Mining which I had read here through our library.

This is just another setback of research and even if I don't find out why he was murdered, it was a great reason to go to Cornwall.

Next day was another nice one in Penzance and friends of a friend here, met us and took us out touring.

Pasties for lunch, fish and chips for dinner and nice company. A beautiful day on St Michael's Mountain and many more.

A train and two buses was the way to get to Tintagel from Penzance the info people said, but that was too long. Joe got on the laptop and found Sue Hockey of Cornish Heritage safaris, booked a day with her and moved to a B&B at Truro.

Took the train to Bodmin Parkway where Sue was waiting with her big black 4x4 and we had a wonderful day of all things and places Arthurian from 8am till 8pm when we arrived back at Truro.

Back to the family.

Thomas Bawden— Born: St Agnes, 1830 Cornwall
Died: Real Del Monte, 1871 Mexico
Married: Co Cork, 1856 Ireland

Athelia Woolcock — Born: St Agnes, 1834 Cornwall
Died: Sydney, 1886 Australia

Thomas was shot by William Rabling and the witness was John Penberthy.

There is a newspaper report in Cornwall on 16th September 1871.

They had gone back to the silver mines in Mexico for the second time, leaving five children with her sister, Susan in Pillor Road. Breage who had children the same ages. Amelia, number six was born in Mexico in 1870 as were some of the older children and Athelia was pregnant with my Grandfather and returned to Breage where he was born in 1871.

She then brought the whole family, seven children out to Sydney , Australia in 1876 as Susan, her sister and other family members were here already.

She was one remarkable woman.

Best of luck to all who are searching still and the other side of my family is just as

interesting.



THOMAS WOOTTON 1799 - 1867

Thomas Wootton was born 12 May 1804 in Hamsworth, Staffordshire England and died 01 August 1867 in Taree NSW, Australia. He was the son of William Wootton and Mary Wright. He married Mary O'Donnell 02 April 1840 Port Macquarie.

On the 12 May, 1815 Thomas, with the consent of his father, was apprenticed to Matthew Robinson Boulton and James Watt Jr. of Soho in the Parish of Handsworth and county of Stafford for five years.

Thomas and William signed a document which set out the rules and regulations that had to be adhered to for the entire term of his indenture. During that time Thomas had to serve his Masters lawful commands, keep secrets, not waste their goods or lend them unlawfully to anyone nor buy or sell anything without his Masters permission. He could not play at cards, dice tables or any other unlawful games, he could not haunt taverns or Ale houses nor absent himself from the service of his Masters unlawfully.

Further to that his father, William Wootton, had to provide Thomas with proper and sufficient meat, drink, washing and lodgings. Clothes and all other necessaries during the term of his apprenticing. The master paid the father, William Wootton for such work and service for his son a weekly wage during the first year of eight shillings, second year nine shillings, third year ten shillings, fourth year eleven shillings and fifth year twelve shillings.

Thomas Wootton seemed to be a reasonably bright and educated young man and yet he was tried in Stafford Quarter Session on 15 October 1823 for stealing four ducks and four fowls and was sentenced to seven years. He was transported to Australia on the Countess of Harcourt on the 12 July 1824.

In the 1828 convict muster, he is listed as being assigned to Mary Shea of lower Portland Head in the Hawkesbury area of NSW. It was in this area that he received his Ticket of Leave on 7 May 1830. He was granted his Certificate of Freedom on 28 December 1830 and moved to the newly opened area of the Manning Valley where he meet Mary O'Donnell, his future wife. He applied for permission to marry Mary, also a convict.

Thomas Wootton's wife, Mary O'Donnell was born 1818 in County Clare, Ireland. She was convicted of larceny in County Clare in June 1836. and was transported to New South Wales

Wynter and served him as a housemaid and died 05 September 1815 in Taree, NSW, Australia.

Thomas and Mary were married in St Thomas Church of England, Port Macquarie on 02 April 1840. They lived in the Manning River area where they had four daughters and three sons, who stayed in the Manning river area. Thomas purchased a town allotment 1864 on the Taree Estate and became small tenant farmer.

Thomas Wootton met a watery end on the 02 August 1867 at the age of 63 years, when he accidentally drowned off the Tinonee punt. His death notice in the Maitland mercury states, "Thursday evening at six o'clock, Thomas was drowned by falling off the punt, whilst endeavouring to pull it across the river. A active search was made for his body, but it was not found till Friday morning".

Source: Bob Brown
Maitland Mercury, 8th August 1867
John Ramsland— "*The Struggle against Isolation,
A History of the Manning Valley (1987)*
<http://watsoncanet.webcon.net.au/convicts.html>



NEW RESOURCES

All the new resources from Teapot Genies have arrived and will be available for use as soon as they have been processed and placed on the shelves.

COME IN AND EXPLORE



MONTHLY EVENTS

Meetings: 3rd Saturday

Workshop: 4th Saturday

GORTON FAMILY REUNION

By Joanne Gorton

The descendants of Noel and Elizabeth (Adams) Gorton gathered at the Nabiac Showground hall on Saturday 5th October 2013 for a family reunion. Guests travelled from South Australia, Queensland and throughout New South Wales to attend with many family members meeting each other for the first time.

The hall was adorned with displays of memorabilia, photographs and family trees and taking centre stage, literally, was a cart wheel kindly loaned by Norm Ritchie. This was surrounded by hay bales, cream cans, dairy buckets, lanterns, a wash tub and scrubbing board, a spinning wheel and a saddle and harness.

A delicious array of morning and afternoon tea was provided with guests bringing along a picnic lunch, MC for the day, Ray Gorton, gave a brief history of the Gorton family and the Reunion cake was cut by 97 year old James Edwin (Jim) Gorton, great grandson of Noel and Elizabeth.

Family guests mingled, chatted and strolled down memory lane. Cameras flashed, laptops surfaced and information was shared and compared. The children played games including horse shoe throwing, sack races and lemon races and an enjoyable time was had by all.

On the Sunday family members travelled to Stroud to visit the home of our Gorton ancestors. Noel was a wheelwright in Stroud his entire working life and this is where he and Elizabeth raised their eleven children. The small gathering visited Quambi House, the Court House Museum, St John's Church and Stroud Cemetery, where Noel is buried, and met up for a picnic lunch at the showground.

It was a wonderful weekend and the feedback has been very positive. I highly recommend anyone contemplating organising a family reunion to do so. The pleasure of seeing family members reunited is worth the efforts of organisation.

ST Viewscan 11

The new Scanner/microfilm/fiche reader has been installed and was officially opened and the hand over of the society's contribution, \$6000.00 towards the purchase this project, was held on Wednesday 6th November.

This purchase has been made possible through our partnership with the Greater Taree City Library and many hours of fundraising /BBQs we have held. It appears to be very user-friendly for both microfilms and fiche and replaces the old reader/printer.

We are planning a training session for everyone who is interested in using the Viewscan, but in the meantime you might like to look at this video.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gGXB81DXm0E>



Graeme Rose (President: MWFHS), Margie Wallis (Senior Leader Cultural Services: Greater Taree City Council), Paul Hogan (Mayor: GTCC), Gerard Jose (General Manager: GTCC)



A cynic smells flowers and looks for the casket.

A day without Genealogy is like a day without coffee.

A family tree has many branches; not all have the same last name.

A generation that ignores history has neither Past or Future.

