



# THE FIG TREE

JOURNAL OF THE

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

**OPERATING SINCE 1985  
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GREATER TAREE CITY LIBRARY**

*No 130*

*MAY 2014*

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

***Website: [www.manningwallambafhs.com.au](http://www.manningwallambafhs.com.au)  
Email: [secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au](mailto: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
Publicity:	G Rose	G Toohey
Librarians	J Mitchell	C Troth
Research:	G. Toohey	N. Swan
Committee:	I Hardy	P Jarman L Kidd
Public Officer:	L Haynes	
Fig Tree:	I Hardy	J McGeachie

Dear 153 members,



Thank you to the willing volunteers for our March Bunnings BBQ for help we achieved around \$500 to go towards the purchase of the items you desire.

Welcome to the new members who joined after attending the recent "Skeletons in the Closet" workshops run by Nancye and Gloria.

Our Social Committee (Irene, Pam and Laurie) are planning the next outing-a trip to Ricardo's Tomatoes. Watch for more details.

The new roster for library volunteers has some gaps. If you can spare two hours a week, fortnight or month come along and learn. Remember, if you don't know what to do, you will know how to ask someone to help. I used to ring Gloria nearly every Friday when I started & it was not held against me too much.

I hope all those who attended my talk about using DNA for family research learnt something useful to their own research.

The answers will always tell you something, it just may not be what you expect.

On Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May I fly to Dublin to start my cemetery tour of Ireland & the UK.

Anyone who cares to look at my wikitree page <http://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Rose-1785> will see that I have 6 convicts on both my paternal & maternal ancestry.

The very thorough convict records allow me to know where they were born & where they were tried before being sent "beyond the seas" Hobart or Sydney.

The remaining "honest" ones were all economic refugees from England & Scotland.

My aim is to see, where possible, the country from where they came, very different from the normal tourist type places.

In Ireland, it is County Laois (Leesh) in the boggy heart of Ireland.

In Scotland, it is Leith Edinburgh Docks and Alloa north of Stirling.

In England ranging from Yorkshire mines, Somerset fields, Devon poor-houses, to East & South London slums.

At the end we are going to the Chelsea Flower Show, then home.

I will be happy to report my success & failures in another report.

Regards  
Graeme

**NEW MEMBERS:** Welcome to, Vicki Fletcher, Geoff Irvine, Elva Salmi, Helen Bauert, David Biggs, Margaret Challis, Robert and Carolyn Crane, Suzanne Elderfield, Maxine Bailey, Merlin Freeman, Jennie Cameron, Louise Berghouse, Norma McKellar Betty Kennett and Betty Mason.

We would also like to welcome back, Ellen Pearson, Janice Arens and Jeanette Mc Lachlan.



### **BUNNINGS BARBECUE**

If you are able to spare an hour or two on any of our BBQ days please add your name on the list at the library or secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au. No date is available for the next BBQ at this time.



### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Saturday	17 May	General Meeting
Saturday	24 May	Workshop
Saturday	21 June	General Meeting
Saturday	28 June	Workshop
Saturday	19 July	General Meeting
Saturday	26 July	Workshop

### **BDM Revival**

**COMING SOON** is BDM Revival which will enable you to run other KAware, Digger, Windows 3.1 genealogy software programs in computers from Windows XP through all the variations to Windows 8 machines.

To take advantage of this software, visit Jason Ingram's website at **<http://peppermintfence.com>**

## **A LONG DISTANCE COURTSHIP 100 YEARS AGO**

**Nancye Swan**

In 1910 my grandfather JESSE JACKSON decided to take a trip to England to see where his family lived at Sundon. Before he left he went to visit WILL THICKETT at Newrybar (north coast NSW). Will had emigrated to Australia from UK and still had relatives in the area Jesse wanted to visit. No doubting a lot of information was exchanged before Jesse sailed out of Sydney. Will decided to go too and joined the ship in Brisbane.

Naturally they visited Midhope and Ashton-under-Lyne. It was here that Will introduced Jesse to the THICKETT and MORTIMER families who were Will's relatives. This was how Jesse got to meet ANNIE MORTIMER, and thus the romance was kindled.

Jesse's travel diary and postcards reveal that he spent some time visiting Ireland and the Continent, as well as places in England. On the trips he made to UK he only mentions places, not names of people he visited.

Jesse returned to Australia. He and Annie stayed in touch via post cards sent "snail mail". I will quote from two from 1910 as follows

**Dated 10/10/1910**

Dear Mr Jackson,

Received your PC this morning with thanks, which I'm sure Dunstable looks a pretty place. We shall be very pleased to see you whenever you visit England again. I am sending you a photo, hoping you will get it alright. I'm thinking of going to Midhope for the weekend unless Uncle Willie comes tomorrow. All wish to be remembered and wishes you a safe and pleasant voyage home. Good night. Your sincere friend

A Mortimer

**Dated Oct 10**

Annie C/- HARRY THICKETT, Croft House, Midhope

Dear Annie

I thought you would like to have this PC (Clipson Chapel). I came here last night. I have found your (next unclear) well, your aunt Emma is spending the day – the weather is lovely. I am exploring before I go home. Spent one night with your cousin and Aunt.

Love from Myself.

**SO VERY FORMAL!**

In 1913 the diary reveals that Jesse returned to England. Again sightseeing as he went, and again he mentions places around the area where Annie lived, but no names. He mentioned attending cricket matches, church events and places he walked to. Some time during this visit arrangements were made for a wedding.

Christmas Eve 1913 Jesse and Annie married at Trafalgar Methodist Church, before sailing to Australia.

They lived at Jesse's property at KNOCKROW, which Annie named "Ryecroft" after a district in Ashton-under-Lyne where the Mortimers lived.

Annie and Jesse were thrilled when their only child HILDA was born in 1917. They lived all their married life at Knockrow. Annie died in 1945. Hilda and her family then went to live with Jesse who died in 1968. "Ryecroft" was sold in 1974. Jesse and Annie are buried in the old section of Bangalow Cemetery JACKSON and THICKETT relative nearby.

lived all their married life at Knockrow. Annie died in 1945. then went to live with Jesse who died in 1968. "Ryecroft" was and Annie are buried in the old section of Bangalow Cemetery JACKSON and THICKETT relative nearby.

Photo: Jesse and Annie, with Annie's parents and unknown person



## GETTING STARTED COURSES



Recently we have held three classes to introduce people to the Family History journey. Old Bar CTC hosted us for a short class for six people. At Halliday's Point and Taree Libraries we had almost "Full houses".

Watch for our next classes during National Family History Month- August

## LOCAL HISTORY CAN BE FOUND ANYWHERE

(Gloria Toohey- member 486)

Last year my daughter and I took a road trip from Buderim to Cairns, visiting many tourist spots along the way. While checking out the historic jetty built at Bowen (then called Port Denison) we found a local link.

In 1865-66 at Port Denison a jetty with a tramway was built out to 12 feet(3.6 metres) of water (low tide) at a length of a half-mile (792m). The Brisbane Courier (20 Dec 1866) reports: *"At 12 o'clock yesterday the last pile of the jetty was driven home. Ample convenience was afforded for crowning with some ceremonial a work of such importance. At noon the ponderous monkey was for the last time liberated from the iron claw that held it suspended, and falling with a due aplomb, drove well and firmly home the outermost support of our Bowen jetty. His Worship the Mayor had the honour of pulling the trigger line on this occasion."*

The photo board display recording the history stated that the first ship to use the new jetty was the “SS TINONEE” owned by Australian Steam Navigation Company. The TINONEE was built at ASN Co's Pyrmont workshops Sydney. Its specifications were 279 gross tons, 193'7"long x 21'4"wide x 10'5"deep. Iron twin screw steamship, 2 masted and schooner rigged. Of 30 horsepower and had a separate cabin for the ladies, with the men sleeping in the main dining room. “Apparently Captain Champion was a most hospitable master, keeping the bar open till the bar-tender finally quit for the night.”



Photo: Bowen Jetty 2013

### *William Bird and Elizabeth Ann Thomas*

William Bird was born in 1814 at Kings Nympton, Devonshire, England, son of George Bird and Elizabeth Dart. He married Elizabeth Ann Thomas on 30<sup>th</sup> June 1838 at Ilfracombe, Devonshire, England. Elizabeth was born in 1813 at Carmarthen, Wales, daughter of John and Sarah Thomas.

William was a blacksmith by trade and Elizabeth's occupation was a cook. Their first four children were born in Devonshire, England, George Thomas 1838, Sarah 1840, John Henry 1844 and William Walter 1846. They were all christened in the Exeter Cathedral but sadly Sarah passed away while only an infant.

William and Elizabeth and their three young boys left Plymouth, England on 28<sup>th</sup> December 1848 on board the 'Julindur', a 450 ton barque, with Captain Hew Burn at the helm. The 'Julindur' "made an excellent passage of ninety-six days" and sailed into Port Jackson on 4<sup>th</sup> April 1849 with two hundred and eleven, mainly English, immigrants

William and Elizabeth and their young family settled in the Hunter and lived for about one year in Maitland and six years at Woodville. William first worked as a blacksmith for Mr Portus, then he purchased a punt from Sandy Graham, of Hinton, to ferry the

the public across the river at Woodville.

After their arrival in Australia William and Elizabeth had three more children, Jesse born 1850 at Maitland, Charles Roland 1854 Woodville, and Elizabeth Ann 1856 The Bight, Wingham.

William purchased, at auction and sight unseen, a parcel of land at The Bight on the Manning River near Wingham. His three eldest sons, George Thomas, John Henry and William Walter, along with two others made the initial journey to the property. They travelled across the Wallarobba Mountain, through Dungog and across the Karuah River at the Washpool. After making their way through Gloucester they turned onto a bridle track which led to the Manning. Cutting trees and logs away with axes they climbed Tuggerabark Mountain only to find it much steeper on the Manning side. Not deterred by this they set about falling a large tree and chained it to the axle of the dray to slow down its progress in the steep descent.

The journey took them on to Larry's Flat (Krambach) and then to Tinonee, a thriving river port on the Manning. From there they had the task of cutting a road over Brushy Mountain which led to The Bight and what was to be their home for many years to come. The journey took three weeks to complete and the task of creating a farm from the bush began.

William and Elizabeth eventually joined their sons at The Bight, and later George Thomas, John Henry, Jesse and Elizabeth Ann headed north to follow the timber cutting into Queensland. William Walter and Charles remained in the Manning.

William Bird died on 10th February 1887 in Wingham and Elizabeth (Thomas) Bird died on 6th September 1891 in Taree. They are both buried near to their home in The Bight Cemetery.

Joanne Gorton 496 Comboyne Road, Wingham, NSW, 2429  
wayneandjo\_gorton@hotmail.com

#### **Sources**

Bird Ross, 'Birds of a Feather' NSW BDM Index [www.bdm.nsw.gov.au](http://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au)

Trove Newspapers

GTCC Library Newspaper Collection [www.trove.nla.gov.au](http://www.trove.nla.gov.au)

Birds of a Feather Family History [www.boaffamily.org](http://www.boaffamily.org)

### ***BIRDS OF A FEATHER' REUNION***

The descendants of **William and Elizabeth (Thomas) Bird** are invited to a reunion

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2014** Wingham Town Hall 10am

\$10 per adult, children under 12 free. Includes BBQ lunch, and morning and afternoon tea. Please bring along your photographs and memorabilia for display. Tables provided.

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2014** Wingham Brush Picnic Area 10am. Morning tea provided. Tour of Tinonee, Wingham and The Bight Cemeteries

Home of Marie and Joe Simmons, 4 Helmich Close, Wingham 1pm

\$5 per adult, children under 12 free. Includes homemade soup and damper

**RSVP: 7<sup>th</sup> May 2014** Peggy Bird 19 Beecher Street, Tinonee, NSW 2430

*birds.of.feather.wingham@gmail.com*

### **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](mailto:editor@manningwallambafhs.com.au)  
OR [ihardy1951@gmail.com](mailto:ihardy1951@gmail.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 ENQUIRIES:**

- ◆ **William ALLAN Manning area 1860**
- ◆ **IPPS Crazy Wheels bike shop, Pulteney Street, owned by Mr BULL**
- ◆ **Location of RAILWAY OVAL 1930 – 1940**
- ◆ **NOONE family – Heron's Creek/Kew**
- ◆ **If you can help with any of these enquiries please contact the Research Officer**

### **FAMILY MEMBERS IN INDIA**

Did your European or Anglo-Indian ancestors live or work in India or South Asia between 1600 and 1947?

There are many sources of information.

**Find My Past (available free at the Taree Library) has released the following press statement:**

You can now discover the story of your British ancestors who lived and worked in India from 1698–1947. Findmypast, in partnership with the British Library, brings you this exclusive record collection online for the first time.

Head east with our British in India collection. Find out whether your relatives were aristocracy, tradespeople, civil servants or soldiers and finally discover those missing ancestors with new records spanning 200 years of history.

**These 2.5 million records include:**

- Baptisms, marriages & burials
- Army officers' marriage notifications
- Records for other locations administered by the India Office (Aden, Burma, Kuwait, St Helena)
- Civil service records
- Pension registers
- Probate records & wills

**Families In British India Society:** ([www.fibif.org](http://www.fibif.org))

This site can help you research your family history in British India. Some sections are free and others are for “Members Only” (Membership about \$35/year)

You can:

Search a database of more than 1,258,000 individual names ([fibis database](#)) **FREE**

Find out more about the lives your ancestors lived ([fibiwiki](#)) **FREE**

Connect with other people searching for your ancestors using the FIBIS Social network ([members area](#)) **MEMBERS ONLY**

Learn more about researching British India with beginner to expert guides ([FIBIS Research and FIBIS Books](#))

Keep up-to-date with the latest news in the world of British India Family History by following FIBIS [blog](#) **FREE**



Manning Wallamba Family History Society Inc.

PO Box 48

Taree NSW 2430

[www.manningwallambafhs.com.au](http://www.manningwallambafhs.com.au)

[secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au](mailto:secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au)