



THE FIG TREE

JOURNAL OF THE
MANNING WALLAMBA FAMILY
HISTORY SOCIETY Inc.
TAREE

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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, Cooperook, 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 Rose	
Vice Presidents:	G Toohey	L Kidd
Secretaries:	S Robinson	J Mitchell
Treasurer:	L Haynes	V Fletcher
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

Presidents Report for November 2014



Dear Members, all 135 of you,

At a recent Society meeting the fact was discussed that very few of our 135 members appear to be actively involved in research.

Genealogy Volunteers are on duty every day to assist you and give you access to the Society's extensive resources kept in the Society's storage library and only available to members during opening hours (10.00-12.00 Monday-Friday and 10.00-1.30 Saturdays).

At monthly workshops (4th Saturday of every month except December and January) Genealogy Volunteers are also available. At some workshops there may be some input on topics related to your research.

How can we make the Society more valuable to you?

Your suggestions will help the Society's executive volunteers plan purchases of resources, next year's programs and workshops. Please email me with your suggestions or chat to me at the Christmas Party.

All those who do come in to our rooms for their research will be able to enjoy the new 20" high definition screens installed by the Library Computer Staff with a \$450 contribution from our Society. It makes reading all those horrible 1820s census reports much easier.

all those who come into our rooms will also see our new Life Member Plaque to honour those who have made the Society a 29 year success. It is not just for BBQ volunteers, although that is definitely a sure path to inclusion ☺, but to those who have kept the society alive for the benefit of themselves & all those bitten by the same bug.

BBQ slots have become very hard to acquire as every "Not for Profit" organisation in the Manning is begging for this financial boost. We tried Masters & found it profitable enough to continue, however, our last experiment with Bunning's Friday BBQ was not profitable enough to be repeated.

One of my female convict ancestors Catherine Bannister <http://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Bannister-269> has been included in the newest book of the Tasmanian Female Convict Research Centre <http://www.femaleconvicts.org.au/> "Convict Lives at the George Town Female Factory". George Town was the original settlement at mouth of the Tamar River superseded by Launceston by 1840. The TFCRC has printed a range of books about the different Female Factories & their inmates. After reading I am happy to donate this book to the MWFHS as an example of the work they do. The contents pages of all the books are available on their website above to see if your ancestor has been researched.

I have also had success recently by making my first attempts at sideways research. That is looking for brothers & sisters of my ancestors & seeing what documents I can find on them. My own ancestor may have been very tight lipped about his life back in Ireland, so that his death certificate reads "Not Known" for mother, father, birthplace etc, but I then found his brother had been much more forthcoming with his wife & children, therefore when he died they were able to fill in all those sections.

See you at the Christmas Party on Sunday 14th December in the Banksia Room at Club Taree.

Regards Graeme

New Members: Welcome to

NO.	Member	Research Interest
14023	Margaret Elliott	Elliott, Cobar 1880-1890, Ayre, Ireland 1880-1900
14022	Anne Fernley	Fernley, Taree, 1910-now, Frank Pampoolah, Lyal Howard 1919
14025	Michelle Laucht	H.J. Brown, Comboyne 1915-1918
14024	Beryl Ritchie	Ritchie, Kent, 1880's, Chapman Brechin, Scotland 1880's
14026	John Rowe	
14024	Janette Stevens	Stevens, Bathurst 1912, Parker, Merewether 1905 McHue, Cooks Hill 1907, Scouller, Sydney 1890 Day, Newcastle 1890, Oliver, Newcastle 1890
14028	Paula Deveson	Deveson Bathurst prior 1908, William Deveson, England prior 1850



BARBECUE:



Next BBQ to be held at Masters 22nd March 2015
If you are able to spare an hour or two on any of our BBQ days, please add your name to the list at the Library or secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au

REGULAR EVENTS:

General Meeting: Held at 1.30 pm 3rd Saturday of every month except December and January

Workshop: Held at 1.30 pm 4th Saturday of every month except December and January

SOCIAL EVENT:

The **CHRISTMAS LUNCH** will be held on the **14th DECEMBER 2014 at 12 noon** at **CLUB TAREE**.

FINAL NUMBERS by **FRIDAY 5th NOVEMBER**.

CHRISTMAS BREAK:

Christmas break will be from the 13th December 2014 and 27th January 2015.

INTERVIEW WITH MR JOSEPH DAVIS

Part 2

"My father, amongst many others, cut a lot of cedar at Wingham in the early times, The cedar cutters on Cedar Party Creek used to send their timber to Sydney by a small vessel that used to trade to the river at intervals. The vessel took the timber to Sydney and brought back goods for the cedar cutters and the few other settlers that may have been in the locality. There was a beautiful cedar brush near Wingham in those days.

"The early day aborigines used to call my father "Burrelby" and my mother "Burrelgig". During my ten years residence at Wingham as a boy, I used to often walk out to Bungay, and I remember that the first clergyman who used to periodically visit Wingham was the Rev. Mr. O'Reilly. He used to travel from Port Macquarie to Bungay. Mr. Rowley had Bungay in my boyhood days - he was there when I left Wingham for Chatham. There was then very little land settled about - unless it was at Brimbin. There was a man named Tommy Owen living there. His son drowned near Brimbin Creek. It is known to this day as "Tommy Owens Creek". The first hotel on the Manning as far as I can recollect was established at Chatham. A man named Windsor kept that hotel. He later left for Taree where he erected "The Windsor Castle Hotel." Jim Stace kept the first hotel in Wingham. It was known as "The Lamb Inn". Speaking of Taree, I might say that there was really no Taree those days -other than 'Taree Estate.' Old Major Wynter was the first to settle on Taree Estate.

"The aborigines were in their original wild state in those times. They used to come to our place - some of the more civilised ones anyhow. Labour was so scarce in those times that it was impossible to get white men to assist with necessary work. My father used to get aborigines to work in his sawpit. One fellow he used to employ was known as "Old Goannah". He was a good faithful workman too.

"I've often seen the aborigines fighting and also watched their corroborees. There were a great many aborigines around Wingham in my boyhood days - as in all parts of the Manning District . Today very few full-blooded aborigines are to be met with. Some of the early day aborigines made faithful workers and did much of the work of clearing what are today old established estates. I got married, but my wife died many years ago. We reared seven children - three sons and four daughters.

"I might say also that I have now 30 grandchildren and 30 odd great grandchildren. I am pretty certain that there is no actual Manning native on the river as old as I am. I remember when the Lobban family came to the Manning - about the year 1852. That was about the time my father and mother shifted from Wingham to Chatham.

"I also recollect Old Johnny Martin. He died at Chatham a good many years ago. Then there was old Mr. Newby - another identity. I also remember hearing of "Ned the Nailer" but I never remember seeing him. Tom Watson was another identity I remember in early times.

"There were practically no white women in early times on the Manning - other than those who accompanied their husbands from other parts here. The Cann family I remember. There was Fanny Cann - also Susan Cann and Henry Cann. Some of the descendants of that family are still residing in Wingham. The Stirling family was another. All those people were interested in cedar cutting. Cundletown was a very small place in 1875. Mr John Croker lived there - as also did Mr Charles Croker. One of them lived in a big house there and went in for cattle raising. Mr James Atkinson also resided there. "After a few years the Campbells came to Cundletown but later on they shifted up to the Dingo Creek, beyond Wingham. The name is still familiar one on the Upper Manning, where descendants of the good old pioneers still reside.

Mr Frank Campbell is about the last of the old pioneering section of the Campbell family. He resides at Marlee. Mrs John Summerville was a Campbell I remember. Her name was Maggie Campbell. Old Pelican Bay on the Lower Manning was brought into prominence in the early times by the late Captain Newton. He was the first man to build vessels on the Manning River. (Mr Davis was perhaps referring to shipbuilding on a larger scale. Several vessels had been built prior to Alexander Newton's arrival. *(For a full list, refer to "Down to the Sea in Ships" by Manning Valley Hist. Soc)*. Some of the boats he built, he navigated himself to Sydney at various times. Old Captain Newton did not know what it was to have a Pilot at Manning Heads - he invariably crossed his boats in and out most successfully. I remember old "Port Fairy Paddy". He used to travel through the District a good deal - as also did another old chap named Brackett. Old Jack Wise was one of the very early cedar getters. The first butchers shop I remember on the Manning was kept at Redbank by a man named Charlie Turner.

"Peg Leg Creek near Tinonee derived its name from a man named Billy Marshall. Old Billy Marshall used to mend and make boots and it was his custom to ride round to his customers with same, He had a wooden leg, and got bogged in Peg Leg Creek somehow or other. He had to be pulled out, and from that day to this, the creek in question has been known as Peg Leg Creek. Old Billy Marshall lived at Chatham and died there. His remains were laid to rest in the Woolla Cemetery.

" I well recollect when the late Mr. William Edwards came to Cundletown from Port Macquarie. He first took up residence with Mr George Newby on Dumaresq Island with whom he was shoemaking for some time. Then he left and settled in Cundletown, whilst Mr John Newby had the first store at Chatham. I am pretty certain that he had the first store on the Manning River, and what people there were then in the district travelled many miles in some instances to do business with Mr Newby.

"The men were not particular as to fashion in those days - or the women either. The men wore blue shirts and moleskin trousers and were pleased to get them. I remember old Mr John Lewis when he first came to the Manning . He first settled down the Lower Manning and came from Old Pelican to Chatham later. Still later he went up to Wingham. Mr Dave Lewis still in the land of the living is the eldest son of the man to who I refer. A man named McGrill used to run sheep out Brimbin and Killibakh way in the early days. He also had sheep at Durumbah, then known as "Fishers Yards". You can now have a look at the pitsaw my father used to handle in the early pioneering days. It is just about 45 years since I last used it - and the saw was over 90 years old. It's a fine bit of stuff in that saw and I should have taken more care of it. We had a look at the saw which is well preserved. I remember Miss Kelly who used to live at Brimbin. I often saw her and she was a noted woman on the Manning in early times. We used to grind wheat with an old steel hand mill at Chatham. I have the old steel mill yet. This concluded the interview and after "Wingham's First White Boy" had been photographed, we boarded Mr G.S.Hill's motor car and returned to Wingham."



CONGRATULATIONS

We offer our congratulations to two new Life Members of the Manning Wallamba Family History Society, both of whom have devoted many hours of service to the Society. Sue Robinson has been a member since the Society was established in 1985 and has held many executive positions during that time. Ida McLeod has been a member for many years, serving the Society in various positions. She has also published several books on Family History, Immigration and Newspaper Indexes



New Life Members Ida McLeod and Sue Robinson



Graeme's Ancestor Holiday in Ireland, Scotland & England

May 2014

Part 2

Wales:

Llantwit Fardre

This is a coal mining town with iron ore towns like Merthyr Tydfil nearby. This allowed massive steel works to be built in the 19th century.

I had David Williams baptism but no official birth certificate which as he was born in 1852 should have been available. No birth certificate found by regional Records Office in Pontypridd for David Williams. The office staff's comment was that even though BDM was established 1837 it was not compulsory in Wales until about 1857. Only baptism already found.

Miners had their fares paid to travel to Australia. I have a copy of a poster advertising this. David is recorded on the ship "Samuel Plimsoll" in 1875 as a miner but then becomes a porter at the Royal Hotel George St Sydney. Pontypridd became VERY rich by 1900, all large buildings built from then until 1910.

England:

Godney

Drove into the recently flooded part of Somerset to the small village of Godney. Stopped at the Post Office & while photographing the lovely old building, the postman came out and asked us what we were doing. Explained that I was tracing the Churches family. He knew Michael Churches & gave us directions to the Godney Farm. We introduced ourselves to Michael who is 5th generation from Thomas Churches who inherited Godney Farm from Jeremiah his father. My George was the eldest son who left for Australia with money WHY? Michael has bought the neighbouring church with all our ancestors buried there back about 8 generations.

Drove from here to the Eden Project which is a giant ark storing endangered plants from all over the world. Amazing glass houses in a giant abandoned quarry.

London

Stayed at Kew Gardens Hotel, expensive & noisy, but close to Kew railway station, Kew Gardens & the National Archives at Kew.

Kew Gardens were amazing but everyone was commenting on the warm weather altering what was in flower. Tulips & wisteria finished by early in May.

The National Archives contains nearly every paper record produced in UK for any purpose, including all surviving court records from the entire country, so I went with my list of convicts to see what I could find. Some early 1800s records just did not survive but I did find trials of 3 convicts in 1820s & 30s. You must know exactly which county & which quarter of the year, to order that box. Then up to the examination room where you are thoroughly searched in & out, no toilets, nowhere to hide with more guards than researchers. They then give you the box with about 100 sheets punched in one corner & threaded with string. They provide light & camera stand so when/if you find the right one you photograph it. I found all 3.

We then caught the tube to the various parts of London that had relevance to me. Dyott St near the centre where my ancestor lured a man into a room then held him while a smaller girl rifled his pockets, now just offices. St George in the East near the docks where sailors & shipwrights lived, now 100% Muslim, then further east to the Thames Barrier.

Our last day was spent at the Chelsea Flower Show. Our tickets were only for after 3pm, which was fine as it had been raining earlier & a lot of people had left, but that still left a lot.

Then Home.



NEW RESOURCES NOW AVAILABLE

IR:085R Colonial Duchesses. The emigration of Irish women fore the great famine

NI:011R The people of Norfolk Island & Van Diemens Land & their families 1788-1820

FH:144R The Minorca Pipers. Donated by Graham Piper.



The Story Tellers..... (Author Unknown)

We are the chosen.

My feelings are in each family there is one who seems called to find the ancestors. To put flesh on their bones and make them live again, to tell the family story and to feel that somehow they know and approve. To me, doing genealogy is not a cold gathering of facts but, instead, breathing life into all who have gone before.

We are the story tellers of the tribe. All tribes have one. We have been called as it were by our genes. Those who have gone before cry out to us: Tell our story. So, we do. In finding them, we somehow find ourselves.

How many graves have I stood before now and cried? I have lost count. How many times have I told the ancestors you have a wonderful family you would be proud of us? How many times have I walked up to a grave and felt somehow there was love there for me? I cannot say. It goes beyond just documenting facts. It goes to who I am and why do I do the things I do? It goes to seeing a cemetery about to be lost forever to weeds and indifference and saying I can't let this happen.

Poor Harriet: The Indexing errors don't stop there! There is NO death index register for Harriet Dawe but there is for **HARRIETT DAVIE** in 1933 in Young. She can be found by using the wildcard * in the surname field (D*), her father's name and 1933. She is buried in the Young Cemetery with her husband John West Dawe.

(Photo used with approval from <http://austcemindex.com/>)



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