



THE FIG TREE

JOURNAL OF THE

MANNING WALLAMBA FAMILY
HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

No 112

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Postal Address : PO Box 48
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**Manning Wallamba Family History Society
Office Bearers 2009-2010**

Patrons	Bruce Cowan Terry Eakin Robert Oakeshott Elaine McCutcheon Lyn McMartin Gloria Hayes Bevan Nelson		
President	George Sawyer		
Vice Presidents	Graham Troth Ian MacLeod		
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Research Officer	Gloria Toohey	Assistant Research Officer	Nancye Swan
Workshop Coordinator		Publications Officer	Gloria Hayes
Publicity Officer	Ian MacLeod	Public Officer	Ian MacLeod

The MWFHS Inc's resources are available with rostered members to assist researchers, during the following hours at the Greater Taree City Council Library, Victoria St, Taree
Monday to Friday 9.30am to 12 noon
Saturday 9.30am to 12.30pm
Special arrangements can be made for access to MWFHS Inc's resources outside listed hours by appointment

Members No charge

Non Members \$5 per hour or part thereof

MEETINGS 3rd Saturday of each month [except December] at 1.30pm in the Taree Library, Victoria St, Taree

WORKSHOPS 1st Saturday of each month [except January] at 1.30pm in the Taree Library, Victoria St, Taree

MEMBERSHIP FEES

New members

	Single	Family
1 Jul – 30 Jun	\$30.00	\$38.00
1 Jan – 30 Jun	\$17.50	\$21.50
Renewal		
1 Jul – 30 Jun	\$25.00	\$33.00
Overseas Members – Price on application Price on application		

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Membership of the MWFHS Inc entitles financial members to :-Free use of the Society's resources during their opening hours.
- 4 copies of journal 'Figtree' [2 copies half year] plus Members Interest Directory
- Free research enquiries published in the 'Figtree'
- 18 free entries per year each member/family in the Society's Members Interest Directory.
- 2 hrs free research per member/family, per membership year for out of area members [1hr per half year], on receipt of a stamped self addressed business size envelope [photocopying extra]
- Monthly workshops



SOCIETY NEWS

ILLNESS: To those who are ill or recuperating from an illness, your friends at the Society wish you a speedy recovery.

CONDOLENCES: Several members have lost family members in recent months. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

EMAIL UPDATES: As you are all aware, the Society is now producing the Fig Tree electronically. It is available on the Society website. Members' notices are sent by email so could you please update your email address with the Society by emailing secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au

NEW MEMBERS: Welcome to our new members: John and Dianne Farlow, Nahiack; June Brookes, Halliday's Point; Caroline Hibbert, Taree; Jean Chapman, Harrington; Dennis and Judith Clancy, Smiths Lake; Stephen Woodley, Taree; Peter and Penny Teerman, Taree; Ann and Jodie Bennett, Oxley Island; Jean Hetherington, Old Bar; John Bryant, Old Bar; Janette Jones, Taree and returning member Max Carey, Cundletown

NEWSLETTER: If you have any family stories, or in fact, anything at all, that you would like put into the Figtree, we would appreciate the input. Articles should be about half a page or 500 words in length. Please drop it into the Library or email it to editor@manningwallambafhs.com.au

MINUTES OF MEETINGS: Minutes of all meetings are kept in a folder in the Duty Cupboard and are available for members to read. Minutes will no longer be emailed to members.

BUNNINGS BARBECUE: Next date is 25th October. If you can help for an hour or two please put your name on the list on the noticeboard.

PIONEER REGISTER BOOK 3: Forms for Pioneer Register Book 3 are available for download from the Society Website or can be photocopied from a copy on the Society Noticeboard in the Library.

SILVER ANNIVERSARY: Next year (2010) will be the 25th year of our Society. If you have any suggestions of what can be done to celebrate this occasion please contact any of the Committee members.

LIBRARY DUTY: There are some spaces on the Duty Roster. Why not consider going on duty with a "buddy" who will help you learn the routine. It is not a difficult or arduous task. If you would like to help with duty or learn how to, please contact the Librarians.

NEW SERVICE: Advertising: There have been several enquiries from people who wish to advertise books and products for sale in the Fig Tree. At the September meeting it was decided that charges for advertising would be set at the same rate as AFTC magazine - \$0.30 per word or part thereof. Name and address lines are FREE. For further details contact either the Secretary (secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au) or the Editor (editor@manningwallambafhs.com.au)

DONATIONS: Thank you to Mrs Nellie Sansom, a retired historian, who has donated a large amount of books on Australia. The books will be an extremely valuable resource for Society members once they are all catalogued and added to our library.

TRANSCRIPTIONS: Marilyn Rowan (www.transcriptions.com.au) has announced a 10% discount on all services until 10th December 2009.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Saturday 17 th October	General Meeting
Saturday 17 th October	Port Stephens Family History Fair
Sunday 25 th October	Barbecue at Bunnings
Saturday 7 th November	Workshop
Saturday 7 th November	Newcastle FHS Seminar
Saturday 21 st November	General Meeting



NOTHING NEW – NOT EVEN THE WEATHER!

From Manning River Times 25th October 1902

“A PECULIAR HAZE: On Sunday afternoon last an very thick yellowish-brown haze settled on the hills surrounding Taree, whilst the sky was overcast with heavy brownish-looking clouds, from which short and light showers descended at intervals. The haze was supposed to be very fine dust. There was another thick haze yesterday (Friday), resembling a dense fog.”

“THE WEATHER: On Thursday some thunderstorms passed over the district- very little rain falling in the morning storm at Taree, but a somewhat heavy downpour accompanying the thunder in the afternoon, with a little hail. Another thunderstorm occurred during the night, but there was scarcely any rain. Yesterday there was another dense brown haze. Twenty points of rain (about 6mm) were registered at Taree on Thursday, but in the lower portions of the river, especially Cattai Creek, it poured in torrents.”

RESEARCH ENQUIRIES

- Graham McDonald requesting information on George SCOTT – early resident and boatbuilder on Mitchell’s Island.
- Denise Gemmell requesting newspaper articles re MURRAY, McLEAN and POLSON families.
- Philip Strong requesting newspaper articles re MCLEAN family.
- Bob Clark requesting information on William ARMSTRONG former member of Taree Council.
- Barbara Brown requesting contact with KLUMPP researchers
- Gloria Tattersell requesting information about Harold James HOGAN who married Doris Tryste FOSTER nee BURNE widow of Thomas A FOSTER
- Leonie Harding requesting information on Humphrey RICHARDSON early Tinonee resident.
- William Bitossi requesting information on James Hadley SC HUBERT who changed his name to Edward DELEIUEN.
- Mr F Morris requesting information on immigration of Patrick MULLINS abt 1847

LIBRARIANS’ REPORT:

As new Librarians we are still learning the system and catching up on the backlog of new acquisitions. Thank you to those who helped put all current resources into the new boxes.

Due to Copyright Regulations CDs are not to be borrowed. CDs are available to be viewed during Society opening hours.

NEW RESOURCES:

Journals from various reciprocating Societies up to September 2009 are available now. Other new resources are currently being processed.



MEMORIES OF CONVICTS



Mary Ann MEWBURN nee BATCHELOR



Gladys May McGAW nee MEWBURN

How many people in this century would be able to remember someone who came to Australia on a convict ship? My mother could!

Gladys May McGAW nee MEWBURN was born on 15th July 1907 at Rye Park a small village near Boorowa NSW and passed away 1st July 2009 just two weeks short of her 102nd birthday.

Gladys had very vivid memories of her grandmother Mary Ann MEWBURN nee BATCHELOR who died 28th September 1910 of heart failure and senile decay. Mary Ann had been blind for 17 years. Gladys remembered a wire from the back door of the house to the outside toilet so Mary Ann could hold the wire to get to and from the toilet. Gladys and her brother Clarence (1906-2002) would hold Mary Ann's hands and take her for walks. Gladys could also remember going to Mary Ann's funeral in a horse drawn sulky and seeing a little black rabbit near the road. Definitely a child's memory!

Mary Ann was born in 1826 and was christened 1st January 1828 in St Sepulchre LONDON. She landed in Sydney 12th October 1836 on board "Elizabeth IV" with her convict mother Sarah BATCHELOR nee CRUNKHORN (also known as CLACKHORN). Her brother and sister also accompanied them.

Mary Ann married John MEWBURN (1810-1891 also a convict) on 5th February 1843. They had eleven children and raised them all to adulthood, the youngest being my grandfather William MEWBURN (1868-1965)

Contributed by Gloria Toohey (nee McGAW) Member No 486



HAVING TROUBLE FINDING BRITISH ANCESTORS? These hints might help.

TWELVE PROBLEM-SOLVING TIPS (Source: Problem Solving – the essential guide from "Ancestors" Magazine of The National Archives UK June 2009)

1. When searching online databases, less is always more.

- Enter as few details as possible, perhaps using just the surname or forename
- Try different combinations of name, age and birthplace.

2. Use wildcards

- * stands for any number of characters (including no characters)
- ? stands for a single character.

3. **Avoid precise birthplaces where possible**
 - People were not always consistent when it came to stating where they were born
 - People tend to be less precise the further they are from their birthplace.
4. **Consider alternate spellings**
 - Standardised spelling of personal and placenames is a relatively modern concept, so Brown and Browne can be the same name!
5. **Middle names can help**
 - Some databases allow you to search using middle names, particularly useful if your ancestor had a distinctive one
6. **Search for the family with the least common first name**
 - Look for Herbert Smith rather than his brother John, but weigh this against the increased possibility of transcription errors with less common names
7. **Where possible search for children rather than adults**
 - Children's names are more likely to be accurately recorded
8. **Find out everything you can about your ancestors and their extended families**
 - This is the best way to identify inconsistencies in your evidence, you never know what else you might discover.
9. **Use a combination of the "focussed" and the "scatter-gun" approaches**
 - Try records for the area where your ancestors lived
 - Search in major family databases
 - If all else fails try Google
10. **Build up a theory , then attempt to knock it down**
 - It is usually easier to disprove something than it is to prove it
 - If you can't disprove your theory, it might be the answer.
11. **Ask a fellow enthusiast**
 - Share your problems with subscribers on one of hundreds of different mailing lists dedicated to all aspects of family and local history.
12. **Write to Ancestors Magazine**
 - We can call on the wealth of experience at The National Archives to answer questions sent in to our Ask The Experts page

TOP EIGHT WEBSITES (same source)

www.google.com.uk - Britain's top search engine. You never know who or what you will find by typing in the details of your missing ancestor.

<http://en.wikipedia.org> - Wikipedia's articles may provide enough background information to solve your problems

<http://home.clara.net/tirbach/hicks3.html> - definitions of some of the most important terms used in archives records

<http://tinyurl.com/524x1k> John Fuller's comprehensive list of mailing lists. If you're stuck you can post your problem on a family history mailing list.

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk – type your ancestor's name into the advanced search box at the top right hand corner of the home page and see what comes up.

www.cindyslist.com – links to 264,000 genealogy-related websites worldwide. It is well indexed and easy to use.

www.freebmd.org.uk – a comprehensive index to entries in the registers of births, marriages and deaths from 1837

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a - Access to Archives, a detailed (if incomplete) index to the holdings of local archives.



CIVIL REGISTRATION IN ENGLAND & WALES

The commencement of civil registration in England & Wales on July 1, 1837 is a very important landmark for family historians because from that date central registers and indexes of births, marriages, and deaths have been maintained. However, since 1837 there have been a number of changes in the system, many of which are recorded in this timetable which can be found on the Birmingham City Council website.

Important Dates in Civil Registration

1st July 1837	Civil Registration in England and Wales begins
1852	GRO References change from Roman Numerals (XVI) to Arabic numbers and letters (6d)
1866	GRO indexes include age at death
1875	Birth and Death Act 1874: a) Compulsory registration of births (parents/guardians responsible for registration), b) Fines for non-registration of births/penalties for late registration (42 days to register), c) For illegitimate births, father must be present at the birth registration for his name to appear on a birth entry in the register, d) Deaths to be registered within 5 days, instead of 8 as previous, e) Medical certification in respect of cause of death required.
1898	Non Conformist and Catholic Churches can appoint an "Authorised Person" to register marriages, removing the need for a Registrar to be present.
Sept Qtr. 1911	GRO Indexes include Mothers Maiden Name
Mar Qtr. 1912	GRO Marriage Indexes include Spouses Surname
1st July 1927	Introduction of the Register of Still Births
1927	a) Introduction of the Adopted Children's Register, b) Re-registration of illegitimate births allowed if parents subsequently marry each other, c) Registrars certificate / coroners order required before a burial / cremation of a body.
1929	a) Legal age for marriage increased from 14 (males) and 12 (females) to 16 for both (parental consent still required up to age 21), b) Functions of civil registration transferred to Local Authorities, c) Newly appointed Registration Officers paid salaries.
1946	GRO Volume Numbers re-organised (6d became 9c).
1947	Short Birth Certificates introduced.

1969	a) Format of Birth and Death Certificates changed, to portrait instead of landscape, b) Age of majority reduced from 21 to 18,* (see below) c) Re-registration of births of illegitimate children to include name of father allowed, irrespective of whether the parents marry.
June Qtr.1969	Death Indexes show date of Birth instead of age at Death
1974	GRO Volume Numbers re-organised (9c became 32).
1975	Adult adopted people allowed access to information on original birth entry.
1984	GRO Indexes changed to annual compilations.

***Age of Majority** -The age at which a person is granted by law the rights and responsibilities of an adult.

INTERESTING SITES TO BROWSE:

Rookwood Cemetery Sites

<http://www.rookwoodindependent.com.au/Mapping/Start.aspx>

<http://www.catholiccemeteries.org.au/rookwood/rookwood.html>

<http://www.rookwoodcemetery.com.au/> (You will need to register –free- to search on this site.)

Devonshire Archives

<http://www.archive.org/details/devonshireparish01phil> Marriages from 1600s to 1837

Devonshire Parishes

<http://homepages.ihug.co.nz/~our4bears/indpar.htm> Click on Parish name to see where records are kept- many are online.

South Derbyshire BMD

<http://www.southderbyshirebmd.co.uk/> For Baptisms, Deaths and Marriages taken from Parish and Burial Registers for the South Derbyshire District

Invergargill NZL Cemetery Records Online

<http://www.icc.govt.nz/>

Historic Atlas of Sydney

Excellent maps of Sydney from 1854

<http://www2.photosau.com/CosMaps/scripts/home.asp>



MANNING WALLAMBA FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC
ABN 50 373 809 536

Price List for Burial Books available through our Society

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
Coopermook, Moorland, Harrington	\$19.00
Lansdowne	\$17.00
Wingham Anglican [Old Section]	\$17.00
Wingham - All other Denominations	\$17.00
Wingham Beams	\$10.00
Killibakh, Marlee, Woodside	\$17.00
Redbank	\$15.00
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

Prices include postage & handling within Australia
MWFHS members receive 10% discount on all orders

Orders to The Secretary, PO Box 48, TAREE. NSW 2430

Manning Wallamba Family History Society Inc has not registered for GST

<i>Pre 1860 Pioneer Register - Book 1</i>	<i>\$32.50 + \$10.00 p&p</i>	
<i>Pre 1860 Pioneer Register – Book 2</i>	<i>\$32.50 + \$10.00 p&p</i>	
<i>Latest Resource Directory</i>	<i>\$10.00 + \$2.50 p&p</i>	<i>No member discount</i>

RESEARCH SERVICE

Initial Research Enquiry \$20.00 Limited photo-copying
Additional Research \$10.00 per hour extra m/film photocopying 60c per page
Resources searched include those of the Greater Taree City Council Library, our Pioneer Card index and Pre – 1860 Pioneer Register, Cemetery transcripts of Manning & Wallamba areas, Undertakers records, Manning C/E Marriage index and other C/E records held by the Society, local newspaper indexes.
Research enquiries will be published in our newsletter 'Fig Tree'
Research Form can be downloaded from Society website
A business sized stamped addressed envelope must be supplied with each enquiry.
All correspondence must be addressed to Secretary, PO Box 48 Taree NSW 2430

Newspapers Available for Research

Manning River News	Apr 1865 – Apr 1873	(Fully indexed 1865 – 69)
Manning & Hastings Advocate	Nov 1881 – Nov 1882	(Fully indexed)
Wingham Chronicle	1886 -	(1886, 1888 fully indexed.1886-1920 BDM etc indexed)
Manning River Independent	Jan – Nov 1892	(Fully indexed)
	Mar – May 1893	(Fully indexed)
Manning River Times	1898	(Jan – Mar 1898 fully indexed, 1898 – 1907 BDM etc indexed)
Northern Champion	1913 – 1961	(Obits, deaths, inquests, etc Indexes 1920 – 1960)
Maitland Mercury	1843 – 1925	(Indexed 1843 – 1848)

Where possible, dates should be supplied for newspaper articles – photocopies 60c per page