



THE FIG TREE

JOURNAL OF THE

**MANNING WALLAMBA FAMILY HISTORY
SOCIETY INC.**

No 113

January-March 2010

Postal Address : PO Box 48
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Manning Wallamba Family History Society

Office Bearers 2009-2010

Patrons	<i>Bruce Cowan, Terry Eakin, Robert Oakeshott, Elaine McCutcheon, Lyn McMartin, Gloria Hayes, Bevan Nelson</i>		
President	<i>George Sawyer</i>		
Vice Presidents	<i>Graham Troth, Ian MacLeod</i>		
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Librarian	<i>Lyn Haynes</i>	Assistant Librarian	<i>Pam Jarman</i>
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Publicity Officer	<i>Ian MacLeod</i>	Public Officer	<i>Ian MacLeod</i>

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

Renewal

	Single	Family
1 Jul – 30 Jun	\$25.00	\$33.00
1 Jan – 30 Jun	\$17.50	\$21.50

New Members

1 Jul – 30 Jun	\$30.00	\$38.00
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Overseas Members – 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

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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. Could you please update your email address with the Society by emailing secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au

NEW MEMBERS: Welcome to our new members: Ken and Marie Matthews of Hallidays Point, Laurie Kidd of Taree Tim Crossley of Ryde and Jan Arens of Old Bar

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.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH: About 30 members and friends had an enjoyable meal at Black Peppers Manning Hotel. Thank you Jan, June and Lorna for your organisation.

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. Entries for this book are required before 1 April 2010.

SILVER ANNIVERSARY: This 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, which can be found in the red folder in the Day Box. 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. Come along to the February workshop for an outline of duty procedures.

MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS: Meetings are held on 3rd Saturday and Workshops are 1st Saturday. Workshops will be general unless otherwise advertised. Meet outside the Library at 1.20 ready for a 1.30 start.

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

Saturday 16 th January	General Meeting
Saturday 6 th February	Workshop – Introduction of Information Procedures- General How to For Members on use of resources and equipment
Saturday 20 th February	General Meeting
Saturday 6 th March	General Workshop
Saturday 20 th March	General Meeting

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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

I do trust you all had a joyous and restful Christmas, and wish one and all a happy and prosperous new year.

A warm welcome too, to all our new members!

We have recently been made aware that some of our resources donated or loaned to the Society have not been accessioned in accordance with the Society's By-Laws. We are sifting through our resources carefully to rectify the situation.

We desperately need the services of a correspondence secretary.....not an onerous task. Any volunteers?

We also need some members to volunteer and train for roster duty at the library. Of our many members, only 28 are currently available to help out. The more volunteers we have, the fewer times one is required to act in this role. Some extra help on the occasion of our Bunning's Fundraising Barbecues would also be welcome. Both these activities can be quite an occasion, meeting new people, and the social aspect.

Genealogy is a compulsive addiction. There is no known cure other than the satisfaction of finding long "lost" information from the past which has either been deliberately withheld from us or not generally known.

I shall look forward to joining with you all in this exciting year of our 25th anniversary together with other activities in the planning.

George Sawyer

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PIONEER DAYS © GWS 2009

Our forebears endured such trying times, of pestilence, drought and flood.
The rivers rose above their banks, houses filled with stinking mud.
Times were hard, doctors few, roads...mere tracks and rough.
The rivers were main thoroughfares, in flood they called one's bluff.
Babes were born at home, kindly neighbour assisting there.
Or maybe an experienced midwife called for those with funds to spare.
Tragedy and illness common, no distinction between status, race or creed.
Gravestones in our cemeteries stand testament to this, or maybe some brave deed.
Nowadays we have gone soft, complain bitterly to get our way.
How would you cope, 200 miles in heat rain or cold on a lumbering bullock dray?
We need to look back and be thankful for our lot.
And praise those gone before us, who lie resting in a lonely plot.

This poem was penned by a certain Committee Member after he had spent the weekend reading "Voices" (see below)

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SOUND FAMILIAR?

This is a story about four people named **EVERYBODY**, **SOMEBODY**, **ANYBODY** and **NOBODY**

There was an important job to be done and **EVERYBODY** was sure that **SOMEBODY** had done it.

ANYBODY could have done it but **NOBODY** did.

SOMEBODY got angry about that because it was **EVERYBODY**'s job.

EVERYBODY thought **ANYBODY** could do it but **NOBODY** knew that **EVERYBODY** should have done it - but didn't.

It ended up that **EVERYBODY** blamed **SOMEBODY** because **NOBODY** did what **ANYBODY** could have done!

Reprinted from Figtree Apr-May 1991

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BULGA BATTLERS

[This brief article highlights the variety of sources (particularly at New South Wales State Records at Kingswood) relating to soldier settlers on the Bulga Plateau. A full account of those settlers will be deposited with the Society's Librarian; and with The Society of Australian Genealogists.]

1. While indexing Lands Department Soldier Settler files as a volunteer at State Records, I had the good fortune to find the Loan Files of my uncle, George Longworth, and his brother Hugh and, as indexing continued, several other settlers. The quest goes on for more files, but sadly, many have not survived.
2. A Crown Land Agents' Register provided vital references, leading to Bulga Parish Maps and NSW Government Gazettes with precise information on the eleven Bulga portions set aside in 1919 exclusively for returned soldiers.
- 3. Next came searches for personal particulars of the soldiers from Birth, Death and Marriage Indexes. The Longworths were easy, as I already knew about them, but the other nine proved more difficult, bordering on impossible, until I realised that some events probably occurred outside New South Wales.
4. Further vital information came from the Defense Service Records of First World War personnel held in the National Archives (available on the internet); and State Records'- Deceased Estate Files and Probate Packets; while Commonwealth Electoral Rolls for the 1920s yielded yet more.

THE SETTLERS

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|---|--|
| 1. JOHN BOOTH JONES (1870-?) | Did not take up his offer |
| 2. WALTER WILLIAM WILLGOSS (1892-?) | Did not take up his offer |
| 3. JAMES BERTRAM FROST (1887-?) | Surrendered block April 1920 |
| 4. JOHN PAGE SANDS (1886-1942) | Sold block 28 April 1921 |
| 5. FAY ROBERTSON (1894-1923) | Sold block 23 November 1922 |
| 6. OLIVER STANLEY CARLE (1891-1924) | Died 2 July 1924- block transferred, to his father |
| 7. VICTOR LESLIE SMITH MM (1893-?) | Left block in 1926 |
| 8. ALBERT EADE (1894-1936) | Sold block 14 October 1926 |
| 9. FREDERICK JOSEPH COOKE (1895-1934) | Died 22 June 1934-block transferred to his brother Jack |
| 10. HUGH BENJAMIN LONGWORTH (1894-1938) | Block transferred to John Christopher Geelan, 20 November 1934 |
| 11. GEORGE ALFRED LONGWORTH (1892-1948) | |

Of the eleven returned soldiers allotted Bulga blocks, Jones and Willgoss never took up their entitlements; Frost and Sands had given up by April 1921; and Robertson by November 1922. Thus the eleven had been reduced to six within three years and to five eighteen months later, with the death of Oliver Carle in July 1924. By October 1926, two more, Smith and Eade, had sold their farms, leaving only Cooke and the Longworths. Frederick Cooke and Hugh Longworth both left in 1934. (Hugh died 27 October 1938 at Randwick Hospital.) George Longworth was the last to go. He died in the 113th Australian General Hospital at Concord on 17 April 1948, aged 56, worn out by the cumulative effects of his war wounds and illnesses and twenty eight years of unremitting toil against such an unforgiving environment. As George Longworth's youngest daughter said recently, "*Mum always said it was a pity they ever tried.*"

Submitted by Arthur Mason (Springwood) Member No 599 The full account of these settlers is now in the Society's resource library- Thank you Arthur.

RESEARCH ENQUIRIES

- Coral Robinson from Perth- enquiring about the DIMOND , COX and PAYNE families from Oxley Island and Wingham
- Fred Morris from Taree- enquiring about immigration of Patrick MULLINS 1847-51
- Rob Ratcliffe from Hunters Hill – enquiring about life and times of Job Joseph BRADLEY pilot at Harrington- buried on Pilot Hill
- Stuart McKean from Murwillumbah – heard interview on ABC with Cameron Marshall and wants his family traced- GOULD (Victoria) MURRAY, BRUTON (Tasmania)
- Michelle Ambrosini from Coffs Harbour asking for newspaper articles on Aubrey Eric HOAD and Maxwell Eric HOAD

If you can assist with any information on these enquiries please contact the Research Officer.

LIBRARIANS' REPORT:

Firstly Happy New Year to all of you from all of us, hope your Christmas was a happy and safe one.

The new black storage cases look fabulous and make it a lot easier to find what one is looking for, we even received compliments from library staff .

The past year has had its ups and downs but the future is looking dead ahead and we are ready for it.

We now can start our wish list up again and encourage your input for this. The wish list is located on the notice board in the family history section of the library. All requests for acquisitions will be put forward at the next monthly meeting and **if approved by the members** will be purchased.

Please note that approval by the members at the meetings will be an ongoing procedure for all purchases.

The usual journals and magazines have been received and the latest magazines are kept in the day cupboard and will be put on daily display for members to read.

An ongoing need for roster duty people is a problem. Please, if you can do a couple of hours a week or even help out for an hour on days when you are not busy would be a good way of supporting your Society.

This Society is run by volunteers so you would be helping us as well as yourself by doing Roster Duty. Think of the knowledge you will pick up just by looking through all the wonderful and interesting books and CDs we have.

If we can assist you with any queries please contact the Librarian.

FOR SALE

LAST ONES! **“Voices – A Folk History of the Manning Valley”**
New \$18 Damaged \$5
Contact Helen 6552 3813

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INTERESTING SITES TO BROWSE:

VICTORIA South Western Cemeteries

The home of SW Victorian Cemetery indexes: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~marr/>

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NSW Hawkesbury Just added

Lower Portland, Turnbull Family Cemetery
<http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/cemetery/turnbull/>

Hawkesbury on the NET ~ Cemetery Register:

<http://cemetery.hawkesbury.net.au/>

Hawkesbury on the NET ~ Church Registers:

<http://church.hawkesbury.net.au/>

Hawkesbury on the NET ~ Memorials, Monuments & Plaques Register:

<http://memorial.hawkesbury.net.au/>

Hawkesbury on the NET ~ Lists Register:

<http://lists.hawkesbury.net.au/>

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NSW State Records

Site dedicated to [WW I] Soldier Settlers – well worth a look

<http://soldiersettlement.records.nsw.gov.au/>

This is part of a pilot project to digitise the microfilm copies of the Persons on bounty ships (Agent's Immigrant Lists), 1838-96 (NRS 5316); Persons on bounty ships arriving at Port Phillip, 1839-51 (NRS 5318) and Germans on bounty ships, 1849-52 (NRS 5320).

<http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/state-archives/guides-and-finding-aids/nrs-lists/nrs-5316>

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State Library of Tasmania

<http://www.statelibrary.tas.gov.au/familyhistory> Click on each of the Quick Links for more sites

Wills and Convict details are all digitised and readable.

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Queensland BDMs

The Queensland births, deaths and marriages online historical indexes have been recently updated. Births are now available to search up to and including 1914, deaths up to and including 1964, and marriages up to and including 1934.

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National Library of Wales Wills

The National Library of Wales now has online access to 193,000 pre-1858 wills. You can view the will for free but there is a charge to receive a print copy of it – see <http://cat.llgc.org.uk/probate> for more details.

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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
Cooperook, 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
Krumbach	\$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	\$18.00
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 PO Box 48, TAREE. NSW 2430

Manning Wallamba Family History Society Inc has not registered for GST

Pre 1860 Pioneer Register - Book 1 - \$32.50 + \$10.00 p&p

Pre 1860 Pioneer Register – Book 2 - \$32.50 + \$10.00 p&p

2007 Resource Directory - \$10.00 + \$2.50 p&p – No member discount on this publication

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