



# ***THE FIG TREE***

*JOURNAL OF THE*

*MANNING WALLAMBA  
FAMILY HISTORY  
SOCIETY INC.*

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Goodbye 2010, our 25<sup>th</sup> year, and hello 2011!

I trust members all had a wonderful Christmas Season with their families and I wish all a happy new year.

2010 was an eventful year, with much achieved, the highlight being our recognition by Greater Taree City Council and the presentation of the celebratory plaque.

Our Christmas Party was a change from the usual in that we had use of a private function room and no "competition" from others dining at the same venue. We were able to chat amongst ourselves comfortably.



The year ahead has some challenges:

Do we consider a little more social activity?

We have in excess of 130 members but unfortunately the same few come forward to volunteer for library duty and other activities. I plead with members to assist in whatever they feel able. Library Duty is not onerous. Trainees are placed with someone experienced to learn the requirements of duty and "how to" instructions are readily at hand. With adequate members available for duty, one may be called upon say once a month. Likewise with our fundraising barbecues held bi-monthly. Volunteers are welcome to call in to give the regulars a short break.

Please do not hesitate to volunteer, these activities are often quite social occasions and most enjoyable. More members attending meetings would also be most welcome as it is at meetings that ideas and suggestions are debated for varied activities and projects.

This year we may consider electronically "tagging" our resources for security reasons and to monitor their movement from our resource room.

I am delighted to enter my second term as President, and would like to thank my team of associates for their ongoing support.

To one and all, happy researching!

George Sawyer

## SOCIETY NEWS

**CONDOLENCES:** Several of our members have recently lost a family member. We wish them our sincere condolences.

**LIBRARY COMPUTERS UPDATE:** As you are aware the library computers have ancestry.com installed. We now have a three-month trial of Findmypast. During this trial period usage will be monitored. Please make use of these resources while they are available. Thank you to the GTCC Library staff for their assistance.

**EMAIL UPDATES:** Please ensure that your email address is currently correct. **If you don't get an email** about meetings and workshops, could you please update your address by emailing [secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au](mailto:secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au)

**WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE TELEVISION PROGRAM:** In January last year the Society was approached for some research on a local family. Members involved were asked to keep the research confidential. It has been a long wait but last week's episode (Georgie Parker) revealed the secret of her connection with the Breckenridge family.

**NEW MEMBERS: Welcome to:** Mike Halsey Taree; Maryanne Tronc Taree; Wayne Jolley Chatham; Betty Bowden Taree. We hope your genealogy journey is fruitful.

**BUNNINGS BARBECUES:** Dates have now been set for all of 2011- the last Sunday of January, March, May, July, September and November. Your help would be appreciated. If you are able to spare an hour or two on any of these days, please add your name on the list at the Library.



**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.

**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.

**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

**NSW BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES:** [www.bdm.nsw.gov.au](http://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au)  
Another year’s indexes are now available to search. Births to 1910, Deaths to 1980 and marriages to 1960. Transcription agents will have access to these extra years.



### UPCOMING EVENTS:

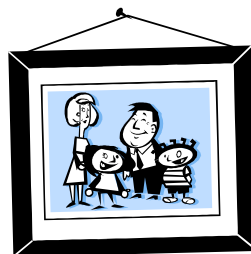
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> January	General meeting
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	Bunnings Barbecue
Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	Monthly Workshop
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	General Meeting
Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Monthly Workshop
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	General Meeting
20th-27th March	Seniors’ Week
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Bunnings Barbecue



### My Ancestors

If you could see your ancestors all standing in a row  
Would you be proud of them or not or don't you really know?  
Some strange discoveries are made, in climbing family trees  
And some of them you know, do not particularly please.

If you could see your ancestors all standing in a row  
There might be some of them perhaps you wouldn't care to know  
But there's another question, which requires a different view,  
If you could meet your ancestors would they be proud of you?  
Anon



# A MANNING RIVER FISHING TALE

(AS TOLD BY ARCHIE GREEN, 25-11-1888 -10-5-1984)

A recollection of Archie's submitted to the Manning River Times on February 17<sup>th</sup> 1984.

When I was eight years old I was living with Bill and Dick Richardson who had a property at Mondrook with access to the Manning River. Bill was then a grown man and he later married my eldest sister Edith.

Bill was a keen fisherman and one night we went in a boat to fish off Mondrook Point.

There was a small beach there and the water near the edge was fairly shallow. Further out there was a deep channel dredged for shipping. We were using heavy cord lines known as Cutty Hunk. Bill baited my line with some mullet and threw it out into the channel. He said that if I got a bite to give the line a jerk. I had never fished in salt water before. Bill went a few yards along the shore to throw out his line.

Almost immediately I got a bite and I jerked hard on the line. The fish took off and ran the line through my hands; not wanting to let it get away I wrapped the line around my wrist. I yelled to Bill for help and by the time he reached me I had been pulled into the water nearly to my waist. The fish which was a Jewfish (Mulloway) was eventually landed and as Bill carried it home on his back its tail dragged on the ground. The fish, which weighed 64 pounds (29.03Kg), was too big to scale with a knife so Bill put it on the kitchen table, tied its tail with a rope to a table leg and scaled it with a spade!



Fred Poole, who had a farm at Mondrook, had once caught a Jewfish which weighed 67 pounds (30.39Kg).

I am now 95 years old and have lived in the Manning District for more than 90 years. Though this all happened 87 years ago, it made such an impression on me that I can remember it as though it happened yesterday.

The river at Mondrook in those days was teeming with fish. Bill Richardson used to sit on the high bank with a .303 rifle and shoot large black bream as they fed on green weed near the surface on rocks.

It seemed a waste of fish to me but it was thought that these fish were poisonous.



## STREET RACING 1850'sSTYLE



OMNIBUS RACING -The " Rob Roy" and "Express" omnibusses, were racing and dodging each other in George-street yesterday about 1 p.m. The practice is extremely dangerous; the drivers ought to be heavily fined, and never be again permitted to act as drivers of public conveyances. The Corporation should control matters of this kind, but they have little power so long as the police are independent of that body; and the police authorities complain that the reduction of the force last year render it now impossible duly to guard and protect the public. (SMH 18/12/1857)

### OMNIBUS RACING.

To the Editor of the Sydney Morning Herald.

Sir.-This afternoon, while returning home in an omnibus, I witnessed a very narrow escape of an accident which had it taken place would in all probability have proved a most serious one, occurring from the fact of one driver of these conveyances trying at all hazards and risk to pass the other. It was with the greatest difficulty I perceived that the coachman of the bus behind us was able to pull up in time to prevent the pole going through the door of the one in which I was a passenger ; and to mend the matter in a few minutes he rushed passed us within almost an hair's breadth of getting the wheels locked. It appears pretty evident that if such a system is allowed some life or lives will, ere long, be sacrificed.

I am, Sir, yours, obediently,

H. H. NEWMAN. 4 January 1855

### RESEARCH ENQUIRIES

- Jan Harrison (Windale) -ROWLEY family from Bungay Bungay
- Lynn Shaw (Inverell) – Joseph William GILHOLM Police Constable
- Judith (-GOSLETT, GARLICK, WORTHING families
- Alma O'Rourke (North Rocks) -Edward Albert GREEN, from Coopernook
- Brian Barlow (Mangerton) - Guiseppe Ambrose BARRATTA

If you can help with any of these enquiries please contact the Research Officer

## SHIP BUILDING ON THE MANNING

The following page shows ships built on the Manning up to 1860. It is taken from the Register of Australian and New Zealand Vessels

[http://www.boatregister.net/NSW\\_Builders.htm](http://www.boatregister.net/NSW_Builders.htm)

Photo "Fanny Fisher" [mp.natlib.govt.nz](http://mp.natlib.govt.nz)



Builder	Where Built	First year	Type	Rig	Ship Name
Wynter, William	Taree, Manning River	1834	Cargo	Brigantine	Tarree
Winship, Capt Taylor	Chatham, Manning River & Taree, Manning River & Stockton Newcastle	1837	Cargo, Pax+Cargo	2mst Sch, Brig, Cutter	Eliza Ann, Express, Julia, Julia Willis, Lady Gipps (Emma), Lady Mary Fitzroy (Ann Mary), Pilot, Trial, Wave
Dawson, R	Manning River	1837	Pax+Cargo	2mst Sch, Sloop	Rover, Vulcan
Gilles, John	Manning River	1837	Cargo	Cutter	Hero, Vixen
Gillies, John	Manning River	1838	Cargo	2mst Sch	Echo, Fairy
Steele, Thomas	Mitchells Island, Manning River	1839	Cargo, Pax+Cargo	2mst Sch	John and Charlotte, William
Newton, Alex & Malcolm, W	Pelican, Manning River	1839	Cargo, Pax+Cargo, Tug,	Brigantine, 2 mst Schooner, Brig, Cutter, Paddle, Barque	Baruah, Clan Alpine (Josephine), Crescent, Defiance (Look-Out), Demi (Elizabeth Cohen), Erin, Gleaner, Henry Moses (Thomas and Henry), Huntress, Jessie, Louis and Miriam, Roderick Dhu, Rosetta Joseph, Sable Chief (Specimen)
Amner, Capt. Wm.S.	Manning River	1842	Cargo	2mst Sch	Mary Ann
Howie, Capt Robert	Manning River	1842		Cutter, 2mst Schooner	Mary Jane (Star of China), Queen
Kidd, Alexander	near Crundle, Manning River	1842	Cargo	2mst Schooner	Mary Ann
Ball, John	Oyster Bank, Manning River	1842	Pax+Cargo	2mst Sch	Wanderer
Nicholson, John	Taree, Manning River	1844	Cargo	Barque, 2mst Schooner, Brig	Fanny Fisher, Squatter, Triton (Benjamin Boyd)
Snowdon, Thomas	Oyster Bank, Manning River & Taree, Manning River & Purfleet, Manning River	1846	Cargo	Cutter, 2mst Schooner, Ketch	Catherine (Rob Roy, Catherine), Fama, Manning Packet, Snowdrop
Scott, George	Mitchells Island, Manning River & Scotts Creek, Manning River & Sydney	1851		2mst Schooner, 3mst Schooner	Margaret (Rose), Policeman, Reaper
Anderson	Cundle Creek, Manning River, NSW	1855		2mst Sch	Alma

### **LIBRARIANS' REPORT:**

New Year greetings to all members.

The Wish List is on the notice board for all members' use. Please make use of it.

Monthly Magazines: Other Societies journals have all been processed and all but the latest ones are available for borrowing.

Recent resources added to the shelves include:-

- DH:129 CRAVEN, A HISTORY-1903-2009 (Book)  
 NP: 154 EARLY EDITION 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY NEWS- GENEALOGY AUSTRALIA 1800-1899 (BOOK)  
 DH: 130 RUNAWAYS ROBBERS INCORRIGIBLE ROGUES, CERTIFICATE OF FREEDOM RECORDS PORT MACQUARIE 13/12/1823 - 26/4/1827 (CD)  
 DH:131 PORT MACQUARIE INDEX TO COLONIAL SECRETARY'S PAPERS 1796-1825 (CD)  
 FH: 331 JACOBITES TO JUGGERNAUTS- JOHN AND GRACE McLEAN FAMILY IN NORTHERN NSW (BOOK)

CON: 052            ELIZABETH 1828-THE WORST & MOST TURBULENT (BOOK)  
BDM: 083            S.A. BIRTH REGISTRATIONS 1842-1906 (CD)  
BDM: 084            S.A. DEATH REGISTRATIONS 1842-1915 (CD)

Hopefully, other resources ordered will have arrived by the time we resume after the holidays.  
Elaine and Nancye

#### WEBSITES OF POSSIBLE INTEREST

SINGAPORE NEWSPAPERS ONLINE: National Library Of Singapore. With Access To English Language Papers From 1831. Good Source For British Ships Sailing To China And Australia. "Ghostbuster Nov. 2010" Campbelltown Dist. Family Hist Soc  
<http://newspapers.nl.sg/>

ENGLAND AND WALES NATIONAL PROBATE CALENDAR 1861-1941  
[www.ancestry.com.au](http://www.ancestry.com.au)

BRITISH DIVORCE 1858-1937  
From Queensland Family Historian Nov.2010  
<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/looking-for-person/divorce.htm>

FREE SITE- ENGLAND CENSUS 1841-1891  
<http://www.freecen.org.uk/>

DECEASED ESTATE FILES INDEXES  
<http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/state-archives/indexes-online/indexes-to-deceased-estates-and-related-records/indexes-to-deceased-estate-files>

REGISTERS OF CORONERS INQUESTS 1796-1942  
<http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/state-archives/guides-and-finding-aids/archives-in-brief-4?searchterm=coroners>

BRITISH DIVORCE 1858-1937  
From Queensland Family Historian Nov.2010 –  
[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/looking-for-person/divorce.htm](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/looking-for-person/divorce.htm)

FREE SITE- ENGLAND CENSUS 1841-1891  
<http://www.freecen.org.uk/>

DECEASED ESTATE FILES INDEXES  
<http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/state-archives/indexes-online/indexes-to-deceased-estates-and-related-records/indexes-to-deceased-estate-files>

REGISTERS OF CORONERS INQUESTS 1796-1942  
<http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/state-archives/guides-and-finding-aids/archives-in-brief-4?searchterm=coroners>

The Articles below are taken from Lost Cousins Newsletters  
(<http://lostcousins.com/>)

### Plymouth & West Devon records to go online

Findmypast and FamilySearch have agreed to digitise and transcribe the parish registers, Poor Law records, rate books, Apprenticeship indentures, and many other records held by the Plymouth & West Devon records office. There are nearly 350,000 images relating to more than 3.5 million individuals, and there will be a free index at FamilySearch which links to the findmypast site. No date for completion was given in the press release, but I would hope that these records will be available before the end of 2011.

## Northern Ireland wills online

There are over 93,000 wills from 1858-1900 that have been digitised and can be viewed free online at the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland website. You can also search Will Calendars up to 1943.  
[www.proni.gov.uk/index/search\\_the\\_archives/will\\_calendars.htm](http://www.proni.gov.uk/index/search_the_archives/will_calendars.htm)

## UK Masterclass: finding birth certificates

It's very frustrating when you can't find an ancestor's birth certificate - but often the 'brick wall' only exists in our imagination. Let's look at some of the key reasons why a certificate can't be found....

- **The forename you know your ancestor by may not be the one on the birth certificate:** Sometimes the name(s) given at the time of baptism would differ from the name(s) given to the registrar of births; sometimes a middle name was preferred, perhaps to avoid confusion with another family member, often the father.
- **Middle names come and go:** at the beginning of the 19th century it was rare to have a middle name, but by the beginning of the 20th century it was unusual not to have one. Some people invented middle names, some people dropped middle names they didn't like, and sometimes people simply forgot what was on the birth certificate (the middle name that one of my relatives gave for his wife in the 1911 Census was not only mis-spelled, it was completely wrong).
- **The surname on the certificate may not be the one you expect:** if the parents weren't married at the time of the birth then usually (but not always) the birth will be recorded under the mother's maiden name. Of course, some mother's didn't admit that they weren't married to the father. Other possibilities are adoption - including adoption by a stepfather.
- **You're looking for the wrong father:** often the best clue you have to the identity of your ancestor's father is the information on his or her marriage certificate. Unfortunately marriage certificates are often incorrect - the father's name and/or occupation may be wrong. This is particularly likely if your ancestor never knew his or her father, whether as a result of early death or illegitimacy. Not many people admit to being illegitimate on their wedding day - and in Victorian Britain illegitimacy was frowned upon, so single mothers often made up stories to tell their children (as well as the neighbours).
- **You may be looking in the wrong place:** a child's birthplace is likely to be shown correctly when he or she is living at home, but could well be incorrect after leaving home. Many people simply didn't know where they were born, and simply assumed it was the place they remembered growing up.
- **You may be looking in the wrong period:** ages on censuses are often wrong, as are the ages shown on marriage certificates - especially if there is an age gap. Sometimes people didn't know how old they were, and ages on death certificates can be little more than guesses. Remember too that births could be registered up to 42 days afterwards without penalty, so many will be recorded in the following quarter - and they could be registered up to 365 days afterwards on payment of a fine.
- **The birth was not registered at all:** this is the least likely situation, but it did happen occasionally - most often in the first few years of registration, though it wasn't until 1874 that there was a penalty for failing to register a birth.
- **The GRO indexes are wrong:** this is also quite rare, but did happen occasionally despite the checks that were carried out.

**An excellent resource is [www.ukbmd.org.uk/](http://www.ukbmd.org.uk/)**

Remember LESS IS OFTEN MORE. When you are searching don't put in all the information you already know. Some indexes allow a "wildcard" which is often "\*" .  
It can be used to find variations in spelling

## MEMBERS' INTERESTS

If you can assist please contact the Society

SURNAME	GIVEN NAMES	TOWN/COUNTRY	YEARS	MEM No
BROTHERTON	THOMAS	MANCHESTER ENG	1803+	491
CRAIG	GEORGE	COOMA COONAMBLE	1864+	491
EVANS	MARY	ENG/AUST	1784+	491
GRAY	WILLIAM	ENG/AUST	1855+	491
MURPHY	HONORA	LIM IRE	1811+	491
WARD	WILLIAM	ENG/AUST	1751+	491
WHITE	PATRICK	WEX IRE	1818+	491
O'NEILL	ELIZABETH	WEX IRE	1819+	491

## PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

### Price List for Burial Books available through our Society

Prices include postage & handling within Australia

MWFHS members receive 10% discount on all Burial Books

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
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

*No members' discounts on these books*

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

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

*Orders to Secretary PO BOX 48 Taree NSW 2430*