



# THE FIG TREE

JOURNAL OF THE

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

OPERATING IN OUR 28<sup>th</sup> YEAR  
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GREATER TAREE CITY LIBRARY

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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, Cooperbrook, 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. Sawyer                 |                       |
| Vice Presidents: | G. Toohey                 | L. Kidd               |
| Secretaries:     | J. Jones (Correspondence) | S. Robinson (Minutes) |
|                  | A. Ranger (Membership)    |                       |
| Treasurer:       | J. Parslow                | L. Haynes             |
| Librarians       | E. Sawyer                 | N. Swan               |
| Research:        | G. Toohey                 | N. Swan               |
| Committee:       | B. Haynes                 | G. Martin             |
| Public Officer:  | L. Haynes                 |                       |
| Publicity:       | G. Sawyer                 | G. Toohey             |

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



A warm welcome to all our new members!

Our year is well under way with several projects progressing. We are currently finalising purchase of a new “you beaut” printer to enable the printing of our own books etc. without having to use commercial printers. An additional laptop computer is also being acquired with the grant money.

It has been decided to proceed with compilation of Pioneer Register No. 3 which, when completed, will be a slimmer volume due to the paucity of submissions.

We are also under way with compilation of a book “The Nita Reed Story”, which tells of Nita’s dream and the trials and tribulations in establishing the kidney dialysis centre in Taree which bears her name. Nita is a remarkable and humble woman who with tenacity fought officialdom to have the dialysis centre established in Taree so that kidney patients would not have to travel to Newcastle for dialysis. Proceeds of sales of the book when complete will be shared by both the Nita Reed Kidney Dialysis Centre and our society.

Our Isolated and Unmarked Graves of the Manning Wallamba Area project is about to come together. It is surprising the number of such graves that abound on private property around the district. In past eras, with poor transport and no refrigeration, burials would have by necessity been made promptly. In many cases, wooden crosses and grave picket fences have deteriorated due to weathering or have been destroyed by bushfire. It is therefore urgent that these be recorded before being lost. Those with memories and knowledge of these sites are sadly becoming fewer.

Our increased social activity has proven successful to date with a good attendance earlier in the year at a luncheon at the Kowin Chinese Restaurant. Next event, also a luncheon, will be at the Manning River Sailing Club, affectionately known as “Sailo’s”, on 22nd April. Menus are displayed on the notice board at the library.

Research Officer Gloria has held two very successful introductions to family history seminars in partnership with Greater Taree City Library so far this year and participants found them most helpful and informative. New members have been gained from these seminars.

Seminars have also been held at Old Bar in conjunction with the Computer Technology Centre which makes a donation to our Society.

The editor of this our Fig Tree Magazine has regretfully advised that he is no longer able to continue in that role. Thanks Ian for a job well done.

Has any member experience in putting together a small newsletter? You will be most welcome to take on this task and I am sure that Ian would be available to assist with advice if called upon.

It is also timely for members to consider what they can do for our society because August is approaching fast with our AGM. Some office bearers have indicated that it is time to take a step back and let others take the reins. Please consider!

Until next time, happy researching everyone!

George Sawyer  
President

## SOCIETY NEWS

### **Missing letter.**

Sometime between Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February and mid March a personal letter has been misplaced from the locked cupboard in our storage room. It is a personal letter with a cemetery map attached. The letter is on green notepaper and says Dear Phyll. This letter was placed in a folder but was not in the folder when the owner went to retrieve it. If anyone has any information would they please contact George Sawyer or Gloria Toohey.

*Condolences go to those members who have lost love ones over the past few months. Our thoughts are with you.*

**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)



**BUNNINGS BARBECUES:** Remember the dates: 29<sup>th</sup> July, 30<sup>th</sup> September and 25<sup>th</sup> November. 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.

**NEW MEMBERS: Welcome to:** Suzanne Berry, Meg Cahill, Stephanie Champion, Irene Hardy, Laraine Jerrett, Julie McGeachie, Thea Preston.  
We hope you enjoy your genealogy journey.

**ISOLATED AND UNMARKED GRAVES:** Thank you to all who have contributed to this project. We have had a steady stream of information coming in from both Society members and the public.

**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

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:** The membership year ends on 30th June. Please be sure to renew before the end of July.



*The measure of a man's character is not what he gets from his ancestors, but what he leaves his descendants.*

## **LIBRARIANS' REPORT**

Recent acquisitions to our resources are listed below:

NP:155C Police Gazette NSW Compendium 1926-1930

FH:340C Cluss Family in Australia (replacing record gone missing)

FH:341C Cluss Family in Germany ( replacing record gone missing)

FH:342C Maccay Family Tree

FH:343C Schubert Family Tree

CEM:567C Balmain Cemetery Revisited

PEO:349C Australasian Genealogical Computer Index-AGCI Volume 4

MP:245C Picturesque Atlas of Australasia- 3 disc set

ENG:275C Musgraves Obituary Six Volumes

PEO:350C Pioneers & Settlers in the Police District of Kiama NSW Prior to 1920

Please remember to place details of resources required on the "wish list" on the notice board bearing in mind that CD's are more desirable due to the lack of space for books, and that many records are now on-line.

Elaine and Nancye

## **UPCOMING EVENTS :**

Lunch at Sailors Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April. Meet at 12 noon for 12.30 lunch. All selections to be made by 15<sup>th</sup> April, information, menu and list for names are on the family history noticeboard at the library.

<i>Saturday</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>General Meeting</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>Workshop</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>General Meeting</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Workshop</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>General Meeting</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>Workshop</i>

MONTHLY WORKSHOPS have been changed to the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month. This will give members a chance to have some of the training courses which have previously been conducted during the week.

## **RESEARCH ENQUIRIES**

- Mr THOMAS (Dumaresq Island) about 1939
- Michael GILLESPIE died 1864
- Thomas and Mary O'Donnell) WOOTTON
- Descendants of William and Ann (Coyne) MALONE
- William Francis OGG

**If you can help with any of these enquiries please contact  
The Research Officer.**



## WANTED

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)



"SETTING OFF ON YOUR FAMILY TREE JOURNEY" held during Seniors' Week was fully booked. Further classes will be held at dates to be arranged. Short "Interest Group" sessions will be held during National Family History Week in July/August.



### Edward Saxby (1836 - 1917)

**Edward Saxby**, one of the original discoverers of the Barrington goldfields, has found a reef about 8 inches thick on the Gloucester River, near Mr. M'Rae's farm, showing very good gold. Two other smaller veins, both carrying fair gold, have also been discovered only a few yards from the first one, near M'Rae's.

[extract from Trove Wednesday 8 October 1879]



**Edward Saxby**



**Rebecca Burley**

**Edward SAXBY**, son of Robert SAXBY (1807-1886) and Mary Ann REEVES (1807?-1886), was born on 26 May 1836 in Battle, Sussex. He migrated to NSW arriving on 31 May 1841 on the "Moffatt" with his parents. He married **Rebecca BURLEY** in 1863 at Underbank in the Dungog area. *In 1880 (approx.)* He was a cedar cutter. In 1891 (approx.) he was a farmer in Barrington, NSW. He found Gold early July 1876.

Edward and Rebecca had 13 children:

- Robert SAXBY – b. 1864 Dungog
- Amanda Mulvinia SAXBY. b. 1865 - Amanda married William Boorer [died about 1920] and later on Tom Shelton. Amanda had 5 children. Jane, Edward

T, Charles Robert, John Benjamin and Edith May. Edith May married Leonard Wilson about 1921. Edith had 9 children.

- Charles SAXBY - b 1867 – d. 1905 Dungog
- Mulvinia Adelia SAXBY - b 1869
- Bertha SAXBY – b 1870
- Adela Edith SAXBY – b 1872 - 1901
- Ada Adeline SAXBY (b 1874 Dungog NSW; d1930 Wollongong NSW. She married Matthew PETTIGREW 1899 Wallsend
- Rose Lavinia SAXBY – b 1876
- Rebecca Harriet SAXBY – b 1878
- John SAXBY (b. 31 July 1880; d 26 July 1942). He married Eliza May Newton (b. 21 May 1888; d. 15 October 1947) 18 April 1906.
- Beatrice Ann SAXBY – b1882
- Naomi Ruth SAXBY - b 1884
- Matilda Elizabeth SAXBY - 1886

Edward died (aged 80) on 4 March 1917 in the Barrington District, Stroud, NSW. He was buried in March 1917 in Barrington Pioneer Cemetery.

The Government was offering £500 reward for new goldfields - Messrs SAXBY Brothers were the real discoverers of that field, and their discovery had conferred great benefits upon the country.

The government had refused to pay the reward because there was some delay in making known the discovery; but no time was fixed by the Government within which a discovery must be reported. Henry COPELAND (Secretary of Lands) believed that if SAXBY Brothers were to prosecute the government in a court of law they would recover the reward offered, so strong was their legal claims. The discoverers acted wisely in not making known their discovery earlier because in some cases the reported discovery of a gold field had been premature and had only led to loss and disappointment.

Apparently the Minister for Mines had previously objected to paying the reward on the grounds that the discovery had been reported in the newspapers 3 or 4 weeks before the alleged discoverers had informed the Government, and informing the Government had occurred outside the 12-month period allowed for the discovery of a field that would entitle the discoverer to the reward. These circumstances meant that SAXBYs' discovery was not "in the terms of the Gazette notice". However, "public interest" considered the objections unjust.

The report of the select committee of the Legislative Assembly was brought to Parliament on 12 May 1880 and on 15 June COPELAND moved that it be adopted. Facts of the case as presented in the report were that the gold reward was offered in 1875 and as a result of this offer SAXBY Brothers and party began prospecting. They did not discover gold in payable quantities until the 22 weeks had nearly expired and they did not feel justified in making a report to the Government before they were convinced that they had discovered what was likely to be a permanent goldfield. During the 22 weeks the four men obtained

only 17 ounces of gold, which gave them about £3 a week each and therefore it could not be said that up to that time they had found a payable goldfield. The mining department had objected to giving the reward to the party because before they made a report the discovery had been made known. This fact ought not to have any weight with the Government because the men were only exercising proper caution.

SAXBY brothers' discovery was a very valuable one; had induced a large population from neighbouring colonies; had brought in a considerable amount of revenue to the State from lease-rents, etc; and had enhanced to a large extent the value of the Church and School lands in the vicinity.

Despite the report, some Assembly members still opposed the granting of the reward.

However, the majority were of the opinion that "some consideration ought to be given to these men... It was of no consequence whether they actually discovered the reefs or not; they were the discoverers of the goldfield and the country had reaped a great benefit from the discovery".

The select committee recommended the men receive half the reward and the Assembly agreed.

Other names mentioned are Robert and George Bartlett, John, Robert, Henry Saxby, James Irwin and Harry Gill

[Extract from John Owen family history www]



## **ONE HUNDRED AND TWO**

**Mr. Robert Cox, J.P.**

**Still Going Strong**

Cundletown, Manning River, NSW.

Written for the "Wingham Chronicle."

By F. A. Fitzpatrick.

On the ninth day of February, 1931, Mr. Robert Cox J.P. of Cundletown Manning River, NSW, celebrated his 102<sup>nd</sup> Birthday.

Mr. Cox came to the Manning River in the year 1849, and is a native of Ireland.

With his parent, Mr. Cox came to Australia in the ship "Mary Valentine" and it is somewhat interesting to note that the voyage from the Old Country to the New, occupied no less than 108 days.

On arrival in Sydney, the subject of this notice, with his parent, first settled where Newtown (Sydney) stands to-day. There was very little then of Newtown and the same thing might also be said of Sydney itself. When Mr. Robert Cox



first saw Sydney, he said that he only noticed a few houses there. After spending about a fortnight at Newtown, Mr. Cox left for Maitland. Settlement on the Hunter River was also very limit at that time. At Maitland he met a Mr. Francis Longworth, and the later in later years settled at Ghinni Ghinni on the Manning River.

Mr. Cox and Mr. Longworth, were interviewed in Maitland with regard to employment, and as a result of that interview they both decide to come along to the Manning River. As a matter of fact, they were engaged on behalf of Mr. Joseph Andrews, of the Upper Manning, and agreed to work for that gentleman at the rate of £17 a year and keep.

Mr. Joseph Andrews at this time resided at Woodside, where he then conducted a good old country hotel. Both Mr. Cox and Mr. Longworth tramped it from Maitland to the Manning, just carrying in their swags sufficient clothing to keep them going until the balance of their personal belongings would arrive by boat "The Emma". However, that boat did not again come to the Manning for a period of nine months. The tramp from Maitland to the Manning proved a fairly tough undertaking. Bush tracks were then the order.

Mr. Cox worked for Mr. Andrews for a period of twelve months-while Mr. Longworth worked there longer. There were then very few shingle roof houses on the Manning. There was one at Bungay, near Wingham; Mr. Joseph Andrews had one, as also did Miss Isabella Kelly, one of the early pioneers of the Manning and to whom the Parkes Government on 3rd May, 1865, paid £1000 compensation for false imprisonment. There were also three shingle roofed houses on the Lansdowne River, a tributary of the Manning. At that time, the population on the Manning was so small that Mr. Cox knew everyone who resided in the district.

About the time that Mr. Cox was leaving the employ of Mr. Andrew Mr. and Mrs. John Allan and family came to the Manning River. Mr. Cox remembers well the fact that the Allan family brought a lot of household goods out from England with them, and the schooner that was conveying this property to the Manning for them was wrecked.

It was also about this time that Mr. Cox's father and mother arrived on the Manning, and settled on Cundle Plains, on the Lower Manning.

The subject of this notice, now grown old and grey, lived with his parents on Cundle Plains for some time, until his father purchased land on Oxley Island, and removed there. Mr. Cox still has a vivid recollection of the time his dead and gone Dad had a lease of land on Cundle Plains from a Mr. Arkisson, and a Supreme Court Case in which he was interested being heard in Sydney. Mr. Cox, sen., won the case.

The old original Mr. Cox died in Sydney, whilst his life's partner passed to the Great Beyond on Oxley Island, and her remains were laid to rest in the Dawson cemetery, between Cundletown and Taree.

The present Mr. Cox just on the verge of celebrating his one hundred and second birthday, well remembers Miss Isabella Kelly, one of the very early pioneers of the Upper Manning district. In fact, that lady once proposed to him. She was then living at Mount Gorge, between Wingham and Gloucester, and also

had a place at Brimbin, on the Dawson River. Miss Kelly had some good horses and cattle in those far-off days on the Manning. Many a time Mr. Cox gave Miss Kelly a hand to brand cattle and horses at Mount George-an aboriginal being the other assistant.

Miss Kelly used to export horses to India those days. She also had various law suits, and Mr. Cox states that, through the instrumentality of the late Dr. Lang then Member of the NSW Legislative Assembly, she was granted £1000 compensation for wrongful imprisonment. Miss Kelly went home to England shortly after receiving this compensation from the N.S.W. Government. While in the old Country she visited the Paris Exhibition that was being held at the time. Later she returned to Sydney from abroad, and there died some time later in one or other of the Roman Catholic Charitable Institutions of the day.

Miss Kelly is supposed to have left behind a diary of her life. In fact, it is stated that she took the reminiscences to England with her, the object being to have the diary published in book form. She signified her intention, when sailing from Sydney, of placing the diary in the hands of the late Charles Dickens, so that he might write a novel with the material so provided in connection with early life in Australia-from a Woman's Standpoint. However, the book never materialised. What became of the diary referred to is hard to say, but it would be a valuable record of early Australia were it available today.

Mr. Robert Cox worked up the first cedar cut on Dumaresque Island on the Lower Manning. The timber was cut down by Mr. Allan, another very early settler on the Manning River. Mr. Cox resided for over forty years on Dumaresque Island.

In the early days all land transactions were carried out at Port Macquarie, a Mr. Wynter being entrusted with the task of attending to the wants of the land seeker. At one time some of the class of business had to be transacted at Dungog. Later however, Port Macquarie was made the deciding centre.

Mr. Robert Cox still recounts how, with five others, he once set out for Port Macquarie from the Manning River. They camped the first night at Camden Haven. Next day they got off the track, and eventually found themselves back at Camden Haven. Later they safely reached their destination.

The land transactions those days were conducted in a room at Port Macquarie in what was known as "The Asylum Building." The late Major Innis had a fine property in those days near Port Macquarie, known as "Lake Innes."

There were only two huts in Cundletown, on the Manning, when Mr. Cox first knew it. Messrs Croker and Hawthorn lived there then. There were at this time also only two residences in the town of Taree, which to-day claims to have within its town Police Patrol a population of 6,033.

The Manning Packet steamer was being built then, and she later struck trouble crossing the Manning bar. The Concord and The Emma were two other boats then well known. The latter used to make a trip to the Manning from Sydney every eight or ten weeks.

Messrs D. and T. Wynter resided at Tinonee, on the Manning, in the very early days, and Mr. Cox also remembers the wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Startin, the

latter was the first white woman to settle at Tinonee, the oldest town on the Manning, and where the first newspaper was published by the late Horace Dean, who was twice elected to Parliament and twice un-seated.

Shipwrights those days were paid 4s to 5s per day, and that remuneration was then considered most satisfactory. When the Victorian Diggings broke out, the people throughout the colony were stirred up considerably and everyone who could get away to the Diggings simply "got."

Jimmy McIntyre, of the ketch Emma, was one of those who got the gold fever. He left his ship and his two sailor men followed him. The result was that the Emma was laid aside in Sydney Harbor for six months. During that time Mr. Cox doubts if there was a single pound of tea on the Manning River. However, there was then plenty of good beef at one penny per lb.

Charley Croker supplied beef to those requiring same those days. Most of the settlers also had pigs, and there was plenty of harmony, some big grants of land were made to naval and military men in the Hastings River District in the very early days. The country was wild and uninhabited then, but during the long years that have since passed away that country has been improved out of sight.

Mr. Robert Cox should just about hold the belt for being the oldest Justice of the Peace in NSW. He attended the annual meeting of Justices at Taree Court House for years and years, at which the Jury List was revised. When the writer called Mr. Cox was batching but he took an interest in everything of note. The interview was arranged by Mr. G. S. Hill, of Bungay near Wingham.

Wingham, February, 1931

(Mr. Cox died on 19<sup>th</sup> June 1932 aged 103, and is buried in the Dawson River Cemetery).



## WEBSITES

**The National Archives [British]:** The National Archives has a number of searchable resources to help you find the records you require. Includes the Catalogue, Documents Online plus census records. [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)

**Gazettes, London, Edinburgh or Belfast:** These contain a wide range of official notices including state, parliamentary and ecclesiastical notices, transport and planning notices as well as corporate insolvency and personal bankruptcy notices to name a few. In addition, a number of Supplements are published covering honours and awards, premium bonds, armed forces promotions, and company information. [www.gazettes-online.co.uk](http://www.gazettes-online.co.uk)

## GOOD NEWS

South Australian BDM Indexes are now on line. Transcripts can also be ordered from this site <http://www.genealogysa.org.au/resources/online-databases.html>

**MANNING WALLAMBA FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC**  
**PO Box 48, Taree NSW 2430**

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2012-2013**

Single \$25.00 Family \$33.00

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