



THE FIG TREE

JOURNAL OF THE
MANNING WALLAMBA FAMILY
HISTORY SOCIETY Inc.
TAREE

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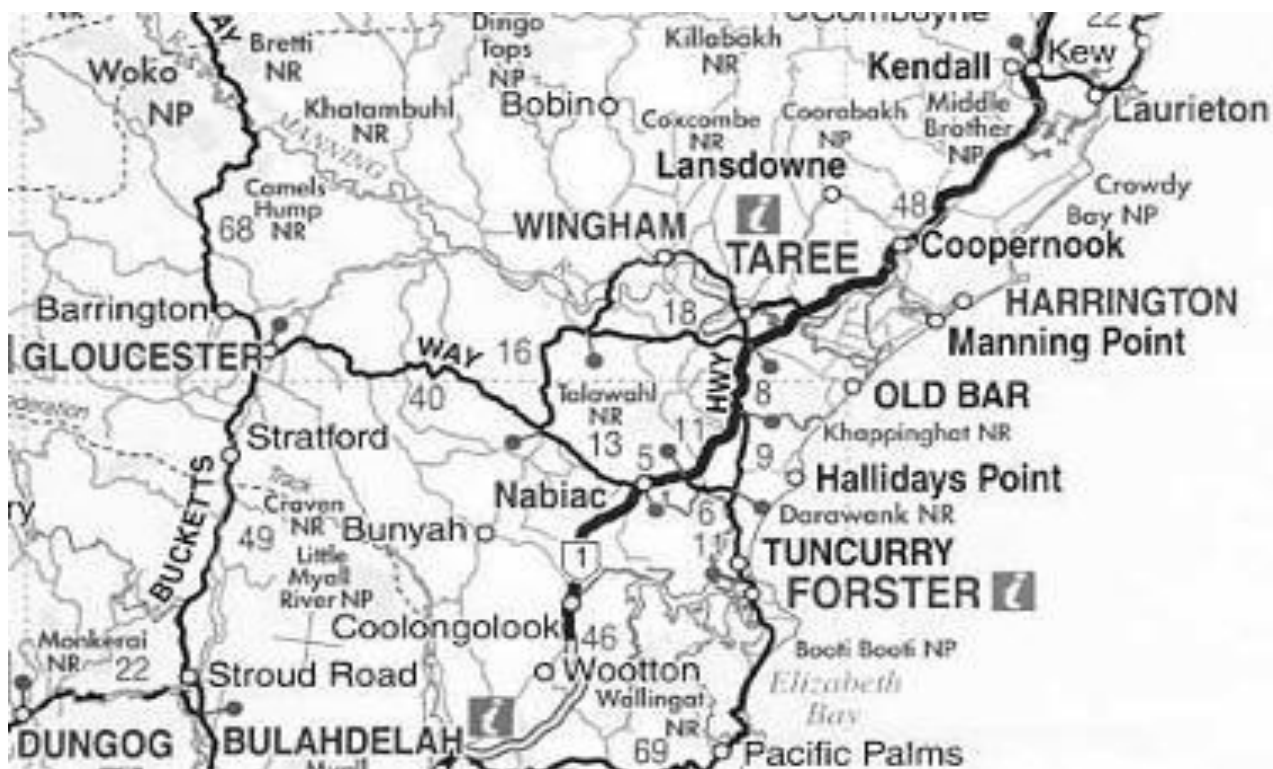
February 2016

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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, Coopernook, Old Bar, Forster, Harrington, Manning Point, Nabiac, Bulahdelah, Kew, Krambach, Oxley Island, Mitchells Island, Tinonee, Moorland, Lansdowne, Killabakh, Failford, Rawdon Vale, Tuncurry, Coolongolook, Bungwahl, Smiths Lake, Wallis Lake.

OFFICE BEARERS

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President's Report for February 2016

Presidents Report for Feb 2016



Dear all 129 Members,

I hope you have had a refreshing Christmas & New Year break. The weather has been kind to gardeners this time around. I found there were rainy days when many of my extended family members were adding to their family tree. In particular a second cousin Godfrey has inherited a large number of family photos, unlike me, and is kindly scanning & uploading them to Wikitree. How much better than them sitting in a drawer!

Please note there is a new TV program starting at 8pm on ABC Thursday 11th February presenting the NSW Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages. I understand this will be a behind-the-scenes look at the workings of the department which has left much to be desired in the past.

<http://tv.press.abc.net.au/hatch-match--dispatch-coming-to-abc-tv-in-february#>

I invite all to come along to the morning tea on Saturday 20th Feb from 11am in the Taree Library. This "Meet and Greet" is chance for you to meet other members, put faces to names and share your family stories with people who will not roll their eyes. We pride ourselves on being a friendly group.

Many of you will have read that Woolworths has decided to sell-off / close down their Masters stores, including ours in Taree South. This is particularly bad news for the staff there and also will impact on our fundraising opportunities.

The next fundraiser is scheduled for Masters BBQ Sunday 27th March (Easter Sunday). I will check closer to the date (1st March) that the offer is still available. Your help would be much appreciated.

As a counter to the above news I have met with Janet, the new Community Activity Organiser at Bunnings Warehouse Taree. She was responsive to my pleading and has granted us 4 Sundays during 2016.

Please mark your calendars now for Bunnings BBQs: last Sunday in May, July, September and November.

For those people with relatives who died in this area or an interest in them, MWFHS & Wingham Historical Society (Gloria & Barbara Waters) are organising Cemetery Tours. The current proposals are for

- 1) Wednesday 27th Apr Historic Cemetery Tour Upper Manning possibly "Woodside"
- 2) Thursday 28th Apr Historic Cemetery Tour "Taree Estate" Cemetery Taree West.

For the second year as part of the annual Scottish Festival in Wingham this year MWFHS, Wingham Historical Society & Latter Day Saints FHS will be organising on Thursday 26th May a

"Meet the Family" seminar at Wingham Services Club with excellent guest presenters.

They are:

- 1) Ben Mercer CEO of Ancestry Australia
- 2) me talking about the "presents" I have received in putting my family tree on Wikitree.
- 3) John Cann from NSW State Records. John has ancestors in the area.

Regards

Graeme

NEW MEMBERS:

A warm welcome to all new members. Please make yourselves at home and don't be afraid to ask for help. If we can't help you with a specific question, we will at least point you in the right direction.

Welcome to:

MEMBER	RESEARCH INTEREST
Gail Pendelj	Jacobson, Australia & Denmark; Buchanan, Australia & Scotland
Robert & Sheree Pearson	Blake, NSW 1830s; Waters, Taree 1890s
Neil Beisler	Beisler- Germany, Nabitac
Jodie Passmore	Patrick Quinlivan (Cundletown/Taree 1853-1881); Ernest Quinlivan aka Barden (1879-1963); Payne; Whitbread

REGULAR EVENTS:

General Meeting: Held at 1.30 pm every 3rd Saturday of the month.

Workshop: Held at 1.30 pm every 4th Saturday of the month.

BARBECUES:



Sunday 27th March Masters

Sunday 29th May Bunnings

Sunday 31st July Bunnings

Sunday 27th Sept Bunnings

Sunday 29th Nov Bunnings

If you can help on any of these days please contact the Secretary

FROM THE MANNING TO MAJDANEK (PRONOUNCED MYDANEK)

A copy of this thesis will be placed in the MWFHS Resources and should also be available in the Manning Valley Library.

THE WAR HISTORY OF PRIVATE MAXWELL SAWYER NX 1488

The above account of Max Sawyer was researched by Paul Damian O'Shea as partial fulfilment of requirements for the degree of Master of Arts (Honours) at Macquarie University in June 1997 and this is a précis of the document to whet the reader's interest in reading the entire account which is now held in the Greater Taree City Library as such it should be as an account of the events which troubled Max Sawyer most of his life.

I never did meet Max although he was known to my parents.

Max was somewhat discounted as "odd" and no wonder, having read what he endured during his wartime experiences which I shall not reveal here other than to say were horrific.

Ernest Maxwell Sawyer born 7th May 1919 at Tinonee, son of Ernest Wiseman Sawyer and Minnie (Wynter) Sawyer, joined the 2nd AIF in 1939 and saw action in North Africa and was captured in Greece in April 1941. He was despatched to Stammlager XV111 A Marburg and joined Arbeitskommando for work on various Austrian farms.

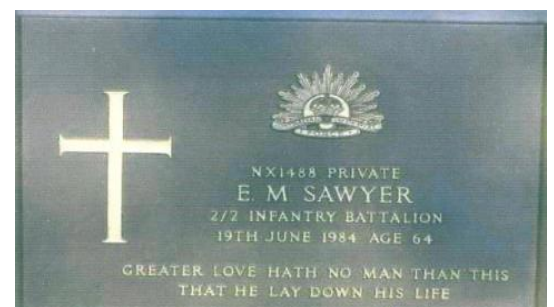
Denounced to the local Gendarmerie, Sawyer was sentenced to the Straflager at Graudenz in northern Poland. Escaping from Graudenz, Sawyer was recaptured and sent to Majdanek. Until his death Sawyer claimed he had been incarcerated in the KL(Concentration Camp). Family memories along with documents from medical files trace the slow decline of a man who had suffered trauma consistent with imprisonment in a KL. Sawyer was a victim of the Nazi Endlösung.

This thesis attempts to unravel the war history of Max Sawyer. Chapters 1 and 2 explore the background of Max's family within the context of early twentieth century Anglo-Australia. Chapter 3 examines the effects of the 1914-1918 war on the life of Max's father. Chapter 4 looks at Max Sawyer in the world of the Manning Valley in the 1920's and 1930's. Chapter 5 considers Max's army service and his capture in Greece. Chapter 6 details the experience of Australian prisoners of war in Austria and Max's time in Eichburg before his arrest in 1943. Chapter 7 reconstructs his time in Graudenz and then Majdanek in chapter 8. Chapter 9 deals with Max's journey to Odessa and return to Australia. Chapter 10 is an examination of Donald Watt and Stoker. The closing chapter discusses difficulties encountered with historians and an examination of Holocaust literature.

To read the horrific events Max was subjected to by way of being there to see, and experience such cruelty personally, and to others, can give some understanding as to why some people dismissed him as "don't mind him, he is a little odd!"

Ernest Maxwell Sawyer married Elizabeth Aaltje Tarrant in 1945 and died 19th June 1984 and is buried Portion Pbn DD Plot 0012 at Woronora Cemetery.

I urge all to read this thesis which illuminates the horrors of war and man's inhumanity to his fellow man.



Paul Damian O'Shea is to be commended for his research.

References: Paul D O'Shea, NSW BDM-Death 13450/1984, Aust Cem Index for gravesite and birthdate
NSW BDM-Marriage 24521/1945



90 m/s from nowhere



Bardia North Africa



Max with parents and sisters

George
Sawyer
Member 533



THE SAILOR- PASSENGER

William James Hoy was born on 28 November 1846 in Island Magee, County Antrim, Northern Ireland. His family lived at Blackhead, Port Davey, Island Magee. He was one of 8 children, 5 of whom were boys. He and his brothers were mariners & in fact 3 of his brothers lost their lives at sea (John Curry Hoy presumed died at sea off the coast of South Africa in 1875 while Joseph & Moore Getty Hoy both died 23 July 1883 on the St Lawrence Seaway.

William was known as the 'Sailor-Passenger' after a shipwreck in 1873. He was mentioned in a story from Dixon Donaldson's 'History of Island Magee' (1st published 1927) and later an extract was published in a local Irish newspaper.

'William answered the call of the sea when still quite young, but as he grew older he pined for more solid ground beneath his feet. He decided to emigrate to Canada and work on a farm.

'So it was on March 20, 1873, that he sailed from Liverpool on the 'SS Atlantic' bound for New York. There were 794 passengers on board and a crew of 144 men. The ship was commanded by Captain James Agnew Williams.'

As they approached the coast of America on the night of the 30th the engineer reported that they were running low on coal. The captain decided to head for Halifax. The ship hit a sunken reef – Meagher's Rock, off the point of Prospect Cape, Nova Scotia in the early hours on April 1. The ship went over and most of the life boats were washed away with the exception of one which an officer managed to get to a large rock where he attached a rope from the ship.



Many perished in their attempt to reach safety. A later report on the wreck of the Atlantic stated that the wreck 'will long be remembered as one of the most disastrous wrecks which ever occurred on the North American coast.'

And what of William Hoy? An article in the Boston Advertiser sheds light on this when it says but for his great courage and endurance the death list of the Atlantic would have been greater by scores.

Hoy's fellow passengers told how he had saved many lives and a Boston journalist made it a point to find this man known as the 'sailor-passenger'. Hoy crossed by the rope from the ship to the rock, and had great difficulty in climbing up its treacherous, slippery side. He saw others attempt it only to fall back into the waters and drown. The men were hurried on to the rope by the captain who was on the ship, and many had not the strength to reach the rock, and were drowned on the way; others reached it only to meet death with safety at their fingers' ends.

'Hoy saw this, and realised how much a man might do in assisting those who got across; and although suffering greatly from cold – he had for hours been exposed on the ship and had no clothes but his shirt and pantaloons – he undertook the work himself.'

'William laid over the top of the rock and reached out to the men as they came across the rope and caught them by whatever means he could (including by their hair) and pulled them up to a place where they could stand. It was hard work and every time he pulled a man up he took the risk of being pulled down. When his hands could no longer work he reached further over the rock & began using his teeth in their clothes to pull them up.

A poem was written entitled 'The Sailor-Passenger at the Wreck of the Atlantic'. The following is an excerpt:

'For hours, says one who saw,
In cold and peril thus he wrought
When power his hands forsook,
Men with his teeth he firmly caught
And drew to safety up
Beside him on his rocky steep
'thus sixty lives or more
He rescued from the hungry deep.'

What happened to William after this? He abandoned his idea to move to Canada & ended up back in Ireland. On 26 June 1882 William married Margaret Orr in Ballycarry, Island Magee, Ireland. By May 1883 William &

Margaret were living in a bark shack at Blackhead, where their first child Maggie was born. They settled on some land about 3 miles from Blackhead, NSW.

It is believed that William named Blackhead because he said it reminded him of Blackhead in Ireland. It was in this area they raised their family of 10 children & they built the first guest house in Blackhead. Margaret & William did much for the advancement of the district. William died in 1917 & is buried at the Failford Cemetery.



William & Margaret Hoy with their 10 children.

Vicki Fletcher Member No13055



THE SEARCH FOR ISOLATED AND UNMARKED GRAVES

THE Manning Wallamba Family History Society often receives requests for information on the resting place of people said to have been buried at or near Taree and Wingham. Enquirers become confused when told there are a large number of cemeteries in the district and that many of the early burials occurred before there was a gazetted cemetery.

In the days before refrigeration and resident clergy, people were simply buried where they died – often near a track or riverbank. A wooden cross or a few large stones probably marked the grave, but over the years these were often dislodged or removed.

Old diaries or newspapers sometimes give us a clue, but in most cases burial places have long since been forgotten.

Small settlements usually had a burial plot and some of these have been noted by researchers. Of course, some of the deaths were never registered or, if they were, it might be at a place miles from where the death occurred. People took months to travel overland looking for timber or new pastures. If someone died on one of these journeys the person was simply buried and perhaps it would be months before a registration was made, assuming someone remembered to do so.

Even when settlements were established travel between these was difficult so small burial grounds were scattered all over the district. Some of these still have the occasional burial if a family has lived in the area for generations. Some of these places are Murrays (Bootawa); McLeods ("Dunvegan" Mondrook); Eastons (Burrell

Creek); Kerrs (Karkatt Dyers Crossing) Number One (Upper Manning); Algie (Dickenson's Creek, Ghinni Ghinni)

Although many of the early burials were made without the benefit of clergy some church records list burials, as well as births and marriages, which do not appear in official registers. Church authorities and undertakers were responsible for keeping records of these early burials.

Local government authorities did not take over the management of cemeteries in NSW until the 1960s. Because of this many records have been lost and it is difficult to locate a burial site if there is no surviving headstone. Over the years markers and headstones have deteriorated or been vandalised in the local cemeteries

Many of the burials have been indexed by MWFHS from surviving records. Some of these indexes are available from the society in published form.

It is a mission of the MWFHS to build up a database of all Isolated and Unmarked burials. **If you have any knowledge of burials which may be unmarked please contact the Society either by email (secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au) or by mail (PO Box 48, Taree NSW 2430)**

WANTED: ARTICLES FOR THE FIG TREE

We are always looking for articles, things of interest or upcoming events to be included in "The Fig Tree". If you have any articles you would like included, please email them to

secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au



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'

Current Research:

WYATT/YARNOLD- Taree Estate and Woola

QUINLIVAN and associated families – Cundletown, Taree

De MEUR- Coopernook

GODWIN – Taree/Forster

If you can help with any of these enquiries, please contact the Research Officer or email secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au

IF I LIVE TO BE A HUNDRED:

(This poem is dedicated to the Failford I knew in the 1930s when his thriving little country village still had a trading store, dance hall, school and timber mill. Most of the residents in the area were either mill workers or farmers. Bob Mann.)

If I live to be a hundred and someone says to me,
“You’ve seen a lot of changes. What’s your fondest memory?”

So I’ll take a trip down memory lane with a mind that’s bright and clear
And I’ll tell you of the lifestyle I knew in Failford’s yester year.

I remember the shingle roofed homestead, the place where I was born.
It stood in scrubby wilderness where kookaburras laughed at dawn.

All our friends and neighbours were old time pioneers
Who took up their selections in Failford’s early years

There were log punts on the river working in the timber trade
And in the riverside shipyard sailing ships were made.

With cross cut saws and axes bushmen cleared the river flat and hill
And teamsters with their wagons hauled logs into the mill.

In a little school near Willow Point Road the pioneer children were taught
My teacher and my old school mates are often in my thoughts.

At the crossroads in the village stood an old dance hall
Where old time entertainment could be had by all

In a sulky or on horseback the old timers would come
For a Saturday night of dancing that was loved by everyone

I guess the heart of Failford was Breckies Trading Store
Where the pioneering families could buy everything they wore

From the floorboards to the rafters there would be goods on display
Kero lights, hobnail boots and Reckitts blue. Thanks you can’t buy today.

Old Dad’s baccy came in fancy tins, his pipe in many shapes and size
And all the goods for mother’s kitchen would really open up your eyes.

Failford was a friendly place, and though everyone was poor
You would always get a cuppa if you knocked on any door.

There were row boats and jetties strung out along the shore
But like the farmers and the teamsters, they are gone forevermore.

In the bush and along the fences blackberries grew thick and wild.

I helped my mother pick them when I was a little child.

What a treat it was to eat the pies my mother made
In her old black Beacon stove nearly thirty years of age.

Milk and cream came from our dairy, honey from our own beehive,
And Dad's vegie patch down on the flat helped the family to survive.
I have fond memories of the Failford I knew in my boyhood years
When the folk who lived there were grand old pioneers.

If I live to be a hundred I know I always will
Remember John Breckenridge's Failford with its shipyard, trading store and mill.

Bob Mann Member No 485



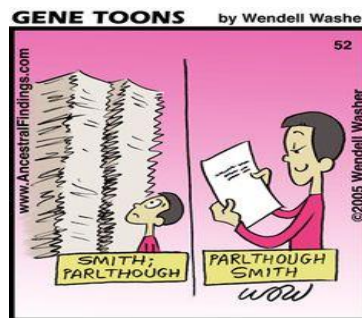
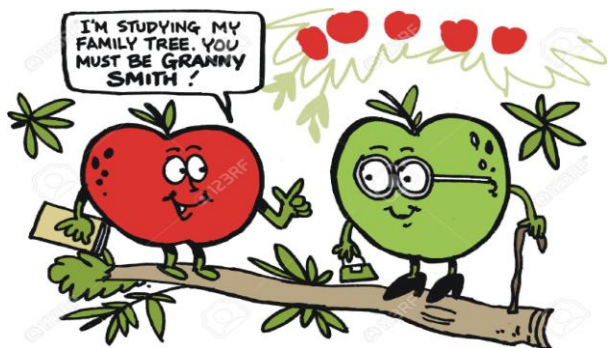
HISTORIC CEMETERY TOURS:

Together with Manning Valley Historical Society we are conducting two tours of historic cemeteries.

These are self drive tours but if you need transport please contact Gloria.(secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au)

Tour One: Wednesday 27th April "Woodside" Private Cemetery Mt George. Meet at the Wingham Museum at 10am.

Tour Two: Thursday 28th April Taree Estate Private Cemetery, Edinburgh Drive Taree. Meet at the Cemetery at 10am. The cemetery is not visible from the road. It appears to be a vacant lot next to 73 Edinburgh Drive.



In a search, put the uncommon word first.

The Manning Valley Historical Society, Manning Wallamba Family History Society
and the LDS Family History Library (Taree) invite you to

Find and Meet the FAMILY

Thursday 26th May 2016

Wingham Services Club
Bent Street, Wingham

Registration : 9.30 am Commencing : 10.00 am Cost : \$20

Speakers -

Ben Mercer (Ancestry.com Australia)

As an Ancestry.com.au spokesperson and family history enthusiast, Ben is regularly invited to appear in press and on Australian and New Zealand television and radio. He is a knowledgeable and entertaining expert on researching family and social history.



John Cann (Archivist, Public Access, State Records NSW)

John brings with him a fascinating array of information from the State Records NSW, located at Kingswood, near Penrith. In 2013 he presented a showcase of hidden automotive treasures of State Records NSW, and more recently, on the methods for finding children placed in State care in the 19th and early 20th century.



Graeme Rose (President, Manning Wallamba Family History Soc.)

Graeme is a well known genealogical enthusiast from the local area. This year's talk will deal with WIKI TREE. Very interesting.



Finish : 3.00 pm

Note: These times allow plenty of time for questions.

A sandwich can be ordered at time of registration (Participants own expense)
For more information phone Barbara Waters at the Manning Valley Historical
Museum on (02) 6553 5823 or via email at mvhsmuseum@internode.on.net

Visit the Museum's website at: www.manninghistorical.org

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
Cooperbrook, Moorland, Harrington	\$19.00
Lansdowne	\$17.00
Wingham Anglican [Old Section]	\$17.00
Wingham - All other Denominations	\$17.00
Wingham Beams	\$10.00
Killabakh, Marlee, Woodside	\$17.00
Redbank 2008 edition Book or CD	\$20.00
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

Website <http://www.manningwallambafhs.com.au>

Email: secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au

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