# MANNING WALLAMBA FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY Inc TAREE

THE FIG TREE

# Operating Since 1985 in Partnership with Manning Valley Libraries

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Issue 152 November 2019

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### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Another great publication coming to you from our editor, please be sure to supply material for publications.

There has been a lot that has gone into very interesting workshops for next year, so could we please increase our attendance, by doing so you will give organisers belief that they are doing what you want. If you have any ideas please for workshops, please advise the Secretary.

We thank Pauline Avard for her generous donation of Flett memorabilia, Sue and Wal are currently sifting through this information.

Assistance at our B-B-Q.s is a big help to raise funds to purchase member requirements, these events raise over three thousand dollars per annum.

You will see in this issue that Sue, our Librarian, has found 9 items missing from our collection, please if you have these items please return them for updating catalogue and re-issue.

Hope to see you at the festive function that has been organised again.

My thoughts are with those having a hard time with health and pledge our support.

May the festive season be as you wish.

#### Ken Beeton President

### OFFICE BEARERS 2019-2020

President:	Ken Beeton	Research Officers	Sue Robinson
Vic Presidents:	Graeme Rose		Wal Horsburgh
	George Sawyer	Duty Roster Clerk	Janine Roberts
Secretaries	Barbara Waters (Mail/Email)	Librarian	Sue Robinson
	Sue Robinson (Minutes)	Asst. Librarian	Kay Brooke
	Vicki Fletcher (Membership)	Newsletter Editor	Joan Irvine
Treasurer	Lorraine Martin	Publications Officer	Sue Robinson
Asst. Treasurer	Graeme Rose	Publicity Officer	Vicki Fletcher
	Public Officer	Lyn Haynes	
	Isolated & Unmarked Graves	Pam Jarman	





Christmas Party to be held at

**Taree Leagues Sports Club** 

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December commencing 11am. Pam and Graeme Jarman will present a talk on their battlefield tour followed by lunch at about 12.00 noon. Cost is \$25 per person

### All Members and your Family and Friends are Welcome



### Editor's Note:

Since this is the last publication for 2019 I would like to take the opportunity of thanking all of those members who contributed to "The Figtree" this year and I am sure you will agree that the articles submitted have made for interesting reading, not to mention the fact that it has made my job so much easier!

When I was elected to the position of Editor I had and still have, very big shoes to fill, and I thank the other members of the Committee who have always been there to answer my many questions and assist when and wherever needed.

I am always open to receiving ideas that can perhaps be turned into regular items and will help to make our Newsletter interesting as well as informative. Therefore, please don't hesitate to pass your suggestions on to me and I will do my best to see that they are included, after all this publication is for all our Members.

I hope that you, your family and friends have not been adversely affected by the bush fires that are impacting our region. It goes without saying that the Fire Fighters have and are doing a fantastic job.

Wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas and a safe Holiday Season.

Joan Irvine



### WANTED: ARTICLES FOR THE FIG TREE

**Thank you** to all those who contributed to "The History of Taree and "Family Heirlooms & Treasures"

The theme for 2020 "What was your family doing in the 1920's, 100 years ago?"

### **BUNNINGS BAR-B-QUE**



BBQ's will be held on the last Sunday of March, May, July, September & November. The next one will be

### Sunday 24th November 2019

If you are able to spare an hour or two on any of our BBQ days, please add your name to the list at the Library or email -

secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au NB: COVERED SHOES MUST BE WORN

#### **Research Service**

Research Forms can be downloaded from Society website.

http:/manningwallambafhs.com.au

Initial Research Enquiry \$20.00 including up to 2 hours research and limited photocopying, to the value of \$5.00 Extra microfilm copying \$1.00 per page. Additional Research \$10.00 per hour.

### **DIARY DATES**

Last Duty Research Day for 2019 Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December and we will reopen on

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020

The first meeting for 2020 will be held at 1.30pm on 15<sup>th</sup> February at Taree Library

All Welcome

### **REGULAR EVENTS**

GENERAL MEETING: WORKSHOP:

ING:1.30pm 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month except Dec & Jan1.30pm on the 4<sup>TH</sup> Saturday of every month except Dec & Jan(Next workshop the last for this year will be held on 23 November 2019 at 1.30pmTalking about Margaret Murphy

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### **USEFUL WEBSITES**

The following are some useful links to help you in your research.

#### AUSTRALIAN CIVIL REGISTRATION: -

NSW Historical Indexes -	https://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au
QUEENSLAND -	https://www.bdm.qld.gov.au/IndexSearch
VICTORIA -	https://www.bdm.vic.gov.au/
STH. AUST	genealogysa.org.au/resources/online-databases.html
TASMANIA -	https://www.justice.tas.gov.au/bdm/indexes
WESTERN AUST -	https://www.justice.wa.gov.au

#### **OVERSEAS CIVIL REGISTRATION: -**

ENGLAND & WALES	https://www.freebmd.org.uk/
NAT. RECORDS OF SCOTLAND -	https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/family-history
SHEFFIELD INDEXES -	https://www.sheffieldindexers.com/LinksIndex.html
LINCOLNSHIRE MARRIAGES -	https://mi.lincolnshiremarriages.org.uk/

#### LIBRARIES -

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUST (Catalogue)	www.nla.gov.au
NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUST (Digitised Ne	wspapers, plus much more) - <u>www.trove.nla.gov.au</u>
STATE LIBRARY OF NSW -	www.library.sl.nsw.gov.au
BRITISH LIBRARY -	www.bl.uk
NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND -	<u>www.nls.uk</u>
NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND -	www.nli.ie
COUNTY CLARE LIBRARY (IRELAND)	www.clarelibrary.ie
WALES LIBRARY	https://www.library.wales/information-for/family-historians/records/

#### <u>MILITARY –</u>

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL - <u>http:/</u>	//www.awm.gov.au
NATIONAL ARCHIVES (also have searchable data	bases for Military Records) - <u>http://www.naa.gov.au/</u>
(As do THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF THE UK)	http://nationalarchives.gov.uk/

#### ARCHIVES-

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRA	ALIA	- http://www.naa.gov.au
NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF IRELAN	D	- www.nationalarchives.ie
NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF UK		- www.nationalarchives.gov.uk
NSW ARCHIVES		- www.records.nsw.gov.au
SA ARCHIVES		- www.archives.sa.gov.au
NT ARCHIVES <u>https://dtc.nt</u>	.gov.au/da	ata/assets/pdf_rile/0010/267832/researching-your-family-history.pdf
TASMANIAN ARCHIVES	-	https://www.libraries.tas.gov.au/archive-heritage/Pages/default.aspx
VICTORIAN ARCHIVES	-	www.prov.vic.gov.au
WESTERN AUSTRALIA	-	www.sro.wa.gov.au
SCOTTISH ARCHIVE NETWORK	-	http://www.scan.org.ukdigitalarchive.index.htm
<b>CEMETERY/BURIAL AND DEATH NOTION</b>	CES-	
THE RYERSON INDEX	-	https://www.ryersonindex.org

ROOKWOOD CEMETERY	-	http://www.rookwoodcemetery.com.au/
AUSTRALIAN CEMETERIES	-	http://www.australiancemeteries.com.au
ALL AUST STATES AND US	-	http://www.interment.net/aus/nsw/index.htm

# **USEFUL WEBSITES Cont'd**

#### Church of Ireland Parish Registers -

<u>https://www.ireland.anglican.org/cmsfiles/pdf/AboutUs/library/registers/ParishRegisters/PARISHREGISTERS.pdf</u> A colour-coded resource accounting for what survives; where it is and with additional information of copies, transcripts and online indexes

#### **Dublin Port Archive**

http://dublinportarchive.com

#### Catholic Parish Registers at the NLI –

#### https://registers.nli.ie

This website contains images from the NLI's collection of Catholic parish register microfilms. It contains records of baptisms and marriages from the majority of Catholic parishes in Ireland and Northern Ireland up to 1880.

**Westmeath Genealogy** - 9000 records (baptisms, marriages, deaths, gravestones) <u>http://www.westmeath.rootsireland.ie</u>

Waterford County – 12,000 records added. http://waterford.rootsireland.ie/generic.php?filename=sources.tpl&selectedMenu=sources

Limerick - This site consists of 10 websites. https://www.irishcentral.com/roots/genealogy/websites-researching-limerick-roots

#### West Cork Genealogy -

#### http://www.westcorkgenealogy.com

This is a genealogical database of people from West Cork where information is difficult to get. There are some interesting links including parish map links and West Cork families to name just two.

#### Welsh Mariners -

#### http://welshmariners.org.uk **New**

An online index of 23,500 Welsh merchant masters, mates and engineers active from 1800 to 1945, compiled by Dr. Reg Davies. There is also a database of 3,300 men (including over 600 Welshmen) of Royal Navy servicemen who served at the Battle of Trafalgar.

#### Carmarthenshire, Wales -

https://forebears.io/wales/carmarthenshire http://www.dustydocs.com.au/county/3/wales/94/carmarthenshire.html https://www.ukbmd.org.uk/county/carmarthenshire/parish\_records/

#### <u>Scotland –</u>

http://www.oldscottish.com http://www.wakefieldfhs.org.uk/morayweb.......This website includes a link to a transcript of a rare piece of the 1811 census, covering the parish of Dallas, Morayshire, Scotland. **new** 

#### META SITES -

CYNDI'S LIST -		<u>www.cyndislist.com</u>
CORA NUM'S CORA'S WEB	-	www.coraweb.com.au
GENUKI	-	https://www.genuki.org.uk/
IRISH GENEALOGY	-	https:/www.irish-genealogy-toolkit.com/

### MAKING the Most of the Online NSW BDM Index

The following article appeared in the Newcastle Family History Society Journal in June 2019. The information it contains is **very useful** and will no doubt be of help to many researchers.

The **NSW BDM** online index is free to use and has both excellent advice for researchers about how to undertake family history research and also information about the background to the registry records. The online index is updated daily and the site will search according to the date of the event and not the date when the event was registered. Searchers should also remember that the order of any search can be changed by clicking on the blue heading at the top of any column.

The site has other options to enhance a search and researchers can learn a lot by implementing additional search functions provided on the site. Below are three suggestions that may help you in your research. In this article examples of births have been used but this advice also works for deaths and marriages.

The process works with almost all records with only a few exceptions where the registry has not entered in the full date in their database. It does not however work with the "V" reels as these records have not been indexed according to the event date but according to the number of a baptism, burial or marriage church record. If any "V" record appears in your search it needs to be ignored.

#### Finding an exact date of a Birth, Death or Marriage

Knowing an exact date can be very useful. The date of an event may be found by following this set of steps.

- 1. Enter in the surname and given name of your relation, eg. Frederick Dudley
- 2. In the 'Date of Event From' field, set the first date to 01/01/1881 and the 'Date of Event to' field to 31/12/1881. Start to change the month only. You don't need to calculate the number of days in each month.
- 3. Continue to work down the 'Date of Event To' field by month until your relation is no longer showing in the index. Frederick Dudley disappears on 31/01/1881. This tells me my relation must have been born in February.
- Enter 31/01/1881 (yes, the 31<sup>st</sup>) into the 'Date of Event To' field. Now work down until your relation's name disappears. Frederick Dudley's name disappears on 18/02/1881. This tells me my relation was born on 19/02/1881.

#### Check a birth date on NSW BDM

The Event Details section can also be used simply to check a birth or death date. To check a specific date select 'No' and insert the date.

#### Investigate whether more information might be available on the record

There is a surprising number of records on the NSW BDM index that have been indexed twice to indicate the different information that appears on the registration. It is worth checking any registration to see if it has been indexed more than once. For this search you don't need names. It is very useful if you had once found a record registration number but then can't fine the record again because of a forgotten spelling variation. Further details about the participants such as a

mother's maiden or former name or perhaps a father's surname on illegitimate births may also have been indexed.

The default search for searching by number is 'No' and is found at the top of every search. To use this search select 'Yes' and everything else will disappear. Enter the registration number and year.

Try it out! You may be surprised at the results and they may help you in your research.

Using these searches should not replace the purchase of registrations from the NSW BDM as these registrations are the building blocks for your history and are needed to keep you following the correct line.

### Online Queensland Historical BDM Index – Have you Noticed the Codes and the Options?

The Queensland Government's online index of births, deaths and marriages has undergone considerable changes over the last couple of years. Probably the biggest change was to include the actual date of an event (birth, death or marriage) in the results of a search of the historical records. However, there are several other items which may add value to a search.

#### **Research Codes**

Each even is issued a unique registration number. It is made up of:

- Year of registration
- Index prefix letter or letters (see below)
- Registration number

#### **Regional Codes**

Code	Meaning
В	Registration of the event took place in Brisbane
C (or no code)	Registration took place outside Brisbane

Other codes which may appear are:

Birth Codes	
Code	Meaning
Μ	Marine birth – happened at sea and was then registered at the first port of call on Queensland.
0	Memo birth – registered more than 60 days after the date of birth. A memo birth was sometimes late registration.
R	Late registration – registered more than 60 days after the date of birth.
BBP	Church record of baptism-transcribed from church records from 1829 to 1855. These are baptism records not birth Records.
D	Adoption record – a record of a child adopted in Queensland Under Deed of Adoption
A	Adoption record-a record of a child adopted in Queensland Under an act of legislation.

### **HISTORY OF TAREE**

A continuation of this year's theme

#### 1838

#### The following appeared in Issue 10 of the Figtree September/October 1987.

Cundle Cundle surveyed by Heneage Finch. Two ships "Fairy" and "Lady Gipps" were built on banks of Manning River towards its intersection with Dawson River and were launched on July 10 and October 24, 1838. Position of the two ships being built were shown on original survey plan.

10,000 acres of land granted to Hart Davis, MP England, Director of Australian Agricultural Land Company, later taken over the Cundle Land Company. Cundle Company built first house on the property now known as convent and grounds between two big pine trees on east end of property. Cundle Company also built a row of cottages with slab walls and bark roofs along the roadside near Duncan's fish ship. Houses built as near as possible to river with there being no roads.

Old Combo, an early aboriginal at Cundletown had a camp near the lagoon, where the Presbyterian Church was. He was a stockman for Cundle Company.



The following article appeared in the Manning River Times on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> December 1898, Page 4.

#### 1898

The year that has just passed has witnessed a steady advance in the industrial activity and prosperity of the northern coast districts, of which the **Manning** is one of the most important. The dairying industry has made great strides forward, and promises to be a permanent source of wealth. Agriculture has also progressed and although the seasons have not been particularly propitious, it is interesting to note that the average yield per acre secured by growers of wheat in the county of Macquarie was, according to the Government Statistician, 13.9 bushels per acre, whereas the average for the whole colony was only 8.1 bushels per acre. When full statistics are available, it will probably be found that the districts on the banks of the northern rivers have increased, not only in productiveness, but in population, to a greater extent than any other portion of New South Wales. It is matter for gratification that the river works are to be proceeded with, and it is to be hoped that the work will be effectively done, so as to secure regular communication with the metropolis by water all the year round. By a step-motherly freak the Legislative Council threw out the bill for the Bellenger River harbour works, and thereby inflicted a severe blow to the hopes of the settlers in that part of the country. It is understood however, that the Government will take steps to preserve that portion of the work which has already been done, and this may serve as a nucleus for future extension. Whilst we can discern no influence in the immediate future which is likely to cause anything like a "boom" and whilst there are some hardships connected with official interference which threaten trouble, if they are not promptly redressed, we are glad to be able to say that the general outlook appears favourable for the maintenance of the steady progress which has characterised the **Manning**, and the colony generally, for some time past.



## **HISTORY OF TAREE**

### Early Days on the Manning Description of District in Ancient Record

This description of the Manning and its valley is from It. Dawson's records, published in F.A. Kitzpatricks "Peeps Into The Past"

Sourced from: Manning River Times and Advocate for the Northern Coast Districts of NSW Saturday 9 December 1950.

"South of Port Macquarie is a river called the Manning, so named by myself in honour of the deputy governor of the Australian Agricultural Company. The entrance of this river was supposed to be impracticable, even for boats, until in the year 1827 I ascertained the country to be the case. The sand bar at its mouth prevents any but very small crafts from going in, and in rough weather it cannot be approached even by them. There is, however, an indentation of the coast a little to the north of the river's mouth, called Crowdy Bay, where vessels of almost any size can slip safely at anchor, excepting when the wind blows from one point.

In still weather they can unload into boats which can be taken over the bar, and proceed up the river, which is thus navigable for twenty or twenty-five miles only.

This river forms the northern boundary of the Australian Company's grant, and on its northern bank there is a narrow slip of fine country consisting of open forest hills of good quality and lightly timbered, and several good flats by the river side. The vale through which the river flows is narrow and the poor, elevated forest hills which hound it at the north side are only distant about three miles, leaving a very confined, undulating surface between them and the river, and which is the only part where a settler could find land fit to be located. Of the first-class soils both forest and low land, I should not conceive there can be more than 30,000 acres; and of the second quality, over which it would be safe to de-pasture sheep, there may perhaps be from fifty to seventy thousand acres."



#### A little bit of humour.....

#### <u>The following article appeared in the Manning River Times and Advocate for the Northern Coast Districts of</u> <u>New South Wales (Taree, NSW : 1898-1954) on Saturday 27 August 1898.</u>

#### SOME CURIOUS MARRIAGES

"Marriages have been made in many strange and curious places....

A Bristol man was married in a perambulator not long ago. Crippled and deformed from birth the registrar obligingly married him in his carriage. His newly acquired spouse afterwards wheeled him home.

A Melbourne merchant was also married in a carriage. While in a private hospital he made love to one of the nurses and promised to marry her. The nurse smuggled her patient into a carriage and they drove to a village a few miles away. There, a minister was prevailed upon to come out to the carriage and marry them.

Weddings in ballrooms and coal mines have often happened, but a wedding in a tree is a refreshing novelty. While on a school picnic a pair of Canadian lovers were married in a tree. The party included a minister who consented to perform the ceremony.

In Texas a wedding took place on a tombstone. Reposing side by side in "God's Acre" were the parents of the bridal couple and while the latter stood on the graves of their respective parents they were made and wife...!

A runaway couple were married in a river! The boundary at the State in which they lived terminated two feet from the river's bank. A carriage was accordingly driven into the stream and the lovers were united. In this way they evaded a law of the State which prescribed that the parents of a bride under a certain age should be present at the ceremony.

In 1880 a wedding was arranged to take place at the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Leighton, Bedfordshire. The contracting parties assembled at the appointed hour and found that the previous night the chapel had been burned to the ground. Part of the debris was cleared away and the ceremony was performed amid the blackend ruins."

and so together, they built a life they

#### PRE LOVED MICROFICHE & CD's

#### All items very reasonably priced for further details please contact

secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au

NSW pioneers index BDM's 1788-1888 (146 Fiche)

NSW Federation index BDM's 1889-1918 (175 Fiche)

NSW between the Wars index 1919-1945 (159 Fiche)

Macleay Chronicle Newspaper Index 1899-1908 BDM, inquests, Obituaries, Probates etc. (CD)

SA Pre-civil Registrations marriage (CD)

Marine, BDM Victoria 1853-1920 (CD)

Tasmanian Federation index 1900-1919 Deaths & marriages 1900-1930 (CD)

Deane index re-indexed 1823-1840 settlers, Military & Convicts etc. (CD)

New South Wales Public Service List (Teachers) 1925. (CD)

Wingham Chronicle Newspaper index 1886-1908 (BDM's Inquest Obit Probate etc) (CD)

Wingham Chronicle Newspaper Index 1889-1908 BDMs, inquests, obituaries Probate etc. (CD)

Australian Vital Records index NSW-1788-1905, Tas-1803-1899, Victoria-1837-1888, WA-1841-1905 (4 X CDs)

Microfiche reader X 2

Bungonia District cemetery & burial records

Bungonia District The spot on the Creek

Cambewarra, A History by A Clark

Camden Pioneer Register 1800-1900 (2 X books)

Cemeteries St John CoE & Uniting church Badgerys's CK, St Marks Greendale & St James Luddenham

Collection of Shoalhaven History by A Clark

Extracts 1828 Census residents Goulburn Plains

Grafton District Burial 1850-1896

Grenfell Cemetery Transcriptions Vol. 1

Grenfell Cemetery Transcriptions Vol. 2

Gulgong, Written in Gold, the story of Gulgong

Hills District, The Beginnings of the

Historic Lane Cove

Historic Sites of Berry

Inverell Cemetery CoE section Transcription & burial Register 1999

Inverell Cemetery new section burial Reg.2000

Inverell Cemetery Non-Conformist & independent section 2002

Kangaroo Valley Cemetery & Memorials

Nepean Badgerys creek Uniting CoE, Greendale St Marks CoE, Luddenham Methodist, Regentville, Jamison R/C Inscriptions

Nepean Cemeteries, St Bartholomew CoE, Prospect NSW Cemetery Inscriptions

Nepean cemeteries, St Matthew CoE the Oakes, Glenmore Uniting, the Oaks Catholic Cemetery Inscriptions

Nepean Cemeteries, St Thomas Mulgoa, Rossmore, Cemetery inscriptions B3.

Nepean FH, St Mary Magdalene CoE, St Marys NSW Cemetery Inscriptions book 6

### PRE LOVED BOOKS FOR SALE Cont'd

Nepean St Marys General cemetery Anglican Section
Nepean St Marys General cemetery Methodist & Presbyterian Section
Nepean St Marys General cemetery Roman Catholic Section
Nepean St Stephen Martyr CoE, Penrith cemetery Inscription
Nowra Births 1856-1859
Nowra Births 1860-1869
Nowra Births 1870-1879
Nowra Births 1880-1889
Nowra Births 1890-1899
Nowra Births 1900-1905
Nowra Births 1906-1918
Orange & District Pioneer Register to 1860
Penrith cemetery Anglican Section 1,2,&3
Penrith cemetery Independent/General & Lawn sections 1,&2
Penrith cemetery R/Catholic sections 1,2,&3
Penrith cemetery Uniting church, Presbyterian & Salvation Army Portions.
Pensioner from the past 1901 by R White & J Martin
Pioneer Register Cessnock Local area.
R/C Greendale cemetery Photographic Collection series 50
Randwick Destitute Childrens Asylum deaths 1853-1916
Randwick General Cemetery Monumental Inscriptions
Rouse Hill Mile End Rd Monumental Inscriptions V39
Shoalhaven Persons deaths 1822-1922 Index
St Paul CoE Cobbity NSW Cemetery Inscriptions Book7
St Paul CoE Emu plains CoE, Methodist, R/C & Presbyterian Section, Monumental Inscriptions Book 13
St Stephen Martyr CoE cemetery Heritage Photographic collection Vol.1
St Stephen Martyr CoE cemetery Heritage Photographic collection Vol.2
St Stephen Martyr CoE cemetery Heritage Photographic collection Vol.3
St Stephen Martyr CoE cemetery Heritage Photographic collection Vol.4
St Stephen Martyr CoE cemetery Heritage Photographic collection Vol.5
St Stephen Martyr CoE cemetery unmarked graves 1831-1931
St Thomas CoE Mulgoa Mon. Inscriptions & Burial Records Book 3
The John Price Diaries by Nepean F H Society
The Liberators, Aust. Struggle for independence 1820-1855
Tour alone Old Northern Road.
Town of Camden by Liz Vincent
Unfinished Revolution by Ann-Maraa Whitaker
Warialda new cemetery Transcriptions & burial Register 1898-1990
Young Cemetery Mon Inscriptions

# **Library Stocktake**

The 2019 Library stocktake has now been completed. The following items were found to be missing and it would be appreciated, if you have been borrowed any of these resources, they be returned as soon as possible. Another member may be waiting to use one or more of these records.

Cemeteries of the Parramatta Area

Robert Saxby and Mary Ann Reeves, some descendants

Major Index – March 2008. 57,349 entries. Local Schools, District History, Church Records, Burial Records, Newspaper Clippings etc.

"Inquirer" Western Australia Death Notices 1874 – 1878 (1 microfiche only)

Nineteenth Century Newspapers A Births, B Birth, A Marriages, B Marriages, A Deaths, B Deaths (Total of 6 Microfiche)

Family History Research in New Zealand – A Beginner's Guide

Jarrett Family: Pioneers of the Richmond

The Story of Moruya Post Office

NSW Post Office Directory 1867





The following article was sourced from "Pioneering Days Around Taree" by W.F. Connors and was featured in Issue No. 5, November 1986 of the Fig Tree

### "Miss Isabella Mary was as game as Ned Kelly"

"The mid-North Coast had its fair share of colourful pioneers, but surely none was more flamboyant than Miss Isabella Mary Kelly.

Miss Kelly, a lass of Irish descent, arrived in Sydney in 1834, having taken a long sea voyage to get over her remorse at having been jilted by an army officer. When she arrived in the Manning district she caused quite a stir – one reason being that she brought with her three thousand pounds in cash, a not inconsiderable sum in those days.



Miss Kelly had gone from the Manning to Maitland to transact some business, including the purchase of a spring cart. Suddenly Miss Kelly was confronted by armed riders. Numbering six in all, this was the notorious

Jew Boy gang led by Edward Davis. The others were John Marshall, John Everett, John Shea, James Bryant and Robert Chitty,

Miss Kelly always carried a loaded pistol on a belt and kept a second in her saddle bag or nearby. At the moment her belt and weapon lay alongside her with the money purse. It appears that she always carried a good deal of money on her person wherever she went.

Obviously at the moment nothing could be done, for if she reached for the pistol she would be shot before she could do anything to help herself.

When they emptied her purse the convicts were jubilant for it contained sixty pounds, a hugh sum in those days, and these bushrangers were used to only obtaining small amounts from the robberies they had so far committee. Without searching the loads at all, the outlaws rode away taking only the money, ammunition belt and pistol.

Miss Kelly never hesitated. Unharnessing the lighter and faster horse from the cart, she fashioned bridle reins from a length of rope, replacing the long leather reins. Taking her spare pistol and a box of bullets, and bidding the servant to unhitch the other horse and wait for her return, she set off in pursuit of the thieves.

Flushed with success and over confident they never thought to watch their 'backtrack' and therefore Miss Kelly soon came close enough to see them and proceeded to follow. When the party stopped and prepared to have a meal or make camp she was able to creep in close and suddenly opened fire upon the group wounding Marshall severely in the shoulder and grazing another as they all rushed for their horses. Not hesitating, the game young woman rushed in, still shooting at the fleeing desperadoes. Marshall still had most of the money on him, as well as her own weapon. Taking these, Miss Kelly departed the scene leaving the wounded outlaw groaning on the ground.

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Manning Wallamba Family History Society Inc P.O. Box 48, TAREE, N.S.W. 2430