

MANNING WALLAMBA FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY Inc TAREE

Issue 154 May 2020

THE FIG TREE



Operating Since 1985 in Partnership with

Mid Coast Libraries

ISSN 2208-3243

Postal Address: P.O. Box 48, Taree, NSW 2430

Website: www.manningwallambafhs.com.au

Email: secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au

ABN: 50 373 809 536

Inside this Issue

President's Report	2
Office Bearers	2
Research Service	3
Regular Events/Diary Dates	3
Member Enquiries	4
Membership Fees	3

Articles of Interest

D.N.A. Test Result	4
Extract from "Mooneys Gap"	5-7
Book Review—'Coming to the Wallamba'	10
Anzac 2020	11
Pioneering Days— Thomas Job Barnett	12-15
Rats of Tobruk Association	16
Useful Research Websites	17-19

What Were Your Ancestor's Doing in the 1920s?

Various Happenings in Taree In the 1920's	8-9
Women in Australia In the 1920s	10

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Was this the Pandemic we had to have really!

It certainly has helped to get things done around the house.

I imagine that it has helped your research as what better way to spend your time.

Thanks and gratitude to our Library for their assistance in helping to keep us active in our research.

The State Library has made available their online research which you can use by using your local library card number.

Your executive has been running business as usual and hope to be able to meet in June or July to finalize our year as the AGM is in August.

Secretary Barbara has been keeping on top of things as well as her own result of the fires, and has been keeping in touch.

I must say that I miss seeing you all as this is why we belong for the friendship in like minded pursuits.

I fear that if we lose our local newspapers that the immediate history will be harder to trace for those in the future. I also have a family connection due to my paternal great grandmother being Charles Boyce's daughter.

Although newspapers today do not cover local news like our earlier papers did.

My thoughts and wishes to all.

President Ken

OFFICE BEARERS 2019-2020

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



The THEME for this year will be -

**WHAT WERE YOUR ANCESTORS
DOING IN THE 1920's?**

Your contributions are always welcome and **don't** have to be limited to the "Theme"

REGULAR EVENTS

Our regular General Meetings and Workshops have currently been suspended until the library reopens.

When it is time for them to resume our Secretary will email all members. Look forward to seeing you there.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

In view of the fact that we are unable to utilise the Societies Resources at the present time, it was decided by the Executive Committee, that membership fees for the next 12 months will be **halved**.

When it is time to renew your membership for 2020/2021 the yearly fees will be as follows -

Family Membership \$16.50

Single Membership \$12.50

New Members: Single \$18.00 Family \$22.00

BUNNINGS BAR-B-QUE



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

**The date of the next BBQ -
TBA**

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 -

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 per hour

MEMBER RESEARCH ENQUIRIES

Need help with your family history?

One of our members **Marlene Hewson** is looking for help with a couple of her ancestors. If anyone can be of help with either of the following queries, please send any information you may have (no matter how small) to— secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au and we will see that the information is forwarded to Marlene.

Robert McLean (and family) born possibly 1823 in Drimnin, Scotland and died Redbank, Manning River 1897.

Cameron Family—Sarah Cameron born **Early** in the Hunter River district in 1840 and died Lismore in 1925.

Dear Member, as you know the Fig Tree is issued 4 times a year, so please feel free to send in any query you may have and it will be included in the next issue.



MY DNA TESTING RESULTS:

In the last issue I mentioned that I had taken the plunge and sent away for a DNA test, with the result that I was contacted by a previously unknown 2nd cousin. We were both able to exchange photos, certificates and information on our shared line of the family.

If I was hoping to find some deep dark family secrets, it hasn't happened—so far...!

There are quite a few other matches further down the line 3rd—4th cousins and perhaps in time they made lead to something more positive.

Extracts from 'Mooneys Gap - The Birds of Burrell Creek' **relating to the 1920's**

by Joanne (Bird) Gorton

Background

My grandfather, Stanley Douglas Bird (aka Doug), was born at Killawarra, NSW in 1884, one of thirteen children born to William Walter and Mary Ann (Northam) Bird.

Doug spent "his life following rural pursuits....he learned the essentials of good farming from his father". He also worked with William Walter in his road contracting and timber business. On 6th August 1903 Doug applied for, and was subsequently granted, a Conditional Purchase of seventy-five acres at Burrell Creek and a Conditional Lease of a further adjoining two hundred and twenty-five acres. Doug would ride out from the family home at Killawarra nearly every day clearing the land, felling trees and removing undergrowth.

Just like his brothers, Doug was a fine horseman and he and his younger brother, Alf (Alfred Charles Bird) were well known for their "equestrian deeds of derring-do" at circuses, shows and other places, "the Bird brothers could hold their own with the best". In later years Doug's main interest was high jumping.

My grandmother, Martha Fowler, was born at Wingham, NSW in 1891, second youngest of nine children born to James and Ellen (Harriott nee Elliott) Fowler of Killabakh Creek. Martha attended Cedar Party Public School and was employed in Domestic Duties in Wingham prior to her marriage.

Doug and Martha were married on 1st September 1909 in St. Johns C of E, Taree. They were attended by William Gibson and Dolly Fowler. Rev. Phillips officiated at the service, and as Martha was under the age of twenty-one, consent to the marriage was given by her mother, Ellen Fowler.

It is not clear as to where Doug and Martha first lived after their marriage but it appears they may have lived in Wingham for a while before moving out to the farm at Burrell Creek. Doug and Martha worked the land together and when the children came along they were always by her side.

Doug and Martha raised a large family of thirteen children with the first three being born in Wingham - Stanley James 1909, Violet Mary 1911 and William Allan 1914. The following ten children were born at Nurse Sawyers Maternity Hospital, Tinonee - Edna 1916, Raymond Douglas 1918, Myra 1920, Norma 1922, Ellen 1924, Gordon Manning 1926, Alice May 1928, Elaine Joan 1931, Gwendoline Jean 1934 and Nola 1935

Cream Cans and Cows

"By 1910 dairying had become the most important industry for landowners throughout the Manning Region. The introduction of paspalum, a native grass of South America, helped increase the production of milk within the herds and this in turn gave rise to an increase in butter production from the factories. The invention of cold storage aboard vessels for perishable goods by T.S. Mort helped the dairy industry develop more rapidly.

Doug and Martha began dairying about 1914 supplying the *Manning River Co-operative Dairy Company* situated at Mitchell's Island. The factory first opened on 18th February 1893 on a one-acre block of land leased from H.W. Booth. Known as the *Lower Manning Co-operative Dairy Company*, it was built by S. Levick of Cundletown, on the riverbank at Mitchell's Island diagonally across the river from Croki. A new factory opened on the same site on 30th November 1918 and although the official name change occurred in 1900 the factory was still referred to as "Lower Manning" for years to come.

The early days of dairying were hard. Doug and Martha had up to eighty jersey cows and each cow was milked by hand into a bucket. When the children were old enough to strip a cow dry they also helped out with the milking. "*Dad always said that was where the cream came from in stripping them dry*". The cream was separated from the milk using a hand separator, taking about two hours to complete, and then poured into cream cans.

The day began early with the cows being brought in for the morning milking. Edna recalls the days when Bill, Violet and herself would get out of bed before sunrise to bring in the cows. In the winter-time they would stand in the spot where the cows had lain during the night, to keep themselves warm. After breakfast they would cut barley to feed to the cows.

Doug would load up the horse drawn spring cart with the cream cans three times a week and take them to Tinonee. They would then be loaded onto the cream boat coming from Wingham and taken to the factory at Mitchell's Island. Mr Geary (father of Ivan and Hedley) was in charge of the cream boat. In the later years Doug bought a little Ford truck to transport the cans to Tinonee.

Myra recalls the days when salesmen would come around trying to sell milking machines and Doug would tell them "*he had the best milking machines he could get*". When the salesmen enquired about the type of machine he used, Doug would reply "*the D.M.K. kind*" (Dad, Mum and the Kids)."

Mail Deliveries

"For just over seventy years the mail was delivered to 'Mooneys Gap' from the *Burrell Creek Post Office* and for most of that time it was operated by the Martin family.

The *Burrell Creek Post Office* opened on 1st October 1906 with Mr Samuel Martin as the Post Master. "*It was a tiny receiving Post Office, and public telephone....the post office was worth the princely sum of some £28 odd p.a.*".

Mr Martin's son, Samuel Manning Martin, held the position of telephonist until March 1914 when he took over from his father as Post Master. By this time the office had its own "*Burrell Creek stamp*" and now dispatched mail.

Mr Martin encouraged people to become subscribers and showed them how to keep costs down. "*In one case, where a subscriber had no poles on his property, Mr Martin cut the poles on his own property, delivered them to a dump and gave them to the subscriber free of charge*".

Mr Martin started a mail service to *Kimbriki Post Office* in 1919. He rode a pushbike with a sugar bag strapped to it to carry the mail. As the mail increased Mr Martin progressed to a horse and then a horse and buggy. About 1924 Mr Martin bought a motor bike for the mail run and then in 1928 he began using a motor car."

Continued..

School Days

"Bo Bo Creek's first school opened on 14th February 1859 as a National School and in 1866 through the Public Schools Act all National Schools including Bo Bo came under the control of the Council of Education in NSW. At various times over the years Bo Bo Public School was a Half-Time School and a full Public School. When numbers decreased to Half-Time status Bo Bo shared with Killawarra.

In 1880 schooling was made compulsory for all children from the age of six years to twelve years and in 1905 a new primary school syllabus was introduced. This syllabus included the teaching of six groups of subjects that were English; Mathematics; Nature Knowledge including geography; Civics and Morals including history and scripture; Art and Manual Work including drawing, woodwork and needlework; and Music and Physical Education.

Doug and Martha's involvement with Bo Bo Public School began about 1916 and continued until the early 1940's. Mick, Violet, Bill, Edna, John, Myra, Norma, Ellie, Pat and May all completed their primary schooling at Bo Bo Public School. Elaine and Jean attended Bo Bo up to years four and two respectively and then finished their primary schooling at Tinonee Public while Nola spent all of her primary school years at Tinonee. May, Elaine, Jean and Nola completed their education by attending Taree High School which had been officially opened on 11th February 1925.

Edna began school at Bo Bo in 1923 at the age of seven and Myra began school in 1928. During these years the children would ride their horses to school then turn them out to graze in the two-acre paddock behind the school ground. Edna's horse was called Tommy. If they couldn't catch the horses they would walk to school, a distance of about three miles. Sometimes *"Bill used to ride his horse down to the cockspur patch – stay there all day – then ride home at 4 o'clock"*.

Mr Tom Jones was the teacher at this time and his wife, Ella, was the sewing teacher. She would teach *"plain sewing"* such as pillowcases and handkerchiefs. At recess and lunchtime the girls played marbles and rounders while the boys played cricket. After the tennis court was built tennis became a very popular pastime.

Edna recalls a school dance being held in 1929 when she was thirteen years old. It was held in an old hall on the Tinonee side of Bo Bo School. Doug went to town to sell raffle tickets for the dance and on the way home he hit a cow while driving up Muldoon's Hill in the Chevy. This made him late and the family had to be taken to the dance in their truck, 'Red Wings'.

Bo Bo Public School had only one water tank, and in times of drought students carried their own drinking water to school. The horses were ridden bareback to nearby Bo Bo Creek to be watered.

Children attended from Burrell Creek, Bo Bo Creek, Kimbriki, Bootoowaa, Hillville and Mondrook. Some of the students attending Bo Bo Public School along with Edna and Myra at this time were their two brothers Bill and John Bird; Warwick, Madge, Nita and Ray Martin; Hazel, Dulcie, Rita, Tom, Marie, Daisy and Ron Martin; Bill Wills; Bert Taylor; Nellie Scott; Bill and Wynn McPherson; Bob and Ross Jones; Minnie, Alf, Percy and George Kelly; Alice, Fred, Cliff and Ernie Kelly; and Ron and Thelma Carles."

In keeping with this year's' theme -

WHAT WERE YOUR ANCESTORS DOING IN THE 1920's?

The following articles were submitted by Ken Beeton.

ANGORA RABBITS BANNED:

(Sourced from the Gloucester Advocate (NSW 1905-1954) Tuesday 22nd October 29 1929 Page 4

Mr. H. Beeton, who has taken a great interest in the Angora rabbit fur industry which has come into prominence in England and the Continent during the last few months, obtained three of these and brought them to Taree for experimental purposes. However, he received word that he would either have to kill them or sell them, as it was illegal to have them in this district. He chose the latter and disposed of them in Sydney for £1 each. It appears that around Sydney has been declared an area where the rabbits can be kept. It is rather hard on our energetic townsman who went to the trouble and expense of taken the initiative to test the worth of this possible new industry.

BEETON HOTEL:

(Sourced from Macleay Argus (Kempsey, NSW) Friday 22 August 1924. Page 4

The lights were turned on in Mr. H. Beeton's new hotel on Friday night, and presented a very fine appearance. The building is a credit to the architect (Mr. P. J. Moran) and the contractors (Messrs. Welch), and is also an evidence of faith Mr. Beeton has in the solidity of Taree and district. The finishing touches are now being put on the premises, and the keys, of which there are 81 will be handed over to the proprietor by the builders. At the rear of the hotel a large wooden structure is being erected. This will form an extensive garage, sample rooms, staff quarters. etc.. (M.R. Times).

TAREE IN "AULD LANG SYNE"

Sourced from Manning River Times and Advocate for the Northern Coast Districts of New South Wales (Taree, NSW 1898-1954) Saturday 3 December 1920, Page 10.

At the present, when our enterprising townsman, Mr. H. Beeton, is entering upon his large brick-making venture, which should be of very great benefit to Taree, and a vast district around, it is interesting to look back over the past. The first kiln of bricks was made for Taree by a Mr. Sinfield. When they were set out to dry he had occasion to go to Port Macquarie by horseback on business. Before he could return the weather changed and rain began. Mr. Sinfield knew his bricks were not sufficiently covered, and, as there was no way of quick communication, he prepared to return and attend to them. The creeks had risen and he was drowned while attempting to cross one of them, his horse suffering the same fate. A wife and two children were left to mourn, and some kind neighbours completed the necessary work with the best of the bricks that remained, so that the family might benefit, and they were used in some of Taree's earliest brick-work.

WHAT WERE YOUR ANCESTORS DOING IN THE 1920's?

The following articles were submitted by Ken Beeton

SATURDAY PICTURES:

Sourced from Northern Champion (Taree, NSW) Wednesday 28 April 1920, page 2

Beeton's pictures promises its patrons an unusual treat on Thursday night, when it will present the remarkable William Fox 1919 extravaganza 'Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves'. The story of Ali Baba is one of the most interesting in that famous old Persian classic The Arabian Nights. The very fact that this tale has held its popularity for over a thousand years is a guarantee that it has entertainment value enough to interest any audience.

There was a large attendance last Saturday night, and on all sides appreciative remarks were made about the splendid music tendered by the new violin player.

AERODROME FOR TAREE:

Sourced from Macleay Argus (Kempsey NSW) Tuesday 20 September, 1929. Page 2

Mr. H. Beeton, Sen. of Taree has generously given 22 acres of land for the purpose of providing an aerodrome site for that centre. The local authorities are already moving in the matter, having invited tenders for the clearing of the area.



BOOK REVIEW by Society Member Joan Ransom

“Coming to the Wallamba” by James Fletcher

(also a society member)

“I found it impossible to put down Jim’s book which I have reread several times. I knew nothing of the Manning or Wallamba area until I discovered that my ancestor, Joseph Clarkin was one of the first to get a conditional purchase at Nabiatic.

My husband’s family, The Wynter and Fletts, had a lot to do with Joseph’s life, as Joseph rented land from them and worked for them and is even buried in their private cemetery, where Ivan and I will also reside in the future!

By reading this well researched book, I was able to get an insight into the harsh lives the pioneers lived, especially Joseph and his wife who had left India to make their home in Australia.”

Detailed information about the pioneering families has been presented in a most interesting way.

PS: If any member is requiring information re Jim’s book please email our Secretary—Barbara Waters and she will send your request through to Jim.

The Women Of Australia In The 20's **Source:** <https://roarintwenty.weebly.com/>

Women’s low wages reflected social attitudes. Women were expected to devote their lives to their families. Most jobs were closed to them. Marriage could be a choice for men but for most women it was an economic necessity. Marriage, meant dependence on their husbands for money, so women had little power in society. Despite this lack of power, several women went through struggle for change. Vida Goldstein, being one of these women campaigning for women’s rights, running two magazines: the Woman’s Sphere (ran throughout 1900-05) and the Woman voter (ran throughout 1909-19). She also stood for election to the council several times and, she was unsuccessful, but her election campaigns made men and women more aware of inequality. The last states to allow women to stand for election to Parliament were New South Wales in 1918, Western Australia in 1920, Tasmania in 1921 and Victoria in 1923. It was an achievement then for a woman to be elected to Parliament shortly after gaining this right, but Edith Cowan did this in 1921 when she was elected the member for West Perth. When she took her seat in the Western Australian Legislative Assembly she became the first woman to be elected to any Australian Parliament. After this, organizations like the Edith Cowan’s National Council of Women and the Women’s Service Guild appeared and had some success in Influencing legislation in the 1920s. They also made people aware of “women’s issues” and undoubtedly inspired many women who were not involved in politics to have the courage and belief that it was possible to change society in ways that benefited women.

ANZAC DAY 2020

This beautiful Anzac quilt was made by our member Pam Jarman. It was originally intended to be displayed at Harrington's Anzac Day lunch, unfortunately, this was not to be. However, Pam and Graeme hung it from the front window of their home on Anzac Day. In the corners are photos of Graeme's dad (A Rat of Tobruk), Pam's great uncles Ivan and Norman and Ivan's grave in Belgium.



PIONEERING DAYS by Thomas Job Barnett

Extract from Quirindi Advocate Friday 28 May 1943 –

Submitted by Pam Jarman

When one year old I was conveyed by bullock dray (the only conveyance in those days), now nearly 83 years ago, from Bishop's Bridge to Wallabadah. Here then was all wild; the native bears, possums and kangaroos were here in droves.

When old enough to start farming, wooden ploughs without guiding wheels were in use. The wheat was harvested with reaping hooks, then threshed with a flail and run through a sieve; on a windy day to get the grain. Next introduced was a horsepower driven threshing machine which was a great boon. This machine was taken round from farm to farm till everyone's wheat was harvested. Followed the iron plough next the double-furrow, then the stripper, later harvesters, now right up to date.

When about 14 years of age the late MR. JOHN MacDONALD, of Wallabadah Station, introduced the first wire for fencing. A while after other wires were brought in; divisional fences were put up.

Mobs of wild cattle and horses were found on the ranges, and from here to Werris Creek there were mobs of wild brumbies.

At that time Thunderbolt, the bushranger, was about and there was an understanding (on the quiet) among the people with him. A sign of a cross marked in red or black paint would be put in a prominent position. That meant they were on the cross too, and he would call for a friendly yarn or perhaps food.

When about 9 years of age I started to drive one horse in a heavy cart. There were no roads at that time; you just picked your way into Quirindi as best you could. Later on I bought a spring dray in Tamworth and I could then trot into town, which was a boon. Next I had a dog cart, after that the buggy and pair, then a pony and sulky and finally the car. On the whole I have been driving in all these conveyances to Quirindi for 75 years, and never had an accident. In 1883 I married; and as iron was not thought of, I with others, erected a bark house with a ground floor. Later came the iron roof and that stopped the possums and bears from climbing over the roof at night. We then could hear it raining and there were no leaks from its roof, which was quite a relief.

For many years the nearest doctor was at Murrurundi 25 miles away. A DOCTOR GORDON lived there and he was a fine horseman, often riding as far as 60 miles to see patients. He used to wear a beautiful red silk turban round his hat; we all wore a white one those days, but his happened to be red – and it hung down his back. He also wore white shoes. Some lad in town composed a piece about him and it was published in the old "Maitland Mercury". First I might add Murrurundi was then known as The Page. The poetry ran as follows:

I suppose you've all heard of the quack of the age
Our Doctor Gordon, who lives at The Page;
You'll always know him if ever you should meet
By the turkey cock turban and snowy white feet.

PIONEERING DAYS—Continued

One of our neighbour's children was taken ill with diphtheria; and putting the child on a pillow in front of her horse, the neighbour's wife rode the 25 miles to Murrurundi to see the doctor. The child died before he could do anything, there being no cure for diphtheria those days.

The late RICHARD TANNER, the late JOHN KELLY and myself used to bury the dead. The timber was provided and we made the coffins and buried free of charge.

One of my waggonettes had a tilt and by putting a sheet round and a bed in the bottom it was considered quite a local ambulance. We would take patients to the doctor and later to the hospital when it was established. Years after, when much the worse for wear, we stood the old waggonette aside. We reckoned up that 17 had been conveyed in it to the doctor and hospital and all returned safely.

As a young man of 17 I was quite an old carrier, driving 12 bullocks in a wagon. Two or three of the neighbour's wives would enquire which day I was going to Quirindi, and they would be read to leave at sunrise with me. Climbing to the top of a load of wood, perhaps with the aid of a rope ladder.

Later two other lads and I decided to try our fortunes without teams on the Castlereagh. On one occasion coming in through Coonabarabran we brought what we considered was a good supply of food to do us for the trip. Heavy rain set in, which left the roads in a terrible state. I might add that one of my mates had his wife and child (a baby about 2 years) with him, and we ran out of food, except bread. I heard there was an outback station some miles away off down the road and hoping to buy some food there I got on my horse and road off across country and by chance found the place.

As I rode up a woman came rushing out, and picking up a couple of little children rushed inside, slammed and bolted the door. She then peered out through a crack in the window and enquired what I wanted. I informed her I wished to buy some food. She replied that she was sorry, but they were short themselves, as their own provisions had not arrived.

I asked her if she could sell me a sheep and she replied no, but there was a little mob of goats and I could have one of them. I bought the goat, picked it up on the horse in front of me and started back to camp. We killed it and what a feed we had.

We then started off for Bomerah, and we had high hopes of buying some food there, as by this time our bread had run out. But our hopes were dashed, as all I could buy were two bottles of onion pickles. However we ate those with relish and started off in very low spirits.

We had only gone a couple of miles when whom should we meet but MR & MRS BRADLEY who had a business at Purlewaugh. Each of them had a wagonette with their supplies on. They used to load up with tallow and hides on the return trip.

Cont'd...

PIONEERING DAYS—Continued

On another trip we took to Coonamble just 60 years ago, there was a terrible drought on – no feed for bullocks and no drink water for ourselves, let alone teams. There was only dirty water; you could see it moving with insects. There was a flour famine on. I think the people had had no flour for a fortnight and when we arrived with about six tons you would see the poor little children coming with dishes and sacks to get their share – later people came with wheelbarrows, pack horses and carts.

We made our way back as best we could; the bullocks were starved and kept knocking up. Finally, we reached Quirindi once more. While we were coming in blessed rain had fallen, and that cheered us up considerably.

The next trip was to Ulamambri, arriving in time for Christmas. In the morning I rode my horse across to Coonabarabran, and all the young people had gathered at the only hotel. I overheard them inquiring if someone by chance could play music for a dance. At last one young lady called me and I replied I could play a fiddle and a concertina, and weren't they delighted. They fished out an old fiddle from somewhere and set to and danced for hours, and had a great "Jollo". Needless to say, I was considered quite a treasure.

I was delighted to find I didn't get choked with dust, as it was a boarded floor. I had been used to dirt floors, where they had to stop occasionally and water the floor. The long tails of the women's skirts used to slash me across the face, and as they were full of dust the lot of the poor fiddler was not to be envied.

I happened to procure a violin when a child of 7 years old. One of my brothers was shearing at Bourke about 75 years ago and his mate had a violin. Something happened to the mate (I don't just remember), and by way of helping him they all decided to put in a pound each and run their saddle horses and my brother's (it was DAVID) horse won it. He brought the violin home and could tune it and play one tune.

(This violin is now on exhibit at the Henry Kendal Museum at Woy Woy)

It took my eye and I started straight a way to learn, by ear of course; and it wasn't long before I was playing for all the dances around for miles. Many grand "Jollos" we had. Weddings and birthday parties were grand affairs those days. The women could be cooking and preparing for at least a week before. Wild turkeys and sucking pigs would be laid on. Some of the old hands will remember the times we used to have.

Father, being very strict, would not allow me to go out often; so the other young men (now grown old and gone) would steal me out of the window. I would play a few tunes and pop back home to bed.

This particular part brings back memories of my old mates. The late GEORGE HENRY BALDOCK (nicknamed "Muns") and I were inseparable, and he was one of the finest men I ever knew. He later owned and kept the Wallabadah Hotel for many years. He was a good concertina player and fiddler, and on a pinch I used to play a tin whistle

Only odd ones of my mates are left – AUGUST USFELLER, ALEX URQUHART (now in Queensland) and GILBERT PORTER.

Cont'd

PIONEERING DAYS—Continued

I have always been a great lover of bees. I started at the early age of 7 years, when I found a swarm only a couple of feet off the ground in a little bush. I hurried home to get an old fruit case and mother's table cloth, captured the bees, and took them home. Soon I had them up to twenty swarms, all in cases – beehives were not thought of then. When hives were introduced I transferred them all and thought I was made. Later I bought an extractor and honey tank, and have kept not less than 60 – 80 hives ever since.

About fifty years ago I heard there were Italian bees introduced and being at the Land Court at Tamworth I met MR. PANKHURST, and found he was a gentleman who had the bees. He arranged that I should go to his place in the forest (out from Tamworth), where I bought two queens at 8/- each. I rode the 75 miles on horseback, I might add. I was the first to introduce the Italian bees to this district. In four weeks' time I was very pleased to see the young Italian bees at work.

Being away quite a lot wool-drawing, my wife would catch the swarms for me, and when I arrived home I would find quite a number of boxes full of bees and honey which then had to be transferred into the hives. Since that time I have sent many tons of honey away.

As a boy I bought two suburban allotments here on what is now known as "Willow Bend", and later on other allotments till I have about 40 acres. The creek was on three sides of it, the water flowing under it very near the surface.

I decided to establish an orchard, and bought a collection of fruit trees at Maitland, and built from that up to a thousand trees, having 37 different varieties of plums and 60 different kinds of peaches. In later years I opened the orchards to visitors, and one occasion opened for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day – 640 people went through and you wouldn't miss the fruit they ate.

One giant willow tree measured 16 feet at the base, and many a game of "kiss in the ring" was played under it – and many a romance started there too. Later I bought a merry-go-round, razzle-dazzle, swinging boats and shooting gallery. At first cabs ran from Quirindi, Murrurundi and Tamworth, and later people came in sulkies and spring carts and in recent years in cars. I had from four to six men working here then and two waggonettes to cart the fruit away. There was a splendid call for it in those days. I supplied the district for many miles.

The children especially enjoyed the razzle-dazzle, and I counted 50 on it one day, all as happy as could be. Needless to say, they are all grown up now.

Looking back over my life, it is very interesting to note the many changes and the progress. I am nearly 84 years of age and the young people of today little realise what we old pioneers went through. But it has been worth it, and we would not have it otherwise.

Thomas Job Barnett 30th June 1859—28 May 1951.



THOMAS JOB BARNETT amongst his bee hives
on Willow Bend.



The Descendants of the Rats of Tobruk Australia Association Inc.

The association was formed at the request of our living Veterans to honour the mighty Rats of Tobruk. As the veterans' numbers decline, it is up to descendants and friends to keep their memories alive for future generations and to share photos, stories and memorabilia. All materials supplied and used on this site will be acknowledged as being received from the member.

What we do

- RATS OF TOBRUK NATIONAL DATABASE—voluntary research to add all RATS of TOBRUK onto the ROT National Database.
- DIGITAL TRIBUTES we are working to produce a tribute for all RATS to be presented to AWM and other organisations of the 80th anniversary of the Siege of Tobruk and also to Association descendants.
- SERVICE RECORDS - successful delegation to start getting WW 11 Service Records open and free.
- ANZAC and other services—Association attends and sends wreaths to services, funerals and functions
- CALENDAR—the 80th Anniversary of the Siege of Tobruk commemorations are on the Commemorative Calendar.
- 80th ANNIVERSARY—organising the 80th Anniversary Siege of Tobruk World Reunion in Brisbane 10th April 2021.
- Campaigning—CAMPAIGNING TO Government and Veterans Affairs for recognition to make the unofficial T medal, or create a clasp to be worn on the African Star Medal.
- HMAS TOBRUK—requested naming of another naval vessel as HMAS Tobruk.
- PRO PATRIA MEDAL—applied on behalf of living Veterans to Polish Government for a Pro Patria Medal.
- NO SURRENDER—Treloar Roses have supplied a beautiful red and yellow rose for the Association, to be sold in the near future, Australia wide.

The website for this group and further information is

ratsoftobrukdescendants.org.au or Google DOTROTA

Our thanks to Graeme and Pam Jarman for submitting this information.

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 Newspapers, plus much more) -	www.trove.nla.gov.au
STATE LIBRARY OF NSW -	www.library.sl.nsw.gov.au
BRITISH LIBRARY -	www.bl.uk
NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND -	www.nls.uk
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/

MILITARY -

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

ARCHIVES-

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA -	http://www.naa.gov.au
NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF IRELAND	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: https://dtc.nt.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/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.uk/digitalarchive/index.htm

USEFUL WEBSITES Cont'd

FINDING YOUR IRISH ANCESTORS

Marriages registered in non-Catholic churches from 1845. Civil registration from 1864 means all births, marriages and deaths available from that year. Indexes free from - <https://familysearch.org>

A subscription search engine combining the vital record databases is - <http://www.rootsireland.ie>

Census:

Only 1901 and 1911 and fragments of earlier census records are extant - www.census.nationalarchives.ie

Griffith Valuation 1847-1864:

As the early national census records were destroyed this is the main method of finding your ancestors in the 19th century.

Tithe Appointments:

Between 1823 and 1837 these records were compiled to assess those who occupied an acre of land or more in order to require them to pay a tax. The tax was for the support of the Church of Ireland (Protestant Church) in the local area in which people lived.

Visiting Ireland and researching your ancestors:

For Ireland reaching out go to - www.irelandxo.com

Very helpful contact with a local historian. Post a question to your parish of interest.

Newspapers:

Some on Roots Ireland - www.rootsireland.ie

Church of Ireland Parish Registers -

<https://www.ireland.anglican.org/cmsfiles/pdf/AboutUs/library/registers/ParishRegisters/PARISHREGISTERS.pdf>

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. Some as early as 1770's but most start after 1800.

Westmeath Genealogy - 9000 records (baptisms, marriages, deaths, gravestones)

<http://www.westmeath.rootsireland.ie>

USEFUL WEBSITES Cont'd

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.

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/

Scotland –

<https://www.oldscottish.com>

META SITES –

Cyndi's List

www.cyndislist.com

Cora Num's Cora's Web

www.corweb.com.au

Genuki

<https://www.genuki.org.uk/>

Irish Genealogy

<https://www.irish-genealogy-toolkit.com/>

NEW:

Hearth Tax

Hearth taxes were levied in medieval and early modern Europe, notably in France and the Low Countries, but were not levied in the British Isles until the late seventeenth century.

<http://gams.uni-graz.at/context:htx>

Adoption

England/Wales - www.gov.uk/adoption-records

Scotland - <https://www.scottishadoption.org/>

Ireland - <https://aai.gov.ie/en/>