

MANNING WALLAMBA FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY Inc TAREE

Issue 156 November 2020

THE FIG TREE



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ABN: 50 373 809 536

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to a world of difference and a new year to come.

Thanks to Mid Coast Library for the provision of online research.

Also the many online provisions by other organizations which have been found and communicated.

My thanks to Barbara who has been keeping people informed and contacting those in need.

Your executive team have been getting together and planning the future as changes take place, these have been held at private residence due as yet not being able to use the library facilities.

Bunnings sausage sizzle are back and it maybe over by the time you receive this, but keep in mind that as our members tire that we need more to put a hand up and assist .

In the wee hours of this morning I had wonderful thoughts for this message, I think it was going to be a novel, but I forgot, oh such is life.

To all those not at their best we wish you wellness.

To those who are friendly with those not so well just a chat helps.

Your team wishes you the best for Christmas and a welcome new year.

Keep searching another interesting family event is hiding around the corner.

Regards

Ken B

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR ALL MEMBERS

The Committee has decided that with the uncertainty of the ongoing Covid-19 situation there will **not** be a Member's Christmas Lunch this year. It is hoped that as the library reopens for research and restaurant restrictions are eased our Society will plan a

WELCOME BACK LUNCH



From the Editor's Desk....

As this is the last Fig Tree for 2020, a year we all would like to forget, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed articles, making my job so easy.

Your contributions don't have to be long and detailed, and that doesn't mean they can't be, and I must admit I have enjoyed reading about your ancestors, some of whom have been amazing pioneers, others, well what can I say except well worth reading and some very "interesting". Just as important is perhaps a poem, or details of a new website or resource you have found and would like to share – these are always welcome and don't forget the jokes and cartoons, there is nothing like a bit of humour.

We may not be able to have our regular Xmas Party get together, HOWEVER, sometime in 2021, and let's hope it will be sooner rather than later, there will be, all going well that is, a
Welcome Back Lunch,
so watch this space.

Wishing you and your family a very Happy and Safe Christmas



OFFICE BEARERS 2020-2021

| | | | |
|-------------------------|--|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| President | Ken Beeton | Research Officers | Sue Robinson |
| | | Wal Horsburgh | |
| Vice Presidents: | Graeme Rose | Duty Roster Clerk | Janine Roberts |
| | George Sawyer | | |
| 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 |
| | Isolated & Unmarked Graves: | Pam & Graeme Jarman | |
| | Public Officer | Lyn Haynes | |

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

Have you “Hit a Brickwall”?
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.



REGULAR EVENTS

Our regular General Meetings and Workshops have currently been suspended until further notice.

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 **reduced**.

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

We would like to welcome our **three new members**, please feel free to ask for assistance—our Research Team is still hard at work!

Anne Maree Schmitzer, Sally Northey and William Lee

BUNNINGS BAR-B-QUE



Our first BBQ since Covid “arrived” will be held on

Saturday 28th November

With Covid 19 safe practices
5 people **must** be working at any one time.
Therefore, your help no matter for how long, is needed.

Please contact

secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au

NB: COVERED SHOES MUST BE WORN

USE OF LIBRARY COMPUTERS

Although we are still unable to return to the library in the same capacity we did prior to Covid, members using their library card can still use the library computers . Contact the library to book a time and use your library card to log in.

Just remember our Research Team is still hard at work, if you have a query don't hesitate to let our Secretary know.



MANNING WALLAMBA FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

ABN: 50 373 809 536 / RESEARCH REQUEST FORM

Provide as much data as possible and complete a separate form for each research name.

If you require physical documents please provide a Stamped, Self-Addressed Envelope,

Initial Research Enquiry is \$20 including limited photocopying to the value of \$5

Additional Research \$10 per hour. Extra microfilm copying \$1 per page

KNOWN INFORMATION:

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|--------|
| | When: | Where: |
| PERSON'S NAME: | Born: | |
| (Father's Name): | Born: | |
| (Mother's Name): | Born: | |
| Port of Arrival: | Date: | Ship: |
| Died: | Buried: | |
| Occupation: | Date Married: | Where: |
| SPOUSE'S NAME: | Born: | |
| (Father's Name): | Born: | |
| (Mother's Name): | Born: | |
| Port of Arrival: | Date: | Ship: |
| Died: | Buried: | |
| CHILDREN: | | |
| 1. | Born: | |
| 2. | Born: | |
| 3. | Born: | |
| 4. | Born: | |
| 5. | Born: | |
| 6. | Born: | |
| 7. | Born: | |
| 8. | Born: | |
| Additional Children | Please write on the back of this page | |

INFORMATION REQUIRED: (Continue on back of page if more space required)

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

YOUR DETAILS:

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms: SURNAME: | GIVEN NAMES: |
| ADDRESS: | POST CODE: |
| PHONE: | MOBILE: |
| EMAIL: | |
| AMOUNT ENCLOSED OR EFT: \$ | SIGNATURE: |
| I agree to Manning Wallamba FHS publishing my details in their journal "Fig Tree" or releasing them to other people who are researching the same family. SIGNATURE: | |

SUBMISSION DETAILS:

| |
|---|
| • SEND FORM BY MAIL TO: Research Officer, MWFHS Inc, PO Box 48 TAREE NSW 2430 |
| • SCAN AND EMAIL FORM TO: secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au with all details |
| • DEPOSIT ANY MONIES EFT: Regional Aust Bank / BSB 721 000 / Account 59128 |
| • OR SEND A CHEQUE FOR THE AMOUNT TO: Research Officers, MWFHS, PO Box 48 TAREE 2430 (Cheque made out to Manning Wallamba FHS) |

As part of our ongoing project compiling a comprehensive list of as many isolated or unmarked graves as possible, we have included the following form for anyone who may have information, that will help us in this project.

Any assistance would be gratefully appreciated.



MANNING WALLAMBA FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC
ISOLATED OR UNMARKED GRAVES

SURNAME: _____ GIVEN NAMES: _____

BIRTH DATE: _____ BIRTH PLACE: _____

DEATH DATE: _____ AGE AT DEATH: _____

PLACE OF DEATH: _____

BURIAL DATE: _____ BURIAL PLACE: _____

CEMETERY SECTION: _____ GRAVE ROW/NUMBER: _____

GRAVE PHOTO: YES/NO COPY SUPPLIED: YES/NO

SPOUSE/S: _____

PARENTS: _____

DO YOU HAVE DOCUMENTATION OF THE ABOVE?

CERTIFICATE: YES/NO COPY SUPPLIED: YES/NO

MAP (if grave on private property): YES/NO COPY SUPPLIED: YES/NO

EXTRA INFORMATION: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

I understand that the above burial details may be used in publications in the future.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Are you willing to share this data with others seeking information about this family? Yes/No

Please return to: Manning Wallamba Family History Society Inc. PO Box 48, Taree, 2430

Or leave at the Society section of the MidCoast Council Library, Victoria Street, Taree

Confirming the Myth

My maternal grandfather, 101 Private Frederick William Bubb, 3rd Battalion, AIF, saw action at Gallipoli from 25 April, 1915, until he was wounded in the left eye on 26 June. He was evacuated to Egypt and spent time in hospital before returning to Australia.

From a few family members I heard that he had been a sniper at Gallipoli but could find no evidence of this in his military records or elsewhere and considered this was just a family myth.



Private 101 Frederick William Bubb, 3rd Battalion, AIF

I had noticed that there seemed to have been an improvement in the National Library of Australia (NLA) service, *Trove*, since the first time I had used it and so I went searching for any information regarding Grandfather that may have popped up in recent times,

One interesting piece that appeared in the *Bombala Times* and several other newspapers on the Monaro related to Grandfather's prowess as a rabbit trapper-

From *The Bombala Times* – Friday, 19 October 1912

*"Mr. Fred Bubb, the crack
Nimmitabel rabbit trapper, from
16th January until Friday last, caught
13,840 rabbits."*

However, I could not believe my luck when I found the following interview with my Grandfather in the **Evening News** (Sydney) of Tuesday, 14 September 1915, page 3, which read-

Continued.....

CONFIRMING THE MYTH Continued-

A SNIPER'S BIG "BAG"

"Dozens And dozens of them" replied Private F. Bubb of the 3rd Battalion when asked this morning how many Turks he had accounted for during his career as a sniper at Gallipoli.

"I am a good shot" he continued "and after the landing, I was picked to go sniping.

There were two snipers chosen from each company and we were provided with telescopic sights with which we made good practice. I spent six weeks at the game and then got hit in the eye with a bullet which struck the foresight of my rifle. The Turkish snipers were very brave often going to certain death for the sake of getting one or two of our men. But the best of them are gone now. We saw to that."

So here was not only confirmation, but confirmation "from the horse's mouth"!

This was not the only gem I came across in the NLA, Trove – Newspapers site. I also found a letter written to friend, that was reproduced in the *Delegate Argus* of 9 September, 1915, from his hospital bed in Egypt noting, *inter alia*, the number of fellow soldiers that had lost one or both eyes. This letter confirmed that Grandfather was also a member of the 3rd Battalion Band as he makes mention of a fellow band member who was killed in action.



3rd Battalion Band, Egypt, Private Frederick Bubb (extreme right?)

There were other items of news that filled in some gaps of my Grandfather's life. Some were only snippets but others were quite significant. Back in those days country newspapers particularly carried more local news than there is to-day (if there is a local newspaper at all!).

A hour or two trolling through Trove can be quite rewarding as I have found.

Submitted by Max Brown
Member No 328

White Crosses

(Written Middle East September 1941)

White crosses by a Syrian road –
Australia's sons lay still.
Neath sunny skies, the Sheppard's ode
Steals out beyond a hill.

White sails on timeless seas
Australia's sons sleep fast
There is upon the stirring breeze
A vision of the past.

White knights beside a fiery cross
Australia's sons be proud
Noble bones shall know not moss
Crusader dust your shroud.

White deeds, the trumpets sound
Australia's sons arise
Brave spirits soar above the mounds
That stifle earthy sighs.

Anthony Goldie
6th Division AIF



Lest we Forget

To Curly and my Cobbers of the 6th Division

(Written Middle East 19 August 1941)

I've heard the bombs come whistling
with their vicious song of hate
and tried my voice to steady
"has it got our number mate"

But the song that echo's clearest
And I'll hear it to the end.
Is Roll Out the Barrel, as we
Swing around the bend.

We're in the stretch for home
with feet like lumps of lead
But Curly still keeps singing
"He can't be really dead"

But the list is ever growing
of those I'll never hear
Sing Roll Out the Barrel for the
gang is not all here.

But I bet that up in heaven
Curly's got the angles singing
and Roll Out the Barrel –
Celestial harps are swinging.

Anthony Goldie
6th Division AIF

MURDER, BLOODY MURDER MOST FOUL

James Everett and his wife Isabella, known as Bella, came to live in Taree on 21st January, 1921 when James was transferred with his employment as a train driver with the New South Wales Government Railways.

They had a family of eight, four boys and 4 girls. Two boys were born after their coming to Taree.

The eldest child Dorothy May Everett was born 2nd April, 1910 at Fawcett Street, Waratah, Newcastle where James had previously been stationed.

On 28th November 1937 who would have imagined what horror that morning would bring.

Dorothy aged 27 was employed as a kitchen maid at the Church of England Broughton School, adjacent to Christ Church Cathedral in Newcastle.

She had been to the movies and on her way back to Broughton School where she was a boarder, she was waylaid by a person unknown and strangled with her own stockings and left by the pathway, to be discovered early the next morning. This felon was never found, but persons of interest were questioned rigorously. If only DNA matching had been available at that time the case would probably have been solved.

The entire Everett family was devastated as could be expected.

An inquest was held in Newcastle on 10th January 1938 in which the Coroner — Mr. A. G. Chiplin found the cause of death as “found dead, asphyxia due to strangulation result of injuries feloniously and maliciously inflicted on her by some person or persons not known.”

Dorothy May Everett was laid to rest in the Church of England portion of Sandgate Cemetery where her parents James and Bella were later interred, as was a niece Deidre Narelle Everett born 19th August 1945 and died the next day.

For many years nieces were shielded from family discussions around the dinner table regarding this tragic death, but in the event of the coming of the internet and Trove, all the gruesome detail has been revealed.

Submitted by George Sawyer
Member 533

CATHERINE (Kitty) (BANNISTER) DANN (1809—1864)

Catherine was born in Old Basingstoke, Hampshire, England before 7 May 1809. She was the daughter of James (Burniston) Banister and Ruth (Whistler) Banister.

In 1827 Catherine was convicted at the Old Bailey for Assault and Robbery and sentenced to Life and transported to Hobart, Van Diemen's Land in 1827 on the "Sovereign". It was stated on her convict record that she was a prostitute in London and her conduct on board the ship was "very bad", resulting in punishment on arrival.

The following is an extract from the original convict record for Catherine (Kitty) Bannister

[Bannister Catherine Ship Sovereign 1827] Transported for stealing from the person. Gaol report – a Prostitute Single - Stated this Offence - Stealing a brooch from the person – behaviour very bad on-board ship.

[Middlesex 5th April 1827 – Life]

Nov 24 1827 Reporting acts of disobedience of orders with violent & disorderly conduct on board the Sovereign on the passage out to Van Diemen's Land in defiance of the repeated warning of the Surgeon Superintendent – to be confined in a cell 14 days on arrival in VDL. To have her hair cut off & removed to the Factory at George Town, there to be kept at hard labour for 12 months from the date of her arrival (Prison Super).

May 30 1828 Factory. Creating a disturbance & fighting in the Factory yesterday morning - to be confined in a cell 48 hours (PS)

Dec 17 1829 Wife of Jackson/Felony. Fully commissioned for trial (M Ficary)

(Left column both discharged 28th April 1830 for Felony)

Oct 21st 1830 – Wife of Jackson/ Being disorderly yesterday admonished (PS)

April 19th 1831 Wife of Jackson/ Out of hours last night at a Public House. To be returned to the service of the Crown & recommended to be assigned to the Interior (PS)

May 31 1831 McKenzie/Being illegally at large from the 27th to the 30th instant 6 months Crime Class House of Correction (PS)

May 9 1834 Wife of Jackson/ Out of hours, reprimanded (PS)

Conditional Pardon No 1446 - 20th Sept. 1837.

Whilst still a convict in 1829 she married James Jackson, however, in 1829 both were caught illegally in the dwelling of W. Harvey and charged. However, they were freed by proclamation on the occasion of beloved King William's Birthday!

Although she received a Conditional pardon on 20th September 1837 the previous years between 1827 and up to 1838 were not without their issues. Kitty resumed prostitution in Hobart and carried out numerous petty crimes, including James assaulting Kitty for being a prostitute while living off her earnings, then Kitty assaulting him for selling all their possessions, particularly the babies cradle. Regardless, she received her Certificate of Freedom in 1840.

Cont'd...

Catherine (Kitty) Jane (Bannister) Dann Continued

In 1845 James is before the magistrate on an illegal firearm charge and is sentenced to 7 years at Port Phillip, Melbourne. This sentence was particularly harsh as Port Phillip was known as a sandy hell and Catherine would have had no expectations of a middle-aged convict surviving. However, in 1849 James returns to Hobart and finds Catherine, who is now 40, has married William Dann a man 11 years her junior and is pregnant with the first of their children. James Jackson begins a Bigamy Trial, but this is postponed by Catherine's pregnancy, then on 20th April 1850 the charges are discharged by the Supreme Court.¹

That child William Dann Jr. was born in 1849, however, Dr. Nugent behaves erratically (drunk?) when called. Catherine Dann refuses to pay and begins a newspaper vendetta against the doctor up to the family's departure for Victoria in 1852.²

1852 was not a good year for Catherine, William Dann jnr. dies of Scarlet Fever while he was recovering from injuries suffered in a mill accident in March. While still recovering from this loss one of her teenage children (Frederick Jackson) dies in a drowning accident. Catherine and William Dann leave Hobart for Victoria with their remaining children.

1856 finds Kitty the Madam of a Brothel in Stawell, Victoria, which at that time was the Central Goldfields area of Western Victoria. Court records also show that in 1862 she is associated with Brothels in Amhurst, Talbot and Majorca. Two of her daughters from her marriage to James Jackson (Ann Mary Jackson) and (Rachel Jane Jackson) who were married at 15 and 17 respectively, return to their mother's Brothel. Apparently it is a better life than being a wife!!

Her husband William Dann Sr. died in Lexton in 1860 and four years later Catherine dies from Hepatitis. It is assumed she is buried in an unmarked grave next to where William is buried and where Catherine had an expensive carved headstone erected.

¹ *A successful prosecution of Bigamy was very difficult with the passage of time according to the Female Convict Research Centre Hobart. "The original minister had to swear that the accuser and defendant before him were the two original people that he had married at the time"*

Alternately James had conveniently disappeared or died unrecorded so the 2nd marriage was no longer illegal.

² *This letter writing also gives a window into Catherine's literacy, which helps explain her business successes.*

What were your Ancestors doing in the 1920's?

The Hayes Family of Windsor in the 1920s

The 1920s was a decade of mixed fortunes for my maternal Grandmother's family. My Grandmother, Daisy Hayes, was only 8 years old in 1920. She was the youngest daughter of Clarrie & Emmaline Hayes of Windsor. Her sister Dulcie, known as Queenie, was 15.

The family was well known in the Hawkesbury District. Clarrie had worked for the local newspaper as a young lad before leaving the area to run newspapers in the Parramatta area. When the family returned to Windsor, Clarrie was the local Edwards' Tea Company representative before becoming a successful licensed real estate agent & auctioneer. Two of his older brothers were also local businessmen. Edward ran a successful bicycle business as well as being a watchmaker. The Hayes' had close ties to St Matthew's Church of England & Edward was responsible for many years for the upkeep of the clock above the Church. Brother George advertised himself as the "left-handed barber".

Life was good for the Hayes family, but by the end of 1921 this was to change. On December 13, 1921 Emmaline's Father William Milsom passed away. He had been living with the family in Fitzgerald Street. The local papers announced that the family had suffered "a greater sorrow" when Queenie, aged only 17, died just 6 days after her Grandfather. She had been working as a telephonist at the local exchange when she became seriously ill.

Christmas that year was a somber affair for the family. At the time of these deaths Emmaline was about 3 months pregnant. In mid-June 1922, the family's grief turned to joy when Emmaline gave birth to another daughter, June. This joy was short-lived as Emmaline suddenly died 10 days later at Craignish Private Maternity Hospital from a blood clot, while confined to bed after the birth. Young Daisy had been to visit her mother & new sister just that afternoon & within hours her mother was dead. A grief-stricken Clarrie was left to look after a ten-year-old & a ten-day old baby. The baby remained at the hospital for about 15 months. Clarrie & Daisy moved out of the family home in Fitzgerald Street and into Loder House which was a boarding house in the central business district at the time.



Daisy Hayes at age 10 in 1922

Continued...

The Hayes of Windsor in the 1920's (Continued)

More grief was to come to the family when Edward's wife Elizabeth died just 2 months after Emmaline. They had been married 35 years. Then in May 1923, Daisy's favourite Aunty Polly passed away. Her husband Uncle Joe had gone into business with Clarrie. They sold mostly second-hand goods. After his wife's death he moved in with Clarrie & Daisy.

Things were looking up for the family when in September 1923 Clarrie remarried. His new wife was Constance Seymour who up until her marriage was a teacher at Windsor Public School. Baby June finally came home from hospital. The family lived in Church Street at this time. Daisy & her stepmother got on well together.

In 1926 Daisy's Uncle William died in a freak accident at a local slaughterhouse. He sustained a head injury when a hook gave way causing a bullock carcass to fall on him. He succumbed to the injury a few days later.

By the end of the decade 3 boys were added to the family – Clarrie junior, Bruce & William. Clarrie senior purchased a larger home for his growing family in George Street on the peninsular. It was next door to where old Government House had been & was on what was part of Governor Macquarie's estate. The home was named "Macquarie" and was surrounded by beautiful gardens, including a vegetable patch that Uncle Joe tended. Despite the family losses of the first half of the decade the home was a happy one that Daisy remembered fondly for the rest of her life.



The Hayes family home "Macquarie" at 37 George Street, Windsor

Submitted by Vicki Fletcher
Member No 13055

WILLIAM GEORGE SAWYER

9/5/1884- 28/3/1971

(KNOWN AS GEORGE)

AND THE STORY OF THE 1934 DODGE TOURER



George was the second child of 10 children of John William Sawyer and Martha Gore of Tinonee NSW. John was born after his father, also known as John, was killed in a bullock dray accident which took the life of his son William near Dungog on 24th February 1859.

When he married Eliza Agnes Stevens on 8th October 1913 at Nahiab, he managed his mother-in-law's farm at Cocumbark until she died and then bought the farm at Taree Estate.

Their home was flooded in the big flood of 1929 and again in 1930. The flood of 1929 was higher than the guttering on the homestead and was a huge setback for George, as they had no warning and lost everything including the car which remained in the car shed. They ran for their lives up the road to higher ground above the Fig Tree Bridge.

George and Eliza had two children Constance (Connie) and Jack for who he purchased a 5 acre property across the road when he married.

George and Jack dairied for many years until it was no longer viable on such small acreage, when Jack switched to market gardening in which he proved most successful.

Eliza died 17th June 1960 and George moved into Taree to live with daughter Connie and family in Macquarie Street, from which he toured around relatives and the farm regularly in his Dodge Tourer.

This car had a large silver knob on the dash which when fully extended engaged the gears and when retracted freed the gears so that one could change gear without using the clutch. In other words, the car would coast along and not slow down when the accelerator was lifted because the gears would no longer slow the car. This did not worry George and he had a few close calls!

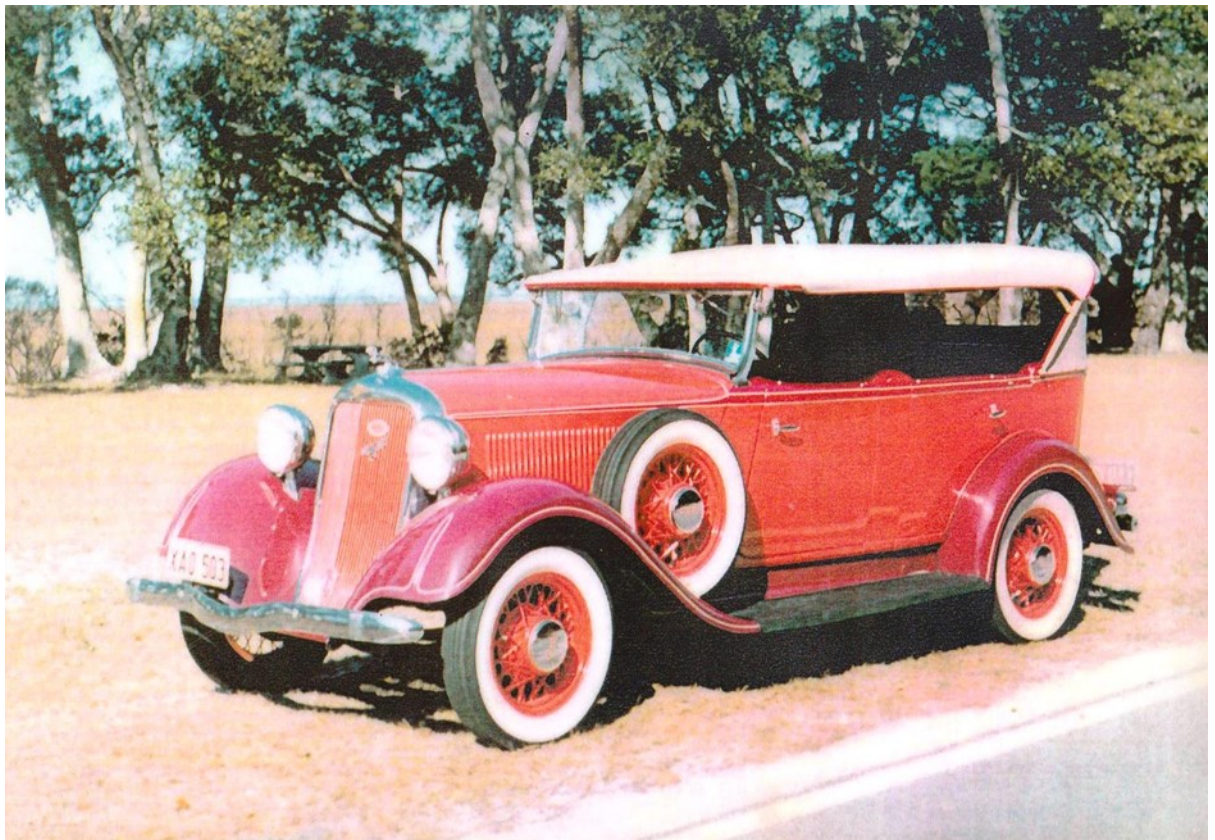
George continued to drive around until his death at age 87, when his grandson George made use of the car for some time, until he was able to purchase a car of his own.

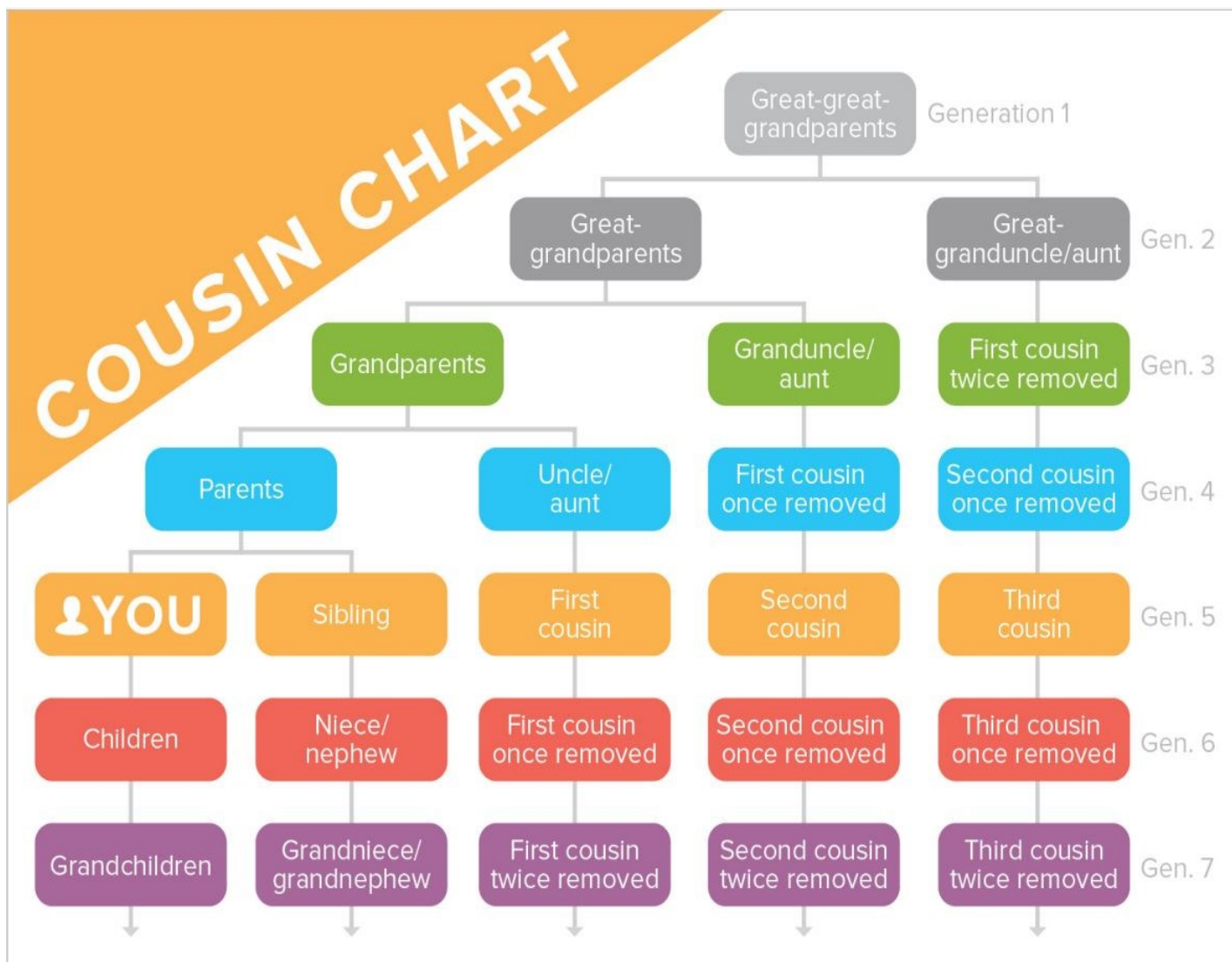
When the Dodge was sold it seems it ended up in America, as a letter arrived at daughter Connie's home together with a photograph of the restored vehicle and the story of how the car's ownership was traced.

In the side driver's door storage compartment, the new owner found a wedding invitation to George inviting him to granddaughter Ruth's wedding. The car was now owned by a Dodge enthusiast from Florida, U.S.A. and he included a colour photograph of the restored vehicle.

Story by George Sawyer, grandson
Member No 533

George Sawyer's 1934 Dodge Tourer





ANOTHER RESEARCH RESOURCE THAT MAY BE USEFUL FOR YOU **BIOGRAPHICAL DATA BASE**

The BDA allows free access to all the Indexes and all the source documentation. The indexes show a brief summary of details of the individual being viewed.

However, full Biographical Reports are only available to subscribers. Each Biographical Report has a header section and a list of records from the Database called biographical items. Each biographical item has the source reference.

Biographical reports also allow unlimited linking to other persons in a Biographical Report to view their Biographical Report.

The cost of a 12 months subscription is currently \$33

<https://www.bda-online.org.au/mybda/search>

CYCLING TOUR

Saturday August 26 1916 - Tuesday 12th September 1916

Submitted by Pam Jarman

Two men travelled on "S.S. Canberra" from Sydney to Brisbane taking their bikes with them. The ship arrived in Brisbane on Monday August 28th. Their trip took them from Brisbane through Southport, Tweed Heads, Murwillumbah, Brunswick Head, Bryon Bay, Lismore, Woodburn, Grafton, Coffs Harbour, Urunga, Macksville, Kempsey, Port Macquarie and Taree.

Schedule

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| August 26 th | TSS Canberra left Sydney 3.30, heads 4.20, Seal Rocks 11.50 |
| Sunday 27 th | At sea Smokey Cape 7.30, Coffs Harbour 10.30, Bryon Bay 5pm |
| Monday 28 th | Arrive at Brisbane 8am |
| Tuesday 29 th | South Brisbane 7.45, Tweed Heads 11.45, Murwillumbah |
| Wednesday 30 th | Brunswick Heads |
| Thursday 31 st | Byron Bay (rain) |
| September 1 st | Lismore (rain) |
| Saturday 2 nd | Lismore (rain) |
| Sunday 3 rd | Grafton Fine wind against us |
| Monday 4 th | Nana Glen Wind against us and rain no tucker |
| Tuesday 5 th | Urunga fair roads and fine weather |
| Wednesday 6 th | Fredrickton good roads and fine |
| Thursday 7 th | Port Macquarie sunshine and fair road |
| Friday 8 th | Kew good road and fine weather |
| Saturday 9 th | Taree good level road and fine weather |
| Sunday 10 th | Taree on the Manning |
| Monday 11 th | Wingham Tinonee Taree |
| Tuesday 12 th | Lansdowne River |
| Wednesday 13 th | Home again |

The following are excerpts from their diary re this cycling trip by the two men from Brisbane to Sydney in 1916:

"...The "Canberra" is some ship but I saw two seas come over the bows and the stewards closed the ports on the lower deck. The bow was not a comfortable place on a night such as this so we tried the Promenade Deck. Things were going along nicely and then it rained. Rain at sea is miserable but we soon found a sheltered position and stayed here until bed time. I slept well and the ship pitched for all she was worth.

Cont'd..

1916 CYCLING TOUR BRISBANE TO SYDNEY, Continued

Monday August 28th 1916

We entered Morton Bay early this morning and at 6am while having morning tea we were steaming up the Brisbane River. The river is not very wide and many sharp bends are noticed. We passed the meat works, the sugar works and New Farm. As we were having breakfast we pulled alongside the wharf and the papers came aboard. While Cess and Mona were reading, I snapped them. We landed at 8am and the bikes came ashore a little later none the worse for the trip. It cost us 1/3d to land them but not before we had an argument with the wharf officer about it. I carried Mona's luggage to the train and left her with her lady friend. I then returned to the ship for Cess. We got on the bikes and pushed up to the main street, Queens Street, Now the fun began.

IN BRISBANE:

Our first impression of Brisbane was that it was about 100 years behind Sydney. The tram cars are funny looking things after our Sydney cars and the get up of the conductors & drivers is just as bad. The conductor does not carry a book like our conductors do but a wad of tickets and a small money bag like the bus boys carried in Sydney years ago. The cars are open and can only be entered at the ends. The side nearest the opposite line is barricaded and any person found jumping off or on the wrong side gets pinched and fined a fiver.

Queen Street is the main retail business thoroughfare, next comes Edwards Street. The Government buildings are found mostly in George Street. Parliament House is a fine building but the Lands Office does not come up to that of Sydney. The buildings are built low and square in design. The gardens are full of tropical plants and the walk along the river is very nice indeed. Brisbane has two Railway centres, Central Station in Adelaide Street in a good central position to the city the other being South Brisbane.

The Victoria Bridge is very fine and spans the Brisbane River. The trams pass over this bridge and at night the reflections on the Brisbane River have rather a pretty effect. The General Post Office seems rather small for the capital of the state and is situated in Queens Street. The people are hospitable and very obliging. I was standing near the bikes waiting for Cess who had gone to post a letter when a chap who was standing by started up a conversation and I soon learned that he was a Sydneyite. We put up the P.P. (People's Palace?), which turned out to be OK. I then found out Harrington's and strolled in, as I was anxious to see how things were going in the camera line. I put on a bit of dog and a bit of bluff about the Sydney house and made out that I was a big customer. The point about it was that I wanted my film developed to see how the camera was shaping, as I had not used it on tours before. A little bluff works wonders sometimes and my order was executed in good time. I was pleased to find that the pictures taken at sea were good especially the porpoises. One had the appearance of a torpedo and just as he left the water, I got him. The other was right out of the water and came out splendid.

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1916 CYCLING TOUR BRISBANE TO SYDNEY, Continued

ONTO PORT MACQUARIE:

The road was hilly and in places bad so riding was difficult especially as we had a head wind but the day was good. Barranganyatti is just a place, 1 pub, 1 house and a few inhabitants. A little to the North stands Mount Yarrahappini which stands out prominent.

It was now 5 pm so we pushed on over a bad road and somewhat hilly for 5 miles to Homebush Accommodation House. It was quite dark when we reached the house and here our luck was out again. The old chap was having a row with his missus and things were pretty lively. He had his head tied up where she had hit him with the frying pan the night before. This was no place for us so on the bikes again. We didn't know where we were going but we were on our way. The next hotel was at Fredrickton, 10 miles. The night was now quite dark and this left us in a new fix, no lights, no tucker, unknown road and the next pub 10 miles.

But as usual our hide came to our assistance. At Clybucca Creek we passed a school and called at the school master's house. He was a real decent chap and when we put the acid on him for some tea, he gave us a welcome answer. "Come inside, make yourselves at home". This was a contrast to our experience along the road. As we marched inside he asked us our names and then introduced us to his wife and daughter (very nice too) nuff said. Mrs Swan made us very welcome and we chattered with them until 8pm after having a grand tea.

Now by way of a change we had some good luck, the moon came out and the road seemed good, so we pushed off for Fredrickton, 9½ miles. The distance was covered in 55 minutes and we did not notice it at all riding side by side, we chattered merrily together forgetting that a little over 2 hours back we were up against our luck. Fredrickton was reached at 5 to 9 and we put up at the Springs Post Office Hotel for the night. The mileage for the day being 52.1 miles. The last 20 miles level but the remainder hilly and bad. We are now 5 miles off Kempsey and a little behind time.

Thursday September 7th , 2016

The old southerly came at us again as we rode along towards Kempsey but the morning was bright. Fredrickton and Kempsey are both built on the Macleay River. Kempsey is a larger town situated on the bends of the river, 30 miles from the Macleay heads. The distance from Fredrickton to Kempsey is 4½ miles by road and was soon past over as the road was level then the Crescent Head road turns off to the left but from here to Telegraph Point, it is undulating and mostly sandy. We made the Point for dinner but as our chinaman's luck still stuck to us the only hotel in the place was burned to the ground a few days before we reached it.

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1916 CYCLING TOUR BRISBANE TO SYDNEY, Continued

The local store was visited and here we bought a tin of tongues, 1 lb of soda biscuits and some butter, and two bottles of ginger ale. This was our dinner and we sat under the grocer shops verandah to eat it. After this little snack, The Wilson River was crossed by bridge and the ride to Blackmans Point was anything but pleasant, as the road was being repaired. It seems as if we are competing in an obstacle race and these things are out to stop our progress. The Hastings River was crossed by punt driven by an oil engine and the remaining 5 miles into Port Macquarie was level ground.

Port Macquarie is one of the oldest country towns in the state being settled in 1820. Its position is picturesquely situated at the mouth of the Hastings River. We put up at the Star Hotel (B. Lanser) in Horton Street, which proved good for tourists. After tea we visited the old St Thomas's Church on the hill. The church is the second oldest in Australia, the oldest I believe is at Windsor

The building is built of brick, the interior fittings being made of cedar. It was completed by convicts (from the goal about ¼ mile distant) in 1824. The old English box pews caught our eye immediately we slipped inside. These pews are high (about 4ft 6 in) and each pew has a door with a turn button. When the congregation take their seats the door is enclosed and they are in a kind of a box. Originally there were only two pews in the front. These were used by the Captain of the convicts and his officers. The remaining space was left bare and here the convicts stood handcuffed and leg ironed while the preacher gave his sermon. There are 4 doors to the building and each of these were guarded by soldiers with loaded muskets. After the service was over the convicts were marched back to the goal. In front of the altar is a stone slab with the name John Rowlands, Captain of the convicts. This man was not buried in the church on account of a good reputation as may be expected, but strange to say his career was full of horror and brutality. The convicts had said that if he was buried in the church yard, his body would be taken up and burnt. (This statement can be realized as many of the old graves have been interfered with and in some cases the slabs removed with a crow bar). This John Rowlands on one occasion ordered 28 men to be flogged and only 3 came out of the hospital alive. Mr. Lomas explained these things to us and explained to us many other points of interest about the district. The old dispensary (now used as a Sunday school) was built about 4 years before the church and stands a few yards to the south.

The next place to be visited was the old Goal now almost in ruins. Every brick bears the —> (arrow) mark and the cells along the northern side of the courtyard were dark stuffy and dismal. The old iron gates still stand and also the sentry box on one side and what appears to be the warder's quarters on the other. In the yard are 4 wells, three covered in and one open. We now enter the cells. They are only 4 ft x 6 ft and the only ventilation is from a round hole at the top about the size of a tea cup.

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1916 CYCLING TOUR BRISBANE TO SYDNEY, Continued

While I was standing inside one of these awful places, Cess closed the door. Here I realized what it must have been in those days now gone for ever. Just pause for a moment and image 5 or 6 poor wretches cramped up in a space 6 x 4 waiting perhaps for the triangle or execution. The full records of this place are unknown as they have been destroyed but when one sees for himself these old historic places and learns what is known of them, it sends a shudder of horror through you, to think that our sunny NSW was first populated by these terrible means of torture and brutality.

Friday September 8th – Heading to Taree

After visiting the goal, Cess road off for Taree as he wished to reach there on Friday night and I used my head so as to let him have a good time all by himself and..... I then visited Nobby's about ½ mile from town and took some photos. Well I think I saw most of Port Macquarie and after dinner pushed off south for Kew about 21 miles distant. The road was good to the Wauchope turn-off 7 miles along, but then became sandy. The country is interesting and as I pushed along I noticed the fern growth is thicker than up north, in fact, this particular road was not unlike the south coast. We have not seen any sugar or banana plantations south of the Clarence and are too far south for that sort of thing now. One thing I noticed on this trip is the absence of rabbits, as we have not seen a single rabbit on the whole trip.

At five o'clock I could see the little township of Kew from the top of the hill. This little place is situated at the foot of the Three Brothers Mountain near the Camden Haven. The night is spent quietly and I miss Cess's company but with good luck I should be in Taree by 1 o'clock Saturday – 32 miles.

The afternoon was spent on the Manning and Carters Creek. We picked up Eileen after school and then rowed to the mouth of Carters Creek but unfortunately the tide was too low to get the boat across. After a good deal of fun we turned back to Taree.

Tuesday September 12, 1916

We awoke at 5am and caught the little cream boat at 6am for the Lansdowne River. It was very cold but the stoke hold was not a bad place at all. The old skipper and Dick the engineer were sports and we had a good time passing Cundletown and Coopernook, then following the Lansdowne river picking up cream. This river is rather pretty and we had a most enjoyable trip arriving back at 3.30pm. Our trip was now almost finished as we intended catching the train home the next morning. The country around Dungog and Newcastle was already known to us so the train was taken on Wednesday morning arriving home at 7pm Wednesday night after a most adventurous trip.



*Submitted by Pam Jarman
Member No 551*

The following “Proffesions” or “Occupations”? All in 1881 British Census.

Twenty-four