

MANNING WALLAMBA FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY Inc TAREE

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THE FIG TREE



Operating Since 1985 in Partnership with

Mid Coast Libraries

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Well what a year just passed, we weathered it well and look forward to a new year 2021.

Your executive has been keeping their finger on the pulse working towards resuming some normality.

The great news is that by the time you read this we will be back at the library, although with restrictions, but most of those are our new normal.

As we return we would ask those who would be interested to do duty to put their hand up, training will be provided, and you do not have to be an expert.

Basically, it is knowing where to find the resources and you probably have been using them anyway.

If you can spare hours between 10 and 12 each of any of the six days please let the Secretary know.

Some of our members due to health cannot attend due to possible covid situations.

To all those not feeling the best our wishes extended to you.

We hope that we will soon be able to hold open meetings, currently we are limited to 15 in the meeting room.

What are your "Exceptional Finds"? there must be many so jot them down and send in to the Secretary to be published in the Fig Tree.

My exceptional find was in the Fig Tree last year having found the person who saved my life 68years ago.

It could be something that helped you that was unknown to others.

Welcome back and search those archives of our hidden past.

Ken Beeton

President

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 this
publication or from the
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.





The “theme” for 2021 will be
“EXCEPTIONAL FINDS”

Your articles don’t have to be limited to this theme, however, please share with us finds that have made all the difference to your research or perhaps gave you some insight into the life of one of your ancestors.

MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

As you know the Executive has been meeting regularly over the past 12 months during the Covid restrictions. However, we are hopeful that our monthly General Meetings will resume next month in the meeting room at the Taree Library.

All going well the first General Meeting for 2021 will be held on Monday 15th March commencing at 10.30am. The meeting will be held in line with Covid Regulations, and is currently restricted to 15 members. However, plans are in place to cover any over-flow. Where there is a will there is a way!

Looking forward to seeing you there



BUNNINGS BAR-B-QUE

Our next BBQ is scheduled for
16 May 2020

(Confirmation will be sent closer to the date—
just in case there is any change)



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

or

Add your name to the BBQ Roster in our
meeting room at Taree Library

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

With restrictions starting to ease the Society will
shortly start resuming its role in volunteering at
the library, by assisting with family research.
Whatever time you can spare will be appreciated,
even if it is only one or two days a month between
the hours of 10.00 am to 12 noon Mon – Fri

Training will be given and you won’t be left on your
own!!!

By volunteering you not only assist the Society to
maintain its genealogical service to the community,
it connects you to others with a common interest.

If you can help please just add your name to the
Duty Roster at the library or contact our secretary

secretary@manningwallambafhs.co.au

VOLUNTEER



LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

At the recent Executive Meeting our Librarian, Sue, advised that the Digital Magazines and Journals that we have received during the Covid restrictions in 2020, have not been printed out into hard copies, as you the members have not been able to come in and sit down to read them, as was the case prior to Covid.

However, Assistant Librarian Kay, has been busy producing a database of these publications, as well as the ones we already have hard copies of. Once we get going again, and all going well that should be very soon, members will be able to view the database and request any of these journals to be printed out in hard copy for use in our Resource Area, so you can sit and read while at the Library.



NSW & ACT ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES Inc.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2021

The 2021 Annual Family History Conference is to be held in Port Macquarie this year. This will be a "Virtual" Conference and we as a Society will be organising our own gathering to watch/take part in the Conference. The Conference is to be held on 11 September 2021 and our Society as a group plan to be involved.

At our next meeting we will open discussion on how this Zoom event will be organised from our end. It will be a full day event commencing at 8.30 am—5.00pm with morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea breaks. As planning gets underway and more information comes to hand we will keep you updated. Your ideas are always welcome.



The 2020 National Trust Heritage Awards

Category - Conservation Interiors & Objects

Congratulations to our members Janine Roberts & Penny Teerman co-founders of Mid Coast Stories, who in conjunction with the Manning Regional Art Gallery were one of the 2020 Winners of the National Trust Heritage Awards (Category)

Conservation Interiors & Objects.

The Forgotten Works of Pixie O'Harris and Olaf Harris – entered by Mid-Coast Stories and The Manning Regional Art Gallery



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

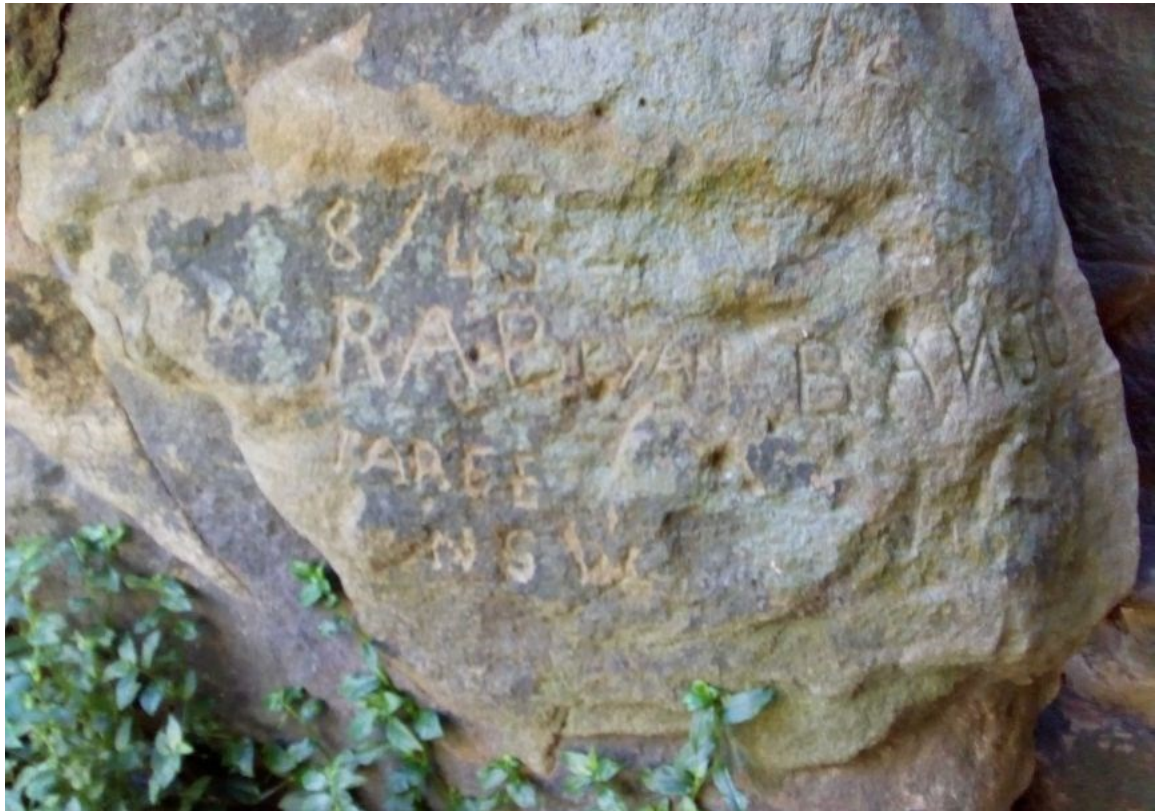
Please return to: Manning Wallamba Family History Society Inc. PO Box 48, Taree, 2430

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

I think you will agree the following article qualifies for “Exceptional Finds” the theme for this years FigTree.

THE MUSTARD GAS MEN

By Janine Roberts



In July 2020 this photograph was sent to the Manning Wallamba Family History Society in Taree by the Glenbrook District Historical Society. The engraved rock, located at the entrance of the old Glenbrook Railway tunnel at Lapstone Hill in the Blue Mountains, reads;

8/43

LAC R A Bryan

Taree

NSW

Who was R A Bryan and what role did he play in the history of this disused railway tunnel?

Ross Ashley Bryan was born in Taree in 1924. In 1943 he enlisted in the RAAF, perhaps with dreams of becoming a pilot. Instead Bryan underwent training as a armourer at Glenbrook RAAF base and on passing the course in August 1943 was posted to Glenbrook Tunnel.¹

The Mustard Gas Men (Continued)

Glenbrook Tunnel was one of 14 bulk storage facilities in Australia that was used to secretly store phosgene and mustard gas in case of chemical warfare attack from Japanese forces. Mustard gas had been used in WWI with devastating effects and as a result many countries, including Australia, became signatories to the Geneva Protocol 1925 prohibiting the use of chemical warfare.² Japan, however, was not a signatory and had likely used chemicals against the Chinese. In 1942 in a top-secret operation, Australia started importing one million chemical weapons from the UK and US.

A specialist chemical warfare unit was created to handle, transport and eventually destroy the stocks. Bryan was in this unit called the “Mustard Gas Men”. A daily duty was to release excess pressure that built up in the drums by unscrewing bungs to discharge the lethal gas into the air. Without suitable protective equipment, all men suffered gas burns and were constantly exposed to this carcinogen.



The men were never completely informed of the work they would be doing and signed documents which under the *Crimes Act*, bound them to secrecy for 50 years. One armourer stated “It (Mustard Gas) wasn’t supposed to be in Australia....wasn’t meant to be here...So we just didn’t exist...”³

The Mustard Gas Men (Continued)

After the war, Bryan married Valerie Kedwell at Coopernook⁴ and worked in a variety of jobs including motor mechanic at Taree, Mill Hand at Lansdowne and Labourer at Gateshead.⁵

It was not until the late 1900s that knowledge of these operations came to public notice and in 2009 the men of Glenbrook were recognised in a plaque-laying ceremony.⁶ Bryan died in 2005⁷ unaware his sacrifice had been acknowledged, however, through his rock carving we remember him today. Janine says the men held on to their "terrible secret" for 50 years



RAAF chemical warfare armourers at Innisfail 5 June 1944 as part of the chemical warfare research facility. Ross Ashley Bryan is standing on the steps behind the man sitting down. Photo courtesy of Geoff Plunkett

Janine wrote about Ross Bryan's story for the local heritage website, MidCoast Stories, which she co-founded with Penny Teerman and the story was taken up by ABC Mid-North Coast.

It was through that story that Mr Bryan's nephew, David Kedwell from Old Bar, NSW, first learnt of his uncle's wartime role.

"It's never been mentioned to me by any of my immediate family ... it's something that totally took me by surprise," he said.

"Isn't it an amazing thing, [it can come] from such a small act of carving your name into a rock," Mr Kedwell said.

"And the fact he carved Taree, NSW into the rock — he might never have been found.

The Mustard Gas Men (Continued)

Janine said it was highly satisfying a small clue from the past had allowed a man's life and his sacrifice to be remembered.

"It gives me such satisfaction to look at a photo — and to me I didn't think it was going to be much — and then it ends up to be this amazing story," she said. "And I feel privileged to be able to uncover the history that these clues tell us. I think without this little engraving, the story would have gone away into history and no one would remember."



Drums being cleaned under a tarpaulin in mid-1943 in the Glenbrook Tunnel by a chemical warfare armourer. (Supplied: Geoff Plunkett)

Author: Janine Roberts (Member No 16024) with special thanks to author Geoff Plunkett who shared his knowledge, photographs and book 'Chemical Warfare in Australia: Australia's Involvement in *Chemical Warfare 1914—Today*', Sydney: Leech Cup Books, 2013.

- ¹ Glenbrook Tunnel was known as No. 2 Sub Depot of No. 1 Central Reserve; NAA:A9301, 130838.
- ² <https://www.un.org/disarmanament/wmd/bio/1925-geneva-protocol/>
- ³ Geoff Plunkett, 'Chemical Warfare in Australia: Australia's Involvement in Chemical Warfare 1914—Today'. Leech Cup Books; Sydney 2013. Quote by Geoff Burn, page 50.
- ⁴ NSW BDM. Marriage Index for Ross Ashley Bryan and Valerie Chaffe Kenwell, NBo 13132/1951; Wingham Chronicle and Manning River Observer, 18 May 1951,
- ⁵ Ancestry.com.au, various electoral rolls.
- ⁶ Air Force News, 13 May 2010,
- ⁷ Ryerson Index, Ross Ashley Bryan, 2005, <http://ryersonindex.org/search.php>

Harrington Volunteers Bring History to Life

THE HARRINGTON HERITAGE RIVERWALK project was officially launched on September 21, with the unveiling of the largest sign - "The Newtons of Pelican: Pioneers, Shipbuilders, Mariners."

This sign, on The Roche Group land, was unveiled by two great-great granddaughters of Captain Alexander Newton - Helen McCann and Jenny New - together with David Gillespie MP and Riverwalk project team coordinator Kym Stanley.

There are nine interpretive signs in this first stage of the project; they are located between Gordon Smith Reserve and Pretoria Parade. The Newtons once owned all the river-frontage land along the open-river length of the Riverwalk in Harrington Waters.

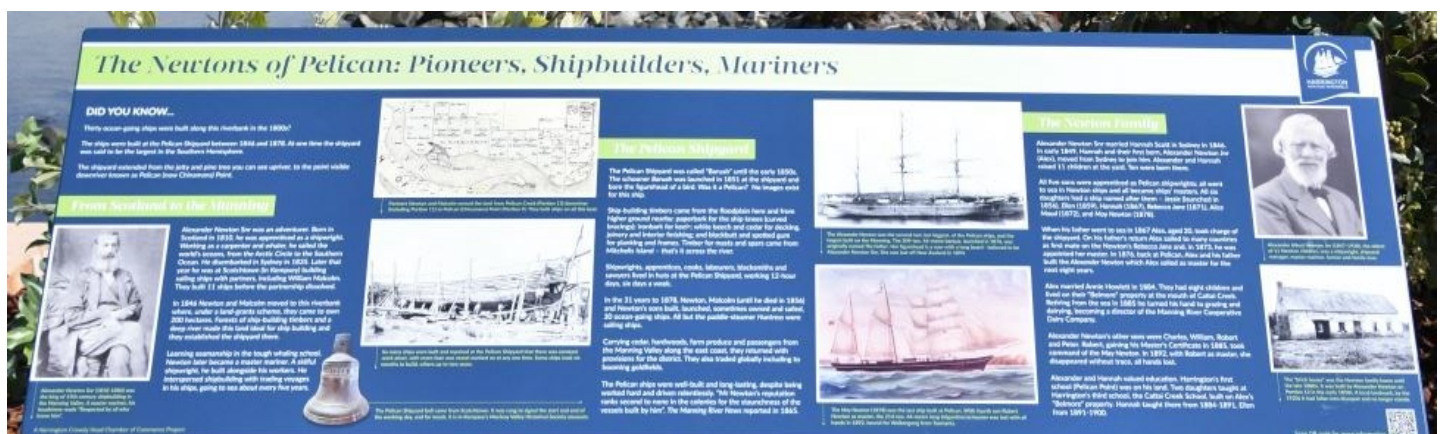
All nine signs tell fascinating stories about the history of ships and schools built by the Newtons, and of other ships with a connection to this stage of the Riverwalk. Two wayfinding signs, at the boat ramp and at Harrigan's Irish Pub, map the location of the signs. Two bollards – of Captain Newton (at the boat ramp) and a wayfinding bollard at the Pretoria Parade end – complete this stage of the project. The QR codes will be available in the coming weeks.

The project has taken 18 months to complete. The volunteer project team worked closely during this time with MidCoast Council, which manages the Crown Reserves along the walkway. Council consulted with all adjoining landowners, and provided final approvals for sign specifications and locations. The specifications and locations were planned and developed by the project team.

The signs, modelled on the popular signs along the Ballina Historic Waterfront Trail, were constructed by Taree-based Barrier Signs and installed by Harrington Lions Club volunteers.

Project funding came from two sources. A small "seed" grant from the Stronger Communities Programme was allocated through the office of federal member David Gillespie. The Harrington Crowdy Head Chamber of Commerce contributed the balance of the project cost from funds generated by *TellEverybody* magazine.

Thank you to Harrington Crowdy Head Chamber of Commerce for allowing this article to be copied from their *TellEverybody* monthly magazine.



THE FAMILY OF CATHERINE (KITTY) BANNISTER

Submitted by Joan Irvine

With lots of help from Graeme Rose

Following on from the article on Catherine (Kitty) Bannister in the previous FigTree Issue No 155, I was wondering how the children of her first marriage to William Jackson played out, particularly since their mother and father had such a “colourful” life.

I should point out that the following is not a full “life” history of her family, only a brief look at how they fared, with, I think you will agree some supposition on Graeme’s part, but still certainly in keeping with the lifestyle/history of the time.

I think it is fair to say that the eldest son William James seemed to scrub up okay, the girls well, what can I say, although Rachel appeared to end up in a comfortable relationship. This is in spite of everyone knowing that all Tasmanian’s in Victoria had left because they were “convict stained”. (Since I have Tassie heritage, I will stay well clear of this statement!) I should also point out that the research was not my doing, but that of our member and Vice-President Graeme Rose, who does have a connection to “Kitty”. She was his ggggrandmother and he is descended from Rachel Jane.

William James Jackson B:1835-1906

Obituary: “The Talbot Leader” Friday September 28 1906.

There passed away early on Monday (24th) morning last, an old and highly respected resident of Talbot, in the person of Mr. W. J. Jackson JP, which sad event took place at his residence, Clunes Road. The deceased who had been a martyr to rheumatism for 12 or 14 years, began to fail fast about two years ago and after suffering acutely and becoming much weaker, dropsy set in, death ending his sufferings as stated above. The late Mr. Jackson was 72 years of age and leaves a wife and grown up family of sons and daughters – eleven living out of thirteen. Mr. Jackson was born in Tasmania in 1835 and was attracted to Victoria on the outbreak of the diggings, arriving here in the year 1851 – 56 years ago. After a run of good luck in Victoria, he went to Tasmania for produce and was returning with a loaded ship of various kinds of goods, when the vessel was totally wrecked on Kent’s Group Isle (now Deal, Erith & Dover Is), and two hands lost. He subsisted for several weeks on mutton birds and their eggs, eventually being picked up by a passing ship and returned to the diggings and was on most of the rushes – Pleasant Creek, Firey Creek, Bendigo, Avoca, Ballarat etc. – with varying success. In 1857 he was married at Ararat and in 1860 found his way to Daisy Hill (now Amherst) and after spending some years on that goldfields he was the first to take up land in the vicinity of Talbot on which he has resided for upwards of forty years.

Mr. Jackson took a lively interest in public affairs and was elected a member of the Talbot Shire Council in 1888 and 3 times filled the Presidential Chair, whilst he was a member of the late Agricultural Society and Foresters’ Lodge. For many years he was a member of the School Board of Advice No. 250 and its Chairman, positions he held until his death. As a justice of the Peace for many years Mr. Jackson’s services were always available and a large amount of work was done in this capacity. The remains were interred in the Amherst Cemetery on Wednesday afternoon, the funeral cortege being a large and representative one.

Continued/

THE FAMILY OF CATHERINE (KITTY) BANNISTER (Continued)

Ann Mary (Jackson)(aka Ruth Jane) Woodworth/Torcetti B:1837-1893

Baby born 23 August 1837 coincides with parent's domestic violence trials, which would account for the lack of communication between the parents.

The baby was baptised as Ruth Jane on 3rd September at Holy Trinity Anglican Church, 50 Warwick Street, Hobart (by mother?).

Then, the same baby was baptised as Ann Mary 29th October at St. David's Anglican Church, 23 Murray Street, Hobart (by father?).

Both baptism records exist.

No further record of Ruth Jane Jackson so far found and she is definitely NOT the wife of Richard Backhouse. Evidence on her profile shows that Richard & Ruth Backhouse were married in Yorkshire before migrating to Hobart in 1850.

On the 9 August 1852 Ann Mary (not quite 15 y.o.) married William Woodworth in Independent Chapel, Brisbane Street, Hobart. At the time of their marriage William's occupation is Mariner. The marriage obviously had its problems as a notice in The Argus (Melbourne, Vic) Friday 28th July 1854 reads -

"CAUTION – The Public are hereby cautioned against harbouring my Wife, Ann Mary Woodworth, who has left her home without any provocation and I will not be answerable for any debts she may incur. William Woodworth."

Ann Mary presumably returns to her husband after the above as childbirths all follow this date. **Alternately**, she has moved west to Stawell to be with her mother and the rest of the family in her mother's brothel, abandoning William Woodworth in Ballarat before any births!!

What we do know is that between 1856-1860 William Woodworth is a vagrant in Ballarat area and as per his gaol record he is writing to Ann Mary, who presumably is living near Stawell or Majorca with mother Catherine.

I can only speculate about how Ann Mary just takes over the care of her half siblings, plus her own daughters and moves from western Victoria to Grenfell. Not an easy move. Was this already with the Swiss miners? Was everyone moving out of the ex-gold towns? She does not appear to start a brothel as her mother would have done. After her own experience she still did marry her 15 year old daughter to a 39 year old.

In 1864 after the death of her mother Catherine, Ann Mary Woodworth moves from Victoria to Grenfell, NSW following the discovery of gold there the same year, taking along her own daughters Esther & Mary Jane, together with her younger half-siblings Thomas & Sarah Dann (before 1869 Sarah's 1st marriage). Carlo Torcetti & Nicola Orsini are also attracted by the gold in the Grenfell area. By the time of the marriage of Esther to Nicola, Ann Mary is living with Carlo Torcetti.

THE FAMILY OF CATHERINE (KITTY) BANNISTER (Continued)

Ann Mary's daughter Esther, like her mother, married an old man Nicola Ostini, has 5 children by him then he dies (there is an extra child). She remarries to Henry Jobson who does not take the previous 6 children. These children are raised by Ann Mary and Carlo Torcetti. Esther then goes on to have 7 more with Henry.

Ann Mary died 1893 when the youngest Ostini is only 7 years old. Carlo Torcetti who runs a general store and sheep stations by then, needs a woman to run the store, so takes on widow Eliza Jane Hansen. The Ostini boys all work his properties and inherit them on his death.

Frederick Henry Jackson B:1839-1852

Frederick was born 17 June 1839 in Hobart Town, Van Diemen's Land, Australia. Sadly he died on 14th July 1852 aged 13. He was a cabin boy on the Zephyr and was washed overboard when the ship was wrecked in the vicinity of Bream Creek in the County of Pembroke on the eastern shore of the Derwent Estuary.

Rachel Jane (Jackson) Dowdle B:1843

Rachael Jane Jackson was born in 1843 in Hobart Town, Van Diemen's Land Australia. She was raised by her mother Catherine and stepfather William Dann. In 1850 William Dann is licensee of the "Man of Ross" Hotel in Liverpool St Hobart while Catherine (Jackson) Dann manages a large general store at Green Ponds. They give up both these to open a general store in Murray Street, Hobart near where the Dowdles live in Church Street.

In 1852 the Dann/Jackson family travel from Hobart to Melbourne on the "Shamrock". Also on board are John and John Jr. Dowdle.

In 1859 at age 16 Rachel probably contracts Syphilis from 42 year old Edward Peters the assumed father of her first child. In early infective stages all babies would be stillborn or die shortly afterwards. Francis Hill may also have been infected by her.

In 1860 Rachel marries her first husband Roman Catholic Francis Hill a miner from Charlton Central Victoria. However, in 1862 Francis leaves looking for work and she returns to her mother in Majorca (in 1862 Majorca Court Case confirms Rachel is still living with her mother Catherine in her brothel at Majorca receiving money from Francis Hill who is then at Lambing Flat, Young, NSW.

For the 10 years following the death of her mother Catherine she continues having John Dowdle's children until he marries her in 1874. It is presumed that John Jr. was only free to marry Rachel (previously a prostitute) on his father's death. At her marriage to John Dowdle, Rachel claims Francis Hill has died in Hobart 1862 and therefore she has been "widowed" for 12 years. No record found for this claim.

However, a Francis Hill died in the Forbes District of NSW in 1870. (Drowned himself in a dam).

Continued/

THE FAMILY OF CATHERINE (KITTY) BANNISTER (Continued)

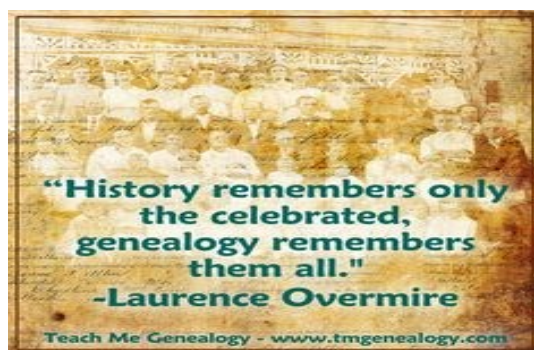
Rachel died 13 March 1891 from Cerebral Gummata (Tertiary Syphilis abscesses) on the brain. The ugliness of the illness is summarised in the memorial below.

“DOWDLE – In loving memory of our dear mother Rachel Jane,
the beloved wife of John V Dowdle, who died at Park Cottage
Hay, 13th May 1891.”

She sleeps in Jesus, free from pain,
Our loss, though great, to her was gain.
Beloved by all who knew her here.
And to her family non more dear.

Inserted by her loving sons, Samuel and John Dowdle.

Source: The Riverine Grazier Hay NSW Fri 11 Mar 1892 Page 2 Family Notices



Latin in Irish Roman Catholic Parish Registers

Here are some Latin words that you will often see in a Roman Catholic parish register.

afinitatus — related through a previous marriage of the two families

baptizatus - baptized

baptissadi nomen--christian name (give name)

cognomen--surname (family name)

conj./conjuncti—joined together in marriage

consanguinati en tertio grado—second cousins

coram—in the presence of (witnesses)

de—of

die--day

domicilium--abode (usually a townland within the parish but sometimes even smaller)

et—and

Filius—son of

Filia—daughter of

mense--month

natus--born

Patrini/Patrinorum or Sp. or Ss.—sponsors (godparents)

ACCURACY v ASSUMPTION There isn't much point in framing and displaying a neatly completed family tree template if half of the information in it is incorrect! Here are six quick tips to getting your genealogy research right:

1. Assume nothing! Just because a woman is a man's wife doesn't mean she is his children's mother; check their birth records. Just because you've only known your surname spelled one way doesn't mean people with variant spellings are not related to you; surname spellings have become consistent only in the last 100 years. Just because a gravestone says Great Grandma Hannah died in 1898 aged 68 doesn't mean she was born in 1830; check the birth records for up to ten years before that date.
2. Do your own research. The internet is heavily populated with family trees that have been copied, often many times, from sloppily researched or even deliberately misleading originals. It's tempting to grab a "ready made" tree or branch of a tree and attach it to a seemingly matching piece of your own ancestral heritage, but if you don't double-check every bit of the research, you could end up taking your own genealogy research in the wrong direction. What's the point of that?
3. Don't follow traditional naming patterns religiously. While they existed in Ireland and many other societies, few families always followed them. They can be a clue worth following up, but make sure you find the evidence before recording it as certain.
4. Check your maths before you start filling in dates on your family tree templates. A woman who married your 3 x great-grandfather in 1812 should not be recorded with an estimated date of birth in 1805 just because her 1841 census says she was 36.
5. Ditch the notion that all your ancestors were saintly and never told a lie. Vanity is not a modern phenomenon. It's been around for centuries. So has the pleasure of "getting one over on the authorities". Not everything noted in an official document will necessarily have been honestly recorded. There is also the possibility that there was some other influence at play when someone told an untruth. In many cases, they won't even have been providing misleading information intentionally. Age was less of an issue than it is now and many people didn't know exactly when they were born so they simply estimated. Bear in mind also that freedom of speech and religious practice are relatively modern notions. Your ancestors may well have lied about their true religious persuasion to avoid arrest, eviction or social exclusion.
6. Remember, while you still can, that your memory is fallible. Expect to forget who gave you that nugget of information about Great Aunt Nellie becoming a nurse overseas. There will come a day when you want to start tracing her life but don't know where to start or the name of your original source. Note everything. Get accustomed to taking a photocopy or transcribing the title page of every book or document that yields ancestral information. If you train yourself to carefully record all your sources, you will avoid having to duplicate your own efforts and will also allow others to evaluate the trustworthiness of your genealogy research. By following these guidelines you'll be able to proudly present your genealogy research in family tree templates and be confident that others can rely on it, too, including your own descendants.

Source: www.irish-genealogy-toolkit.com
Figtree, Issue 135, Aug 2015