

THE ENDEAVOUR



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BOTANY BAY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

Discovering Your Heritage

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	Maree Kirkland	Richard Linklater
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Meetings

Face to face meetings are held on the first Saturday of March, June, September and December at the Research Centre commencing at 1.30pm. Zoom meetings are held on the first and third Wednesdays of the month (except January) starting at 7.30pm.

Library and Research Centre Messages and Bookings Only: 02 9523 8948

Port Hacking Community Centre 184 Gannons Road Caringbah South NSW 2229
Open: 10am-2pm: Mon, Wed, Fri, 1st & 3rd Sat. For bus route 978 & timetable, see:
<https://transportnsw.info/routes/details/sydney-buses-network/978/31978>

Annual Membership Fees

From 1 Jul 2024: single – \$45; family – \$60; distance single – \$23; distance family – \$30; membership renewals due 1 July each year.

Research

Volunteers from BBFHS will research family history relevant to the Sutherland Shire for non-members: minimum fee of \$30 (first hour) and \$30 per hour thereafter.

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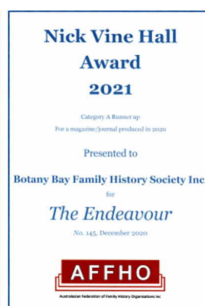
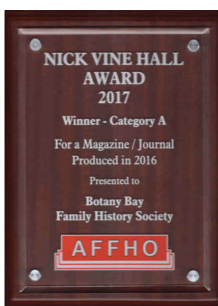
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CALENDAR



Members are advised to check latest details on our Events calendar at www.botanybayfhs.org.au or see your fortnightly BBFHS eNEWS

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| Feb 22 | Irish Interest Group: 2-4 pm on Zoom |
| Feb 25 | Family Tree Maker Interest Group: 1.30-3.30 pm on Zoom |
| Mar 1 | Meeting – 1.30 pm Research Centre. Saturday. Jeff Madsen.
<i>Historical Land Development in Sutherland Shire</i> |
| Mar 15 | Technology Group: 2-4 pm on Zoom (changed from Mar 8) |
| Mar 19 | Member's Chat Meeting – 7.30 pm on Zoom |
| Mar 20 | Tour to Dunera Exhibit |
| Mar 22 | DNA Interest Group: 1.30-3.30 pm on Zoom |
| Mar 27 | Writers Interest Group: 1.30-3.30 pm on Zoom |
| Mar 29 | BBFHS BBQ |
| Apr 2 | Meeting – 1.30 pm on Zoom. Speaker and topic to be advised |
| Apr 12 | Scottish Interest Group: 2-4pm at Research Centre |
| Apr 16 | Member's Chat Meeting – 7.30 pm on Zoom. |
| Apr 17 | Tour to Woronora Cemetery |
| Apr 19 – 21 | Easter Public Holidays – Research Centre closed |
| Apr 25 | ANZAC Day Public Holiday – Research Centre closed |
| May 3 – 18 | Sutherland Heritage Festival (BBFHS at Woronora Cemetery, 3 May and at Loftus Tramway Museum, 18 May) |
| May 7 | Meeting – 1.30 pm on Zoom. Speaker and topic to be advised |
| May 17 | Australian Focus One Day Seminar: Research Centre. |
| May 19 | Tour to City of Sydney Archives |
| May 21 | Member's Chat Meeting – 7.30 pm on Zoom. |
| May 22 | Writers Interest Group: 1.30-3.30pm on Zoom |
| May 24 | DNA Interest Group: 1.30-3.30pm on Zoom |
| May 27 | Family Tree Maker Interest Group: 1.30-3.30pm on Zoom |
| Jun 14 | Meeting – 1.30 pm Research Centre. Saturday. Gillian Lewis.
<i>The Battle between HMAS Sydney II and HSK Kormoran off Western Australia on 19 Nov 1941 and the Search for the Wreck</i> |
| Jun 9 | King's Birthday Public Holiday – Research Centre closed |
| Jun 18 | Member's Chat Meeting – 7.30 pm on Zoom. |
| Jun 19 | Tour to New South Wales Parliament |
| Jun 28 | Volunteers' Day: Research Centre |

Botany Bay Family History Society is a member of:



**NSW & ACT
Association of
Family History
Societies Inc.**



**The Australasian Federation of
Family History Organisations Inc.**



**FAMILY
HISTORY
Federation**

Supporting Family Historians since 1974

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the heart of our society – our volunteers. Without their dedication, time, and effort, Botany Bay Family History Society simply could not function. Volunteers are more valuable than any piece of equipment, computer program, or library resource, and I extend my sincere gratitude to each and every one of you who contributes to our success.

The BBFHS volunteers play a vital role in every aspect of the Society's operations: from operating our library and research centre, organizing events, helping members with research, running the second-hand book and raffle tables to producing our digital newsletter and quarterly journal. While I won't list every role, I want to emphasize that all volunteer contributions are essential to our ability to serve our members effectively. In an organization like ours, we can never have too many volunteers. If you have a skill set – whether from your past or present occupation or simply an interest in family history – we would love to find a volunteer role that suits you.

BBFHS is also dedicated to supporting you on your genealogical journey, and membership comes with numerous benefits, including:

- Becoming a more skilled and efficient researcher.
- Discovering new and valuable resources.
- Saving money by accessing research materials through the Society.
- Sharing your research and expertise with like-minded individuals.

And to ensure you stay informed and engaged, we offer several ways to keep in touch with the Society's activities:

- Our fortnightly newsletter provides updates on events, new resources and research tips.
- Our website and Facebook pages keep you informed about upcoming meetings, special projects, and research resources.
- Our online private Forum is a wonderful place for members to help each other.
- Workshops and courses help both beginners and experienced researchers expand their knowledge.
- And our Research Centre is an invaluable resource for members conducting family history research.

As we move forward, I encourage each of you to get involved, whether by volunteering, attending meetings, contributing articles to our journal, or simply

engaging with fellow members. Your participation helps strengthen our Society and ensures that we continue to thrive.

Thank you for being part of Botany Bay Family History Society. I look forward to another successful year ahead and hope to see many of you at our upcoming events.

Jennie Fairs



Illawarra Family History Group

Advance Notice:

NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc.
40th Annual Conference

Host: Illawarra Family History Group Inc.

Date: 12, 13 & 14 September 2025

Venue: Fraternity Club, 11 Bourke St., Fairy Meadow, (Wollongong), 2519

Theme: They Came From Where?

RESEARCH CENTRE OPENING TIMES

Monday, Wednesday and Friday – 10 am to 2 pm
Saturdays by appointment, by the prior Wednesday night.

Please phone 9523 8948 if going in after midday.

When researching, please ask for help if you need it – it is why the Centre assistants are there and they love to help.

MY MOST INSPIRATIONAL ANCESTOR – WINIFRED MAY SMITH

by Gail **Wright** (Member)

My most inspirational ancestor is my parental grandmother Winifred May **Smith**, known to her grandchildren as Nana **Bartlett**. Winifred's parents were William Henry Smith from Cooma, New South Wales and Mary Ann **Woods** from Hill End, New South Wales. They were married on 4 March 1891, in Cooma.

Cooma was a growing town. Its economy, however, was sustained by lumbering, joinery work, steel fabrication, sheep and cattle farming. Winifred's family had settled in the Monaro district of New South Wales in the late 1830s. The Smiths were farmers living and working off the land.

Winifred May Smith was born 30 May 1892, in Cooma – the second of thirteen children, seven brothers and five sisters. The family lived in Cooma for five years where four children were born. Winifred's father was a builder. With thousands flocking to the Temora goldfields, in 1897 the family moved there, where there was more work for a builder.

In Temora the family grew with the birth of three more children. However, just after arriving in Temora, tragedy struck the family. Winifred's youngest sister Gertrude Alice passed away aged one.

When the Temora goldfield eventually collapsed, the population dropped rapidly. In 1903 William and Mary Smith took their family and moved to Sydney. William could find work as a builder and with hope they could give their children a better life with schooling and for their health.

Tragedy struck the family again just after their arrival. Winifred's brother Charles Henry, last to be born in Temora, passed away aged one.

The family lived around the Erskineville area where six more children were born, but further tragedy saw Elsie Mary Ella, aged one and Ethel Lilian also aged one, passing away. The family finally settled in St Peters.

Winifred married John Henry **Bartlett** at the Church of the Holy Trinity in Erskineville on 10 December 1908. Winifred's age is recorded as eighteen and her father gave consent to the marriage as she was not twenty-one. Winifred's age was incorrect, as she was only sixteen.

John and Winifred Bartlett lived in various Sydney suburbs – in Erskineville, Tempe, Bankstown, Flemington, Redfern, finally settling down in the late 1920s at Campbell Street, St Peters, in a two-bedroom terrace house.

Winifred's first child was born just before her seventeenth birthday. She went on to have eight more children: eight sons and one daughter. Interestingly, six of her sons married women whose names started with the letter 'M'.



The Bartlett family at Alfred's wedding – 4 May 1940. Back row: Charles, Frederick, Lesley, Alfred and Harry; middle row: Ronnie, Alice and John; front row: John senior, Winifred May and Arthur (photo: Wright family album).

Winifred's older brother, Percy Harold Bartlett was working as a bricklayer; when he enlisted on 15 November 1915 as a Private in the Australian Army. On reaching France he joined 20th Battalion as part of the 10th Reinforcements. On 5 August 1916, just six days after joining the Battalion he took part in his first and only battle, the Battle for Mouquet Farm, Pozieres, in which he died. Percy is one of many Australian soldiers who have an 'unknown grave'. Percy left a wife and a young daughter.

Winifred's brother Reginald (Reg) Edward Smith, born 1 March 1900 in Temora, joined the Army in WW2. Reg enlisted on 23 June 1940 and was posted to 2/30th Battalion 2AIF. He arrived in Singapore on 18 August 1940 and became a POW with the fall of Singapore. He was later transferred to the Sandakan POW Camp in north Borneo. On 31 March 1945, Reg died as a prisoner of the Japanese. Reg had remarried just before leaving for Singapore and had three daughters from his first marriage.

Four of Winifred's sons served during the Second World War: Alfred, Harry, Charles in the Army and John in the RAAF. They served in Australia and Papua – New Guinea including the defence of Darwin. All returned safely home.

Winifred's third son Frederick (Freddy) died on 15 Feb 1942 while travelling as a sidecar passenger – the motorcycle crashed into an electric power pole in King Street, Newtown. Freddy was married with a young son. Winifred was shocked to hear about the accident and the death of her son. The accident made the news in various newspapers including the *Goulburn Evening Post*.

Winifred's sons grew up playing soccer at Tempe Park, playing every Saturday or Sunday afternoon as the St Columbus Soccer Team. Winifred was proud of her sons playing soccer as both children and adults. Henry (Harry), who became a referee, was their Honorary Secretary and Treasurer for the team. Charles (Chicka) was a player and coached the St Columbus Team.

Brian Clay, a very well-known player with St George Rugby League, agreed to play with the St Columbus Soccer team on Saturdays. However, if the game was played on a Sunday, he had an agreement with Winifred and her sons that they had to go to church on the Sunday morning before they played.

When Chicka's second wife died a year after their daughter, Susan Helen was born, Winifred and her unmarried daughter Alice brought Susan up in their family home, as Chicka worked nightshift. Winifred encouraged her sons and grandchildren to visit so Helen would have someone to play with. I remember playing with hula hoops, dolls, hopscotch, marbles and ball games outside in the backyard. There was a paddock beside their house where John Bartlett kept a pony and cart. He would often take the grandchildren for rides.

Reunions would be held at Winifred and John's home which was near the brick pits on the Princes Highway at St Peters. All the families attended, including all her grandchildren, celebrating birthdays, anniversaries or football finals. Sometimes, we met just for a get-together to play cards and to catch up with family news.

When Winifred passed on 13 February 1962, she had 20 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Her beloved husband John passed on 10 February 1964.

Out of her nine children only her youngest son, Arthur, aged 91 is still alive today and lives in Woy Woy, NSW.

Winifred was close to all her brothers and sisters. Despite losing four siblings at a young age and two brothers in the World Wars and a son in an accident, she always had a cheerful outlook on life.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Gail's article was a worthy contender for the 2024 Lyndal Holland Writing Competition. I hope you enjoyed it.

BBFHS EDUCATION PROGRAM

by Carol **Cronin** (Educator)

It seems to me that just about everything we do at BBFHS is education one way or another. There are the wonderful volunteers at the Research Centre who spend their time guiding people through the intricacies of many of the online platforms or suggesting other materials in the library that may prove useful. We have the Interest Groups and Special Interest Days where the learning is very real and where there are always willing members to help break down a brick wall or two; our monthly guest speakers who spark our interest in a wide range of topics and the webinars in our Members' Lounge on the BBFHS website.

Besides all of this we do hold specific workshops over the course of the year. The most recent was Part 2 of ***Making Better Use of Word.*** The enthusiasm of the class was wonderful and all left promising to go home and practise at least some of what they learnt!

Our next class for the year will be ***Investigate Where You Live*** on 18 March. This will be a practical workshop applying the theory learnt in the March monthly meeting. Participants at the workshop will be guided through researching a particular property of their choice, possibly their family home or another of significance in their family story. Bookings for this class need to be made on the BBFHS website by 14 March.



*Members attending the **Making Better Use of Word** workshop (photo: Carol Cronin)*

Participating in the workshop will be guided through researching a particular property of their choice, possibly their family home or another of significance in their family story. Bookings for this class need to be made on the BBFHS website by 14 March.

Another of our workshops for 2025 is an ***Introduction to DNA*** on 3 June. This would be an ideal starting point for those of us, like myself, who have only just ventured into the world of DNA. Again details are on the website.

A reminder that the classes at RootsTech, (Thu, 6 Mar 2025 – Sat, 8 Mar 2025), are available online long after the official dates. They provide a wealth of learning and may just provide the insight you need to pursue more of your family story.

Enjoy all the learning as you pursue that elusive relative.



Members attending the ***Making Better Use of Word*** workshop (photo: Carol Cronin)

NEW MEMBERS

We offer a warm welcome to the following new members. Please use your membership to attend meetings, interest groups, classes and the Research Centre (and please ask for help if you need it).

1971	John Adamson	Caringbah South
1972	Erica Buzo	Oyster Bay
1973	Win Flack	Barden Ridge
1974	Lynne Boyd	Taren Point
1975	Leanne Blake	Barden Ridge

COPY DEADLINE

Please submit copy for the June 2025 journal as soon as you have it available but the deadline is **Wednesday 7 May** – preferably by email to the Editor at bbfhs_eds@yahoo.com.au. Copy may also be left in the Editor's folder at the Centre, handed to the Editor or a committee member at a quarterly meeting or posted to 184 Gannons Road Caringbah South NSW 2227. Please include your name and state if you want any materials returned.

IN TROUBLE WITH THE LAW

by Glen O'Connor (Member)

Quite a few people sitting on branches of my family tree were given the opportunity to spend some time examining the fine architectural and ornamental details found in many of the court houses of NSW. They may have missed that great opportunity, however, because they were actually in the courts for breaking the law.

Over time, these miscreant relatives between them ran up a long list of charges. At the top of the list for frequency were the popular public drunkenness and unlawful language. Being drunk in a public place was an offence without doing anything else. Singing loudly or yelling forcefully could easily bring the constabulary into play. For a long time, unlawful language could be profane (impolite or rude), indecent (mild to strong swearing) or obscene (mentioning certain bodily functions or activities).

Then there were the assaults, the larcenies, the burglaries, the animal rustling, the trespassings, the furious driving of a carriage and so on, right down to parking on the wrong side of the road. Domestic violence and sexual offences were almost unknown to this group thankfully (or at least not reported).

But the relatives I really felt sorry for were the ones who fell afoul of some of the large number of day to day regulations (mostly now gone) that were often petty in nature or unfairly applied. Here are just a few examples of the unfairness some of these relatives experienced.

Thomas McPhee – Dairy Farmer

Tom was a well-known and respected dairy farmer in the Coldstream area on the Clarence River downstream from Grafton. His reputation as a strong supporter and proponent of local issues had spread around the district. He stood for election to Orara Council at least three times between 1934 and 1941 but was unsuccessful, mainly due to the strong field of other candidates.

Tom was a farmer on a number of properties in the area. He was appointed secretary of the Lower Coldstream Pastures Protection Union and a director of the Ulmarra Butter Factory. By 1942, he had been elected as treasurer and assistant secretary of the 1,000 member strong Clarence Stock Owners League, a position which brought him into an acrimonious clash with the NSW Government.

Cattle ticks had found their way into New South Wales from Queensland in 1906 but it wasn't until 1920 that formal regulations were introduced to control ticks. Hundreds of Government cattle dipping yards were built but there was a lot of resentment by the cattle owners who were forced to have their cattle dipped.

Many cows died from injury or were maimed in the dips. The dip water was treated with an arsenic based insecticide which could cause a painful death to any cow drinking the water while in the dip.

Parts of the Clarence River region were declared a quarantine area in the 1930s. Early eradication was achieved by spraying infected cattle. However, this practice changed following a limited outbreak in late 1941 when farmers were given orders to build cattle dips on their properties at their own cost and then have all their cattle treated, whether infected or not.



Farming at Lower Coldstream (photo: G.D. O'Connor)

Resistance flared when only a small number of contained herds were found to be actually infected. The vast majority of farms were tick free. The stock owners felt that only those cattle actually infected needed treatment but this was rejected by the regulators. The stockowners also believed the cost to them of compliance with the eradication program was a waste of vast amounts of their money.

Tom and other stock owners refused to dip their clean herds. The Government started a series of prosecutions against the rebels. Tom was one of the first three owners to be prosecuted. In his case in the Grafton Court of Petty Sessions in April 1942, the magistrate dismissed all charges based on a particular interpretation of sections of the legislation. Later in the year the NSW Supreme Court ruled the magistrate was wrong and the cases were sent back to Grafton Court. Tom and his fellow rebels sought leave to appeal to the High Court but their

application was rejected. The Grafton Court re-heard the charges in September 1942 and found all three guilty but then dismissed the convictions as they were first offences.

If the Government thought it had overturned the rebellion, it was wrong. Many other stock owners took up the cause and refused to dip their cattle. They were duly fined but they considered the fine a small price in comparison with the stock losses. Some stock owners refused to pay the fine as a matter of principle and went to prison in protest. Others who were less tolerant went to prison for violently defying local tick inspectors who tried to remove cattle from the stock owners.

The tick war was fought at the same time as the Second World War. Many of the farmers involved had sons and daughters in the forces who were dismayed at the harsh treatment given by the Government to their parents. A lot of the cattle meat and dairy products was sent to supply the armed forces.

Few Government employees received a welcome along the Clarence River for many years. Better practices and common sense eventually prevailed in controlling tick diseases.

Harry Murphy - Baker

Harry went from being a bread carter to a bread baker after he realised how much time the local police spent targeting bread van drivers in Kempsey in the 1920s for not parking close enough to the kerb or for leaving a van door open while making deliveries.

Harry was determined to learn everything he could about the art of cooking with dough. He soon started winning prizes for Best Baker's Loaves at the Central North Coast National Shows held at Kempsey, which was no mean feat as there were at least nine bakers in Kempsey at the time.¹

Over the next 20 years Harry established his bakery as one of the best on the North Coast of NSW and he continued to win prizes and other accolades. But the scourge of a Government inspector on the prowl eventually caught up with him.

In 1949 Harry was one of five Kempsey bakers prosecuted for selling bread above the fixed price. Price fixing of essential goods like bread had been ruthlessly enforced during the Second World War as a means of keeping the economy on a war footing and to stop profiteering. But by 1949, four years after the war had ended, price fixing was still in place and very unpopular because it led to shortages and rationing. This was one of the main reasons for the defeat of the Federal Labor Government in December 1949.

In Harry's case, 7½ pence was the fixed price of a 2lb loaf of bread. The Kempsey bakers had submitted a claim to the Prices Branch in June for the price to

rise to 8½ pence because it cost almost 8 pence to make a loaf and this argument was accepted by the Prices Branch. After receiving no further reply by August, the five bakers put their prices up as an alternative to stopping production.

When charged by the Government inspector, they all pleaded guilty and the magistrate imposed fines and costs representing half of the money made from the increase. Harry was fined £90 with costs of £5/3. The magistrate may have been lenient but his criticism was harsh (and somewhat alliterative) when he said “when they fix their own price they, in effect, affect the effective wage of all persons who are on fixed wages ... no section of the community can fix their own prices.”² How times have changed.



Typical Country Baker's Oven (photo: Flickr (denisbin))

But that was not the end of Harry's troubles. To further keep the community safe, Government inspectors regularly took samples of commodities like milk and bread to ensure that standards were maintained.

In 1951, Harry was caught selling brown bread with less than 60% wholemeal flour. In Harry's case, the loaves tested only contained 52.5% wholemeal flour but he explained that when mixing the dough the full 60% of wholemeal flour is added to the batch but it is impossible to get it to mix in perfect proportion before you overmix it and the glutens in the mix become affected.

The law does not allow you to add extra to ensure compliance. The magistrate also heard that white flour costs more than wholemeal flour so there was no profiteering. Unable to accept the logic of these arguments, the magistrate fined the arch criminal Harry a total of £4.

On the same day, the same inspector gleefully prosecuted a milk bar owner for selling a milkshake where the milk in the metal container had not been shaken first, which meant that, as the non-homogenised fat had not been evenly distributed in the milk, some milkshakes had less fat than the regulated amount (although others had more).³ Enforcement of regulations were often seen as petty and harsh. The prosecution of regulation breaches was a major industry in its own right.

Ernest Rees - Offalman

Young Ernie was working as a barman in the NSW country town of Aberdeen when he met Annie **Meredith**, a daughter of a wealthy farming family who also raised race horses. You could say Ernie rose well above his station when the two were married in 1931.

Ernie then progressed to become a general labourer before finding his niche as a meat worker at the Aberdeen abattoir run by the Australian Chilling and Freezing Company Ltd.



Aberdeen Abattoir (photo: Australian Abattoirs)

It was an offence for workers to refuse to work on work days where the work involved supplying the army. These war time regulations had been made to overcome stoppages and strikes by some unions who had deliberately withheld the supply of food, weapons and other materials to fighting forces to get wage rises.

The issue had become very emotional across the country. In 1943 New Year's Day fell on a Friday. It was traditional for New Year's Day to be treated by New South Wales as a public holiday. However, to help with the war effort, the Federal Government had declared Monday 28 December 1942 as a public holiday in lieu of the Friday, effectively making 1st of January an ordinary working day, at least for Federal purposes. To complicate matters, the workers at the abattoir worked under an industrial award that said that the first day of January every year was a public holiday, at least for them, and therefore did not count as a work day.

A meeting of workers on 31 December decided by a majority (mostly all of the younger workers) that the regulations did not apply because 1 January was not a work day. Most of the older workers, including Ernie, did not agree and they turned up for work on the day. As there were insufficient workers to process the sheep that day, there was no point killing them, so the workers, who had remained idle for most of the morning, left early in the afternoon.

Part of the meat was destined for the army. The Government decided to prosecute all of the workers including those who had turned up but who had left before the end of their shift. Ernie and his co-workers were found guilty but given the rather light punishment of a £5 bond to comply with the regulations in future.⁴ This was an attempt by the court to deal with the unintended consequences of an onerous regulation and a lack of tolerance and common sense. I should add that the workers had a reputation for being a bit bolshie and often found themselves on the other side of regulations.

By 1949 Ernie had risen to the rank of offalman, which in his case involved the cutting out and cleaning of the livers, kidneys, brains, and other less attractive animal parts. He also got to make bacon, devon, brawn and a variety of cured and smoked meats. While Annie continued raising race horses, Ernie had success with raising and racing greyhounds.

Malvina Rhind – Sweet Shop Owner

Vina, as she was known, and her husband William set up a shop in Willoughby Road, Crow's Nest on the direct tram route from McMahon's Point. At the time, Crow's Nest was a growing village on the outskirts of North Sydney. Beyond Crow's Nest, the countryside was either rural or native bushland. Willoughby Road was still mostly a dirt road as it headed north. In December 1901 William successfully applied for a wine licence for the shop. In time, the shop also sold alcoholic and non-alcoholic cordials and confectionary.

William mostly worked away from home, employed by the Australian United Steam Navigation Company of Brisbane as a chief steward on ships engaged in the trade and passenger business along the east coast of Australia.

Vina was left to run the shop on her own but it wasn't long before she ran into trouble with the law. She would have been ignorant of much of the myriad of red tape that existed even in those days but she should have known that trading on the Sabbath (Sunday) was an offence taken very seriously by the authorities. She was prosecuted at North Sydney Court for being the keeper of a refreshment shop who opened the premises for business on a Sunday.

In fact, Vina and her children lived at the back of the shop and had invited a few relatives to Sunday lunch. As the guests were leaving through the shop after lunch, a local woman and good customer ducked into the shop looking to buy "a few lollies". The warm-hearted Vina quickly obliged. The woman was seen leaving the shop and the authorities were soon notified. For this wickedness on the Sabbath, Vina was fined five shillings plus costs.⁵



Malvina Rhind (on the right) and family (photo: Frost family collection)

In conclusion, it's a pity some of my relatives ended up with a criminal record over these types of regulation breaches but for many, particularly those with Irish heritage, they carried those records as a badge of honour.

REFERENCES

1. *The Macleay Chronicle* 3 April 1935, page 5
2. *The Macleay Chronicle* 6 April 1949, page 3
3. *The Macleay Chronicle* 14 November 1951, page 3
4. *The Muswellbrook Chronicle* 26 January 1943, page 1
5. *Evening News* 11 February 1902, page 3 but reported with the name Nalvina Rhind



This article lists the new Library accessions. We remind members that there is a wealth of family history information accumulated over some 41 years in our Library. **Not everything is online!** Check out our library catalogue at <http://www.botanybayfhs.org.au/library--research-centre.html>. You may be very surprised at what you find! **Come to the Research Centre and have a look.** Thank you for the donations from those members who are ‘downsizing’.

AUSTRALIA

- Writing the Story of your Life – The Ultimate Guide. [A.GUI.3.18LC]
- The Family History Book – How to Trace Your Ancestors in Australia. [A.GUI.1.30LC]
- The Psychology Of Family History – Exploring Our Genealogy. [A.GUI.1.29LC]

NEW SOUTH WALES

- Bedlam at Botany Bay. [AN.HIS.19.17LC]
- Curious Eyes: Spanish, French and American Expeditions Watched the Fledgling Convict Colony at Port Jackson. What Were Their Motives? What did They See? [AN.HIS.1.39LC]
- Railway Album No 4. NSW Rail Transport Museum. [AN.HIS.28.9LC]
- Sassafras – The Parish of Sixty Farms. [AN.LH.2622.5LC]
- West of the Bland – A History of the Wyalong District. [AN.LH.2671.1LC]
- Sydney Town Hall – A Social History. [AN.LH.2000.22LC]

VICTORIA

- Ovens Valley. (Victoria). [AV.LH.3738.1LC]

OVERSEAS

- English Villages in Pictures. [E.HIS.41.8LC]
- English Cathedrals and Abbeys. [E.HIS.22.3LC]
- Castles and Manor Houses. [E.HIS.23.1LC]
- Cotswold Stone Homes, History, Conservation, Care. [E.GLS.LH.2LC]
- Looking Back Again – People, Places and Pastimes in Kenilworth during the Past Hundred Years. [E.WAR.LH.1LC]

GENERAL

- The Voyage of the First Fleet, 1787-1788. Taken from Contemporary Accounts. [G.CON.HIS.48LC]
- Greycliffe – Stolen Lives. [G.IMM.SHP.AN.HIS.2.9LC]
- Axemen – Stand by your Logs. [G.OCC.A.HIS.6LC]

Note: ‘LC’ indicates a loan copy, which can be borrowed; ‘CD’ a compact disc.

Compiled by Janette **Daly** (Librarian)

BBFHS INTEREST GROUPS

by Barbara **Barnes** (Interest Groups Coordinator)

To all members, long timers, new members and those in between, please adopt or revisit Interest Groups are available to give your Family Trees and to with suggestions by fellow discussion interaction also assists the Society's for community enjoyment. We yours! Please feel free to contact a



in 2025. These smaller groups research assistance with break down brick walls participants. The during a group's session function to be a social hub all love stories. Let us hear coordinator for further information.

The group coordinators are:

Irish Interest – Elizabeth **Steinlein** (care of info@botanybayfhs.org.au)

Scottish Interest – Jean **Campbell** (jeanhcampbell47@gmail.com)

Writers Interest – Leonie **Bell** (Leonie.NB65@gmail.com)

Family Tree Maker for Windows and Macs –

Pam Heather (pamheather@gmail.com)

DNA for Family History – John **Levy** (j.levy@bigpond.net.au)

Technology Interest – Jennie **Fairs** (fairsj@gmail.com)

UPCOMING PROGRAM

IRISH INTEREST:	Saturday 22 February 2 – 4pm
By ZOOM	
SCOTTISH INTEREST:	Saturday 12 April 2 – 4pm
At the Research Centre	
WRITERS INTEREST:	Thursday 27 March 1.30 – 3.30pm
By ZOOM	Thursday 22 May 1.30 – 3.30pm
FAMILY TREE MAKER	Tuesday 27 May 1.30 – 3.30pm
FOR WINDOWS & MACS:	
By ZOOM	

DNA FOR FAMILY HISTORY: Saturday 22 March 1.30 – 3.30pm

By ZOOM Saturday 24 May 1.30 – 3.30pm

TECHNOLOGY INTEREST: Saturday 15 March 2 – 4 pm

By ZOOM

AUSTRALIAN FOCUS ONE Saturday 17 May

DAY SEMINAR:

At the Research Centre

NOTE: Session dates are organised months in advance, so members are advised to check the latest details on our Events Calendar at www.botanybayfhs.org.au or see your fortnightly BBFHS eNEWS. You can book and pay the \$5 fee to attend an interest group meeting at <http://www.botanybayfhs.org.au/payments.html>, preferably 24 hours prior to the meeting.



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PLEASE MENTION *THE ENDEAVOUR* WHEN CONTACTING

THE 1885 COOTAMUNDRA (SALT CLAY CREEK) RAILWAY DISASTER

by John Levy (Editor)

Under the darkening cloud-filled sky, the evening closed in and rain continued to fall. The night mail express train from Albury to Sydney was headed into Cootamundra at about 8 pm with the crew and passengers about to experience Australia's worst railway disaster to that time. Because, at Salt Clay Creek 5 km south of Cootamundra, the rain-swollen creek had overtopped the railway culvert and washed it away leaving a gap some 50 m wide. With virtually no warning, and despite the brakes being applied and the engine reversed, the train was still travelling at speed when it descended the gradient and reached the edge. The engine jumped partially over the gap, and just reached the opposite side, so that the train's carriages dammed up the swirling waters.

The tragic story that unfolded on the evening and night of 25 January 1885 was told dramatically in all the newspapers of the day. Here is one of them:¹

Several carriages were telescoped and a scene of indescribable horror ensued. Many passengers were washed down the stream, several of them being killed by the force of the collision. Others, however, miraculously escaped unhurt. A gentleman standing by the side of the guard of the sleeping van escaped unhurt, while the guard was instantaneously killed. Numerous vehicles went out from the township of Cootamundra directly the accident was made known, but as the ordinary road was impassable, they had extreme difficulty in getting to the scene of the accident, as the only access was across steep rocky hills. The scene when reached was one never to be forgotten. The night was dark, and wet. Fires were made with the debris, round which were placed the wounded. Doctors **Combs** and **Agassiz**, of Cootamundra, were in attendance, and the injured are now being brought into the town, and are being accommodated at Mr. John **Harley's**, about two miles from the scene of the accident. The train is now lying in the creek in a gorge fifty yards (50 m) wide and nine feet (3 m) deep. The driver and fireman are both badly injured. Some of the escapes were truly miraculous. Two persons were rescued out of the cars an hour after the accident occurred.

Earlier, a length of about twenty chains (400 m) of line had been washed away a mile and a half (2.5 km) on the Cootamundra side of the place where the accident occurred at about 6 o'clock in the evening. A fettle hastened to the stationmaster, who endeavoured to wire to Bethungra to stop the mail train, but the (telegraph) line being down, this was impossible. A man was

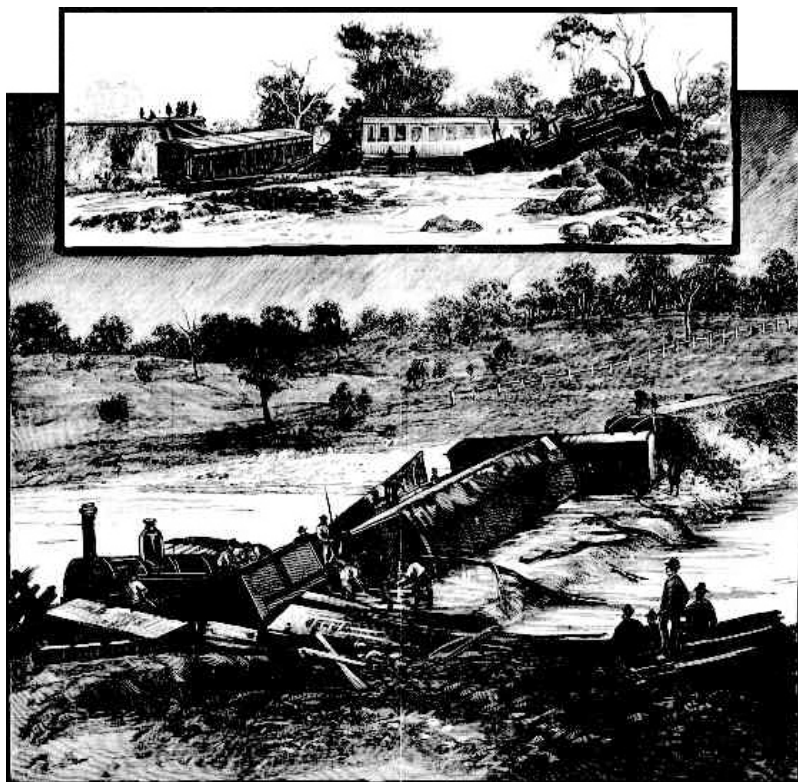
then sent to warn the train, but there was no idea of the terrible gap further on. The rainfall for the last thirty-six hours has been totally unprecedented, being nearly 8 inches (200 mm). The main streets of the town have been, and are still, running like rivers.



The aftermath of the disaster (photo: George Henry Nicholson)

The man Wm. **Bergin**, who was so seriously injured, died at 11 o'clock this morning, after suffering great agony. He passed away peacefully, several of his friends being present throughout his sufferings. Bergin displayed an unselfish spirit and great courage, which were admired by all who witnessed them. Search parties continue to look for more bodies. A human head was discovered some distance down the creek this morning but it has not yet been identified.

The inquest on the bodies of the persons killed in the accident was resumed to-day. Mr **O'Donnell** appeared on behalf of Messrs **Cohen, Saqui and Snider**, and Mr **Healey** on behalf of the New South Wales railway department. After a deal of evidence was taken the jury, after deliberation for two hours, returned the following verdict: "We find that the death of Mrs **Hudson**, Alfred **Wilson**, Joseph **Campey**, John **O'Dwyer**, John **Hade**, Henry **Holmes**, and William **Bergin** was caused by the mail train on which the deceased travelled meeting with an accident, through the washing away of an embankment at the Salt Clay Creek. That the Government have shown negligence in not having caused the culvert at Salt Clay Creek to have been built on a much larger scale; and we are also of opinion that the accident might have been averted had there been more lamps than one provided for each gang of fettlers." The following rider was added:-"We are also of the opinion that Mr. George **Hawkes** is worthy of great credit for his efforts on the night of the accident, and that he merits some recognition from the Government for his action during the whole of that night."



Artist rendering of the disaster site

My interest in this tragic event came about from my close family connexion to one of the passengers. His name was Joe **Thompson**, the “King of the Ring”, a very well-known bookmaker in his day, and the nephew of my great grandfather John **Levy**. Joe’s brother-in-law Oscar **Barnett**, another bookmaker, was also a passenger. The bookmakers of Melbourne stood at the Elsternwick Park races on Saturday and were unable to catch the ordinary mail train leaving for Sydney at 3 pm, so Joe chartered a special train that left at 7 pm. The nineteen bookmakers wanted to stand at the lucrative Sydney races on the public holiday Monday, on New South Wales Anniversary Day (26 January). At Albury, because of the different rail gauges in Victoria and New South Wales, the passengers of both trains from Melbourne transferred to the ill-fated mail train to Sydney, which left at 3 pm Sunday.

As a consequence of the events described above, of the 57 or so passengers and crew about 20 survived uninjured, 30 had injuries to varying extents (about 20 seriously injured) and seven died. All of the bookmakers survived the disaster, with nine being injured – three severely. Joe Thompson, ‘luckily’, only suffered fractured ribs and in the following telegram that he sent to the newspapers, he records his thoughts:²

To attempt to give a description of the sad disaster would be impossible. We simply heard the brakes applied hard, two bumps, and then a crash. Our carriage, the sleeping car, was telescoped, and was full of water. The greatest miracle that could have occurred was that the roof came off, which saved us all from a watery grave. Another extraordinary occurrence was that the engine parted its couplings, and our carriages, instead of going down the stream, took an incline upwards. Then came the cry of the distressed. I was one of the first that reached land, swimming against the current. Looking round I saw Harry **Giles** swimming with me, and our dear friends calling for help. I said to two of my companions, ‘For God’s sake struggle for your life; I can’t assist you; I am crippled.’ I then turned round and saw Harry Giles, Wellesley **Wellman** and John **Pattison** straining every nerve to assist their fellow-creatures at the risk of their own lives. I feel confident if it had not been for these three men more than one-half of us would have been numbered with the dead. The most painful part of the accident was that it rained in torrents, and it was 12 at night before we were sheltered. I may mention that I never saw men work better in all my life than the Cootamundra people, taking off their coats to cover the wounded, and working in all the rain without them. It is pitiful sight for this township to see a hospital full of wounded and an out-house with dead. My heart bleeds to say any more on the subject. I am blessed to be one of the living, and feel

extremely lucky in getting off with my ribs broken and a plentiful supply of bruises. I forgot to mention that Mr. W. **Murdoch**, the cricketer, was standing in the flooded streets and rendering us every assistance. I hope to be in Melbourne to-morrow night. I tell you I am home-sick, and remain, yours truly,
Joe Thompson



*Upstream side of the rebuilt culvert showing the current drainage tunnel in 2023
(photo: Doug **Butler**, licensed under the
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HISTORICAL NOTE: In the 1800s and early 1900s, each State celebrated its own anniversary or foundation day – with different dates for each State. Our first Australia Day was held on 30 July 1915 – the reason – an event to raise money for the returning war-wounded from Gallipoli.³ In the following years it was held on different dates until, in 1935, the Australian government made 26 January Australia Day. And if you think that the controversy about the day is new, three years later in 1938 (the 150 year anniversary of the 1788 flag raising, but not Governor Phillip’s declaration of the Colony on 7 February) Aboriginal people labeled it a ‘Day of Mourning and Protest’ and a protest march was held through Sydney.³



*Salt Clay Creek culvert – 2023, it looks quite benign now
(photo: Doug Butler, licensed under the
Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International license)*

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1. *Alexandra and Yea Standard, Gobur, Thornton and Acheron Express* (Vic. : 1877 - 1908), 30 January, p. 2, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article57168109>
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3. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australia_Day

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WHY MY ANCESTORS LEFT IRELAND

by Cheryl Sloane (Member)

This article relates to my 3 x great grandfather Arthur **Lyons** and his family in County Cavan and the happenings near the old market town of Ballyjamesduff. Our family oral history said that the family came to Australia due to 'Orange and Green problems' involving a mixed marriage. However, research on the British Newspaper Archive web site at our Research Centre has shown that murder and violence were the real reasons that they came to Australia – my **Lyons** and **Drury** ancestors were living in fear of being attacked and possibly murdered. My family was shocked to hear the truth about their past.

The story begins with two newspaper reports of a trial covering an attack in December 1836 on my ancestors by Catholic offenders. The first appeared in the *Dublin Daily Express*, Saturday, 28th February 1837:

WHITEBOY OFFENCE – Pat **Casserly** and John **Tully** were indicted for breaking into the house of Arthur Lyons, of Bellview, in this county, on the 14th of December last and beating him and his brother-in-law, George **Drury**. It appeared from the evidence that about the hour of seven o'clock in the evening, four men entered the house. There were then in the house three other men and three women. The party immediately attacked Arthur Lyons, and struck him with a loaded whip and stick.

Sarah Lyons, Arthur Lyons, George Drury, and Anne Lyons were examined, and identified the prisoners as being two of the men who made the attack.

Messrs. **Battersby**, Q.C. **Griffith**, **McKenna**, and **O'Reilly** prosecuted. Mr J. A. **Curran**, instructed by Mr. **Hinds**, defended the prisoners.

This report was followed up by a continuing article in the *Dublin Daily Express* of Monday 2 March 1837:

WHITEBOY OFFENCE – This was an indictment for a whiteboy offence – appearing armed at night and entering a house and beating the inmates, the particulars of which have already appeared in the DAILY EXPRESS.

Andrew Lyons was examined, and proved that on the evening in question he was in Arthur Lyons' house, when Pat Casserly came in and asked for and got a drink, and then lighted his pipe and went out, and soon after the prisoners and two other men came in. Tully had a loaded whip, and knocked Drury down. Casserly said – "Leave my way till I get the murdering dog," He then struck witness several times on the head.

Mr Curra addressed the jury for the prisoners.

The jury found the prisoners guilty on the count of assault occasioning actual bodily harm. His Lordship sentenced them to three years' penal servitude.

However, before the outcome of this trial was known, an attack was made on John **Carr** and his friends on 4 February 1837, apparently in retaliation for the above bashing incident. This led to another trial, as reported in the *Freeman's Journal* of 12 February 1837 – a trial that could have been fatal for my ancestor, Arthur Lyons. My transcription follows:

CAVAN ASSIZES - Monday, July 10, 1837. From our reporter.

Mr Justices **Torrens** took his seat in the Crown Court at nine o'clock this morning. We were happy to observe that his lordship appeared in excellent health, retaining not the slightest indication of the very recent indisposition which detained him from court on Friday. The first proceeded with was –

THE BALLYJAMESDUFF CASE.

The excitement created by this case amongst all orders, parties and classes here was intense in the extreme. The numbers that continued to pour into the town from an early hour in the morning were very considerable, and the manifestation of feeling and deep anxiety such as might be expected to be evinced, relative to a trial arising out of so deplorable a catastrophe. The conduct of the people, however, was peaceable and orderly in the extreme.

On the doors of the Crown Court being thrown open the rush was tremendous: every port became instantly crowded to excess, but in a few moments after the most deathlike, stillness prevailed-literally speaking, the falling of a pin could be distinctly heard.

The clerk of the crown proceeded to call over a panel of forty-four persons, alternately Protestant and Catholic.

The right of challenge was exerted on behalf of the prisoners to the number of fifteen. The Crown declined vetting any side. The following jury was eventually sworn – John **Clemenger**, Isaac **Pratt**, William **Clemenger**, John **Maxwell**, Robert **Brownland**, Arthur **Finlay**, Joseph **Johnston**, John **Hamilton**, Richard **Humphries**, William **Jones**, Joseph **Pogue**, and James **Teevan**.

Previous to the swearing of the jury, the Court inquired of the Solicitor General, who arrived on Sunday evening, how many of the seven prisoners indicted for the murder it was the purpose of the Crown to place upon trial at once? To this Mr **Brady** replied, that his determination would be guided by the circumstance of the prisoners joining in their challenges, or otherwise. Eventually it was agreed that three should be given in charge at once, they joining in their challenges.

Robert **Lyons**, Arthur **Lyons** and Thomas **Smith**, were then placed at the bar, indicted for the murder of John Carr on the 4th of February last, at Ballyduff, one Wm **Donelly** having then and there indicted a wound on the head of the said Carr, of which he languished and died on the 10th of February, and in five other counts varying in details.

The Solicitor General rose and addressed that court and jury in a very brief and moderate speech. He alluded to the circumstances which caused the postponement of the trial at the spring assizes. Considerable excitement and great degree of interest had been awakened by the melancholy results of which he had now to make a simple statement to the jury. Having made a few excellent observations on the nature of the sacred duty they had to perform, and cautioned them to remove from their minds any preconceived prejudice or opinion anterior to the present trial, the learned solicitor, with a praiseworthy calmness and moderation, stated the circumstances of the case as subsequently adduced in evidence.

Thomas **Daly** sworn, and examined by Mr **Smyley** – Witness remembers the fair day of Ballyduff, the 4th of February last: knew the deceased, John Carr; left the fair in company with deceased and his brother, Edward Carr, Mark Daly, brother to witness, and Patrick **Tully**; was proceeding on the Clandagh road towards home; on a dunghill at the roadside observed a number of persons standing – he supposes about ten persons; the first thing done was Wm Donelly coming forward and striking John Carr; he struck him with a loaded whip, which he wound around his head; cannot say whether he struck deceased on the head or body; beside the crowd on the dunghill, there was a second crowd on the opposite side of the road, that was the second crowd, and came from behind the gripe or ditch; it was from the second crowd that Donelly came; that was from the left side of the road coming from town; the dung hill was on the right hand; deceased John Carr, was beside the witness also, who caught the whip and struggled with Donelly, who threw witness into the ditch; the whip Donelly used was loaded with lead, and had an ash handle; witness retained it. And gave it to the police; [the whip was produced, and was identified by witness – it was a most tremendous weapon, loaded heavily for the length of about four inches with lead, and baring an elastic ash handle]; witness then saw Robert Lyons, Arthur Lyons and George **Morrow**, with several others, come up; identifies Robert and Arthur Lyons saw them drawing their hands against deceased; cannot say whether they had anything in their hands; previous to the attack Carr, nor they said nothing to the party, nor they to his; witness lay in the ditch till he thought the road was clear; he then rose, and endeavoured to make his escape; he was pursued by the two prisoners, Robert and Arthur who threw stones after him; saw Carr again that evening, when the police brought him back to where witness was lying, among old walls: Carr had gone for the police;

Carr lived until the Friday following; the fair was on Saturday: witness saw deceased almost every day until he died; on the morning subsequent: to the attack, and the dressing of his wounds, Carr was in convulsions; in going to the fair he was as well in health as any person in the court.

Cross examined by Mr. **Major QC** – This occurred after eight-fall, but not long; it was not very dark; drank something in Williamson's public house, in company with deceased and others; drank one glass that day; when leaving Ballyjamesduff, there were about six in company; witness and Carr, and their friends, had no sticks in their hands; witness only had a rattan rod; saw two women, whom he did not know on the dunghill, with the first crowd; did not face the other crowd until they came out and struck; saw Carr receive only one blow; witness lay in the gripe at least ten or fifteen minutes; had got up, was pursued, knocked down again and lying among old walls when the police came up; the party had scattered then.

Peter **Gafney** examined by Mr. **Johnston** – Left the fair about eight or nine o'clock at night; knew the deceased; saw him after leaving the fair on the road towards home; knows the stream at Ramonan hill; after crossing the stream Carr was in front a few paces; a party came from the left side of the road; identifies all three persons, now at the bar, as of that party; saw them, as well as others, striking at deceased with weapons; cannot say what the weapons were, but they were some long, others short, the first struck Wm Donnelly; saw Robert Lyons strike deceased; about nine persons were striking at him at once; saw each and every one of the three prisoners strike at deceased; after Carr fell from the blow, witness saw the three prisoners, and others not now on trial, over him; can't say whether they struck him while down, but had their weapons raised; witness crossed the ditch and leaned up against it until the road was clear; saw the deceased next day; he was very bad indeed, and his whole skin discoloured from effects of the beating; Bernard **McEnroe** was with witness, and a little chap of his, and no other; heard words used, but did not know what they meant; did not see the women strike, nor the women struck.

The witness was cross-examined at great length by Mr. **Doherty**, for the prisoners, but nothing material elicited.

Bernard McEnroe examined by the Solicitor-General – Left the fair about eight o'clock, in company with last witness and a little boy, son of his own; deceased with his brother, the two Dalys and Tully, passed him on the road; from stream at Ramonan bridge to where they saw the first crowd was fourteen steps; he had stepped the distance since; the first man that struck was William Donnelly; deceased called for mercy, and put his hands over his head; Donnelly then struck deceased on the side of the body; he staggered, saw prisoners strike deceased with a stick. Arthur Lyons had a short weapon and held the thick end in his

hand; Robert had a square cleft of timber, from three and a half to four feet long; identifies the prisoners; saw them all strike when Carr was knocked down, the rest of his company retreated; the Lyonses and two others pursued; the assailed scattered and cried for mercy; heard Hugh **Porter** say, “there's one Papist off his limbs anyway;” heard the party from behind running; witness concealed himself on the left side of the road until they passed; saw deceased next day in Thomas Gafney's, in Ballyjamesduff; he was in a very bad state, so that the witness would not know him if he was not told he was there; heard or saw nothing done by Carr before he was struck, nor by any in his company.

Mr **Deering** cross-examined the witness at great length, and with his usual ingenuity, demanding of witness whether he would consider that “justice would be done for Ireland” if the prisoners were not hanged, and similar queries, which his peculiar knowledge of the circumstances under which the trial was proceeding suggested. The learned gentleman dwelt much upon the fact that the witness, as a tithe recusant, had unfortunately so far committed himself in his opposition to the payment of that imposition, as to be sentenced to be confined for nine months, a fact which the witness quickly and boldly acknowledged, declaring that if he could he would never pay tithes. He also stated that his sentence was remitted to five months imprisonment. By the interference of his landlord, Lord Farnham. Query- what must have been the character of a man, whom as witness Mr. Deering sought to impugn, when even my lord of Farnham interposed on his behalf, in a matter of tithe rebellion?

Patrick Tully saw the attack on the deceased, but did not know any of the assailants; saw however Bob Lyons come out of the crowd that was striking Carr; witness said “Bob Lyons won't you save me?” when immediately said Lyons struck him with a cleft of a stick.

Patrick **McNamee** sworn – deposed that about nine o'clock he saw Lyons in the street of Ballyjamesduff with another person, to whom Lyons said, “hold fast to what you have in your hand, and when we cross Ramonan hill between Hunter's and Burke's, we'll walk to the whangs [thongs of shoes] in Papist blood; to hell with Pope and Popery, and Papist police” witness told of these expressions at the Police office that night; saw Carr brought back to town wounded in about half an hour after these expressions.

Cross examined by Mr Doherty – Witness stated that he was a tailor, and after work had gone out to take a walk, when he heard these expressions, upon being closely preceded, he confessed he had been working that day with an employer named **Hartin**, in Kilnacrott about three miles distant, and came into the fair like another, about three o'clock in the day: slept in Sheridan's house that night in Ballyjamesduff.

Bryan **Donohoe** – when on his way home from the fair that night, met a large number of persons at Ramonan hill, by whom he was beaten; identified Robert Lyons as one of that party; Robert Lyons struck, and bid him begone for a papist dog, this was, as well as witness can calculate, between nine and ten o'clock.

Patrick **Murray** was going out of town, in company with Patrick **Connell**, and having taken over an old man, a neighbour, with his wife and daughter, on the road, witness accompanied them, while Connell walked a few yards in advance; saw Connell stand by a number of persons on the road before him, witness turned for the purpose of saving himself but unfortunately fell upon a crowd, who were concealed in the ditch on the road side, these persons came out, and witness called for mercy, raised his hands over his head, was struck, and found part of the middle finger off when he took down his hands. Other witnesses were produced, for circumstances clearly collateral.

The Court observed that this testimony of these persons did not bear upon present indictment, as they inferred to occurrences than those immediately attending Carr's death.

Mr Brady replied, that they were tendered as evidence of the identity of the prisoners, concerned in assaults at the place laid in the indictment, and indicative of the settled purpose of the assailants.

Surgeons **Wiley** and **Montgomery** were examined as to the nature of the wounds of which Carr died. Some difference of opinion existed, one gentleman attributing the death to the fracture of the skull, a portion of which he had found on post mortem examination depressed; this he took out and produced in court. The other medical attendant attributed the death to, inflammation of the intestines, but both concerned in assigning the external injuries as the cause of death.

Mr Deering, Q.C. addressed the jury in a very eloquent and animated speech, availing himself of every circumstance which could in the slightest degree tend to the favourable view of the prisoner's case. His speech was warm, and well suited to his purpose.

His Lordship, in charging the jury, descanted with great pains upon what he termed the effrontery and perjury of the witness McNamee, upon whose whole evidence he cast the utmost degree of scorn. He said the whole case was one of great uncertainty, perplexity, and doubt. McEnroe, the only other witness who deposed to expression of malicious and petty character, his lordship described as one who confessedly was an opponent of the law, who dared to be heard and raise his hand against the magistrate in execution of his duty. Altogether his charge was viewed as affording great hopes to the prisoners.

The jury retired, and after one minute's consultation, returned their verdict – NOT GUILTY.

On the case of the other four persons similarly arraigned the crown declined tendering any witnesses. They were, therefore, given in charge, pro forma and acquitted.

The several persons acquitted in this number will be tried with others for a riot on to-morrow.

On account of the triumph of the party by the acquittal of **Farhes** on Saturday, that individual was paraded in procession through the streets this day, with cries of “success to the loyal jury who freed him.” (Farhes seems to be related to the Lord Farnham estate where they all lived.)

These were sad times for Catholic and Church of Ireland families who were in constant fear of attacks due to the laws of the time. The earlier trial demonstrated how much lying was involved in this political trial.

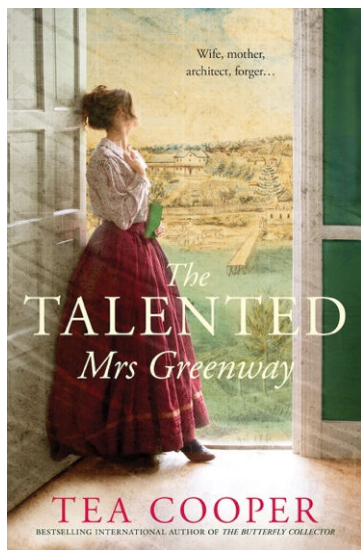
Soon after this trial, the family left Ireland. Arthur and his immediate family moved to Australia, eventually living in Botany, New South Wales. Other members of the family moved to Canada.



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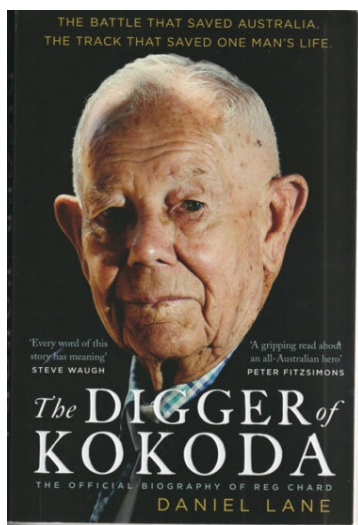


The Talented Mrs Greenway **By Tea Cooper**

This novel tells the imagined story of Mary Greenway, wife and helpmeet of former convict and Colonial Architect Francis Greenway. Mary, with her three sons, followed Francis, her second husband, to the Colony.

She was befriended by Elizabeth Macquarie and fact and fiction are blended into a fascinating story of a determined woman making her way in the infant Colony and assisting her husband with his drawings and plans as we learn about Francis' career too. Few facts are known about Mary Greenway, but the author has crafted an engrossing tale of a strong and talented woman, bringing to life early Sydney in a very entertaining read.

Available at most branches of Sutherland Library



The Digger of Kokoda – The Official Biography of Reg Chard **By Daniel Lane**

Reg Chard grew up amid the hardship of the Great Depression before joining up at the age of 18 to fight in the Army during World War II where he served at Milne Bay, the Kokoda Trail and Sanananda. At time of publication of this book in 2022, Reg was aged 98 and when I spoke to Daniel Lane last year he said Reg was still going strong.

Reg Chard was the seventh of ten children who grew up in Marrickville and the family faced a never ending battle to make ends meet.

Details of his tough childhood are brought to life in the early chapters and he tells of a loving mother and a moody, damaged father who had experienced the horrors

of serving in World War I as well as a lighter glimpse of amusing early boyhood adventures. Reg left school aged 12 and after initially working on building sites moving hundreds of bricks per day, he began work as a baker and pastry chef's apprentice and was fortunate to be encouraged and mentored about life by his employer Harry Fleming.

Love entered his life in 1939 and as he and his mother sat on their front veranda and watched a curly haired girl zoom past on her bike and he said "I'm going to marry that girl". It was Betty Banham and he did indeed marry her, but not until 1945.

Reg's first-hand account of early days of training in the Army and getting to know his new mates gives a picture of how it was for thousands of volunteers who had likewise enlisted and that we as family historians know members of our own families experienced. He writes movingly of the terrible experiences of himself and his mates at Kokoda.

Just as a footnote, Reg insisted that Kokoda be called a trail in his book "because the land belongs to the Government and people of Papua New Guinea and they call it the Kokoda Trail and so do I in order to respect their wishes. 'Track' is used in the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway on the banks of the Parramatta River because it's the name of the place"

Available at Sutherland Library

Pat **Fearnley** (Member)



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PLEASE MENTION *THE ENDEAVOUR* WHEN CONTACTING

BBFHS RESEARCH CENTRE AND LIBRARY

by Jean **Campbell** (Research Centre Coordinator)

On Friday 10 January 2025, a few members went into the Research Centre before we opened, to vacuum, clean, update the computers and stock-take the library and books to be sold. **Thank you** to everyone who was present! You all did a great job, getting the Centre ready.

The Research Centre re-opened on Monday 13 January 2025. So far, there have been a pleasing number of researchers present each day that we've been open.

We now have 40 Centre Volunteers, with three previous members offering to return and do a duty day.

On 12 February, a repairman from Council released the jammed lock on the emergency exit door out to our veranda, so it is now working safely. The open door can be used to provide a cool breeze through the Centre and now with access to our veranda, we have a pleasant place to sit for tea, coffee and lunch.

There have been some changes to our subscription web sites. Previously, the 1921 Census for England and Wales was only available on Find My Past. It is now on Ancestry too, so it's available on more than one computer. Note that if you cannot find your ancestors for a particular decade in any of the censuses from 1841 onwards on one site, it is sometimes possible to find them on another site because the original data were transcribed by different transcribers.

We have Internet History Resources on one computer. We no longer pay a subscription for it and it's freely available on any home computer.

As I'm in the Centre for the Scottish Interest Group Meetings during the year, I'm advising that the Research Centre is open that day and I'll go in at 10 am. Members are welcome to come in and research.

I'll also open the Centre at 10 am on the quarterly face-to-face members' meeting days, held in the Port Hacking Community Centre (the hall next door) on 1 March, 14 June, 6 September and 6 December. Members are very welcome to come in and research on those days too.

Slow Windows startup problem solved by managing updates.

When all the computers are turned on each morning at the Research Centre, Windows 11 automatically checks for updates and if available, these are downloaded to all the computers at the same time, so that our security and software is up-to-date. This saves a lot of work by the Centre volunteers, who would otherwise need to do this manually. However, the automatic downloads take up most of the available bandwidth and make the computers **very slow** to load the

web applications that our researchers mostly use: Ancestry, FindMyPast, The Genealogist, BDA, Google search, etc.

Windows 11 has an advanced option that limits how much bandwidth is used for downloading Windows updates in the background. For each computer, this has been set at 5 Mbps (megabits per second), leaving about 20 Mbps of our total 50 Mbps bandwidth remaining for our usual web applications – more than adequate.

After updates are installed, a reboot is required. This will usually show up when the computers are about to be shut down at the end of the session as an option – “Update and shut down” which can be clicked and left, so that the system is updated and ready to go when the next session begins.

NOTES AND NEWS



New South Wales State Archives has recently received more than 163,000 probate packets, covering the years 1982 to 1988. They now hold over one million probate packets. The packets are one of their most heavily used record series for family historians. They hold them for the years 1817–1982, 1988 and 1989 (with some gaps in the 1970s and 80s). Records in a probate packet include: the last will and testament of the deceased; codicils (additions or revocations to the will); and letters of administration. To find a packet, go to <https://tinyurl.com/mppuj7th> and enter the deceased’s name and the word “death” in the search box: for example – “Arthur Collits death”. Later in the year, Botany Bay FHS will be organising a bus trip to State Records where members can access packets of interest.



WHEELCHAIR ACCESS

is available at the Research Centre.

Please phone 9523 8948 to make arrangements.

Journal Contributions

All journal contributions – large or small – are welcome. Email your input to bbfhs_ed@yahoo.com.au, leave it in the Editor’s folder at the Research Centre or hand it to the Editor or any Committee member at our quarterly meetings. Please add your name and contact details.

FAMILY HISTORY AIDS – SALES TABLE ON MEETING NIGHTS OR AT THE RESEARCH CENTRE & LIBRARY

(Prices current at January 2025, subject to change without notice)

Split catalogue – A – P one quarter, P – Z next quarter

	Price
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Archival Chinagraph Pencil – black	\$3
Archival Paper A4 80 gsm Watermarked Pack 5 sheets	\$1.50
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