

Dust of Ages



Journal of the Armidale Family History Group Inc.

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Owen & John Valentine Gorman

Christine Thomas

Owen GORMAN, son of John Valentine Patrick Gorman and Mary DOORLEY, was born 25 July 1799 at Cloghan, Offaly, Kings County, Ireland. On 25 August 1817, at the age of 18, he enlisted in the 58th Foot Regiment as a private soldier. As a Sergeant in the 58th Regiment stationed at Spanishtown in Jamaica, he married Margaret FLANAGHAN (nee HOGAN) on 10 February 1819 at St. Catherine's, Spanishtown. He rose through the ranks, transferring to the 80th Regiment and became a Lieutenant in this Regiment on 1 June 1833.

Owen Gorman, as a Lieutenant in the 80th Regiment, his wife, and three sons, John Valentine, James, and William arrived in Port Jackson on 26 February 1839 on the ship *Henry* which had sailed from Mauritius. Five months after arriving in the colony Gorman was appointed Commandant at Moreton Bay on 3 July 1839. He was instructed to proceed to Moreton Bay by passage on the Schooner *Curlew* which sailed 2 days later. His appointment was the last Commandant of the penal settlement at Moreton Bay (later to be known as Brisbane) as the district was thrown open to settlement in 1842. He served as Commandant from 21 July until 15 May 1842.

As there was settlement already occurring west of Moreton Bay on the Darling Downs, Gorman needed to find a wagon route between the two locations, but the Great Dividing Range was a huge obstacle. A convict runaway named James Sterry BAKER arrived in Brisbane town after 16 years of living with the indigenous people. Baker told Gorman of a route over the Great Dividing Range that could take horse and cart traffic. Gorman set out with Baker in October 1840 and marked the trail over the range. He named it 'Gorman's Gap' although he hadn't discovered the trail himself. The road no longer officially exists but can still be followed. There are three monuments along the route, one at each end and the other at Camel's Hump where Gorman took his compass bearing on 17 October 1840.

Continued page 4.



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CONTENTS

Owen & John Valentine Gorman	1
Armidale Cemetery Register Pre Order	3
Researching War Memorials	6
Historical NSW Title Deeds and Parish Maps Online	7
Margaret Finlayson	8
President's Message	10
Armidale Square Dancing Photo	11
John Trim Estate	12
Interesting Free Websites	13
McNamara Family Home	14
Rooke Family	14
Find a Word	15

Dates for Your Diary

Tuesday March 14 - Martin Gibbs - New work on the Landscapes of Production and Punishment (Tasmanian Convicts).

Saturday April 15 – (3rd Saturday due to Easter) – Graham Wilson – Recording War Memorials.

Saturday May 13 – Julie McCarthy Paper Conservator – How to care for your Paper Based Records

Saturday June 10 – Monthly Meeting – Peter Hoare – Researching Convict Ancestors

Notices of meetings are sent via email. If you are not already receiving these notices and would like to be included on this list, please let us know your current email address.

Journal - Dust of Ages Editor

Wayne Hoppe

Submit copy to the email or postal address above, or deliver to the Centre. Please include your contact details.

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Errors and Omissions: Every effort has been made to ensure that *Dust of Ages* is free from errors or omissions. Should these occur we apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Research Requests

We can undertake research, drawing mainly on our substantial local resources, but only in response to clear and concise written requests. A fee of \$35 per surname researched applies to such requests. Information found may be photocopied and if more than twenty pages will attract an additional charge. All requests are handled in the order in which they are received.

Research Centre Opening Hours

Monday 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm

Wednesday 10.00 am to 4.00 pm

(Except public holidays)

The Centre is staffed by experienced and friendly volunteers who will assist with your research.

Workshops

Occasional Saturdays – Times to be advised, free to AFHG members.

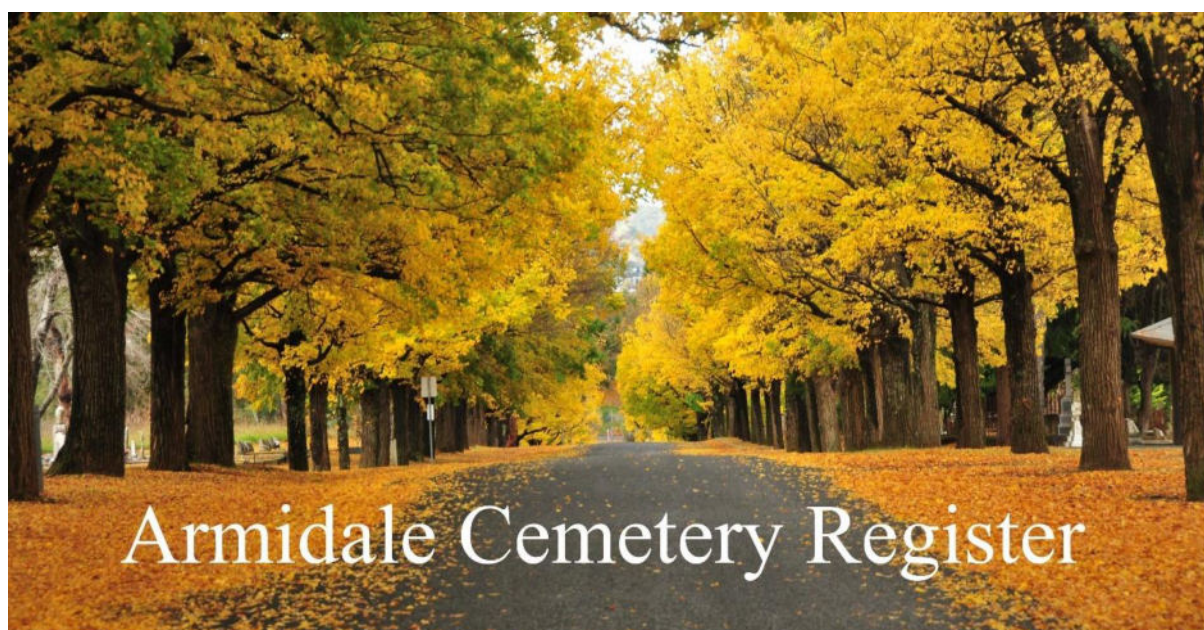
Meetings

General meetings: The new meeting times commencing May 2023 are:

2.00pm on the second Saturday of the month. All are welcome to attend

There is a \$10 charge for non members using the centre or attending workshops.

The Armidale Cemetery Register Available for Pre-Order



The Armidale Cemetery Register is now available for pre-order with publication expected within the next 2 months. The register contains over 15,000 names, with information sourced from headstones, the Armidale Regional Council records (1900 to 1990s), Piddington's Funeral Directors (1903 to 1956), Trove, BDM indexes and family historians.

This is not an exhaustive list of everyone buried in the cemetery as the council burial records are incomplete. Depending on the religion the council records start somewhere between 1900 and 1915. We have looked elsewhere to source information of some of the earlier burials.

Piddington's Funeral Directors records have been indexed and included from 1903 to 1956. They provide valuable information especially where a headstone or council records do not exist and also are sometimes the only record of a stillborn birth.

The register will be available to purchase in two formats, a book or a digital version and discount is being offered to our current members.

Book \$70 or \$60 for AFHG financial members

USB Stick \$60 or \$50 for AFHG financial members

Postage, if required is currently \$15 for a book and \$5 for a USB stick

Anyone who purchases a cemetery register is welcome to contact AFHG to receive up to 10 free images of their ancestor's headstones or of the Piddington's register entries.

Please contact the Armidale Family History Group (details on the opposite page) and we will arrange for a copy of the register to be reserved for you. Payment will be arranged upon the register becoming available.

Owen & John Valentine Gorman (cont. from p1)

Christine Thomas

Gorman left Brisbane (Moreton Bay) rather disgracefully having had charges of immorality and 'improper intercourse' with young convict women having been substantiated. He became estranged from his wife Margaret, no doubt to his immorality. On 1 July 1842, Owen Gorman was appointed Assistant Engineer and Superintendent of ironed gangs at Towrang, NSW. This position ceased on 13 September, when the stockage was disbanded.



By 1847 Owen was having more children with his de facto partner Mary MILLIKIN (STUPART) in the Monaro District. Owen Gorman, Mary Millikin and three of their children arrived in Armidale in 1854 to set up as a storekeeper and auctioneer. Mary Millikin was 25 years younger than Owen. Three more children were born to Owen and Mary in Armidale between 1855 and 1860.

Owen Gorman owned various allotments of land in Armidale, including land in Rusden, Beardy, Brown and Barney Streets. In July 1859 there is reference in the Armidale Express newspaper that Owen Gorman was the proprietor of the *Armidale Express and New England Advertiser* and had offered it for sale.

In November 1859 a notice appeared in the paper stating that Gorman had sold the plant, copyright and book debts of the *Armidale Express and New England General Advertiser* to Mr. William HIPGRAVE and Mr. Walter CRAIGIE and that he hopes his successors will receive an equal or increased amount of patronage.

Owen Gorman died 6 October 1862 and was buried in the 'new' Roman Catholic portion of the Armidale cemetery. There is no headstone for Owen Gorman.

Mary Millikin and her family lived in Armidale for another thirty years. She raised her 7 children on her own and finally died in 1891. In the last 15 years of her life Mary took to calling herself Mrs Gorman. Her death is recorded as Mary Gorman, and she is buried in Rookwood Cemetery.

Owen and Margaret Gorman's (nee Flanagan) eldest son, John Valentine Gorman was born 23 February 1821 at Port Antonio, Jamaica. He arrived with his parents and two brothers in Port Jackson in February 1839. Soon after his arrival in Port Jackson he was appointed Assistant Surveyor of Crown Lands on 26 March 1839. In 1841 John married Isabella JOHNSTON, daughter of William Johnston and Isabella (nee CUNNINGHAM). John and Isabella had seven children: Frederick, John, Isabella, Margaret, William, Ada, and Gertrude.

The position of Assistant Surveyor required John to travel throughout NSW surveying new towns. William Grant BROUGHTON, the Anglican Bishop of Australia, visited Armidale in October 1845 and decided that an Anglican Church should be built in Armidale, so a site had to be surveyed. The NSW Surveyor General sent a government surveyor, John Valentine Gorman. Gorman carried out a survey of the town of Armidale in 1846. Gorman's 1846 plan shows that east-west track was named 'the road to Beardy Plains' and became known as Beardy Street. Golgotha Street was the second street to be given a name, to show the site of a designated

cemetery on the western side of the town. The crossing over Dumaresq Creek at what is now Faulkner Street had the road described as 'the road to the Darling Downs'.

Gorman drew a plan defining the relevant part of Rusden Street, Faulkner Street and Dangar Street, where the Anglican Church and Parsonage were to be located, and the boundaries of Armidale's town reserve. When Governor FITZROY visited Armidale in March 1847, he ordered a more detailed survey of the town and that was carried out by John James GALLOWAY. Galloway was given a copy of Gorman's plan on which additions had been made by the Surveyor General's Office. Galloway was instructed to use that plan as the basis of his new work. His first plan of Armidale was drawn in August 1848 and was done contrary to instructions. He aligned the town due north instead of eight degrees off, as Gorman had done, so that Rusden Street would be parallel with Beardy Street. Many buildings in Armidale, including five inns, did not readily fit into Galloway's grid of streets. His plan had the streets running through all the pubs and some private residences. Galloway was instructed to re-align the town in 1849. Henceforth, Armidale's north-south streets did not face due north, but slightly north-west, and the pubs were saved. By the end of 1849 Armidale was an established township.

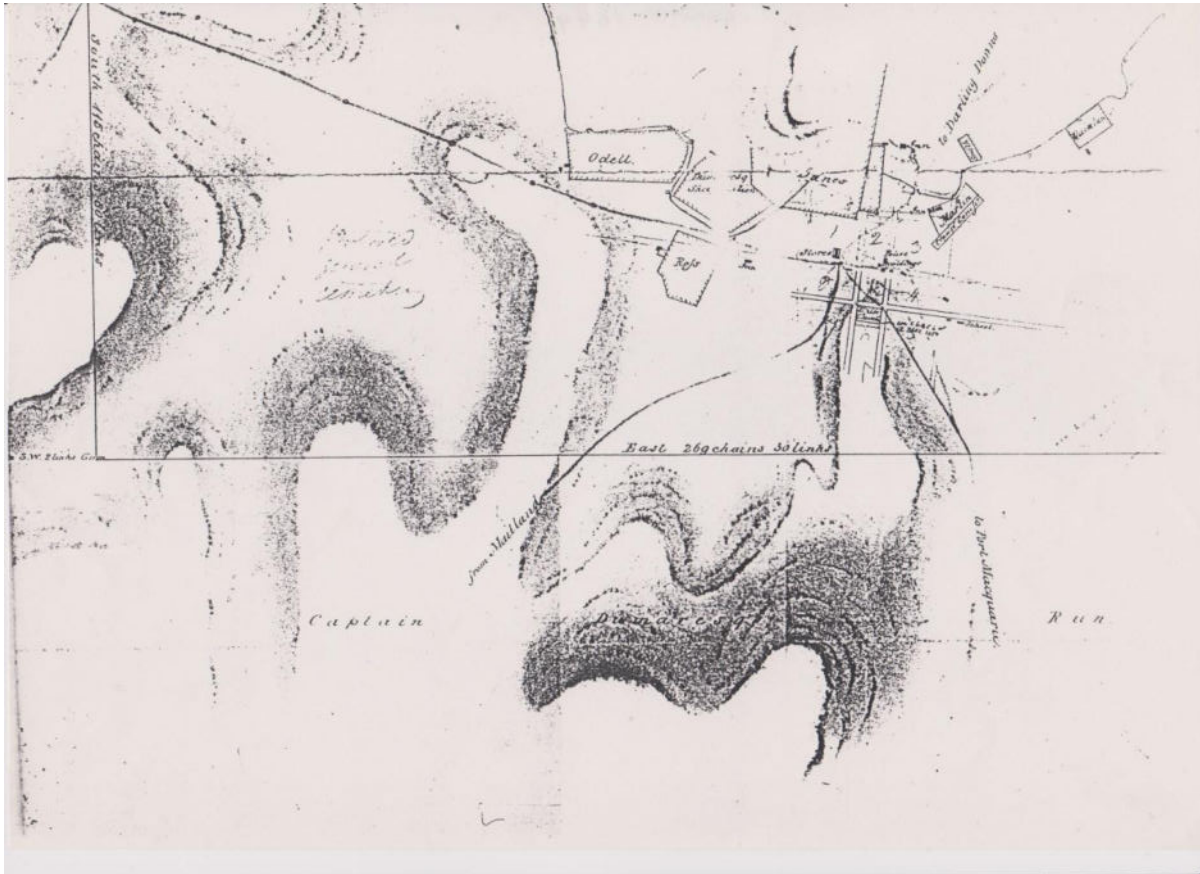
By the mid 1850's Gorman had given up his position as surveyor and was practicing as an auctioneer and estate agent. In 1855 he was employed by Thomas Sutcliffe MORT, auctioneer of wool and other property. On 1 January 1856 Mort formed a partnership with his brother, Henry Mort and John Gorman. The partnership dissolved at the end of 1866. John Gorman then set up his own business as an auctioneer and broker operating from sale rooms in Pitt Street adjacent to Mort's buildings. By September 1867 Gorman had set up a business with John H. MILLER trading as J. V. Gorman & Miller, Auctioneers, Land, Estate, Stock, Station, and Pastoral Produce Agents.

John was active in public life; he was made a fellow of St John's Catholic College in 1858 and a member of the board of the Dublin International Exhibition in 1865. He was a witness and foreman of the jury at the inquest held on the loss of the *Dunbar* at South Head in 1857.

John Gorman acquired a 99-year lease of over 4 acres in Ocean Street, Woollahra on 12 March 1857. The lease required that the owners erect first class building and complete drainage within seven years, and he wasted no time in erecting a large house on his newly acquired land. The house, known as *Tara*, was built during 1857 from stone quarried locally and was situated at what was later known as 62 Ocean Street.

John Gorman was elected chairman of Woollahra Council in 1863. He remained a councilor up to his death; the last meeting he attended was on 8 October 1867. While on council he had served on the finance, improvement, building, water, and by-law committees. He died on 13 December 1867 aged 46 at his home in Ocean Street and is buried in the Catholic portion of the Rookwood Cemetery.

Information sourced from: Ancestry.com.au; Colonial secretary Papers; Jamaica Church of England transcripts; Family search; Unassisted Immigrant Passenger Lists, UK Regimental Registers of Service; Trove newspapers and Government Gazettes; NSW Returns of the Colony; Gorman's Gap by J.K. Jarrott, F.C.A; The marked tree line; the Gorman's Gap walking trail by Pamela Hahn; Colonial Armidale by John Ferry, 1999; NSW State Archives; Woollahra Municipal Council.



John Valentine Gorman's 1846 Plan of Armidale

Researching the History of a War Memorial

Graham Wilson

A major part of our cultural landscape are the diverse war memorials that are found throughout the countryside. These include swimming pools, community halls, libraries, driveways and avenues, band rotundas, statutes, obelisks, churches, hospitals, lights, parks, clock towers, gardens, schools, honour rolls, plaques, clubs and cemeteries. For many years, Graham Wilson has been researching War Memorials for the NSW War Memorial Register conducted by the Department of Veteran Affairs. Once recorded on the Register, then applications can be made to the Department for funding if conservation work is required.

Individuals and organisations can place memorials on the Register. The process includes using the Registration Forms available on the NSW War Memorial website. Photographs are taken of the memorial and the history of the monument is traced. Research is then conducted on each of the names listed on the memorial. Various websites have been developed to assist this research- The AIF Project, Virtual War Memorials; Australian Monuments and Memorials and the military records held by Australian National Archives.

Graham will be presenting at our April meeting (Saturday 15 April) on this fascinating topic.

Historical NSW Title Deeds and Parish Maps Online

Wayne Hoppe

I have recently explored the NSW Land Registry site in more depth and found some wonderful records. While some records are not easy to locate, those that are may be well worth the effort to learn how to use this site. So what records are there on the site? They include:

- Historic parish and town maps;
- Torrens land titles, up until approximately the 1960's;
- Old system land titles, usually only the initial title deed.

To find the site, search for "NSW Land Registry Services HLRV". Launch the site, accept the terms and conditions and commence your search.

The parish and town maps are the easiest to search. In the 'attribute search' box select 'town name' for towns, or 'parish name' for the areas outside the town boundaries. A new box will appear to the right where you type in the town or parish name you are searching.

A number of maps will appear below and then you click on the map (little blue circle with a number in it) and the map will show on the screen. Zoom into the section using the mouse scroll or the '+' symbol on the left of the screen.

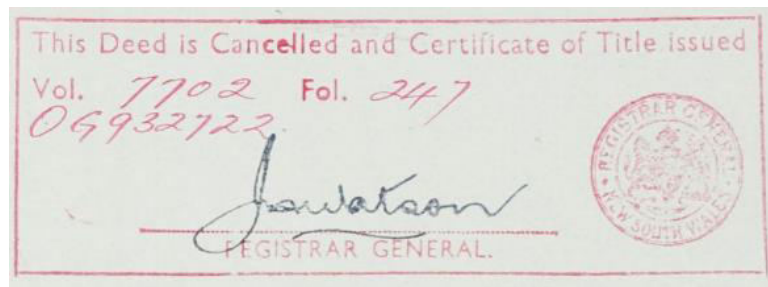
Another item that can be searched are 'Torrens Titles'. For this search you require the volume and folio numbers. These details can be located from the following sources:

1. Your existing records;
2. Search the purchasers index by initial and by year (this can be time consuming);
3. Look at the parish and town maps (especially the most recent one) and they may have a table showing the lot number and the volume and folio number (see image below).

POR	PLAN	LOC. ETC.	VOL. FOL. OR DATE	PURCHASER &c.	AREA		
					A	R	P
541	S 2846 1660	C 6	979 191	J. A. McDonald	14	2	20
542	2776	F 4	865 189	60	4	1	22
543	2775	B 1	25 180	Public School Site	2	0	0
544	2774	E 7		R.L. Grieve, A.P.	8094 m ²		
545	2819	C 6	895 83	J. A. McDonald	1	1	24
546	2820	"	885 156	do	2	2	39
547	3265	B 5	1116 148	A. J. Gordon 96	3	0	27

Once you have these numbers you select Vol-Fol in the attribute box and type in the numbers. For the example of A. J. GORDON above it would be 1116-148. The title deed will then be shown. Note if the title deed is more recent (a volume number above 8,500) the title is not currently available.

Once you have the title deed you can toggle between the pages using the arrow buttons on the viewer. A feature of these title deeds is they provide a record of who owned the property, allowing you to record the history of the property owners. Once a title deed is superseded it will usually give you the next title deed that was issued and you can use this number to obtain a copy of that title and a build a more comprehensive picture of your property.



Old system titles are more difficult to search, but are still available. I won't cover full details in this article, but I have provided links on how to search the records (see below). You need to have a reasonable level of 'computer ability' for these searches but the records provided are worthwhile. If you don't feel you have the skills at the moment here are some options:

- book into one of our next workshops;
- read through the how to guides in the links below;
- ask the group to undertake a research request for you. There is a fee involved, but if we can't find a title deed there won't be any charge.

Introduction - https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/hlr_session_1_-_handout.pdf

Old System - https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/hlr_session_2_-_handout.pdf

Torrens Title - https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/hlr_session_3_-_handout.pdf

Tips and Tricks - https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/hlr_session_4_-_handout.pdf

The main problem is that you are unable to print the records. Windows computers have a snipping tool and I use this to select the area that I would like to have a copy of and then save it as an image or copy it into a word document. If you have photoshop skills you can then save these as higher resolution portions and stitch them together.

I will be running workshops to give hands on training on how to use this site for those that are interested. Please contact the centre if you would like more information. I can also answer questions you may have and give some hints if you email us or drop into the centre.

Wayne Hoppe

Margaret Finlayson

Wayne Hoppe

Permanent displays at the Armidale Folk Museum provide a glimpse into the history of the region. The museum regularly changes its exhibitions, so every time you visit you are likely to find something different. Behind the scenes you can also find family history information and I was able to obtain most of the information in this article during a recent visit.

Margaret Mackenzie FINLAYSON (known as Peggy) was born 26 March 1914 and was the eldest child of Robert John Finlayson and Alice Marion RAE, *Pointsfeld*, Wollomombi. In her early twenties she moved to Sydney and in 1940, after four years of study and practical experience at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (RPA) she qualified as a nurse. She continued to work as a registered nurse at the RPA for the next year.

Peggy then moved to Victoria where she qualified as a midwife in July 1942. But world war two was to change her life and on 20 October she joined the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) where she was to serve for the next four years. In total she served for 1,198 days including 218 days in the Pacific.



Margaret Finlayson portrait



Margaret back first left at Torokina, Bougainville 1945

In early 1945 she was a nurse in the 106 Australian Casualty Clearing Station (AACS) as it travelled to the Solomon Islands and Bougainville. A casualty clearing station was a military medical facility located just behind the front lines to treat wounded soldiers before they were transferred back to a hospital. The treatment these nurses provided was lifesaving for our wounded soldiers and would have been confronting.

This work was extremely stressful and it was important to have some down time. On 12 May 1945 she was invited to the 29 'A.A.C.S Officers Club' dinner dance on the Solomon Islands. She kept a memento of this event in the form of the menu as shown to the right. The menu was mainly traditional English fare including tripe and lamb's fry. After the war Peggy again lived in Sydney.

<p>INAUGURAL DINNER DANCE 29 A.A.C.S. OFFICERS' CLUB Saturday, 12th May, 1945 SOLOMON ISLANDS</p>		<p>4 Course . . . MENU . . . 4 Course 5/-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SOUP Potage Mulligatawny 2. FISH White Bait, Neuberg 3. ENTREE Saute, Lamb's Fry and Bacon 4. " Fricassee of Tripe, Toast Fingers 5. " Welsh Rarebit 6. JOINT Roast Sirloin of Beef, Yorkshire Pudding or 7. " Beef Steak Pie, Creamed Potatoes 8. SWEETS Short Bread Apple Tart, Mock Creme 9. " Jellied Fruit and Ice Cream <p>Bread Rolls Cafe Noir</p>
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She did not marry and passed away 1 April 1992. She is buried in Kilcoy Presbyterian Cemetery where her parents and other family members lay at rest.

President's Report

Wayne Hoppe

The new year is once again well under way. I hope that everyone had a great Christmas break and had the chance to catch up with family.

In October 2022 we dedicated the library in memory of our librarian and life member Ros TOWNSEND. A number of her family were able to attend the dedication, and her two sons Craig and Paul had the honour of unveiling the plaque. It is due to Ros's untiring efforts that we have the current extensive library.



On the same day we also celebrated

25 years in our research centre. Life members, Christine Thomas and Robyn Crossl , along with our Patron Graham Wilson recreated the opening, using the same ribbon we cut 25 years ago. It was a great day with plenty of time to catch up and socialise.

On the same weekend we held our seminar, the first for three years. It was a huge success and we are grateful to the three presenters, Graham Wilson, Bronwyn Parry and Bill Oates for their enlightening presentations. Many thanks to all those people that made this weekend a great success. In particular a big thank you to Pam Dixon for making and decorating a cake for our 25 year celebrations. Thanks also go to Nova for an excellent venue and great assistance in our event.



During the Christmas break we opened the centre for several visitors. We were able to locate copious amounts of information and even escorted them to the Armidale Cemetery to assist them finding their ancestor's graves.

2023 is now upon us and I know there are many who have set themselves a new year's resolution. I believe the best resolution that you can have is to record your own memories. The knowledge that you have of family, friends, events and your life is irreplaceable. Once you have something written down the Armidale Family History Group would appreciate a copy. This way we can retain it for future generations of researchers. I wish you luck in your research this year. Don't be afraid to call in and see us, as we are only too willing to help.

We now have vacancies on our committee for correspondence secretary and journal co-editor. I would like to thank Christine Fry for her dedication and work in these roles over her time on committee and we encourage anyone who may be interested in either of these roles to contact me to discuss.

Armidale Square Dancing Club Photo

Wayne Hoppe

We have recently received a copy of this photo of members of the Armidale Square Dancing Club, from the 1950's. We would like to obtain more information on this interesting club and later clubs that were formed and would appreciate assistance. The numbers on the photo relate to the names below the photo. These names have not been fully verified and we would be happy if anyone can confirm them for us.



1	Bobby Price	2	Ted Page	3	Allan Hayes/Hay	3B	Leo Mitchell
4	Brian Eichorn	5	David Carey	5B	Don Myhill	6	John McMillan
6B	Brian McLean	7	Jim McMillan	8	Kevin Brennan	9	Mick Mills
10	Ernie Smith	11	Margaret Butt	12	Unknown	13	Unknown
14	Val Sweeney	15	Frank Mason	16	Margaret Scheef	17	Jeanette Herbert
18	Eileen Myhill	19	Netta Webb	20	Jill McCormack	21	Joan Miller
22	Marlene Burgess	23	Unknown	24	Mary Mortell		

Other names may also include, Norma Hyatt, June Rich & Sidy Bindley.

Change of Meeting Times

From April onwards the Armidale Family History Group will be changing their meeting times. Over recent years we have held our meetings on Tuesday nights during the warmer months and Saturday afternoons during the colder months. After consultation with members, it was decided to hold the meetings on the second Saturday of each month starting at 2.00pm and discontinue Tuesday night meetings. Due to Easter being on the second Saturday in April, for that month only the meeting will be on the third Saturday, being 15 April.

John Trim Estate

Armidale Express and New England General Advertiser, Friday 31 August 1906, page 5

The following advertisement shows the substantial estate of John TRIM, who died 1 November 1892. It is interesting to note that the occupier of the houses were mentioned providing another source to find where your ancestor lived.

John Trim Estate – Sale of properties 12 September 1906

JB. FITZGERALD has received instructions to Sell by Public Auction, at Tattersall's Hotel, at 2.30 o'clock, the following valuable properties to wind up the Estate of the late John Trim

- 1—Allotment 1 of section 18, situated at the corner of Faulkner and Brown Streets, on which is erected a 4 roomed cottage, at present occupied by Mr. J. GARDINER. This is absolutely the best available building allotment in the city of Armidale.
- 2—Allotments 8 and 9 of section 102, corner of Faulkner and Donnelly Streets, containing 2 roods each.
- 3—Allotment 14 of section 101, corner of Faulkner and Donnelly Streets, containing 2 roods.
- 4—Allotment 17 of section 17, fronting Kirkwood Street, containing 2 roods.
- 5—Allotment 4 of section 87, Dumaresq Street, on which is erected a 6 roomed weatherboard (W.B.) cottage, occupied by Mr. J. HARLOW.
- 6—Allotment 2 of section 87, Dumaresq Street, on which is erected a 6 roomed W.B. cottage, occupied by Mrs. BALDWIN.
- 7—Part of allotment 1 of section 87, Dumaresq Street, on which is erected a 4-roomed W.B. cottage, occupied by Mr. McCLURE.
- 8—Part of allotment 1 of section 87, corner of Dumaresq and Douglas Streets, on which is erected a 6-roomed W.B. cottage, occupied by the Captain of the Salvation Army.
- 9—Part of allotment 20 of section 87, Douglas Street, on which is erected a 6-roomed W.B. cottage, occupied by Mr. TIERNEY.
10. Part of allotment 20, of section 87, Douglas Street, on which is erected a 6-roomed W.B. cottage, occupied by Mr. J. BRACKIN.
11. Portion 82, fronting Faulkner and Dumaresq Streets, containing about 3 Acres.
12. Part of portion 31, of 2 roods, on which is erected a large store. Dwelling of 8 rooms, and a very large produce store.
13. Allotment 14, of section 3, situated at the corner of Dumaresq and Faulkner Streets, having a frontage of 2 chains to Dumaresq-Streets and 2 1/2 chains to Faulkner Street, on which is erected an extra large shed and 2 cottages of 4 rooms each. This is one of the best corners in the market.
14. Allotment 10, of section 3, Dumaresq Street, adjoining Mr. J. McLEAN'S mill, on which is erected a wheelwright's shop, occupied by Mr. J. RICHARDS.

An interesting point to note is that the estate took 14 years to finalise. Therefore, don't forget to keep searching for information after your ancestor has died, especially if they owned property.

Interesting Free Websites

Wayne Hoppe

Don't forget our website www.armidalefamilyhistorygroup.com

The Dreadnought Boys. This blog spot gives details of the Australian Dreadnought Boys. It gives details of the hundreds of British teenagers who voluntarily migrated to Australia between 1911 and 1939, under the Dreadnought Scheme. Upon arriving in Australia, they undertook training and then worked on rural properties in NSW. For most boys, it was a tough and lonely start yet many of the 7,500 young migrants went on to have rich and varied careers in their new homeland - contributing greatly to the growth of modern Australia.

<http://thedreadnoughtboys.blogspot.com/>

Land of The Beardies History House, Glen Innes. For anyone with Glen Innes connections this is the place to go. If you are in Glen Innes the museum is a rewarding way to spend a few hours. If you are searching online, they have good general information about Glen Innes and district and they offer a research service.

Under their publications tab they have a 141 page index of their Bulletins from 1973 to 2020. This a free downloadable document, or it can be browsed. Many Armidale families spent time in Glen Innes, so it is worthwhile checking out your family names. The Armidale Family History Group has a selection of these journals, which you are able to borrow.

<https://www.beardieshistoryhouse.info/>

New Zealand Papers Past. If you have any ancestors that were in New Zealand this website might help you with your research. This is similar to the Australian Trove site and has digitised newspapers, magazines, letters, diaries and books. It is operated by the National Library of New Zealand and is for those with ancestors in New Zealand is the place to go.

<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/>

Upcoming Meetings

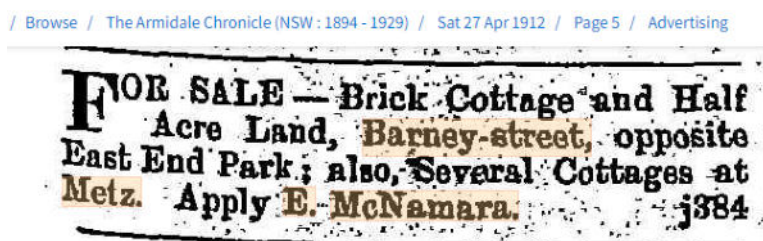
March - Martin Gibbs will present on 'New work on the Landscapes of Production and Punishment project'. When he last presented they were still in the opening stages of the project, collecting information on convicts in Tasmania. This talk will provide an update, with projects now stretching across Tasmania, NSW and Norfolk Island. It will look at some of the outputs such as the publicly accessible 'webmaps' of convict sites, and discuss the benefits of these tools for family historians.

May – Julie McCarthy is a paper conservator. She will present on how to care for your paper based records including photos. Bring along a photo or anything paper based that you would like her to review and she will use this as a basis for her presentation.

McNamara Family Home

Wayne Hoppe

We recently had a visitor who was researching the McNAMARA family from Hillgrove and Metz. Edward McNamara also owned a house in Armidale as shown in the *Armidale Chronicle* of 27 April 1912. Another advertisement gave the name of the house as 'Mervyn'.



There are currently 3 brick houses in this block, numbers 69, 75 & 77 Barney St. However, there is also one vacant block and a number of newer houses that could have replaced the original building. Of note this address is only one block away from The Armidale School (TAS) where some of Edward's sons went to school.

After narrowing the address down to one block we posted on *Facebook* if anyone knew which house the family lived in and we had immediate success. A long term local lived in this block and was able to provide us with the most likely address of the house.

By combining the power of Trove and local knowledge we were able assist a visitor with their research.

Rooke Family

Wayne Hoppe



While visiting the cemetery recently we saw the ROOKE family grave in row one of the Roman Catholic cemetery. We noticed there were three headstones, but four plots. Thinking there might be another member of the family buried there we searched through Trove. In particular we were looking for the husband of Florentine (Flora) Rooke, nee HIRSCHBERG, (d. 18 November 1908) as this seemed to be the most likely person to be buried there.

By searching Trove, we found out that Flora's husband, Evelyn George Rooke, left town a month after her death and none of his family heard from him again. His eldest son went to court in 1930 to record his father as 'presumed dead' in order to finalise his brother, William F Rooke's estate.

Evelyn's presumed death was premature, with the *Hobart Mercury* recording his death on 12 February 1938. The power of Trove once again solved a family mystery. This and more fascinating information on graves within our cemetery is recorded in our new cemetery register.


Find A Word – Surnames in the Armidale Cemetery

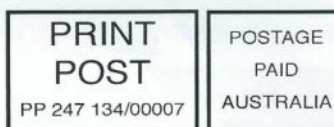
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BRENNAN
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HAGUE
HARPER
HEWITT
HOUSE
JACKES
KELLY
KIRKWOOD
LENNON

ANDERSON
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