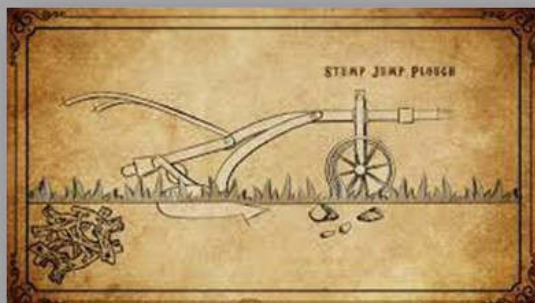


# Missing Link

Cooroy-Noosa Genealogical & Historical Research Group Inc.



Royal Chocolates

Richard Dock

P 3



History making Museum

Arnold Worboys P 4



Stump Jump Plough Kathryn Simpson P 7

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Nov 2023



**The Heritage Centre, 17 Emerald Street, Cooroy.**

Open Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 9.30 am -1 pm

Other times by appointment.

**Research fees:** Members \$2 per session Non-Members \$10 per session

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**Editorial**

Welcome to Issue 53 of the *Missing Link*. This edition features articles from many of our valued members and readers. Arnold Worboys reminisces on his connection to Gunnedah and the renovation of the town's water tower. Do you remember the Stump Jump Plough, so popular in the Mallee district of Victoria? Kathryn Simpson tells us of her husband's connection to this valued invention. She also leads us to the story of War Veteran and former Noosa resident Staff Sergeant Frank Parr.

Do you like chocolate? Well, drool over Vice President Richard Dock's story – *Royal Chocolates*, which may lead you to appreciate the history of the *Cooroy Ambulance* by Noel Gilvarry. Following these two tales, a desire for some rest and recuperation on idyllic *Cribb Island* may be sought. Sorry to disappoint you, but this will find you lying in the middle of the Brisbane Airport runway; not a preferred holiday location.

We hope you enjoy, gain inspiration, and write a story for the next *Missing Link* issue in May 2024.

Liz, Helga and Louise

**President's Report**

My message this year is similar to last year and remains relevant.

In order for the Group to continue with the success that has been built over many years, it needs to expand the capabilities of what it has to offer to new, as well as existing members. We need to publicize the expertise and knowledge of our members in worldwide family research. This will attract new members who had previously held no connection to our area, and hopefully, in time they will find interest in the local history.

I would like to say how proud I am of the members of the Heritage Centre and its band of volunteers. It is the envy of the majority of similar groups that have heard of us and visited our premises. It is a testament to the work and effort of past and present members who have created the friendly research environment we see today. Hopefully, we will maintain our current position at the forefront of family and historical research for many years to come.

Tom Heitmann  
President

I left school when I was fifteen and began an apprenticeship in handmade sweet-making. I travelled from home to Piccadilly in London by pushbike, which was a trip of twenty-seven miles each way. The chocolate-bakery premises called Florice was situated at 24 Bruer Street across from the Windmill Theatre and ran from 1935 to 1978. The chocolatier was named Florice and he was a Hungarian Chocolatier Master. The Floris family were the only Hungarians to receive the Royal Warrant, the title of supplier to the British Royal Family. This Royal Coat of Arms activitus sat proudly on the exterior of the premises.

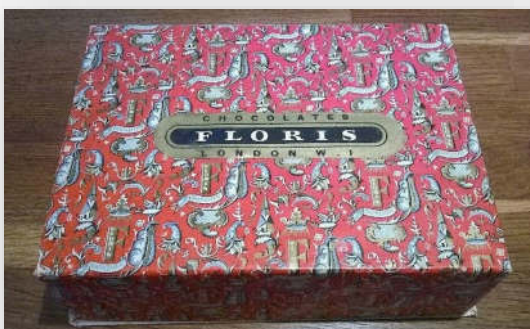
My first introduction to chocolate making was the tempering of chocolate to make moulds which were filled with different fillings. It was also my job to deliver a collection of sweets to customers. I delivered to Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle, and a number of major hotels where such dignitaries as the Beatles, Cliff Richards, Tom Jones, the Easy Beats, Harry Secombe and many worldwide political leaders stayed. I was dressed in a Royal Hussar's military uniform with a pillbox hat and white gloves and driven around in a Bentley delivering the sweets.

At Buckingham Palace, I was met by the Butler and told to follow him two paces behind, hat off but gloves in place. I was led into the family room. I had quickly learned how to bow with a handful of sweets and not move until the Queen beckoned me and then the Queen Mother always asked me to indicate which were the soft-centred chocolates. I always looked at the Queen while backing out of the room. Most of the Royal family were present when I visited.

At Christmas and Easter, we worked seven days a week to keep the shop full of goodies. My mother always knew when I had been preparing the cherries and grapes, which had previously been in a barrel of Napoleon brandy for six months. I am glad I was never picked up by the police and asked to blow into the bag. These cherries and grapes were then dipped in brandy fondant and bitter chocolate and placed in a cold room for six months where the fruit and brandy absorbed the fondant and left a shell of chocolate and fruit.

The liqueur chocolates were the best, with half an ounce of liqueur in a bitter chocolate case, of course, you must taste the liqueur, there were twelve types. We started with a sugar syrup mix that crystallized when piped into starch molds. They were then placed in bitter chocolate and placed in a cold room for six months where the liqueur dissolved the sugar and left the chocolate shell full of liqueur. We used boiling vats of sugar water to make crystalized fruits. You had to keep dipping your hands in cold water and wiping down the insides of the vat to prevent crystals from forming. After a time, your hands were like leather; I did this in most jobs such as caramels, butterscotch and toffees. I also filled fruit with coloured marzipan, cut up nut toffee, made fruit chocolate slabs and bars, and tried my hand at packing the sweets. The girls said I was not bad, but better at making them.

One of my creations was to make a platter of handmade chocolates, fruit and nuts in a novel way. I remember one called Le Jardin which was laid out like a garden, nuts for the footpath with other handmade goodies for the remainder of the garden. For Easter, I made Easter egg shells of chocolate and filled them with extra chocolates as well as filigree eggs out of piped chocolate, so that one could see the chocolates inside.



I sometimes helped in the bakery making Christmas cakes, fruit mince pies, puddings and hot cross buns. When Sir Winston Churchill was given dual citizenship with the U.S.A. I produced a cake shaped like America and England and connected them with a bridge made of royal icing. I worked at the Florice Chocolate Factory and Bakery for over fifteen years and left when the proprietor died.



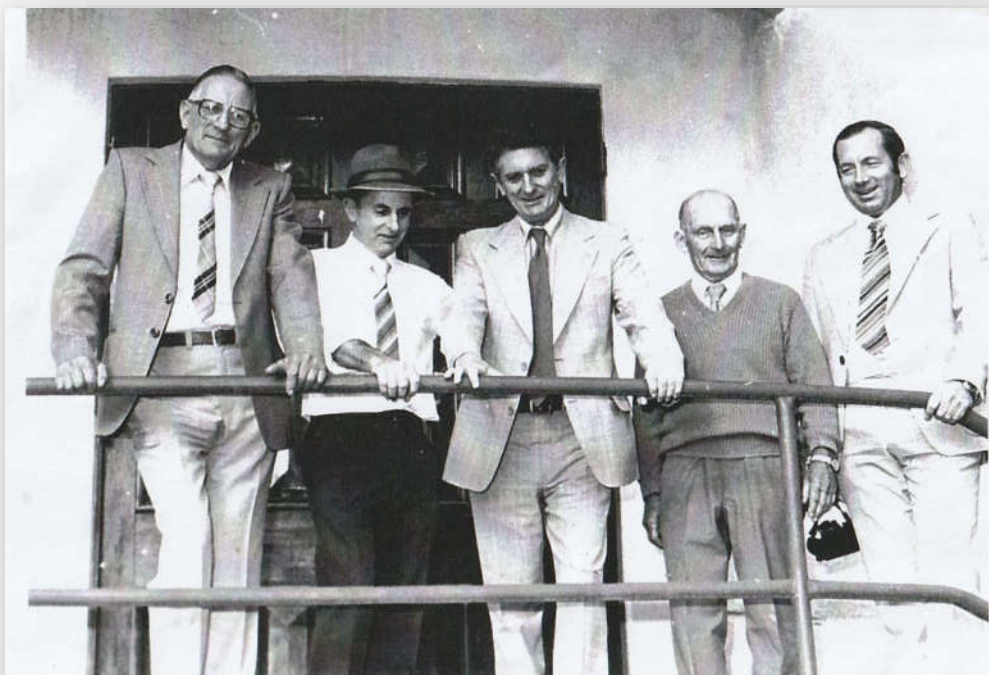
In Gunnedah civic leaders saw the need for an improved water supply almost 100 years ago, they could hardly have imagined that their modern water tower on Anzac Hill would later become the town's historical museum.

The water tower was constructed in 1908 to serve the growing Gunnedah community and remain in service until the late 1950s when it was eventually replaced by a new Steel Reservoir erected nearby. The plan to convert the old water tower into a museum began in 1967 when the Gunnedah and District Historical Society was searching for a place to house its growing collection. The society had been formed in 1963 at a public meeting called by the Mayor Frank O'Keefe and an initial home for the town collection was provided in the area at the rear of the library in Elgin Street. It was also announced at the meeting that Russell McDonagh, a notable historian had bequeathed his historical collection to the society along with a monetary donation to purchase somewhere to house it.

As the historical collection grew it became clear that the society needed a new home and after much careful consideration it was decided to attempt to convert the old water tower into a multi-storeyed museum. The society had launched a successful public appeal for financial assistance and with the proceeds set about the massive task of construction which started on Saturday August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1968 when the tower was broken into to find out whether it could withstand the structural alterations.

Foundation President of the Historical Society, Lionel Errat was part of the initial construction team that hacked away at the wall of the tower with a chisel and sledgehammer along with two of the prime movers Garvis (Massey) Mazitelli and Arnold Worboys. They chiselled through 10 inches of solid concrete reinforced with 1 inch steel bars spaced every three inches. When they eventually gained access, they found the tower was in excellent condition and the task of conversion could go on.

Over the next 10 years, the society was continually frustrated with delays due to structural materials and constant financial problems but the unswerving enthusiasm of the dedicated band of workers never waned. Many members of the society assisted with a project, with much of the early work carried out by Colin Clegg, Curly Nowland and Athol Palmer, but the bulk of the voluntary labour came from Lionel Erratt, and his loyal gang of four - Massey Mazitelli, Bill McMorran, Evan Palmer and Arnold Worboys - who devoted virtually all their spare time to the task. The first floor was completed in 1969, the second in 1970 and the third floor and windows finished in 1972.



Dr Lionel Gilbert, centre, with the Gang of War, the dedicated workers responsible for the conversion of the old water tower into a three-floor museum – from left, Garvice Mazitelli, Evan Palmer, Bill McMorran and Arnold Worboys

The following year great strides were made with the completion of the roof, stairways, spiral staircase and electrical installation. The roof over the external doorway was constructed in 1974 along with the sealing of roof cracks. By the end of 1975, the internal steps, door frames and handrails were finished with the workers gaining renewed vigour when the painting was completed the following year and detailed planning of the exhibits for the first three floors was started.

Excitement was high in 1979 when the outside path and lights were finished and the purchase and construction of display cases began, giving the dedicated band workers a sense of satisfaction and achievement and they saw their years of hard work finally come to fruition. Service clubs also contributed funds and labour and the Gunnedah and District Historical Society's dream was finally realised on Saturday May 3rd 1980 when the water tower museum was officially opened by Dr Lionel Gilbert, Director of Historical Research at the Armidale College of Advanced Education.

What was once an ugly duckling, resting on a hill overlooking the town, became yet another example of Gunnedah's wonderful spirit of self-help to create a community facility. Thank you to the Namoi Valley Independent newspaper.



Thank you to the Gunnedah Water Tower Museum and Shaun from *Destinations Journey Blog* for the photos.





On the 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019, Artist Jenny McCracken was commissioned to paint one or more murals on the water tower. She chose two scenes from the Vietnam War to honour Australian soldiers who courageously participated in the action. Jenny completed the work in nineteen days. The mural on the left depicts soldiers from 7RAR paying their respect to fallen mates beside the Long Tan Cross. The mural on the right features a group of soldiers waiting to be picked up by a Huey helicopter.

Photo on the left - Vietnam Veteran Day 2022

## Arnold Worboys

Arnold was born in Goondiwindi but then moved back to the Gunnedah region in New South Wales where the extended Worboys family lived. He was the eldest child of a farming family and their property was based on sheep, wheat and cattle. After leaving school, Arnold worked on the 680-acre family farm which was based about 12 miles from the township of Gunnedah. He undertook seasonal work, such as hay baling and harvesting to supplement the farm income.

Arnold enjoyed photography and joined the local club. It was here that the idea of converting the 40 feet by 40 feet empty 1908-built water tower into a local history group began. It was proposed that the structure be divided into three storeys with an observation platform on the roof. It was a courageous plan by a determined group of locals and it took ten years of mostly Saturday afternoons to complete.

Halfway through the conversion Arnold left the family farm and became the North Western Tourist Officer. This position lasted for five years and covered a huge area including Lightning Ridge, Quirindi and the area to the Queensland border in the north. Upon completion of the tourism position, he then managed the *Red Chief Motel* in Gunnedah for five years, as well as working on the conversion of the water tower.

The water tower was finally completed and became the home of The Gunnedah & District Historical Society, which had previously been housed in the town library. On Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1980, The Gunnedah Water Tower Museum was officially opened by Dr Lionel Gilbert, Director of Historical Research at the Armidale College of Advanced Education.

Once the project was completed Arnold took on another position, this time as Tourist Officer of the Central West based at Wellington in New South Wales, where he was honoured by the University of New South Wales and Sydney Museum by having a new species of Australian marsupial *Dasycercus worboysi* named after him. An article in the November 2022 issue of the Missing Link featured this story.

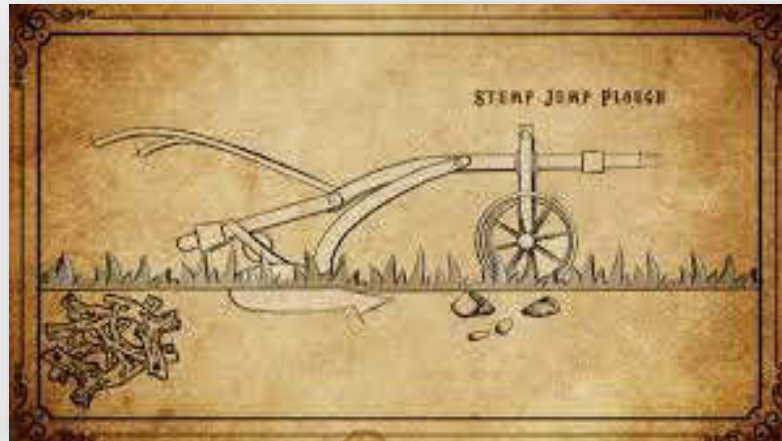
Arnold remained in Wellington for approximately five years. He laughs and says – *it appears that I began a new position every five years*. Arnold then moved to Noosa in 1986 and took on a position in tourism promotion that lasted, you guessed it, five years. Arnold took on various casual positions until he fully retired and joined the Cooroy-Noosa Genealogical & Historical Research Group in 1999 and has been a valued member for over two decades.

The name Worboys. *Ward* means to care for, and *bois* is French for the forest, therefore Worboys means to care for forest or woods.

You ploughed up the paddocks with a stump-jump plough

But the gates were open and the drought walked through

- Nancy Cato, *Mallee Farmer*



The Simpson family sold their Mallee wheat and sheep farm in 1968 and headed to Queensland, celebrating Christmas in Noosa while awaiting settlement on their purchase of a dairy farm at Cooroy Mountain. Until he converted the farm to beef, Gordon Simpson hopped in his ute and delivered the cream to the Cooroy Butter Factory. Their eldest son Bruce (my husband) started Year 9 in 1969 at Noosa District High School and wrote a couple of times to one of his Mallee schoolmates from Sea Lake High School - Lester Pearce from Woomelang. The correspondence waned but a high school reunion revived the friendship and recently revealed an amazing and historic connection between Bruce and Lester's families and the invention of the Stump Jump plough.

The distribution of Mallee Eucalypts defines the arid Mallee landscape in North-West Victoria and parts of South Australia, Western Australia and New South Wales. These drought-resistant shrubby trees have multiple stems that spring from underground bulbous woody roots, prolific and stubborn. The viable clearing and ploughing of the land were impossible until the invention of the Mallee roller and stump-jumping implements, powered by bullocks or Clydesdales. The inventor of the principle upon which the stump jumping plough and allied machinery are constructed was Richard Bowyer Smith:

*What caused me to think of such a plough was that I went into the scrub on purpose to subdue it. I tried hard to do so by grubbing, but after three weeks or so I found grubbing to be an expensive, heart-breaking, gall-bursting, and slow process; and then I asked myself - Could I not manage the stumps in some other way? Could they not be ploughed over, and the scrub by that means brought speedily under cultivation? About the beginning of June 1876, I thought of a plan, and at once put it into practice; and the principle of that plan is the one now adopted by all the stump-jumping ploughs in the colony.*

The genius and merit of R. B. Smith's invention were belatedly acknowledged by the South Australian Government with a certificate, medal and grant of land, as a small compensation for the hardship he had experienced during the development of his invention, culminating in the lapse of registration of his patent. South Australian farmers and implement makers received the full benefit of his invention, free of royalties however, the Victorian Wimmera and Mallee farmers and implement makers (many of whom originally came to Victoria via South Australia) were not as fortunate. They faced up to dingoes, drought, rabbits and mallee roots and were shocked to discover the high price of royalties payable to the Victorian Patent holder (Mellor Brothers) - one pound per furrow, many implements having at least four furrows.

At the Sea Lake High School Reunion (March 2023), we reminisced and raised a glass to the 56 years since Bruce was in Form 1/Year 8 and then we enjoyed a road trip to Warracknabeal in the Victorian Wimmera, on the Southern edge of the Mallee. Here, with the kind assistance of some wonderful members of the Warracknabeal Historical Society (thank you Gaye and Ray), we discovered new information about the location of the long-gone ancestral Simpson Agricultural Implement Factory. The Warracknabeal Historical Centre is housed in an old bank building on the main street and is a fascinating museum. Warracknabeal is also home to the Wheatlands Agricultural Machinery Museum - the largest collection of historical machinery in Australia. They hold a vintage machine rally over the Easter long weekend each year.

An article in the Melbourne Weekly Times of March 21, 1891, describes the prosperity, industry and wealth of Warracknabeal, highlighting the foundry of G. Simpson and Co. (formerly Simpson and Sons). Their foundry occupied a couple of acres of land on the main street and much astonishment and surprise are expressed in the article

*that there should be such an industry in a town 220 miles from the metropolis, and to some extent on the outskirts of civilisation .....for there are a dozen or more forges in full blast, huge machinery is buzzing in all directions, and to keep pace with the trade, the works are never still until late in the night.*

The sheer scale of manufacture (and repair) of agricultural and general machinery and farm implements, including ploughs, strippers and harvesters would not have been at all surprising to the farmers of the district who had long relied on Samuel Simpson and his sons, whose expertise and innovation was key to attacking the forbidding mallee lands and unlocking its fertile potential by providing the means of efficient clearing and cultivation.

In March 1891, G. Simpson and Co was on the cusp of another innovation, which could only be hinted at in the newspaper. A patent application (No. 8477) was lodged on 3rd February 1891,

*by George Simpson, a member of the firm of George Simpson and Co., of Warracknabeal, in the colony of Victoria, implement manufacturers, for "An improved rising beam for jump ploughs.*

This was a brave move in the litigious realm of stump-jumping implements. The nemesis of farmers and Victorian implement makers alike, the Mellor Bros and later, the Braybrook Implement Company (assignees of the Mellor Bros patent for the stump-jump plough) had charged makers dearly for manufacturing the Stump Jump plough and other stump jumping implements since 1886, charging a royalty for the right to make stump jumping implements, under licence. In October 1890, the Braybrook Implement Company issued 3 months' notice to all implement manufacturers to discontinue making stump jumping implements

*which is an imitation or infringement of Mellor Bros. patent.*

This news sent shockwaves through mallee communities, fearful of the increased costs such a monopoly would have on the manufacture of this revolutionary invention that jumped over remnant mallee roots and other obstructions lying below the surface in Mallee paddocks:

Up to the present these implements have been made under license and the makers have paid a royalty of one pound per furrow. Many improvements have been effected upon the original by licensed makers who have taken first prizes against all comers, notably Messrs G. Simpson and Co. and Messrs Johnson and Miller Bros of Warracknabeal, Messrs Beard and Sisson of Natimuk and Mr A. Hocking and Messrs May and Millar of Horsham, and it is not considered by the farmers who depend upon these implements to cultivate the Mallee, that a monopoly will produce the same excellence in construction as was brought about by competition. The royalty has always been considered a hardship and various measures have been taken to secure a modification of the Patent Laws Statute without avail. It is surmised that if the notice now served upon manufacturers is carried into effect, a feeling of irritation will affect the whole community of the Colony and that a much welcome relief will be brought about by special legislation.

The special legislation did not eventuate and by the beginning of 1891, it was reported that farmers lacked the enthusiasm to support Horsham manufacturers, May and Hocking in their quest to test a plough against the patent plough, given Braybrook's previous success in litigation. Also, farmers believed there was no guarantee that the cost of the ploughs would be lessened, even if the new plough beat the Braybrook Company's patent stump jump plough. G. Simpson and Co. faced many challenges over the years, but it seems likely that the cancellation of their licence to make stump jump implements was the catalyst for the sale of the business to the Braybrook Company in June 1891.



The Braybrook Company last week completed the purchase of the large plant and business known as Simpson and Co. Until recently, the premises of Messrs G. Simpson and Co. the latter firm has been kept going night and day making harrows, paying royalty to the Braybrook Company, who are patentees. The Braybrook firm intends now to be the sole maker and make Warracknabeal the headquarters.

Under the circumstances, the business would not have been saleable to any other maker. Between November 1887 and August 1890, Samuel Simpson and Sons/George Simpson and Co. weathered the storm of four serious workshop accidents, involving the death of one man (Archibald McLean) and the maiming of two men (Michael Byrne and Charles Goulden) one of whom sued for damages of 500 pounds. George Simpson and Co. also survived the ructions of a strike in November 1890, acceding to Union demands for an 8-hour day and the provision of an overtime rate. George Simpson's wife Catherine Mary (McKinnon) died of gastric intestinal catarrh in May 1889, 3 weeks after the birth of their daughter - Warracknabeal had drainage issues and typhoid fever had long been a curse. What did George Simpson, a widower with an infant daughter, do after the sale of his Company? Proof of his whereabouts was found in early 1899 when he is identified as the Travelling Representative of the Braybrook Implement Company in NSW.

There are reports of George Simpson demonstrating the Braybrook implements in Narromine, Parkes, Cowra and Narrandera, after which he bought a property and married Eva Walsh on 24 July 1901 in Temora, New South Wales. What about the years immediately after the sale of G. Simpson and Co.? Is it possible that George was kept on to manage the Warracknabeal outpost of the Braybrook Implement Company until it closed in 1899? The Braybrook Implement Company consolidated in Braybrook Junction, Melbourne but gradually declined as a result of the Depression and drought of the 1890s, until its demise in 1904, when H.V. McKay purchased the plant and works (later renaming the suburb *Sunshine*).

Like his wheelwright ancestors, Bruce's Dad was also a clever innovator and maker of farm machinery. Circa 1964, he built a 12-ton, 4WD articulated tractor utilising many ex-WW2 Grant tank parts. At Bruce's High School Reunion, Bruce proudly told his friend Lester all about his ancestral links to the stump-jump plough. Lester listened patiently and said he could go one better! Bruce and Lester are both proud Mallee-born boys but unbeknown to Bruce, Lester too was descended from Wimmera stump-jump plough makers who had moved from South Australia to Brim (Andrew Smith). Lester however could claim direct lineage to Stump-Jump royalty, being related to the family of the actual inventor, on his mother's side.



The following is a heartwarming story provided by the granddaughter of Lola MacDonald, a valued member of our group. Lola says that Jessica had been looking for her father for many years and DNA testing provided the answers.

In May 2009, Jessica began the search for her father. She had successfully researched and found her maternal family some years before, but she wished to complete the task of discovering who her father was. Jessica decided to take a DNA test with *Ancestry DNA*, the most popular DNA home-use company in the world. She purchased the test on Mother's Day in 2019 and from this point forward Jessica will tell the story.

In May 2019, I received my DNA results and began to gather DNA matches with the same DNA as myself. The dashboard of the DNA base has a filter called *common ancestors*, which means the DNA match and I share a common ancestor, it may be a grandfather grandmother, great-grandfather, great-grandmother, or further back in time. So, I searched the trees of my matches, looking for the surname of Prestedge, which was my mother's surname and created my first group named PRESTEDGE.

I worked through this group and utilized the *shared matches* feature which listed the people who had submitted their DNA and were related to both parents. This helped me filter the maternal matches who didn't have a family tree connected to their profile or hadn't inserted my direct ancestors in their tree. By doing this I was able to separate the maternal matches from the paternal matches, which left me with matches that were only connected to my paternal side. Remember I knew nothing about my paternal family, but now I had isolated my paternal DNA matches in one group which enabled me to work through these matches and view their trees.

The closest two DNA matches were Leanne McDonald and djmcdonald116. Leanne was a proposed 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin with 464 cM or 7% common DNA and djmcdonald116 was a proposed 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> cousin or 5% DNA, **but** neither showed a family tree. I moved on to the next closest match that did have a family tree – Richard Cole who shared 135 cM or 2% and I investigated his tree. I also noticed that a common couple **John Dennis and Mary Ellis** appeared in the trees of two other DNA matches – Sharon/Gordon Stevenson 109cM and James Robinson – 31cM. This discovery was a vital discovery, Richard, Sharon and James all shared a common ancestor in John Dennis and Mary Ellis from the early 1800s, which meant that this was the starting point to finding my elusive paternal branch.

The next step was to create a second family tree beginning with John Dennis and Mary Ellis and work towards the present day. I used the trees of the DNA matches mentioned above to find the children of the couple. I attached a \* to these children to indicate to myself that I needed to confirm the information by using historical birth, death, marriage and census records found within the Ancestry records. I discovered twelve children for John and Mary, as well as their spouses and children and this took me to the late 1800s. The key surnames found were Dennis, Ellis, Klemm, Barnes, Markwell and Klumpp. I could not attach this second tree to my DNA results as I had to include myself in the tree.

I began to trawl through the matches that had not been assigned to PRESTEDGE and see if any of the people in their family trees appeared in my second tree. If this occurred, I assigned these people to a new group under the label of DENNIS. I investigated their trees for key names and researched their shared matches and added them to the correct groups. I noticed a pattern with the Dennis and /or Klemm names and decided to investigate William Dennis 1846 and Sophia Klemm 1849.

I found fifteen children, so the process of finding their spouses and children was again repeated. The key surname that I kept seeing from the list of spouses and my DNA matches was McKay. I had a few DNA matches for McKay that were not related to the Dennis line, **so** I knew that the next line to explore was Christian Dennis 1875 and Annie McKay 1880. I found information on five of the children, thus bringing me to the early 1900s.

The next hurdle I needed to cross involved the privacy of living people, which prevented me from accessing vital documentation and proceeding to the present generation. I decided to research the names that I already had. I searched the public trees of people who had not necessarily taken a DNA test but showed the same names that I was seeking. Please note the ability to see these trees is only possible with a paid account. I noticed that two trees had a lot of information about the DENNIS family that I was interested in. One particularly held my attention.

It showed Keith McDonald (the same surname as my two strongest DNA matches) married to a Dennis descendant, so I reached out and sought contact. While I was waiting for a reply, I looked through the trees of DNA matches that I had placed in the McDonald group and noticed that Keith was included in a few of these trees. Luckily for me, Keith responded quickly and informed me that he was the grandson of one of Christian Dennis and Annie McKay's children - Gertrude Hopper nee Dennis and he had an Auntie Lola, who was married to Keith McDonald.

Keith mentioned that Lola was involved in a genealogy society, so I did some googling and found photos of Lola involved in netball. I then stumbled across an article mentioning Lola and genealogy-noosa.org.au. I found the organization's Facebook page and reached out to see if anyone could help me with the research of the McDonald, Dennis, Hopper, Klemm and Crawford families. The genealogy group put me in touch with Lola. I told her my research story and said that I was happy to do further DNA tests with her sons to confirm my dad. Lola's eldest son undertook to test which came back confirming that he was a 99% match to me. He was my uncle, so my research was correct.

I connected and met my new family and my dad asked me if I was open to having him added to my birth certificate, as I had no father listed. I contacted the Birth, Death and Marriage department in Canberra and received the correct form which was completed by me and my parents. A Justice of the Peace verified our identification and \$60 was paid to update the birth certificate.

*Thank you, Jessica and congratulations on finding your unknown father. We have added your valuable tips, along with those from Ancestry.com, to hopefully help another researcher find their elusive parent.*

### Further tips from AncestryDNA

- Determine who are your closest matches as these are the ones you should focus on first.
- Look at your matches—on Ancestry there's a **Shared Matches** button; Sort your matches into groups of people who are related to each other. e.g., group the matches who share your grandparents, then your great-grandparents etc. You should see distinct clusters emerge, which you can organize on paper or in a spreadsheet. Depending on your results, the ethnicity of matches may help you with your sorting.
- If you know one of your parents, plot as many people as you can on the extensive tree you have built for them, and use the shared matches function, so you can rule out as many people as possible from the known side and **focus** on the **unknown** side.
- Now what you need to do is figure out who the **common ancestors** are in each cluster. If they all share that common ancestor, chances are you do as well. To do this, you need to look at their ancestors. Maybe your matches have trees; maybe not. You may need to build out their trees.
- Matches with underdeveloped trees: use Ancestry, Familysearch (free!), and Google to see if you can build their trees out. Googling the name of a match with the phrase "obituary" can help.
- If your match doesn't have a tree, click on their profile and see what else comes up.
- Message - if you are messaging your matches, you might start by asking if they are willing to share the names of their grandparents.
- The next step is to see where those families intermarry. Ancestry and Familysearch, obituaries and newspaper accounts help. It sometimes helps to think laterally—if you get stuck on someone, move to a sibling. That sibling's obituary might list the married names of their siblings - trace these.
- It's possible that having done all of this you are still stumped. Maybe you didn't have enough data, this is not your fault. Maybe the right person hasn't tested yet. Maybe you have a biological parent who was a recent immigrant. Maybe you haven't been able to crack a specific family line. Maybe the cMs don't make sense. *Never be afraid to ask for help.*



## Do you know the names of the ships in the First Fleet?

**Sirius** – the flagship of the 1<sup>st</sup> Fleet. It was fitted out as an armed storeship with twenty guns and carried 136 seamen, marines and officers, as well as provisions.

**Supply** – the smallest and fastest ship. She accompanied Sirius as an armed tender but in hindsight considered too small to attempt such a long journey. She carried four 3-pounders, four 12-pound carronades and 12 muskets.

**Alexander** – the largest ship weighing 452 tons, 114 feet long and 31 feet wide. It carried 192 male convicts.

**Borrowdale** – one of the newest ships in the First Fleet. It was built in 1785 and wrecked in 1789. It served as a storeship in the First Fleet.

**Charlotte** – one of the slowest convict-carrying ships. It carried 88 male and twenty female convicts. Two male convicts conducted a counterfeiting ring before arriving at Sydney Cove.

**Fishburn** – the largest storeship.

**Friendship** – smallest of the convict transports. It acted as a punishment ship for troublemakers from other ships. There were frequent fights between sailors and marines and female convicts were found sleeping with the crew.

**Golden Grove** - store ship carrying convicts and soldiers.

**Lady Penrhyn** – the slowest ship, contained the largest number of women convicts and took 13 months to make the voyage.

**Scarborough** – the ship containing mutineers who planned to take over the ship just two weeks into the voyage. It contained a small cramped prison deck housing 208 male convicts.

**Prince of Wales** – transported 49 female convicts and one male convict. It was the last ship to join the First Fleet.



### Why was the Second Fleet known as the *Death Fleet*?

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Fleet consisted of six vessels containing settlers, convicts and supplies. It was known as the *Death Fleet* as a huge number of convicts on the *Neptune*, *Scarborough* and *Surprise* died by malnutrition and disease, either on board - 26%, or within a few months of arrival - 40%.

The reason for the deaths lay at the feet of the British government's decision to privatize the transport of the convicts, leading to a lack of care by the ship owners. They were paid per convict boarded and not those successfully arriving. The convicts were overcrowded, left for long periods below deck, and poorly fed that lead to disease. The mortality rate of the 1<sup>st</sup> Fleet was 5.4%, whereas the mortality rate of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Fleet was 40 %.

Returned World War One soldier and Noosa 'hermit', Frank Parr of the 2nd Australian Remount Unit (Service Number 1381) lies in an unmarked grave in the Nambour Garden Cemetery. I first read about Frank Parr in Emma Freeman's book: *Hastings Street: Stories from Noosa's Past*. The late Emma Freeman, Noosa artist and author, wrote evocatively of Noosa's past. The main character in her book is the achingly beautiful natural environment. The sand and salt-whipped wind and sea mingle with the broad-brush strokes of colour provided by the characters inhabiting Emma's world of Noosa Heads in the 1950s and 60s.

One of these characters was 'The Hermit', assumed to be a returned shell-shocked soldier, arriving in Sunshine Beach in the 1930s where he lived in an unlined weatherboard house. Frank Parr only spoke to others if spoken to, but was known as a polite, former journalist who continued to write every day, albeit on the back of small cardboard squares of empty Vita Wheat packets. He used swamp water to make his tea and also made a muddy concoction with wildflowers that he offered for sale as a tonic called *Florida Lotion*. Perhaps because of his deep well-educated voice, he was mistaken for an Englishman.

Emma Freeman records her first sighting of him, coming along the Tewanin Road (now Noosa Drive) on his weekly walk to the Hastings Street Post Office Store, for his mail and supplies, wearing dirty, worn, sand shoes tied to his feet with string:

*I could see a tall grey-bearded figure carrying a sugar-bag, in a cloud of dust, shaking a small gum tree branch around his head to keep the hordes of flies off. As he advanced, I could see the flies followed him, obviously attracted to the distinctive odour of his old brown coat. When he passed by, I noted that he was an imposing figure, tall, thin and as straight as a desert road. His gaze appeared unseeing and preoccupied, while his toes, graceful as a ballet dancer's, pointed and dipped into the soft dust of the road. He walked with a slow, sliding gait. His legs moved like well-oiled machinery in motion and appeared disconnected to the rest of his rigid body.*

Emma Freeman writes that, as his health deteriorated, Frank Parr became more reclusive until one day in 1962, his neighbour found him outside, calling out in distress. Emma Freeman, (a trained nurse) arranged for the Cooroy ambulance to take Frank to Nambour Hospital, where he died without family or friends on 19 July 1962, from cerebral haemorrhage. Frank's army experiences are described below.

Frank Parr, a station bookkeeper was finally accepted for active service in Sydney, on offering himself for the fifth time. Previously rejected as unfit on medical grounds due to varicose veins, he enlisted at age 28, on 8 October 1915 in the non-fighting Remount Unit, created specifically to take charge of the horses (left behind in Egypt) of the Light Horse Regiments that acted as infantry in Gallipoli. The Remount Unit recruited men specifically for their horsemanship, knowledge of horses and associated horse trades such as vets, blacksmiths, farriers, saddlers and wagon drivers, grooms and stable hands, they weren't all rough riders and horse breakers. Frank's previous experience as a station hand and drover in the Northern Territory and Queensland fitted the bill. His war service record describes his varicose veins as Varicocele. The condition is an enlargement of the veins within the scrotum which can cause pain and discomfort. The condition is no longer considered criteria for permanent rejection in the Defence Forces, but for Frank who was keen to enlist, the Remount Unit was his only option.

The 2nd Remount Unit (Headquarters and 2 squadrons) left Sydney on HMAT A67 Orsova on November 10, 1915, arriving in Melbourne early on November 12, where the 1st Remount Unit (Headquarters and 4 squadrons) boarded, before resuming the voyage at 3 pm on the same day with some artillery and Army Service Corps and a large number of Australian nursing sisters.

Major Andrew Barton 'Banjo' Paterson, solicitor, journalist, author and poet, belonged to the same Remount Unit as Trooper Frank Parr and in a letter to his wife Alice, Banjo jokingly describes the Remount Unit as *Methuslialiers*, the *Household Cavalry* and the *Horse-dung Hussars*, affirming that *from a military point of view a remount unit is very much atmosphere*. In the same letter, written at sea, Banjo describes the voyage as a *Mediterranean yachting cruise* with music, dances, boxing, bridge and sports including deck tennis. In addition to his own pup, there were *two awful mongrels*, two possums and a koala on board. According to Banjo, the contingent of nurses *seem good sorts* and he tells his wife that he made friends with the matron:

*She is red-headed but she and I are very much talked about so if you hear that I contemplated eloping with a ginger matron you will know how much to believe.* Adopting a more serious tone, he closes with *Dearest, I wish you were on this trip. It would be the best of our life-time.*

Perhaps Frank's passion for writing was inspired by his proximity to the great Banjo? I found scant evidence of Frank's post-war career in journalism: a descriptive piece about *A Street in Port Said* published in *The Australasian*, Melbourne in 1920 and a short tribute and farewell from his colleagues at the *Queensland Times*, on leaving to take up a position in New Guinea in 1923.

The Remount Unit arrived in Egypt on 8 December 1915, and it soon became clear that the plan for the evacuation of Gallipoli meant that the original work intended for the Remount Unit was not required. Trooper Henry Frederick Wallace Tucker of the 6th Light Horse Regiment, Service Number 177, bluntly observed that *when we evacuated Gallipoli there was no further use for any old or defective person as we took charge of our own horses and could readily absorb all reinforcements.....'*

The Imperial Authorities decided to make use of the Australian Remount Unit, forming a new Depot at Maadi where they took charge of horses and mules, properly acclimatising, breaking them in and training them for battle. The Australian Remount Depot received the first draft of (356) horses on Christmas Eve 1915. On Christmas Day 1915, Trooper Frank Parr was admitted to No. 2 Australian General Hospital at Gizereh Palace, on the banks of the Nile, a short distance from Cairo, with a fever that was subsequently diagnosed as tonsillitis. His illness had commenced three days prior, with a temperature, *pains all over*, headache, sore throat and dry cough. Frank was discharged after 11 days to a Convalescent Camp at Ras- El-Tin at Alexandria, where he remained under observation before returning to duty at the Remount Depot.

In early March of 1916, the Australian Remount Depot strength was reduced by half, (retaining all rough riders) forming one unit from the 1st and 2nd Remount Units. The men not included in the new unit (if medically fit) were encouraged to apply to join other units. Trooper Frank Parr was selected to join the newly formed Anzac Provost Corps (later called the Australian Provost Corps) created to maintain order in Egypt after the huge influx of reinforcements, at the end of the Gallipoli campaign. A rigorous selection process, intensive training for a month in all aspects of military police duties and a probationary period ensured that only *A class* men were accepted into the new Corps. Duties included town patrols, VIP, hospital and POW escorts, detention barrack duties, field reconnaissance and security (spies and saboteurs), water discipline and guarding of stores. A limited tenure in the Corps eliminated perceptions that men were joining the police to evade active service.

Accordingly, after nearly 5 months, Frank Parr (along with 52 other ranks) was struck off strength of the Anzac Provost Corps on 26 August 1916 and transferred back to the Australian Remount Depot, and then attached for duty at the 1st Light Horse Training Details Camp at Moascar, near the Suez Canal. This regiment (formed in March 1916) was tasked with training incoming reinforcements while allowing the sick and wounded a place to recover before returning to active service. There are no details on his duties here but within three months Frank was attached to Australian Headquarters where he was posted for duty with the Australian branch of the British Red Cross Society in Cairo on 13th November 1916. On the 27th November, 1916 he was appointed Acting Sergeant in this role.

The Red Cross in Egypt was administered on military principles with all the necessary services and storage of goods provided by the military authorities to enable the efficient distribution of money and goods in Egypt. The incredible scope of the work of the Red Cross in Egypt during the Gallipoli Campaign included equipping hospitals with surgical instruments and clinical necessities, providing convalescent homes for nurses and soldiers, providing necessities to patients as well as assisting their healing through relaxation and entertainment. After May 1916, the great bulk of Red Cross stores had been sent from Egypt to France, along with Nos. 1 and 2 General Hospitals.

The Red Cross's work in Egypt shifted to the support of medical services for the Sinai campaign and afterwards to the Palestine Front, including the provision of ambulance trains, surgical instruments and medical books for field surgery tents, comforts and recreation for patients in convalescence, additional kitchens in hospitals to supply invalid meals (to free up nurses for other duties) and Red Cross stores (later established at Jerusalem and Jericho). Headquarters was maintained in Cairo but a strong section of the Red Cross was established at Port Said, which became a hospital and convalescent centre for Australian troops. Frank was appointed Acting Staff Sergeant on 16th February 1918.



His service record is silent as to the exact nature of his duties with the Red Cross but he continued with this work until he was admitted with diphtheria to the Military Infectious Diseases Hospital at Choubra, on the 13th March 1918. He returned to Red Cross work in Cairo on the 12<sup>th</sup> of April 1918 and transferred to the Red Cross Section at Port Said on the 26th April 1918. Despite some health issues, Frank continued his work with the Red Cross in Egypt until his embarkation for Australia on the 2nd of August 1919.

Staff Sergeant Frank Parr provided useful and varied war service in the Remount Depot, in the military police and with the 1st Light Horse Training Regiment, finishing with a lengthy secondment to the Australian Branch of the British Red Cross in Egypt. His service is worthy of recognition on his grave - Lest We Forget

## What and Where is The Menin Gate?

Menin Gate is a huge Stone Archway that marks the entrance to a medieval town in Belgium called Ypres. On the walls of this structure, the names of over 54,896 Commonwealth soldiers are carved into the granite blocks. If we are fortunate to visit this sombre memorial, we shall find the two western-facing walls full of Australian names. They are the fallen men without a known grave.

Every evening at 8 pm the local police close the road through the gate and stand to attention while buglers play *The Last Post*. Several hundred people gather to remember and thank the courageous Australian soldiers for their sacrifice. This ceremony has occurred for over 100 years without a break.





A group of German prisoners captured by Australian troops, make their way towards Menin Gates. The ruins of Ypres can be seen in the background. A light railway on the left, transported troops and supplies.



***Menin Gate at Midnight*** is an oil painting by Will Longstaff. It was painted in 1927 to commemorate the soldiers with no marked grave who fought on the Western Front during the First World War. It can be viewed in the Australian War Memorial. Longstaff's scarlet poppies are flowers that could be found in the Flanders fields, but they also carry the traditional connotations of shed blood and remembrance; they represent a floral blanket covering the bloodied bodies of unknown soldiers; *at the same time, like the paper poppies worn on Remembrance Day, they are a tribute from the living to the dead. The portrayal of the steel-helmeted soldiers rising from the cornfields extends the range of visual emblems used by Longstaff: the plentiful harvest; the harvest of men; the steel-helmeted crosses covering the graves of many soldiers; and the helmeted bayonets raised in cheer and victory.*

## Cooroy Ambulance 1923 -2023

In 1923 Cooroy achieved a Queensland Ambulance Transport Brigade Honorary Centre, however, the need for such a service was seen earlier than this. An article in *Trove* from August 1914 reported the formation of an Ambulance class with 28 names enrolled. Dr Stokes instructed men's and women's classes with the intention to affiliate with Gympie Ambulance Classes.

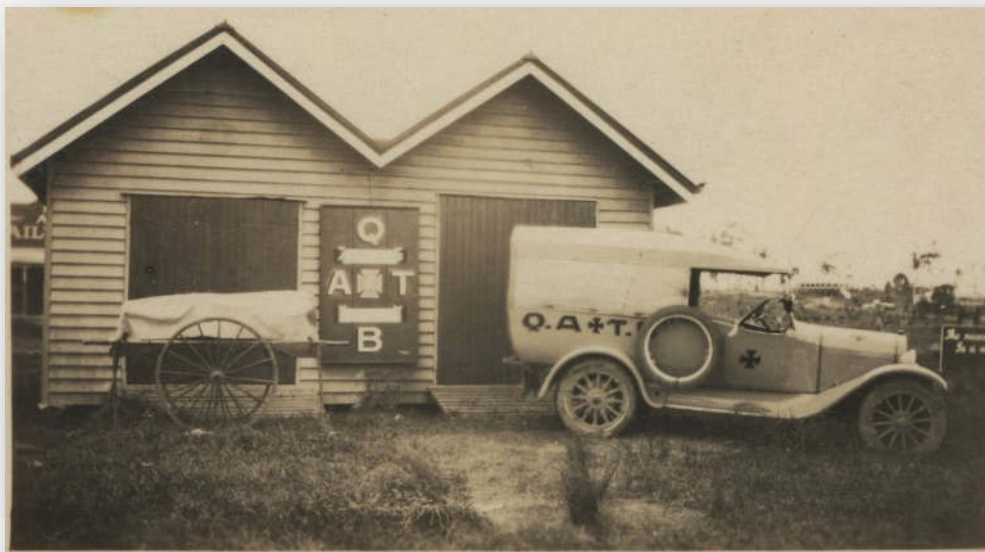
*In 2018, Noel Gilvarry, son of Dan Gilvarry, Cooroy's ambulance officer for a time, set down his memories of life as the son of Cooroy's Ambulance superintendent. We are pleased to share his memories.*

## Cooroy Ambulance Celebrates 100 Years

The first civilian ambulance services in Queensland were reportedly provided by volunteers as an extension of military units, so it is thought that this is where the use of the word *Brigade* may have originated. This started in Brisbane and gradually spread to other populated centres. The following is taken from the Queensland Ambulance Service website.

*Since the establishment of the City Ambulance Transport Brigade (CATB) on 12 September 1892, the original intent has prevailed through time and that is providing care and support to the sick and injured in the Queensland community. By 1902 Queensland had transitioned from a colony to a state and the ambulance brigade had spread to a number of Queensland communities to become the Queensland Ambulance Transport Brigade (QATB). Each local centre was administered by a QATB committee in conjunction with the State Council. On 1 July 1991, the QATB was transformed into a state-administered service to become the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) as we know it today.*

The staff of the early ambulance services were First Aid qualified. Their role was to **render First Aid and then transport the patient to a hospital**. Note the word *Transport* in the name QATB. This is a far cry from the highly qualified paramedics of today's ambulances.



Cooroy Ambulance Station pre-1925. Noosa Heritage

**An Ambulance Service for Cooroy:** There is a reference in TROVE to financial difficulties in establishing a sub-centre ambulance service at Cooroy through sponsorship by the Gympie Ambulance after World War II. I have no memories of what facilities were in Cooroy before our arrival in November 1951.

**Buildings:** When we arrived in November 1951 the ambulance was located at 43 Kauri Street where we lived in the house that is still there today. The ambulance centre was housed in a shed with an extension of a similar size on the side. This was situated in the front yard and was accessed from Ambulance Lane. The shed section was the vehicle garage and the extension was the office and treatment room. When the new Centre was built at 41 Kauri St. in the mid-1950s, that building was split in two.



The garage portion was moved to the rear of 43 Kauri Street and the other section was moved to the rear of 41 Kauri Street and used as a fuel and oil shed. It was demolished when the latest building was erected in about 2000.



Original Ambulance Station 1997. State Minister for Health, Merri Rose with Noosa Councillor Lyndley Midgely at the original Cooroy ambulance station. Noosa Heritage

**1951 to 1963.** - In November 1951, my father, Dan Gilvarry (Daniel Michael Francis GILVARRY) was appointed Superintendent at Cooroy after transferring from Biloela in Central Queensland where he had established an ambulance centre. From Cooroy, he transferred to Mt Isa where he had previously served during World War II. In 1951, Cooroy was a one-man centre and Dad was on call 24 X 7. During holiday periods a bearer was employed. My Mother Violet May GILVARRY (Maisie) was an unemployed staffer providing backup when Dad was absent on duties. She was also a *prime mover* in fundraising ventures.



Dan Gilvarry and his uniform.



**The District** – There was a loose boundary system that included Noosa Shire less the Pomona – Cootharaba area, but extended west of Carters Ridge. Cooroy and Pomona centres helped each other when necessary.

The final destination of the patient depended upon the assessment of the ambulance person. Minor cases were transported to Cooroy Hospital. Accident patients went to either Gympie or Nambour Hospitals and often patients were sent to Brisbane from Cooroy Hospital.

Each centre was run by a committee of local citizens. Some names included:

- G A G GRANT “Gag” who was I believe a family member of the Marryatt & McKenzie store.
- “Algie” CREES – who had run a blacksmith shop where RACQ is today, but later worked in the furniture shop of Marryatt & McKenzie. He was the father of Edna Smith.
- Albert REINKE – I think that he was a labourer but interestingly he seemed to be an involved citizen because I believe that he was for some time a Trustee of the Cooroy Hall. I recall getting the supper room keys and paying him some rent.

**Honorary Bearers** – These were first aid qualified citizens who took on voluntary part-time ambulance bearer roles and were a backup to full-time staff. This was a role similar to today’s Bush Fire Brigade.

Among their duties was to be the ambulance person on the sideline at football matches or public events. In the event of an emergency, if the Superintendent was absent, they would be called from their work to collect the ambulance and go to the scene.

Reginald “Legge” BRYANT was an honorary bearer and also the local butcher. On one occasion he rushed out of the butcher shop still wearing his butcher’s apron. When the patient, who had fallen off his motorbike woke up and saw a butcher kneeling over him he commented, “I didn’t expect to be carved up so soon”. I believe that patient was Ivor NEWSOME who was a bit of a local larrikin on his motorbike and prone to accident. He was picked up by Dad on a couple of occasions.

For about 6 weeks around Christmas Holiday time, an additional bearer was appointed. I recall that Kevin Tootel and Allen Coward came from the Bundaberg Centre at different times.

**Staff Increases:** Whilst Cooroy’s population was static due to the faltering dairy industry, there was population growth in the Tewantin-Noosa area and the Committee increased the staff. I believe that the first bearer was “Dadda” HAWKINS, who was a very old ambulance man and he moved around doing relief jobs at various locations.

**Fund Raising:** Citizens were asked to become *subscribers* and pay an annual fee. However, many could not do so for financial reasons, so a deduction from wages was arranged. Strakers Sawmill did this for its many employees. Dad probably spent more time annually door-knocking every house and farm chasing subscriptions than he did on medical matters. There were continual street raffles, Melbourne Cup sweeps and an Annual carnival at Tewantin. I recall one such fete in the grounds of 43 Kauri St where some local girls performed the maypole dance. Despite this most Ambulance Centres struggled financially.

The Queensland Government subsidised funds raised by the local committee, paying 50c for every dollar raised locally. Because of this they were subject to a Queensland Government audit. The auditor generally arrived in town on the train and went to the Police Station, which in those days acted as a Clerk of Petty Sessions Agent. The Police Seargent phoned other organisations to alert them that they were the subject of an audit.

**Vehicles:** I do not recall the vehicle used by the Cooroy ambulance in 1951, but expect it was probably a pre-World War II American sedan. It was about the mid-1950s, after the Redex around Australia Reliability Trial in which the French Peugeot performed so well, that Cooroy Ambulance purchased a Peugeot 203 panel van and had it modified as an ambulance. In about 1959 they purchased a Ford Fairlane sedan from Len Johns at Page Motors, Cooroy and it was modified as an ambulance. The facilities in all vehicles were very basic.

### A Couple of Notable Patients.

- A wealthy Melbourne businessman whose surname was DOWD was killed. He went over the edge of the old Tewantin Range Road. A job more for the undertaker than the ambulance.
- One of the Fords (perhaps Les Ford?) from Fords sawmill broke his back in a workplace accident. Initially, he was admitted to Cooroy Hospital but had to be transported to Royal Brisbane Hospital. The doctors determined that the canvas stretcher would not provide adequate support, so a wooden flat top was added to the stretcher. I went to Brisbane on that trip and remember that when the ambulance hit one of the many bumps, the patient's legs flew up in the air causing severe pain. Solution – Dad lashed his legs to the wooden top.

**Tewantin-Noosa Sub-Center** – The population of the Noosa area was growing and there was a move to establish an ambulance centre in the area. However, due to funding constraints at the Cooroy Centre and with little funding forthcoming from those who wanted the service, it took some time to be established. That impacted on the viability of the Cooroy Centre.

### Did You Know?

Two hundred years ago in December of 1823, Surveyor General John Oxley, with the aid of former convicts Pamphlett and Finnegan, sailed into the mouth of the Brisbane River in search of a suitable site for a new convict settlement. Oxley named the big waterway the *Brisbane River* in honour of the New South Wales Governor.

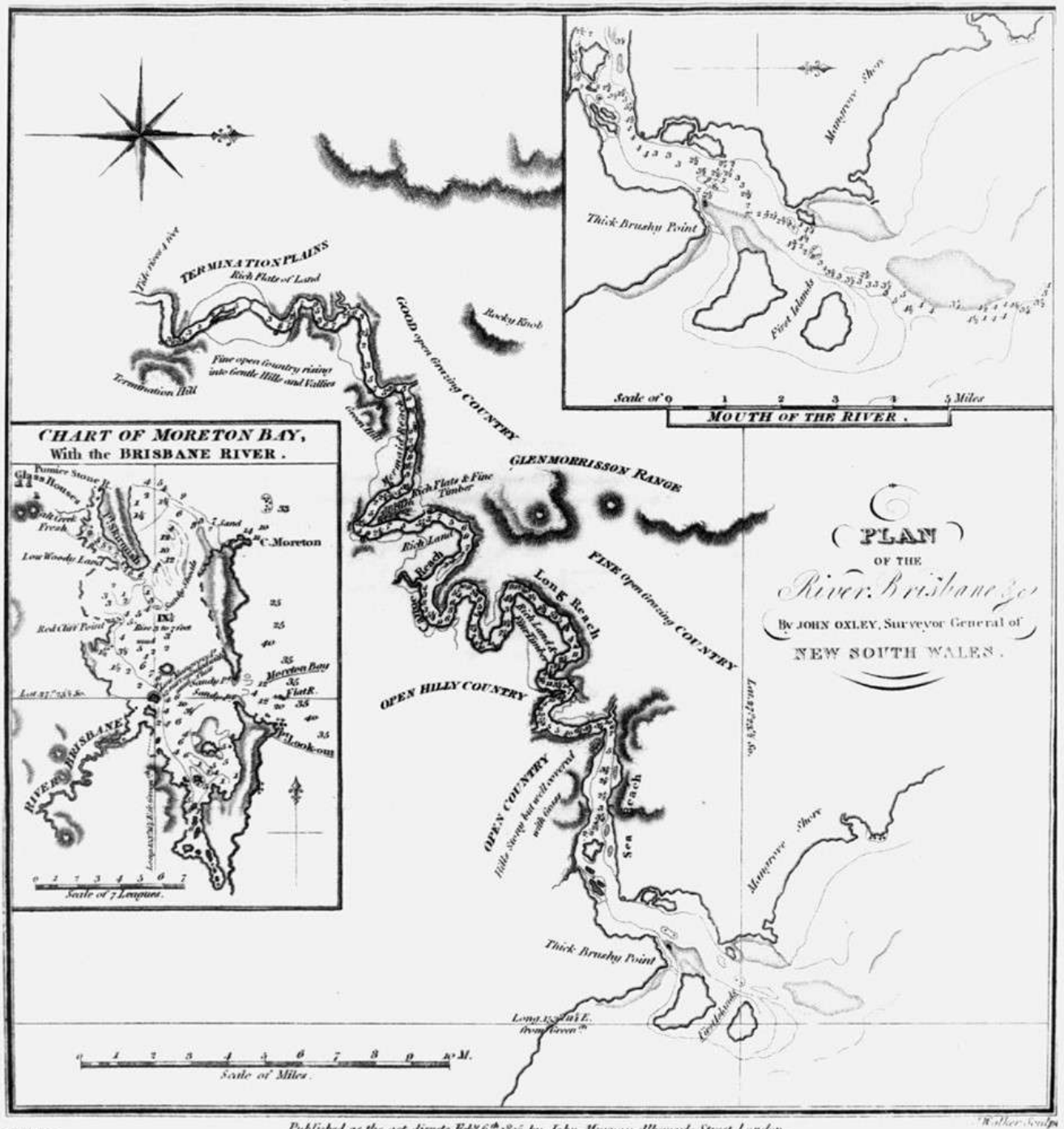
Prior to that, the Turrbal nation had inhabited the area for 40,000 years and called the river *Maiwar*. The Turrbal people were a friendly race and great fishermen, who used the river as a source of abundant food. They had cared for Pamphlett and Finnegan when they were shipwrecked off the shores of Bribie Island.

Oxley returned to Sydney to recommend Redcliffe as the site for the new settlement, forever changing the future of the Turrbal people.



Surveyor General John Oxley





### Snippet

### Bridal Blushes ...from Australian Women's Weekly, Jan 1988

When Mary Putland nee Bligh married Lieutenant-Colonel Maurice O'Connell, she wore a clinging gown over pantaloons, sent from England by her mother, wife of Captain Bligh. Guests were embarrassed at the cheers from the lower orders on seeing the gown. The wedding took place on the 8th of May, 1810.

## Bankfoot House Heritage Precinct

Bankfoot House is a heritage property in the Glasshouse Mountains area purchased about 20 years ago and now owned and maintained as a museum by Sunshine Coast Council.

William and Mary Grigor established the house in 1868 to service the needs of the Cobb and Co Coach run. Mary Grigor named the house for her hometown in Scotland. It was a staging post and lunch stop for coach passengers from Brisbane. Independent travellers paid one shilling for dinner and one shilling for a night's accommodation and feeding and stabling of the horses. With the coming of the railway in the 1890s, mail was no longer carried by Cobb and Co., which became unviable and ceased operations. The Grigor's continued to host visitors who came to climb the mountains.



Bankfoot House before 1880 with Mt Tibrogargan in the background.

Credit Sunshine Coast Council History Collection.

The house remained in the same family for three generations until its last resident Jack Ferris, died aged 101 years. Jack wanted the property and all its chattels to be preserved, so it was sold to the then-Caloundra City Council. Generations of people had lived there, as well as decades of appliances that had never been disposed of, such as washing apparatus, radios, and stoves. These makes a wonderful collection of bygone-era devices that today's visiting school children will find both puzzling and fascinating. Children are also treated to the use of a virtual reality computer game, inviting them to walk in the footsteps of a First Nations child living in the area, before the arrival of the Grigors.

A visit to Bankfoot House will not disappoint. Situated at 1998 Old Gympie Road, Glass House Mountains, it is open from Wednesday to Sunday, 10 am to 3 pm. You are greeted by a friendly volunteer who offers coffee and a biscuit, before explaining the history of the house and guides an interesting tour. Entry is free of charge.



Bankfoot House at Glass House Mountains is a museum owned and maintained by Sunshine Coast Council.

Image credit: Sunshine Coast Council website

In the early 1980s, a new sporting event emerged. Trialled first in the United States of America in the 1970s, the concept quickly spread to Australia where the climate was ideal. It combined three existing disciplines, that is swimming, cycling and running to create the sport of Triathlon.

Triathlon made its way to Noosa where the first race was held forty years ago in November of 1983. Our member Lola McDonald fondly remembers the early Noosa Triathlons in which her late husband Keith McDonald was heavily involved. Keith was the president of Tewantin Noosa Lion's Club, which was asked to assist by providing volunteers to help run the race. She recalls that former Olympic marathon runner and local resident Dave Power had the concept of running a triathlon in Noosa. He gathered athlete Joe Gilbert of Noosa Heads Lion's Club to organize volunteers, as well as a number of others to help run that first event. It became a fundraiser for the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, so the race and volunteer shirts were emblazoned with the slogan: *Where there's a will, there's a way to LA*.

There were 61 individual competitors and about 150 team members, each completing one leg of the event in the first triathlon. The eventual course designed by John Jameson, was close to the Olympic distance of 1.5km swim, 40km cycle, and 10km run. Bike helmets were optional and competitors often ran in Dunlop Volleys, a far cry from today's sophisticated footwear. For many years the swim leg took place in the canal close to the bike storage, but more recently it has become an ocean swim requiring the closing of Hastings Street to vehicles.

Lola recalled that as the Triathlon grew in size and stature, the car sales firm Madills began to sponsor a very popular cocktail party for volunteers the night before the event. The late Garth Prowd OAM, was an early competitor and organizer who worked tirelessly to promote athletes and the sport of Triathlon. He was affectionately known as the *Godfather* of Triathlon and is commemorated by the naming of the Garth Prowd Bridge along the course.



Garth's company called USM Events went on to run Noosa Triathlon for 30 years. Nowadays, the one-day event has grown to a five-day multi-sport festival, in fact, Noosa Triathlon has become the biggest Olympic-length triathlon in the world. This year, from November 1-5, over 13,000 athletes will compete across 11 events during the five days.

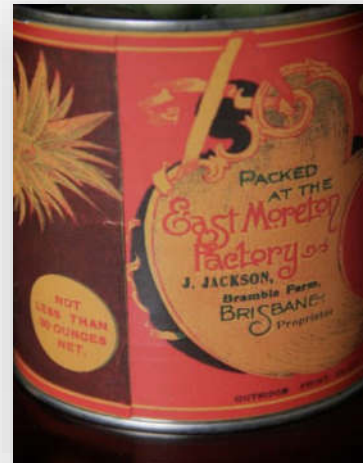
In 2009, as part of the *Q150* celebrations, the Noosa Triathlon was announced as one of the *Q150 icons of Queensland* for its role as an *event and festival*. The Walk of Fame near the Lion's Park at Noosa celebrates athletes and celebrities who have been involved with the triathlon over the past forty years.



## Cribb Island

Cribb Island was a small settlement on Moreton Bay, just to the north of the mouth of the Brisbane River. It is named after John George Cribb who purchased 150 Acres in 1863. In 1883 he sold 65 acres to James Jackson. Cribb Island is in fact not an island at all, it is a stretch of land facing Moreton Bay with tidal flats that flood on high tides. It was a farming area, with dairy, poultry farms and general market gardens.

In 1916, eighty acres were sold for subdivision, it was considered to be very suitable for holiday houses and shacks, with breezes from Moreton Bay and good fishing. It was known as the Jackson Estate.



Tinned Pineapple, East Moreton Factory  
J Jackson, Brambles Farm, Brisbane

Mr. Jackson of *Brambles Farm*, Cribb Island, owned a punt, which allowed him to take produce to market and it was used by the locals, until a road above the tides was built in about 1913 by the Council. Mr. Jackson successfully grew pineapples and even had his own cannery. The population of Cribb Island in 1921 was 264 and grew to over 1000 in the 1940s and 1950s.





By 1928 there were 500 cottages and shacks, as well as a church, hall, café, boarding house and a state school for 134 pupils. Over the years many businesses were established, boat hire, shell grit, bait worms, oysters, and a mat factory, as well as market gardening.

There was a reliable bus service to Nudgee, but by 1925 the bus service began taking people into the city, and ran for the next 50 years. This became the Red and White Coach line.



Images from Lost Brisbane Facebook site, Brisbane City Council and Brisbane airport websites.

The Brambles Farm Social Club held dances in the Bramble Hall, fancy dress dances, and a concert to raise money for the ambulance. A picture theatre and shops provided all the needs for a thriving community. A Catholic Church was built in 1936 but the 1930s depression was a difficult time for the island and saw many residents leave Cribb Island.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of December 1971, the Commonwealth Government released plans for the extension of the Brisbane Airport runway, although there were over 900 people living on the island at the time. A compulsory acquisition of all land at Cribb Island, and neighbouring Lower Nudgee and Myrtle Town, was declared. Most residents had left by 1975, with the last resident leaving in 1980.

By 1986, the name Cribb Island was removed from all maps but happy memories of older residents keep Cribb Island alive; dances, cricket matches, sand and garden competitions, and of course fishing gave them a wonderful life. If it wasn't for the Gibb family from England, who lived there for a short time and enrolled in the state school in 1960, little would be remembered about Cribb Island. The Bee Gee name lives on and so Cribb Island is not totally forgotten.

Life was good and the children enjoyed a wonderful freedom.

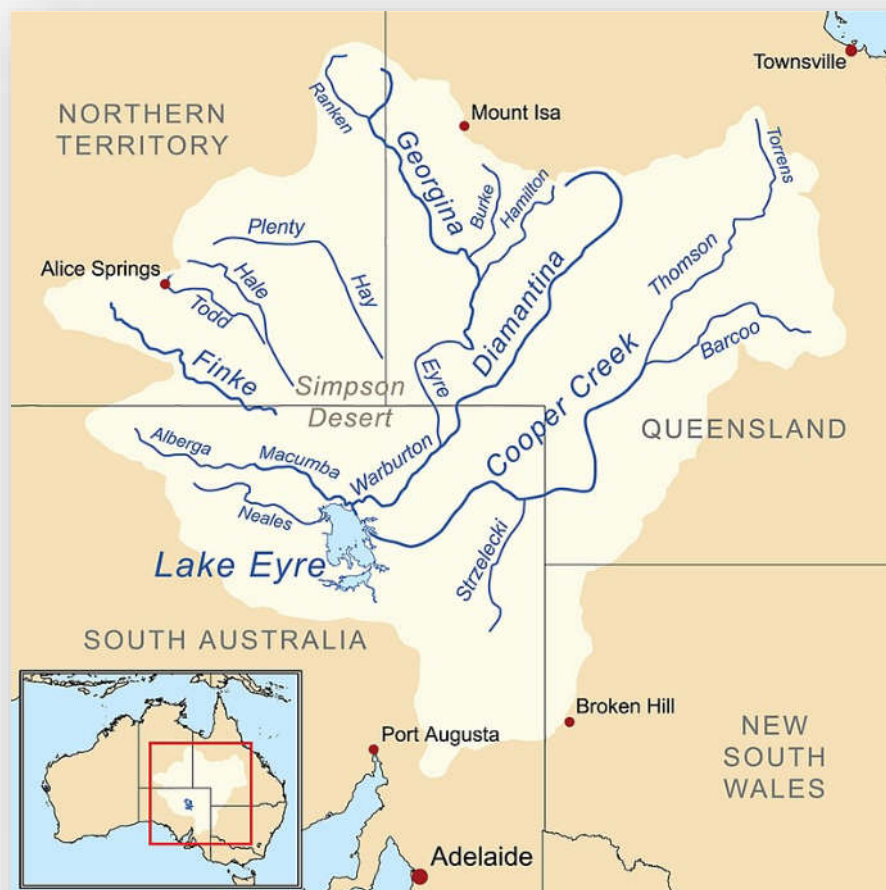
I was recently asked to write something about longevity. I asked myself, what is that? I was not even sure how to spell the word, so I looked up its meaning in the dictionary. It simply means *a long life*. Maybe I could write something about myself! No.

I needed to go somewhere peaceful to think about this and found myself in the Northern Territory somewhere near the South Australian border. Being a good spot to camp, I built a small fire and put the billy on to make a cup of tea. I added a touch of rum to my tea, as I had no sugar, and wandered down to the river to take a look. I said to myself, this is no river, it is only dried-up waterholes. The river seemed to reply. *Excuse me, I am insulted, I am a mighty fine river. Sit down on that log with your mug of tea and I will tell you a little about myself.*

*My name is Finke River. John McDouall Stuart gave me this name back in 1860. My Aboriginal name is Larapinta; they have called me that for thousands of years. They say I was formed by the Rainbow Serpent back in the Dreamtime. Geologists say I am one of the oldest rivers in the world and have been flowing along the same river bed for nearly 400 million years. Now I asked the river if it would mind my rinsing my mug in the waterhole. It seemed to say; Go ahead, there's plenty of water where that came from. During the wet season up north, I have a great flow of water for a few days. Becoming a little curious, I asked the river where its water source began.*

*I start in the MacDonnell Ranges, where I am fed by Ellery Creek, Palmer and Hugh Rivers, I meander across the open plains and desert and then flow through the West MacDonnell and Finke Gorge National Parks. My total length is about 750 kilometres. A long time ago during the Mesozoic Era, I flowed into an inland sea. These days most of my water soaks into the sands of the Simpson Desert. In extreme floods, my waters flow into the Macumba River which empties into Lake Eyre.*

I said my goodbyes to the river and walked back to camp wondering if a living river that was 400 million years old would qualify for **longevity**.



## Cartwright, William Bolam SN 7043 - Wooroolin, Qld - 25th Battalion, 21st Reinforcement

Carol Berry

William Bolam Cartwright was born in 1880 at Pickhill in Yorkshire, England. He was the tenth of twelve children to Edward and Ann Cartwright. Edward was a farmer at *Barn Farm* Pickhill, which was 71 acres in 1871 and employed 2 boys. Ten years later, the census showed William on 141 acres and employing just one labourer.

Williams's father died in 1898 and probate shows that he bequeathed the farm to his wife. In the 1901 census, twenty-one-year-old William was living with his mother on the farm. In 1909, William boarded the steamer *Somerset* in Liverpool, England and arrived in Sydney on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1909. His name was shown as a passenger in *The Sydney Morning Herald* on Friday, August 6th 1909 - Page 8. What had made William leave England? Was it a sense of adventure?

The next time we find William's name was on the 1915 Queensland Electoral Roll and he was living in Kin Kin near Cooran in Queensland and working as a labourer. Two years later (July 1917) William was working in Wooroolin and the records tell us that he travelled to Brisbane to enlist in the Australian Army. Sixteen men applied and only eight were accepted – William was one of the ones declared unfit, due to a hernia, which was operated on four days later.

He was declared fit on 17<sup>th</sup> August along with another eight men named William. Charles Adermann, the future Sir Charles Adermann another Wooroolin lad, attempted to enlist on the same day but was refused as medically unfit.



William stood 5 feet 3½ inches tall in his socks and had a fair complexion, brown hair and blue eyes with no distinguishing features. His denomination was the Church of England. He gave the name of his brother Robert as next of kin. Robert was still living in their hometown of Pickhill in Yorkshire – maybe he had taken over the farm when their father died.

William was assigned to the 25th Battalion, 21st Reinforcement and his unit embarked on the *SS Canberra* in Sydney on November 16<sup>th</sup>, 1917. His photograph appears on page 25 of *The Queenslander Pictorial*, supplement to the *Queenslander* on January 12<sup>th</sup>, 1918.

Before departure, William was allowed four days of home leave. The paperwork included information on travel to Wooroolin – 13 hours by train each way. It takes less than 3 hours to drive from Wooroolin to Brisbane these days, as there is no longer a train service. The railway line is now the Kilkivan to Kingaroy Rail Trail.

William was suffering from mumps upon arrival at Freemantle and was moved to Hospital. After recovery, he resumed training before embarking on the *Ormonde* on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 1918 and disembarked at *Hospital Suez* on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 1918, suffering from influenza.

One month later he re-embarked at Alexandria for Southampton. He then transferred to the 28<sup>th</sup> Battalion in August 1918 and was sent to France, where he was in the Hospital Unit. Eight months later, he joined and remained in the *Graves Registration Detachment*, for four months before returning to Australia on Sep 25<sup>th</sup>, 1919. I learned through the website of the Department of Veteran Affairs that an Australian Graves Detachment existed.

*More than 1100 Australians served with the Australian Graves Detachment, which was formed in March 1919. Men in the unit worked in northern France where the AIF fought many of its battles. Their role was to:*

- *exhume the war-dead*
- *identify bodies where possible*
- *re-bury bodies in central cemeteries*

*Kit for the men included rubber gloves, oil-skin overalls, hundreds of bars of soap, and creosol (an antibacterial disinfectant).*



## Australian Graves Detachment



The work was distressing. Many of the exhumed bodies had been dead between 9 and 12 months and were in varying stages of decomposition. One member of the detachment, typical of many, recalled having felt sick 'dozens of times'.

Some members of the detachment were veterans of the fighting on the Western Front who volunteered for the job. Most were men who had enlisted too late in the war to see fighting and had reached France after the Armistice.

Between April and August 1919, the Australian Graves Detachment exhumed and re-buried almost 5,500 men.

<https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/wars-and-missions/ww1/where-australians-served/continued-service-1919>

How wonderful of our Country to honour our dead soldiers, but what an awful job for the men in this unit.

William lived at Cooroy after the war where he owned a 160-acre property and ran a dairy. There are many articles on Trove describing his cattle sales and one article mentioned his attendance at a social event in 1929.

William died in Gympie aged 63 years, and it appears that his body was not found for a period of time. The death of William Cartwright was registered, on 21/06/1944, 1944/C/1831 with unknown parents.

The *Nambour Chronicle* reported on July 14th, 1944:

*Statutory Notice to Creditors. Re WILLIAM BOLAM CARTWRIGHT late of Old Tewantin Road, Cooroy in the State of Queensland, Dairy Farmer, deceased. NOTICE is hereby given that all creditors and other persons having claims against the Estate of the abovenamed William Bolam Cartwright late of Old Tewantin Road, Cooroy in the State of Queensland, deceased, who died on or about the twenty-first day of June, 1944, at Gympie in the said State, are hereby required to send their claims to the Public Curator, Brisbane, on or before the thirteenth day of September, 1944. And that after the expiration of the last-mentioned date the Public Curator will proceed to distribute the assets of the said deceased amongst the parties entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims of which he shall then have had notice.*

*Dated this thirteenth day of July, 1944. F. M. ALLSOP, Deputy Public Curator, Brisbane.*

There is a burial record at Cooroy Cemetery for *Cartwright Unknown* in the Anglican Ashes section – Row D, Section 5. I contacted the Noosa Cemetery office, but they did not have any information on this burial, other than the name Cartwright.

Williams's farm following property, Por 5v in the County of March, Parish of Tewantin, was sold by Auction on May 22nd, 1945. The *Nambour Chronicle* of May 11<sup>th</sup>, 1945 advertised the sale by R.A. McDonald Auctioneer and stock included 65 cattle and two horses. It appears that someone had been looking after the property following his death.

William had owned three blocks in the parish over different years, per the indexes at the Cooroy-Noosa Genealogical Group. Por 5v was on what is now known as Lake McDonald Drive and just two kilometres north of the Noosa Botanical Gardens.

William Bolam Cartwright is remembered on the South Burnett Anzac Heroes Website and listed in the book *Heartbreak, Hope and Harmony* by T. Matthews.

Lest we Forget.

Why do people think that the story of their life is just too boring to repeat and why would anyone be interested in reading it? If I selected any person from the Writers' Group and sat down with them for an extended period and listened to their story, I would be fascinated. Everyone's story is interesting, as it is different from my own. Take Julie Kinlock for example, her story of gypsies, travelling show people, hairstyles using a rainbow of hair colours, moving to Africa, servants, gardeners Tokiloshe (a short hairy goblin with an animal-like body) found in Zulu mythology, is unbelievable. Don't make the mistake of comparing Julie's story to your own. Your story of living in Brisbane amongst eight siblings would be of the utmost interest to Julie, her brother and me.

Victor Hill's story is just as fascinating. A young man visits Australia House in London dressed in true English fashion, bowler hat, umbrella; the full Pommy regalia, and hopes to gain favour and receive a £5 ticket to Australia. He succeeds and sets out on his new adventure and finds himself a little overdressed in the hot, parched landscape. He quickly decides to adapt his attitude and appearance and fit in. Now, do you find this story fascinating? I would love to sit down and read more, as again, it is so different from my own experience. Don't let anyone tell you your memories are boring and not worthy of telling. Your story is a long narrative made up of thousands of short stories, all worth listening to.

Do you remember your first school? Was it a large stone building surrounded by asphalt playgrounds or a one-teacher rural school set amongst majestic gum trees full of chattering parrots and laughing kookaburras? Now, there is a start for you, off you go.

### Did your ancestors drink?

I was rummaging in my room recently and came across a copy of *Family Tree* magazine 2007. I asked myself, *Now why did I keep this?* Ah, yes, an article on *Signing the Pledge* with a wonderful photo of these 1890s women. The caption read, *Llandudno Women's Temperance Society in the 1890s; Image courtesy of Conway Archive Service.*

This made me think – did my ancestors drink alcohol? Some did, although my parents rarely opened a bottle. Not so with my paternal grandfather; he was a farmer who owned an apple orchard and cider press. He made his own cider and stored it in the cellar under his house. He was known for coming home on market days *a bit worse for wear* after visiting his brother, who was the publican at *The White Horse* in the local town.

My maternal grandfather, however was a teetotaler. **His** grandfather, my 3X great grandfather Tom Pettifer was an early veterinary surgeon, who travelled the Northamptonshire countryside on horseback treating sheep, cattle and horses. At the end of each round, the business was completed with a drink. Consequently, by the end of the day he was *bubbling over with high spirits*. The authorities often caught up with him, so Thomas was frequently in court and fined for drunken behaviour. That is, until one day the magistrate in Daventry sentenced him to seven days in Northampton Gaol. By all accounts, the experience had a sobering effect and he was very careful after that.

Anyway, back to the original question; did your ancestors drink? Perhaps next time you are researching an ancestor you may consider the question. Did he or she belong to a Temperance Society, like the women in the photo?



## **The Clarke's of "Girvan" Ayrshire, Scotland** by Gayle Dinsey - Member of the Scottish Group

Girvan is a small town surrounded by green hills and situated on the South Ayrshire coast in Scotland. It has views of Ailsa Craig and the Isle of Arran and on a clear day the coast of Northern Ireland can be seen. In 1668, King Charles 11 granted Thomas Boyd the rights to the village and it was Boyd who changed the name from Invergarvane to Girvan and built a seaport, harbour and fort.

In the 1800s the town consisted mainly of craftsmen, tradesmen and fishermen who lived in the area of Old Street, the Flushes and Knockcushan. The wealthier of society lived on the High Street. The main industry was Handloom Weaving and Boot Making.

The 1841 Census recorded my 3xGreat Grandparents as John Clarke, an Irishman and Helen Clarke (nee Boreland), a Scottish woman born in Glasgow. They lived with their one-year-old daughter, Jane, in Buck Lane, Girvan. John's occupation was Handloom Weaver.

The 1851 Census record showed John and Helen living in Piedmont Road Girvan, which was known as a *Weavers Row*. and listed as Handloom Weavers of cotton. They had five children and two lodgers (hand loom weavers) living in the house. The 2nd child Janet, aged nine years was a Weft Winder and it was Janet who was my 2xGrandmother.

1851 to 1862 was known as the *Gold Rush Era* in Victoria, Australia and this event attracted many fortune seekers. According to the OPR, John and Helen married on the 4th of June 1854 and travelled to Liverpool with their 5 children and embarked on the ship *Queen of the East* and set out for Melbourne.

### **The Gold Fields of Ballarat Victoria.**

Following their arrival, John, Helen and family made the long trek to Ballarat. John became a Surveyor and Helen raised their children. Helen died in 1873 and was buried in the Old Cemetery, Ballarat. John died in 1904 aged 88 in Callignee and was buried in the Traralgon Cemetery.

### **Janet Clarke-Howling, my 2xGrandmother.**

Janet Clarke was 21 years old and worked as a servant in the house of Mr. Norris when she met Richard Matthew Howling - a Gold Miner. They married on the 14th Oct. 1862 in the house of Mr. Norris at Monkey Gully near Smythesdale. (Monkeys were what they called Koalas in that era.) Besides mining, Richard was also a Shingle Splitter. He with Janet and their family of ten children, journeyed through the gold fields of Smythesdale, Clunes, Napoleons, Ballarat and Buninyong.

In 1881, Richard invented an apparatus for arresting sparks from funnels, flues and chimneys. It took him over two years to achieve a patent for his invention. Janet sadly died at Napoleons on the 4th of March 1883, and was buried in the Baptist Section of the Buninyong Cemetery. She died from Hydatids of the Lungs which was the result of eating sheep's offal. Janet left 10 children, one of whom was only two years old.

### **Snippet – Do you know of the Rural Calendar?**

The year was divided into four, spring, summer, autumn and winter. Important days were celebrated, such as the summer and winter solstice, and spring and autumn equinoxes. These days were given a Christian meaning in the early Middle Ages.

Lady Day on 25<sup>th</sup> March, marked the spring equinox, but between 1190 and 1751, it was known as New Year's Day. When the Gregorian calendar replaced the Julian calendar in September 1752, New Year's Day reverted to the Roman New Year of the 1<sup>st</sup> of January. New Year was on 25<sup>th</sup> December in the Saxon and Norman periods. The other days, Midsummer Day, Michaelmas Day and Christmas Day were all celebrated and noted as days of rent payment and other Manorial dues.

The taxation year in the United Kingdom runs from the 6th of April to the 5th of April. These odd dates are due to events in the mid-18th Century when the tax system was based on the tax year ending on Lady Day [25 March]. The changing of the Gregorian calendar to the Julian calendar created a loss of 11 days of tax revenues, so the start of the taxation year moved, firstly to 5<sup>th</sup> April, then to 6th April in 1800, where it remains today.



## Cooroy-Noosa Genealogical & Historical Research Group Inc.

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Winner of The Centenary Medal 2019

### Aims and Objectives of the Group

Promote and encourage the study of genealogy, heritage and local history, record and index local monumental inscriptions, parish records and historical material. Conduct workshops and social events, share resources amongst members, extend and maintain our library holdings and hold regular monthly meetings

### Benefits of Membership

Members may use research room resources at a reduced rate. Magazines and books are available for borrowing as well as access to the internet and major genealogical websites. Our magazine *Missing Link* publishes Members' Interests and is distributed twice a year. Experienced researchers are available to help new members.

### Subscriptions

Initial Joining Fee SIO 00

Single Yearly Fee \$45 00

Family Yearly Fee \$55 .00

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### Client Research Service

Our Client Research Team is currently undertaking research for clients and members.

If you are interested in this service, please contact the Client Research Coordinator, PO Box 792, Cooroy, Qld 4563 or email [info@genealogy-noosa.org.au](mailto:info@genealogy-noosa.org.au) to request an application form.

A fee of \$25 applies to all requests with fees by negotiation thereafter.

### Reciprocal Research arrangements

Your current membership card allows you access to the facilities of the following societies

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### Publications for sale

*Pictorial Records of Noosa Shire Cemeteries 1873-2004* on CD \$15 (including postage & handling).

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*Echoes of the Past* \$25 (plus \$15 postage & handling).

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