



TRACKS

Journal of the
**Tweed Gold Coast Family History & Heritage
Association Inc**



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Front Cover

Vic Marriott and his donkey, whilst Vic was serving in the Middle East during WW2. Vic was the uncle of member Faye Rowles. The first part of his only surviving diary starts on Page 16.

From The President's Desk

Spring has sprung again. Such a lovely time of year. I've noticed a marked increase in people's interest in family history and heritage of late. Especially when they run the television shows of celebrities researching their distant past relations. It certainly gets us all thinking of our own history and wondering what skeletons are lurking in the wardrobes....or should I say archives!

On a personal note, having recently lost my mother, the matriarch of our family, at 98 years old, it really hits home what you should have done whilst memory and attention are still accessible from our loved ones.

Make sure you go through all the old photos and get names, places and dates for the interesting tiny black and white shots that have been in cupboards or boxes for years. Get as much verbal history and snippets on the photos that are telling a story. More recent photos are much easier as we often can remember these ourselves.

Old documents and military medals and service records are very valuable, as well as old driver's licences and items of interest but with additional history notated it makes them even more valuable. I personally found a collection of beautiful hand made and embroidered greetings cards and wall hangings which were delightful.

Happy researching and my thanks to the club and members for their support and best wishes at my personal loss. ♥♥

Wendy Marshall
President



Editorial

Time to announce the winner of this year's Bruce Graham Memorial Award. This year, the Award goes to **Herb McDougall** for his article **Who Done It?** in the March 2023 Tracks. As the winner, Herb will receive a certificate plus \$50 as a prize. Congratulations, Herb.

Articles published in this edition of Tracks, plus those in next March and June's editions, will be eligible for next year's Award. The criteria for judging is as follows:

- The article must be the original work of the submitter
- The article should, if possible, be between 500 and 1200 words in length
- The article must have a basis of either family or local history

We are very much in need of articles for future issues of Tracks. Please consider submitting an item of interest or article.

On behalf of your committee, I'd like to wish all of our members (and your families) a very merry Christmas and a happy 2024.

March 2024 Tracks

The cut-off date for ordering hard copies is 15 February 2024. Each hard copy will be supplied at a cost of \$5.

Research Room Hours over the Christmas-New Year Period

We will be closing the Research Room from close of business on Saturday, 16 December 2023, and reopening at 10 am on Tuesday, 16 January 2024.

Thank you to our greatly appreciated group of Room Assistants for enabling our Research Room to open for 5 days every week.

Get-Together Dates

Place: South Tweed Sports Club, 4 Minjungbal Drive,
Tweed Heads South

Time: 1.15 pm for a 1.30 pm start (DST)

Future get-togethers

Tuesday, 14 November 2023 (second Tuesday)

Tuesday, 5 December 2023

Christmas lunch (see below)

January 2024—No get-together

Tuesday, 6 February 2024

Tuesday, 5 March 2024

Details of the agenda of each get-together will be advised in the monthly Trails newsletters, closer to the date/s.

Christmas Lunch

Date and time Tuesday, 5 December 2023, 12 noon (DST)

Venue South Tweed Sports Club

All members and their guests are welcome. Please indicate, on the sheet in the Research Room, whether you will be attending, so that we can advise the Club how many to expect.

We usually have a good time, with a trivia quiz (with prizes) and the drawing of the Christmas raffle.

All meals and drinks can be ordered from the Bistro and/or Café, and will be left to each member to arrange on the day.

Websites of Interest

British Association for Local History

<https://www.balh.org.uk/>

As we all know, local history is an important part of family history. This website has a good deal of information, including links to many local history societies in the UK, ten minute talks on varying subjects (some with videos) and a number of podcasts, again on a variety of subjects. Worth bookmarking.

Family Search—England Jurisdictions 1851

<https://www.familysearch.org/mapp/>

A fantastic resource for those who love using maps. Comprises a current map of England and Wales with the ability to overlay boundaries of parishes, counties, civil registration districts, dioceses and much more.

Newspapers.com

<https://www.newspapers.com/>

According to Newspapers.com, the website is the largest online newspaper archive, established in 2012. At the time of writing, there were 896 million newspaper pages on the site. Best coverage is of USA newspapers. The front page of the site provides a map and browse facility to check coverage. Newspapers.com is a subscription site. *Tip—Searches can be performed in Ancestry.com, which will provide a list of results with limited information. Use Ancestry.com for an initial search then wait for an occasional ‘free access’ period by Newspapers.com to download articles.* Do remember, though, that Australia’s Trove, New Zealand’s Papers Past and the UK’s British Newspaper Archive are the preferred sites for those countries.

WA Indexes of Births, Deaths & Marriages

<https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/departments-of-justice/online-index-search-tool>

This site has been recently revamped and now has more consistent (& complete) information. Indexes commence in 1841. At present, researchers can search for births up to 1921, deaths up to 1991 and marriages up to 1946.

Lydia's Story

Lydia Farrell (my 4th great grandmother) was born about 1757 in Stafford in the north of England. Lydia was part of a gang comprising of her companion, Joseph Whitehouse (alias Wood), Joseph Cross and Nancy Brown, together they made a living as travelling hawkers and peddlers.

Stafford was probably little more than a large village in July 1790 when Lydia, with an accomplice, was convicted of stealing shawls in a shop in Wolverhampton, a capital offence that carried the death penalty.

The trial was at the Stafford Assizes on 21 July 1790 where she was sentenced to death. Later that year she was reprieved and, on 2 October 1790, sentenced to 7 years, beyond the sea.

The Newcastle Courant, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Northumberland, of 19 March 1791, reported:

From the Police – Public-Office, Bow-Street, London, Feb 5th to March 5th, 1791

FELONS ESCAPED

Stafford, 15th Feb 1791

WHEREAS JANE WATTS and LYDIA FARREL, alias WHITEHOUSE, two felons under sentence of transportation, did, last night or early this morning, break out of this county gaol.

Lydia was described as being *about thirty years of age, very lusty, red hair, very fresh colour.*

The article goes on to say *(she) is supposed to be with child; she has pretended to be lame for 10 weeks past, as to deceive the surgeon who has regularly attended her, and has been carried up and down by men.*

Surely her looks had proven to be an advantage to her whilst on the streets of Stafford. They certainly seemed to be an asset because, as mentioned above, after her conviction at the Stafford Assizes for theft where she was sentenced to death. A few short months later her sentence was reduced to 7 years' transportation.

Lydia was apprehended and returned to gaol where her baby girl also named Lydia was born.

Lydia was booked to sail on the "Mary Ann", which left Portsmouth in February 1791 but she was crossed off the indents (maybe to do with the birth of her baby) and instead sailed out on the "Pitt" in June, later that year.



Convict transport ship "Pitt", painting by Thomas Whitcombe (c1752-1828)

Records show that a baby named Lydia Farrell was baptised on 20 April 1791. No evidence can be found on whether this child accompanied her mother on the voyage to Australia. It is presumed that baby Lydia either died as an infant or was left behind in England. It is also interesting to note that the baby was conceived while Lydia was in prison.

The "Pitt" was a large ship of 775 tons, built in the Thames in 1780. It left Yarmouth on 17 July 1791 with 443 convicts (58 women and 385 men). The ship was overcrowded, conditions were very cramped, many prisoners developed ulcers and scurvy as food and other supplies on board were limited.

Extended periods where the ship was becalmed, combined with the tropical heat and severe storms, saw an outbreak of a dreadful tropical fever that spread quickly through the convicts, crew and NSW Corps and their families. As a result, 56 lives were lost on the journey.

Following a harrowing 212-day voyage, the “Pitt” arrived in the colony on 14 February 1792. Severe food shortages, an extended period of drought as well as high summer temperatures in the colony were not alleviated by the small quantity of supplies (which were probably assigned directly to the stores of the NSW Corps) brought by the “Pitt”.

The 49 female convicts that survived the journey arrived in a community dominated by males. By 1792, when Lydia Farrell set foot on land, less than 700 female convicts had been transported to Sydney Cove, about a quarter of the population. The first free immigrants wouldn’t arrive until the year after the “Pitt” landed in NSW.

Upon arrival, the women were lined up and the military had first pick. The officers had first choice, then down the ranks to the settlers, then the free convicts.

Lydia’s good fortune was still with her as she was assigned to Robert Higgins (my 4th great grandfather), a Corporal in the NSW Corps, as a house servant, thus assuring her of accommodation and food. Robert was in the military, so he had access to regular rations.

In 1792, Robert was promoted to sergeant and, on 25 January 1793, Lydia accompanied Robert as they sailed for Norfolk Island on board the “Kitty”, making Lydia Farrell the only person to have sailed on both the “Pitt” and the “Kitty”.

The role of the NSW Corps on Norfolk Island was to assist in the supervision of the convict labour force. The population consisted of convicts, some free settlers and soldiers. The convicts were not confined in prisons, but instead permitted to farm land, to produce food for both colonies. The more fertile land on the island meant that maize, wheat, potatoes, cabbage, timber, flax and fruit were all grown successfully there.

While on Norfolk Island, Robert Higgins was made a Sergeant Major.

An important cultural feature of the island community was the establishment, in 1793, of the *Norfolk Island Theatre*, pre-dating the establishment of the *Sydney Theatre*. Robert Higgins, as a senior non-commissioned officer, is presumed, by several researchers, to be the soldier identified by Governor King as being instrumental in establishing the *Norfolk Island Theatre*. He probably also had an acting role and so Lydia would have most likely been involved in the plays conducted in the local theatre as well.

By the end of 1794, Governor King was so disillusioned by the ineffectiveness of the NSW Corps that he ordered them all to return to Sydney Cove. On 6 November 1794, Robert and Lydia departed from Norfolk Island on the “Daedalus”.

When Robert Higgins and Lydia Farrell returned to Sydney at the end of 1794, the colony consisted of less than 5000 people.

Lydia and Robert's first child was born in 1795, a daughter, Mary Higgins (my 3rd great grandmother). A 2nd daughter named Elizabeth followed in 1797, then a son, John, in 1798 and finally another daughter, Sarah, in 1801. All were born in Sydney Cove.

No baptisms for Robert and Lydia's children have ever been found, but they are listed in early Musters as the children of Robert and Lydia.

It seems that none of these children ever received any education, as not one of them could sign his or her name. They spent the early part of their lives in Sydney and later moved to Cowpastures with their parents as Robert received a land grant there in 1812.

In 1804, Robert and Lydia were residing in Parramatta. Robert, under the command of Captain Abbot, was among 25 non commissioned officers and 25 soldiers stationed there. They were sent to deal with the rebellion at Castle Hill, the Irish convict uprising which resulted in the battle of Vinegar Hill.

In 1808, Robert, Lydia and their family were living at 21 Spring Row, Sydney, which is now 33-41 George Street. The same year, Robert sold the house to Lydia for five shillings. This was probably to prevent the house being seized by the bailiff due to a debt.

In 1809, they moved to a house on a small block of land which they leased for the annual rent of 5 shillings, in High Street, Sydney (now George Street), in the vicinity of Bridge Street. Early maps show a number of soldiers' houses in this area, all clustered around the cove.

On 27 January 1809, Robert was reduced in rank to Private and in September that year was sent to debtors' prison for 4 months.

Early 1810 (just before Robert's release from prison), Governor Lachlan Macquarie arrived in Sydney Cove. He had instructions to improve the morality of the colony by encouraging marriage.

William Cowper married Lydia Farrell and Robert Higgins on 9 July 1810, at the recently constructed St Phillips Church in Sydney, thus legitimising her 4 children. On the marriage certificate, Robert is listed as a bachelor and Lydia is listed as a widow, although proof of a previous marriage has never been found.

Robert was able to read and write so he signed the marriage certificate. Lydia was illiterate so she signed with a cross.



St Phillip's Church, Sydney, Pencil drawing in 1852, courtesy of the National Library of Australia

Robert retired in 1812 and was given a grant of 50 acres of land in the Cowpastures district of Camden. After living in the Rocks area of Sydney for many years, on 24 August 1812, the family took up their land grant. Their Upper Minto blocks on the banks of the Nepean River were bounded on one side by "Elderslie", owned by explorer John Oxley and directly across the river from "Camden Park", owned by John and Elizabeth MacArthur (where Robert and Lydia were both employed).

By 1818, Robert was again in debt and his land was offered for sale.

Lydia died in Camden, NSW, on 30 August 1823, age 66, and is buried at St Luke's Pioneer Cemetery, Liverpool. Robert survived her by 20 years. He died 8 March 1843, age 85, and is buried at St Peter's Church Campbelltown. Neither have tombstones.

Footnote: I was so thrilled to find Robert was instrumental in establishing the *Norfolk Island Theatre* and Lydia's connection with it. Going by the newspaper article at the start of this story, Lydia was already an accomplished actress.

Embedded deep in our DNA are random traits that we inherit from certain ancestors. I feel I have inherited Robert's love of the theatre. I have been involved in local community theatre for the past 10 years, in front as well as behind the scenes.

Bibliography:

Ancestry.com

British Newspaper Archives

NSW Births Death and Marriages

Murder, Mayhem & Misdemeanours, Early Settlers at the Cowpasture River, NSW, 1810-1830 by Marion Starr.

Unhappy Exiles, Convicts of the Pitt & Kitty 1792 by Marion Starr.

From Tartan to Wattle by Val Garner & Jeanette Robertson.

Submitted by Jenny Byrne Merrell (Member number 558)

From My Photo Album



Young girls in Coraki, sewing by the river, about 1910. The girl in the dark dress is Elizabeth Lilian Milgate, aged about 14. She is my maternal grandmother.

Submitted by Kerry Golds (Member number 835)

How My Parents Met in 1926

My father, Glyn de Villiers Bosisto, was born in 1899. At the age of 17 years, he enlisted in the Army, in the Light Horse Brigade. He managed to survive the battle zones of WW1.



Glyn Bosisto, at the time of his enlistment in the Army

After the war, Glyn joined the National Bank and was later promoted and sent to Kadina in 1925. Kadina is a country town about 160 km north of Adelaide.

My father was an elite sportsman and soon became captain of the Kadina Football Club, involved in "Aussie Rules". At the age of 26, he suffered a serious injury on the football field and was confined to bed at his boarding house.

At this time, the secretary of the football club was very keen to have their captain back on the field and arranged with his wife to transfer Glyn to their home, so that he could receive more professional care.

He received that care and it just so happened that Thomas Davies (the Club Secretary) had a 16 year old daughter – Audrey Davies. It was not long before his 16 year old daughter had a crush on Glyn Bosisto. This soon developed into both parties falling in love.

Tom Davies and his wife, Albertha, were not prepared to let her marry until she turned 18 years of age.

So, two years later, in 1928, my parents got married.



Audrey and Glyn Bosisto in 1953. Glyn had just won 4 Australian lawn bowls singles championships, in succession. He was dubbed the Bradman of Bowls.

Submitted by Jon Bosisto (Member number 268)



Vic's Diary (Part 1)

Victor Neal Marriott is my Mother's only brother and served in World War 2 in the Middle East and New Guinea. My Mother was Charlotte (Lottie) Elizabeth. What follows is the only surviving of his diaries.

Monday 12th April 1943

26 today, hence the reason for starting the diary again. Had one from 20 August 1940 to 31st May 1942 but destroyed them, 6 books in all. Have been in Wangaratta (Victoria) since 2 Feb 43, and don't hope to be here much longer.

Got back home 23 May last year, after 22 months overseas, & since have been in Watsonia with the 19th A.I.T.B. Got sick of it & transferred to here for redrafting. Exactly 12 months ago today we sailed from Colombo on our way home, rather hot spot the time we were there, there was all sorts rumours as to where we were going to, we were on the "Willard A. Holbrook", big name for a small boat.

Nothing much happen here, bull ring all day, soon get sick of it. Closed camp tonight same as Wednesday & Thursdays. We get a good spin here 4 nights a week open camp, & they grumble about it. A lot of rumours about lately as to us shifting, & popular note has it is Dailey near Melbourne, personally I would like a N.S.W. camp, but I don't fancy my chances of getting there.

Got a telegram from Dad today for my birthday, only one so far, maybe others have forgotten me. Have just received a telegram from Laurie, I knew she would come good.

Tuesday 13th April

Received another telegram from Lottie this afternoon, so that completes my round of good wishes from the family. Got a guard duty tonight on the main gate. I get it about every third night so it is nothing new for me. I think that is all they keep me here for, seems that way. Missed out on the Heidelberg hospital draft tomorrow, would have been good bludge for 3 weeks. Maybe I am not lucky enough.

Would like a change from this place for awhile, if not for good. I would have been home on my 6 days leave now only for Wiseman holding my court case up. I don't want to go til that is clear. I am due almost for 8 days. The longer it goes the more leave I will get. It was started on the 27th August last year that is up til now almost 8 months. Will be glad when it is all over, as it has cost me quite a lot of money & time, not to mention the worry. Still I suppose it is worth it. The weather here is much better than Melbourne, it stays finer longer.

Wednesday 14th April

Finished guard at 6 pm (as you were 1800 hrs), very tired, no sleep last night. They put on a big kit inspection today, everything, including all personal gear. Pictures tonight & quite a good show. Received a letter from my solicitor today & the business is over, or nearly, 22 of this month sees the last of it, thank goodness.

Thursday 15th April

Put in for 8 days leave, hope I get it. Very cold all day nearly froze in shorts. More pictures tonight I believe, hope so anyway, otherwise it will be a route march. Got a letter from L, she does not sound too happy, wants to wait til after the war to get married, after all the worry, right now at the death knock. I cannot understand women. Must write to her tonight & find out what is wrong. Usual thing all day get very monotonous, still nothing definite about moving.

Friday 16th April

Very cold all day. I think this place will be as bad a Watsonia. Have not written to L don't know what to do about it, unless I wipe the whole thing off. On guard again tonight. Main gate it is about the best of a bad lot. They certainly have caught up with me since I have been here.

Saturday 17th April

Quiet night, had a good sleep for a change, last time I was on here I was up all night. Had some brass hats around, came thru the gate at 1.15am pulled up & inspected the guard. Only a major general, a brigadier & 2 or 3 colonels, very impressive. They panicked at headquarters, wanted to know several times whether I knew my job or not as I was guard commander. Seem to be strong rumours about us shifting camp next week latest is that the advance party goes on Monday, & the rest follow on Wednesday. Personally I don't care where we go, My leave is cancelled & if we go south I will have to wait til June & get 12 days. That will do me, I had that only over Xmas & New Year last time. If things don't brighten up at home I won't be going there.

Sunday 18th April

Arose at the usual time 6.15 you would think that they would let us have a lie in on Sundays. Had a lazy morning, did my washing during church parade. It rained some too. Had dinner in camp & went out about 3 pm. The first time I have been out since last Sunday. Met Dot & went around there for tea. Lovely to sit down at a table in a civilised manner, nice fire afterwards & a game of 500 what else could a man want.

Monday 19th April

Sent L a telegram for her birthday, usual junk all day & on the blasted main gate again tonight I was going to buck about it but then what is the use. Very rough sort of day, showery & cold & is the same tonight. Closed camp & I had to check all leave passes both in & out. Some bloke came in about 10 pm looking for a bed. Pouring rain too. We fixed him up tho. Lousy night, I turned in about 11 pm, no one around, believe we are moving in a day or two, nearer Melbourne. I think I don't mind where.

Tuesday 20th April

Got up at 5.15 cold as buggery too, had a quiet day on guard except for trucks going back & forth to the station. We are definitely moving tomorrow. Very cold day, wore our overcoats all the time, had a prisoner in our guard room. I believe I have fallen for the job of being charge of an escort on him tomorrow, blast.

Wednesday 21st April

Up at 5 am they panicked as usual, did not move out of the showgrounds til 9 am & left Wangaratta at 10.45 am, wasn't sorry either. Had dinner at Seymour & very good, got rid of our prisoner there too. Got to Bacchus Marsh at 4.30pm & were taken by bus about 4 miles to Dailey. It is just 31 miles from Melbourne on the Ballarat line. Great camp too, butted? We are stationed in the hospital block, American built & believe you me those yanks sure look after themselves. Much different to Wang with the draughty huts. These are properly built & the whole camp is comparatively new.

Thursday 22nd April

We did not get paid today, worse luck. I am broke & 21/- in debt. Cancelled my allotment to Laurie. Probably won't be going to New South Wales on leave anymore. A.W.A.I. in camp, N.E.I soldiers & various other units. Quite a large camp. It will do me. Went on a march thru the hills this am & never saw so many rabbits. They were everywhere. Came out of the ground right under your feet. Rotten wet & showery weather, typically Melbourne. Very cold too. We have 4 blankets so we don't notice it so much.

Friday 23rd April

Well from today I am single again, divorce is completed as from yesterday. We are in cubicles now, 2 men to each. We don't have to go outside for anything. Too good to last I think. Went to church this am, a good crowd there too. Fair tucker here, everything is new mess huts & all. Got paid today & leave to Bacchus Marsh from 2pm. Have just arrived back at 9.30pm. God I have never been in such a blasted dump in all my life. Played snooker & billiards most of the afternoon & had tea at one of the pubs. Very nice & also bellyful of beer.

Saturday 24th April

Work again today, hard luck. Got a telegram from Rene. She can't come out tomorrow. More hard luck. Great camp this, only it is so far from anywhere.

Sunday 25 April

Another rest day & I made the most of it. Did my washing & played penny jackpot til mid afternoon & ping pong & billiards for the remainder of the day. Went on orderly Corporal tonight & at 10 pm our rear guard from Wangaratta arrived & I had to fly around & bed them down there was great confusion. Then on top of that the leave party came back from their 2 days & we were delayed under leave passes. I sacked myself at 10.30 & went to bed. They would get on your nerves. The crowd from Wagga arrived this morning & we have changed our name from 3rd A.M.C to the 2nd A.A.M.C. training Battalion for why I don't know. Everything is upside down now & I guess we will be all reorganised.

Monday 26 April

Was on duty all day & had a bludge, the more important thing that happened was that I got my decree absolute from Wiseman in a great big envelope. Registered of course. Quite an impressive document with seal & signatures. Also received a letter from R, which I answered right away. Not a bad sort of day, a bit cool at times tho. Cancelled my allotment today, don't know when it will take effect to. Was witness to an orderly room this afternoon & the funny part of it was that I did not see the bloke who I was supposed to have seen come in last night.

Tuesday 27 April

Not a bad sort of day, quite warm for so close to Melbourne. Usual thing, only there was a battalion parade for a promulgation of court martial which in my mind is a farce. Quite a few drafts going out these last few days, would like to get one, but don't think there is hope til I get C Coy which should not be long now. Received a couple of snaps from Lot today of Barry & Terry, also one from R. Lovely huts we are in now, the only thing we have to go outside for is mess parade. There is a few hundred A.W.A.S. just over the road from us, but they strictly taboo. I believe it is worth 28 days detention for speaking to them in camp. Was witness today in a C.O.s orderly room & this afternoon was escort for another corporal who was on the mat for losing a belt. Gee you have to be careful here they put you on a charge sheet for most trivial things.

Wednesday 28th April

Same old routine this morning & this afternoon, I had a bludge with 20 other cleaning out our new quarters. Yes we are moving. I had an idea it was too good for us here.

Thursday 29th April

Did nothing today, cleaning? This morning only 2 mates & myself went out rabbiting with a shovel. We got more tho. Quite a change tho to ramble over the paddocks. This afternoon I had 3 men to pick up papers of all jobs. Normally ½ hour job, we took all afternoon. Night parade tonight we had a lecture & bandaging. Every Monday, Thursday & Friday nights are our work nights. I believe they are putting me in as a stretcher bearer. Not if I know it, no good to me.

Friday 30th April

Reasonably easy day, received a telegram from Rene to say she was coming down for the week end. Had to make arrangements by phone, to book her in at an hotel. Had rather a job too, but finally secured a room at the Bridge Inn, one of Bacchas Marsh six pubs.

Saturday 1st May 1943

Took it easy all day, have to meet Rene tonight. They keep us working all Saturday, while other units in this camp get the afternoon off. 1700 hours knock off & I flew in & got my leave pass & changed in 10 minutes & out. I fixed up at the hotel & met Rene at 1830 hours off the train. Gee I was glad to see her again after all the misunderstanding. Had a good old talk & have agreed to marry as soon as we can, which will be when I can get my 8 days leave.

Sunday 2nd May

Got in at 5.15 am very tired. Left Bacchus Marsh at 4.20 to walk & got a ride. Went to church & got another leave pass from 11.30 am to mid night. Had a lovely time with Rene, best time ever, did not go out all day & it was horrible dusty & windy.

Monday 3rd May

Slept in this AM, left town at 5.20 & had to walk the whole 4½ miles back to camp. Arrived at 6.45 too late for roll call but my mate fixed it up, good old Paul. I thought I would have been matted over it. Gee I was properly buggered all day. Work night & we had lectures. I could not have stuck a route march. This weekend was the best I have ever had in my life. I love Rene dearly & we are going to be married as soon as I can get my leave. I was half asleep all day & very uninterested in everything. I tried to get leave again to see Rene off tonight but I could not get away. I rang her up this morning. She is a great kid. We get the same old thing here day after day & as I have felt all day it is very boring. I have never been so run down in all my life.

Tuesday 4th May 1943

Slept as sound as a bell, in fact I never moved til reveille. Had a job, very good too, Mr Spicer one of our loots? Was lecturing over at the A.W.A.S. on shock & the treatment for same & he had me as a patient. Had a good easy day & got a letter from Rene which brightened things up considerably. Felt much better today, but I will have an early night. Off night & I have been writing letters since 6.30 pm & it is now 9.30, so I will away & have a drink of coffee & into bed.

Wednesday 5th May 1943

Same old routine, very cold here now. Thinking back 12 months we were on the high seas, very high at times. This time last year we were about 4 days out from Durban on our way home. Took us 14 days to come from there to Fremantle. I had all the trip in my old diaries but I destroyed them. I often regret it as they cover such a long & interesting period, all my active service doings. Some day I may think back & write the more important happenings, such as where we were & doing on certain dates.

Thursday 6th May

Had a good job today, bludging, the only thing it was blasted cold. Got 2 letters from Rene this evening, dear kid, with a bit of luck & if I get my leave on Monday we will be married next Tuesday.

Friday 7th May

We were officially amalgamated with the Wagga crowd today, are all in our own company's. Stretcher bearers, nursing orderlies & specialists. I am a specialist & from what I can see of it is going to be a racket. We had a full battalion parade & had a short route march by way of a celebration. Bloody rot I call it.

Saturday 8th May

I enquired about my leave & found out is OK. I go on Monday. We are in our new quarters where the cold water is, but not me I am no hero where that is concerned. We had a lovely easy day, sat down all morning & afternoon & fell for guard tonight over 2 prisoners. There are 15 men here from the anti tank regiment with rifles & 3 A.A.M.C. men & myself. I am going to take it easy & go to bed reasonably early. Rang Rene today, but could not get thru successfully so sent her a wire instead.

Sunday 9th May

Well this is the best guard I have ever been on in my life. Slept in til 8 am & then had breakfast. Washed my hat, dungarees, belt & gaiters this morning & got them dry. Really beautiful day, still & bright sunshine, pleasure to be alive. Had the afternoon off even if I was on guard. Came off at 17.30 hours & sorted my gear out for leave tomorrow. Gee I am excited to think I will see my Rene again tomorrow & getting married this week too.

Monday 10th May

Had a bludge this am & spent most of it getting ready. I had to chase around & get my pay & it was 12.00 before I had a chance to change. Reported up to R.H.Q. at 12.45 for my leave pass & got the bus at 13.00. Our train left Bacchus Marsh at 13.30 & only got as far as Parwan the first station & the engine broke down & we were held up there for 2 hours. I had sent a telegram to Rene to meet me at Princes Bridge Station at 15.00 & it was 17.00 before we got into Melbourne. I was in a hell of a worry as I did not know what she would do. She was waiting for me at Spencer Street, great kid. Booked in at the Peoples Palace & had to go out to Newport to make arrangements for tomorrow.

Tuesday 11th May 1943

Had a very big day, met Rene's mum & dad off the 10.00 Bendigo train, very nice folk, my future in-laws. Bought the ring at Dunklings this am. Rang up Tom Hazell to be my best man & met him at Newport Station at 13.14. Went out to Mrs Peaden's friends of Rene's & mine also. Was married at 14.00 hours today & I can say I was highly excited over it. Rene, my wife, is a great kid & we had a marvellous time, everything went off well considering the shortness of time we had to make the arrangements. Mr & Mrs Peaden put on a very nice spread & we were very grateful for all they did. I was thrilled to see old Tom again. We had a lot to talk about. Got back to town & caught the 17.40 train for Chewton, my new home town. We were both married in uniform & I was awfully proud of my Rene. I in A.I.F. & she in A.W.A.S. Arrived at Chewton at 20.00 hours & got home at 20.30 had supper & to bed!



Vic & Rene on their wedding day

Wednesday 12th May

Slept in til 10.30 & dear Rene brought my breakfast in to bed. Gee I love her, she is the most wonderful girl in the world. Had a look around the hills before as you were, dinner. Walked up the town chewton, no it is not even worth a capital c. Gee I was proud of my wife. Great people, Mum & Dad. I wish Lot & Dad could meet Rene & everyone. Went out after a rabbit this evening with the 12 gauge but had not luck anyhow I have it all fixed for tomorrow. I am having a marvellous time here, a real good holiday by the way. I received a telegram from Ted Connolly. One of my mates at Camp, last night wishing us both the best of luck. I must write to him & Tom 2 of the best of friends a man could have. I must also write to Lot & Dad & tell them the news that I am a married man.

Thursday 13th May

We are getting terrible, got up at 12.30 today & this afternoon went over to Rose's & Joe's place about a mile over the hill. Got wet on the way, had tea there & got back at 19.30.

Friday 14th May

12 months ago today we had our first sight of Australia after 2 years. Pulled into Fremantle at sundown. Went to Castlemaine today, had a great time together, met a terrible lot of people. Rene & I had our photos taken together, must send one home when they are done. Had a good look around the town, quite a large place & a typical country place.

Saturday 15th May

Did nothing at all today, got up just before dinner. Pop is working over the weekend & we took his dinner & tea over to him. Had a look over the gold mine, my first experience of it. Quite a concern. I have been used to coal mines, but there is no shamp batteries & so forth with them. Saw some gold in the raw & also got some stuff which looks very much like gold & is called mundick, will get the boys in at camp.

Sunday 16th May

We are getting terrible, got up for breakfast at 9 am & as it was so cold we went back to bed & did not get up again til 11pm. Had dinner & went over the hills to Rose's & had tea there came home around 9 sometime.

Monday 17th May

3 years in the army today & still going strong. Was up at 6 am to get ready to leave. Said good bye to Mum & Dad at 8.30 got the bus from Chewton to Castlemaine. Got the service car from there to Ballarat at 9 & arrived at 11.30 am. Was wonderful driving thru the country much better than the train. Went around to my new cousins & had dinner & after Rene & I went out to the gardens, really beautiful place this Ballarat. Would not mind living here after the war. Stayed the night at another cousins &

had a swell time. There are thousands of Yanks here, everywhere, spoil the look of the place. Took some snaps at the gardens, should turn out OK. Our time is drawing short, worst luck. I have had the best time I have ever had in my life.

Tuesday 18th May

Left Ballarat at 12.15 pm after doing a spot of shopping. Left my kit bag at Bacchus Marsh station on the way thru and went to Melbourne. Rene & I had our last few hours of our leave together in the gardens, readily wonderful wife I have. Rang Tom to let him know we could not get out for tea. Left town at 6.15pm I was broken hearted to leave my Rene, however I will see her again soon. Arrived back in camp at 8.30 & had to hunt up the boys again. They had moved to another line. Caught up with them tho.

(Editor's note: There we will leave Vic's Diary for now. See the March 2024 Tracks for more of the diary. Faye suggested that some days' entries could be skipped, due to monotony, but I feel that the monotony, together with the days when there was more action, gives a true picture of life in the Army at the time.)

Submitted by Faye Rowles (Member number 893)

Blogs of Interest

Fishwrap—Newspapers.com blog

<https://blog.newspapers.com/>

Newspapers.com's blog has several categories, Content Updates & Company News, Family History, Headlines in History, Newspaper Finds and Tips, Hints & Helps being some of them.

Tales from the Grave

<https://www.talesfromthegrave.org/>

A blog by Samantha Elley, a journalist who has a Diploma in Family History from the University of Tasmania. Samantha's posts are stories of Australians who are buried in graveyards around Australia. Some are well-known people, others just ordinary folk.

Acquisitions to August 2023

Please note that as some items may only have recently been received, they may not yet be in the Room due to the need for processing.

EXCHANGE JOURNALS (Hard Copy)

Journal of the Cleveland (South Durham & North Yorkshire) FHS April & July 2023
The Explorers' Tree (Blue Mountains FHS) June 2023
Links 'n' Chains (Liverpool GS) June 2023
Timespan (Nepean FHS) June 2023
The Tamworth Family Historian (Tamworth & District FHG) July 2023

EXCHANGE JOURNALS (Electronic PDFs – Computers 1-8)

Spreading Branches (Narre Warren & District FHG) May 2023
The Barracks News (Maitland & Beyond) May 2023
Missing Link (Cooroy-Noosa G&HRG) May 2023
The Crossing Place (Casino & District FHG) May & August 2023
Lithgow Pioneer Press (Lithgow & District FHS) February & June 2023
The Cedar Log (Richmond-Tweed FHS) June 2023
Bendigo Genealogist (Bendigo FHG) June 2023
Journal of the Newcastle FHS June 2023
Lancashire (Lancashire FHHS) May 2023
The Endeavour (Botany Bay FHS) June 2023
Caloundra Clipper (Caloundra FHR) June 2023
The Argyle Bulletin (Goulburn District H&GS) May & August 2023
The Gazette (Toowoomba & Darling Downs FHS) July 2023
The Hawkesbury Crier (Hawkesbury FHG) June 2023
The Log Book (Tweed Heads HS) June 2023
Relative Thoughts (Fleurieu Peninsula FHG) April & July 2023
Lachlan Valley Gold (Forbes FHG) June 2023
Golden Links (Bendigo Regional GS) April-June 2023
GhostBuster (Campbelltown District FHS) July 2023
The Mail (Descendants of Convicts Group) July-August 2023
Time Traveller (Shoalhaven FHS) August 2023

MAGAZINES

Family Tree May, June, July & August 2023
Irish Roots 2nd quarter 2023
Irish Roots 1st quarter 2023 (PDF)
Traces Issues 22 & 23 2023 (donated by Trish Oldham)
Who Do You Think You Are February 2023 (donated by Trish Oldham)

OTHER (all PDF – Computers 1-8)

DNA101

Really Useful Bulletin (Family History Federation UK) April, May, June, July & August 2023

Newsletter of the Annual Conference of the NSW & ACT Association of FHS May, July & August 2023

Newsletter of the Parramatta Female Factory Friends May-June & July-August 2023

RIP Rookwood in Profile (Friends of Rookwood) June 2023

Newsletter of the NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies May & August 2023

NewsFlash (AFFHO) June 2023

Newsletter of the Fromelles Association July 2023

Featured Articles from Magazines and Journals

Following is a sample of articles found in journals received from other societies on an exchange basis and other magazines and journals:

Really Useful Bulletin (Family History Federation UK) April 2023 (PDF)

-The hidden secrets of the 1939 England and Wales National Register

The Cedar Log (Richmond-Tweed FHS) June 2023 (PDF)

-My favourite ancestor – Agnes McMillan

-My favourite ancestor – Frederick Emery

Journal of the Cleveland (South Durham & North Yorkshire) FHS April 2023

-Society of Friends – Quakers

-George Weddell

-The unexpected story behind a stone

Family Tree May 2023

-Illustrating your family's history

-And they all lived happily ever after – memorable characters from the past

-Don't rely on the surname

-Medieval masterclass

-DNA discoveries

Really Useful Bulletin (Family History Federation UK) May 2023 (PDF)

-Reconstruct your ancestors' world with Google

Newsletter of the Parramatta Female Factory Friends May-June 2023 (PDF)

-Our girls – Louisa Thursfield (aka Wiltshire)

Newcastle FHS Journal (June 2023) (PDF)

-The amazing story of Alberti Torzillo: harpist

Lancashire (Lancashire FH&HS) May 2023 (PDF)

-Hints & tips: Quarter sessions

The Endeavour (Botany Bay FHS) June 2023 (PDF)

-Finding Fred

-The 'hidden' headstones of Mudgee

-The Oriental Hotel & Captain Springall

Caloundra Clipper (Caloundra FH Research) June 2023 (PDF)

-Henry Hill

-Edith Rose's story, a rose by any other name: celebrating 100 years of family history through my mother's writing

The Argyle Bulletin (Goulburn District H&GS) May 2023 (PDF)

-The justice precinct

The Explorers' Tree (Blue Mountains FHS) June 2023

-Influence, power, glory, control and wealth – is anything new?

Family Tree June 2023

-Free birth, marriage and death records

-Show and tell your family history as a family line

-Records of our ancestors – marriages

-Inside the Local BMD Project

Irish Roots Second Quarter 2023

-Visiting the Public Records Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI)

-Connecting the dots – the role of clustering and shared matches in DNA research for genealogy

-Local resources for family history research – County Clare

-Surnames of County Clare

Irish Roots First Quarter 2023 (PDF)

-Visiting the National Library

-Tracing your Irish ancestors with John Grenham

-Local resources for family history research – County Derry

-Surnames of County Derry

The Hawkesbury Crier (Hawkesbury FHG) June 2023 (PDF)

- The marriage of genealogical research & DNA testing
- Obituaries
- The story of Charles Richard Hogsflesh

Really Useful Bulletin (Family History Federation UK) June 2023 (PDF)

- When the saints go marching in – Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and family history research

The Log Book (Tweed Heads Historical Society) June 2023 (PDF)

- A decade of fabulous entertainment and an iconic ‘Aussie’ song (Part 1)

Lachlan Valley Gold (Forbes FHG) June 2023 (PDF)

- Gold mining terms

Links ‘n’ Chains (Liverpool GS) June 2023

- The way it was – Western Sydney International Airport
- Cemetery research

Golden Links (Bendigo Regional GS) June 2023 (PDF)

- Kangaroo Flat – A city’s gateway

Timespan (Nepean FHS) June 2023

- Finding my great-grandparents (part one)

Family Tree July 2023

- Immigration (to the British Isles)
- Investigating clandestine marriages
- The soundtrack of our lives
- Writing a genealogy article

Really Useful Bulletin (Family History Federation UK) July 2023 (PDF)

- Catholic ancestry in England and Wales

The Mail (Descendants of Convicts Group) July-August 2023 (PDF)

- Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery – Convict walk

Time Traveller (ShoalhavenFHS) August 2023 (PDF)

- Myra Taylor-Farrell: The ‘odd duck’ Mosman mum who became Australia’s most prolific female inventor

The Argyle Bulletin (Goulburn District H&GS) August 2023 (PDF)

- Traveller’s travails – early journeys to Goulburn

The Crossing Place (Casino & District FHG) August 2023 (PDF)
-The Digger's Mother Part 2 – Mrs Frances De Burge Campbell

Journal of the Cleveland (South Durham & North Yorkshire) FHS July 2023
-Genealogical research corner – Militia and 'censuses'
-Tuberculosis

Family Tree August 2023
-Lark Rise to Candleford: village life in the late 1800s
-On the move: ancestors departing Britain in search of overseas employment
-Investigating burial records

Really Useful Bulletin (Family History Federation UK) August 2023 (PDF)
-Exploring the secret world of your Freemason ancestor

Members' Interests

NAME	TIME PERIOD	TOWN/CITY	STATE/COUNTY	COUNTRY
FITZCLARENCE	1850-1900		VIC	AUS
FITZCLARENCE	1850-1900			NZ
McFARLANE	1870-1940		QLD	AUS
McFARLANE	1870-1940			NZ
SOLWAY	1855-1990		NSW & QLD	AUS

Janise Solway (Member number 570)

This member may be contacted by sending an email to tweedfhs@hotmail.com or writing to PO Box 6729, Tweed Heads South NSW 2486.

There are many more entries on our website (see the inside the front cover and the back cover of Tracks for the website address).

Note: We use the Chapman codes to abbreviate the State/County and Country fields of our members' interests. If you are unfamiliar with the codes, google "Chapman Codes Genealogy". There are a number of sites with details.

New Members

1124 Irene Murdoch

1125 Kris Dinsey

Rejoined Members

321 Wanda Hamill

*A warm welcome to our new & rejoined members.
Happy ancestor hunting!*

*Members should note that we hold **free** classes in several subjects (beginner's, internet resources, Family Tree Maker, etc.) Please ask a Room Assistant in the Research Room or send an email to tweedfhs@hotmail.com if you are interested in a class.*



RESEARCH ROOM
SOUTH TWEED SPORTS CLUB
4 MINJUNGBAL DRIVE, TWEED HEADS SOUTH
TELEPHONE: 07 5524 3655 Ext 238 (Room Hours only)

RESEARCH ROOM HOURS
TUESDAY — 10AM TO CLUB BADGE DRAW (APPROX 7PM)
*(CLOSED FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH BETWEEN 1PM & 4PM FOR
GET-TOGETHER)*
WEDNESDAY TO FRIDAY — 10AM TO 4PM
SATURDAY — 10AM TO 3PM

ROOM ASSISTANTS

The Research Room is voluntarily staffed by members of the Association. We are always in need of assistance. Your assistance would be appreciated whether morning, afternoon or whole day, even in the event of an emergency. Please contact the Roster Secretary, Peter Johnston, or place your name in the Roster Book located in the Room.

JOURNAL

The Editorial Committee is appreciative of all articles provided for our Journal and we hope for continued support during the year. Material for inclusion may either be left at the Research Room, posted or emailed to the Editor.

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