Whitsunday Family History Group Inc "BRANCHING OUT" <u>July 2023</u>



Proserpine Community Centre

36 Gardenia Street, Proserpine Qld 4800 Email: wfhg@qld.chariot.net.au

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President Leah Davis 0438 451 880

Vice-President Barbara Uhe

Secretary Pat Mengel 07 4945 1500

Minute Secretary Barbara Barnett

Treasurer Howard Barnett 07 4947 1623 Librarian Linda Thorogood 07 4945 4995 Journal Editor Leah Davis 0438 451 880

LIBRARY HOURS

Thursday and Saturday 10.00 am to 2.00 pm & Tuesday 4.00 pm to 7.00 pm

MEETINGS

Discussion group at WFHG Library at Proserpine Community Centre, 2nd Saturday each month at 9.30 am

MEMBERSHIP FEES - per year

Joining Fee \$10, plus Basic Fee \$40 single, \$70 family. Upgrade to Gold \$35 for unlimited use of library and all printouts. Basic members to pay 50¢ per hour for use of library & 20¢ for A4 printouts and copies.

OBJECTIVES

- 1. To foster and promote the study, practice and preservation of genealogy, heraldry, topography, history, biography, heredity and of family and local history and allied subjects.
- 2. To foster a spirit of friendliness and co-operation and to give assistance to members through mutual sharing of information and techniques.

PUBLICATIONS

The Proserpine News WWII — a record of military personnel from Proserpine and districts.

From The President

As time flies by, it's almost the end of July, I think about what I was intending to accomplish this year. Spend more time on my family history research, for one. But other things seem to get the priority with my time, even though I have been retired from work for almost two years! I do have a quick look at some records from time to time and jot down some notes, now I just have to collate all those pesky notes...

A reminder to our members to read the many magazines and books, etc. that we have in our library. Even old magazines can give you a useful clue sometimes. In January 2006 I found an old magazine from a family history group dated March 2001. A Member's Interest List got my attention. I had not been able to find the parents for my husband's grandfather. His marriage and death certificates had his parents' names, but I could not find his birth with these parents. He was born in 1883 at Bumberry, NSW. The Member's Interest List in this magazine was a full two pages, and there were two entries for Davis, District: Bumberry. This could not be a coincidence! I wrote to this person and within a week the mystery was solved, up to a

point. Family history research is never really finished. There is always something to find, with new records being made available all the time.

We have had some new members join our group this year, and I hope they are enjoying their research at the Library. There is always someone there to help you with your research.

Welcome to our latest member - FAYE WEBB

Leah Davis

President.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photos are the one thing that we most desire whilst researching our family tree. To find a photograph that has not been seen before is like winning the lottery. However, here is a small tip that may help us all going forward.

When you have your photograph, you may want to clip and crop the actual person in the photograph. This commonly occurs when people are attempting to scrapbook a photo, or for a head shot for your family tree program. This may give you that perfect photograph, however you may be cropping out valuable evidence.

This evidence could be useful in

- dating a photograph,
- the surroundings of the people,
- where the photograph was taken,
- other photos on the wall behind them,
- particular furniture pieces held within the family

The list is endless and it is important that we keep the entire photograph on record.

Just remember, always save the original and work from a copy, future generations will love you for it!

Submitted by: Julie Lee

FAMOUS NAVAL SAYINGS

LET THE CAT OUT OF THE BAG: To divulge a secret. Naval floggings were administered with a cat-o-nine-tails which was left in a maize bag.

BETWEEN THE DEVIL AND THE DEEP BLUE SEA: No choice. In wooden ships the devil was a seam between the hull and the timbers near the head. To be working between this and the water line was to be in a precarious position.

TURN A BLIND EYE: To ignore what is happening. At the Battle of Copenhagen, second in command, Horatio Nelson decided he was best able to judge the situation, so he ignored a signal by holding a telescope to his blind eye.

SON OF A GUN: A rascal. When women were allowed on warships, childbirth took place in the spaces between the broadside guns, to keep the gangways clear!

MACKIE

William Calder and Jessie Neil

William Mackie, illegitimate son of Mary Calder, was born in the Parish of Aberlemno in the County of Forfar in the early hours of January 20th 1860. His father was not present at the registration of his birth, however his name, William Mackie, father, Auldbar, Parish of Brechin appears beside that of his mother Mary Calder. Mary named her son after his father. It would appear as though his father's name would never again resurface apart from on this small piece of paper until his marriage. Mary was a farmer's daughter and was living at home at the time she gave birth at the young age of 17.

In 1861, the Census finds William (aged 1) living with his mother, Mary (aged 18) with her parents **George and Elisabeth Calder** (aged 72 and 62 respectively) in Aberlemno, Angus. Mary's older brother William, aged 27, makes up the family unit. The other 8 Calder children having already left home.

By the time the census was taken 10 years later in 1871, things had

changed dramatically. William is 10 years of age and a Grocer's Apprentice, his grandfather (George Calder) had passed away the previous year. William is residing at 13 Market St, Brechin with his grandmother, Elisabeth and a 6-year-old cousin, Mary. His mother, Mary Calder was not at home on census night. The year 1871 was also significant as this was the year his mother, Mary Calder, married.

On the 22nd day of December 1871 at 13 Market Street, Brechin, after Banns according to the terms of the Free Church of Scotland, Mary Calder, domestic servant, spinster aged 27 married George Coutts, a farm servant, bachelor aged 23. Mary and George did not have any children. William Calder Mackie remained the only child of Mary Calder and would appear he was raised by his grandparents, George and Elizabeth Calder.

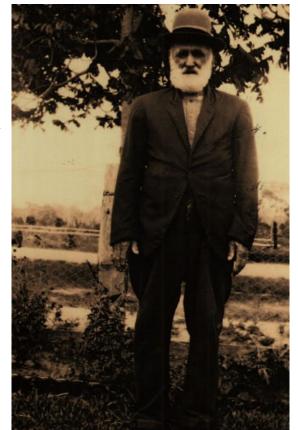


Some six years later, William Mackie married Jessie Neil Mitchell. On 28th September 1877, William at the young age of 17, marries Jessie 5 years his senior, aged 22. They were married after banns according to the forms of the Church of Scotland. William was then a railway Pointsman and living on Taylors Land, Gray Street, Broughty Ferry. He was obviously aware of his birth as he has noted his father as William Mackie, Joiner and Mary Calder as his mother. Jessie was the first-born daughter to James Mitchell and Ann Howie. Jessie had 8 other siblings.

In August 1878, William and Jessie welcome their first born, a son, whom they called, **James Howie Mitchell Mackie**, in the Parish of Monifieth in the County of Forfar. William was still a railway porter upon the birth of his son.

In 1881, William, Jessie and their son James are living with Jessie's father and his three sons at St. Margarets Sq. Long Lane, Broughty Ferry. Jessie's mother Ann had passed away the previous year.

On the 1st March 1883, the Mackie family packed their belongings and boarded the sailing ship Maulesden, bound for a new life in Australia.



How had they come to this decision, and why Australia? Was it the poverty that people living in the Highlands were suffering due to the farm land that lacked fertility, the increasing population causing competition for land, jobs and housing? Or was it merely that they wanted to leave the country to improve their quality of life?

Whatever the reason, William, Jessie and four-year-old James sailed into Hervey Bay (Maryborough) to begin their new life. The Maulesden made the trip in a record time of 72 days. Imagine 72 days on board a sailing ship, 245.2 feet by 35.3 feet by 23.1 feet with a four-year-old toddler. The sailing ship carried a total of 443 immigrants. The Maulesden arrived at the White Cliffs on Fraser Island on 14th May 1883 and all the immigrants were then transported by the steamer *You Yangs* the next day.

A daughter, Williamena Mitchell, was born on 28th May 1884 in Maryborough.

1884 also saw Jessie's brother William Robertson Mitchell and his family arrive from Scotland into Maryborough aboard the Duke of Argyle. The two families were close.

William soon immersed himself into the area and enrolled to vote as early as 6th April 1886, his residence noted as Kilkivan Junction, Gunalda. In 1891 he appeared on the Isis Progress Association Committee and on the 18th March 1893 was appointed to the Queensland Schools Committee in Childers. A tender from William Mackie was accepted for conveyance of mails between the Childers Railway Station and Post office on 1st June 1894. This was the service no. 328 and he was paid 12 pounds pa. However, the contract terminated in November, 1896.

William and Jessie welcome another son, on 22nd August 1889 whom they named **Archibald Sydney.** Archie died aged two years of age on 30th November 1891 and is buried in a Lone Grave at South Isis near Childers.

Tragedy struck the family again when their un-**named baby Mackie** died, aged 0 hours and was buried on 21st June 1898 alongside his cousin, William Mackie Mitchell, (aged 6 years, died 4 January 1893) in the Maryborough Cemetery, Monumental D 547.

Another daughter, **Mary Mortimer Mitchell** was born in Maryborough on 4th February 1901. Mary survived for 2 weeks and died on 17th February 1901 and was buried with her un-named baby sibling and cousin on 18th February 1901 in the Maryborough Cemetery. Mary is also noted as being buried in a Lone Grave at South Isis, however Fraser Coast Cemetery records have her recorded as being buried in the Maryborough Cemetery.

It would appear that William and Jessie have no further children.

William was farming in the early 1900's as he appears in the Degilbo Post Office Directory 1905 as a farmer.

Their daughter, Williamena Mitchell Mackie married Charles Frederick (Fred) Oliver on 6th April 1904 at the Methodist Parsonage in Childers. Williamena needed the consent of her father as she was only 19 years of age. Their son, James Howie Mitchell Mackie married the same year 1st June to Georgina Brown Couzens.

Electoral rolls have William and Jessie living at Doolbi, Childers, farmer in 1915.

On 16th October 1915, Jessie passed away having suffered for 4 days with pneumonia and heart failure at the young age of 60 years at the Bundaberg hospital. Jessie had lived in her new country for some 32 years. Her son-in-law Charles Frederick Oliver is the informant on her death certificate. Jessie was buried in the Bundaberg Cemetery.

After his wife's death William lived near (or with) his daughter and son-in-law, Williamena and Fred Oliver at Stockyard Creek, via Goodwood, where they were farming and raising a family of some 10 children. William's occupation was a loco driver.

His daughter Williamena passed away 9th May 1933 at their farm as Goodwood, she was only 48 years of age and had suffered from valvular disease of the heart for some 12 years. Williamena was buried in the Apple Tree Creek Cemetery.

William Calder Mackie retired to Bundaberg after the loss of his daughter. He died on the 3rd August 1939, aged 82 of exhaustion and old age. His son, James was informant on his death certificate and the husbands of his two granddaughters (Rose and Minnie) George Griffin and Mick Dilger as witnesses of his burial. William Calder Mackie had lived in Australia for 57 years. He was buried with his beloved wife in the Bundaberg Cemetery.

One can only imagine that changes that William and Jessie had seen throughout their lives, in Scotland and here in Australia. William had no further contact with his family, however Jessie was in close contact with her brother that had immigrated the year after they arrived. William's mother, Mary Calder Coutts, passed away in 1915 in Scotland. She left her entire estate to her niece. Her son was not mentioned in her will. William's father, married and immigrated to New Zealand where he raised a family of 7 other children. He died in 1913 leaving his estate to his wife and three surviving children. His illegitimate son was not mentioned in his will.

It is unknown whether William was aware of his half brothers and sisters living in New Zealand.

William and Jessie built a new life for themselves in Australia and worked hard to raise their two surviving children. It was a time when jobs were scarce and work was hard. When transport was by horse and cart or buggy, no modern equipment or machinery available, where you worked hard for your money.

Research Notes:

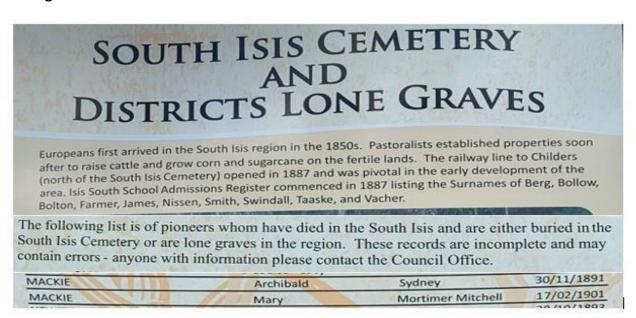
- Fraser Coast Regional Council Cemetery Records
- Scottish Emigration 1830-1939
- Bundaberg Genealogical Association Inc. Journal, Family Ties, March 2021, Vol 24 No. 3
- Qld BMD index
- Electoral rolls via Ancestry
- Scotland's People
- Find a Grave
- The Biggenden Story, Biggenden Historical Society 2002

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Birth Registration of William Mackie

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Marriage Certificate of William Mackie and Jessie Mitchell



Submitted by Julie Lee.

PROSERPINE GUARDIAN - ON THIS DAY - 1956

Friday June 29 - Shute Road: The Department of Forestry has advised no objection will be raised to a road through the Conway National Park to Roper Inlet (Shute Harbour), to allow a more suitable embarkation point for the Whitsunday Islands. However the road is to be kept to a minimum width and no trees of scenic or other value are to be destroyed, nor will the Department be responsible in any way for either costs of the road or its maintenance.

Record Show: Despite overcast conditions, last weekend's Show broke all previous records. Gate receipts totaled £377/3/6 compared with last year's £299/12/3. It was a lucky Show as only misty rain fell for a short time on Saturday morning, but 150 points fell on Saturday night and the grounds were saturated.

The Crushing: After a delay of 15 days the crushing began at 9.30 am yesterday and to 10.00 am today 1702 tons of cane had gone through the rollers. Farmers are finding it hard to get good burns and fields are boggy. The estimate for the season is 326,000 tons.

Friday August 3 - Airport Report: During the year ended June 30, 12,212 passengers were carried in and out of Proserpine airport. Inward 5680; outward 6532. Landings totaled 1413 and 176,238 lbs of freight were carried. A few shallow holes are developing in one strip, where the water lies in wet weather. These are receiving attention. The district airport inspector, Mr J. Arnold inspected the drome on Jun 16 and appeared satisfied with its condition.

Whitsunday News - July 26, 2023 - Airport smashes passenger record
Whitsunday Coast Airport (WCA) has stamped itself as one of the fastest growing regional
airports in Australia with the highest annual passenger numbers in its 71-year history. A
record 477,328 passengers passed through the airport in the 2022-23 financial year, which
was higher than the previous record of 469,000 set in 2018-19.

Friday August 10 - **Eldorado Opening:** Although only partly finished, the opening of the extensively improved Eldorado Theatre took place this week, to coincide with the Cinemascope screening of "The Robe". In designing the new theatre, thought was given to stage setting suitable for travelling shows, which visit from time to time. On Wednesday, the proprietor, Mr W.J. Ironside introduced the official party for the opening, which included Mrs Ironside, Cr W.A. Pepper, deputy Shire Chairman Mr W.E. Kollmyer, managing director of Westrex (Aust) Pty Ltd, and Mr Holt, 20th Century Fox Films, Aust. Mr Ironside is to be congratulated on his venture, with his new building doing much to improve the aspect of Main Street.

Airlie Allotments: The Land Office has advised the Shire Council that, owing to shortage of loan funds, money is not available for roads for the proposed building allotments at Airlie Beach, this work now being listed for inclusion in the 1957/58 program. The Council is referring the matter to the Member, Mr Lloyd-Roberts for representation to have the work done and the allotments thrown open for ballot this financial year.

Friday August 31 - **New Telephone:** A new telephone office will be opened in the North Gregory area today. It will be conducted at the premises of Mr C. Milne and connected to the Bowen/Proserpine trunk line service. Public telephone services will be available but the five applicants for phones in the area will not be connected until next week. Hours of attendance will be Monday to Friday 9 am to 1 pm, 2 pm to 5 pm, Saturday 9 am to noon.

Drome Improvements: Extensive improvements are planned for the Proserpine aerodrome, to prepare for Convair aircraft during the next tourist season. Airlines have indicated a willingness to pay increased landing fees for improvements and it is possible the 5200 ft landing strip will be bitumen sealed.

Rainfall: Unsettled weather conditions prevailed this week and another 127 points were recorded. This brought this year's rainfall, to date, 121.90 inches.

Friday September 21 - Shute Walk: Sunday, October 7, has been fixed as the date for the walk to Shute Harbour, as arranged by the Chamber of Commerce. Walkers will leave Proserpine at 8 am and the walk will begin from Jubilee Pocket. This will be the second walk across the ranges and it is hoped to gain additional information on the terrain across the hills. Organisations taking part will be the Shire Council, Tourist Association, the four island resorts, the mill and the farmers executive, the Cannonvale Beach Progress Association and Forestry representatives from Proserpine and Mackay.

Friday September 28 - Olympic Torch: At 1 o'clock tomorrow afternoon C.E. Fuller will lead off from the Shire Office in the first road trial in preparation for the Olympic Torch Relay, which will take place later this year. Runners were selected by ballot last night and cars will carry them down the highway to where their personal miles will commence. From the latest information to hand it appears that Proserpine will commence with the torch at about 6 pm when it arrives on its way to Melbourne.

Friday October 5 - Airport Report: On his return from a visit to Brisbane, the Shire Chairman, Cr W.A. Pepper reports agreement with the Treasury concerning borrowing 4,000 pounds from Ansett Airways for airport improvements, including bitumen sealing of the main strip. In regard to landing fees, Trans Australia airlines manager advised his company would not be introducing Convair aircraft. TAA intends to continue using DC3 planes and requested this be taken into consideration when fixing new landing fees.

Poker Machines: Three poker machines, at Hayman Island, valued at £1,200, were forfeited to the Crown on Tuesday. The order was made by Mr H.A. Galloway, SM, after fining the licensee of the hotel, Willian Joseph Pobjoy, 31 pounds 10 shillings for having them in his possession.

Friday October 16 - **Shute Walk:** About 30 men and youths took part in the walk from Jubilee Pocket to Shute Harbour last Sunday. Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, the idea of the walk was to obtain data which would assist with planning a road, or a track through to Shute. A full report will be presented at the next Chamber meeting.

Delayed Charge: The Shire Council has decided to charge Mr R.H.H. Filby 11 pounds, 11 shillings and 1 penny, for the hire of a council grader and driver, to pull his bus from Myrtle Creek and cart luggage to Proserpine, after the bus was washed over the Myrtle Creek causeway on February 10 this year.

Friday October 19 - Shute Harbour: Following the walk to Shute Harbour the Chamber of Commerce is to seek aerial photographs of the area to help in planning a road or a track over the range. Mr Eddie Gray was pleased with the country traversed, saying there would be two difficulties with the road: a steep climb over the saddle out of Jubilee Pocket and the seafront at Shute Harbour itself. Mr Ron McDowall said gullies at Adder Creek would require attention. He suggested it would be wise to see what the basin between the two lots of hills is like in the wet season. Mr Harry Muller said the Chamber should seek the cooperation of the Mill management as Shute Harbour could serve as a port for Proserpine, if a line was put through as well as a road. Mr George Stoneham agreed, saying he understood sugar from the mill would always be bag handled.

(Note: Adder Creek's name was changed to 'Flame Tree Creek' in 1961, the then Shire Council agreeing the thought of adders would frighten tourists. Ed. 1997)

Friday November 2 - Olympic Torch: The big event of the year, the Olympic Torch run from Cairns to Melbourne, commences in Cairns next week. Runners from the north will arrive in Proserpine, from Bowen, on Sunday, November 11, to hand over to the torch at the Shire Hall. After a short ceremony runners from Proserpine will set out for Yalbaroo at 5.45 pm. They will be required to cover each mile in seven minutes. On Sunday night there will be a barbecue at the golf clubhouse to entertain visiting runners and officials.

Lightning Kills:

Leonard Metcalfe, 27, was killed instantly when struck by lightning

at Longford Creek about 4.30 pm on Tuesday. Two other men, Leonard Cecil Metcalfe, 50, father of the dead man, and George Henry Eckles, 47, were admitted to the hospital suffering from severe shock. The men were railway workers who sheltered at the Longford Creek railway station during a storm and were returning to work when a terrific flash struck.

Cane Loaders: Mechanical equipment is on the increase in Proserpine, with 85 cane loaders now operating in the Proserpine district. Also operating are three mechanical cane cutting machines.

Street Names: The introduction of street name signs in Proserpine has been proceeding this week. When completed they will be a welcome innovation. The erection of street name signs, plus business and house numbering provides a modern touch to the town.

Town Water: The Shire Council is pushing forward with the water supply scheme for Proserpine. Two new bores have been sunk and the water tower, in the Waite Estate, can be seen rising above the surrounding trees and housetops.

Friday November 16 - **Olympic Torch Relay:** One of the most animated crowds ever to assemble in Proserpine greeted the arrival of the Olympic Torch in Main Street on Sunday afternoon. Kevin Bauer, of Bowen, was the last runner in from the North, with Proserpine's J.P.Casey setting off a few minutes after the scheduled starting time of 5.54 pm. However the Proserpine runners had no trouble in making up the lost time. In fact they had to be held by the official car at several points on the run to Yalbaroo, as they were getting ahead of the schedule. The Torch was received on the dais by the Shire Chairman, Cr. W.A.Pepper, with members of the Council staff, Misses Betty Baker and Kay Muller attired as the Grecian maidens. Girl Guides, bearing an Australian flag and stationed at the dais were Christabel Peterson, Lynette Rudd, Katherine Relf, Elaine Stoneham, Roslyn Caldwell and Janet Wright. There was a tremendous crowd at the barbecue, held at the Golf Club that evening.

Friday December 14 - **Crushing End in Sight:** The Proserpine Mill expects to end this season's crushing either on Christmas Eve or December 27, according to cane deliveries. Farmers have been advised all cane must be on the line by Monday afternoon, December 24. The final estimate is about 330,000 tons for the season.

Holiday Trading: On Christmas Eve Proserpine business houses will trade until 9 pm, one half hour being allowed for a meal. This break will be staggered to enable a continuous service to the public. A full holiday will be observed on December 31.

Friday December 21 - Record Rainfall: A fall of 234 points of rain this week has established a new annual rainfall for Proserpine, with a grand total of 133 inches 27 points for the year so far. This is 89 points better than the previous record fall, in 1954. The rain has seriously interrupted the closing stages of the cane harvest, which now will extend to Thursday next week.

Swimming Baths: The first public move towards swimming baths for Proserpine took place with the establishment of an official committee at Diggers Hall on Wednesday night last week. Cr Pepper said finance would be the main problem as a conservative estimate of the costs of the swimming pool was £20,000 and, as Proserpine is within 100 miles of the coast, there would be no government subsidy.

Airstrip: The Council's consulting engineer has submitted plans, etc., for the bitumen surfacing of the 061 strip at the airport. The estimated cost of the scheme is £27,294.

Friday December 28 - **Crushing Ends:** The 1956 crushing terminated at 8.30 pm last night, with a total crush of about 324,600 tons. It is estimated at about 6,000 tons have been left in the fields owing to heavy rains.

Sports Marred: Boxing Day sports, at Cannonvale, were marred by torrential rain in the closing stages.

Ann Street Problems: The last meeting of the Shire Council received a number of complaints from the Ann Street Progress Association. The Association wants four large mango trees in the Shire depot cut down, to improve the ventilation to Ann Street properties. It also wants drains and potholes in Ann Street attended to. Permission has been given to cut down the mango trees, under the supervision of the Foreman, Mr W.H. Vincent. Ann Street people also asked for the cessation of dumping sawdust on the sports reserve, claiming it is a menace when it blows into Ann Street homes and onto washing on their lines.