



VOICES

from
the

PAST

Newsletter of the Inverell District Family History Group Inc

ISSN 0815/1903 December 2023 Issue No. 138



Abandoned, crumbling and neglected see Pages 6-7.

**MEETINGS ARE HELD 3rd SATURDAY OF THE MONTH
1:30 PM AT THE RESOURCE CENTRE— INVERELL SHIRE PUBLIC
LIBRARY 55-59 CAMPBELL ST INVERELL**

The Inverell District Family History Group Inc may be contacted at:

Address: Inverell Shire Public Library
55-59 Campbell St,
Inverell NSW 2360

Postal: PO Box 367
Inverell NSW 2360

Email: info@inverellfamilyhistory.org.au

Web: www.inverellfamilyhistory.org.au

Membership:

Fees for the present financial year are:

| | |
|-------------------|------|
| Single membership | \$35 |
| Family membership | \$45 |

Resources:

The resources of the History Group are available for use at:
Inverell Shire Public Library, 55-59 Campbell St, Inverell
Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays 10am - 3pm
CLOSED TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

Research:

**Research fees are \$35.00 per surname
including p & h**

A charge of 30c per copy applies for photocopying.

Our volunteers will deal with enquiries in their order of receipt. Replies may take up to four weeks, so please wait patiently.

Enquiries should be made to:

The Secretary
IDFHG Inc
PO Box 367 INVERELL NSW 2360

Please enclose your email address with research enquiry.

2023/2024

President: Kathy McLeod
Secretary: Di Atkinson
Treasurer: Lorraine Watson
Newsletter Editor: Ken McLeod

IDFHG Inc is a member of NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies

history on the macintyre

IN THIS ISSUE

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| Presidents Report | 3 |
| What's new in the Library..... | 4 |
| Research update..... | 5 |
| Highland Clearances..... | 6 |
| Talk by Graham Wilson..... | 8 |
| Meet a member: Gloria Baldwin..... | 9 |
| Did Hollywood come to Inverell?..... | 11 |
| Vale former members..... | 11 |
| Devine Collection..... | 12 |
| Convict Register forms..... | 13 |

Voices from the Past is the official journal of the Inverell District Family History Group Inc and is published in February, June and October each year.

Opinions expressed and statements in this newsletter do not necessarily represent those of the group, which accepts no responsibility for them.

Other Societies or Groups may copy original material published in this newsletter, provided the source is acknowledged.

Otherwise, production of articles in *Voices from the Past* may be made only with the written permission from the Group.

Next Meeting

Saturday 17th February at 1pm

Inverell Shire Public Library 55-59 Campbell St, Inverell

All Welcome

Cuppa & a chat afterwards



Radio sessions with Wayne Jones on STA.FM 91.9

After our Christmas/ New Year break we will resume our fortnightly chat sessions with Wayne.

So to hear some interesting stories and what's happening in the group tune in on Wednesday 7th February at 9.40am for our first broadcast in 2024.



Working Bees

We will be holding 3 working bees while on our break.

Our aim is to sort through a backlog of donated research material and tidy them into files and folders.

Any members who would like to help for either a couple of hours or the full day are welcome to attend.

January 16th, 23rd & 30th
Time 9.30am -3pm



Presidents Report 5th August 2023

So once again I have had the privilege to lead the group this past year, and what a busy one it has been!



Research has been plentiful and has, as usual, kept us busy. Our requests have included a number of early pioneers to the district such as the Fraser, Fletcher & Arkinstall families. Some families researched still have descendants in the area such as the Burtenshaw, Harrison and Woodbury families. Other research conducted has included the Locke, McElroy, Goldman, Warbrooke & Little families, just to name a few. Research on the history of houses and properties has also been popular with research conducted on a number of houses in Brae St, a house in King St and properties such as Paradise Creek Station. Other less usual requests have included the old Inverell Railway Station and a number of interwar buildings in Otho & Byron St.

Many hours this year have been spent researching for the Gilgai Heritage Memorial, 100th Anniversary Commemorative Event due to be held in September 2023. Our "Men on the Memorial" display will be mounted in the Gilgai Hall on the day. Thanks go to our research team of Betty Deverell, Di Atkinson & Maria Griffiths. Of course while Betty and her team handle the bulk of the requests they are ably backed up by all our volunteers.

Membership has remained steady at around 35 this year with a number of new members joining. Unfortunately though most of these are not local and it is becoming apparent that due to encroaching age, illness and family commitments the group will need more active members to join in the coming years. To that end we implemented a group trip, talk or event to take place on the months that we don't have a meeting. Our hope was that it may attract some new local members. While that has not necessarily been the case these events have been enjoyed immensely by our existing members. In this past year we have had a number of very informative talks presented; Wayne Hoppe, the Armidale Family History Group president, presented his talk on conditional purchases, Elizabeth Wiedemann presented hers on how to gather information and write up history and Tony Sonter brought along a number of everyday items and artifacts from the past, that while they seemed quite ordinary had a great story to tell. I also had the privilege to present a workshop on how access land records. New member Peter Spencer also launched his book "Too Young to Hold a Gun" about his great grandfather William Monckton and his time spent with bushranger Thunderbolt. During the year a couple field trips were also organised with a number of members attending the opening of the Bingara Military Museum and a visit to the Warialda Historical Society & Museum.

Many wide and varied resources have also been gathered and added to our local history collection. Family histories, maps, DVDs and many other items have been accessioned. Our library is truly becoming a great repository for Inverell and district history. On that note we must say a thank you to the library staff. Sonya and her team truly make the library a helpful and welcoming space, not only for our group but for their many other patrons.

This past year the group hired the services of Kylie Beckhouse to transcribe and create a user friendly printout of the rate and assessment books. This will be a BIG job but so very worth it to have searchable copies of the rates in both computer and book form.

More thankyou's of course must also go to our volunteers who man the room every week. We regularly receive positive feedback on your friendliness & helpfulness by visitors to our room. I would also personally like to thank the group for their continued support over the past year.

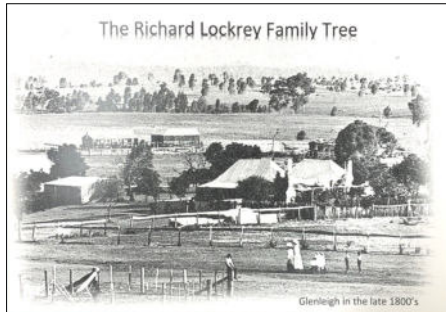
Kathy McLeod

IDFHG President

What's New in the Library

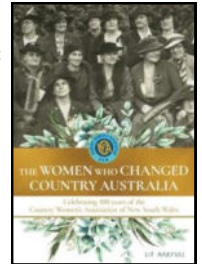
The Richard Lockrey Family Tree by Alice Lockrey.

This comprehensive family history traces the Lockrey family who were early settlers at Brodies Plains



The women who changed country Australia : Celebrating 100 years of the Country Women's Association of New South Wales by Liz Harfull

A compelling and thoroughly researched account of the CWA of NSW - its beginnings, its remarkable achievements and the indomitable women who have driven each one of its many successes.



Set of 3 folders on the village of Elsmore compiled by Mavis Ting



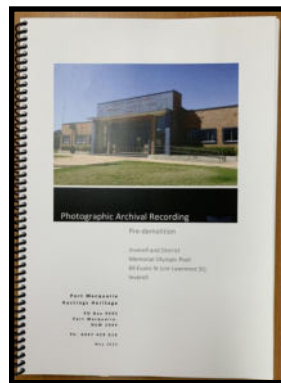
*Families from Elsmore— including the Coates, Colley, Mephram, Tozer & White families

*Elsmore Cemetery— with photos included

*Newstead and Paradise Properties— assorted information

Photographic archival recording Pre-demolition :
Inverell and District
Memorial Olympic Pool

Conducted by



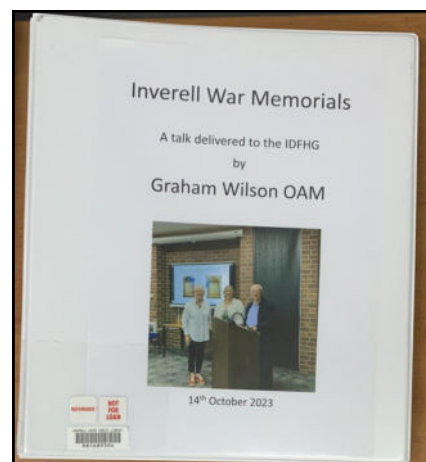
Ashford Central School Admission Register 1932-1970

Kindly donated by the school this great resource can also be accessed via their website at,



<https://ashford-c.schools.nsw.gov.au/school-newsletter/admission-register-1937---1968.html>

Inverell War Memorials A talk delivered to IDFHG by Graham Wilson OAM



In October of this year Graham delivered this talk to the IDFHG. The folder contains a list of some of the varied memorials throughout the district along with information on each.

Inverell Municipal Council Rate Books 1872- 1879 & 1880-1887



Research Update

“Morelma”

This property was originally part of land taken up by the O’Sullivan family in 1875. In 1906 Major HAD White purchased it and other surrounding blocks and named it “Morelma” and built the substantial house that still remains today.



Walter Edward Briggs 1883-1950

Walter was born Maitland in 1883 and married Amy Steiger in Inverell in 1908. The couple had children, all born in the New England district.

Walter enlisted as a Kurradjong WWI. He served with the 33rd Battalion and after being wounded returned home 1918.

Walter worked as a farm labourer and overseer throughout the district. Sadly, in 1950, Walter took his own life at his home in



Ken Angel— Ken came to Inverell in the 1960s and worked as a district surveyor before setting up his own business. He was very involved with the local community and helped to form the Inverell Bushwalking Club as well as being involved in Scouts and Inverell Historical Society.

Neal McGowan— Born in Ireland in 1838 and died in Tingha 1895. His sons Neal, Barnett & James journeyed to Western Australia where two of them became police officers. Two daughters remained in the Inverell area after marrying into the Marchant & Tolley families.

Thomas Dean Casson— Born in England in 1851, Thomas came to Australia as a boy with his parents. He was considered an early pioneer of the district eventually taking up land near Gravesend.

Burley Family—Charles and his wife Harriet emigrated from Cornwall on board the “Alfred”. On their arrival in 1838, the family settled in NSW. Their son John eventually settled in the Ashford /Texas area. John married Sarah Partridge in Walcha. He died 1915 at Texas, Qld.

John (Jack) & Sarah Brissett

Jack was born in London in 1852 and emigrated to Australia, with his parents Joseph & Selina, as an infant. He grew up on the goldfields at Araluen (near Braidwood) where Joseph was the licensee of various public houses.

Rather than the life of a publican Jack began working in the mines and apart from a short time sinking bores, he was to remain a miner for most of his life. He came to Tingha in the early 1870s where he met and married Sarah Peck.

The couple who lived at Tingha, Moree & Bingara went on to have 17 children of which only 9 survived infancy.

After Sarah died at Tingha in 1929, Jack moved to Sydney to live with his son, Joseph. He died there in 1935.



Jack & Sarah with their four sons—L to R Arthur, Jack, Joseph, Sarah, Harold & Albert.

Highland Clearances

In Scotland during the 19th century, there were profound changes happening in rural areas which resulted in the disruption of the lives of thousands of families and the many communities they were part of. Most agricultural workers were either crofters (who leased their land from landlords or clan chiefs) or cottars who could lease the land from the crofters. Neither crofters nor cottars owned their own land, and thus they were vulnerable to eviction.

Starting in the eighteenth century, people in the highlands of Scotland were sometimes subject to violence as they were evicted and had to resettle on marginal land or smaller less viable crofts. The landlords found that their land could be more profitable if it were used to raise sheep or cattle rather than be leased out to crofters and cottars. The mass evictions became known as the highland clearances. The crofters and cottars basically became refugees, and their choices were limited. They could move to the cities, which were becoming overcrowded or they could migrate out to countries like America or Canada or to the colonies like Australia or New Zealand. As refugees they were subject to two social and economic forces: on the one hand the clearances were pushing them out of their homeland and on the other, great hope and opportunities in the colonies were beckoning. Australia must have seemed like a land of opportunity compared to the upheavals and bleak choices they were being subject to in their native Scotland.

The highland clearances thus resulted in waves of migration out to Australia and other English speaking countries. Many Scottish people already had contacts out in Australia and some Scottish clans had a type of migration network. This meant that migrating Scots people had a system of support and opportunity when they arrived in Australia. The Scots, although victims of a heartless economic upheaval, were nonetheless educated, skilled, and possessed the good old protestant work ethic.

In Australia the migrating Scots settled in areas such as South Australia and the Hunter Valley. By working their way up the Hunter Valley these stoic hardy people reached New England. Eventually some of them found their way to the Inverell district. Some of the families which would have been affected by the clearances and subsequent migration to Inverell include Ross, McIntyre, Campbell, Fletcher, Fraser, McKenzie, McClymont, Munro and Gordon. These are familiar names in the development of early Inverell. Victims of a cruel economic upheaval they may have been, but given the right opportunities, they thrived.

The Munro family from Cromarty in north east Scotland illustrates the story behind the Scottish diaspora. The area of Cromarty was subject to the Highland Clearances and associated distress.

Continued over



The map of Scotland shows some of the towns and regions in Scotland from where some New England families emigrated in the mid 19th century. The Ross and Munro families came from Cromarty in the north of Scotland, in the highlands.

The Nivison family came from near Dumfries in the south of Scotland near the border with England, the lowlands.

We can see that at its closest, Scotland is only about 20 km from Ireland at the peninsula called the Mull of Kintyre.

The people in Western Scotland in the 19th century included sea faring folk who were quite adept at navigating around the myriad of islands we can see on the west coast of Scotland. It is easy to see how the potato blight could thus easily be spread from Ireland to Scotland.

From the map we can see also how the west and north west of Scotland could be badly affected by the potato blight.

Highland Clearances Cont'd

The late Jillian Oppenheimer (1930-2019) in her book "Munro's Luck" describes in detail the epic that resulted in the migration of Donald and Margaret Munro from Glasgow to Australia in 1848. The Munro family became like a dynasty over the next few generations as they settled on the property "Keera" between Inverell and Bingara and to this day it is big successful property. One of the sons of Donald and Margaret was Hugh Munro who married Grace Gordon (of CWA fame).



Cromarty is on a peninsula north of Inverness on the Great Glen, this makes it part of the highlands of Scotland. The highlands were harshly affected by the clearances. If the clearances weren't enough, the potato blight in Ireland also made its way to Scotland, exacerbating the problems of poverty, homelessness and starvation further.

This photo shows an abandoned farming cottage in Scotland on the Isle of Skye. You can still see some of these scattered around rural Scotland and Ireland. In this photo you can see the sheep peacefully grazing nearby and in the background, we can see where the ground has been dug up to obtain the peat. Again this is not an unusual sight around rural Scotland.

Image courtesy of G.McLeod, 2023.

The upheaval also resulted in repercussions in the lowlands. The area around Dumfries further south in Scotland was near the border with England. The clearances still had an impact here, as the Nivison family for example were living in this area in the late 1700s and up to 1839. Changes in agricultural technology resulted in improvements during the late 1700s and this resulted in better living conditions for families. Abraham Nivison was born on 1809 and benefited from Scotland's education system. Abraham also acquired medical skills and was thus called upon to give medical aid when there was no doctor available. This resonates with stories of Colin Ross in Inverell who was sometimes needed to set broken bones. Scotland at this time was renowned for its medical training in keeping with its tradition in valuing education.

Due to deteriorating economic circumstances in Scotland and opportunities in Australia, Abraham Nivison sailed for Australia in 1839 on the "Superb". Once in Australia Abraham then boarded the steamship "Sophia Jane" and headed for the Hunter Valley. The valley at this time was being settled by many Scots, which explains town names like Aberdeen, Scone and Invermeil. Abraham with his wife Mary then headed up the Hunter to work for Henry Dumaresq of the Australian Agricultural Company. Mary Nivison's brother was Adam Wightman who was also employed by Dumaresq, illustrating the importance of networking in the Scottish diaspora.

The Nivison family were then able to buy the squatting run "Ohio" around Walcha in the New England region around 1841. The run was bought for £500 from the squatter J.H. Boughton. The "run" is just a few kilometres North East of Walcha on Ohio Creek. Later this was to become the property for the Nivison family, but what Abraham Nivison had purchased was simply a licence to run livestock. It does not imply ownership. The transaction between Boughton and Nivison was "neither legal nor recognised by the government" according to Jillian Oppenheimer in another of her books "An Australian Clan: the Nivisons of New England". By 1847 the Nivisons tenure of the land was more secure due to Orders in Council which resulted in regulations giving clear and more secure tenure. By this time the family were building their home and becoming established in the area. Seven generations later the family is still farming their land.

A.S. (Poss) Nivison was a grandson who went on to marry Grace (known as Nancy) Munro, also from the Scottish family mentioned earlier. This connects the two Scottish families together and to our local history. The author Jillian Openheimer has written extensively about Scottish families emigrating to Australia, and was the daughter of A.S. (Poss) Nivison.



Talk by Graham Wilson OAM

In mid October, the Inverell District Family History Group hosted a presentation by well known Armidale historian, Graham Wilson. Along with a life long interest in history, in particular war memorials, Graham was a former lecturer in Local and Applied History at UNE and heritage consultant for a number of councils in the region. Graham's presentation to the group was about the various forms of war memorials which communities erected after the various wars. In the aftermath of the two world wars, there were often vigorous debates in communities about how servicemen could be best memorialised. The different ways of commemorating service in the time of war is actually quite extensive and includes: captured artillery, trophies, honour rolls, remembrance gardens and murals, memorial plaques, modern sculptures, gates, memorial halls, tree plantings, honour rolls, monuments, memorial baths, cenotaphs, sculptures, walkways and memorial windows.



Left—The Kurrajongs memorial on Glen Innes Road. Centrally displayed is a 105mm German Howitzer captured by the Australian 33rd Battalion. The display incorporates captured artillery, a grove of 178 trees, one for each soldier who died and a plaque to George Cartwright who was awarded the VC.



Above—This more recent addition at Delungra is unique as it places an emphasis on New Zealand soldiers as well as Australian. It features honour rolls of those who served from Delungra and the local communities of Kaloona, Graman, Myall Creek, Little Plain & Mount Russell. It also displays honour rolls from the New Zealand Paparua Returned & Services' Association.



Above—Often nurses were not recorded on honour rolls. This honour roll is dedicated to the nurses who served with a family tie or link to Inverell.

Meet a Member: Interview with Gloria Baldwin

Gloria was born Gloria Mary Lowrey in 1937, in Inverell. Her father was Bill Lowrey who was a saddler and also worked as a farm hand.

Gloria's earliest memories were of a Christmas celebration when she was living with her grandmother. She recalls a present which her Uncle made for her, and this consisted of a model house constructed out of disused bee box material. Gloria's Uncle was a bee keeper. Other early recollections for Gloria involve the second world war, as her uncles enlisted to serve. As a young girl she was aware that the war was going on, and whenever an aeroplane flew over, she felt threatened.

Being a saddler and a farm hand, Gloria's father took the family to Casino when she was young. She remembers going to school in Grafton in 1950. She must have been at least a reasonable student as in 1955 she went off to the newly formed UNE to study. However, Gloria would have preferred to have gone to the Teacher's College. The fledgling University had only basic facilities back then, many buildings were simply demountables with the accommodation in town. She found all this uncomfortable and as there were very few girls attending, quite sexist.



Gloria being interviewed recently. She has been a member of the group since its infancy, and her knowledge is a valuable asset to the group. Gloria is the "go to" person for information about Gum Flat and the stories behind many of the old buildings around Inverell.



The beautiful old Booloominba building at the University of New England in Armidale. Designed by famed architect John Horbury Hunt it was built as an imposing residence for Armidale pioneer F R White. It became a key building for the fledgling university in the 1930s.

Being a small university, students like Gloria would eat in the lovely old Booloominba building where Latin was taught in the attic of this grand old building, and the library was housed in its cellar. Gloria did not enjoy this episode and went back to Inverell in 1956, where she worked at Parmenter's Jewellers.

In 1958, Gloria married Bob Baldwin. Their house was a three roomed worker's cottage at Gum Flat. Gloria and Bob still live there, as Bob has put in some renovations over the years. When they first moved in, Gloria recalls using a 44 gallon drum as a back step, but things have improved since then.

Gloria and Bob went on to have 6 children when living at Gum Flat. The four boys and two girls obviously kept them busy, but Gloria was still able to work at MBF during this time.

Meet a Member continued

Gloria and Bob's grandchildren started coming along in 1990, and they now have 12 of them. The matriarch and patriarch then went on to have 7 great grandchildren two of them arriving only recently. Bob Baldwin owned and operated a sawmill, and then worked during the construction of Copeton Dam as a bus driver for the night shift workers. After the completion of Copeton Dam, Bob worked on machinery for the Inverell Shire.

During the 1990s, Gloria joined the Inverell Family History Group, becoming treasurer in 1997 and served the maximum of 3 years. Muriel Bryan then encouraged Gloria to take on the job of minutes secretary, a position she still holds. Apart from this role, Gloria has an extensive knowledge of local families and the development of the town of Inverell and district. Gloria is one of our valued "Brains Trust".

Gloria has naturally researched her own family tree, and besides the Lowrey family there are Fleming, McDonald and Baldwin families. Her maternal grandmother was a Fleming, they being a well known Delungra family. Gloria's Lowrey grandmother was a McDonald. The McDonalds emigrated from the Isle of Skye possibly in the mid 1800s (see article on highland clearances). Gloria's mother was a Baldwin (no relation to Bob), and they emigrated from England to South Australia. Gloria's great grandfather came to Inverell when her grandfather was still a child. Gloria's mother (née Baldwin) died earlier this year at the age of 103.



Carol, Gloria and Keith Lowrey. Photo from the IDFHG Devine Collection

Can you help?

Convict Register of New England

The Armidale Family History Group is currently compiling a Convict Register of New England and the Northern Tablelands and are looking for submissions. The register covers from Bendemeer in the south to Tenterfield in the north and from Ebor in the East to Warialda in the West.

If you have an ancestor who was assigned in this area, or settled here after serving their time we would love to hear from you.

Attached to this newsletter is a register form for completion. Please fill in as much as you can and if information is not known you can leave that field blank.



Vale Doreen Lockrey

1945-2023

Doreen was a long term member of our Family History Group who passed away in early November after a period of poor health. She will be sadly missed.

Vale Graeme Page

1951-2023

Graeme sadly passed away suddenly in October of this year. Along with his wife Ann (deceased), Graeme supported the IDFHG for many years.



Did Hollywood come to Inverell?

We had an enquiry from a lady who recalls a show coming to town, possibly the "Bonanza Stampede". She recalls the show featuring the whole "Bonanza" cast. Bonanza was a TV series in the western genre which was very popular here and in the U.S. during the 1960s.

Lorne Greene was a well-known actor playing a lead role in the "Bonanza" series associated with the Le Garde twins, who were well known in the country music and entertainment industry both here and in the U.S. The actor Lorne Greene was recruited by the Le Gardes to be part of the travelling "Bonanza Stampede" show. We know from the poster that the travelling show was performed in the capital cities, but did it come to Inverell? One of our members clearly remembers the Le Garde twins touring regional Queensland with the show circuit, could they have done the same thing in regional NSW?

The dates on the poster show a fairly tight schedule with all the states covered in a week. A diversion to Inverell seems unlikely. However, we think that a one week visit to Australia by a renowned American actor seems unlikely, especially given the airline operations at the time. Did the Hollywood legend have time after the big tour to do some regional appearances?

If anyone can help to verify some of the details or add to the story, please contact our group.

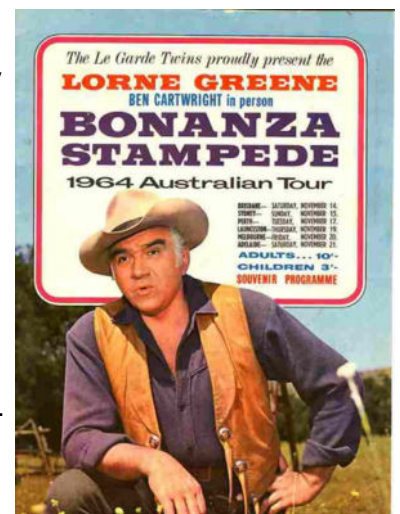


Image courtesy of Theatre Gold Memorabilia.

Devine Photos

Beryl and Merv have now reached 12,000 negatives which have been scanned from the Devine Collection. Usually the only information we may have is a name scrawled on the negative, so any extra information on these photos would be appreciated.



DC11895—This lady has the possible surname of Bassett



DC 12153— This looks like a young lady in her debut frock. Possible name is Walton.



DC11886— This couple have the possible name of Bryant



DC12012 - Levantis/Fardouly wedding, 1953.



Armidale Family History Group Inc.
Convict Register of Northern Tablelands Biographical Submission Form

| | | | |
|----------------|--|-------|--|
| Submitter Name | | Phone | |
| Email | | | |
| Address | | | |
| | | | |

| Convicts Details- Fill in details if known | | | |
|---|--|-------------------|------|
| Given Names | | Surname | |
| Parents | | | |
| Birth Date | | Birth Place | |
| Baptism Date | | Baptism Place | |
| Marriage 1 Spouse | | | |
| Marriage Date | | Marriage Place | |
| Marriage 2 Spouse | | | |
| Marriage Date | | Marriage Place | |
| Death Date | | Death Place | |
| Burial Place | | Religion | |
| Life before Transportation | | | |
| Trade or Profession | | | |
| Residence | | | |
| Type of Crime | | | |
| Location of Crime | | Age | |
| Date of Trial | | Trial Place/Court | |
| Sentence | | | |
| Ship Transported on | | | |
| Departure date | | Arrival date | |
| Convict Life in Australia | | | |
| Assigned to 1 | | Place | |
| Assigned to 2 | | Place | |
| Type of Work | | | |
| Offences in Australia | | | |
| Offences Cont. | | | |
| Did convict require Governors Permission to Marry | | | |
| Ticket of Leave Date | | Place | |
| Ticket of Leave Passport Date | | Place | |
| Certificate of Freedom Date | | Place | |
| Conditional Pardon Date | | Place | |
| Arrival on Northern Tablelands / New England | | | Year |
| Address in area 1 | | | |
| Address in area 2 | | | |
| Other Convict Information | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

