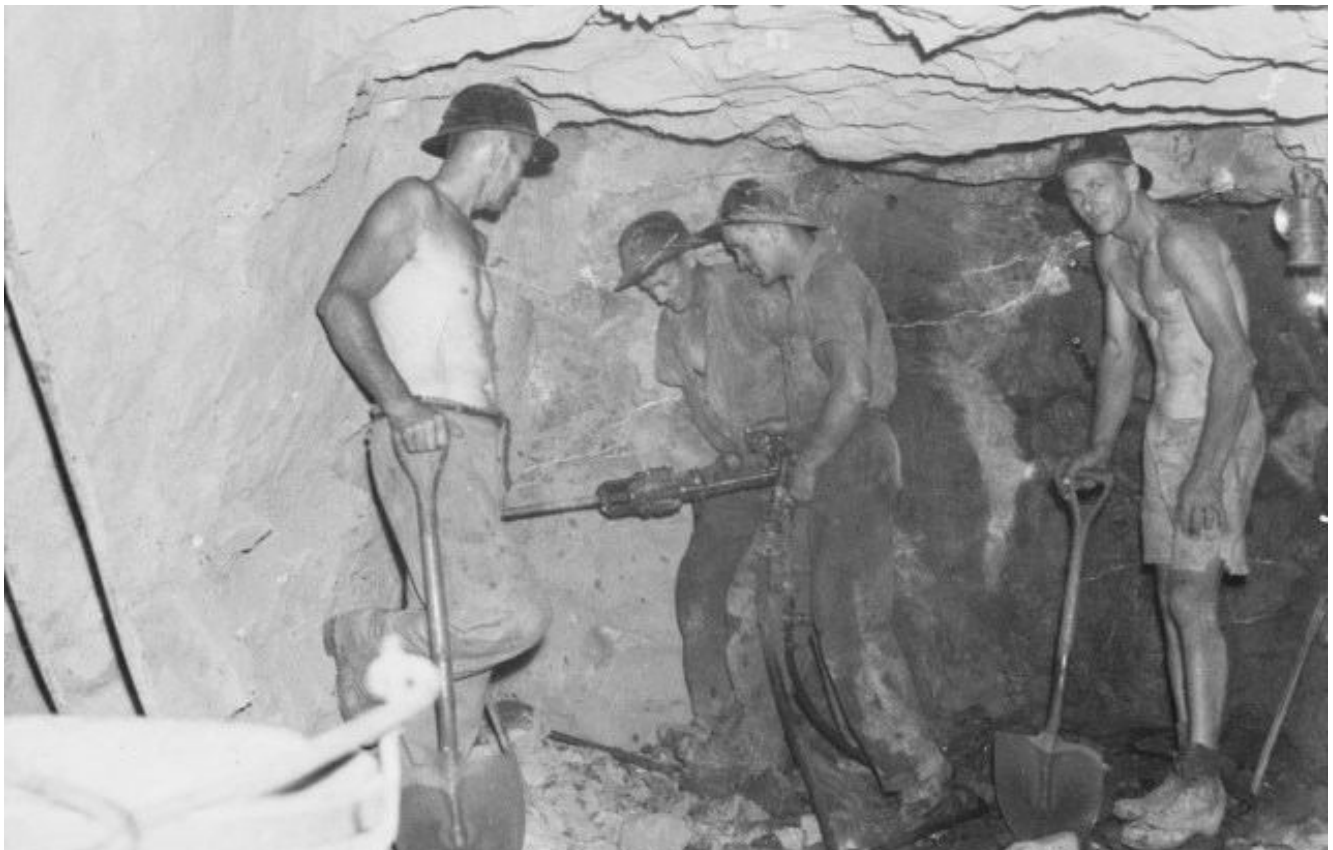


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Genealogical Society of the Northern Territory Inc.

The Family History Place



SEPTEMBER 2023

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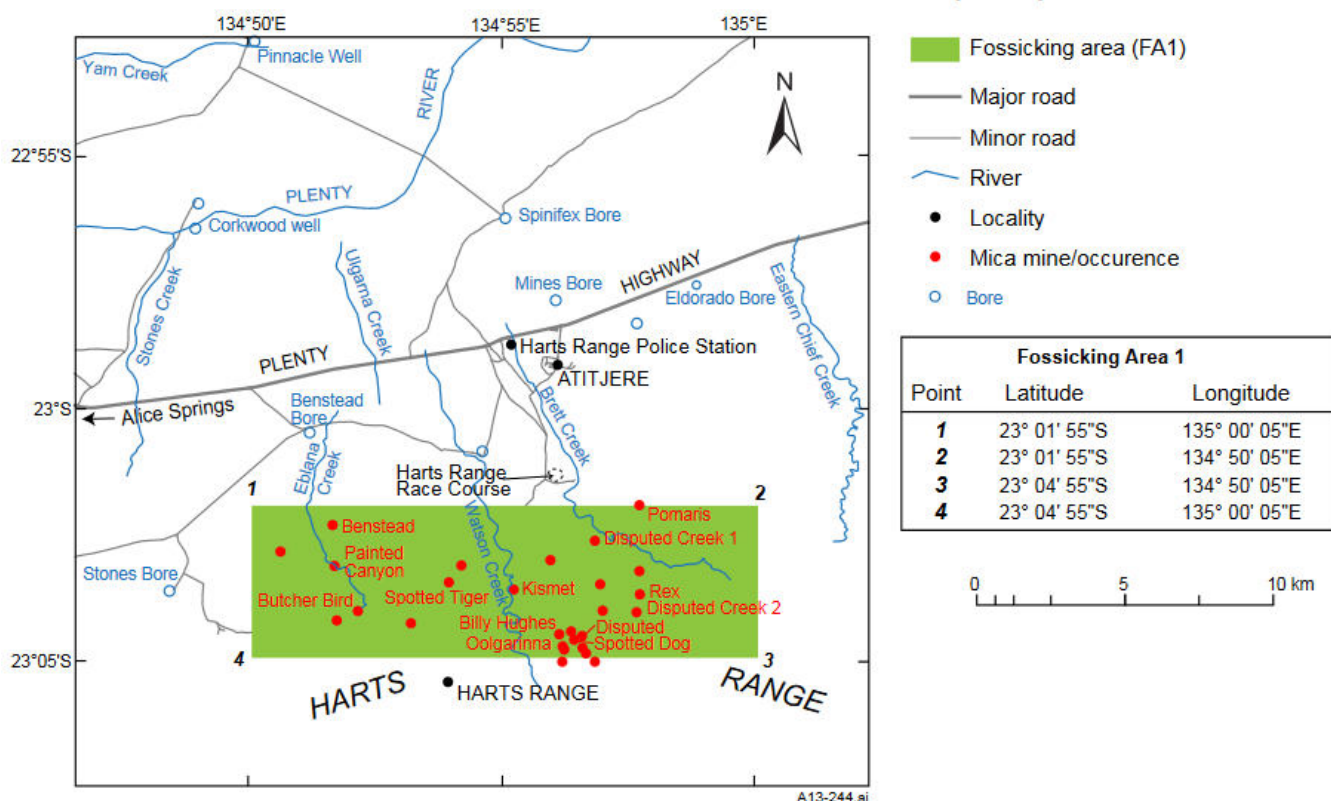
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FRONT COVER: ALICE SPRINGS, AUSTRALIA. 28-12-1942.

**SCENE IN THE MICA MINES AT STRANGWAYS RANGES,
43 MILES FROM ALICE SPRINGS.**

CENTRAL HARTS RANGE FOSSICKING AREA (FA1)



Map Source: <https://fossicking.nt.gov.au/declared-fossicking-areas/central-harts-range>

ITALIAN MICA MINERS IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Mica mining in the NT dates from the end of the nineteenth century. According to Giovanni (John) Spurio, writing in 1953, the Ulgarna mine was first opened on Mount Palmer in 1896. Spurio also comments that the Oolgarinna Mica Company took up the lease in 1905, sent a couple of shipments, stated it was the greatest mica mine in the world, then abandoned the lease.

Before World War I, mica wasn't worth much, with the result that prospectors soon began to leave. After the war, Mr. Bill Petrick, the owner of Mt. Swan station and Mr. Simon Reiff became interested in the mining industry. Petrick registered the 'Spotted Dog' and the 'Spotted Tiger.' Later he took over 'Ulgana.' Simon Reiff took over what was to be the 'Disputed' and 'Eastern Chief.' A company later took over the 'Spotted Dog' and 'Disputed.'

Many Italians migrated to Australia after 1921 when the US heavily restricted Italian immigration. Many took to mining without prior experience. Australian newspapers reported in the later 1920s the details of an agreement with the Italian government to 'supervise migration, to satisfy themselves about the character of the would-be emigrant, to ensure that he had good health, that he was possessed of at least £40 and was recommended by a friend or relatives in Australia, who would take him in hand on arrival.'

At Harts Range, Italian syndicates took over from the late 1920's onwards. 'Innocente Vendramini was a part owner in 1927. He had migrated from Italy earlier the same year and obtained a foothold on the field due to help from his distant cousin Gelindo Rossetto. Innocente's son, Eugenio (Gigetto) Vendramini joined him in 1933, and Innocente's wife and other five children joined him in 1937. They lived in a shanty camp during this time, sending mica by camel train to Alice Springs.'

Working conditions were hard and there were accidents resulting in injury and death. An example is the death of miners Sebastian Bolzan and Antonio Paolucci killed in a mine collapse at the Spotted Dog Mine on 7 August 1931. It is unknown what led miner, Beniamino Reato to end his life on the Plenty River mica field in 1954. His friends had stopped him blowing himself up with gelignite, but he was intent on suicide so was successful with a razor.

During World War II, many Italians were interned. This included the mica miners. The mines were taken over by Allied Works and gold miners put to work to mine the mica. However, they did not have the skill set for this type of mining and the Commonwealth had to offer the Italians incentives to return to mica mining. Mica was much needed for electrical insulation.

Mica mining continued into the 1950s. A new Italian syndicate, who applied for the lease of the Caruso Mine in 1947, consisted of Oreste Zanol, Pietro Pizzinato, and Natale Pizzinato. The mine is noted as active in 1951. John Spurio owned the Disputed Mine in the 1940s and 1950s.

Some of the miners were also Veneto market gardeners in Adelaide while others moved to Alice Springs. Some of the Veneti who worked on the mica mines before and after World War II were Angelo Piovesan, Attilio Piovesan, Gelindo, Angelo and Beppi Rossetto. A new wave that worked at the Spotted Tiger after the war included Augusto Mattiazzo and Leandro Bortoletto.

One miner who moved to Alice Springs, Pasquale (Patsy) Ciccone, is remembered in the naming of Ciccone Court, Alice Springs. Place Names NT describes him as follows: 'Pasquale "Patsy" (1888-1993) and Antonia (1891-1979) Ciccone (pronounced Chic-own) ... early Italian pioneers of Central Australia. Both ... born in Serrata in Calabria, Italy. Pasquale arrived in Australia in about 1926 and was followed by his wife seven years later. In 1938, during which time Pasquale Ciccone was naturalised, they established a base in Alice Springs and from there worked many of the mines of Central Australia. After the war they returned to Harts Range.'

Pasquale prospected and mined gold, copper, wolfram, and mica for over 25 years and was President of the Central Australian Mica Miners Association for a time. Mr Ciccone sponsored many of the southern Italians, including his brother-in-law Mr Ragonesi, who migrated to Alice Springs (Ragonesi Road in Alice Springs is named after Dominic Ragonesi). In 1952 the Ciccones returned to Alice Springs and opened a grocery store, becoming leaders in the Italian community in the town. Mr Ciccone held Agricultural Lease 514 of 20 acres south of Alice Springs from 1950 to 1955. He also held Misc Lease 361, later converted to TLL965. They both died in Alice Springs.'

These Italian migrants and many more of them (some listed below) made a huge contribution to the economic and social fabric of the Northern Territory and their descendants continue to do so to this day.

Here is an incomplete list of miners known to have worked at Harts Range:

Gino Rino Basso & Pierina, Mary Rigoni, Rino Fioretti married Caria Andreoni 1954, Giuseppe Antonelli, Teresa Fadelli (nee Pizzinato) & husband Ugo, Peter Pizzinato, Italia Floreani joined husband Gabriele, Davide Fantus, Anilio De Pieri, Serafina De Pieri, Pietro Viera, Antoinette Mamone & Salvatore Mamone, Johnny Miolo, Augusta Del Tedesco, Resi Toigo, Ludovico Dalla Valli, Natalino Fioretti, Peter Morelli. Other names are included in the contributions made by people towards the 1952 Italian flood relief fund.

Further Reading:

Mica mining at Harts Range, Central Australia, 1880s – 1960: A study of ethnicity and the impact of isolation / David Frederick Hugo BA (Hons)(Qld), M.A. (Qld)

https://ris.cdu.edu.au/ws/portalfiles/portal/23680670/Thesis_CDU_6115_Hugo_D.pdf

Veneto market gardeners 1927: From the Veneto to Frogmore and Findon Roads 1920s to 1970s. <https://venetimarketgardeners1927.net/>

Ruth Sheridan

KWANTO MARU.

HELD UP AT WELLINGTON.

WELLINGTON (N.Z.), Wednesday.

Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954), Thursday 25 November 1915, page 12

The watersiders successfully boycotted the Japanese steamer Kwanto Maru today, but their action had an unexpected sequel. The men refused to work a cargo of superphosphates, save on a considerable advance on the agreement rates. The stevedores declined to pay the rates asked, and being unable to secure men threw up the Job. The vessel was idle all day. The charterer in Mr. Arthur Hasell, of Melbourne, while travelling representative eventually engaged two gangs of men at their own terms, they worked one hour only, and discharged 60 bags, and were promptly paid off for dilatoriness.

ITALIAN PATAGONIAN IMMIGRANTS TO THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

During research into the Italians who came to the Northern Territory between 1845 and 1945, a group from South America stood out. These were the immigrants aboard the *Kwanto Maru* who arrived in Darwin on 5 August 1915.

Thirty men of Italian nationality (named on Shipping Records available at GSNT Inc.) had taken up the Commonwealth Government's offer of free land in the Daly River area and advanced fares to Darwin (to be repaid from wages). These men decided to move from their farming district at Chubut, Argentina. They arrived along with a small group of Welsh Patagonians and a larger group of Spanish and several other nationalities.

Historian Michele Langfield in several articles including 'Filching the Argentine colonists: the encouragement of Patagonians to the Northern Territory in the early twentieth century' Historical Society of the Northern Territory, 2002, thoroughly outlines why the group came and what happened to some of them. This article looks at 28 of the 30 men and what this researcher could find about their fate. Some names identified as Italian on the shipping records sound more Spanish than Italian but in keeping with the records, they are included.

Emilio BEICA arrived as an immigrant per *Kwanto Maru* at Darwin on August 5, 1915. It is not known how long he stayed in the NT, but he was in Queensland by 1918 when he was issued Alien Registration Certificate No 14 at Finch Hatton, west of Mackay.

Source: NAA ID: 5236387

Giuseppe CADAN was born 18 May 1890 in Italy. He arrived in Darwin 5 August 1915 per *Kwanto Maru* with 29 other Italians from Argentina. He became a registered alien in Darwin in 1916. Unlike some of the other Italians who had to move to Queensland seeking cane farm work, he appears to have stayed in Darwin and found work on the wharves. He is mentioned in a wharf lockout in 1922, a dispute between unions. He was amongst a group who reported for work unloading the collier *Biloeia* under Wobblies jurisdiction. Cadan gave a donation of 2/- to 'relieve industrial distress' 2 October 1929.

In 1948 Cadan is mentioned in relation to a new wolfram find, 'found by four Works and Housing men, Messrs. F. Frith, J. Aird, C. Sagabeil and G. Cadan, [which] proved to be rather good, assay results being from 57. per cent, to 66 per cent.'

Source: *Centralian Advocate* 9/07/1948. *Northern Standard* 22/09/1922. *Northern Standard* 2/07/1929.

Antonio CAROSSINO aka **CARROSINO** was born at Nuoro Italy on 23 April 1892 to parents Francesco CAROSSINO and Antonia FLORIS.

He arrived at Darwin per *Kwanto Maru* 05 August 1915 with a group of immigrants from Argentina. They had been lured to the Northern Territory with the promise of work and land by the Commonwealth Government. By 1922 they were on government rations, there being no work available partly resulting from the closure of Vestey's Meatworks in 1920. The group was unsuccessful in its bid for the government to repatriate them to South America on the grounds that it had not provided them with work or land as promised. But the government did try to help them find work on Queensland cane farms.

Carossino appears to be one of the immigrants who took the offer of a job in Queensland as records show him in Ingham Queensland from 1922 – 1942. He was captured at Ingham on 4 March 1942 and interned.

He was naturalised 8 August 1948. The 1949 & 1954 electoral rolls record him at Lannercost St, Ingham as a billiard saloonkeeper. The 1958 electoral roll shows his residence as Ingham Hospital.

Sources: NAA ID: 9209489 & 9909955 & 32091342.

'Filching the Argentine Colonists': The encouragement of Patagonians to the Northern Territory in the early twentieth century. Langfield, Michele in Journal of Northern Territory History Issue No. 13 2002.

Jose COLLARDO arrived at Darwin per *Kwanto Maru* 5 August 1915. Australian electoral rolls record Collardo as a cook in Cairns in 1928, a storeman in Cairns in 1937 and a labourer in Innisfail in 1949 and 1968.

Remigis MACCARINI aka MACCORINI arrived at Darwin per *Kwanto Maru* 5 August 1915. He was first registered as an alien at Pine Creek on 2 November 1916 issued with certificate No. 185. He must have been one of the group diverted to work on the railway before land was available.

Source: NAA ID: 6548608

Francesco Antonio MACCIONI was born on 5 February 1891 at Nuro Italy. His father was Giuseppe MACCIONI. He had spent 18 months in South America before his arrival in Australia. He was an immigrant arriving at Darwin per *Kwanto Maru* 05 August 1915.

On his naturalisation in 1922 he stated that he had lived 9 months in Port Darwin, 2 years Cairns and 4 years Ingham. The electoral roll of 1925 records him as a farmer at Elma Grove Ingham Q.

Maccioni died in a fatal motor accident on 5 April 1925. The *Townsville Daily Bulletin* dated 6 April 1925 outlines the events thus:

'An accident occurred near Main Camp, on the Ingham—Halifax road, on Friday night, as a result of which an Italian named Frank Maccioni died in the Hospital this morning. Maccioni, who was a farmer at Lilyponds, was driving a motor car towards his home, the only other occupant being a man named Beranante. Near Main Camp the car overturned. Beranante was thrown clear and escaped with a severe shaking. Maccioni, however, terribly injured; received injuries to the spine, a compound fracture of the right leg, and a fractured collarbone, and was also suffering from concussion. Maccioni was a single man aged 34.

The probate notice recorded Francesco A. Maccioni, late Ingham, farmer, £8190.

Source: *The Queenslander* 24 October 1925.

Pablo MANCHIA arrived at Darwin per *Kwanto Maru* 5 August 1915. He was first registered in Darwin in 1916.

Source: NAA ID: 6548610

Francisco NOVARESI arrived at Darwin per *Kwanto Maru* 5 August 1915. He was registered in Pine Creek in 1916 so he must have been another of the group that worked on the railway.

Source: NAA ID: 5957670

Antonio PALMAS was born on 14 October 1887 at Cagliari Italy. His father was Raffaele PALMAS. He arrived at Port Darwin per *Kwanto Maru* from Argentina 5 August 1915.

He was first registered at Pine Creek 1916. He was issued with Alien Registration Certificate No 351 on 30 April 1921 at Ingham, Queensland. At this time, he stated that he had lived in Port Darwin for 2 years and Ingham 3 years.

The electoral rolls record him in 1925, 1943 & 1954 as a planter of Hawkins Creek Ingham.

Source: NAA ID: 6548613

Louis PINTORI was born on 25 January 1888 at Nuro Italy. His father was Antonio PINTORI. Pintori arrived from Argentina (Comodoro River Davia) at Port Darwin per *Kwanto Maru* 5 August 1915. He had resided in Argentina 4 years. His alien registration was issued 31 October 1916 at Pine Creek. He was probably in the group working on the railway. When he became naturalised (20/12/1928 Jarvisfield Ayr Q.) he stated that he had resided one year in Pine Creek, Ayr 2 years, Ingham 2 years and Babinda 7 years.

Source: NAA ID: 1610242.

Sebastiano PIREDDA/PIREDA arrived from Argentina in August 1915. He left Darwin per *Malabar* on 15 March 1927. Nothing is known of his subsequent life.

Antonio SERRA arrived in Darwin on 5 August 1915. He was issued his alien registration No. 202 in Darwin on 21 October 1916.

Source: NAA ID: 6317727

Francesco Stefano Armildo SPINOLO aka SPINOLA was born in Cassina Gross Allessandria Province Italy on 12 August 1888.

His father was Luigi SPINOLO. Spinolo junior arrived in Darwin 5 August 1915 per *Kwanto Maru*. He had previously lived in the Argentine Republic for 9 years.

On his 1932 naturalisation papers he states he lived in Darwin 10 years, Katherine 1 year and Mataranka 2 years. His referees were Mounted Constable Heathcock of Mataranka who had known Spinolo for 14 years, Nellie Fisher also of Mataranka who had known him for 11 years and Mataranka post-master William Johnstone. A distinguishing feature was a bald patch on his left breast the size of a five-shilling piece.

Spinolo was one of the fettlers in Katherine/Mataranka who complained about accommodation to the Arbitration Court as reported in the *Northern Standard* 9 August 1929.

Nothing is known of his subsequent life. Source: NAA ID: 1166898

Ottaviano aka Ottavio VACCA was born at Bortigali Cagliari Sardinia Italy on 7 October 1885 to parents Giovanni VACCA and Bonacara PISANU.

He arrived at Port Darwin per *Kwanto Maru* 5 August 1915 from Argentina. He served for 7 months in the AIF from August 1918 – February 1919. When he was naturalised in 1924, he stated that he had lived at Port Darwin for 20 months. He was one of the small group of Patagonians who moved to the Gordonvale area of Queensland.

The National Archives of Australia holds a record of Ottavio Vacca's - Objection against Internment dated 1942. When he was captured on 5 January 1942 at Gordonvale Q., he had a 53-acre cane farm.

Source: NAA ID: 6548629. Family Search

Cerneo Erminis Bartolomeo aka Peter VIOLI was born at Trento Italy 24 August 1880. He arrived in Darwin from Argentina 5 August 1915. He was a fettler at Katherine in 1937.

Violi died at Maranboy Siding 15 July 1948 aged 68 as a result of suicide by gunshot. The *Centralian Advocate* outlined what happened:

'At Maranboy siding on the 15th of July, railway fettlers discovered the body of a well-known local identity, Cernio Violi generally known as Peter Violi. There was a rifle beside the body, and a letter addressed to the coroner. An improvised sign in the middle of the road beside the siding requested passersby to inform the Police of the existence of the body. Const. Lullfitz, of Maranboy, and Dr. Cumpston, of Darwin, visited the scene immediately information was received. A report is being prepared for the coroner at Katherine. Peter Violi was a retired railway employee, and at the time of his death was gardening at Maranboy. He was a familiar figure around Katherine, where he marketed his products. A native of Italy, he lived in the Territory for over 20 years. He came here from the Argentine, where he also lived for many years.'

Violi was buried at Katherine Memorial Cemetery 16 July 1948.

Source: NAA ID: 1166753. *Centralian Advocate* Friday 23 July 1948, page 1

Pietro ZULIAN was born 23 February 1892 at Cittadella Padova Italy. His father was Antonio ZULIAN.

Pietro Zulian arrived at Port Darwin on 5 August 1915 per *Kwanto Maru* from Port Madan South America. He resided at Port Darwin for 2 years.

By 1923 when he sought naturalisation he was residing in Ingham Queensland. His original naturalisation papers did not reach its destination believed lost in north Queensland floods.

The 1925 electoral roll records Zulian at Long Pocket Ingham as a sugar cane planter. A record from the National Archives of Australia records the sale of property at Proserpine in 1950.

Source: NAA ID: 1617062.

The following men were also aboard the *Kwanto Maru* when it docked at Port Darwin on 5 August 1915. This researcher has been unable to find any more details about their lives. Perhaps readers of this article will know more.

Genero DAMAGO Nicholas FALOPPA Antonio GARRASIMO Augustino GUIDETTO Julian PEDRO Salvador PIRARI

Salvatore PUGGIONE/PRIGGIONI Achilles aka Aquilez SANTIN

Juan TREVINANO Gabino ZINTU/ZINTO Augustini ZUANEL

Ruth Sheridan

SWISS-ITALIANS IN AUSTRALIA

When researching Italians who lived in the Northern Territory before 1945, I came across a **Mrs A. Traversi** who was the licensee of The British & Foreign Hotel at The Shackle (Yam Creek) NT from 1875 to 1876. This led me on a trail researching her husband and the story of Swiss Italians who came to Victoria and made a new life for themselves in the Daylesford / Hepburn Springs area.

Carlo aka Charles Traversi was one of these Italian-speaking Swiss from Ticino canton who left their home maybe because of unemployment, increased taxes in order to pay for the Italian Risorgimento wars or the lure of gold. Many of the Ticinese left families back at home and intended returning after success on the goldfields. Many of them were trained carpenters and stonemasons. Another group came mainly to buy land, build a home and become independent farmers. By the mid-1850s, 10% of the Hepburn Springs population spoke Italian.

Traversi was born at Cevio, Ticino, Switzerland to Giuseppe Traversi and Catharina Mattei on 4 December 1831. He arrived in Australia per the *Giles Barton* in 1854. He married Amelia Hunt in 1860. Their children were Achillino (1862), Amelia (1865-1866), Carlo and William (died 1869 aged 5 months). Carlo senior was naturalised on 11 April 1861, believed to be at Hepburn Victoria.

Traversi had a hotel at Daylesford called Traversi's Hotel located in Howe St. Bridget Carlson in her PhD thesis at Victoria University of Technology (1997) wrote that the Traversi brothers played music in Daylesford and that Carlo Traversi ran a well-known orchestra and dance hall in Daylesford. He played a viola that he had brought with him from Ticino.

As this source mentions 'the Traversi brothers' I sought to find out who they were and what happened to them.

Brother **Antonio Traversi** was born in Cevio Ticino Switzerland in 1827. He married Susan Gilheany (1837 Ireland – 1913 NZ). Their children were Antonio (1872), Francis (1874), Marianne (1878 – 1933) and Eugenia (1880 – 1904). They moved from Australia to New Zealand.

An obituary printed in the *Greymouth Evening Star* on 25 April 1911 states that Mr Antonio Traversi was for many years proprietor of the Bull and Mouth Hotel at Ross [on NZ's west coast]. Born in Ticino he emigrated to Victoria in 1855 and after 15 years on the Victorian diggings, he came to Ross. He was known for his musical ability and taught music. His sons were A.T. Traversi, Actuary of the Friendly Societies Department, Wellington and Francis L. Traversi, the well-known cornetist recently appointed Municipal Bandmaster at Llandudno Wales. [Daughter Marianne's husband, Olaf Holst], is Secretary and Assistant Manager of the Wanganui Dairy Company. The widow resides with the eldest son at Wellington.

In 1881 a fire broke out and 'Traversi lost everything including the hotel and billiard table. He only saved his piano.' In 1892 he applied to transfer the license for the Golden Eagle Hotel in Greymouth from his name to that of Mary Burchell.

A second brother was **Giovanni Battista Traversi** who was born on 25 November 1838 at Ticino Switzerland. He also moved to New Zealand and died at Ross, Westland on 25 November 1912.

In 1864, Carlo Traversi made the headlines for his refusal to admit a 'lady' who had a paid ticket for a ball held at his hotel. The ticket stated that it was a ball for 'ladies and gentlemen'. Traversi knew that before her marriage, the woman in question had been a prostitute and therefore could not really call herself a 'lady'. He was unsuccessful in defending the case in court.

Carlo Traversi died in 1872 at Daylesford. At probate his estate was worth £970. His wife Amelia remarried Pierre Marc De SERS, a Frenchman. They had a daughter, Maria Amelia Elise De SERS who was born in the NT on 15 May 1876. De Sers was a hotelkeeper according to his daughter's marriage certificate. Mother Amelia died in 1880, place unknown.

Maria Amelia Elise De SERS married Alister Maclean KING, a dredge master, on 3 November 1904 at 461 Pitt St, Sydney in the New Unitarian Church. Their children were Leslie Alister (1906), Lachlan De Sers (1908) and Ronald Maclean (1912-1976). Marie died in 1931. Son Lachlan is recorded as applying for a gold mining licence at Bernborough, Tennant Creek in 1946.

This research demonstrates links with a Swiss-Italian family in Victoria, Northern Territory and New Zealand over several generations.

Ruth Sheridan

Veneto market gardeners 1927: From the Veneto to Frogmore and Findon Roads 1920s to 1970s. <https://venetimarketgardeners1927.net/>

Ruth Sheridan

KEVIN JAMES DAWSON & NOEL FRANCIS ROSS

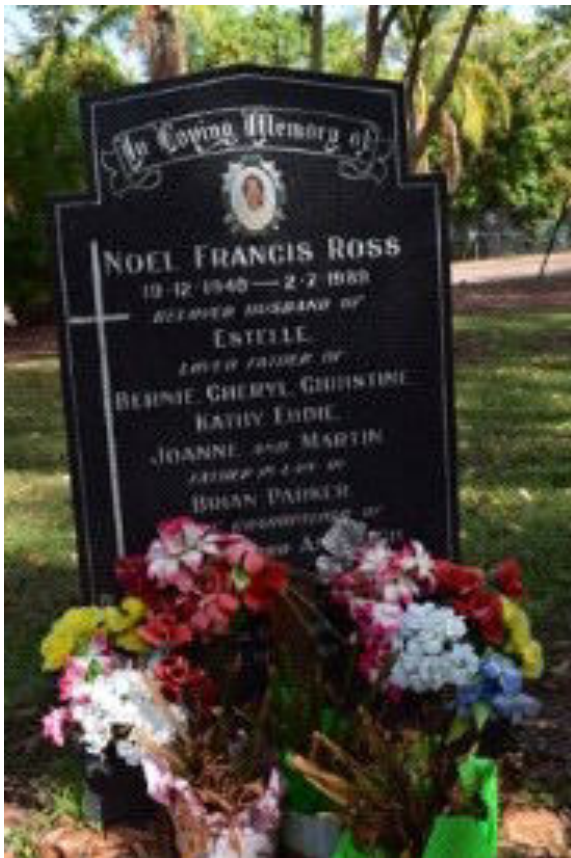
When visiting Batchelor recently, I stopped to take a photo of the plaque at St Francis Church where I used to worship when I lived at Tortilla Flats in the late 1980s to the mid-1990s. Memories flooded back of the waiting to find out what had happened to fellow parishioner **Kevin Dawson** and the shock when we knew that he had been killed. While doing a stock count he was piloting a helicopter, which crashed near Ramingining NT on 2 July 1989. His passenger, **Noel Ross**, stock inspector, was also killed.



Dawson is remembered by the memorial plaque and garden located in the grounds of the church. He is commemorated at Mount Thompson Memorial Gardens, Holland Park, Brisbane and in New Zealand Cemetery Records as 'treasured son of Doris, brother of Karen and Wayne, died 2/07/1989 aged 44.'



Kevin James Dawson was born in Auckland, New Zealand on 25 July 1945. I discovered that he was a New Zealand Vietnam War Veteran serving in 2nd and 4th Royal Australian Regiment / New Zealand (ANZAC) Battalion, Whiskey Company (1RNZIR). The 1981 New Zealand Electoral Roll records Kevin (helicopter pilot) and his wife Glenys living at Airfield Rd, Manurewa NZ. At the time of death, his address was 58 Pinaroo Cres, Batchelor NT.



Noel Francis Ross was born on 19 December 1940 in Alice Springs NT. Aged 13, he was employed on Neutral Junction Station NT where his parents Donald (Head stockman) and Lorna

also worked. The 1963 Electoral Roll records Ross living in Alice Springs NT. In 1968 & 1972, he is a stock inspector living at Rapid Creek NT. By 1977, he has moved to Ludmilla, a suburb of Darwin.

Noel's family lodged an In Memoriam notice in the local newspaper each year for more than 10 years after his death. An example is this one published on 2 July 2015 in the *NT News*:

NOEL Ross. Your presence we miss, your memory we treasure. Loving you always. Forgetting you never. Twenty-six years ago, today we lost our precious Husband, Father and Poppa. Always loved and always missed.

His grave is in Darwin General Cemetery.

During the Legislative Assembly debates of 31 August 1989 Mike Reed paid tribute to Noel Ross as a highly respected employee of the Primary Industry and Fisheries Department' ... He was a direct descendant of the explorer John Ross, who initiated the route of the overland telegraph line from Port Augusta to Darwin in 1870-71. Another of his forebears, George Hayes, ran the original Elkedra Station and Neutral Junction Station near Barrow Creek, where he bred Indian remount horses.

Noel was educated in Alice Springs and married Estelle Gibson on 9 January 1960. The couple had six children. He worked as a stockman and boss drover before joining the government in 1963 as a member of a survey team in the Lands and Survey Branch in Alice Springs.

Noel transferred to the Animal Industry and Agriculture Branch in 1967 as a stock inspector responsible for the Alice Springs and Barkly districts... He later transferred north to become a stock inspector for the Darwin district, which extended as far south as Pine Creek...

The Ross family name became synonymous with sporting achievement throughout the Territory. Noel Ross's greatest sporting loves were boxing and Australian Rules football ... He boxed for many years in Alice Springs and later in Darwin and had considerable success. As well as pulling on the gloves, Noel was a highly respected referee in the Territory. Noel was an ex-committee member and solid supporter of the St Mary's Football Club and a long-time member of the Pioneers Football Club in Alice Springs. He had a keen interest in Rugby League, was an avid Brothers supporter, and had two sons playing with the club.

Both men died working, leaving families to mourn them and the rest of us to remember their contributions to the Northern Territory.

Ruth Sheridan

ISOLATED AND LONE GRAVES ACROSS THE NORTHERN TERRITORY.

ALFRED JAMES CATELL aka KATHEL aka KETHEL aka KETTELL

Alfred James Kettell was born circa 1879 at Colnbrook Buckinghamshire England. He was a miner in the Northern Territory at Maranboy when he was speared by aboriginals. He was found on the floor of his hut with a spear through his mouth and his head smashed in with a waddy.

The newspaper reported the death thus: Mr. Nelson, Secretary, of the A.W.U., received the following telegram on June 21, from Maranboy: "Alfred Kettell was murdered by blacks in his camp yesterday, in broad day-light." Alf. Kettell is reputed to have been one of the most successful min-

ers on the Maranboy tinfield. Another article published in 1923 mentions an Alf Kettal brutally murdered a mile from the battery by aboriginals in 1916.

Kettell is buried at Maranboy Cemetery.

Sources

Probate index 16/09/1916

Cemetery Book 1, p.23.

Northern Territory Times and Gazette (Darwin, NT: 1873 - 1927), Thursday 27 July 1916, page 12

Northern Territory Times and Gazette (Darwin, NT: 1873 - 1927), Friday 14 December 1923, page 5

ALFRED JAMES PALMER

Alfred James Palmer was born to parents Charles James Palmer and Elizabeth Ann Howard at Marryatville, SA on 14 August 1869.

Palmer was employed as a cook at Daly Waters when he died of apoplexy on 8 November 1909 at the Daly Waters Telegraph Station. Age at death is recorded as 50 which does not tally with birth date.

Palmer had a brother-in-law, J. Daily and mother at Broken Hill. Palmer's death is recorded on the Daly Waters Story Board.

Sources

Northern Territory Times and Gazette 12 November 1909, p. 3.

Ancestry

BDM NT, BDM SA

ALFRED PYBUS

Alfred Pybus was born 15 May 1850 in Adelaide, SA, to parents William Pybus and Sarah Cox.

Pybus came to the NT with the first construction party for the Overland Telegraph Line. On completion of the line, he returned to Adelaide but came back again to the NT and took up mining. In 1873 he rejoined the Telegraph Department at Daly Waters. He spent further time in Adelaide attending to his health according to *The Advertiser*, 15 June 1886 which reports a farewell social for him. In 1891 he was recorded as 'telegram line inspector' living at Pine Creek, NT.

The Chronicle dated 21 April 1900 reports that 'During his illness instructions as to his treatment were wired from Adelaide by Dr. Marten to Powell's Creek, there being no medical man there, although fortunately there was an ample supply of all the necessary medicines in the chest.'

Pybus died at Powell Creek 10 April 1900 and is buried at the Powell Creek Cemetery.

Sources

BDM NT, BDM SA

The Advertiser 15 June 1886

'IN THE ESTATE OF ALFRED PYBUS ... *Northern Territory Times and Gazette* 10 August 1900, p. 4.

AN OLD HAND ... *The Chronicle* 21 April 1900, p. 18.



ALLAN MACFARLANE aka MCFARLANE GILES

Allan Macfarlane Giles was born on 11 May 1850 at Adelaide to parents William Giles (1814-1875) and Margaret Horne MacFarlane (ca.1822-1901). They had migrated arriving per *Hartley* 20 October 1837.

Giles was the telegraph stationmaster at Tennant Creek at the time of his death on 29 November 1888. In Hilda Tuxworth's book *Tennant Creek yesterday and today* it is claimed that Giles 'made the mistake of stopping to eat and stay overnight with a party of campers – drinking, playing cards – and a shooting occurred – so another lonely grave.'

Giles is buried at Renner Springs Rodeo Grounds.

Sources

BDM SA; BDM NT

Kangaroo Island Pioneers Association

Tuxworth, H. *Tennant Creek yesterday and today*

ALPHONS EMIL NIENABER

Alfons Emil Nienaber, born at Kensington, South Australia on 23 March 1852. His parents were Heinrich Carl August Nienaber and Maria Mehne.

The newspaper *South Australian Register* reported Nienaber's death thus:

'We hear that Mr. Alphonse Nienaber, who originally accompanied Messrs. Darwent & Dalwood's telegraph construction party, but who latterly has been in the Government employ at Port Darwin, died somewhat suddenly, aged about 20 years.' Nienaber died on 30 June 1871 at No. 2 Depot NT (Nienaber Creek near Pine Creek).

Sources

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA: 1839 - 1900), Friday 6 October 1871, page 5

BDM/SA/BI. BDM/NT/DI. BDM/SA/DI

ARTHUR JOHN AMBROSE

Arthur John Ambrose was born in 1889 at Murrurundi NSW to parents John Ambrose and Mary Mc Carney. Records indicate that he was a store assistant at Banka Banka Station from 1912 – 1914. The Electoral Roll of 1922 lists him as 'Banka Banka, pastoralist'.

Ambrose died 6 October 1926 at Banka Banka Station aged 32 years. The *Northern Territory Times & Gazette* of 8 October 1926 comments that 'Mr Ambrose had been ill for some time'. The *Northern Standard* some days later comments that

'His genial nature and unstinted hospitality made him a great favorite among the many visitors who made Banka Banka a place of call on the long trek from Alice Springs to Darwin.'

Ambrose is buried at Banka Banka Station.

Sources

1922 Electoral Roll

Overland Telegraph Line Graves

1926 'TOWN TALK', *Northern Territory Times and Gazette*, 8 October, p. 6.

1926 'DEATH OF ARTHUR AMBROSE', *Northern Standard*, 12 October, p. 3

ARTHUR MARCHAND aka CHAPMAN aka H. FOWLER aka W. FOWLER

WILLIAM FOWLER CHAPMAN

Arthur Marchand (William Fowler Chapman) is believed to have been born circa 1852 at London, Middlesex, England. In the Northern Territory he was a tin miner and a bookkeeper at the Katherine Hotel. He died aged 56 from malaria on 20 April 1908 in Katherine. The *Northern Territory Times & Gazette* reported his death thus: death at the Katherine, ... of a man named Marchand, who was a rather prominent factor among the miners at West Arm a year or two ago, being a man of some education and not given to hiding his light under a bushel.

A further article explains that the deceased was really **William Fowler Chapman** who had been living under the assumed name of Marchand. The article states: 'From papers now in the possession of the police, his real name would appear to have been William Fowler Chapman, and he seems to have at one time occupied a good position. One of these papers, dated Oct. 2, 1882, is a notification of the deceased man's appointment as Chief Clerk: of the Mercantile Union Insurance Company, at Christchurch, New Zealand. Another [paper] dated 3rd April 1890, is a testimonial from Mr. C. E. Archer, manager of Arumpo Station, Wentworth, N.S.W., setting out that deceased had been employed on that station as bookkeeper and storekeeper, and strongly praising his efficient services in that position.'

The *New South Wales Police Gazette* (1896, p. 461) extract published in the *New Zealand Police Gazette* dated Wednesday January 20, 1897, provides information about a warrant issued for the arrest of William Fowler Chapman charged with uttering a forged cheque at Broken Hill. The offender is described as: 'forty to forty-five years of age, 5' 5" or 6" high, stoutish build, dark complexion, very dark brown hair tinged with grey, long dark brown moustache, sharp features, prominent nose, sharp at point; often suffers from rheumatism and sometimes walks lame; generally wears blue serge sac coat and grey tweed trousers too long and tucked up at bottom; fond of calling himself a 'B A' of Cambridge University and Oxford scholar; has a deliberate manner in speaking, was employed as secretary to gold-mining syndicate. May go to NZ, Adelaide or WA.'

The above information would suggest a clear reason for Chapman to hide his identity with an assumed name when he came to the Northern Territory.

Chapman is buried at Knott's Crossing Cemetery.

Sources

Northern Territory Times and Gazette (Darwin, NT: 1873 - 1927), Friday 1 September 1905, page 2

Northern Territory Times and Gazette (Darwin, NT: 1873 - 1927), Friday 24 April 1908, page 3

Northern Territory Times and Gazette (Darwin, NT: 1873 - 1927), Friday 1 May 1908, page 3

New South Wales Police Gazette 1896

New Zealand Police Gazette 1897

BDM/NT/DI. BDM/SA/DI.

Charles H. HARRISON is believed to have been born in 1846 in Sweden. Several people sharing that name arrived in Sydney as seamen in the 1860s. He may have been one of them.

D.E. Kelsey in "The Shackle" indicates that Charles Harrison was in the party that accompanied J. A. G. Little from Yam Creek to Pine Creek, Katherine, Warloch and Roper River in July 1875, searching for aborigines who had murdered C.H. Johnston.

Harrison was a NT Telegraph Linesman and teamster. The *N T Times & Gazette* states that he is carting timber for the Eveleen Mine in 1886 and in 1890 his tender is accepted for constructing a road between the Union township and the Eveleen mine.

Harrison died at Daly Waters Telegraph Station 11 January 1894 and was buried at the Daly Waters cemetery.

Sources

Kelsey, D.E. *The Shackle: a story of the Far North Australian bush*

Northern Territory Times and Gazette (Darwin, NT: 1873 - 1927), Saturday 31 July 1886, page 3

Northern Territory Times and Gazette (Darwin, NT: 1873 - 1927), Friday 5 December 1890, page 2

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA: 1889 - 1931), Saturday 20 January 1894, page 5

BDM/NT/DI and BDM/SA/DI.

THE STORY OF THE SHOOTING AT TENNANT CREEK AS TOLD TO ME BY SNOWEY RENFREY.

Written by Joy Davis.

The tale began when Snowey Renfrey pegged and registered his gold lease with the mining department. One day a group of men approached him on his lease accusing him of encroaching on their area. The argument became heated and when they left nothing was resolved.

A few nights later Snowey went to the local open-air picture show where the patrons sat in canvas steamer chairs. During the show Snowey felt someone behind get up and lean towards him. Feeling uncomfortable he put his chin on his chest and left it there. The person then put his arm around what he thought would be Snow's neck to pull his head up so he could cut Snow's throat. However this was unsuccessful so instead of cutting his throat as anticipated he cut Snow's face below his left eye down below his mouth and up to his right eye. Of Course Snowey jumped up bellowing and the lights were turned on and Snow was taken to the hospital where there were 98 stitches inserted to close up the wound.

A man was arrested and charged with unlawfully wounding another person; he was found guilty and remanded to stand trial at a later date when he was found guilty.

On a later weekend Snowey was laying on his swag inside his tent. Under his pillow he had his pistol which was normal in those turbulent days of Tennant Creek. Snow heard a mob approaching and talking as they approached his tent. He sat up and retrieved his pistol and waited. Then he said a voice rang out saying "Renfrey I am going to shoot you", and a shot rang out. Snow returned fire and shot the man in the shoulder and killed him with a second shot.

Of course Snow was arrested for murder and taken into custody. A long court case followed, first at the Supreme Court in Darwin, then at the Supreme Court in Alice Springs.

Snow said as the case progressed he could see his lawyer and QC was going to get him hung so he sacked both of them and conducted his own defence. During the trial he brought in the trajectory of the bullets and as a result was found 'Not Guilty'.

Later he was approached by the Commissioner of Police and asked to teach the policemen about bullets and their trajectory.

MEMORIES OF TENNANT CREEK 1968

An edited version from contributor Marg Morters

Back in 1968 I was a newly married 25 year old. After some time in Cairns and Gladstone we decided to move west. We almost ran out of money at Three Ways Roadhouse so worked there for a few weeks.

Then we moved into Tennant Creek as Jim got a good job as a fitter with Peko Wallsend some 7kms out of town. I worked as a cook for Peko and at the Tennant Creek pub.

Our first house, owned by Steve, the baker, was built of corrugated iron with the walls stopping about a foot up from ground level. Sort of built in air con but not so good in a dust storm. As the area was quite large we sub-let to two caravaners as there was no caravan park then. Water supply was an issue as was the single bin toilet. The owner, a gambler, lost his house and we had to move.

We found another rental in Peko Road. We paid a friend to drive Jim out to the mine and pick him up at shift end so I could have our unreliable VW during the day.

We were invaded a number of times by a mouse plague. As there was no TV reception we made our own entertainment. We used to go out fossicking for minerals in the bush sometimes around Newcastle Waters.

My other still vivid memory is getting a pap smear at the Tennant Creek hospital. During the process, the phone rang and the doctor disappeared. He did remember me eventually!

I remember going in to the David Jones store in Townsville on our way back to Sydney wearing my customary shorts and T-shirt to find ladies dressed in proper dresses and hats!

RECIPES REFLECT HARD TIMES

During the Depression in Australia, newspapers and magazines encouraged their women readers to share recipes for economical meals that made good use of left-over and low cost ingredients.

The Australian Women's Weekly started a regular feature in 1933 of a recipe competition where readers were awarded £5 for the winning recipe each week. The first prize-winner was for Winter King Pudding. Consolation prizes of five shillings were awarded to recipes for Mock Oysters (corn fritters), Nutty Biscuits, Egg Snow for Invalids, Rabbit and Ham Paste, Cauliflower Cake and Cabbage Rolls. By September 1933 the prize money had to be reduced to £1 with consolation prizes of 2/6.

Newspapers also encouraged sharing of economical recipes with prizes awarded in a section entitled *Cookery Nook*. These sections existed before and after the Depression in many states but had a big increase during the Depression.

My great grandmother, Hettie Good (nee Deacon), whose husband was a labourer contributed her recipe to *The Advocate* (Tasmania) newspaper's Cookery Nook in 1938.

TO USE UP COLD MEAT: POOR MAN'S PUDDING (Very Good.)

Cut up the meat from a cold joint. Put the bones on to boil for the gravy. Grate up any pieces of bread that may be left (say a plateful of breadcrumbs a similar quantity of cheese (grated) Slice an onion very thinly. Peel about 4 potatoes and cut them in rather thick slices. Cut or mince meat sprinkle with flour, season with pepper and salt. In a greased pie dish place a layer potatoes, sprinkle a little of the onion, then a layer of the seasoned meat next a layer of breadcrumbs. Repeat until the pie dish is full, then pour the gravy. Bake for an hour or a little longer. This is a good way to use up cold meat, the hard part of cheese and pieces of bread. This makes a nice dish for a cold day.

(Mrs. D. H. Good, Penguin.) Cookery Nook in *The Advocate* 4 June 1938

Hettie's daughter's sister-in-law, Mrs C. H. Applebee, did not need to be so thrifty, having only a husband to provide meals for at this time. Her recipe was for Mock Goose for which she received a 5/- prize.

MOCK GOOSE *Advocate* Saturday 22 July 1939, page 10

A shoulder of mutton, boned, 1½ cups soft breadcrumbs, 2 large onions, ½ small apple, ... chopped sage, pinch grated nutmeg, salt, pepper, 1 egg, 1 dessertspoon melted butter. Peel the onions and cut in halves. Put into boiling water, and cook for about 20 minutes. Drain thoroughly, and chop them up small. Mix in a bowl with the apple, peeled and chopped finely. Add the breadcrumbs, salt, pepper, nutmeg and sage. Mix thoroughly. Add the melted butter and stir in the egg, previously beaten. If additional liquid is needed to bind the mixture, add a little milk. Wipe the meat all over with a damp cloth, put in the stuffing, and skewer or tie the meat into as neat a shape as possible Have ready a hot oven and some hot fat in a meat tin. Put in the mutton and baste it thoroughly, lower the temperature to moderate after 15 minutes, and bake till the meat is done, basting frequently. Allow 1-½ hour to each pound and ½ hour over, unless the meat is very thick through, when it would require a little longer. (Mrs. C. H. Applebee, Water Street, Ulverstone.)

Ruth Sheridan