

Dust of Ages



Journal of the Armidale Family History Group Inc.

Issue Number 179

February 2024

**DON'T MISS OUT ON OUR 2024 SEMINAR FEATURING
HEATHER GARNSEY AND MARTYN KILLION.**

More details on pages 3 and 4.

Andrew Coventry and Margaret Harvey

Helen Dennis

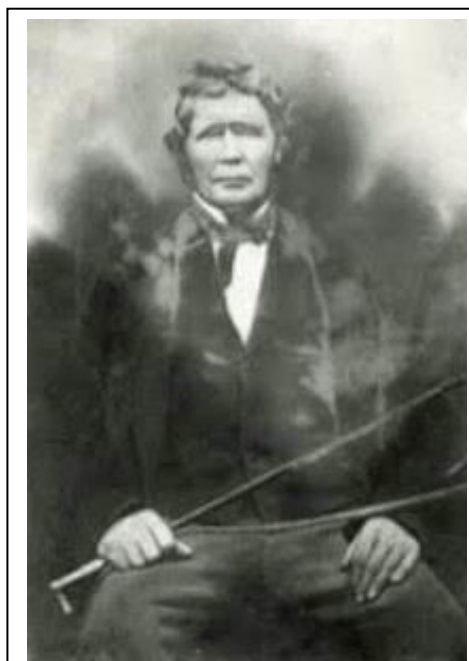
Andrew Coventry was a relatively young, but nevertheless experienced, distiller when he established the first Scotch Whiskey distillery in Camlachie in Scotland in 1834. He had a wife and a growing brood of children to support but within two years, his business had failed. Seduced by a smooth-talking Reverend, Andrew convinced his wife that their future lay across the seas, amidst the greener pastures of the fledgling British Colony of New South Wales. And so began the young family's momentous journey.

Andrew Coventry was born in about 1800 in Scotland; probably in Perthshire. When he married Margaret Harvey in 1827, he was living in Port Dundas, an industrial area of Glasgow located on a branch of the Forth and Clyde Canal, home to numerous breweries and distilleries. Margaret was a native of Port Dundas.

Soon after the birth of the couple's fourth child, the family moved to Camlachie, on the outskirts of Glasgow. There, Andrew and two business partners established, alongside the Camlachie Burn, the Camlachie Distillery. Almost immediately, the three entrepreneurs renamed the distillery 'Whitevale'.

The distillery was the first in the Camlachie area but Andrew was in good company; just down the road at Kilmarnock, a young man by the name of John Walker first bottled his unique, and rather popular, blend of malt whiskies. Unfortunately, the late 1830s was an unsettled time in Scotland and within two years the Whitevale Distillery had failed. Andrew was declared bankrupt and lost his business.

Continued page 5



Andrew Coventry

Armidale Family History Group Inc.

Post: PO Box 1378, Armidale NSW 2350

Location: 124 Kentucky St, Armidale

Email: afhgarm@gmail.com

Phone: 02 6772 0450 during opening hours

Website:

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

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/267252993772735>

Patron: Graham Wilson OAM

President: Wayne Hoppe

Vice President: Margaret Creagan

Treasurer: Mike Keating

Minutes Secretary: Peter Hoare

After Hours Contact

Wayne & Dianne Hoppe

Email: tipandus@gmail.com

Phone: 02 6771 4681

Journal – Dust of Ages Information

Please email, post or deliver articles to Armidale Family History Group, (AFHG) contact details on this page.

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Research Requests

AFHG can undertake research for a fee of \$35 per family group. Our website has a research request form with payment details available for downloading.

Information is generally provided by email, unless otherwise requested.

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Research Centre Opening Times

Monday 1.00pm to 4.00pm

Wednesday 10.00am to 4.00pm

Closed public Holidays

Meetings: Meetings are held at 2.00pm on the 2nd Saturday of each month from February to November, unless otherwise advised. There is no cost and all are welcome to attend.

Workshops: Occasional workshops are undertaken. Details provided in dates for your diary section.

Non-members conducting research at the centre are charged \$10 per visit.

Diary Dates

Saturday February 10 Monthly Meeting – Guest Speaker Wayne Hoppe – What parish maps can tell us

Saturday March 9 Monthly Meeting – TBA

Saturday April 13 No meeting due to seminar

Saturday April 13 Seminar - Martyn Killion and Heather Garnsey – See following pages for details

Early Notice of Closure – the Armidale Gym will be hosting the NSW Championships in the week from 8 to 14 July. Due to the lack of parking the AFHG centre will be closed on Monday 8 and Wednesday 10 July and there will be no meeting on Saturday 13 July.

2024 AFHG Seminar

WHEN: SATURDAY, 13 APRIL 2024 9.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

REGISTRATION BETWEEN 9.00 a.m. - 9.45 a.m.

WHERE: NOVA 122 FAULKNER STREET, ARMIDALE (OLD LIBRARY)

MARTYN KILLION

'45 Years of Family Research'

HEATHER GARNSEY

'Mind the Gap'

MARTYN KILLION

'Colonial Secretary's Correspondence'

HEATHER GARNSEY

'Avoiding Pitfalls in Family History'

Some resources will be for sale during the day

COST: \$45.00 or \$80.00 for a couple

See reverse for the programme including session descriptions.

Please bring your own lunch. Morning and afternoon tea will be provided.

R.S.V.P. by 05 April 2024 to The Secretary, Armidale Family History Group Inc. or via email to afhgarm@gmail.com

Direct deposit details: **BSB 932000; Account number 100036743**; Account Name Armidale Family History Group; Please put your name as reference **OR**

Payment by cheque made payable to Armidale Family History Group **OR**

Pay in person at the Groups Research Centre in Kentucky St, Armidale.

Name Title

AddressContact number.....

Email

For further enquiries please phone Dianne (02) 6771 4681

2024 Seminar Programme

9.00 a.m. Registration

9.45 a.m. Welcome and opening

10.00 a.m. Martyn Killion - 45 years of family history

This session is suitable for both beginners and more experienced researchers. It presents the challenges, pitfalls and triumphs of over 45 years of family history research.

11.00 a.m. Morning Tea

11.30 a.m. Heather Garnsey - Mind the Gap

DNA testing has given us third and fourth cousins we never knew we had. But how do we work out where they fit into the family tree, especially if their surnames are unfamiliar to us? What sources can we use to find out about more recent family, especially those who fall outside the official cut-off date for BMDs and vital sources like Trove. This session looks at some of the Australian sources you can use to help 'fill the gap' in your family tree.

12.30 p.m. Lunch

1.30 p.m. Martyn Killion - Colonial Secretary's Correspondence

The Colonial Secretary was one of the most important New South Wales government officials of the 19th century. This session focuses on the records of his Department and their immense value to genealogical research.

2.30 p.m. Afternoon Tea

3.00 p.m. Heather Garnsey - Avoiding Pitfalls in Family History

Black holes and dead ends take up valuable research time and energy, can cost money and stop us reaching those Eureka moments we all need. This session looks at 10 pitfalls we should all try to avoid. By doing so we can make real progress, enjoy our research more and become better family historians.



Martyn Killion



Heather Garnsey

Heather was the Executive Officer at Society of Australian Genealogists (SAG) for 35 years and Martyn is Vice-Patron and former President of the SAG.

It has been 9 years since they last presented in Armidale and we welcome them back.

Andrew Coventry & Margaret Harvey (cont.)

Not long after the distillery fiasco, the Coventry family set sail for Australia. Andrew was 35 years old, and Margaret 30, when they departed Greenock near Glasgow aboard the *Portland* on 24 July 1837. With them were their four children: Thomas (aged nine), William (seven), Margaret (two), and baby Andrew who was just four months old.

The Coventry's travelled as bounty immigrants which meant that their passage had been funded by a NSW colonist on the understanding that Andrew (and possibly Margaret) would work for him once they arrived. The *Portland's* passenger list recorded Andrew's occupation as 'farm servant' and showed Margaret as 'seamstress'. The settler who sponsored the Coventry's – and many others aboard the *Portland* - was Andrew Lang, brother of the Rev. John Dunmore Lang.

Reverend Lang was a staunch Presbyterian who believed the Colony's morals would be enhanced by boosting the number of virtuous free settlers and abolishing the convict class. Lang arranged passage for numerous Scots during the 1830s and was in fact aboard the *Portland* when it sailed with its Coventry cargo.

For Andrew Coventry, the tragic losses of two babies, his failed business, and the 'disagreeable' surroundings of Camlachie - with its industrial pollution and 'foul' Burn - might have made Lang's lure of emigration seem particularly appealing.

The *Colonist* newspaper reported that the passengers of the *Portland* arrived in Sydney on 3 December 1837 'in excellent health'. In fact, twenty-five children had died of measles during the voyage and many of the adults had suffered from scurvy.

The Coventry's sponsor, Andrew Lang, owned land in the Hunter Valley near Maitland. Mr Lang had sponsored numerous immigrants – seemingly too many to employ by himself. Upon arrival, Andrew Coventry was placed into the service of the Dumaresq family at 'St Heliers' near Muswellbrook. By early 1843 Dumaresq had moved the Coventry family to New England where he put Andrew in charge of his property, 'Saumarez'.

Meanwhile, Margaret Coventry continued to expand the family's clutch of offspring, giving birth to twelve children over 22 years. The Coventry's arrived in New England amid a flurry of land grabs. In the early days of NSW, it had been illegal to venture outside the 'limits of settlement' set by the government. But many adventurous pastoralists had ignored these regulations and, by the time New England was officially proclaimed a district in 1839, several 'squatterages' had already been established.

It is rumoured that while Andrew was employed at Saumarez, his colleague Jock McDONALD, introduced him to some 'vacant' land north of the then tiny settlement of Armidale. Evidence of Andrew's potential claim to this land first appears on a map published in the 1843 edition of the *Royal Geographical Society Journal*. However, while the Coventry name appears on this early map, the family doesn't appear to have lived at the property until sometime between 1846 and 1850. A rough indication of the family's movements can be gleaned from baptism records for the children. John was born in 1840 at 'St Hiliers' at Muswellbrook followed by Anne, Charles and George who were born between 1843 and 1846 while Andrew was overseer at Saumarez. When James was born in 1850, Andrew was noted as 'settler' at Oban.

It was not until 1847 that official notification of Andrew's lease of the land he named 'Oban' appeared in the *Government Gazette*. This indicates that the family moved to the station during the twelve months prior to 30 June 1847.

The name 'Oban' is rumoured to have been bestowed in honour of Andrew's friend Jock Macdonald's Scottish hometown. The veracity of that claim can't be tested, but in the absence of any evidence to the contrary it is, if nothing else, a charming tale.

Andrew briefly expanded his landholding by taking up another 16,000 acres to the east of 'Oban' in 1854. Newspapers later reported that Andrew had named this new run 'Paddy's Land' after the Aboriginal man who had first shown him the area. The 'Paddy's Land' run was transferred to JB Rundle about a year later. 'Paddy's Gully' appears on modern maps to the northeast of 'Oban' near Backwater.

Andrew seems to have been well respected by his neighbours, as evidenced by the gift of a gold watch presented to him in 1869 in appreciation of his considerate nature. He was remembered by Joshua Scholes (one of the first settlers to arrive in the Glen Innes district) as, 'one of the finest old gentlemen I ever knew. He was good to everybody, black and white; he was well-liked by them all'.

He also appears to have had a sense of humour as a notice regarding a stray horse reveals:

A grey mare has been running on my Run since 1849 and has a Grey Filly running with her. Any person proving the Mare to be theirs, by paying the service of the horse and this advertisement, may have them.

In 1858, reminiscent of similar experiences in Scotland, Andrew ran into money troubles. He had borrowed money from Rundle, Dangar & Co which he could not repay, and his creditors directed that 'Oban' be sold. This event proved to be but a hiccup in the Coventrys' long association with 'Oban'. The property was transferred to James Dickson in January 1859, but was again described as 'the station of Andrew Coventry' by September of the following year. The Coventry family retained ownership of 'Oban' well into the 20th century.

When Margaret Coventry died in October 1870, five of the couple's twelve children had predeceased her. Three babies – Jeanie, Charles and Katherine – died as infants. Fourteen-year-old George died in February 1861 after a fall from a horse. Of Andrew and Margaret's children, several also went on to own other land in the vicinity of 'Oban'. Properties such as 'Lyndhurst', 'Blair Hill' and 'Camperdown' bore the Coventry name from the mid-1800s.

Wanted in several states, the couple's eldest child Thomas died aged 33 on Boxing Day 1861. He was found dead in his hut by his employer at the property 'Rosewood' about 100km west of Rockhampton. It appears that his death was not notified to the authorities until the following August.

Andrew Coventry died just two years after his wife, in March 1873. It was reported that 'the loss of his wife seriously shattered him' and that 'increasing years scarcely fitted him to bear the severity of the blow'. Andrew and Margaret Coventry are buried in the private cemetery at 'Oban' station.

Helen would welcome any information on anyone buried in the Oban Cemetery or on the Coventry family. Contact the group and we will pass your details on.

Interesting Articles in Other Groups Journals

Wayne Hoppe

We receive many different journals from other groups each month and there are some great articles in these that are well worth a read. Here is a teaser of what we have found interesting to read. These journals can be borrowed by our members. Many are also held electronically and we can email a copy to you.

Matthew Everingham. A 4 page article on Matthew Everingham, a first feet convict. I know there are many descendants of Matthew and this might be well worth a read. – *Fig Tree Issue 167, September 2023.*

Francis Greenway – A 3 page article on this early Australia Architect who is featured on the old paper \$10 note. – *Missing Link Issue 52, May 2023.*

Hints for searching cemeteries – a 2 page article giving some good hints for finding people in cemeteries. *Branching Out, March 2023.*

Ernest Henry, ‘The Father of Hughenden and Cloncurry’ – A 7 page article on an influential person in North Queensland. *The First Settlement City Gazette, March 2023.*

Early School Days - Trials and Tribulations

Wayne Hoppe

In March 1882 fourteen parents from Georges Creek, Bundarra wrote to the education department requesting a new school because of the untenable condition of the old school building, stating the children had been in a tent since December 1881. An extract of the letter appears below.

‘Honourable sir - knowing you know the rigors of a New England winter; how can any children exist in an icebound and dripping tent during a long and inclement season. What benefit can poor shivering children derive from instruction no matter how ably, judiciously or zealously imparted? Can the teacher, who is only provided with such wretched accommodation to give instruction, discharge with zeal and spirit the onerous duties of his office? Human nature can answer. We consequently most earnestly pray that you will immediately do your utmost to induce the Minister for Education to get the requisite repairs for the old building executed without delay. The fencing of the school ground is also urgently required because the tent is in the greatest danger of being devoured by struggling cattle.’

Hyde Park Barracks

Museums & History NSW

The State Archives website features some great articles. Recently while browsing I came across an article on the Hyde Park Barracks. Below is part of the article

The Hyde Park Barracks officially went into operation on 4 June 1819. That day, 589 convicts assembled in the new dining halls for an uncommonly generous meal of beef, plum pudding and punch. Governor Macquarie briefly visited, and noted in his diary that the convicts ‘appeared very happy and contented’. A review in *The Sydney Gazette* on 17 July praised the building’s ‘towering grandeur’ and noted that ‘much good must be expected to result ... from this humane, this highly salutary, and excellent institution’.

Convicts lodged at the barracks faced new regulations governing their working hours, and how they were dressed and fed. The men rose at sunrise with the ringing of the yard bell. After breakfast they assembled in work gangs in the yard and filed out through the gates to worksites around Sydney – dockyards, brickyards, limekilns, stables, breweries, quarries, windmills and foundries.

At dusk, they returned to the barracks to be searched at the gate for liquor or other contraband. Following a muster, they huddled around fires in the yard, smoking pipes and passing the time. At 8pm, the yard bell rang, sending the men into their wards. The convicts’ day ended with a third and final headcount to make sure no-one had slipped out for the night.

If you wish to read more and view a 3D model of the barracks go to the following website.

<https://mhnsw.au/stories/general/hyde-park-barracks-the-convict-years/>

President’s Report

Wayne Hoppe

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Year and were able to catch up with family. I was lucky enough to be able to spend some time with my 93 year old aunt a few months before Christmas and wrote down a number of stories. We then added these snippets of history into a booklet, which we gave to my mum and aunt and a few cousins. It is now recorded so the stories will live on. If you have any stories you should record them so that they can be remembered in the future.

2023 was a good year for the Armidale Family History Group with the publication of the Armidale Cemetery Register, which has been well received. We are still looking to obtain information on burials in Armidale, especially before 1900. We know there are still many of our ancestors buried in the Armidale cemetery that are not recorded in the register due to no official burial records being available. There are also many buried in Armidale’s first cemetery and we would love to hear from you if you have ancestors that were buried in Armidale and are not recorded in our register.

The group has now started on the next project, that of convicts in New England and the Northern Tablelands. If you have any convict ancestors that were in this area please contact us. Our plans are to build a large database of convicts in the area with the long term aim to publish a book recording their lives.

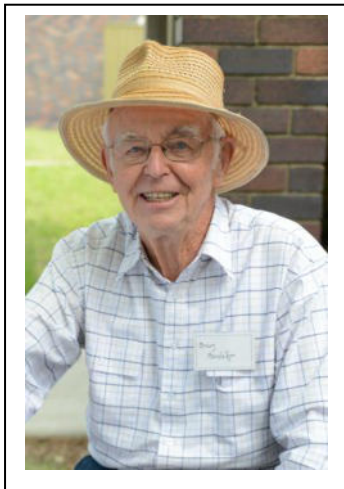
Our 2024 seminar featuring Heather Garnsey and Martyn Killion is now approaching. These are two of the best family history speakers in NSW and we are very lucky to have them agree to present to us again. Please see the full details in this journal.

The centre is open again and all members are welcome to call in and see us. The volunteers are very experienced and are happy to help you with your research. There is also a large amount of information available in our library or personality room. If you are looking for ancestors outside the area our volunteers may also be able to give you some tips on searching the internet. I look forward to seeing you during the year and wish you luck in your research.

Vale Brian Hardaker and Beryl McMillan

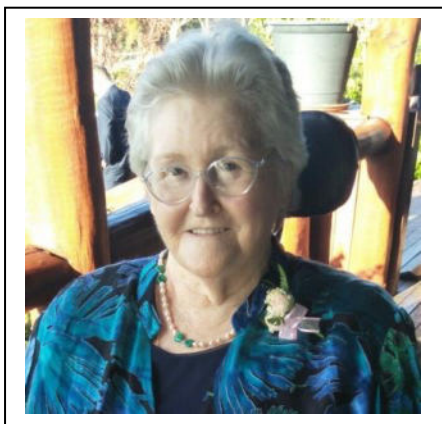
Wayne Hoppe

Since our last journal we have lost two of our long term members and previous volunteers.



Last October we lost Brian Hardaker who was a strong supporter of our group and was the editor of this journal, *Dust of Ages* for a number of years.

Brian started his career in Agricultural Economics working at the University of London, then Cambridge University, UK, before coming to UNE in 1967 as a lecturer in the then Department of Farm Management. He retired from UNE in 1995 having reached the rank of Professor (Personal Chair). After this he had more time to undertake family history research, which he had a real passion for. Our thoughts are with his wife Shirley and family.



In January Beryl McMillan passed away. Beryl joined the group as member number 15 and was a key part of the research team, along with her also recently departed 'partner in research' Margaret Woods. She was a regular volunteer at the centre and helped many members and visitors to break down their brick walls. We will remember Beryl whenever we look through our personality files and see the quality research she completed on behalf of the group. Our thoughts go out to her family and friends.

Not Just Family History Books

Wayne Hoppe

We have recently had a donation of a large number of war related books from Karen Barclay, on behalf of her late husband David. This has substantially increased our war related section. With these additional books we have established a separate war section within the library, which makes it easier to browse. The photo below shows this area.



The books in this section cover a wide range of topics not just limited to the two world wars, but also Vietnam, Korea and the Boer wars. There are factual histories written in the 1950's all the way through to recent accounts, and it is interesting to see the differences in the way these were recorded. There are personal stories of our soldiers and some novels.

As well as this great diversity of books we have a number of files, mainly consisting of newspaper clippings and a file on the British Commonwealth Occupation Force (BCOF) in Japan after WW2.

If you are interested in family history, but your other half is less interested, they may enjoy browsing this section, which will give you more time to do your research in peace.

You can't Believe Everything You Read in the Newspapers

James McCormack died in Dec 1947 at Walcha and the newspaper stated he was buried in the Armidale Church of England Cemetery. After a thorough search of our records we looked at the Piddington's records for Walcha Burials and we found that he was buried in the Walcha Church of England Cemetery.

This shows the importance of not just relying on what was recorded in the newspaper. This goes equally for other sources. We have found numerous errors that were recorded on headstones.

British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan

Wayne Hoppe & Wikipedia

The participation of BCOF in the Allied occupation of Japan was announced on 31 January 1946. On 21 February 1946, the initial contingent arrived at the former Imperial Japanese Navy base at Kure, near the devastated city of Hiroshima, which became the main base for Australian and British warships. A Royal Navy shore party took control of the port and facilities and these were commissioned as HMS Commonwealth on 3 June 1946. For most of the occupation period, Australia contributed the majority of the BCOF's personnel. The initial BCOF presence included the Australian 34th Brigade; the 9th Brigade, 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force (J Force); and the British Indian Division (BRINDIV) (later known as BRINJAP), a composite British and Indian division made up of the British 5th Infantry Brigade Group (from 2nd Infantry Division in India), and the 268th Indian Infantry Brigade. BCOF was supported by the Women's Auxiliary Service (Burma) (which derived its name from its formation during the Second World War, to provide amenities to Commonwealth forces in the Burmese campaign).

By 1948, BCOF was solely staffed by Australian military personnel, with all British, Indian, and New Zealand troops withdrawn from the occupation. During 1947, the BCOF began to wind down its presence in Japan. However, BCOF bases provided staging posts for Commonwealth forces deployed to the Korean War, from 1950 onwards. The BCOF was effectively wound-up in 1951.

Adelle Makepeace's father was involved in this force and she was involved in many reunions of this force, collecting photographs and newsletters. The photos below are part of her collection and the records are interesting to read if any of your ancestors were involved.

Michael Clogher

Wayne Hoppe (information provided by Helen Penman)

Michael CLOGHER was born in the county Clare, Ireland, in the year 1818, and in 1835 was convicted of sheep stealing, or to use his own term, 'trying the weight of a sheep' and transported to Australia aboard the *Surry* in 1836.

Initially serving time in Sydney he joined the Border Police. While in Sydney he met and married a widow Elizabeth SINCLAIR. By 1843 he had moved to the Macleay district and in March 1844 was issued his ticket of leave.

The Macleay, at this time was practically in a virgin scrub, and whilst camped in the midst of such a forest, a desperado, who had escaped from the penal settlement, came to his hut and asked permission to remain for the night. The request was granted, notwithstanding that Clogher was perfectly aware of his guest's identity and also his blood-thirsty reputation. During the night, as it may be imagined, the entertainer slept very little, but watched the convict closely. About daybreak, perceiving an opportunity, he rushed upon his man, overpowered him and after securing him, handed him over to the authorities.

Whilst in the border police he followed a bushranger named Wilson from New England through the bush towards the Clarence. Assisting him was a black-tracker. Wilson had a pack horse and included in his swag were red blankets. When going through the timber, the pack-horse at times brushed past limbs of trees and protruding sticks, and such like. When any of these objects came in contact with the blankets, a few threads of red wool would mostly remain on them. By finding these signs, the pursuers knew they were following the right man. Gradually gaining on the quarry they reached a recent camp fire, and sensed that the end was near. It was much nearer than expected. A body of police from Grafton were also scouring the countryside, and came upon the bushranger and shot him, just before Clogher came up.

On another occasion, when assisting in the establishment of a new police station on the Murray River a murderer escaped. Clogher followed him across country and caught him over the Queensland border. On the return journey, he handcuffed the absconder to himself each night, and they slept side by side in this manner. On handing him over to the police to be taken to Sydney, his job was completed. After many such exploits he became lock-up keeper in Armidale. In 1853 he purchased land between the creek and Kirkwood Street from Jessie to Dangar Streets.

Tiring of the arduous work entailed by police duties in the good old days, he severed his connection with the force and took up the lucrative occupation of carrying, his teams trading between Maitland and Armidale. He acquired a bullock team and hauled cedar to Armidale for a period.

In 1854 he was appointed manager of Mr. James Rigney's station property at Guy Fawkes. He retained his position for three years, but having purchased *Bostobrick Station*, he took charge of that property, and combined carrying with grazing. He disposed of his station in the early sixties and settled at Nymboida. Michael and Elizabeth lived here for many years. Grannie Clogher kept a boarding house for travellers wending their way from Armidale to Grafton, or vice versa. No post office had yet been established at Nymboida. but all loose mail was left at Cloghers, and the neighbours used to call there for their mail. On the death of his wife, Michael lived with his stepson, W. J. Sinclair until near his death, when he was taken to a nursing home at Grafton. He died in 1912 at the age of 94 years, and is buried beside his wife at Nymbodia.

We have been given a large file on Michael Clogher by Helen Penman and if you would like more information on this interesting convict please contact us.

Are you stuck - Re-examine everything

Reviewing all of your family research refreshes your memory of how far you've come and gives you context for the elusive ancestor you're trying to trace. You may even unearth the answer you need as you review names, dates and documents.

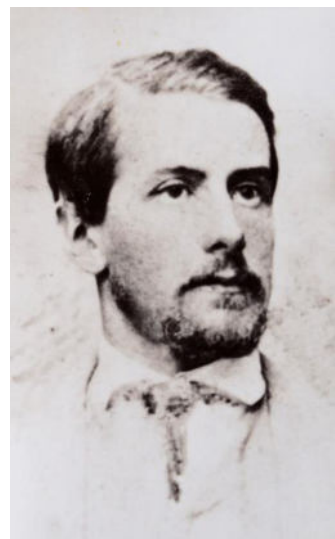
Something that wasn't relevant when you first found it may now provide an all-important clue. A previously unknown person on your family's census records, someone with a similar name in birth, death or marriage records that you previously ignored, or ruled out. Check for clues in what you've found and any mistakes that you might have made the first time around. You never know the breakthrough you need might already be in your files.

Blencowe Family

Records of Pat McClenaghan

The Armidale Family History Group is privileged to have a copy of much of Pat McClenaghan's research and photos. This includes extensive records on the BLENCOWE family. Joshua Benjamin Blencowe married Lydia BRAZIER on 6 April 1869. Joshua was 15 years older than his wife. They had the following children.

1. Joshua Benjamin junior b. 16/02/1870
2. Robert b. 01/06/1871
3. Elizabeth Sarah Mabel (Mabel) b. 29/09/1872
4. Clementie Mutlow (Clem) b. 05/02/1874
5. Eleanor Maude Mary (Nell) b. 13/06/1876
6. Lillian Lee (Lil) b. 24/12/1879
7. William Leslie (Les) b. 14/08/1884



Joshua B Blencowe senior

Joshua senior initially worked on Hillgrove Station before settling at *Middle Farm* just east of Armidale around 1874. Joshua had left Hillgrove station and was then working in Armidale as a draughtsman and by 1884 was a land agent. Joshua died in 1889 at the age of 53, with Lydia outliving him by 39 years, passing away in 1928.

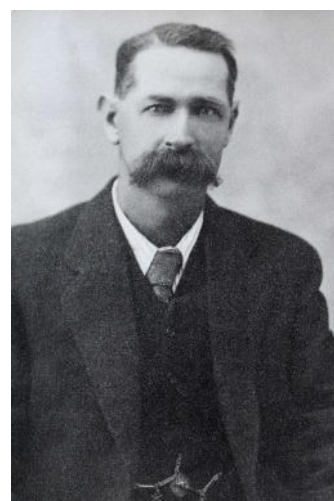
The photos on this page are just a couple of the photos we have copies of relating to this family, so please contact us if you are related to the family. We also have a number of certificates and information on the descendants of this couple. There is also a Blencowe family tree going back to the 1300's



Nell



Maude



Joshua B junior

Interesting Facebook Pages

Wayne Hoppe

Don't forget our website www.armidalefamilyhistorygroup.com

For those of you that use Facebook the following pages maybe of interest. To join you usually have to answer questions to show that you are not a robot.

Genealogical Translations – Useful if you have a document that is in another language and you would like this translated.

Convict Ancestry Australia – This group is one of a number that specialises in convict ancestor and with over 22,000 members is well worth a view if you have convict ancestors.

Australian Family History Genealogical Research – A good general group that has close to 30,000 members.

First Fleet 1788 Researchers – If you are descended from a first fleeter this might be of interest to you.

Australia Remember When – While not strictly a family history related group it does have a post a day covering many different aspects of Australia's history.

Hillgrove History – Only a fairly new group, but has some interesting information on Hillgrove.

Genealogy Clues Dating old Photographs – This group may help you date a photograph that you are not sure of.

Random Acts of Photo Restoration – If you have a damaged photo that requires digital restoration you can post it on this group and someone will usually assist in fixing the photo for you for free.

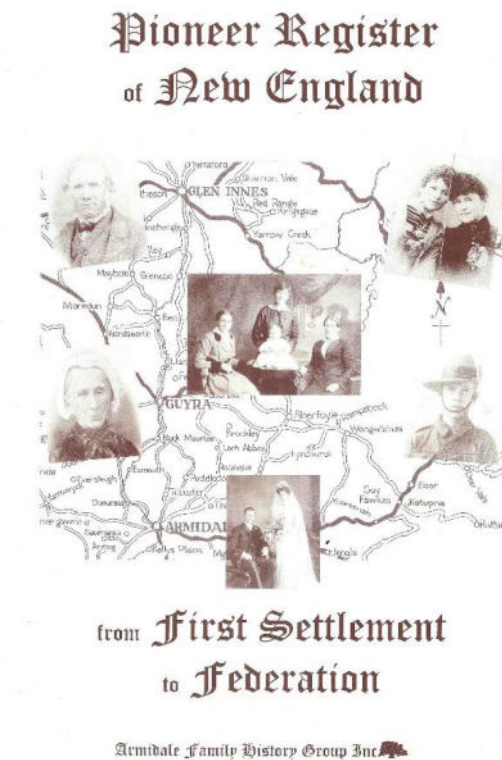
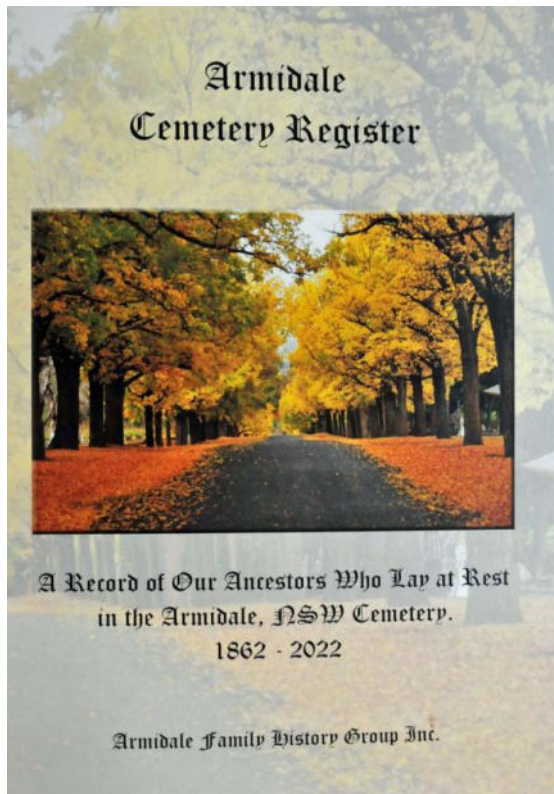
German Genealogy – This group focuses on those that have German ancestors. There are similar groups for other countries as well.

There are so many different pages that it is impossible to cover even a small portion of them. If you have ancestors from a town, either in Australia or overseas you might want to search that town name and see if there is a Facebook page. You will often then get locals that can help you with your questions, or there may still be distant relatives in the area. Whatever your interest I am sure there is a group out there for you. All you have to do is search and find a group to join.

Books for Sale

AFHG

The Armidale Family History Group now has a number of publications for sale. These include the Pioneer Register of New England and the Armidale Cemetery Register both of which are published by the group. The cemetery register is available in both book and digital formats.



Members – book	\$60
Members – Thumb drive	\$50
Non Members – book	\$70
Non Members – Thumb drive	\$60

Book	\$40
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In addition, we also have the following local history books published by our members:

The Story of Kingstown, by Jim Swales	\$25
Coopers Burial records, Uralla by Robert B Schofield	\$25
George’s Creek Bundarra, by Di and Wayne Hoppe	\$25



If undeliverable please return to:
Armidale Family History Group Inc.
 PO Box 1378
 Armidale, NSW 2350

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AFHG Membership Fees	
Annual Membership (1 July to 30 June)	
	
Full Membership—single.....	\$40
Family.....	\$50
Overseas.....	\$AUD40
Visitors (Non-members)	
Use of Library—each visit.....	\$10
Each Workshop.....	\$10