



Casino and District Family History Group Inc

NOVEMBER 2024 – No. 147 – IBSN 0808 19-8535



School of Arts Building, Cnr Walker & Barker Streets, Casino, NSW.
Home of Casino & District Family History Group Inc.

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MEETINGS: Second Wednesday of each month at 10.00am

Room 5, Upstairs School of Arts Building, Walker Street, Casino

Opening Times:

Tuesday and Thursday 10am – 2pm
Wednesdays 12pm – 4pm
Saturdays open 3rd only 9am – 11.30am
Closed mid-December – late January
Open by appointment mid Dec – late Jan

Membership:

Single \$45
Family \$55 (2 People same address)
Pensioner \$40 Pensioner Couple \$50
Student \$30 (needs to show card)
Joining Fee \$5 All prices include GST
(Membership year Jan to Dec)

The Crossing Place

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COMMITTEE 2024-25

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President's Report – September 2024 to February 2025

It has been a sad time for our group recently as we extend our deepest sympathy to our President Barbara on the recent passing of her husband Max and to our Minutes Secretary Robyn on the passing of her husband Peter in September. The loss of a loved one is never easy.

Since our last newsletter we have had a successful Trivia Night. Thank you to all the members who put in such a huge effort to make it such a success. Thank you to our member Sharin and her husband Graham for being MC and chief marker for the night.

The Land Records workshop with Michele Hurcum was well received. Next year we will look at running a workshop delving into how to use many of the tools in HLRV in greater depth.

Our Open Day was also well attended. We look forward to seeing the attendees in our rooms again.

Work is progressing on the development of our new website which we hope to have up and running sometime next year.

If any members are interested in forming a writer's group. The idea is for members to help each other put their research into a story or how to go about writing up their family history stories. The thought was to meet once a month. To get this off the ground we would like anyone interested to submit their name to Jo-Anne Wilton or to ring the Family History Room to indicate your interest and then when we have our planning meeting in January it would be considered.

Christmas is fast approaching, and we are looking for donations for our Christmas Hamper. Donations can be brought to the rooms. Remember to return your raffle books by 5th December.

Wishing everyone a Happy and safe Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all next year.

Your Vice-President - *Cherryl Mison*

THE DISPUTED PLAINS THEIR ROMANTIC HISTORY (By N. C. Hewitt.)

Northern Star, Monday 22 April 1929, page 5

The subdivision of the Disputed Plains property between Lismore and Casino marks an epoch in the pastoral history of the Richmond River (the foundations of whose present prosperity were laid by the squatters in the early 'forties'), inasmuch as it marks the disappearance of almost the last of the original holdings. With probably one or two exceptions, Unumgar and Ettrick, all the original stations have now been cut up —Tunstall, Tatham, Tuckcombil, Fairy Mount, Bushy's Flat, Wyan, Gibberagee, Toloom, Bonalbo, Woodenbong and others. Lismore and Bungawalbyn stations have long since ceased to exist and residents of the present century have seen the disposal or dispersal of Kyogle, Dyraaba, Stratheden, Runnymede, Wooroowoolgen and Camira. Roseberry is now but a memory and the land that was acquired for a trifle realised £21 an acre in 1923. Such is the development we have lived to see.

The Education Department in conjunction with the Royal Australian Historical Society has for some time past been engaged upon the work of recording the origin of place names, so that these may be preserved for all time. The epoch serves as an occasion to place on record the true history of this fine property, the origin of whose name has given rise to much speculation by travellers and others as the iron horse today speeds them swiftly over these fertile plains where once roamed the kangaroo and the dingo when these tracts of country were making history even on the other side of the world. The name will probably for ever remain to perpetuate the egregious folly of two men.

VARIED VERSIONS

From time to time the story of how these plains got their curious cognomen has been told, but in most cases the version given is wrong. In the "Star" of 1/2/1929, Mr. G. Davis tells us that "the Disputed Plains secured their name owing to a boundary line dispute between the owner of Fairy Mount station, Mr. MacKellar, and the owner of Tunstall station, Mr. Goodfellow." This is all wrong. Certainly, the MacKellars were in the district at an early date, possibly in the "fifties," but I doubt whether at the time of the lawsuit, which was either in 1845 or 1846.

Furthermore, Fairy Mount and Tunstall stations did not adjoin and therefore there could not be any dispute about a boundary line between them. Fairy Mount was taken up in 1842 by one Gale for Sir John Jamison, a retired navy surgeon, along with what was known as the Horse Station, upon the opposite side of the river. Sir John sold to Mr. C. H. Fawcett (afterwards M.P. for the district) and Mayne. Mr. Fawcett, after occupying Fairy Mount, sold out to Mr. Mackellar.

Runnymede had been taken up by Ward Stephens in 1841. As the result of the lawsuit, which finally went home to the Privy Council on appeal, the lawyers got the oyster and the litigants got the shell, for it ruined both parties and brought about Ward Stephens' death. Only then did Runnymede pass from his representatives to the late Mr. Atkinson, who had Mr. MacKellar first as manager of it, then as partner in respect to Runnymede, Fairy Mount, and other stations. Upon the dissolution of the partnership, Mr. Atkinson retained Runnymede, Pelican Tree and Back Creek, Mr. MacKellar taking the upper part of Runnymede along with Fairy Mount, under the name of Kyogle.



Image right: Alfred Ward Stephens from Ancestry.com believed to be Ward Stephens of Richmond River who died 29 July 1852

Then, again, the first mention of Mr. Goodfellow being on Tunstall station appears to be on page 43 of Dr. J. D. Lang's " Queensland" (1861), wherein he mentions that on August 29, 1856, "I stayed at Mr. Goodfellow's station, called Tunstall, picturesquely situated on Back Creek," whereas Tunstall was taken up by Shaw and A. A. Leycester in 1843, who (vide page 17 Casino's Diamond Jubilee booklet, 1922), were "the first white men who passed through what is now Casino." Anyway, Leycester appears to have acquired Mr. Shaw's interests and when he (Leycester) was obliged to sell consequent on the ruinous lawsuit, Tunstall passed to the late Mr. Henry Garrard, afterwards police magistrate for the Richmond River. Later owners were Turnbull, Campbell and Flood. Apparently Goodfellow bought from Mr. Garrard.

But others besides Mr. Davis are mistaken, and it is time that the correct facts were recorded for history's sake. Here is another instance of how the Disputed Plains history is being distorted and recorded the wrong way about. In the "Sydney Mail" for December 31, 1924, in " Reminiscences of a Northern Rivers Pioneer," It is stated: —"Disputed Plains was so called because Ward Stephens, who owned Runnymede, and A. A. Leycester, who took up Tunstall, contested it. A. A. Leycester built three huts on Disputed Plains, called the Double Huts, below the waterhole from Bentley House. Ward Stephens took a bullock team and dray down, removed the inmates and then burnt the huts to the ground. A lawsuit followed, which Ward Stephens won. Mr. Armstrong selected Disputed Plains about 1870, and his family is still in possession of the property." This also is quite wrong.



Image left: Mr. A. A. LEYCESTER, Original owner of Tunstall Station.

To get the correct facts the writer appealed to Mr. Robt. L. Dawson of Roseville, who lived on Bentley from 1869 or 1870 until the early "nineties," his father, the late Mr. R. B. Dawson, the last Commissioner for Crown Lands in the north, having free-selected Bentley (naming it after his birthplace, the village of Great Bentley, Essex, England) in May of 1870. Mr. Dawson, Snr., died on January 19, 1891, and about 1892 Bentley passed to the Edwards family who still own it.

Mr. Dawson writes: —"This paragraph is incorrect with the exception that a dispute did arise between Ward Stephens, of Runnymede, and A. A. Leycester, of Tunstall, over the correct position of the eastern boundary of the

first named run, and the western boundary of Tunstall run. This certainly gave the name to the 'Disputed Plains' property, afterwards acquired by the Armstrong family, who first free selected there in 1865 or '66, not 'about 1870,' as stated. A lawsuit in or about 1845 or '46 arose from the dispute, and after much litigation, Leycester was given a verdict but for one farthing damages only, and consequently each contestant had to pay his own costs. It was Ward Stephens who built, the 'Double Huts,' but on Runnymede land—on the ridge about 30 yards from the front veranda of the present Bentley House and not 'below the waterhole,' as stated. Again, it was not Ward Stephens who took a bullock team and dray, removed the inmates and burnt the huts. It was Leycester who removed a shepherd's wife and family and belongings from a hut which he considered was on his (Tunstall) run, to the 'Double Huts' on Runnymede, and then burnt the trespassing hut to the ground."



**ROBERT LEYCESTER
DAWSON.**

FIRST FREE SELECTORS

Mr. Dawson is correct in giving the year 1865 or 1866 in which, the Armstrong family (to whom the district owes so much) free-selected Disputed Plains. The map shows that the first selection was taken up at Disputed Plains in 1866. Mr. A. Armstrong (father of Mr. Charles Armstrong) took up 320 acres, portion 66, ph. Tomki, in 1866. This is the block upon which the original homestead now stands. It also shows that no more land was taken up by the family until 1870-71, when all the members of the family took up blocks right up as far as Bentley and also along Back Creek beyond it. They cut much hoop pine there. Then came the Dawsons, and the Savilles. Edward Naughton also took up portion 52 of 320 acres near the Gap in 1866 hence the name Naughton's Gap. Ward Stephens was the Stephens of Stephens and Stokes from whom Messrs Kemp and Fairfax purchased the "S.M. Herald" property. Stephens went in for squatting pursuits at which he was not a success. He was an able man (a director of the Hunter River Steamship Coy.), but somewhat eccentric. Many amusing stories are told of his squatting life and experience—especially during the hard times following the 1842—43 crisis when employees were paid in what was known as "calabash" orders, drawn upon consignments of sheepskins, wool, tallow or hides, and which orders were frequently dishonoured even after the consignments had reached the consignees.

A NOTED NATURALIST

A. A. Leicester was an English gentleman and early files of the "Star" credit him with being a fine type of man, well-educated and held in the highest esteem by his servants and everyone who knew him. From Maidenhead station both Shaw and Leycester came to the Richmond bringing their servants with them. These included Mr. and Mrs. James Griffiths who were octogenarians when they died at North Lismore in the "nineties." Mr. Leycester was also a noted naturalist and taxidermist as recorded on page 25 of "The Lost Echo" (J. Green). It was he who first discovered the mountain lyre bird on the Richmond River. Until then it was thought that this bird was found only on the Hawkesbury River and in the counties of Cumberland and Northumberland. He first found it on the ranges at the head of Terania Creek. The short-billed variety kept to the lower country of the Richmond. Ornithology, it is said, owes much to him. When succeeding reverses came to him, he entered the employ of the late Mr. R. B. Dawson, of Bentley, for some years, but eventually he returned to England where he died in the late "nineties." Little is known of Mr. Shaw, who like most of the first squatters on the Richmond, was an Englishman, which fact explains the presence of so many English names like Runnymede, Tunstall, Ettrick, Stratheden, Roseberry, Bentley. Shaw came out in the same boat as the original Garrards to the Hunter, and it is thought that he also returned to England.

TUNSTALL

It was Shaw and Leycester who gave the name Tunstall (correct spelling has two l's) to the flats there which were called by the "blacks" "cobiwoy." and it had its origin in Sir Walter Scott's poem "Marmion," wherein: "Tunstall lies dead upon the field." Their names are slowly drifting away toward the oblivion of the vanished years although one man's name will for ever be perpetuated by Leycester Creek.

Thus, for a brief moment we look into the shadowy past
" . . . Before it glides into the number of the nameless tides."



Watching the Web



<https://femaleconvicts.org.au/>

The Female Convicts Research Centre promotes interest in the female convicts of Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania), by encouraging and facilitating research. From 1803 to 1853, 13,500 female convicts were transported to Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania), as punishment for crimes, mainly theft. After serving their sentences they were released into the community. Their transportation left a lasting legacy. The Female Convicts Research Centre encourages research into these female convicts, mainly through its database, website and seminars. When you register with the FCRC, you gain access to our database where you will find information entered by our volunteers as we attempt to reconstruct the life course of each female convict.

<https://indigenous.sl.nsw.gov.au/collection-items/item-03-some-recollections-and-records-clarence-and-richmond-river-aborigines-10>

ITEM 03: 'SOME RECOLLECTIONS AND RECORDS OF THE CLARENCE AND RICHMOND RIVER ABORIGINES' BY ROBERT LEYCESTER DAWSON, 1935

CALL NUMBER: DLMSQ 309/Item 3 AUTHOR: Robert Leycester Dawson DATE: 1935

DESCRIPTION: Please note that this document does not contain language material. It provides further context, however, to the other Robert Leycester Dawson manuscripts on the site which do contain word lists. Robert Leycester Dawson was born in Bowerfels in 1860 to Robert Barrington Dawson and Jessy Lamotte. He married Edith Isbel Salter. He passed away on 1 Dec 1943 in Roseville, New South Wales, Australia.

COMMUNITIES: Bundjalung

AUSTRALIAN BDM CERTIFICATES – WEBSITES

<https://www.familyhistory.bdm.qld.gov.au>

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/family-and-relationships/family-history-search>

<https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/births-relationships-and-deaths/births-relationships-and-deaths-related-forms-and-fees>

<https://www.bdm.vic.gov.au/search-your-family-history>

<https://www.justice.tas.gov.au/bdm/researching-family-trees>

<https://www.sa.gov.au/topics/family-and-community/births-deaths-and-marriages/family-research>

<https://www.wa.gov.au/service/justice/civil-law/searching-family-history>

<https://nt.gov.au/law/bdm/search-births-deaths-and-marriages-records>

<https://www.bdmhistoricalrecords.dia.govt.nz/search>

Articles from other Magazines

The Endeavour, No. 159, June 2024 – The Botany Bay Family History Society

“Holding it Together” is about the history of buttons, lacing, hooks and eyes, safety pins, press studs, zippers, velcro and elastic. This article was published in *Tasmanian Ancestry*, March 2017 and was reprinted with their permission and permission of the author Jennifer Jacobs. Recommended by committee member Pat McDonald.

MR. FRANK BURFORD TREATT

1841 – 1923



Left- Frank Burford Treatt
Daily Telegraph, Tuesday 16

Right - Headstone of
Frank Burford Treatt and his wife
Kate Ellen Treatt, Manly Cemetery
NSW



The death occurred early yesterday morning, at his residence, Darley-road, Manly, of Mr. Frank Burford Treatt, for many years police magistrate at Young. The late Mr. Treatt came to Australia early in 1870 and started business as a marine underwriter in Sydney. Subsequently he became a stock and share broker and registered the first gold-mining company of the gold rush of that year. When the rush for gold eased off, he went to Queensland, and for some time participated in copper mining, in which he was particularly successful. He then went with his wife for a holiday in England, and subsequently joined the New South Wales Government Service, being assigned to the London office. Mr. Treatt was principally engaged in dealing with emigration matters, and in 1877 was sent to Sydney in charge of a body of emigrants. On arrival in Sydney, he was appointed by the Parkes' Government as State emigration officer, which position he vacated in 1889 on the alteration of the Government policy in regard to emigration. He then joined the Justice Department and was sent to the Bellinger district as a clerk of petty sessions. Later he passed the examination for police magistrate and was appointed as P.M. for the Hillston district in 1890. He was transferred from there to Cobar in 1901, and remained in charge of that district until 1909, though in the interval he had periods as relieving magistrate at Wagga, Bourke, and Orange. While at Cobar Mr. Treatt called the local magistrates together and initiated a Children's Court. In 1909 Mr. Treatt was promoted to the charge of the amalgamated districts of Cowra and Young, and he occupied that position until his retirement in 1917. He was in his 78th year when he died. Mr. Treatt and his wife were interested in the North Shore Cottage Hospital, now known as the Royal North Shore Hospital. Mr. Treatt was the father of 16 children, and his widow and eight children - three sons and five daughters - survive him. Two of the sons lost their lives owing to wounds received in the South African war. Of the surviving sons, one is Vernon Haddon Treatt, B.A., who is now in Oxford University as the New South Wales Rhodes scholar for 1920. - **Sydney Morning Herald, Monday 15 January 1923, page 10.**

The funeral of the late Mr. Frank B. Treatt left "Dunrathen" Darley Road. Manly, yesterday for the Manly Cemetery. The chief mourners were Mr. R. R. Treatt. Mr. Eric B. Treatt (sons), Mrs. J. G. Killeen, Miss Marjorie Treatt (daughters), Lieutenant H. B. Farncombe, R.A.N. (nephew), Mr. Fred Walsh (brother-in-law). There were also present: Messrs. Russell, secretary of Royal North Shore Hospital (representing the president Mr. T. Randal Carey, and the committee of the R.N.S.Hospital), E. E. Killeen, J. Ekin, Dr. Ash, Sub-Inspector Cameron, G. P. Stuckey, W. Hawden Wilson, H. D. Edmonds, E. P. Davidson, H. A. Leonard, Lyn Allworth, and many others. The interment took place in the Church of England section, and Rev. G. Fisher officiated at the graveside. Numerous wreaths were sent, and messages of sympathy from all parts of the country where the late Mr. Treatt was so well known, were received by the family. - **Daily Telegraph, Tues 16 January 1923, p8.**

A LITTLE TRIP TO THE RICHMOND RIVER DISTRICT - I TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

Sydney Morning Herald, Tuesday 22 January 1889, page 5

Sir,-If any forlorn or shipwrecked brother wants to regain a strong heart and fresh courage to sweep the cobwebs off his brains; if a student of industrial problems and national welfare craves for eloquent teachings and cogent arguments, let him go where I was last week ; let him wend his way to the village settlement known as New Italy, situated about 7 ½ miles from the rising town of Woodburn, on the glorious Richmond River, and he will see there footprints on the sands of time that have as yet scarcely commenced to exercise that great influence which, in my judgment, they must surely do ere long, on the problem of land settlement in our country. Before I relate what, I saw and heard, let me advert briefly to the origin of New Italy.

On the night of Thursday, the 7th day of April, 1881, there arrived in the harbour of Port Jackson and anchored for the night off Bradley's Head the steamer James Paterson, having on board about 200 men, women, and children, who had arrived as strangers in a strange land, penniless, more than one-half of them on the sick-list from intermittent fever, "assuming a typhoid type, attributable to their exhausted condition and their low state of vitality." Originally from the province of Treviso, in Venetia, these unfortunate people, desirous of escaping from the overcrowded industrial centres of the old world, and captivated by the alluring promises held out to them by an enthusiastic but ill-informed Frenchman named Charles du Breil, Marquis de Rays, sold their free and leasehold lands in sunny Italy, and, gathering together their household treasures, accompanied by their wives and little ones, these one-time simple people, in supreme trust in the future, and with stout hearts and bright hopes, set sail in the steamer India, bound from Barcelona to the tropic shores of New Ireland, some three or four degrees south of the Line.

They wanted to escape from the excessive taxation born of military and war expenditure, which is the great curse of Europe; and these Italian peasantry, looking ahead and penetrating what they could of the future, saw, under God's blessing, on diligent toil, happy homes for themselves and their children in the far-off South, far away from wars and rumours of wars, where toil should be recompensed, free from unjust burdens, and where every man should have his own vine and fig tree, none daring to make him afraid. And to gain this earnestly-sought-for boon they were now proceeding to assist, under the supervision of men in whom Charles du Breil, Marquis de Rays trusted, to found the free Colony of Port Breton, New France (Oceania).

On the voyage 11 deaths occurred; at Port Breton 22 died; 7 breathed their last between Port Breton and Noumea, and at Noumea 10 more deaths took place. On board the British-Australian, steamer James Paterson, from Noumea to Sydney, no deaths occurred, and a clean bill of health was given to the steamer on the morning after arrival. The French colonists in Noumea were very kind to the ocean waifs, and contributed in no small measure to the improved physical condition of the survivors.

Thus, it may be most appropriately stated that the settlement of New Italy in this Richmond River district was sown in tears. Just as the heroes of old learnt wisdom from experience and endurance from hardship so, as the sequel will show, have our Italian fellow-colonists battled with sore adversity, and by God's grace conquered. After a needful rest within the sheltering walls of the Agricultural Hall, in the Domain, the new colonists entered on their preliminary industrial careers. As in accordance with the order of the Government, it was wisely ordained that the people should be first of all distributed, with their own concurrence, to serve in many places, so that they might fall in with our manners, customs, and ways, and that they might the sooner pick up our language. In this request of the Government, as in every other possible way, the strangem (band together) gave cheerful and willing assent, recognising with thankfulness the hospitality of the New South Wales Government and people. It should be re-membered that, apart from the original desire of the new chums to be located together in one spot, the cup of sorrow from which they had together

drunk so deeply and so continuously for many months past, had a natural tendency to bind them closer to one another, hence their prompt acquiescence with the wishes of the Government under such painful circumstances is so much the more in their favour. The official report speaks of their conduct having been " most satisfactory."

About one year after the arrival of the band of immigrants by the James Paterson, one of their number, by name R. Caminiti, an agriculturist, 29 years of age, proceeded to the Richmond River district, and selected lot 26, area 40 acres, in the parish of Donaldson, county of Richmond adjacent to the coach road running between Woodburn on the Richmond River, to Chatsworth on the Clarence River. In 1882, eight of the Italians selected small blocks of land near one another in the district now known as New Italy. In 1883 17 others came up, and the balance in 1884 and 1885. From an inspection I made in the Lands Office, Lismore, I learnt that from 1884, when the first pioneer of the de Ray immigrants took up his 40 acres, down to the close of last year, 3006 acres in small lots, mostly 40-acre blocks, have been taken up by these praiseworthy people, 53 selections in all, being an average of 57 acres per each selection.

Last Tuesday I left Woodburn at 9 a.m. for the purpose of seeing for myself the actual condition of things in New Italy. I was told it was too far to walk; but as my informant also stated that the Italians walked into town and back it did not impress me as being an impossible feat or an unpleasant pedestrian tour either, so accompanied by a friend we trudged on to New Italy. On the way we met two robust, healthy young girls, about 18 or 19 years of age, fine pictures of Australian bush lassies, neat and trim. They were proceeding to Woodburn. In response to my "good morning," I thought I detected a slightly strange accent in the rejoinder. On inquiring, I discovered these two young ladies were respectively 9 and 10 years old when they arrived with their parents by the James Paterson, but no one, unless purposely bent on it would have taken these young girls to have been of foreign extraction. It was surprising.

On our arrival in New Italy the first place we stopped at to inquire we found the wife could not speak English, and as no one else was about we proceeded to another cottage, a number of which were in sight. In leaving this cottage homestead I was struck with its trim and neat appearance, its well-kept garden, and the healthy appearance of a large area planted in vines. The paling fence was equal to many of our suburban cottage fences about Sydney. The next cottage we arrived at was that of Senor Batestuzzi, who with his wife and daughter, Senora Angels, gave us a most cordial welcome, and their profuse hospitality and unwearied attentions and guidance throughout the term of my inspection of the village settlement, I shall never cease to remember. Special inquiries were here made as to how Mr. Modini, of Sydney, was getting on; and on my stating that I would inform Dr. Maraño, the Italian Consul, of the comfortable condition of the village, of its neatness, evidence of industry, and growing prosperity my host was well pleased.

I cannot give, as I would have liked, statistics as to the quantity of land under cultivation, but on every farm, I visited, and from a distance glanced upon, I saw waving corn, the dark green of rows upon rows of grape vines, and acres upon acres of land being subdued to the requirements of man. In one cottage I remarked to one strong, healthy, pleasant-looking lassie, "You have some good, ploughed land here." " Yes," she replied, with a flash of pleasure in her eye; "I did it." " You, did it?" " Yes," was the response; " I can plough as well as a man."

My young friend spoke English very well, and I could not help reflecting that she was rightfully entitled to the electoral franchise if she chose to ask for it. In another cottage I remarked to two bright-eyed, dark-haired Italio-Australians, "I see you have pretty fair cottages up here, considering the time you have been here. "Cottages." she replied with energy, "I call them humpies: but we'll have houses by-and-by." I feel proud to own these people as fellow colonists. Such pluck, such spirit and determination, by dint of hard work and perseverance, to build up comfortable homes for themselves — surely, they are a credit to all Australia.

The reflection forced itself on me that the sense of independence and of industrial hopefulness, of courage and of vigour, is fed by the possession of a piece of land, and I would like to see a law passed whereunder, in all future subdivisions in town and suburb, it should be compulsory to retain attached to each tenement a sufficiency of land for garden purposes. Thus, the toiling man in his own private garden could keep in touch with nature and the land-old Mother Earth. It seems a lamentable truth that modern art and modern civilisation have a tendency to divorce, or assist in divorcing, man from versatile physical work. This we should rectify before the foundations of Australia are too far advanced.

But I am digressing. At V. Nardi's farm I sat in a strong, home-made chair, the seat of which was neatly woven with some of the rushes obtained in the district. Expressing my gratification at this home manufacture, my host brought out three more like chairs, as if to show me that the resources of his establishment were not limited. This farmer planted vines four years ago, and each year since. A neighbour of his informed me that Nardi's grapes this year will produce a crop of four tons. Another of the farmers gave me to understand that New Italy intends very soon to compete in exhibitions, home and foreign, to show what Australia can produce in wines. This communicant spoke rather broken English. Said he, passing his hand across his brow, "Australian wine too much spirit; give pain here. We make wine no pain, no spirit; good to drink."

When I cast my mind back on the scene I witnessed on board the James Paterson, lying at the old A. S. N. Company's wharf, on the western side of the Circular Quay, scarcely eight years ago, and looked round at the muscular, intelligent, fraternal faces of the one-time dejected, storm-tossed foreigners. I said to myself that, unknown to any one of us it would appear as if God in wisdom was doing to us, as He did to old England of centuries back, sending to us slips and offshoots from other stocks, so that the future of Australia in the south may be in the lines, though broader and grander, upon which has been built up by steady healthy development the grand old stock from which nearly all of us have sprung under the Rose, Shamrock, and Thistle.

In conclusion, it is most gratifying to have to state that everyone up here speaks well of the new colonists. They pay their way — pay cash — work hard, work at anything, and give evidence of possessing all the most valuable traits of good colonists. Whoever selected those colonists for De Ray's foolish project selected good men, men well fitted to build up a young nation. They have carved their own fortunes and have demonstrated that co-operative village land settlement is the hope of the future in the solution of the problem of how to deal with large cities and how to settle the people on the land. Free selection of large areas by isolated persons in a forest district or scrubland area, means, without capital, at all events very slow progress, and very painful and costly progress; but in village settlements, by co-operation and with a determination to get on, all the surrounding conditions are hopeful; many of them may be sure, as sure as anything mundane, and the attention of all interested in the settlement of the people on the land must be more and more directed to a scientific, systematic dealing with the question. The object must be to settle people on the land, not to hold the land for big prices.

It is a truth, however unpalatable, that, if the riverbanks of this magnificent Mississippi of New South Wales had been surveyed into small farms before selection, there would have been ten times as many people on it as there are at present. Persons visiting the colonies for a holiday tour should take a run up to this river, and with a cognisance of the genesis of the Italian colonisation of New Italy read the present in the light of the past and as a hope of the future.

I am &c, FRANK B. TREATT, Woodburn, January 12.

This article was also published in the Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser and the Richmond River Herald and Northern Districts Advertiser. Due to its length the second letter will be included in the next newsletter. Click the link below to learn more about Historic New Italy and the museum and the early families.

<https://www.newitaly.org.au>

Great Grandmother Annie and her daughter Jean or Agnes

by member Kaylene Morris

My great grandmother Annie Bertha Starr was a twin, born 26 July 1874 in the area of Greater Marlow, District of Grafton, NSW. Her twin brother was Samuel Edmund Starr. Their father, Thomas Starr, was a teacher and a follower of the Wesleyan Methodist Religion. Annie's mother was Ann Jane Starr nee Campbell. They were married on 29 September 1869 at Woodford Island, near Grafton.

In 1898, Annie Bertha Starr became pregnant with my grandmother. She was sent to Lismore for the rest of her pregnancy. Annie never returned to the family home. My grandmother Jean Agnes Starr came into this world on 21 September 1898, according to her birth certificate, no mention of a father. Jean Agnes Starr was made a 'ward of the state'. That is what I've been told, but I haven't yet found any proof.

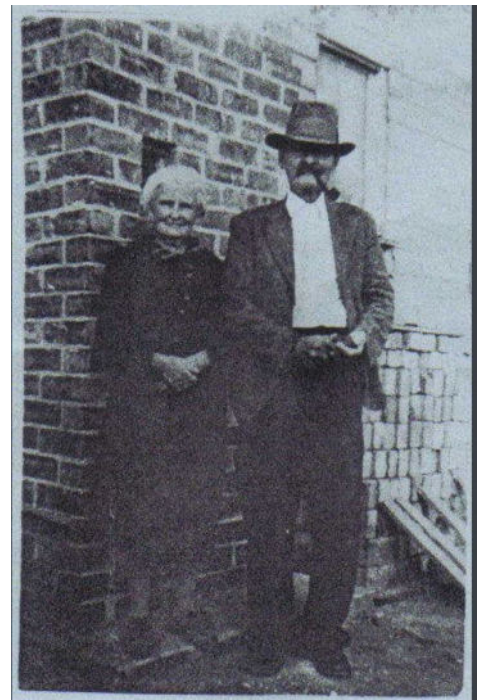
Annie Bertha Starr also had a boy, Edwin Bouvard Starr born 20 January 1901, also no father mentioned. Edwin, when old enough, went looking for his sister and found her. He had been living in Brisbane, Queensland and my grandmother Agnes was living in Woodburn, New South Wales. They kept in touch over the years. Edwin died 18 January 1963 in Brisbane Queensland.

It has always puzzled me how Edwin found Jean Agnes Starr, as by this time my grandmother was going by the name Agnes Eugenie Davis. Her new parents George and Emma Davis had been looking after her since she was about 6 months old. George and Emma only had one natural child, a daughter, Florence Annie Jane Davis born 1883. Florence married James William Morgan on 12 December 1900. Florence and James had 9 sons and 6 daughters; their first son only lived a short time dying in 1902.

Back to Annie Bertha Starr, who has had two children, which she gave up, either willingly or not. On the 19 Oct 1903 Annie Bertha Starr married Norman Pain at St Andrew's Church of England, Lismore NSW. Norman junior was born 14 March 1904 in Lismore. The family then moved to Cobar NSW, where their next son was born, then to Broken Hill where four more children were born. From there, the family eventually moved to Mildura, where Norman died in 1956.

In 1957 Annie Bertha Pain nee Starr died in Arlington Private Hospital in Thornbury Victoria. Annie was buried in Mildura, next to Norman. No one in that family knew of the two children born before their parents were married. Annie seemed to have had no contact with her siblings after she left Ulmarra, including her twin brother.

In the "Sydney Morning Herald" dated 1 July 1953 the estate of both Ann Jane Starr and Thomas Starr both of Paddington was granted to Samuel Edmund Starr. Both parents died in 1919. Did Annie know her parents had died, and did she ever have contact with her siblings?



My great grandmother Annie Bertha Starr
and her husband Norman Pain

My grandmother, now known as Agnes, had a good life and was well looked after by her new parents. They were living in Woodburn, New South Wales. Agnes was taught to play the organ and how to paint by the local nuns. My mother has a few of her paintings but doesn't remember ever seeing her paint. Around ten years ago we cleaned one of Agnes's paintings and found it was dated 1914 when she was 16 yrs old.

Agnes knew all her new family, and she had all their names in a book, given to her by George on her 16th birthday. She wrote down either their birthday or death date. Every genealogist's dream, but there was one thing missing: the year. I have been through the book matching up the years using the BDM's. Some though are difficult as she didn't put their last name either.

On 24 November 1920 at St Marks Church Casino, NSW, Agnes married Walter Robert King. They had three children Wallace Adrian b.1921 Casino, Milton Reginald b.1924 Casino and my mother Fay b.1928 Bangalow. They moved to Lismore in 1928 after Fay's birth.

In 1929, Lismore and surrounding areas had a flood. Walter was riding his horse home from Woodburn, where he had been working, and had to cross several creeks. Many farmers along the way offered their advice to stay or leave the horse and go to higher ground. Walter thought he could make it home. When he arrived near the Loftville area, just out of Lismore he drowned while crossing the swollen creek. It is believed that the horse kicked him in the head.

Agnes now had three small children to raise and a mother-in-law to also look after. She worked hard to keep all the children together. She moved to South Lismore where the rent was cheaper. She took in washing and ironing and cleaned the "Capitol Cafe" in Molesworth St Lismore, that is until her doctor told her because of an ailment she had cleaning stairs, and a large floor area was not good for her health.



My grandmother Agnes Eugenie
King nee Davis, born Starr.
Taken in the 1960's

My grandmother died in 1985, never knowing that I would find her mother 40 odd years later. She had been told that her mother died in 1903 and was buried in North Lismore Cemetery. There is of course no record of that death.

In 2012, I joined the Casino & District Family History Group. At this stage I was still looking for the grave in North Lismore. Through the years I kept searching, then one day I came across Annie Bertha Starr on ancestry.com. There was a photo, but I couldn't see any resemblance. I checked her family on ancestry and yes, they were the siblings I had found for her. This was when I found out she was married in Lismore, and she hadn't died in 1903.

I left it there and went onto other grandparents, great grandparents in my family tree, then about three years later, I looked again on ancestry.com, and looking at me was a photo that looked just like my grandmother, Agnes. It wasn't her though it was my great grandmother Annie Bertha Pain nee Starr.

I showed the photo to my mother, not saying a word – she said, "That's my mother, but I don't know who the man is!" I told her it was her grandmother Annie Bertha Pain nee Starr. Mum had always believed that Annie Bertha Starr had died in 1903 as she had been told. I'm not sure how she feels about it now, knowing that she gave up two of her children. I wonder did she ever tell her husband Norman?

Library Cards – Did you know? - Submitted by S. McPherson, Editor

Do you know just how useful membership to a local library can be to a family historian? More so than just borrowing books, your membership can give you access to other resources which you can research directly from home. All state libraries and the National Library of Australia provide a large variety of online databases and **eresources** (electronic resources) to members.

If you live in NSW and hold a library card to a regional library, you are eligible to access the NSW State Library **eresources**. This also applies to residents of other states who wish to use their own state library for home research purposes. You can also join the National Library Australia and access their online collections and resources.




The libraries provide links to external websites and allow members to come into their library and use their computers to research on Ancestry, Find My Past etc. Below is their description of what is available, not only for family historians but for many other purposes.

The library's eresources include databases and websites that give access to a range of materials such as journals, magazines, newspapers, ebooks, audiobooks, dictionaries, multilingual material and tutorials for learning a language, online films, images. To find a database or website, browse the A-Z list, search by title or description, or filter the list by subject. New South Wales residents with a [Library card](#) or a registered [NSW public library card](#) can access these resources from anywhere, anytime.

It may take you a while to set up access, due to the need for security codes, and navigate around their site but it is worth the effort. Each state library will have their own icons which are used to identify how this material is accessed, whether it is online or attending the library. So, take your time to understand their meaning. I have inserted below the list of resources available on the State Library NSW website related to family history. The chart on the right shows the icons, the number of how many items are available and how they are available. Those that are “freely available” can be accessed without membership and are simply links to those websites. However, it is very handy to be able to do your research from the one point. Some of their material has been scanned and is available for download just like TROVE. I found a great booklet about early immigration and requirements of immigrants to South Australia published in the 1850s.

Family History

- Adoption and Out-of-home care
- Ancestry and other key eresources
- Births, Deaths and Marriages
- Cemeteries
- Convicts
- Directories
- Land and property
- Military
- Passengers and shipping
- Preserving your family history
- United Kingdom and Ireland

ACCESS		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Resource: Log in with a Library card	 11
<input type="checkbox"/>	For use in the Library	 4
<input type="checkbox"/>	Resource: Freely available	 171

<https://eresources.sl.nsw.gov.au>

<https://www.nla.gov.au/research-guides/eresources-at-the-national-library#>

MEMBER'S NOTICE BOARD – December 2024 - February 2025

- **Wed 4th December** – Committee Meeting - 10am
- **Wed 11th December** – Christmas Party 11.30am for 12 md start at our research room.
- RSVP by 5th December for catering purposes.
- Please bring a gift to value of \$10
- There is a list, of food for catering, in the Research Room. Please indicate what you can bring against the food item by coming in person or phoning the Research Room.
- **Thu 12th December 2024** – Research Room closes at 2pm for Christmas break
- **Wed 22 January 2025** – Planning Meeting 10am
- **Tue 28th January** - Research Room Reopens – See Roster
- **Wed 12th February** – General Meeting 10am

Christmas Hamper Raffle - Donations of new nonperishable items are required for our Christmas Raffle. Members, please deliver your contribution to the rooms as soon as possible. No second hand or used items. The raffle will be drawn at the Christmas Party on Wednesday 11 December.

Writers Group – Are you interested in forming a Writers Group in 2025?

The idea is that the group would get together monthly to facilitate, encourage and motivate each other to write our family history so that we can share our research. Further discussion will take place at the January planning meeting if there is sufficient interest to form a group. If you are interested in participating, please email Jo-Anne Wilton at joanneruth64@gmail.com

RESEARCH – General Information

(per family name e.g.: Mr and Mrs Smith and children)

\$25 for initial enquiry using resources available at rooms with 10 photocopies included in initial fee.

You will be advised of any additional information available over the fee with extra photocopies charged at 20 cents per page. Please supply basic information i.e., BDM dates and parents if known. Inform research officer **exactly** what you are looking for and what you already know so time is not wasted doubling up on research.

Research will not be undertaken until research fee is received. Research may take 4-6 weeks depending on number of enquiries received and availability of the research team.

Research where reference given from book or newsletter: \$5.00 includes 2 photocopies – 20 cents each for any additional pages

RESEARCH ENQUIRIES

If you can help, please contact our group

Colin: Looking for information on Reginald Willis who married Mary Dillon 6 May 1877 at Unumgar Station, just outside of Woodenbong, NSW. He has information on Mary's brother Patrick Dillon.

Ingrid: Looking for possible father for Albert Percival Sewell, using DNA. Albert was born in Casino 1886, but DNA only matches with his mother Hannah Elizabeth Sewell nee Lawrence. Ancestry.com has given hints for (surnames) Charlton and Cole.

Graeme: Looking for information on Ravenscroft family, particularly Sarah Ravenscroft nee Young. Sarah's death certificate has had her married name crossed out and her maiden name added. It also notes she had no children although there were at least eight and it also mentions "not married." If you can shed some light on this Graeme would be appreciative.

Member's Roster

It is the Roster volunteer's responsibility to find a replacement if they cannot do their Roster.

If you cannot get a replacement for your roster, please ring the rooms or ring Roseanne on 0414 397 474 and leave as message as soon as you know you are not available.

WE URGENTLY NEED ROSTER PEOPLE. We will place you with an experienced person.

December 2024			
Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Saturday
3 rd December R Nesbitt, P McDonald	4 th December M Goodlad, C Houlihan, G McAteer	5 th December C Mison, L Reynolds,	
10 th December Y Stevenson, M Goodlad, N Cowen	11 th December Christmas Party Closed for research	12 th December C.Houlihan, N. Cowen. Room closes 2pm for Christmas break	
17 th December CLOSED	18 th December CLOSED	19 th December CLOSED	21 st December CLOSED
24 th December CLOSED	25 th December CLOSED	26 th December CLOSED	
January 2025			
Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Saturday
	22nd January Committee Planning Meeting 10am	23th January CLOSED	
28 th January M Goodlad, N Cowen, Y. Stevenson	29 th January C Mison, B Hollis	30 th January N. Cowan, C. Houlihan	
February 2025			
Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Saturday
4 th February R Nesbitt, P McDonald	5 th February M Goodlad, C. Houlihan, G. McAteer	6 th February C Mison, L Reynolds,	
11 th February Y Stevenson, M Goodlad, N Cowen	12 th February M Goodlad, C Houlihan, G McAteer	13 th February C Houlihan, N Cowen,	15 th February L Yates, G Rooney
18 th February J. Gorry, K. Morris	19 th February R. Nesbitt, J. Griffiths	20 th February K. Francis, Y. Downes, J. Rowe	
25 th February K Morris, R. Birmingham, L. Lill	26 th February R. Nesbitt, C. Mison	27 th February B. Hollis, J. Wilton	

As Life Passes – “The Best is Yet to Come”

*A little more grey in the lessening hair – Each day as the years go by; A little more stooping in the form,
A little more dim in the eye. A little more faltering of the step. As we tread life's pathway o'er,
And a little more nearer everyday. To the ones who have gone before. A little more halting of the gait,
And a dullness of the ear; A growing weariness of the frame. With each swift passing year.
A fading of hopes and ambitions, too, A faltering in life's quest, And a little nearer every day
To a sweet and peaceful rest. A little more loneliness in life. As the dear ones pass away;
A bigger claim on the heavenly land. With every passing day. A little farther from toil and care,
A little less way to roam; A drawing near to a joyful hope, And a happy welcome home.*

Casino & Kyogle Courier & North Coast Advertiser, 11 May 1918, page 3

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

Postage

Under 500 gms = \$9.00 p&h per book
Over 500gms & under 3kg - \$15.00 p&h for up to 2 books (If ordering more than 2 books contact group for postage costs)

All prices include GST

Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery

Books – Weight under 500gms

Coraki Deaths & Burials - \$25.00

West of the Range Cemeteries - \$20.00

Woodburn Cemetery - \$15.00

Recipe Book – 98 pages 400 recipes - \$15.00

Yorklea Public School 1894-1994 - \$5.00

Books – Weight over 500gms & under 3kg

Casino West St Cemetery - \$37.50

Casino Lawn Cemetery - \$37.00

Casino & District Pioneer Register Pre-1900 - \$37.50

Casino & District Pre 1925 Pioneer Register - \$37.50

SECOND-HAND BOOKS FOR SALE

Our Family Tree & Album	\$5.00
Bridges of Fairymount	\$2.00
Casino School Magazine – Onward 1998	\$2.00
Casino Show – 100 Years	\$2.00
Cheshire's Modern Real Property	\$3.00
Commemorative Honour Roll – Casino & Bonalbo and Districts	\$3.00
Directory of Art & Archaeology	\$2.00
Kyogle & District's Early Selectors and Settlers	\$5.00
Pioneering & History Families of the Tyalgum	
District – A Pictorial History	\$5.00
The Forgotten Children in Homes, Reformatories and Industrial Schools in NSW	\$5.00
William Riley & Son Funeral Director – Lismore 1946-1955	\$2.00
The River Still Flows	\$2.00
Men and a River	\$3.00
Phillips Modern School Atlas	\$2.00
Battler's Boomtown	\$2.00
In & Around the Mid-Richmond with George Hunt	\$3.00
On with the Show	\$3.00
Centenary of Education in Leeville Locality 1888-1988	\$3.00
Kyogle Cemetery	\$3.00
Places in the Bush – History of Kyogle to 1988	\$3.00
A Tale of Two Brothers	\$2.00
Old Time Country Halls	\$5.00
Collection of Stories, Events, Memories – Australia Remembers 1945 – 1995	\$3.00
History of Casino	\$2.00
Kyogle & District's Early Selectors and Settlers 1840-1920	\$3.00
Centenarians of the North Coast	\$5.00
Colour Code	\$2.00
A Year of Provence	\$2.00
Good Evans	\$2.00
Prickotty Bush	\$3.00

Casino & District Family History Group CORPORATE MEMBERS

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- F. Kwong Sing & Co Pty Ltd
- Pinkertson's Hourglass Jewellers
- Casino Pest Control

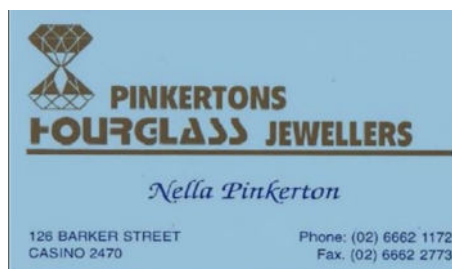
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