

# Dust of Ages



Journal of the Armidale Family History Group Inc.

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## Armidale in 1884

*1884 Illustrated Sydney News 5 July 1884*

Valuable history can be found in the most unusual places. These sketches from The Illustrated Sydney News of 5 July 1884 are displayed in several buildings in Armidale, including our centre, but can be also seen at the link below. The following images are just a few of these on the sketch and provide details of many early buildings in Armidale.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/64035530/5787195>



R. C. SMITH,  
CRITERION HOTEL, BEARDY STREET.



H. J. GELDARD,  
Tailor and General Outfitter  
Establishment,  
BEARDY STREET.

R. MONRO,  
Practical Bootmaker, Boot and Shoe  
Depot,  
BEARDY STREET.



J. LOVE,  
Baker, Fruiterer, Confectioner, Pastrycook, Wholesale Provision Merchant,  
BEARDY STREET.



T. J. WILKINSON,  
Successor to D. H. Macdonald,  
THE NEW ENGLAND STORES, BEARDY STREET.

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### 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 12.30pm to 3.30pm

Wednesday 10.00am to 3.30pm

Closed public Holidays

**Meetings:** Meetings are held at 2.00pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 July 12 Monthly Meeting – Tell us about your ancestors who served in World War 2*

*Saturday August 9 Monthly Meeting – Speaker TBA*

*Saturday Sept 13 **Annual General Meeting** - Speaker TBA*

## The New England Contingent of the Border Police 1839-1854

Peter Hoare

In September 1839 George MacDONALD, Commissioner of Crown lands for New England, founded the township of Armidale. He named the infant settlement after his ancestral home, ARMADALE, in Scotland. He established his headquarters on the future site of Armidale. The New England District covered a large area stretching from the Moonbi Pass to the Morton Bay District and from the Great Dividing Range to the boundary of the Liverpool Plains district. His duties included the enforcement of law and order in the district, settlement of disputes over property boundaries between neighbouring pastoralists, and disputes with local First Nations tribes. Several pastoralists had already established squatting runs near the new town, including Tilbuster, Saumarez, Gostwyck and Enmore. He was assisted by a contingent of Border Police, a frontier policing body introduced by the colonial government of NSW in 1839.

In this period, New England was located beyond the settled area, known as the *limits of location*, or the *nineteen counties*. Land outside these limits could not be legally occupied nor subdivided and sold. However, from 1830 the growing population, caused an increased demand for land and resulted in the expansion the pastoral industry. The New England District was first settled by Europeans in the decade following 1830. European graziers began to occupy large tracts of land far beyond the *nineteen counties* and moved large mobs of cattle and flocks of sheep onto the newly acquired land. Although the land was inhabited by the First Nations People, the Colonial government considered that it belonged to the Crown.

In 1836 the New South Wales (NSW) Colonial Government passed legislation to control the spread of illegal squatting and gave the squatters with the right to occupy Crown land beyond the *limits of location* for a fee of ten pounds per year. The frontier areas were divided into districts under the supervision of Commissioners of Crown Lands who were charged with bringing law and order to these areas. The NSW government established the Border Police to assist the Commissioners, with a contingent of up to eleven troopers consisting mainly of mounted convict troopers, led by military non-commissioned officers.

Between 1839 and 1848 a total of 25 troopers served in MacDonald's contingent with 4 free non-commissioned officers, 2 civilian convict troopers and 19 ex-military convict members. The Border Police were tasked with protecting the Aboriginal population, dealing with the growing bushranger threats, collecting fees for land leases and settling boundary disputes between squatting leases. Of the 25 troopers serving under George MacDonald, Jeremiah GILES was one of 2 civilian convict troopers. Jeremiah was born in 1817 in Suffolk, England and was living in County Down, Ireland by 1840, when he was tried and convicted for shoplifting. He was sentenced to seven years transportation and sailed on the *Pekoe*, arriving in NSW on 7 November 1840.

In April 1842 he was assigned to the Border Police and served until June 1845. George MacDonald reported that his "behaviour was good, (his) duties as a mounted trooper (were); tracking bushrangers; patrolling New England stations". Giles received his ticket of leave on 8 August 1845. He returned to Windsor and by 1847 he had served his sentence and could travel where ever he wished in the colony.

In 1854 Jeremiah had returned to New England. He was one of the former convicts who prospered in New England. Jeremiah operated a store at Rocky River from about 1856 to 1866 when he bought land to build another store and house. On 27 January 1854 he married Anna BELFORD (nee McIVER) in Armidale. Anna had been previously married in 1840 at Sydney to James Belford. Jeremiah and Anna had one son, Jeremiah junior, on 1 July 1856. Jeremiah jnr later became a blacksmith who worked in Armidale until the 1950s. Family oral history stated that Jeremiah senior also worked as a blacksmith in Armidale.

On 9 August 1867, Anna Giles died in Armidale. Three years later, Jeremiah senior married Margaret Hogan in Armidale. They had at least two children, Edward, born in 1872 and Annie, born in 1877. From 1881 to 1882 Jeremiah was employed at Tenterden Station as a shepherd / labourer and then resided at Strathbogie Station, near Inverell between 1882 and 1897. He died on 28 December 1897 after being admitted to the Armidale Hospital for an operation and is buried in the Catholic section of the Armidale Cemetery.

The majority of the troopers in the Border Police were ex-military convicts. They had been stationed in the British Army throughout the British Empire: England, Canada, The West Indies India and Ireland. In each case the convict had been court marshalled for offences against military law and transported to NSW. The members were well disciplined and proficient in riding and the use of weapons and were used to the routine of camp life. Each member was able to earn his freedom following his service in New England.

William MORAN was born in 1810 in Strabane, Tyrone, Ireland. He joined the Army and served in India in the 41st Regiment of Foot. He was court martialed in Bellary, India on 1 September 1837, for striking a Sergeant. He had a record of insubordination and received punishment of 300 lashes, and military imprisonment on 3 occasions. He was dismissed from the army and sentenced to seven years transportation, arriving in Sydney on the *Caledonia* on 17 December 1838.

He was appointed to the Border Police on 30 September 1839 and served with the force until March 1840. Macdonald stated on 31 January 1840 that his behaviour was 'steady and well conducted'. His duties included patrolling the district with other troopers, collecting licence fees from the squatters and keeping peace between the settlers and the First Nations population. However, in March he was returned to 'Hyde Park Barracks as a consequence of having a second horse die under him on Bush Duty'. He received his ticket of leave in 1843 in Parramatta and his conditional pardon on 14 May 1845.

George MacDonald also employed 4 free non-commissioned officers in the Border Police, who were former members of the British army. They were employed for a fixed period and drew on their military experience. Thomas RYAN served with the Border Police as a non-commissioned officer. He was a career soldier who enlisted in the British Army on 7 June 1823. He was transferred to Sydney and posted to the NSW Mounted Police from 1828 to 1831. He then sailed to Madras, India where he rose to the position of Colour Sergeant. He returned to NSW in March 1833 and in October 1840 he joined the Border Police and served until April 1843. As a former non-commissioned army officer, he would maintain discipline among the convicts and would have been capable of riding long distances in the New England District.

Two Crown Land Commissioners were appointed to the New England District between 1839 and 1854: George MacDonald from 1839 to 1848 and Robert George MASSIE from 1848 to December 1854. From 1848, the need for the Border Police was slowly being questioned. The force had never been popular even among the squatters. However, the squatters resented the need to pay an annual levy to support the force and the collection of fees for their land leases. As the convict troopers received their tickets of leave, they were not replaced and the Commissioners had difficulty recruiting new convict troopers.

The Border Police in New England had proven to be an effective, if unpopular, law enforcement body. However, as the New England District became more settled the need for a frontier police force decreased. The duties of the force changed to mainly apprehending escaped convicts and bushrangers and recording the names of settlers. By 1854 Massie had only four mounted troopers. Most of his work by this stage was involved in maintaining order at the Rocky River goldfields. The duties of the Border Police were taken over, initially by a force of native police and later a civilian police force in each town. The majority of police work was transferred to Lloyd BRADSHAW, the chief constable at Armidale, from 1847.

George MacDonald kept meticulous records, which included his reports on the work and conduct of the members of the Border Police. With additional primary documents we can use MacDonald's reports to trace the history of this force and the biographies of its members. By using convict records, BDM indexes, family histories and numerous other historical records it is possible to trace the story of your convict ancestors. Many of these records have been used in preparing this article.

The reports on the Border Police contain a full list of the members of this force between September 1839 and 1846. The list below shows the known names of those that served in the Border Police.

<b>Surname</b>	<b>First Name</b>		<b>Surname</b>	<b>First Name</b>
Browne	Henry Jackson		Murray	Niah L (Neil)
Carter	Robert		Niblett	Charles
Davis	John		Pitman	William
Evans	Peter		Ront	James
Fleming	Joseph		Rutherford	George
Giles	Jeremiah		Ryan	Thomas
Hewitt	Charles		Skipton	George
Macdonald	M or Job		Taylor	William
Matthewson	Isaac		Todd	David
Mckenna	Bernard		Trim	John
Mitcham	Edward		Wild	John
Moore	William		Wilson	Archibald
Moran	William			



## President's Report

*Wayne Hoppe*

It is the end of the financial year once again and time for the renewal of our membership. I would like to thank all those loyal members who continue to support our group through their membership. We understand that the economic times are difficult and that is why we have kept the membership fees at the same level they have been for the last 7 years.

For your membership you are able to access our very well resourced research centre and library and borrow any of our 4,500 books. We also recognise that many members are not local and we are happy to try and assist you in your research in any way that we can.

We are always looking to keep our journal relevant to our members. If you have any subject that you would like us to cover in the journal please let us know. You are also welcome to send in your own stories for the journal and I thank those that have provided articles for this journal and the many previous ones.

We are continuing with our research on convicts of the New England area and are building a great database of these early pioneers and their contributions and we are uncovering some fascinating stories about these pioneers.

We are also continuing to build a history of the people buried in the first Armidale Burial Ground, which was in operation from the early 1840's through to about 1862.

If you have ancestors buried in the first burial ground, or who were convicts and settled in the New England area, we would love to hear from you, so that their stories can be included in our upcoming publications.

Wayne Hoppe, President

## Victory in the Pacific 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

*Wayne Hoppe*



*Photo Courtesy Sydney Morning Herald*

There will be a huge focus in Australia over the next few months we celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Victoria in the Pacific on the 14 August 1945.

The Armidale and District Historical Society are in the process of obtaining information on those that served in WW2 and were from the Armidale area. If you have information, stories or photos about members of your family who served we would love to hear from you. With your permission we can then share

their stories and at the same time build upon our family history resources.

# Sailing to Australia in the 20<sup>th</sup> century

*Jane Driessen*

Back in February Wayne Hoppe gave a talk on travelling to Australia by ship which revealed the experiences of immigrants from First Fleet through to late 1800's. These journeys were accompanied by feelings of sadness, excitement, fear and hope.

Listening to his talk it occurred to me that some things have not changed for migrants sailing out to Australia from 1850s compared to 1950s. My mother's sister, Caroline, at the age of 29, sailed on the "MV Australia" out to Australia in 1953 and she kept a diary of the voyage which is now in my possession. This was written in Dutch and has been translated into English for me. So, to make a comparison of sailing out in 1850s to sailing out in the 1950s I thought I would write this article.

## PASSENGERS

1850s: This period saw the era of the goldrush. People were coming to Australia buy choice; many came from England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, America, China and Germany. Passenger numbers were around 250-400 depending on the size of the ship.

1950S: The "MV Australia" carried 671 passengers with some destined for Fremantle and others for Melbourne or Sydney. Nationalities included American, Austrian, British, Bulgarian, Dutch, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Israeli, Lebanese, New Zealander, Swiss, Turkish, Yugoslav with the majority being Italian.

## ACCOMMODATION

1880s: The introduction of iron-hulled steam ships in the 1850s enabled steam ships to be larger & stronger which meant more space below the decks. By the 1880s grand saloons were able to be provided for first class passengers and small cabins instead of sleeping berths were provided in steerage class. (Photo: [ssmaritime.com](http://ssmaritime.com))

1950s: "MV Australia" catered for 1st, 2nd & 3rd class. My aunt travelled 2nd Class in a 4-berth cabin which had 2 lots of bunk beds, a basin, a writing desk, toilet and shower cabin and each passenger had a separate wardrobe. My aunt wrote "I could not believe my eyes. A beautiful room, as if you entered a hotel. Everything is beautiful. It's hard to believe that it is real."



## HOW LONG WAS THE TRIP

1850s: At this time ships sailed the 'clipper route' which took them down the east Atlantic Ocean along the western side of Africa, round Cape of Good Hope to then catch the 'Roaring Forties' across to Australia. A fast time for that passage would be around 100 days.

1950s: My aunt lived in The Netherlands and had to make her way, by train, to Genoa, Italy to sailed on the "MV Australia". The itinerary of the voyage was Genoa, Naples, Messina,

Port Said, Suez, Aden, Colombo, Fremantle, Melbourne, and Sydney which ended up being a total of 32 days. The average time was 28-29 days.

#### SAFETY DRILL

1850S: A disaster at sea or shipwreck on the coast left little hope for rescue – few sailors or passengers could swim, and there were rarely enough lifeboats for the numbers on board.

1950s: It was one week into her voyage before Caroline had to partake in the safety drill. “At 10am we hear the alarm go off. This is the same on every trip; they are drills in case something would happen. This is the regulation. Each room has as many lifejackets as there are beds. You have to put them on and go on deck and they check that no one is left behind in the cabin because everyone, even staff, have to be in their place. Normally you get assigned a number to indicate in which lifeboat you have to go to in case of an emergency. Let’s hope that we won’t need it.”

#### JOBS ON THE SHIPS

1850s: Steerage passengers would have to clean their own berths, as well as, being divided into separate ‘messes’ to cook their own food.

1950s: Sailing life was more pleasurable. Cabin stewards tidied the cabins and clean sheets and towels were provided twice per week. Caroline noted “You don’t have to do anything in the room or your bed, what more do you want.” Passengers washed their personal clothing items and irons were available for use.

#### FOOD

1850s: The ‘captain’ of each mess collected provisions on behalf of his mess. Meals were taken in two shifts, 1 hour apart, which meant that people had to be punctual. Food was very basic and was rationed out to passengers. Standard fare was salt beef, salt pork, salt fish, flour, raisins, lentils, beans, peas, rice, potatoes, butter, tea, coffee, as well as, claret, sherry, gin and beer.

1950s: Obviously, meals were provided in the dining rooms sometimes in shifts – breakfast 7am & 8am, lunch at 12pm & 1pm, dinner at 7pm. Being an Italian owned ship, it is interesting to see what meals were served. Caroline wrote “The food here is very very nice. You get used to the Italian specialties soon, except for the coffee. Our mum makes better coffee. For the first time this afternoon we had spaghetti, and I liked it.”

Other meals were described as follows “At 1pm the gong rings for lunch and consists of a slice of roast beef, fried potatoes, raw sliced vegetables with ham and onions, macaroni and meat, fresh cakes, fruit and coffee. At 4pm tea with lemon (very nice) and biscuits and slices of bread with jam. At 7pm the gong for dinner. A little vase with carnations on each table and a menu for every day. Dinner today was soup with macaroni, mashed potatoes, salad, fried chicken, fruit, ice cream, coffee and a piece of cheese. With every lunch and dinner, you get wine and 2 bread rolls, particularly dry bread is good to prevent sea sickness. Every time we get new serviettes with the name and logo of the company.”

#### WEATHER



1850s: Ships chasing the 'Roaring Forties', which blew from the west to the east, had to contend with drifting icebergs and wild seas generated by frequent storms.

1950s: Ships still had to contend with storms. On this journey the "MV Australia", after leaving Fremantle on its way to Melbourne, sailed into a wind force 11 violent storm. At the height of the storm Caroline recorded in her diary "The sea voyage during the night was terrible; nothing stayed in its place. The suitcases and shoes under the bed skidded and slipped about in the cabin all night and even the chairs had to be tied up. Everyone longs for the morning to arrive as it is less scary during the day".

#### SEA SICKNESS

1850s: Due to the route taken, ships often experienced rough weather which led to many passengers and crew suffering seasickness. It also meant that passengers were confined below decks for days being sick and tossed around in complete darkness, and fearing for their lives. Unfortunately, the ship's doctor could not do much to prevent or help ease the seasickness.

1950s: In this day and age, tablets were available to help prevent seasickness. Fourteenth day into the voyage, on the stretch from Colombo to Fremantle, is when everyone seems to start feeling seasick. Caroline wrote "I am getting up quickly because I am not feeling well either. I have taken my first tablet, and I want to fight it as much as I can." The next day she commented "... as soon as we finish dinner, I run to my cabin which is luckily close to the dining room and I throw up in the basin until my stomach is empty. I take another tablet and a dry bread roll. It's better than having an empty stomach."

#### THE SABBATH

1850s: This was celebrated just the same as if at home. It seemed an important event because many wrote about it in their diaries.

1950s: No different for my aunt. Sailing on an Italian ship and being catholic herself, she went to mass every Sunday with her German friend. "First thing in the morning there is a mass at 9am. I think there's two but I am going at 9. It's obvious how pious the Italians are. We have an Italian priest and he preaches in Italian!"

#### "FUN" ON BOARD

1850s: With the combination of single men and single women together on board a ship for 3 months, there was bound to be some misconduct and fraternization. One diary had "especially the young women who are the most unruly party in the whole ship".

1950s: I think my aunt was one of these "most unruly" women. Caroline recounted "Gertruud and I were flirting with two officers ..... one of the gentlemen approaches me, talking in Italian but I say "no capito" and asked if he speaks English. Then he starts in English. I am being invited to join him in the bar because it's too cold on deck he says. But I reply that I just had something to drink. Then we agree to meet on the 1st class deck the next morning ... We are killing ourselves laughing. I couldn't care less about these "stars"; they are the ones that fool around with other women."

## SEEING OTHER SHIPS

1850s: This caused great excitement for everyone. The ship would hoist its colours, and the other ship would answer back. If they were passing another emigrant ship, cheers would burst from each vessel.

1950s: The same event occurred on my aunt's voyage. "When we sit in the dining room at night, they announce through the loudspeakers that we will pass the "Oceania" in 10 minutes. This is the same ship as the "Australia" from the same shipping company, Lloyd Triestino. We go outside and, in the distance, we see it approach with all her lights. Our ships greet each other with light signals."

## OTHER SIGHTS

1850s: Sightseeing on these voyages mainly comprised of what you could see from the ship as there were no on-land sightseeing tours. Special 'sights to behold' for passengers were whales, porpoises, the occasional shark being caught and eaten, glorious sunsets and sunrises, bright moonlit evenings and passing tropical island in the distance.

1950s: Port stopovers were a practical necessity for passenger liners, to restock with fuel, fresh food and water, as well as to load and unload passengers. They were also an attraction for migrants, many of whom had never previously travelled outside their home country. The stop-over ports were adventures, offering opportunities to meet the locals, bargain for souvenirs, and sample a heady mix of sights, sounds and smells. Caroline toured Naples, Messina, Port Said and Colombo.

## REACHING AUSTRALIA

1850s: "Land O at last Australia in sight. O how it cheers every heart and brightens every eye." This would have been a common feeling on every emigrant ship, especially after 3 months at sea.

1950s: No difference in 1953 for migrants who left their war-torn countries to arrive in their new homeland seeking opportunity and freedom. Caroline wrote of the "beautiful view of the harbour and the houses which lay against the hills" and commented "looks like Sydney is a beautiful city". Upon disembarking Caroline got to meet up with her sister (my mother) whom she hadn't seen for 2 years "the reunion was indescribable".

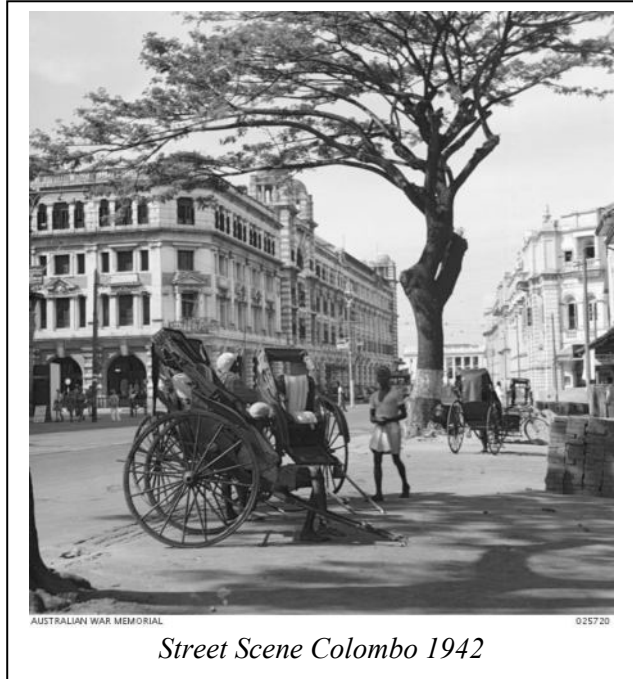
## **Jean McLeod Johnstone - VAD**

*Letters from 2 Australian General Hospital, Ceylon during WWII - Helen Dennis*

Jean McLeod JOHNSTONE was born on 8 March 1905 at 'Terrible Vale' Kentucky to William Herbert Johnstone and Janet Margaretta (nee TAYLOR). During World War II, Jean was a member of the Armidale branch of the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD), a group of mostly women trained by the Red Cross to assist in wartime convalescent hospitals. There were two groups of VAs – 'active' and 'reserve'. The active list consisted of women who were unmarried, between the ages of twenty-one and forty, in good health and willing to serve in military hospitals – either in Australia or overseas. As a member of the 'active' group, 36-year-old Jean was called up for full-time service in September 1941.

Jean travelled to Sydney and joined the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) as a Voluntary Aid with the 12th Australian General Hospital (AGH). She landed in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) at the end of October 1941, where she served in Colombo as a Dental Clerk until she returned, with her unit, to Australia twelve months later.

Upon leaving Armidale in 1941, Jean left behind a successful career as the owner of 'Lucille' (a flourishing Beardy Street 'frock shop'), and a band of close female friends. One of those friends was my grandmother, Evelyn JENKINS.



*Street Scene Colombo 1942*

Eve lived with her husband Richard and five-year-old daughter Mary on a rural property named 'Glenbrook', about 20 miles out of Armidale. In addition to Mary, the Jenkins had three older children. Penelope – aged nineteen - was preparing to move to Sydney to train as a nurse; and the two teenage Jenkins boys, Tony and Victor - although only seventeen and sixteen - were about to be seduced into the Army.

Recently - tucked away in an old tin chest at the back of my brother's storage shed - I came across a bundle of letters and cards that Jean had written to Eve during her time in the AIF. As a VA, Jean's (official) duty was to support the soldiers and staff at the military hospitals she worked in. However, her letters demonstrate the tangible (unofficial) link she offered her female friends to their fighting menfolk. Jean regularly updated Eve about Armidale soldiers and personnel who passed through the military hospitals she worked in. In return, Eve supplied Jean with gossip from home and acted as a sounding board for Jean's anxieties about her brother Tom who was fighting - and ultimately imprisoned - in Malaya.

The following excerpts from Jean's letters to Eve provide an insight into Jean's experiences of World War II, and demonstrate the unique support and special connection many women shared during the war.

30th December 1941  
Colombo, Ceylon

*Dear Eve,*

*I was delighted with the very nice calendar and note book [you sent me]. You have no idea how much I find to write in it already.*

*We have patients here now so have commenced to be busy. We are all glad about this for we came here to work.*

*So much has happened since I left Armidale and really it's only about 5 months. Sometimes I have a frightful yearning for Lucille. No one will know what a wrench it all was for me.*

*I have been most fortunate in my roommate, a Victorian girl so very nice and we have lots of ideas in common and have been out quite a lot together.*

*We had a very good Christmas. The entire unit had Christmas dinner together - nearly 200 of us - on the verandah of one of the wards and it was a very jolly dinner. At night we went to another Christmas dinner & carnival in town given by some residents of Colombo. Everyone here is so very good to us and generous with invitations. The Australians & N.Z.'s entertained us at a large club here, about a fortnight after we arrived, and since then I have met lots of very nice people.*

*I went to Kandy for a weekend. Stayed about twenty seven miles out on a tea plantation. We had a charming host. It was so marvellous to be in a private home. He thought of everything - apples, chocolates and wines - and gave us a dinner party at the Kandy Club.*

*I often go to the Galle Face Hotel for dinner & dance on Saturday nights. There seem to be plenty of men, especially naval ones. Ships are always in and out. Also have met many Airforce men, mostly English and Scotch. They are very bright and love dancing. I have never danced so much in my life and love it all in spite of nearly always being in a state of drip.*

*Very often go for a surf or swim at the swimming club or at Mount Lavinia on Sunday afternoons but have not managed to get very brown except my arms & face. So far I have not minded the weather at all. Some mornings it is nearly as fresh as home. In fact up at Kandy we had a fire at night and one blanket on, but then it is 3600 feet above sea level.*

*I had a letter from Tom about three weeks ago. The news from that direction is most disturbing. I dare not let myself think too much about it. Mother says how down to everything Coo is and I am afraid the little boys worry Mother for they are so noisy & wild.*

*I am wondering how you are all managing. Has Penelope gone to P.A. yet? I am sure she will love it. There are quite a number of nurses from P.A. here.*

*I am hungry for some Armidale gossip. How about Nan Walker & Kingsley?*

*I must tell you how marvellous the Red Cross have been to us since we came here, so your labours are appreciated.*

*With much love & remember me to everyone.*

*Yours affect. Jean*

Jean disembarked in Sydney in early January 1943 and after a few weeks' leave was posted with the 12th AGH to Warwick in Queensland, where she relinquished her position as a dental clerk and began working in occupational therapy. She was promoted to Corporal in August 1943. In September that year, the *Armidale Express* reported that Tom's wife Coo had received a card from her imprisoned husband stating that he was well and unwounded.

On 1 October 1943, Eve's eldest son Tony suffered a gunshot wound while fighting in New Guinea. He was evacuated by air to Townsville, and sent south by a series of troop trains. He was admitted to Jean's hospital at Warwick on 20th November, seven weeks after he'd been shot. Understandably, Eve was anxious for news. Jean wrote to Eve at the end of November and reassured her that Tony 'looked a little pale' but was otherwise 'pretty well'.

In September 1944, Jean was transferred to the 112 Military Hospital at Brisbane. She was made Sergeant in September 1945 and discharged from the Army at the conclusion of the war, on 8 February 1946. She didn't ever marry but her nephew recalls that Jean kept a framed photograph of a dashing young soldier beside her bed. She died in 2000 - one day shy of her 95th birthday - and is buried at 'Terrible Vale'.

Note: Helen has provided more transcriptions that have not been included in this article due to space constraints. Please contact us if you would like more information. Helen is also looking for a photo of Jean. If anyone has a photo she would love to obtain a copy.

***If you have relatives that served in World War 2 we would love to hear from you. The Armidale & District Historical Society is starting a project to record servicemen and women from WW2, that had a relationship to Armidale. Please contact us and we will assist with collection of the information.***

## Can You Help Identify This Photo

*Research request*

We have had a research request asking us to assist identifying the people in this photo. The photo is likely of the BLACK family. The elderly couple are believed to be Michael Black and Isabella Doherty, along with their family and the photo is thought to be dated around 1950. If you are able to assist in naming the people in the photo please contact us.





## Interesting Websites - Photos

Wayne Hoppe

Don't forget our website [www.armidalefamilyhistorygroup.com](http://www.armidalefamilyhistorygroup.com)

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The National Archives of Australia have a photo search option. As well as showing numerous war service photos it also includes photos of buildings and other people. You can search by keywords. When we searched 'Armidale' we came up with 656 entries, including numerous buildings and many servicemen and women who were born or enlisted at Armidale. You can also limit the search by the date range in which the photo was taken.

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/SearchScreens/PhotoSearch.aspx>

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Google Image Search. This is a massive database and searches a large number of websites and Facebook pages. It can be difficult to wade through all the photos, so you might need to be more specific with your search terms. Using inverted commas (" ") around your term will reduce the number of results.

<https://images.google.com/>

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Trove Images, Maps and Artefacts. – Many of us use the newspaper search in Trove, but there is also a very large image collection that can be easily searched.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/search/advanced/category/images>

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UNE Heritage Centre and Regional Archives. – The UNE Heritage Centre has a large number of historical photos that have been digitised, and are usually of high quality.

Their focus is on the Armidale and broader New England area, and they have some amazing images. There are photos of people, although this is not the main focus of their collection. It is well worthwhile reaching out to them, especially if you are looking for photos of buildings or properties. They can be contacted by email on at [heritage@une.edu.au](mailto:heritage@une.edu.au)

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Local Family and Historical Societies. – the AFHG has a number of photos in our collection, which we have now indexed and included in *Di's Index* at our Centre. While not as extensive as the above websites it concentrates on local families.

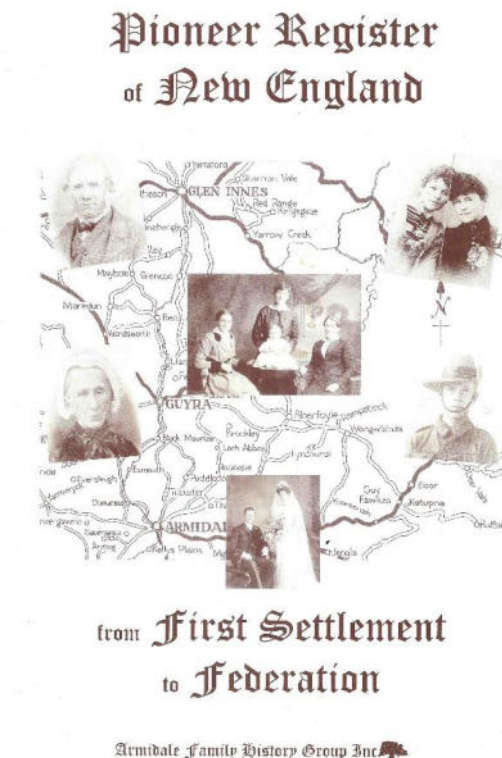
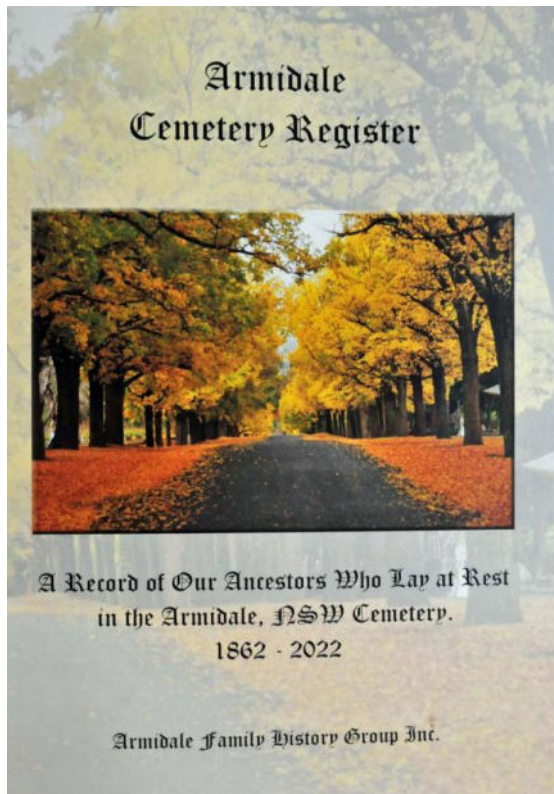
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Probably the most important resource are individuals. Check with extended family, other researchers and neighbours. There are so many photos out there and you never know what you might find through asking the question, "Do you have any photos of xxxxx?"

## 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