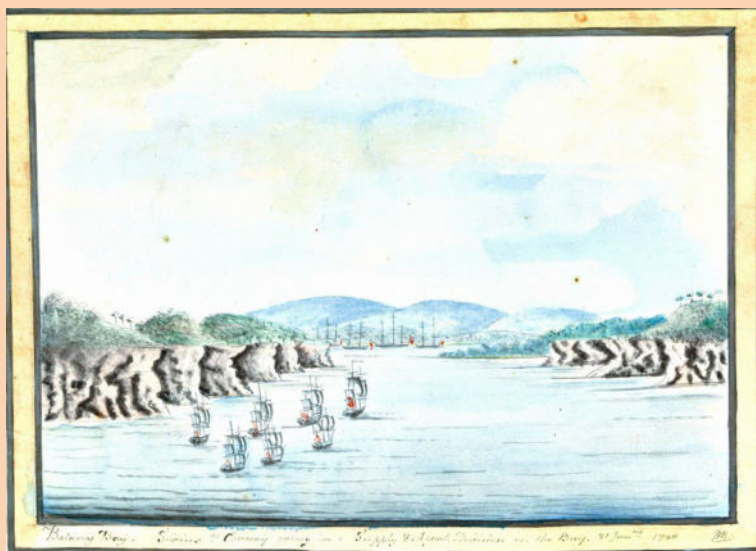# The Cedar Log

Issue No 164 – **March 2025**

Richmond-Tweed Family History Society Inc.

Ballina NSW Australia

"*Botany Bay. Sirius & Convoy going in: Supply & Agents Division in the Bay. 21 January 1788. WB".* This is written under the sketch, which is by William **Bradley** (1757-1833). Courtesy – The State Library of New South Wales. It is one of 29 drawings from his journal "*A Voyage to New South Wales*".

HMS *Supply*, with Captain Arthur **Phillip** on board, arrived on 18 January 1788, and the 3 transport/supply ships ("Agents Division") arrived a day later. These are the 4 ships shown inside Botany Bay. The remaining 7 ships arrived within a day and are seen approaching the entrance to Botany Bay. See page 4 for more details.

We acknowledge the Bundjalung people as the Traditional Custodians of the land and rivers where this journal is produced. We pay respect to their elders past and present and honour their culture, history and tradition of storytelling.

Richmond-Tweed Family History Society Inc.

(Incorporated in New South Wales)

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Editorial - By Carmel Crosby

This issue developed into a theme of the **First Fleet** and **convicts** with several articles transcribed from members presentations at our meeting in November 2024 on "**They Came in Chains**". Extra information has been provided about the First Fleet and its entrance into Botany Bay, including the painting on the cover and journals about the voyage. There are obviously no written accounts from the local Aboriginal people at the time, but no doubt they were surprised and confused at what they witnessed on that day in 1788. Thanks to Victoria **Evans**, Ross **Glover** and Jill **McCann** for their articles on convicts

Thanks also goes to Janine **Thomson**, our research officer, who provided the interesting obituary from 1936 of Mrs Susanah **Reddacliff** of Mullumbimby. I have added something of my own ancestry, which I found in the same newspaper the obituary was printed in. Amazing what great information newspapers can provide us about the past.

In early March, I received an email from Joy **Shepherd**, President of the *Colo Shire Family History Group Inc,* saying how much she liked **our March journal** and especially the articles about women. She remarked how important it is to write the stories of our recent ancestors before they are forgotten, as present and future generations will not have access to newspaper reports on Trove, as the number of newspapers being published is declining.

On Saturday 26 April we had a very successful **fundraising BBQ at Bunnings**, Ballina making a profit of $2,081. Thanks to those who helped, including Trevor and Ann Emery, who purchased all the food and drink and worked most of the day, Jan Aitkin, Tanya Binning, Joy Conlon, Victoria Evans, Rhonda Hall, Jan Ousby and left to right in the photo – Margaret Evans, Terry Doherty, Ross Glover, Rachel Wright, Joy Morhaus and Carmel Crosby. We will be having another BBQ on 14 June, so please volunteer to help if you are able or come along and visit us on the day.

William Bradley's journal "*A Voyage to New South Wales*" Covering the period from December 1786 to May1792

William Bradley's journal[1], (**Pictured above** - courtesy of the State Library of NSW) commences in September 1786 with the opening statement (note: capitals were common usage for most nouns at the time):–'

According to previous advertisements, Tenders were received for Transports to carry Convicts to Botany Bay on the Coast of New South Wales…'Read a full transcription of the journal here:

https://acms.sl.nsw.gov.au/_transcript/2015/D02131/a138.html

William **Bradley** served in the Royal Navy for 42 years. He sailed with the First Fleet in May 1787 following his appointment to First Lieutenant on board HMS Sirius in October 1786. Bradley's journal records his impressions of the colony and reflects his particular interest in Aboriginal people and natural history. After arriving at Port Jackson on 26 January 1788, he was immediately deployed to assist John Hunter on a series of surveys of Sydney Harbour. Bradleys Point on the northern harbour shore was named for him[2]

There are many interesting journals and diaries, available to read, based on the First Fleet coming to Australia and the early years of the colony. Information can be found on the websites of the State Library of NSW, Project Gutenberg Australia and Wikipedia. [3, 4, 5]

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2. https://archival.sl.nsw.gov.au/Details/archive/110314966
3. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Journals_of_the_First_Fleet
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Introduction to the Topic
"They Came in Chains"

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By Ross Glover – Member 1046

Before we read the personal stories of some of those who came here in chains, I will give a quick history refresh, and summarise why they were sent here, as a policy of the British Government.

These days we are accustomed to thinking of imprisonment as the obvious form of punishment for convicted criminals. However, this has not always been the case.

In the past in Britain, imprisonment was only one of a range of sentences that judges could inflict, and, with no national prison system and few purpose-built prisons, to imprison the convicted person was often not their first choice. Instead, most criminal offences were punishable by death, public humiliation in the form of branding, whipping, hair cutting, the stocks or the pillory, or the imposition of a fine. Many crimes that today would be considered minor offences were punishable by hanging, and there were 225 identified capital offences at the time. Most of these were not crimes against people but crimes against property.

The industrial revolution, which was in full flood between 1760 and 1840, while benefitting the British economy, caused great social change and stress for British people. As machines began doing the work that was traditionally done by people working from home, extreme poverty became a fact of life for many. In order to survive, desperate people resorted to crimes, such as theft, robbery and forgery. If caught and convicted, they faced this harsh and complicated criminal code.
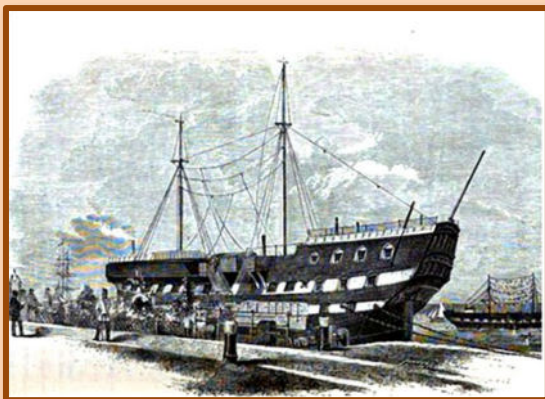
The Beginning of Transportation and the Use of 'Hulks'

British authorities began using transportation of criminals to overseas locations as a form of punishment in the early 17th century, particularly to provide labour in the American colonies. When in the 18th century, the death penalty came to be regarded as too severe a punishment for offences such as theft and larceny, transportation to North America became an even more popular form of sentence. Not only did this punish the offender but it got them out of the country altogether.

The American War of Independence (1775–1783) put an end to this human export. Convicts previously sentenced to transportation were sent to hulks instead. These were old or unseaworthy but floatable ships, generally ex-naval vessels, moored in rivers and harbours

close enough to land for the inmates to be taken ashore to work. Although originally introduced as a temporary measure the hulks quickly became a cost-efficient, essential and integral part of the British prison system.

Once tried and sentenced, convicts were sent to a receiving hulk for four to six days, where they were washed, inspected and issued with clothing, blankets, mess mugs and plates. They were then sent to a convict hulk, assigned to a mess and allocated to a work gang. They spent 10 to 12 hours a day working on river cleaning projects, stone collecting,

"The 'Warrior' hulk with the 'Sulphur' washing-ship in the distance", from Henry Mayhew and John Binny. The Criminal Prisons of London, and Scenes of Prison Life, Volume 3 of The Great Metropolis (1862), p. 256. From Wikimedia Commons.

timber cutting, embankment and dockyard work, while they waited for a convict transport to become available. In some cases, convicts sentenced to transportation spent their entire sentence (up to seven years) on board the hulks and were never sent overseas.

The hulks were over-crowded and cramped. Often there wasn't even room to stand up! They were basically a slowly rotting wooden ship. The rations provided were inadequate, in that they did not provide the convicts with the energy or nutrition required to perform arduous work. This was done on purpose – the parliamentary act authorising the use of hulks stipulated that convicts were to be fed little other than bread, "any coarse or inferior food", water and small beer (beer with a low alcohol content). Every convict would have spent time in the terrible conditions aboard a hulk.

One thing I learnt while preparing this introduction was that the notion of using hulks as floating prisons was exported along with the convicts. I always thought they were just along England's south coast, where it was easy to load the convicts into transport ships and send them off to the rest of the world. However, convict hulks were established at many British colonies including Gibraltar, Bermuda, New South Wales, Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) and Victoria. There were also two prison hulks in Ireland – the *Essex* and the *Surprise*!

The hulks in Australia had two main uses. They provided prison accommodation when existing colonial gaols were unsuitable or already full. They also served as floating holding pens accommodating prisoners convicted of secondary offences, while they awaited ships to transfer them to dreaded places like Norfolk Island or Port Arthur in Van Diemen's Land.
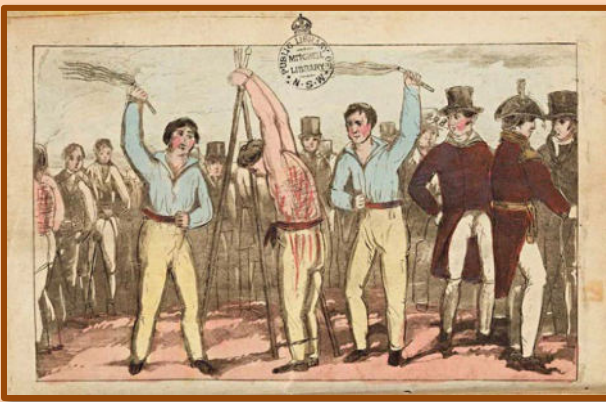
Transportation to Australia

So, in 1783, America became independent. The British government couldn't send their convicts to the Americas and they had to look elsewhere. In 1786, the British Parliament passed an act to begin transporting them to Australia instead. On 13 May 1787, the first convicts left Portsmouth, England, for Botany Bay, New South Wales. They arrived there on 18 January 1788, but moved onto Port Jackson on 26 January 1788, as it was a better harbour.

The majority of those transported to Australia were convicted of petty crimes, particularly theft. Thieves comprised 80% of all transportees. More serious crimes such as murder, became transportable offences in the 1830s, but since they were also punishable by death, comparatively few convicts were transported for such crimes.

Convicts were mainly from England and Wales, with a large contingent of Irish (24 per cent) and a much smaller number of Scots (five per cent). Approximately 1 in 5 convicts were women, while political prisoners were another minority group. In fact, it was a group of Irish political prisoners, along with others, who staged in 1804 Australia's first uprising at what is now Castle Hill.

And did you know that up to 500 African slaves, men and women, were also transported, mainly to Van Dieman's Land? 12 were on the First Fleet!

Flogging a Convict at Moreton Bay, 1836. Artist unknown. Courtesy the State Library of NSW

Convict Life in Australia

Convicts were sent to Australia to work. Their sentences stipulated they would work from sunrise to sunset, Monday to Saturday. This was their punishment, but the colonial administration also viewed it as an opportunity for redemption, as Governor Phillip believed that 'honest sweat' was the convict's best chance of improvement.

Convicts lived under very strict rules and any breaking of those regulations could result in punishment, such as flogging, the wearing of leg-irons or solitary confinement. Serious crimes could result in sentences to hard-labour prisons, such as Port Arthur or Norfolk Island.

By the mid-1830s, however, only 6% of convicts were actually locked up. The vast majority worked for the government or free settlers and, with good behaviour, could earn a ticket of

leave, conditional pardon or even an absolute pardon. While under such orders, convicts could earn their own living.

Once emancipated, i.e. freed, most ex-convicts stayed in Australia and joined the free settlers, often because they could not afford the passage home, with some rising to prominent positions in Australian society.

Mary Reibey née Haydock (1777 – 1855) was born in England and transported to Australia for stealing a horse, when she was 14. She became a successful businesswoman and was awarded a place on the Australian $20 note. Courtesy: Wikiwand.com

The End of Transportation of Convicts

By the 1830s, many people in Australia wanted transportation of convicts to end. Some believed it was wrong to transport people across the world and force them to work, especially when many had committed such minor crimes. Others felt that convicts could be dangerous and were giving Australia a bad reputation as a place full of criminals.

In 1837, the British Government set up an inquiry into penal transportation, which found that transportation should be abolished. Transportation to New South Wales ended in 1840 and transportation to Van Diemen's Land ended in 1853. Convicts were still being sent to the Swan River colony, now Perth. On 9 February 1868, the last 269 convicts sent to Australia arrived at the port of Fremantle, Western Australia, near Perth.

All in all, between 1788 and 1868, **more than 162,000** people were transported to Australia.

In 2007, it was estimated that approximately four million Australians were related to convicts, who were deported from the British Isles to Australia.

In the following pages, the stories of some of those 162,000 people who came in chains, are presented.

References:
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They Came in Chains
Rosetta Johnston

By Jill McCann - Member 1010

I began my family history research about 40 years ago and for almost that long I've been looking for a convict ancestor – with no success.

My husband, Paul **McCann**, on the other hand, boasts a long line of convict ancestors – mostly thieves and robbers - including his 4th great-grandparents, Peter McCann and Mary **Fitzgerald**, who came separately in 1800 and 1802. Their son Nicholas, born in the colony, married Catherine Johnston who had come here as a 6-year-old with her mother Rosetta **Johnston**, another convict who is the subject of my talk today.

Rosetta, known as Rose, was born in Louth County, Ireland, in about 1780-something. It's difficult to pin down her birthdate as her age appears differently in almost all the documentation of her life.

Her daughter Catherine was born in 1808, either in Ireland or England. There is no record anywhere of her father. By 1814, the two of them were living in Southwark, south of London Bridge, when Rose was charged with stealing 18 yards of sheeting and a shawl, total value 2 pounds 17 shillings.[1]

Rose appeared at Surrey Assizes on 24 March 1814 and was sentenced with 9 others to "be transported beyond the seas for seven years".

The convict ship Northampton was a ship of 548 tons built on the Thames in 1801. After 7 voyages for the East India Company, she made only one voyage to New South Wales as a convict ship. Under the command of Captain John **Tween**, she sailed from Portsmouth on 30 November 1814. There were 110 women convicts (4 died in transit) plus 35 free women and 40 children on board.

The war between France and America was still going on and Jackson's Oxford Journal reported on 18 February that the Northampton had been "captured off Madeira by an *American ship but afterwards liberated, the enemy not liking the cargo, and suffered her to proceed on her voyag*e".

The ship's surgeon was Dr Joseph **Arnold** who kept a journal during the voyage, a transcript of which is available at the State Library of New South Wales.

He recorded that a *"total of ten women and children died on the passage out, four of whom were convicts - Ann **Turner** who fell overboard (in a fit of jealousy according to the surgeon) and drowned at Rio; Eliz. **Cowan** who also died at Rio and was described by Joseph **Arnold** as a poor wretch who was sent on board with an infamous character, that she feigned epileptic fits and fatuity. Her fatuity however appeared to be real as well as her convulsions. She could not eat the salt provisions she became dropsical and emaciated and at length died of debility; Susan/Ann **Frost** died at sea after leaving Rio - she was of good appearance and strong habit of body however about a fortnight before she was attacked by a complaint with some symptoms of cholera and great pain in the stomach which swelled. Dr. Arnold treated her as best he could however she died on 22nd March; Sarah **Shurwell** died a fortnight before arrival. She was about 50 years of age -this old woman came on board in a bad state of health being of a broken constitution on our way to Rio suffered much with a dropsical complaint which disappeared to be replaced with a chronic case of dysentery which proved fatal. She had two fine daughters on board, one of whom was in keeping of Mr. **Weir** the ship's surgeon."*

Dr Arnold also wrote to Governor **Macquarie** on his arrival - his letter said in part, "I have the honour to report to Your Excellency that Ann Williams, Ann **Watling** and Rose **Johnston**, three convicts embarked on this ship, have made themselves useful during the voyage as attendants on the sick and have acquitted themselves to my satisfaction".

The Female Factory at Parramatta, New South Wales. Artist -Augustus Earle, 1826.
http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-134500491. Courtesy - National Library of Australia

Rose and her daughter were sent to the Female Factory at Parramatta on their arrival. We don't know how long Rose stayed there, but we do know that in 1819 she and her husband, John **Beale**, whom she had married in 1818, were successful in having the family reunited.

Rose and John had been married by the Reverend Samuel **Marsden** at St Johns Church of England, Parramatta on 1 June 1818. Rosetta's age was recorded as 31, John's as 32.

John Beale was born in 1786 in Essex, England. He was a Merchant Clerk and literate, but by the time of his trial for burglary in 1812 he had already accumulated two aliases, so perhaps he wasn't quite straight. He was found guilty of burglary, having stolen "with force and arms" two prayer books, value 15 shillings and sixpence, property of James **Gattley** and one prayer book, value 2 shillings and sixpence, property of John Hough **Jackson**.

St John's Church of England, Parramatta

He was sentenced "to be hanged by the neck until he be dead", but this was commuted to transportation for life and he arrived in the colony in June 1813 on the ship Fortune [2].

Initially employed as a stockman, John Beale was appointed in April 1819 as "keeper of His Majesty's Gaol at Parramatta, with a salary of twenty pounds sterling per annum." [2]

Despite this appointment, John Beale did not have a Conditional Pardon or even a Ticket of Leave. Late in 1820, he prepared a Memorial to Governor Macquarie requesting a Conditional Pardon. His sponsors deposed that, "he has conducted himself in so exemplary a manner, and performed the Various Duties of the Police entrusted to him with so much Fidelity and Propriety that we feel ourselves called upon to request in his behalf Your Excellency's most favourable Consideration for the Prayer of this Petitioner" [3]

This was granted on 26 July 1821, but it appears to have been revoked at the time of the Bigge Report as there is another Pardon in 1836.
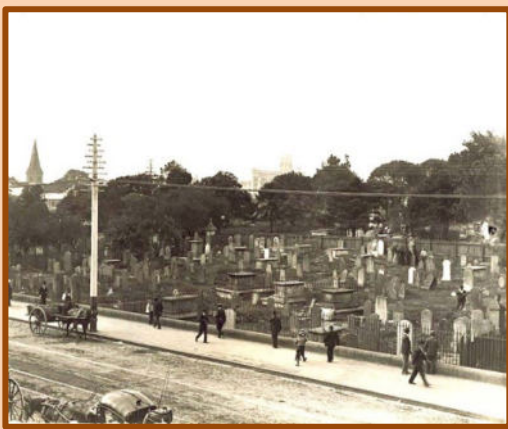
Whatever impact the Bigge Report had on the affairs of the colony, John Beale had a change of occupation in 1822. He was appointed Overseer to a party of convicts clearing land for Mr Crawford at Prospect. At the same time, Rosetta – now a free woman - submitted a petition to the Colonial Secretary seeking a mitigation of her husband's sentence. It was not successful.

In July 1828, Rose went to court in an attempt to have money (£90) owing in wages to her husband John, paid to her. The defendant was John **Raine**, a wealthy landowner. Rose's lawyer argued that she was owed the money as her husband was still a convict and assigned to her. She won the case, and when Raine appealed, she won that too. It was something of a cause célèbre in the colony - here was an ex-convict taking a free settler to court over money due to another convict, her husband.

John and Rose remained in Parramatta for the next 20 years and John held steady positions – from being a gaoler he became overseer of a large property, and a landholder himself.

Unfortunately, in 1843 he filed for bankruptcy – we don't know what happened, but it seems that not long after this the couple moved to Blackwattle Swamp (now Glebe), in Sydney.

Rosetta died there on 13 February 1845. She was buried in the Roman Catholic section of the Sandhills Cemetery, which is now the site of Sydney Central Railway Station.

Sandhills Cemetery, also known as Devonshire Street Cemetery, Sydney, 1902. Courtesy Wikimedia Commons
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/deed.en

The Sandhills Cemetery was closed in 1881 and by 1901 was very neglected. In that year, the land was resumed for the construction of Central Station and the remains it contained were removed and distributed around various cemeteries in Sydney. Rosetta's headstone was in good enough condition to be relocated to what is now Botany Cemetery "Pioneer Memorial Park".

We found the headstone on a visit there in 1993, and although difficult to read, the inscription was quite legible. It reads, "Rosetta Beale, wife of John Beale of Parramatta died 13th Feb 1845, aged 65 years". *

Following the death of his wife, John Beale went to Geelong, where his son-in-law Nicholas McCann lived (his stepdaughter Catherine had died in 1832, and Nicholas married again). He seems to have worked in Nicholas's business as a clerk. John was described on his death as "a fine man". This is borne out by the fact that at least two of Nicholas and Catherine's descendants were called "John Beale McCann".

John Beale died in Geelong on 25 September 1850 and was buried there in the Wesleyan Cemetery.

* Rosetta's age recorded on her tombstone and at St Mary's Cathedral, is at odds with the age stated at the time of her marriage or in the 1828 Census, so we think she was actually 59 at the time of her death.

References: -

England & Wales, Criminal Registers, 1791 – 1892

New South Wales, Australia, Colonial Secretary's Papers, 1788 – 1825

Signed by G A Middleton Officiating Chaplain and H V W Williams and J Harris J. P.

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The following obituary was found by our Research Officer, Janine Thomson.

The Obituary includes several Local Families and describes Life and Travel as it was for the European Settlers in the late 1800s and there is also mention of an infamous Bushranger! It was accessed from Trove and is transcribed from the original which was published in:-

The Tweed Daily on 6 August 1936

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67 Years on Northern Rivers Late Mrs. S. Reddacliff

PIONEERING TRIALS

Mrs. Susanah **Reddacliff** (79), relict of the late Robert Walter Reddacliff, who died two years ago, arrived on the Brunswick in 1882, when the district's resident population was not more than 30 souls and Mullumbimby was non-existent. There was a large gathering, especially of older hands, at her funeral at Mullumbimby yesterday afternoon. \

Born in Sydney and leaving for the Clarence River with her parents when 12, the late Mrs. Reddacliff lived 67 years on the Northern Rivers. Her father was a shoemaker and followed that trade at Brushgrove and Cowper. She married Robert Walter Reddacliff in 1872 and Mr. Reddacliff was a blacksmith at Cowper until 1881, when he selected land on the Brunswick, in the Myocum district to-day. Mrs. Reddacliff and the family returned with him to the Brunswick in 1882.

They came by sailing boat to the Richmond River and some months were spent at Gundarimba. The journey from the Richmond to the Brunswick was made by horse team and dray, with Mr. John **Hickey** as driver. The remainder of the party comprised Mr. and Mrs. Reddacliff and five children, Walter (Mullumbimby), Jim (Wondai, Q'ld), Jack (Wondai), Nell (Mrs. S. H. **Johnson**, Mullumbimby) and Will (Brisbane), ranging in age from 9 years to 9 months.

Roads did not then exist, though there were bullock dray tracks here and there. The party travelled from Ballina to the Three-Mile Scrub along the beach, and then inland to Byron Bay. the detour being necessary owing to the rocky coastline towards Cape Byron. The only

sign of habitation in Byron Bay 54 years ago was a small slab hut on what is now **Brooke's** camping reserve, and here the second night was spent until 2 a.m. Not a soul was met, Cape Byron being then a mass of wilderness where it was not swamp. In fact not a soul was seen on the entire journey between Ballina and the Brunswick.

FIRST MISHAP

It was necessary to travel by night to Brunswick Heads, in order to catch the low tide and thus make the beach route easier for travelling. The first mishap occurred at the Belongil, where the five horses became bogged in quicksands, and it was necessary to unload all the family's goods and chattels, in addition to the human complement of a tired mother and her five young children. During this unloading a large pot of jam, the most treasured item in the household larder, was broken.

Brunswick Heads was reached at daybreak. The village comprised just a handful of cottages, and a small hotel was conducted by Mr. Bob **Marshal**, well-known early Brunswick identity. It stood on portion of the present Ocean View Hotel premises. After breakfast, the household goods were transferred from the dray to two rowing boats, by which the party travelled to Mullumbimby Creek, landing near the site of Mullumbimby bowling green of to-day.

All was thick, virgin scrub. Apart from an odd selector here and there and a few cedar-getters, there was no settlement. Little did the party dream that the next generation would see a thriving town around the very spot on which they stood, and the country a smiling vista of open farmland.

By a bush-track the family walked three miles to the selection and spent the night in a bark hut belonging to the late Thomas **Torrens**, one of the handful of residents. Only two acres had been felled and the new arrivals found themselves hemmed in by a wall of wilderness. The selection comprised 200 acres, but this was added to in the next few years, until Mr. Reddacliff had a total of 600 acres.

Doctors and nurses were a thing of the future, and a few months after arrival Mrs. Reddacliff returned to her people on the Clarence, travelling to Lismore by horseback along the beach route. She was accompanied to the Richmond by Mr. Reddacliff and the late Tom **Doran**, who brought the two young children, Nell and Will. From Woodburn, Mrs. Reddacliff went with the children by coach to the Clarence, where Grace (Mrs. **Walsh**, Main Arm) was born.

CENTRE OF POPULATION

The Reddacliff selection became the centre of the sparse population of the Brunswick and a private post-office was established. Later it was made a receiving office and later raised to

the status of an official post office. After the railway was opened, and Mullumbimby commenced to come into being, the post office was removed there.

One of the most vivid incidents in the late Mrs. Reddacliff's life was nearly 70 years ago at her aunt's place, Shambeen, near Nymboida. where one day a stranger arrived and called for dinner, which he ate heartily and for which he paid. It was learned shortly after that he was the notorious bushranger, **Thunderbolt**. Some rather unnerving experiences also were had with the blacks, who sometimes were hostile on the Clarence.

The late Mrs. Reddacliff was a noted cook and during her recent visit to Mullumbimby for the school jubilee celebrations, Mrs. H. R. **Anstey**, wife of a former headmaster, recalled how popular were Mrs. Reddacliff's hampers at picnics and other outings. In fact, often they comprised a clothes basket, rather than the ordinary hamper-basket.

She also was a great worker for the Red Cross during the War years and was interested in church work until the approach of old age. Both Mr. and Mrs. Reddacliff had much to do with the opening of the first school on the Brunswick at Mullumbimby Grass in 1886. In 1911 and again in 1924 the old couple visited England, returning on each occasion via America.
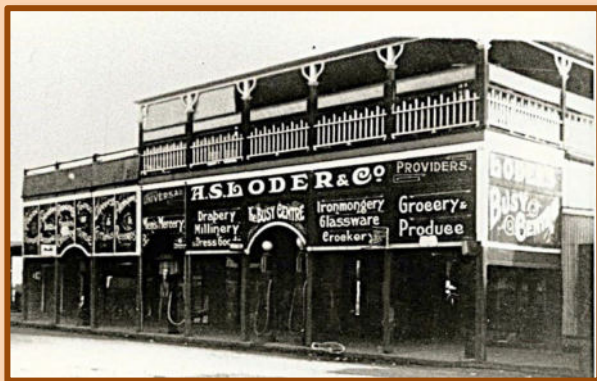
THE FAMILY

The family comprises Walter (Mullumbimby), Jim (Wondai, Qld.), John (Wondai), Nell (Mrs. S. H. **Johnson**, Mullumbimby), Will (Brisbane), Grace (Mrs. Chas. **Walsh**, Main Arm), Ruth (Mrs. Harry **Pillidge**, Wondai), Bessie (Mrs. E. **McKenize**, Sydney), Arthur (Sydney), Tillie (Mrs. Hugh **Norman**, Sydney) and May (Mrs. Herb **Sherar**, Sydney). Fred, Main Arm, died three months ago.

The funeral took place yesterday afternoon, following a short service in St. Martin's Church of England con ducted by the Rev. P. F. **Tilghman**. The long cortege moved to Brunswick Heads cemetery, where the burial took place at the family grave, in which the three pioneer Reddacliff brothers, who came from England together - John, James and Robert — were buried, also the late Mrs. James Reddacliff.

Mr. A. **Beckinsale**, funeral director, had charge of the arrangements.

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A.S. Loder & Co store, Uki, by Carmel Crosby, Editor

Loder's store rebuilt after a fire in 1914. Photo courtesy Tweed Regional Museum

When reading the obituary of Mrs S Reddacliff (which is reprinted on the previous pages) in the online copy on *Trove* of **The Tweed Daily, 6 August 1936,** I saw on page one, where advertisements were often placed in newspapers in those days, an advert for the shop that my grandfather Frank **Beetham** worked in. This store was in Uki, near Murwillumbah, which is in the Tweed River Valley, New South Wales. The shop was owned by his first cousin, Alleyne Shepherd **Loder**.

Many customers had accounts with the store and paid monthly. Often orders were sent in with the morning cream carrier and delivered to the outlying farm later that day or soon afterwards. A version of online shopping from 100 years ago, with prompt service to boot! I know my mother, Kathleen Beetham, worked for some time in the store after she finished school and she may have been there at the time of these advertisements, as she would have been 19 years old in August 1936. I recall she said she sat above the main floor of the store and the docket and money tendered in cash was sent up to her and she sent the change down. This is described in an article in the following link, along with other information about the store. https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/tweed-heads/uki-little-village-with-a-big-store/news-story/45c2efc2ae7513e9c9ff41e5e177ad9c

NB: Uki is taken from "yugoi", meaning "bandicoot" in the Ndunguwal language of the local Aboriginal people.

Graphic on near right: *The Tweed Daily*, **6 August 1936.** Advert for fashionable ladies' dress materials.

Graphic on far right: *The Tweed Daily*, **9 May 1936**. Advert for a range of products sold at the store. The bag of sugar cost almost as much as a felt-lined horse rug. Hopefully, it was a big bag of sugar!

A First Fleet Reunion in Hobart

In October this year, a gathering of descendants of three convicts of the First Fleet will happen in Hobart. The purpose is to celebrate the strength and resilience of our ancestors, their unique history, and to share stories of their lives.

When the First Fleet set sail on 13 May 1787, on board the *Scarborough* were Jacob **Bellett** and Edward **Garth** and, on the *Friendship*, was Susannah **Gough**. All were convicts, found guilty of theft and sentenced to transportation.

After the landing at Sydney Cove in January, 1788, Edward and Susannah were selected to travel to Norfolk Island to establish a colony to grow food and harvest flax. They were the first to step foot on Norfolk Island when Philip Gidley **King** established a settlement there on 6 March 1788. They married and had seven children on the island.

Jacob was sent to Norfolk Island on 4 March 1790 on the *Supply* and married Ann **Harper**, who was transported on the Second Fleet.

When the decision was made to close the settlement on Norfolk Island, the families chose to re-settle in Hobart to start again. The two families moved to Hobart by 1808.

The families must have known each other well on the island as, after their arrival in Hobart, three children from the Garth family married three from the Bellett family – James Garth married Mary Bellett in 1815, Edward Garth married Ann Bellett in 1816, and John Bellett married Susannah Garth in 1822. These marriages created a strong bond between the two families and a unique family history.

Thousands have descended from the Garth and Bellett families and we hope many will attend the week of activities. If you are related and would like more information about the reunion, email hobartoct2025@gmail.com for details or view the website.

Sources:

Mollie Gillen, The Founders of Australia: A Biographical Dictionary of the First Fleet (1989)

People Australia - https://peopleaustralia.anu.edu.au/

Tasmanian Archives

MINI SEMINAR -
NSW Land Records

Presented by
Michelle Hurcum
at
The Players Theatre,
24 Swift St,
Ballina

Saturday 5 July 2025,
1- 4pm

Cost: $5.00 includes afternoon tea

Michelle Hurcum formerly worked at the NSW Dept of Lands and has extensive knowledge of NSW Land Records. If you are interested in locating a parcel of land, that may have belonged to an ancestor, or have an interest in old maps, this presentation is for you. Michelle's workshops are always informative with many useful tips to aid your research.

Please forward any queries to Carmel Crosby, co-ordinator for this seminar, at editorcedarlog@gmail.com

Richmond-Tweed Family History Society Inc. (RTFHS)

2025 Writing Competition

The RTFHS is having a **writing competition** on the theme of **School Days – Stories of our own or our ancestors' days as a pupil or teacher.** So get your thinking caps on and look through your family tree to find an interesting story just waiting to be told.

- The competition is open to society members as well as non-members

- Independent external judges will be used, and the identity of the writers will be unknown to them. Prizes will be awarded: 1st - $100, 2nd - $50 and 3rd - $20. Results will be announced at the annual RTFHS Christmas party on 6 December 2025 and listed in the December issue of our journal, *The Cedar Log*

- The completed work should be between 500 and 1200 words, excluding references and photo captions. References should be stated during or at the end of your story

- Illustrations or photos can be included and are encouraged

- Copyright will remain with the author, but *The Cedar Log* requests first choice to publish any of the entries received

- Your name, email and phone number should be on a separate cover page for your entry

- Entries should be submitted by email to the editor, Carmel Crosby, at editorcedarlog@gmail.com in word or PDF format. She can be contacted with any queries.

Entries close on 30 September 2025, so start typing!

Adding References to Articles for *The Cedar Log*

We would like contributors to add references or sources to their articles, as much as possible. This helps others know where they might look for similar research and it also legitimises the details provided in articles. As some of our articles have previously been given as a talk at the Society's general meeting, perhaps make a note of sources as you are preparing your talk, so they can be added easily to the printed version.

We would prefer if references are **NOT** added as endnotes or footnotes, which is available in Word. It makes the formatting in the production of the journal more difficult. Just add a number in the paragraph in the article (as *superscript* x^2 if you know how to or we can alter it) and add the number and reference manually at the end of the article. Some examples are:

1. NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages. Marriage Registration #1234/1922
2. Sydney Morning Herald 1 July 1895. Accessed on *Trove*
3. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_de_Groot
4. Francis Sheppard, *History of London,* University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles, 1971

If you are unable to be specific, a list of references used, without numbering or reference in your article, can be listed at the end of the article.

We look forward to your articles!

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Resources relating to Convicts in the Marie Hart Library

There are multiple books on a range of topics related to convicts located in the K section in the Marie Hart Library. There are also CDs and microfiche. Put 'convicts' in the searchable catalogue database on the computers in the library to see what is available. The catalogue can be accessed from home on our website in the non-members section. Follow this link https://www.rtfhs.net.au/research-resources/local-resources/catalogue/ click on 'Download Catalogue'. When it is open, click on the 'search' icon at the top to open a search box. Type 'convict' and 64 listings come up.

New South Wales Cemeteries with Online Searchable Indexes

Compiled by Carmel Crosby – Member 762

- Some sites contain photos or details about multiple burials in the same grave

- Some sites have spreadsheets or PDFs to search, but the information is there if you look

- If it is not listed here, Google the 'town or Shire + cemetery' that you are searching for and details should be there

- Contact the cemetery or Shire Council if you need more details

The following local Councils do not appear to have an online database – **Kyogle, Lismore, Richmond Valley (Casino)** and **Tweed.**

Information for **First Nations people** is listed on the **AIATSIS** website. It also has a nationwide list of resources relevant for all family historians - https://aiatsis.gov.au/family-history/family-history-sources/official-records/burial-and-cemetery-records

The **Australian Cemeteries Index** is useful for all over Australia - https://austcemindex.com/?cemid=1118 as is the **Find a Grave** site - https://www.findagrave.com/

Australian Jewish Historical Society – lists burials in 562 cemeteries in Australia and New Zealand https://collections.ajhs.com.au/Search/advanced/burials

Ballina Shire Council has a searchable PDF list of interments in several cemeteries, including **Alstonville, Ballina, Rous, Tintenbar, Wardell** and the **Pioneer Memorial Cemetery**. A map of East Ballina Cemetery is also on the site. https://www.ballina.nsw.gov.au/Community/Parks-and-Reserves/Cemeteries

Broken Hill - https://www.bhcemetery.com.au/

Byron Shire Council includes **Byron Bay, Mullumbimby, Bangalow and Clunes cemeteries** - https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/8d1cf919108c450889d6ecf733d71064

Eastern Suburbs Memorial Park, Matraville, formerly **Botany Cemetery** - https://smcnsw.metropolitanmemorialparks.com.au/eastern/find-a-loved-one

Liverpool, Sydney - https://liverpoolcemetery.com.au/deceased-search/

Northern Cemeteries - (mainly in northern Sydney) includes **Macquarie Park (North Ryde), Frenches Forest Bushland Cemetery (Davidson), Field of Mars (Ryde), Gore**

Hill (St Leonards) and Sandgate (Newcastle). https://nmclm.com.au/find-a-loved-one/?site_id=6037

Orange - https://www.orange.nsw.gov.au/orange-cemetery/

Rookwood, Sydney - https://www.rookwoodcemetery.com.au/deceased-search-engine

Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries, includes **Woronora** –

https://smcnsw.metropolitanmemorialparks.com.au/woronora/find-a-loved-one

Waverley, Eastern Sydney -

https://www.waverley.nsw.gov.au/cemeteries/finding_loved_ones

Wollongong, including **Berkeley Pioneer, Bulli, Helensvale, Scarborough, Settlers and Waterfall cemeteries -** https://wollongongmemorialgardens.com.au/history/search-our-records

PODCASTS

Follow the links or find them where you normally get your podcasts by searching for the title in italics, below

- *Newcastle Family History Society Podcasts* https://nfhs.org.au/podcasts/ - Has a range of podcasts including a 6-episode genealogy course and some pertaining to the Newcastle area, including convict women.
- *Journeys into Genealogy* by Emma Cox, English podcaster, has over 100 episodes on a range of topics mainly related to English-speaking countries. Often has a specialist guest.
- *Port Macquarie and Districts Family history Society Inc* has a range of short podcasts covering many aspects of family history research including BDMs, censuses, wills, recording your data, free and subscription sites on the internet, DNA and much more at https://www.pmdfhs.org.au/podcasts.html

By Victoria Evans – Member 1016

Before beginning my family history journey about 30 years ago, I was completely unaware that I had convict ancestors lurking in my DNA. Indeed, I had no idea that any of my ancestors had made any transgressions at all.

How very little I or my family knew! I think some in my family liked it that way! Being like many earlier generations who didn't air their dirty laundry, this was not a pleasant surprise for my grandmother or other members of the family.

The discovery of my first convict, Owen **McAuley**, who arrived in 1825, came out of my earliest research –that of my maternal grandmother's family. Owen led to my second convict, Mary **Murphy**, who had arrived in 1832, and who became his second wife. My third and fourth convicts, who came through my maternal grandfather's lines, were Thomas **Hall,** who arrived in 1816 and Peter **Barr,** who arrived from Scotland in 1833.

Owen McAuley is my 3x great-grandfather and to this day I have only limited knowledge of him. My research has been made difficult by the fact that Owen's surname has been spelt in a range of ways in the documents relating to him and his footprint is relatively light. **McAuley, McCauley, McCawley, McCanley, Macauly** and **McAnley** are just a few spelling variations. According to the documents relating to him, Owen McAuley, was born around 1800, in Armagh, Ireland.

The *National Archives of Ireland* and the *New South Wales* (*NSW*) *Indents Record*, *1788-1842*, of Bound Indentures, provides some subsequent information on his life. His occupation was that of a reaper. He was married with two children and had a mother dependent on him for support.

Owen was arrested for pickpocketing, but some documents describe his crime as robbery. He was placed on trial on 11 March 1825 along with a co-defendant, 18-year-old, Jane **Hanlow** (**Hanlon**). As part of his defence, on the 19 March 1825, he petitioned the court on his own behalf. He presented a character reference signed by the inhabitants of the City of Armagh. However, Owen was convicted and given a 7-year sentence with transportation. His co-defendant, Jane Hanlow received the same sentence.

One can only imagine the anguish prisoners such as Owen McAuley felt on receiving their transportation sentences, knowing they would be leaving their families and homeland behind for ever. And the anguish of the families left behind who may not have had an opportunity to say goodbye and were then forced to struggle to survive in new circumstances.

This detail from James Black's painting 'Armagh City, 1810' shows the rear of Armagh Gaol in its original state. The courthouse can be seen at the opposite end of the Mall. Reproduced courtesy of Armagh County Museum.

According to the *National Archives of Ireland*, on the 19 March 1825, Owen was initially placed in prison in Armagh, where four or five men were forced to share one small cell. Shortly after, he was transferred to Dublin, along with prisoners, to be incarcerated on the hulk *Essex*, at Kingston Pier. A hulk was a decommissioned and converted warship that was still afloat, but unable to put to sea. Conditions aboard the hulks were unhealthy and unhygienic. Prisoners were generally employed during the day on public or building works.

The hulk *Essex* originally belonged to the United States Navy but was captured by the English in March 1814. The Admiralty had her repaired and reclassed as a 42-gun ship. She served as a troopship in 1819 before being converted to a hulk in 1823. Between 1824 and 1834 it served as a hulk at Kingstown, in Dublin Bay.

The hulks quickly became disease-ridden, and this was the case on the *Essex*. It is not surprising that one third of the prisoners died while on board.

The *Henry Porcher* departed Dublin on 5 August 1825 with 176 male convicts, including my Owen McAuley. The Surgeon, Charles **Carter**, kept a Medical Journal from 22 June to 9 December 1825. It included information on those he treated, which consisted of soldiers as well as prisoners. The only death was that of Thomas **Purcell**, a convict, who died from scurvy.

Prison Hulk 'Essex' at Kingstown Pier. Source unknown

The *Henry Porcher* arrived in Port Jackson on 3 December 1825, after a voyage of 120 days. The prisoners were mustered on board by the Colonial Secretary, Frederick **Goulburn**. The Bound Indents records include the name, age, when and where tried, native place, sentence, calling, physical description, conduct on the voyage and where the convicts were assigned on arrival. Occasional details regarding colonial sentences, deaths and pardons were also recorded. However, there is no information as to the crime they had committed in Ireland.

Sydney Gazette, 5 Dec 1825. 1825 Journey. On Saturday morning (3 Dec) arrived from London and Dublin, the ship Henry Porcher, Captain John **Thompson***, with 175 male prisoners, having lost one man - the rest in good health. She sailed from London the 10th of July, and Dublin the 5th of August. The guard comprises a detachment of the 47th Regiment, under the orders of Captain* **Donaldson***. The Surgeon Superintendent is Dr. CARTER, R. N*

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Several of the convicts on the *Henry Porcher* were highly commended by the Officers on the ship for their behaviour and this included **Owen Macauly.** This may explain the remark about him on NSW Bound Indents Record of "Very well" or perhaps it was about his health.

Tragically the transportation system, was not sympathetic to age. There were some very young prisoners on the *Henry Porcher* with ages of 11, 13, 3x 14, 15 and 3x 16 years. The oldest prisoner on board was 73.

On 9 December 1825, following his arrival at Port Jackson, Owen McCauley, was assigned as a convict servant to Mr S W **Stewart**. [reel 6016; 4/3516 p.114]. Owen is also shown on the NSW **1828 Census** as assigned to William **Innes** of Patterson's Plains, NSW. Owen McAuley received a **Ticket of Leave**, No. 31/406 (Convicts Index 1791-1873, [4/4079; Reel 915]) on 18 July 1831 from the Maitland District.

Certificate of Freedom*

Although I have never discovered any photographs of Owen there is information about his appearance in the records. His **Certificate of Freedom**, that he was granted on 1 June 1832, describes him as being 5 feet 10 inches (178cm) tall, slender, with a sallow complexion, dark brown hair and blue or grey eyes. The Description Book at the time of his admission to Newcastle Gaol (1832-1833) provides some additional information in that he was blind in his left eye. He had a tattoo on his left breast (which I couldn't decipher), but may say a child's name, *Owen McCawley;* there was a Crucifixion on his upper right arm and *IHS 1825* on his upper left arm. (*New South Wales Government Gazette, 13 June 1832 (No.15), page 129*)

CERTIFICATES OF FREEDOM.

THE undermentioned Persons have obtained Certificates of Freedom during the last Week, viz.—

Ditto, Owen M'Cauley

By Command of His Excellency the Governor,

ALEXANDER M'LEAY.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
12th June, 1832.

In 1832, after he had received his **Certificate of Freedom**, Owen applied to the Governor, for permission to marry a convict woman named Mary **Murphy**. There were three or four Mary Murphy's who were transported on the *Southworth* so as far as we can gather, she was the one from County Kilkenny, in Ireland. This Mary, aged 24 years, went to trial in Kilkenny City on the 15 March 1831, accused of stealing a watch. She was convicted and received a sentence of 7 years transportation. Mary Murphy was transported on the Southworth in 1832, which departed from Cork, Ireland.

Owen and Mary were married on 22 April 1833 in the Parish of Maitland. He was 32 years of age and was listed as *Free* and a bachelor. Mary was 24 years, a spinster and was on *Bond*. The Chaplain who officiated at the marriage was Charles Pleydell Neil **Wilton**. Witnesses at the marriage were John and Mary **Hicks** who both signed the certificate with an X.

Records provided the following details of Mary, who was born around 1809/10. She was described as a country servant, 5 feet 1 inch (155cm) tall, with a ruddy, freckled complexion. Her hair was dark brown mixed with grey, and her eyes were grey. She could neither read nor write.

Owen and Mary had a least three children, but only one survived childhood. I have wondered whether they perhaps had trouble with other pregnancies, given Mary was married for almost two years before their first child was born and there were six years before the next. Perhaps they were victims of impoverished living standards or one of the many childhood diseases that were prevalent at this time. Their first child, **Johanna, my 2x great-grandmother**, was born in 1834 at Morpeth, NSW.

The next documentation of Owen is at Johanna's birth registration in 1834 and his indictment at Maitland in February 1837, for stealing two heifers. Fortunately, he was found not guilty of that offence.

> Owen M'Cauley and Joseph Beatie were n-dicted for stealing two heifers, value £10, he property of Edward Biddulph, at Maitland, on the 10th July   Not Guilty.

Their second child, Henry, was born in 1840 at Morpeth and their third child, Owen, was also born at Morpeth, in 1841.

Death of Owen

Owen McAuley, senior, died on the 8 July 1843 at Clifdon, Hinton, near Morpeth, NSW, at the age of just 40 years. He was buried in the Hinton Pioneer Cemetery although his burial site is unknown.

Hinton Pioneer Cemetery, Hinton, NSW, in the lower Hunter Valley region. Photo courtesy of Chris Holden (Find a Grave member 'Commodore75'), who was also an active member of RTFHS in the 1990s

Life for Mary after Owen's death

Following Owen's death, Mary married John **Quinlan**, in 1847 [969/1847 V1847969 95] still in the Maitland area. John Quinlan appears to have been a less than salubrious man, often appearing in court for offences including drunkenness and fighting.

Owen and Mary's son, Henry, died in 1846 aged 6 years and Owen Jnr died in 1848 aged about seven years. Given the descriptions of their stepfather's behaviour, I wonder what their short lives were like after their mother remarried.

The last know 'sighting' of Mary was when she attended her daughter, **Johanna's marriage** in the Parish of St Peter, Armidale, NSW, on 15 April 1850. She gave her consent and signed with an 'X' as one of the two witnesses. She is described as Mary Quinlan, of Hillgrove, mother of Hannah. There was no mention of her second husband, John Quinlan. Up to this point in time, I have been unable to discover what happened to her after this.

I do feel sympathy for both Owen and Mary and for the hand life had dealt them. They were like many others, however, and as a social experiment of sorts, the descendants of convicts are generally proof of a positive outcome.

Owen's name has been repeated in three subsequent generations, but not surprisingly the more recent generations had no idea as to its convict origins. However, it is nice that he somehow lives on through them.

*The **Certificate of Freedom** was introduced into New South Wales because of the need for former convicts to prove that they were in fact free. By the *Bushranger Act 1830* anyone could be detained on suspicion of being a runaway convict unless proof of free status could be produced. On completion of their sentences convicts would make a declaration to the local magistrate, who would send to Sydney to check the indents. If all was in order a certificate was issued after a fee had been paid. (Hirst, *Convict Society*, p.123). A certificate of freedom was only available to a convict with a finite sentence of 7, 10 or 14 years. Convicts with a life sentence could receive a pardon, but not a certificate of freedom.

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Gleanings of Journals in the Marie Hart Library

By Janine Thomson – Research Officer

Face Value: The Physiognomy Fad. How our faces have been read & misread in the past.
The Use and Beauty of Aerial Photography. A glimpse into Victoria's photographic map mosaics and how to use them in your research.

Traces – Edition 24 – Page 9 & 30

Local Resources for Family History Research – County Armagh. Puts an emphasis on resources specific to the county of Armagh.

Irish Roots – Issue 132, 2025 – Page 10

Writing It Up – (for the people who don't want to). How to leave your research to the next in line.

West Surrey Family History Society - Root & Branch – December 2024 – Page 115

Irish National School Registers. Explains how to find your Irish ancestors' school records.
Around Britain – Herefordshire. Focuses on information and records available for the county of Herefordshire.*Who*

Do You Think You Are – December 2024 - Page 38 & 62.

Researching Further Afield. Lots of free resources for research in India & what they contain.

Cleveland FHS Journal – January 2025 – Page 17.

50 Websites to watch in 2025. A look ahead at unmissable online resources for 2025.
Wales. Shares the most useful digital resources for researching Welsh roots.
Around Britain – Wiltshire. Focuses on information and records available for the county of Wiltshire.

Who Do You Think You Are – January 2025 - Page 14, 35 & 62

Sort Your Research with Timelines. How to use timelines to organise and enhance your family history research.
Irish Immigration. Shares tips on Irish/US immigration.
Around Britain – East Riding. Focuses on information and records available for the county of East Riding of Yorkshire.

Who Do You Think You Are - February 2025 – Page 19, 38 & 62

John Hubert Plunkett: Australia's Unsung Hero. The story of Australia's first Queen's Council. NB: John Hubert Plunkett Q.C. is an ancestor of our library officer, Jill McCann. She wrote an article about him for our December 2024 *The Cedar Log*.

HISTORY – Royal Aust. Historical Soc.- March 2025- Page 3

1 March 2025 – We had a live zoom presentation by Brisbane based Genealogist Eric **Kopittke** on the topic of **In the Steps of My Ancestors – What might I learn?**

His advice was not to neglect your local area and to start there using Electoral Rolls, Post Office Directories, the Wise and Sands Directories to find out where your ancestors lived. Google will help you locate where you can find directories relevant to where and when your ancestors lived. Ancestry has some Australian ones. School admission registers often provide the address of the child and information about the parents. (Note: The RTFHS has many school admission registers searchable on the computers in the *Marie Hart Library*). If you decide to travel overseas and do more research, prepare before you go. Check out whether there are libraries, local Family History Societies. You can check UK census records, which will give the address. There are also historic maps on the National Library of Scotland website (https://maps.nls.uk/) and tithe maps, on The Genealogist website (https://www.thegenealogist.com/tithe/). Similar resources are available in other countries, and he showed us some of his own research with relatives in the UK, Germany and Poland. If you are travelling – remember, it's not all online!

5 April 2025 – **For King and Country**, coordinated by Jill **McCann** (on far right in photo)

We heard stories about our ancestors' military service – how these young men enlisted, their experiences, the hardships they faced during their service and what happened to them when they came home. Some, of course, did not return. These wars not only tested the strength of those who fought but also revealed the resilience of the families at home. Our speakers were (left to right in photo on previous page) Judy **Cosgrove** – spoke about her Great Uncle in WWI; Dawn **Lotty** – spoke about her ancestor Hector **Small** in WWI; Ross **Glover** related how his father remembered WWII and Karen **Chilcott** described her grandfather's activities in WWI. They were very moving and interesting stories.

NEW MEMBERS

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our rejoined member:

Member No 165   Daphne Whaites   Ballina

and our new members:

Member No 1063	Rhonda Hall	Ballina
Member No 1065	Lyn Dendrinos	Ballina
Member No 1066	Joanne Groves	Lennox Head
Member No 1067	Dennis Henry	Ballina
Member No 1068	Gaie Chambers	Ballina

Journals in the *Marie Hart Library* with Convict articles

Convict Trail Project - *History – Royal Australian Historical Society*. January 2024 #160. Describes the organisation's work to protect and rehabilitate the Great North Road built by convicts, between 1826 and 1836 between Sydney and Newcastle and the Hunter Valley.

Exploring Scotland's Criminal Database – *Traces* – Edition 28, 2024. Describes the Scottish Indexes site which has many indexes to records from the High Court, Sheriff Courts, prisons, Crown Counsel Procedure Books under the umbrella of the Scotland's Criminal Database. There are many more sets of indexes as well as helpful information on Scottish research on the site. https://www.scottishindexes.com/ScotlandsCriminalDatabase.aspx

Criminal Justice pre-1875 – *Who Do You Think You Are?* December 2024. Explains the wealth of diverse records available for the criminal justice system in England and Wales prior to 1875 and how to research criminal forebears.

SOCIETY and JOURNAL DETAILS

The Richmond-Tweed Family History Society Inc. was established in 1983 to serve the family history needs of researchers initially with a special interest in North East New South Wales, Australia, in the area bounded by the Richmond and Tweed Rivers, often referred to as the Northern Rivers.

The Marie Hart Library (MHL) holds numerous local records including the Local Schools Admission Registers, Cemetery and Burial Records, Honour and Memorial Rolls from many locations within the Northern Rivers, plus death and funeral notices and obituaries from The Northern Star (1876 – 2020).
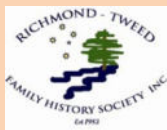
Over the years, the library has expanded and now holds a wealth of information from across Australia including electoral rolls, historical and pioneer records, war records, shipping lists, probate records, landholder returns, Colonial Secretary papers and cemetery books. There are family history journals from within Australia or overseas countries, either as hard copies or in electronic form. The latter can be accessed on the computers in the MHL or from home.

Access is available to microfiche, CDs and computers connected to genealogical websites, to which we subscribe, including *FindmyPast, Ancestry* and the *Biographical Database of Australia*. We are also a *FamilySearch* affiliate, which gives access to more than the standard *FamilySearch* site. Ask the member on duty, during opening hours, if you need assistance with any of the library's resources.

Family History Research Requests can be done by the Society for a fee of $15 per hour. Please include a 22x11 cm stamped, addressed envelope and research fees where applicable. Email the secretary or send details to our PO Box (addresses are on the inside front cover).

The Cedar Log – Journal of the Richmond-Tweed Family History Society Inc.
Published March, June, September and December

The Editor would be pleased to accept articles for inclusion in this journal. Ideally, they should be sent by email to editorcedarlog@gmail.com but hard copy is also welcomed. Contribution deadline is 6 weeks before the month of publication. The format preferred is Times New Roman font; 11 point; single spacing. Please have any surnames in bold, the first time they appear in your article, after the heading. Add sources or references at the bottom of your article if possible. Please add your contact details as the Editor may need to discuss editing of material submitted for publication. It is your responsibility to ensure that your article does not infringe copyright and the views of authors are not those of the RTFHS. **Items remain the copyright of the Richmond-Tweed Family History Society and/or the author.** Members' input is important and makes for interesting and diverse reading and you might be lucky enough to connect with someone who has read your article, either in Australia or overseas. We would love to hear about how you broke down those brick walls or any interesting information you have found out about an ancestor or research sources or techniques that others may find helpful. **Material and articles in this journal may only be reproduced with written permission from the Society. Please contact the editor via email.**

SOCIETY EVENTS

Society meetings are at the Players Theatre, 24 Swift Street, Ballina at 2pm on the first Saturday of each month. There is no meeting in January or December.

DATES TO REMEMBER <u>2025</u>

Contact the Secretary or the Co-ordinator if you would like to participate in one of the presentations listed below.

Saturday 7 June Meeting: Shipwrecks in or near the Richmond River, Ballina**.** Presented by **Geoff Hutchinson**, from Marine Rescue, who has written a book on the same subject.

Saturday 14 June: Fundraising BBQ at Bunnings Ballina 9 am – 4 pm. Come along and visit or buy a sausage if you aren't working on the stall.

Saturday 5 July Mini-Seminar on NSW Land Records, presented by **Michelle Hurcum. New time 1-4 pm.** Cost $5 includes afternoon tea. See inside this issue for further details.

Saturday 26 July: Christmas in July Lunch. At *Cherry Street Sports Club*, 68 Cherry St. Ballina. Details will be advised by email and at Saturday meetings.

Saturday 2 August Meeting: 2025 AGM followed by a webinar about what's in TROVE

Saturday 6 September Meeting: Significance of Landholding for Early Colonial Women. Presented by **Narissa Phelps.**

MEMBERSHIP
Membership fees for the year 1 January to 31 December 2025 are $40 Individual or $50 Joint Membership. Journals will be sent to financial members only.