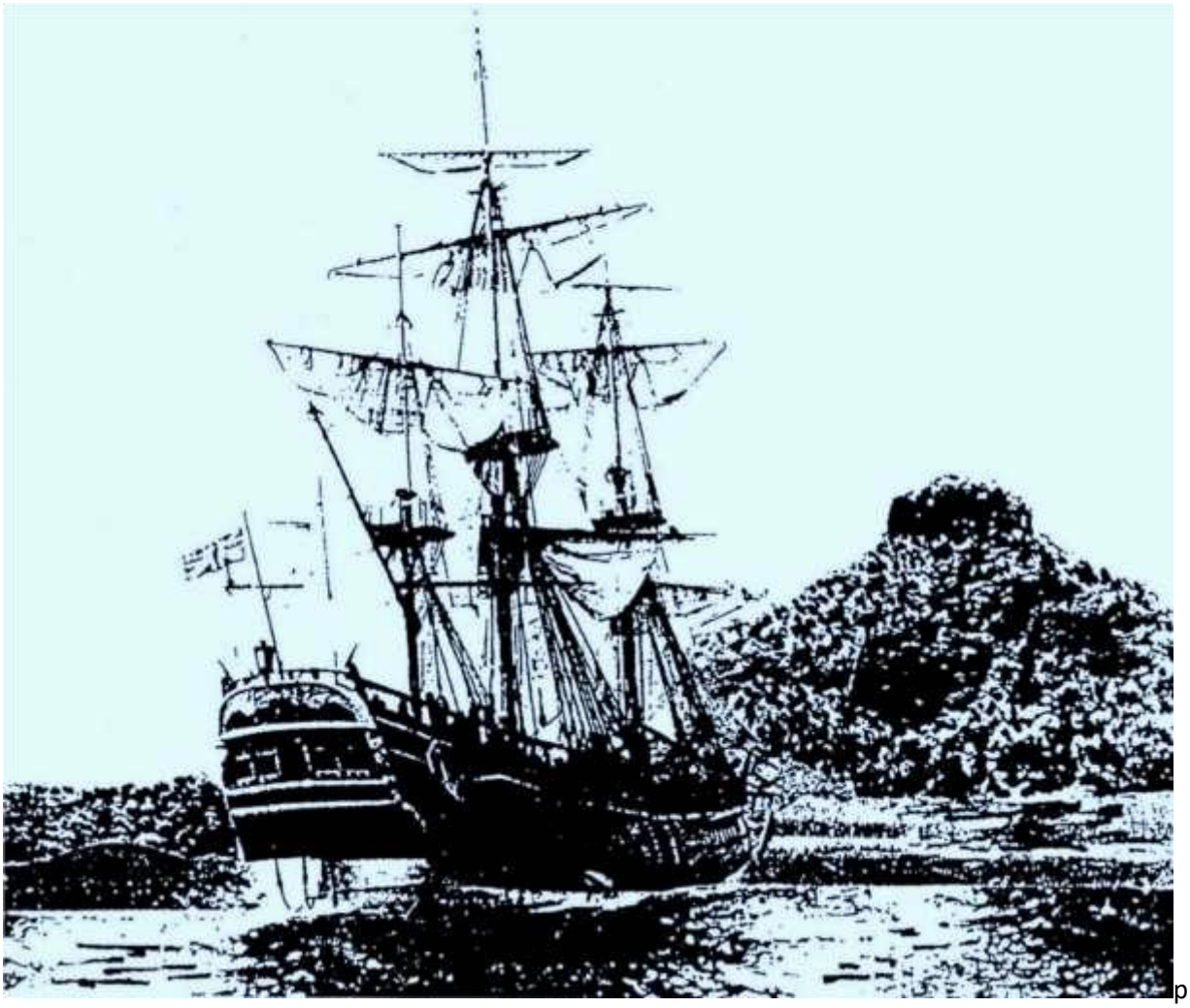
Milton-Ulladulla Family History Society Inc

NEWSLETTER

December 2025 *Issue No 60*

Pigeon House Tidings



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Aims of Our Society are
To encourage research and friendship in genealogy.
To promote the study and foster the knowledge of family history in the local community.

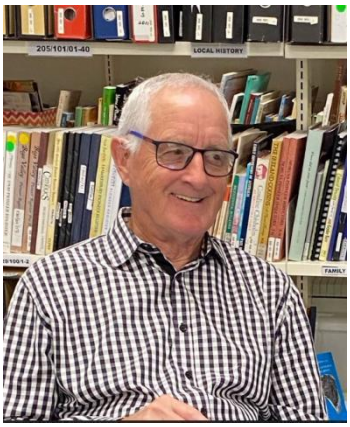
Our Journal is published in June and December each year.
Patron: Mrs. Shelley Elizabeth Hancock, BA,
Thanks to Shoalhaven City Council for all their assistance

Office Bearers for 2024-25 – Meet the Team

President	**Ron Smith**
Vice President	**Graham Ledwidge**
Secretary	**Sue Crotty**
Minutes Secretary	**Grahame Keast**
Treasurer	**Mick Coles**
Librarian	**Marg Magnusson**
Assist Librarian	**Christine Moss**
Publicity	**Ron Smith**
Journal Editor	**Christine Moss, Marg Magnusson**
Research Officer	**Julie Gullan Graham Ledwidge**
Activities Officer	**Julie Gullan**

Sub-Committee Groups:
Website: Julie and Dennis Gullan
Data Base Entry: John Evans and Ron Smith
Grave Index: Wayne Murray
Archivist:
CD Library Analyst: Peter Taylor
Catering: Julie Gullan
Proof Reading: Cheryl Baker

Marg, Cheryl, Ron, Julie, Graham, Christine, Graham, Sue, Grahame



Our Contact Details

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The Secretary
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Ulladulla NSW 2539

Email: mufhsinc@gmail.com
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RESEARCH AND MEMBER MEETINGS

Research and visitor inquiries are welcome every Monday and Wednesday and Friday between the hours of 10.00 am and 2.00 pm. A donation is made by members, and a charge is required of non-members
Formal Member Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at:

Family History Room (lower floor, around the back – look out for the sign)
Ulladulla Civic Centre
81B Princes Highway, Ulladulla

Visitors and new members are very welcome. A small door fee is charged at each formal meeting to cover catering and other costs.

Disclaimer

The statements made and views expressed by the contributors in this publication are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Milton Ulladulla Family History Society Inc.

Cover picture: Representation of Pigeon House Mountain, Southwest of Ulladulla. Sighted by Lieutenant James Cook on April 21, 1770.

Cook "…. saw a remarkable peaked hill which resembles a square dovehouse with a dome on top and for that reason I named it Pigeon House."

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new members who have joined us in the past since our last publication

Barbara Meads, Alistair Nair, Pamela Wood, Janelle May, Kerry Williams, Rhonda Rennie, Anne Bryson, Andrew Bryson, Lorrie Flynn, Diane Leatham, Patrice Keegan, Norma Lowe, Chris Lowe

We look forward to seeing you from time to time at our rooms and hope you will be able to join us on many of our social events.

We would like to thank our volunteers and our members who have helped throughout the year. All assistance whether it be small or large has been really appreciated.

Contributors - The following members contributed articles to this edition of Pigeon House Tidings. Should you wish to correspond with them, please contact our secretary and we will pass on your details to the contributor.

Julie Gullan, Margaret Magnusson, Ron Smith, Christine Moss, Peter Taylor, Pam Johnson, Brian Claydon

From the President's Desk

Firstly, I must thank most sincerely Graham Ledwidge, who stepped into my role after I was escorted to our three hospitals of Shoalhaven and Illawarra. Definitely, not a pleasure trip and the journey continue into the future. Graham, and the TEAM, kept our Society functioning normally during my absence. Well done, Committee. I must also thank Wayne Murray who has been slogging away at the Database of all known gravesites in the Greater Ulladulla Area. A Monumental Task. Thanks Wayne.

Our Society hosted a visit from The Anglican Church Explorers from Gerringong on Thursday October 23. We provided a Power Point Presentation of an Overview of the History of Colonization of the lower Shoalhaven. Their convenor, Jim Seymour, donated a copy of his book detailing three months of family history circa 1820s in England. Not a journey for the faint of heart. It is an account which gives clues as to why many people left Great Britain for the Antipodes. Jim has done a great deal of research into the period and tells it as it was. WARTS and ALL. The book is in our library collection. Thank you, Jim.

As we enter the festive season, your committee have organized our itinerary for the closing months of 2025.By the end of the year, I hope to be back to my normal???self. So, bring on 2026.

We are secure in our Research Room and have strong support from all the staff and our representatives at Shoalhaven Council. The Bereavement Historian and the Bush Care Warden are also keen to help in our quest for gravesites and cemeteries which are no longer recognized. We have a map of Morton Cemetery which we can now share as there was some doubt as to its location along the old South Coast Road. Solving mysteries within families is what our Society does. Even unmarked graves are important for family historians.

On a sad note, Julie and Dennis Gullan are planning to move north. They will be sorely missed in our TEAM MUFHSI.More on this story later.

In closing, I wish every member of the Society a Safe and Happy Festive Season. May 2026 bring all that you can wish for.

Stay safe, be happy best wishes from Ron Smith President 2025-26.

Thinking of Contributing a story or article for our June, December 2026 edition?

That would be fantastic. You have heaps of time to get it ready, closing date will be around the end of April 2026. Start writing and/or researching. The editor will look forward to receiving it.

Give it a go

Thinking of Volunteering

That would also be fantastic. Our volunteers are a very diverse group of people bound together with an interest in family history and a willingness to help others. They are all happy to share their knowledge as well as learn more from others. Our room is filled with smiles. Come join us. We would love your help and input. Start with one day a month or even a day once in two months – it doesn't matter as every little bit helps so much.

Give it a go

Genealogy is; -

Where you confuse the dead and irritate the living- (unknown)

Collecting dead relatives and sometimes alive cousin- (unknown)

Epitaphs

"Oh, Ye who come my grave to see
Prepare yourself to follow me
Prepare in haste, make no delay
For I in haste was called away"

Note from the Editors

Christine Moss and Marg Magnusson

We are looking forward to taking on this job

It will be hard to fill the last Editors shoes as Julie was excellent at putting the magazine together. However, we will give it a go, for it has been over 12 months since our last magazine was published.

Julie had compiled a lot of the edition for this magazine and it was to go out last December but was unable to have it finished because of unforeseen circumstances. Christine and I have added a bit more to the magazine. We hope that the members and others will enjoy the PHT. We look forward to being given more stories and pictures for next year magazine.

Marg and Christine wish all our members
A very Merry Christmas
and a wonderful New Year

THE LIBRARIANS CORNER

From Marg. Magnusson

We have had a busy year since our last edition with many more books being donated and added to our library. Also, some books that we bought.

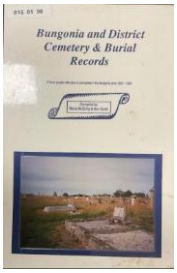
John Olli has donated many books over the years. Some of the books are:

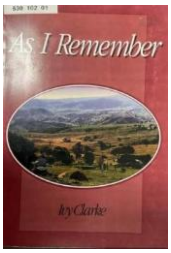
Family History for Beginners

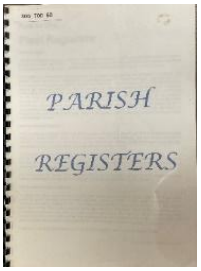
Familia for New Zealand and Ulster Genealogical and Historical Guild

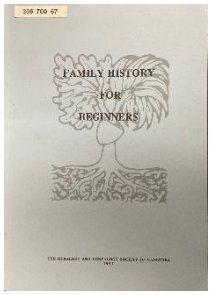
A-Z of Australian Towns, Cities Australian Railway Disasters

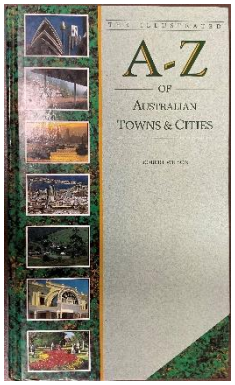
Terra Australis. We were given many of Alex McAndrew books that he had written about the local area. All new. They were put with the books that we already had on our shelves (making duplicates). Now having two or more of the books, any member that wants to borrow them can.











There were also many pictures of the local area in Alex's collection that were also donated, and with the help of Mick Coles, our treasurer, who took them home and copied them to a memory stick. Thank you, Mick.

We were also given some research books and other books by Joanne Ewin family.

Ron Williams donated a book he had written on Lake Tabourie with many stories and pictures.

Ladies from the Quota Club also donated some pictures and books on their local club from 1956-2000.We bought a publication by local historian Cathy Dunn. Racecourse Cemetery Boat Harbour.It covers the cemetery that is partly under the Princes Highway the years being from 1856-1900.There are many First Nations people buried there.

Another project being undertaken by Vicki Hunt, Christine Moss, and myself is the indexing of local people and properties in the books on our shelf, to be added to the index of names on our main computer.

It allows any person researching local families to find the right book quicker. In the past we would go through our local books in the hope of finding something and it was very time-consuming.

John Evans and Ron Smith started the project. We have many thousands of names now with many thousands more to go.

FROM LOCAL NEWSPAPERS ON TROVE NEWSPAPERS

HUMAN BONES AT ULLADULLA.

MILTON, Saturday.

The other day men excavating building sand from the beach at Ulladulla disinterred a complete human skeleton. As the body had been buried in a standing position it is no doubt the remains of an aborigine. It is thought that the interment took place 100 years ago, but the bones were in a remarkable state of preservation, and the jaw had a perfect set of teeth. The spot was used as a burying ground in the olden days, and a number of human bones have been dug up in recent years.

MILTON MEMS.

Captain Millard, the worthy member for Moruya, was on a visit during the early part of the week to the Ulladulla portion of his electorate.

Stated that correspondence relating to the business of the Stock Boards is to be carried free by post. It might be considered that municipal councils are quite as much entitled to free postage.

Road Superintendent Gill's horsemanship was not sufficiently high-class to justify his inclusion in the Bushmen's Contingent, and he was subsequently "plucked." He got through the other tests satisfactorily.

The need for a cemetery in some central position convenient to Termeil Broomau, and Woodburn was strikingly exemplified in connection with the interment of the mortal remains of the late Mr. J. Parkhill (states the Milton "Times). The funeral had to travel 15 miles to Sandridge, a whole day being taken up in connection therewith.

Additional trucks for the wharf at Ulladulla have been petitioned for.

The Public Works Department has informed the Progress Association that the sum of £15 will be made available for expenditure on the road from Termeil to Bawley Point.

MILTON, ULLADULLA.

[From our Correspondent.]

Volunteers.—A meeting was held at Mr. Booth's on Saturday last, for the purpose of forming a Volunteer Rifle Corps at Ulladulla. The meeting was thinly attended, only five gentlemen being present; no doubt owing to the shortness of the notice. Mr. W. Marks was voted to the chair, when Mr. W. Martin proposed, "That as the meeting was so small the gentlemen present should form themselves into a committee for the purpose of collecting information, &c., connected with the affair; and that the meeting stand postponed till Tuesday, the 9th of October, at 11 a.m." The motion was carried, and the meeting separated till the 9th, when it is expected that a more lively interest will be taken in the affair.

Dry weather at present, and the roads mending a little.

Great Court business on the 5th; no less than six cases on the list already, principally for abusive language.

We shall soon have a fourth inn. Mr. Henderson, late of the Fig-tree, is erecting a public house, and that right by side the English Church.

"Making good, the saying odd,
Near the church, and far from God."

October 1st, 1860.

MILTON.

A meeting of selectors is being held this week to determine what steps shall be taken under the Crown Land Amendment Bill of 1899, with regard to the reappraisement of C.P's., C.L's

The output of the central butter factory for the past week was 7,286lbs

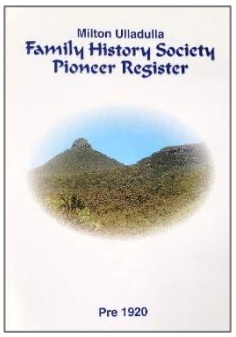
Rainfall for June: Six inches 20 points for 13 days. Rainfall for six months ending June 30, 1900: 3 inches 57 points for 75 days.

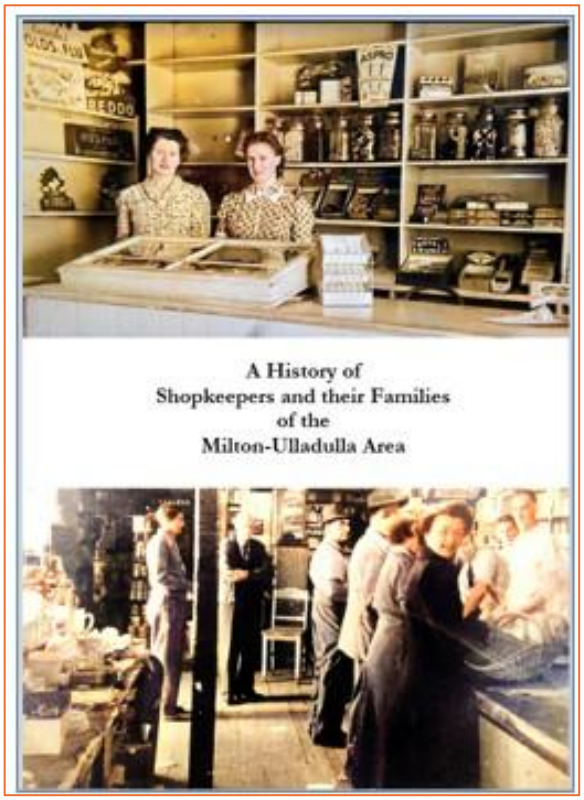
The draughts tournament between teams of four each from Milton and Ulladulla was brought to a conclusion on Monday night, and resulted in a win for Milton by the narrow margin of two games.

There was an extraordinary unanimity on the part of the Agricultural Society's committee in favor of prize winning stock being shown on the ground on the second day of the annual exhibitions.

Our Society Books for Sale

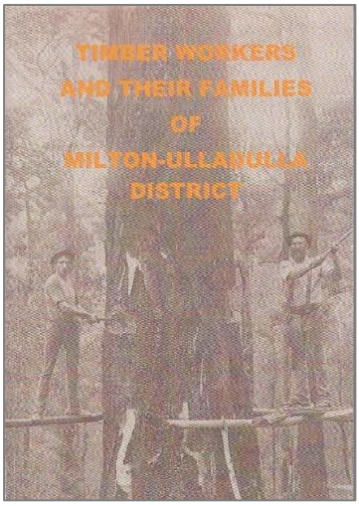
PIONEER REGISTER-PRE 1920
The cost per book is $5. A postage charge would be extra if needed – see below.





A History of Shopkeepers and their Families of the Milton-Ulladulla Area
The cost of the book is $45
Cost of postage being $15

TIMBER WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES OF MILTON-ULLADULLA DISTRICT
We have sold the last of this book.
It was very popular and maybe some time in the future we will have some more printed.



Our Room Update

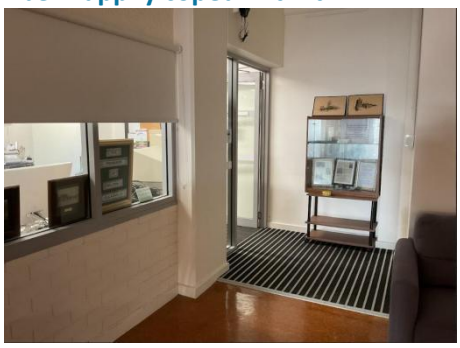
The Civic Centre has been a very busy place with the upgrades that have gone on. Our room did not miss out. We have had a second entrance added to the room. With that in mind we had to change the room around and it is looking so much nicer now and seems to have more room.

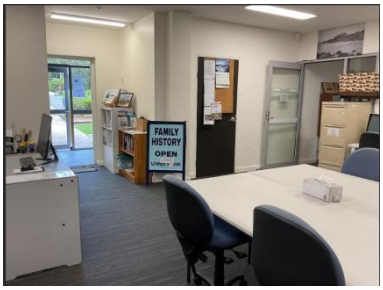
It was a little cramped when the work was going on but the member happily coped with it.

Our two entrance ways.

One from western side

One from inside Civic Centre





Koala and Rabbit
By Julie Gullan

Teddy and Bunny were their names, who were adopted by two little girls, sisters, in the late 1950s. They were so loved and spoilt. Perfect companions. The sisters took them everywhere they went.

On one holiday the family were staying at a motel on their way home from Queensland. It was the Sleepy Hill Motel at Raymond Terrace. You may ask, why do they remember the name? How could a motel stopover be so memorable?

It was a hot day and on arriving the sisters went for a swim in the pool with Teddy and Bunny very envious as they were not allowed to have a dip. The next day the parents had decided they were all leaving early in the morning to head home. The car was packed and off they drove.

It was at least ninety minutes into the drive when the disaster came to light. Bunny had been left in bed at the motel. My goodness, how could that have happened. Everyone stayed as calm as possible. Their father, a very understanding man immediately said reassuringly, we will go back and rescue Bunny. Back they went. No thought at all was taken into account that this detour would add three extra hours of driving.

The room had not yet been cleaned and there was Bunny sitting up in bed waiting patiently for them to return. The whole family was reunited once again.

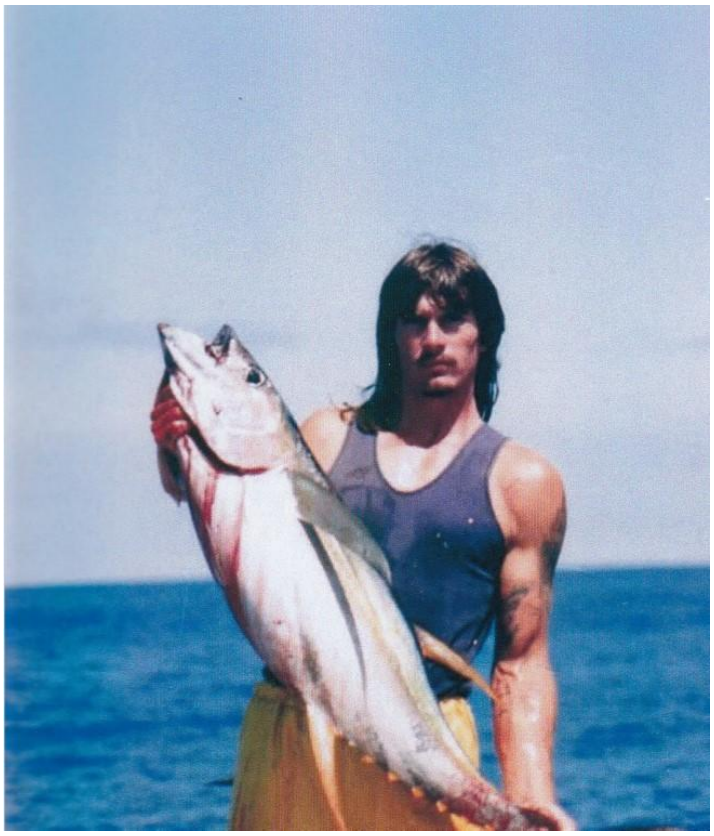
On another holiday trip Teddy and Bunny entertained the couple who were driving in the car following them. They performed a pantomime. The sisters had them dancing and talking on the ledge of the car against the window. The show went on for ages with lots of laughs and smiles from the people behind. It was very entertaining and a great way to make the car journey enjoyable.

Another bad experience for Bunny was when he was left at school in the kindergarten nursery corner. The sisters' home was turned upside down looking for him and calling out, which proved futile. No one remembered he had tagged along one day to attend school. Days later, after the entire weekend had passed, he was found tucked up in a pram, when the younger sister went to play in the nursery corner. Another day for a reunion and celebrations. He was safe again.

The two loveable friends are still with one of the sisters today. A little older and well-worn but enjoying each other's company. They sit together looking out at a country view every day, listening to the birds and animals around them.

DAVID'S LIFE TUNA FISHING

BY CHRISTINE MOSS



David Salafia lived and worked on the Tuna Boats in Ulladulla; I was keen to hear his story.

Ulladulla is a coastal town in NSW on the Princes Highway, about halfway between the larger towns of Batemans Bay to the South and Nowra to the north, approximately 179km south of Sydney.

The Ulladulla area is seven kilometre stretch of continuous urban residential development from the southern edge of Ulladulla, through the town of Mollymook, to Narrawallee in the North, terminating at Narrawallee estuary.

The name of "Ulladulla" comes from the Aboriginal word "Nulladulla", which means "safe harbour".

The Illawarra South Coast Steam Navigation Company began operating in the mid 1800's providing a service which became the lifeline of the south coast ports, carrying products to Sydney such as dairy produce, cattle, pigs, sawn timber railway sleepers, logs and wattle bark used for tanning. On return trips the ships brought all necessary items for coastal districts to flourish.

A wooden jetty was built in 1859 to retain the services of the Illawarra Steam Navigation Company: the company informed farmers they would not call again at Ulladulla unless better mooring facilities were provided. After seven years the jetty was replaced by a stone pier built by the government on the natural reef. The company built a store on the harbour foreshores for the receiving of produce for shipment to and from Sydney. There was a weekly cargo service to Ulladulla until the mid-1950's.

The commercial fishing industry became firmly established in the early 1930's when the Puglisi and Greco Families commenced long-line for snapper, then in 1938 introducing Danish fishing out of the port in their trawler "Michele" built at Huskinson by AWM Settree.

During WW11 all the fishing boats were requisitioned by the American and Australian Armies. Ulladulla, as many ports on the east coast, had established small boat building yards supplying the American and Australian Armies with 45 to 80ft general vessels used in the New Guinea war zone.

Trawling commenced again in 1945 when the Puglisi-Greco Families began trawling with a 50ft "John Dory".

The Harbour is the home port of the largest commercial fishing fleet on the south coast of NSW. As a result of the influence of Italian families in the area, a Blessing of the Fleets began in the early 1950's on New Years Day to bless the fleets for a good year of fishing. It then changed to Easter for the ceremony to occur, although in 2004 and 2005 the accompanying celebration was cancelled due to a sharp rise in public premium.

David's story begins with his grandfather Antony "Tony" Salafia, he used to work on the Tuna boats in Ulladulla. He came from Italy in the town of Sicily and emigrated to Australia in the mid 1940's and lived in Leeton NSW with his family. He owned an orchard where he grew Oranges, Peaches and farmed rice. Tony had a family of 14 children, 8 boys and 6 girls. They all worked in the orchard to help and stayed away from getting into trouble in the township.

Tony Salafia had relatives in Ulladulla whom he would visit from time to time and eventually he was persuaded by his family to come and live and work in Ulladulla.

John, who was David's father was 10 years old when they moved to Ulladulla and his father Tony Salafia was the foundation member of the fisherman's co-op in the 1950's along with a few other Italians.

These men had a trawler named "Acadia Star" and Tony had shares in a boat belonging to Sara Costa called the "Leeton Star" because that was the name of the town in which he lived when he came to Australia.

David's father John loved fishing and as time went on, he bought his own boat called "Rose Marie". He used to do a lot of trapping of Lobsters, Morwongs and as time progressed, he bought a larger boat and began chasing Tuna on the "Eileen M".

When David was 6 years old his parents separated, and David went to live with his grandfather. David would spend all his spare time after school and growing up at the Ulladulla wharf.

Tony's best friend was Fred Campisi and his son was Tori Campisi owned a boat called "The Salvator". David was always down at the wharf and would help the men clean the boats and all the jobs that went with the boat. He got to know all the Italians.

One day when they were heading home, David was in the back of the car when his grandfather and his friend Fred began asking David questions.

"Do you like fishing?", "Yep I love it" was his reply. They then asked him if he would like a job, David jumped at the opportunity. Both men looked at each other and then said "Well, you won't be coming back to Ulladulla all the time, you'll be travelling down to Eden, South Australia, Sydney, Wollongong, how's that gunna affect ya?". David was delighted and said he would go where the boat goes, and he would like to go to work. Both men smiled at each other.

David was not doing very well at school and at the age of 12, he had a job on a boat in just over a week later. It was a seven-day week for two years and no sickies. They were catching Ling, Gemfish, Mirror Dory, Flathead, Gummy Shark, Prawns, Royal red prawns, everything you can imagine.

David spent quite a few years on the "Salvatori" which earned him a reputation as a good hard young worker and a potential skipper. After a few years, David wanted a change, so he was offered a job on the "Gracie P" which was owned by Mario and Pino Puglisi. They were cousins to Tory Puglisi.

The Puglisi's had boats "Gracie P" and "Carrisa". Mario and Augusta (Augy) were on the "Gracie P" and David's cousin Antony Salafia was working as an engineer on the boat as well.

David was in his late teens and into his early 20's and was in the Prime of his life, they would head off to Sydney catching all types of fish in the big boat.

As time progressed, a bloke from North NSW called Joe Riley spent a lot of time in Japan, he introduced long line fishing to the Ulladulla co-op and it took off in a big way. In those days they were unfamiliar with Tuna Long line fishing and exports.

Mario set up the "Gracie P" for long line to catch the Tuna Fish. Mario Puglisi would spend a lot of time in his shed making things for the boats.

The long line fishing involved about 40 reels of line with 6 hooks at the end. They threw out the lines with bubbles attached to it, with a beacon which sent off signals to where the line was. The boys spend many years Tuna fishing, travelling from Sydney, Mooloolaba, Nelson Bay, all the way to Bermagui, Eden, and Tasmania, wherever the water temperature was that were holding the fish. It was a great life, but a hard life spending so much time away from home. When bad weather hit, the boat would roll with the waves, swamp you as you dragged in the fish and you were too far away to come home.

By the time you got home by train from Nowra, or by plane from interstate, while the other boys stayed with the boat, it was time to return to the boat again. Sometimes you missed a day's fishing if the weather turned good. The other boats would go out, and the boys would have to stay back with the boat and tidy up. The fresh water had to be filled, fuel, food supplies, repairing all the lines on the bubbles and these had to be ready to go when the weather turned good.

The Italians had a superstition that NO bananas were allowed on the boat. The reason being this is what you will catch instead of fish.

Eventually the "Gracie P" was sold and went to South Australia to one of the Tuna Farms. David then worked on the boat "Sensation" for several years. In the wintertime they would catch Tuna and Blue Fin, In the summer it would quieten down and the Tuna would come to the surface, which the team would then use the Pole to catch the Tuna. Dave commented that some of the fish were very big. The boat had racks on the side to stand on, and no harness attached to the men to pole the fish. They used single, double and triple poles. At times there would be a lot of blood in the water which would attract the sharks, this meant the men had to get back inside of the boat.

As time passed, David helped his father John Salafia on the boat "Eileen M". John was always struggling for crew because there were not many good crew members around that wanted to stay. If you did not catch any fish for a week or two, you were not paid. The work was very hard to try and catch some fish so the boys could earn a wage, or to keep them interested in the job.

John Salafia

John Salafia felt very proud to have father and son working together.

David helped his father out for quite a few years and got him established. As he got old enough to reach his sea time, Mario Basile offered him a job on the "Angelica" which was 90ft long and they used to travel to South Australia and all the East Coast Pole fishing.

Mario then sold the industry as it was starting to look dicey, everyone changed to smaller boats. Mario bought a 60ft beautiful fibreglass boat and David eventually got to skipper the boat. David was then in his "Prime and Glory" for after so many years of being a deck hand, he finally got his opportunity. He also commented that he was lucky because Mario had two boys coming into the Industry and all David had to do was find another one or two crew members. There were always enough people to work, so he considered himself fortunate.

David spent many years skipping the boats and he could not afford to get into the industry himself. As much as he tried, the goals just got too high which meant he had to decide to either keep working as a skipper or get out of the game. He felt sad that he could not achieve any more goals and wished he could have owned a boat of his own, however unfortunately the industry was hard to get into.

David had no quality of time at home with his wife and children; he was unable to take them to their sports or watch them grow. It was a hard life in that respect.

When time came for him to leave the boats, he started a new trade rendering with his friend Donny Goswell and when rendering went quiet, he would help his father for a while or help fill in trips with the Puglisi's.

The salt water was always in his veins and calling him back. He always called Ulladulla wharf and the co-op his home. It was where he spent many years of his life and even today, when he drives past Ulladulla Harbour, he looks down at the wharf, or he loves to sit there for a while.

Growing up in Ulladulla with such a tight community of Italians, the Puglisi's, Bassilie's, the Lavelle's, they hold an era of memories because everyone helped each other, it was like a big family. David considers himself privileged to grow up with all the Italians, to learn the fishing trade and to be able to tell his children and his grandchildren some fantastic stories. There were some sad stories that bring him to tears, for some lives were lost and it is hard to talk about this, but overall, he has had a beautiful life on the ocean.

The blessing of the fleets is held every year in Ulladulla and his grandfather Tony used to lead the Parade with the Fisherman's banner. He has passed on, and David has the honour of carrying it. All the boys used to dress up the boats with streamers and take people out in the boats just past the break waters for a ride. It had to stop because insurance came into this activity. The greasy pole, it was 6 men to a team and a pole of grease, first up to the flag on top won. There was spaghetti eating, tug of war, egg throwing comps and water skiing in the harbour and lots of fun for years.

David has turned 58 and the Blessing of the Fleets has been going for 69 years. With public liability insurance, it is getting tougher.

Hopefully it can continue to keep going.

COUNTRY GIRL - OLIVE MARY WHALLEY (Molly) EDMONDS (1907-2007)

By Pam Johnson

She *was a country girl, born in the days of horses and buggies, she read by candlelight; there was no telephone, radio, T.V. or computer and travel was by sea and not by aeroplane. She had a long life which spanned one hundred years and lived through many changes - the terrible depression of the 1930's and two horrific world wars.*
Olive Mary Whalley was born in 1907 to Jack Whalley and Ida Spencer at *Ironbark Creek Station*, *Barraba*, the family home of her mother, She was christened Olive Mary Whalley, but *Olive* was soon shortened to *Olley* which was disliked by her mother, so she became *Molly.*

Ironbark Station had been purchased by her Great Grandfather William Lamprell Spencer in 1845 and was the home of her mother Ida Spencer until she married her second cousin Percival Whalley - known as Jack. They established their own property *Menadoo,* on the black soil plains around *Moree* in northern *New South Wales* and it was here that Molly grew up with her three brothers Ralph, John and Bob. Their amusements were homemade - the boys being inventive and resourceful, and also prone to teasing their well-loved only sister.
The two older boys went on to boarding school at Armidale and Molly and her younger brother Bob were home-schooled until they too made their way to boarding school in Sydney around the age of ten years. They were very homesick being so far away from home, but holidays soon came around and the long train trip taken back to *Moree* and their beloved Mother.

Holidays
Sometimes school holidays were spent camping at *Terrigal* or *Forster*. A letter written in 1926 by my mother to *Cinderella column* in a Sydney newspaper survives...
"Dear Cinderella, It is ages since I last wrote to you. I had every intention of going to your picnic, but my brother most and I was the most perfect game; so we had built-in fireplace or dreamed away brother kept the seemed almost We have just

inconsiderately decided to get married on that day bridesmaid. I was so disappointed to miss it. It was holiday I have ever had. Dad is an old hand at the every comfort, including a home-made drip-safe, a and a clothes line. We surfed, sunbaked, walked ate the long days in glorious idleness. Dad and my larder in delicious whiting and black bream. Sydney like waking in an inferno after a dream of Paradise. recovered from the picnic races—two days racing and two nights dancing and an 18 mile drive between each event; but it was glorious fun."
The wedding was that of brother Ralph to Eileen Broughton. Molly was reputedly "thrilled to bits" with her bridesmaid's frock which was of peach pink georgette with touches of blue and blue crinoline hats. She carried a posy of pink carnations and blue hydrangea.
Other happy holidays were spent at the old family homestead *Ironbark* at Barraba, fondly remembered by Molly…
"It was a hundred- mile trip up from the baking plains (of Moree) with innumerable gates to be opened and shut by us children and it was a matter of principle to be out and back in the shortest possible time. Some of those heavy old wooden gates entailed a clamber up to reach the latch too. We played various games to while away the time, one of which the modern child would be unable to play – who to be the first to spot the next white horse – and there were a surprising number about in those days, but a keen look out was needed all the same.
"When we were children, it seemed always high summer at Iron Bark, a children's paradise, although the sprawling old house with so many dark corners at night and strange cries and the croaking's from frogs and

night -birds down the creek, scared Bob and I half to death. But during the daylight a wonderland to us kids from the black soil plains.

"Iron Bark Station was settled in 1845 by William Spencer and his brother Stephen. Situated on a picturesque bend of the Iron Bark creek about 20 rough and hilly miles from Barraba, the track made even more hazardous by the many creek crossings. The original homestead was a roughly two-roomed-slab hut with a bark roof. One can only guess at the feeling of the poor ladies on their arrival. But by the early 1900's of my childhood it was a very different story…
"The road out from Barraba was much improved of course and five miles shorter, but the hills still very steep, in fact the horses had to be rested half-way up the notorious 'Jump Up'. It is said that my father was the first to negotiate it in a car. The creek crossings still had to be treated with respect, especially the Nangarah which had a steep and sometimes slippery bank and sometimes those early cars with gravity feed, had to back up! Then it was an easy run over the last few miles to the east gate and round the corner of the hill and we had arrived."
Ironbark always was a special place for the children. There were many cousins, aunts and uncles living in surrounding properties around Barraba and great times were had riding, picnics, dances etc.

Menadool
At home at *Menadool in Moree,* the children grew up with the droughts and flooding rains that all people on the land have to contend with. In later years Molly also wrote bits and pieces about her early childhood at Menadool.
"Cold water came from taps from a rain water tank just outside and it must not be wasted. Hot water came in a tin bucket heated on the kitchen stove. . And yes, there were hot showers..... At shower time - first the water had to be heated on the wood stove in the kitchen, carried to the bathroom, the water poured into the galvanised iron container which had a rose with small plug attached to a chain. The whole contraption was hauled up by rope. Then with soap at the ready, you pulled the chain, did a swift soaping job while hoping the water would last the distance.....The alternative was to pour the water into the tin bath and wallow in a couple of inches of fast cooling water."
"Then there was the Laundry . *There was the "pot stick", which had probably started life as a broom handle, and now used to stir the bubbling culdren, then later to lift the steaming clothes into the draining box, usually a simple wooden box with holes bored in the bottom, and that was an art in its self - to manoeuvre a large boiling hot double sheet on the end of a stick and lift into said drainer!! The copper, made from that metal, which didn't rust but did have the drawback of tarnishing and having to be burnished with sandsoap before each use."*
Animals remembered... *"Tommy the big wether who had started out as a pet lamb, in fact he terrorized us younger ones by chasing us with the idea of butting if he caught sight of us coming out the gate, so we always reconnoitred first. Several other ex-pets used to trail around with Tommy, though the only one I can remember clearly was an ewe called Sucky, a gentle soul well named. She would drink from the trough but liked running water and would wait patiently for someone to turn the tap on for her.*
"The passing years brought boarding school and holidays with glad reunions with horses, dogs and such pets as were current and life seemed as secure and unchanging as the stars in the sky. But alas, change does come……"

Death of a beloved mother.
Molly was seventeen when her mother Ida died in 1924 and things were never the same at *Menadool.* Soon afterwards her father sold the property and bought another, *Pillcabutta* in the *Coolah* valley, which he worked together with her brother Ralph, now married with small children living at a neighbouring property, *Eluowirrie.*

Other neighbors were Joe and Olive Lecky. Olive and her sister Vi decided Molly would make a suitable wife for their seafarer brother Cyril Edmonds. Their subsequent matchmaking was successful and Molly and Cyril became engaged. Unfortunately, the Depression was in full-swing and the couple had a long wait until they could afford to marry.
Meanwhile drought and *The Depression* brought about the loss of *Pillcabutta* and both Whalley families left Coolah. Molly lived with various aunts until she decided what to do next. Her love of small children led to the sale of her prized possession - her little Morris car and with the proceeds she enrolled at *Karitarnie* to train as a children's nurse. After completing training she worked with various well-to-do families, living in high style until the worst of the Depression was over and she and Cyril could marry.

Marriage.
The long wait was finally over, and Molly and Cyril married in June 1935 at St Paul's Church, Chatswood. The happy couple set up house in a small flat in *Cremorne* on the North Shore of Sydney where their first child was born in 1937. Barely three weeks later disaster struck.
Cyril Creagh Edmonds was a seafarer - First Mate on various ships plying up and down the coast in the days when most travel was done by sea. He was supervising the loading of cargo aboard the SS *Manunda,* which was docked at Townsville at the time, when he was accidently pushed (by a door) into the hold - fortunately landing on both feet (and not his head). His legs were severely broken and serious infection set in – osteomyelitis, a bone disease which plagued him for the rest of his life. Once incurable, however, with the advent of penicillin after the war and several later operations, he was able to get about with the aid of a stick, but of course his career at sea was over - at least for many years.
In 1939, just before WW11 broke out, a house was bought in Lane Cove (now Riverview) and another child born. By the 1950s, Cyril felt he could manage shipboard life once more and for the next few years he worked as first officer, up and down the coast on various ships of the ANL Line.

Family History Book - 'Turn Back the Pages'.
In the mid 1960's after '*her birds had flown the nest'*, Molly realising that the early history of the pioneering family of her mother would soon be lost, undertook extensive inquires amongst the extended Spencer family, interspersed with trips to the Mitchel Library etc to find hard evidence in the days before the easy access by internet and Ancestry.com of to-day.
In 1967 her little book '**Turn Back the Pages'** was written and self-published. It generated much interest with the extended family and spurred not a few trips back to England. She was also very active in the newly established Lane Cove Historical Society of which she was a founding member.
Retirement.
Cyril had always wanted to move to the Blue Mountains when he retired, Molly was not keen as she did not want to leave Lane Cove. After countless houses were viewed and deemed not suitable, she began to feel safe. However, on one such expedition to view a house at Springwood, who should pop their head over the fence, but an old friend of Cyril's from his seafaring days. So that was it, up to Springwood they went.
Molly made the best of things however, and soon became active in local affairs and often her name could be found on topics of concern in the *"Letters to the Editor"* section of various newspapers.
She became active in the local Conservation Society and as a keen bird watcher took part in a survey of Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoo to establish their territorial habits etc. but her main crusade was saving a small forest of rare Deanei trees in Springwood from the developers.
Olive Mary Edmonds nee Whalley died on 21st February, 2007 at Katoomba hospital, just a few days after celebrations for her l00th birthday, complete with letters from the Queen, Prime Minster, Premier of NSW and various others in office, (it being an election year!) Her ashes are buried in the *Bush-rock Section* at Northern Suburbs Crematorium near where the rest of her family are interred (except for her mother who is buried at Moree Cemetery). Some of her ashes were later scattered in *Ironbark Creek* and on the grave of her mother who meant so much to her.

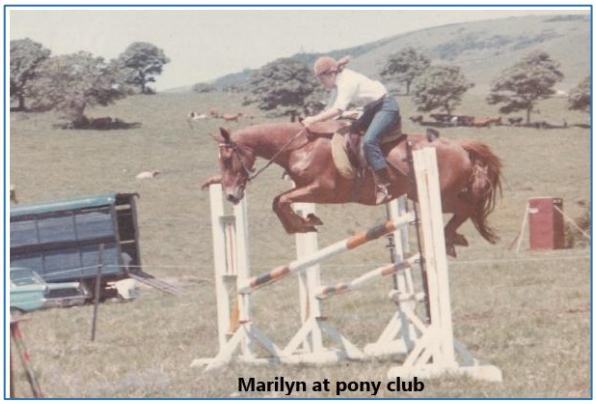
Molly was a quiet person, thoughtful and kind, who loved to write poetry - much loved by her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Three Local Families in the Milton/Ulladulla Area

Story by Christine Moss

The Fitch Family

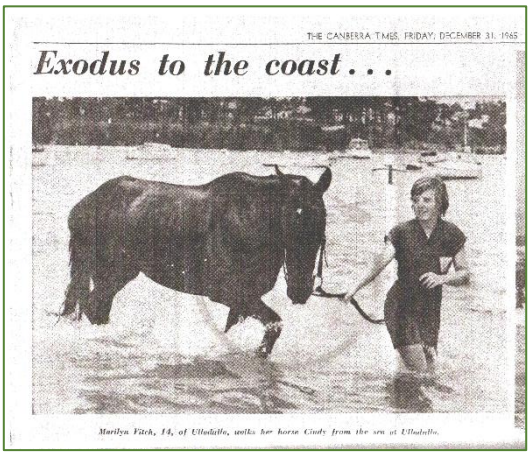
Marilyn Higgins is a descendant from the Fitch Family of Ulladulla. This is a story of her family.
Charles and Harriet Fitch and their son Thomas Henry arrived in Hobart in 1842 on the *Ship "Jane Frances*" from London. Charles was the youngest son of Septimus Fitch who was a London Draper.
The family came to Milton in 1855 and Charles worked for the Warden Family at "Wandaree".
Harriet had a food stall at Ulladulla Wharf. Later she had a shop in Wason Street which was located on the site of where the Marlin Hotel is today.
Thomas Henry Fitch was born 1841 in England and married Dinah Pattemore 1903. Thomas was recorded as a farmer and they had eight children who were all born in Ulladulla - Arthur, Aaron, Alfred, Oliver F, Florence Elizabeth and William Frederick who was known as *"Fred"*, Frederick Colin, and Zelda Ida. Fred married Olive Veitch who became postmistress.
Marilyn's parents were Kevin and Mavis Joyce, known as *"Joyce"*. They had two children - Marilyn and William.
The family mainly lived in Ulladulla and Marilyn would help her parents in their grocery shop. The family also owned a newsagent and hardware store.
In those early days, cheese was mostly made in big blocks and it was cut with a wire to the size and weight required by the customer. Biscuits came packed in tins and you would buy them not in packets as we do now, but loose and you told the shop keeper how much you wanted. Broken biscuits were much cheaper and they were sold in paper bags.
Eggs were not sold in egg containers as they are today, they also came in paper bags and in the quantity required by the customer.
Kevin also sold petrol. He would drive to Port Kembla to collect it. This petrol would supply the fishing trawlers in Ulladulla. Kevin was also a supplier of tin food for the boats during the fishing season. The family would all help to take the tin food aboard the boat and it was a very tricky job.
There were also additional fuel tanks on the Ulladulla Wharf which supplied the boats.
Kevin used to smoke, and one time when he was driving the truck back to Ulladulla with the fuel, he threw the cigarette out of the window. A passing motorist saw the smoke coming out of the back of the truck and warned Kevin that the back of the truck was alight. They were able to extinguish the flame before anything nasty happened. How lucky Kevin was.
In his spare time Kevin began clearing the Caravan Park above the Ulladulla Harbour to make it a suitable camping area.
In those early days, there was no hot water and they had what was called a Donkey Boiler and Marilyn would gather fire wood after school to burn under the boiler. The fire was stoked up and the coal added to keep the fire going. The council took over and it was then leased out by the Council.
Joyce worked in a guest house at Bega before she was married. After the children were born, she was mainly a housewife.
While the children were young, Kevin brought them a dingy boat which they used to go to Millard's Creek and around the Ulladulla Harbour. The children had great fun.



Marilyn at pony club

William their son, went to Newington College in Sydney. He became a surveyor draftsman and ended up in New Guinea working as a surveyor. When he returned home, he worked for Peter Smith the surveyor based in Ulladulla.
Marilyn always loved horses and the family had a small hobby farm at Termeil where they had horses and cattle. Her horse was moved to different spots around Ulladulla and Milton to eat the grass. She would go for regular rides, mainly around the back areas of the town to avoid the traffic on the roads. Whenever the horse came near where pigs were kept, or even close to the slaughter

yards the smell would spook the horses and Marilyn had to learn to control them.
Marilyn belonged to the Pony Club in Milton where she entered many competitions and enjoyed the time she had with her beloved horse.
The horses loved to go for a swim in the harbour and afterwards William and Marilyn would groom them. One time when both children took their horses to the harbour for a swim, a reporter from the Canberra Times saw them and their photo appeared in the Canberra Times.


THE CANBERRA TIMES, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1965

Exodus to the coast . . .

Marilyn Fitch, 14, of Ulladulla, walks her horse Cindy from the sea at Ulladulla.

The HIGGINS FAMILY OF MILTON

John Higgins born in Warwick England arrived in Hobart 1831 on the "*Larkin*". He was transported for 7 years for stealing bread and cheese. Freed 1837, he was found guilty of stealing a sheep while working on a farm and served another six years at Port Arthur.
Freed again 1848, he married Elizabeth Lowe in Hobart 1850. She was born 1828 in Bury, Lancashire and was transported for 7 years 1846 for stealing fabric. Their children were Joseph and Eliza who were born in Hobart. From there the family went to the Victorian goldfields and then on to Dapto NSW. In 1856 John was granted 34 acres at Jerrawangala, north of Milton. He became a dairy farmer and grew vegetables and wheat. He also worked for the road board and timber getting.
They owned 200 acres at Sassafras when Eliza married Edward Grigg in Milton 1877. Elizabeth died 1893 and John 1894. They are buried in the Methodist Cemetery in Milton.

Neville Higgins is a descendant from the Higgins Family. His grandparents Bob and Esther owned a dairy farm in Cobargo NSW. Bob and Esther decided to move to Milton and set up a dairy farm. There were too many cows to transport in their truck, so the calves were put on the truck with the fencing and the milking equipment. The truck would drive ahead of the drovers who were on their horses and the rest of the cattle began walking from Cobargo to Milton. The drovers kept check on the cattle to ensure that they would all stay together and the truck would find a suitable place for them to set up the fence at night to keep the cows in. They would be milked and ensured that they had plenty to eat. Camp was set up and they would sleep the night with the cattle.
It is not known how many days it took them to walk the distance and they eventually settled at a farm called 100 acres which was near the Catholic Church in Milton.
Neville's father Robert Frederick known as *"Fred"* met and married Doreen Wheatley. They set up a farm at Little Forest and it was there that their daughter Lorraine was born.
A few years passed and they decided to extend their farm and moved to Spring Hill Farm at Croobyar Road. This was where Neville, their son was born.
Fred and his brother Ron were very close. They agreed they would swap farms for a while, as Ron's wife Joy was having problems having children and they wanted to be closer to medical attention.
Fred started work in the Pine Forest and it was here that their third child Joy was born.
Another move was made to Berry Vale Farm in Milton where Neville started school and then another move was made to "Johnson's farm at Yattah Yatta. This farm was heavily surrounded by bush. At one time, Neville chased a snake pelting it with stones, when suddenly it made a quick turn and began chasing Neville.
Neville was a lover of nature and he would trap birds and keep them for a little while and then release them. On the veranda of the house his sister Joy was seen lifting one of the floor boards and pouring milk into a saucer. It was thought she was feeding the cat and when curiosity got the better of the family they investigated. Joy was feeding a snake!
A disagreement began between Fred and Mr. Johnson and so the family moved house once again and this time to Falls Creek. One morning while they were still in bed, they could hear the cows bellowing. They were

normally very quiet and placid. Upon checking what was causing the noise it was found the cows were standing knee deep in water. Upstream was the Albatross Creek and it was in flood heading downstream to their property.

Another move this time was to Robertson Road, Moss Vale where Neville attended school at Fitzroy Falls. It was three and a half miles walk. Sometimes he would ride his bike.

It rained a lot while they were here and when it flooded, Neville and his father would ride their horses around the property to check the fence post to make sure they were still in position to keep the cows in the paddocks. During this time, they would often see little heads and eyes above the water and they were never sure if it was a tortoise or a snake.

Between the age of 12 to 14 Neville's father worked on the council when they moved back to Milton. They had a plot of land at Nelligen where they grew corn and vegetables and they also had horses. To get to Nelligen in those early days, there wasn't any bridge over the Clyde River and to cross over was by punt. This particular time their dog went missing after they had let him roam around on his own. They called out and went looking for the dog and he was unable to be found. They had to get back to Milton so they left word with the driver of the punt asking him when the dog came back would he ring the homestead. Fred then had to make another trip back to Batemans Bay to collect his dog.

As a young man, Neville joined the Pony Club and was involved with lots of activities with his horse. It was here that he met Marilyn Fitch and they were married.

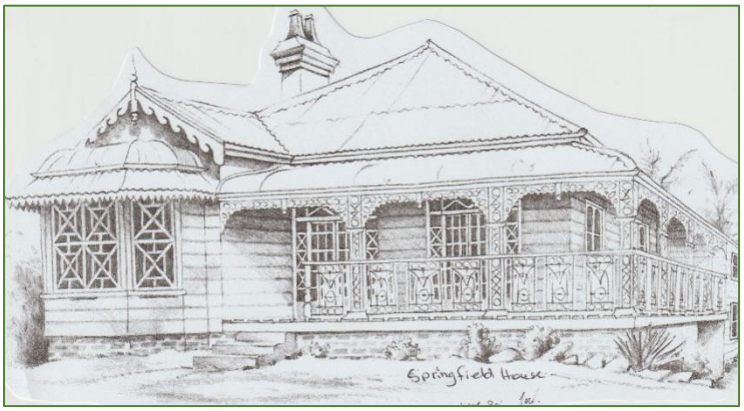
One birthday Marilyn brought Neville a pair of Princess Parrots from another local man Noel Turnbull. This began his love of raising all kinds of Parrots. Eventually the horse stalls were turned into bird aviaries and he now has a beautiful collection of them.

During the 125-year celebration of Milton, Neville had his photo taken with his family in the true pioneer spirit of our beautiful Milton.

The Mison Family of Milton

Ephraim Mison and his wife Ann lived in one of the many houses on David Warden's Mt Airlie property for some time. They had a family of nine children. All except for Alice, the others all were given Biblical names - John, Abraham, Jacab, Isaac, Joseph, Manatha, Ephriam and Esau.

Epsaim Mison owned a timber mill above the wharf at Ulladulla on 60 acres on the side of the Princes Highway between Ulladulla and Milton. He built a lovely 11 room house, unique in this district in its architectural features, following the contour of the hill, the back section was two stories.

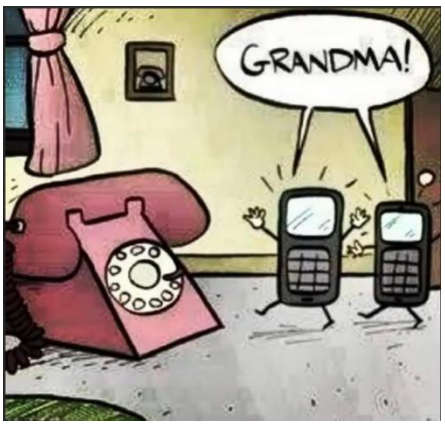


John Mison and his wife continued to live in Springfield along with his son Leslie and his wife Ruby and their three

Marie and her Grandfather Mison

children Dale, Jenny, and Marie.
Leslie had to leave school at the age of 13 to help with the handling of the farm and became a slaughter man. The slaughter yard was down the back of the house in a gully. The truck would come to the yard with their sheep and cattle.
If a lamb was born in the truck on their way to Springfield, Leslie would keep it. The lamb was looked after by his granddaughter Marie, who would feed the lamb milk from their cows. When they would mysteriously disappear, Marie would wonder where they had gone.
On the farm was a milking shed and the men would get up early to milk the cows. There was one jersey cow that took a dislike to Marie and would be quite aggressive towards her. While the milking was taking place, it was Marie who would clip their tails to the fence rail to stop them flicking them around. This aggressive cow would make sure that Marie had a very hard job of trying to secure her tail. Marie commented that she loved being with her father and grandfather and that is why she got so many jobs to do.
Part of the milk was poured into a billy can and the milk was kept overnight for the cream to come to the top. It was then skimmed off. The billy was then put onto the combustion stove and salt was added. It was brought to the boil then poured into the churn where Marie would have to turn the handle of the churn to make the butter.

It was Marie and Jenny's daily job to take turns in gathering the kindle for the combustion stove or prepare the vegetables for the meal at night. Somehow it always seemed that Marie had to collect the kindle for the fire.
John Mison had a lovely vegetable garden where he grew all kinds of vegetables and there was a photograph of Marie sitting on a gigantic pumpkin in which John had entered the Royal Easter Show. He won many ribbons for his entry for various vegetables he had grown.
Marie Gardner nee Mison was an animal lover. She was one of the founder members of the Wildlife Rescue group over 24 years ago. A photo is attached with one of her many rescues.



History about our Census

By Christine Moss

I recently was adding information into our Data base to help ourselves as well as any inquiries to locate any information on our Library bookshelf on local names.

Amongst this was a copy of the 1891 census, which I was most interested in. I read some of the land was vacant, or a person travelling and included living in the bush. It also showed how many Chinese were living on the property as well as aboriginal and what Church was on that land.

What amused me was that Children had destroyed part of the census report. The handwriting was a scribble and very hard to read in parts requiring a magnifying glass to decipher or glancing at a clearer word how they formed the letters.

When I was young the Census person came and left the form to be filled out on census night at my uncle's house. I explained to them that he was dead, and no one would be there. It still had to be left outside for them to collect after Census night. I thought it was an invasion of privacy, not understanding the real purpose of what this was all about.

Since joining family history, I have come to realize what valuable information this is and I delved into finding out what other purpose it was used for.

What is the Census and why was it compiled?

The census is a head count of everyone in the county on a given day. A census has been taken in England and Wales, and separately for Scotland, every ten years since 1801, except for 1941.

The object of the census was not to obtain detailed information about individuals, but to provide information about the population as a whole: listing everyone by name, wherever they happened to be on a single night was the most efficient way to count everybody once, and nobody twice.

How the census was taken and what dates.

In every year an enumerator delivered a form to each household in the country for them to complete. The heads of household were instructed to give details of everyone who slept in that dwelling on census night which was always on Sunday. The forms completed by each household, known as schedules, were collected a few days later by the enumerator. From 1841 to 1901 the information from the schedules was then copied into enumeration books. Once the enumeration books had been completed, most household schedules were destroyed, although there are some rare survivals. It is the enumeration books that we consult today online or on microfilm.

The 1841 census was the first to list the names of every individual, which makes it the earliest useful census for family historians. However, less information was collected in 1841 than in later census years.

The General Register Office was responsible for taking the census, so it used the administrative framework already in place for the registration of births, marriages, and deaths. The Superintendent Registrar was responsible for collecting the returns from each Registrar of Births and Deaths in their registration district and sending them to the Census Office in London. Each Registrar of Births and Deaths was responsible for sub-district, which they divided into enumeration districts (Eds), and recruited enumerators for each ED.

The map illustrates three of the registration sub-districts at the time of the 1891 census. The map was annotated for use by the Registrars responsible for collecting the census returns for this district.

The dates of the census were as follows:

- 1841 – 6 June, *1851- 30 Mar, *1861- 7 April, *1871- 2 April, *1881- 3 April, *1891- 5 April, 1901, *1911- 2 April, *1921-19 June.

For these census years the household schedules were kept, instead of being copied into enumeration books, each piece represents an enumeration district (ED). In 1921 some pieces cover two small enumeration districts, so the ED number should be included in a full reference. Instead of folio numbers, each household has a unique schedule number in the top right-hand corner, so that a reference will be in the format RG 14/26288 Sch227, for 1911, or RG 15/12199, ED, Sch43 for 1921.

Institutions and vessels do not have schedule numbers, instead the information was recorded directly into special enumeration books with numbered pages, as in previous census years.

CENSUSES FOR SCOTLAND AND IRELAND

Scotland, 1841- 1921

Census returns for Scotland are almost identical in format to those for England and Wales, except for 1911 and 1921, when similarly detailed information was gathered but was then copied into enumeration books as in previous years, so there are no household schedules or enumerators' summary books.

Ireland

Unfortunately, few 19th- century Irish census returns have survived: most were lost were lost when the Public Record Office was destroyed in the fire at the Four Courts in Dublin 1922. Only the 1901 and 1911 censuses survived, along with a very small number of earlier returns. No census was taken in Ireland in 1921 owing to the War of Independence.

British colonies and protectorates

Censuses were also taken in many British colonies on the same dates as in the United Kingdom. Surviving records of these will normally be found in the country of origin, and not in the National Archives. The only exceptions to this are:

***Census of settlers and convicts in NSW and Tasmania 1828.**

THE AUSTRALIAN CENSUS

The Census is the most comprehensive snapshot of the country and tells the story of how we are changing.

The last Census was on Tuesday 10th August 2021. Planning for the next Census in 2026 is currently underway.

Every five years, the ABS counts every person and household in Australia. We call this the Census of Population and Housing.

The Census is the most comprehensive snapshot of the country and tells the story of how we are changing. Census data tells us about the economic, social and cultural make-up of the country.

The census collects information from people, and in this way, it's like a big survey. However, surveys only select a sample of people to participate, whereas the Census includes everybody in the population.

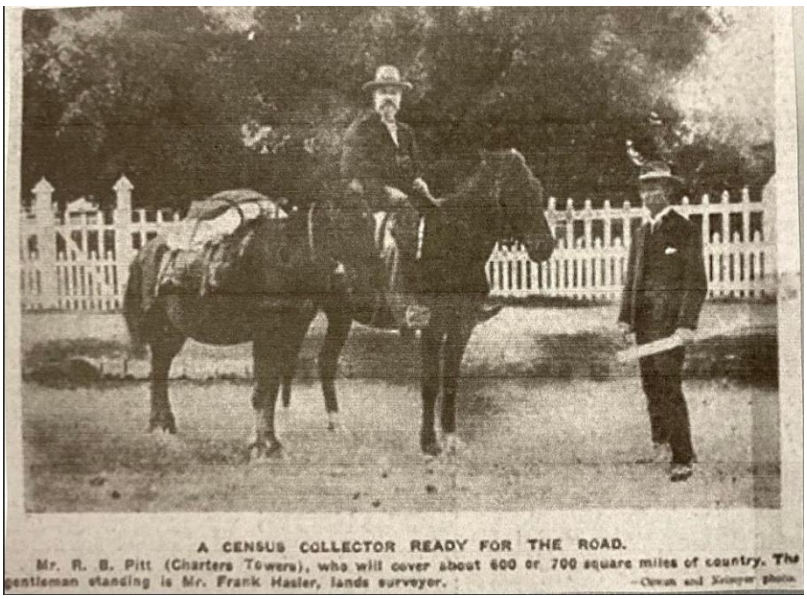
To complete the Census, the ABS contacts households in a few different ways. Letters and paper forms were delivered in some areas, and in other areas, visits were made to households. Households complete the Census form and submit it online or send it back in email.

The Census form asks questions about things such as your age, country of birth, religion, ancestry, language used at home, work and education. Only a Census can provide this information for the entire country including small geographic areas and small population groups.

Did you know that in 2016 the Census included around 10 million households and over 25 million people?

Getting to everyone

It's important that everyone is counted in the Census to reflect the diversity of Australia. The diverse lifestyles we lead means that the ABS needs to consider how to make completing the Census as easy as possible for everyone. This includes supporting Fly in Fly out workers, defense personnel, shift workers, seasonal workers, people sleeping rough, remote communities, overseas travelers, grey nomads, and international students.



A CENSUS COLLECTOR READY FOR THE ROAD.
Mr. R. B. Pitt (Charters Towers), who will cover about 600 or 700 square miles of country. The gentleman standing is Mr. Frank Hasler, lands surveyor.

Given the Census is about population and housing, it's important that we record information about the types of places people stay on Census night.

The ABS travels from hospitals to hotels to houseboats, camping grounds to caravans, ski lodges to school camps, retirement villages to residential colleges and secure apartment buildings to share-houses.

There are a few different ways we make contact with households. Letters or paper forms are delivered in many areas, and in other areas such as rural or remote locations, visits are made to households.

Did you know in 1911, our collectors visited people by foot, bicycle, and on horseback.

In 2021, our field staff generally reached people by foot or car. They travelled over 10 million kilometers to reach everybody.

Over the years of running Census, reaching people sometimes means using other vehicles like boats, helicopters, and snowmobiles.

Recruiting for a Census

The Census is the largest collection of statistics ABS undertakes, and one of the most important. Counting each person and dwelling on Census night takes a lot of planning, and many people.

In the months leading up to a Census, field staff make sure businesses and services are prepared with enough forms for people staying. We enlist the help of hotels, motels, hospitals, aged care facilities, student accommodation and many other establishments to ensure guests, patients and residents are ready for the **Census.**

The bulk of field staff are employed to deliver Census materials to homes, or to visit homes after Census night where we have not received a completed form.

Specialist field staff are also recruited to support people who are hard to reach or who may need help completing their Census.

Did you know for the 2021 Census, they recruited approximately 32,000 staff. This included teams to work in remote communities to ensure people sleeping rough were counted, and to provide language assistance.

How Information collected in the Census is used.

Having the right numbers in the Census means the right services can be provided for communities. Census data helps inform services that improve the lives of people, families, and communities. For example:

- Royal Flying Doctor Service uses the information to make sure people in rural Australia can get health care they need.
- Council on the Ageing uses the information to help understand the issues affecting older Australians such as mortgage debt and renting.
- Playgroup Australia uses information to help plan where a playgroup would be beneficial to local families.
- Some Public libraries use the information to identify language needs in the local community to build their bilingual book collections and source language support materials.

Censuses around the world

Censuses are conducted in many countries around the world to provide population and dwelling counts. The ABS learns from and supports international statistical organizations. These partnerships helped us in preparing to run a Census during the COVID-19 pandemic, and in turn we have shared our experiences to help our partners.

Every country runs their Census differently to reflect the information its community needs and ensure everyone is counted. You can learn about our partners by visiting their websites.

How the Australian Census has changed over the years.

The first population counts in Australia were made as early as 1788.

In 1828, the first colonial Census was conducted in NSW, with Tasmania in 1841, South Australia in 1844, Western Australia in 1848 and Victoria in 1854. In 1881 the simultaneous Census of all Australia colonies was conducted.

First ABS Census

In 1911, the first national Census was conducted by the Australia Bureau of Statistics. Around 7,300 people were appointed for the collection work.

Field Officers travelled by horse, cart and bicycle to collect forms across the country and information gathered was tabulated by hand.

Evolution of the Census

The Census was repeated in 1921, 1933, 1947, 1954, 1961, 1966 and from then on, every five years.

In 1921, Census information was tabulated using mechanical machine equipment.

The machines used in 1961 were so large that when delivered they could not fit through the door of the Census office in Canberra. A large hole had to be cut in the side of the wooden building to install them. The 1961 Census was the last to use tabulating machines.
In 1954, women were hired to process and code data for the first time. The 1967 Referendum mandated all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to be counted in the Australian Census.

Computer technology was first used to process Census information in 1966 and people were provided with the option to complete their Census online in 2006

QUOTES

GENEALOGISTS DON'T GET ALZHEIMER'S, THEY JUST LOSE THEIR CENSUS

IF YOU THINK YOUR FAMILY IS NORMAL, YOU PROBABLY AREN'T A GENEALOGIST

Harold Bowman and Bluey
by Margaret Magnusson

Harold was born at Braidwood in 1918. He had a blue healer dog from a pup and named him Bluey. The dog went everywhere with Harold. He even slept on the floor beside his bed.

They would go rabbit shooting and the story goes that Bluey would sense the rabbit before the rabbit popped out of the hole. The two were very close. Harold would go sheep shearing on the farms around Braidwood. The farmers did not like Bluey being at the shearing sheds but Harold said he was no problem and if the dog could not be there then he was not be there either. Bluey would sit near Harold while he sheared and Bluey stayed in the same spot until Harold moved for lunch or home. Bluey became very popular and the sheep were safe.

Harold and his brother Jack (John) enlisted in the army a few months apart in 1941. When Harold enlisted it was the first time that he and Bluey were apart for any length of time and the dog fretted for a long time. Jack shipped out a month before Harold and they were in Singapore when it fell. They were in the 2/19th Battalion. They were both taken prisoners. They were both in Changi Jail. Later Harold was moved to Sandakan Camp.

Back in Braidwood Harold s parents did not know where their boys were – only that they were prisoners of war.
Sometime in 1945 the family were informed that Harold had died in December 1944 and Jack was coming home.

Pictured is the home of their parents and siblings c1941.

IS JAMES A MEMBER OF OUR FAMILY?

By Peter Taylor

We (actually, my cousin, Allen) have found a newspaper clipping from the Liverpool Evening Express, page 3, Dated 25th August 1897, about the will of a James Taylor J.P. (I will call him "JamesJP" from here on to distinguish him from all the other James Taylors in this document). This JamesJP was born around the same time and place as our ancestor Josiah Taylor who immigrated to Australia in 1841.

As JamesJP was retired from a partnership with his brother Thomas running a firm called Messrs Thomas Taylor & Bros., Lancashire cotton spinners, we thought there might be a link between JamesJP's father and our Josiah's father Thomas, who was a weaver at Wigan in 1813. Perhaps they were brothers?

So, I did some research into who JamesJP descended from and who are his relatives, looking for a link between this JamesJP's father and our Josiah's father, Thomas.

In JamesJP's will, all his possessions and properties (Rendcombe Park and those that belonged to his brother, Thomas in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire) and their contents were left in trust for his wife Editha Agnes to enjoy. After Editha dies, it was to be held in trust for his rightful heirs. He also left specific bequeaths and legacies to his nieces Constance Elizabeth Taylor, Mabel and Beatrice Taylor and nephews James Herbert Taylor and Richard Charles Snape, also to Editha's sisters Adelaide Emily Sergison and Emily Colvile.

From the will, we know that JamesJP was from Wigan, Lancashire and he had a brother Thomas who predeceased him. JamesJP also had a wife Editha Agnes who had at least two sisters Adelaide Emily Sergison and Emily Colvile. JamesJP also had some nieces and nephews, probably the children of his brother Thomas as it appears that James inherited all of Thomas' estate.

Initially, I looked for Editha and her sisters in Ancestry.com as their surname "Sergison" is much rarer than "Taylor". They were relatively easy to find and I did find people who have researched that family but they only had a passing mention of JamesJP. The best I could find about JamesJP was someone had an 1891 census of James Taylor with Editha at Rendcombe, but on that census the James was listed as aged 65 and Editha as being 50. The researcher had down that the James was born 1811 and Editha in 1828. If the birth dates were correct, then the ages should have been 81 and 63 (I found that previous census for Editha appeared to correctly match her age as being born in 1828 as per her baptism record). This information was not conclusive enough to identify the JamesJP that I am looking for.

From the will we get that the date of the National Probate Calendar for JamesJP was 7 May 1897 and the entry in this calendar states that he died on 1 Nov 1896. There is a burial entry for JamesJP at the Rendcombe, Glouchester parish register and it states that he was buried 5 Nov 1896 and was 85 years old. This means that his birth year is 1810 or 1811. So, I started to look for baptisms of a James being born around 1811 in Wigan who also had a brother Thomas. I found seven James Taylors baptised at Wigan around that year, all at All Saints. Looking at the baptism registers, I could see their parents and their father's trade and abode so I looked for siblings and in particular for the brother Thomas and found that three of those James had a brother Thomas.

The parents of the first James and Thomas were James (a weaver of Orrell) and Ann (nee Leigh). This James was baptised in 1810 and his older brother Thomas in 1807. Now, knowing the parent's names, trade and abode I searched the All Saints baptism register during the period 1790 to 1820 for any other siblings of James. There were two families of children being baptised at All Saints around that time with their parents being James Taylor and Ann Leigh. Luckily, the register showed the parents abode, trade and also the order of the children (e.g. "second daughter of …"). I could then separate the children of Ann and James, weaver of Orrell from the family of Ann and James, Slater of Wigan Lane. Only the family of Orrell had a child Thomas so I researched this family in more detail.

The parents of the second James and Thomas were John (a weaver of Scholes) and Margaret (nee Hart). This James was baptised in 1808 with his twin brother Thomas, who died just over a year later of smallpox. Searching the baptism register further, I found that John and Margaret had another son Thomas in 1810.

The third James was born in December, 1810 and his parents were James (a carrier of King Street) and Mary (nee Hopwood). This James' brother Thomas was a couple of years older, born in December 1808.

Even though I could find siblings, parents and sometimes children and nieces and nephews in the baptism register; I could not find anything that would prove which of the above three James is the "James Taylor JP" I am looking for.

So, I looked elsewhere…

The will also bequeaths to JamesJP's nieces and nephews. I assumed that these may be Thomas' children, so I looked for these in Wigan and found a family with a "Beatrice" descending from a Thomas. But this Thomas did not have a brother James, it was actually the Thomas Taylor who later owned the "Grecian Mills", a large cotton mill on Bolton, Manchester. This family had no real link to JamesJP.

JamesJP's brother Thomas predeceased JamesJP, so I looked for his probate on "www.gov.uk/search-will-probate", perhaps this will lead to his birth date and then which family at Wigan. I searched the UK National Probate Index for Thomas Taylor between 1870 and 1897. There were many but only a few that had large estates (larger than £20,000). Unfortunately, I could not identify which one was the brother Thomas. Although, there was one Thomas Taylor who died in September 1876, had a probate of £120,000 and he was a cotton spinner at Great Lever, Manchester. He left his estate to William Taylor and John Leigh Taylor, his sons. I researched this family more but found that this Thomas was the one mentioned above who owned "Grecian Mills"

There is a book titled "Burke's Landed Gentry" which is a reference work listing families in Great Britain and Ireland who have owned rural estates of some size "www.burkespeerage.com". Using "ukga.org", I looked up James Taylor of Rendcombe and it shows JamesJP's lineage. This lineage listed JamesJP's three brothers and two sisters, their spouses and number of children. Eureka! This enabled me to identify that JamesJP is the family above of King Street whose mother was Mary Hopwood. This entry also provided the names of spouses and some relative's death years.

Researching this family more thoroughly, looking at what other researches had, following the Ancestry "hints" and looking for families in English censuses enabled me to not only find JamesJP's siblings, nieces and nephews, but also his parents and grandparents. I found all the people mentioned in his will (except the executor John Shaw Darington) and the probate of his brother Thomas. See "James Taylor JP Family Tree" in Ancestry.com

In conclusion, this research of JamesJP' family shows that JamesJP is not related to our Josiah. At best, we were hoping that JamesJP could have been a cousin of Josiah, but JamesJP did not have an uncle Thomas, I could not find any aunts nor uncles for him.

I also found that a lot of information in people's family trees in Ancestry is actually wrong and you need to really double-check everything before you accept it as fact.

JamesJP is not related to our Josiah.

QUESTIONS QUESTIONS QUESTIONS QUESTIONS QUESTIONS

By Ron Smith member 6936311

Every Family Research begins with a question.

Most beginners are unsure about where to start or what questions to ask.

As members of a Family History Society we, collectively, have many skills which can be shared. Helping others improves your own abilities and allows you to work wider on your own story. It also reinforces the basic techniques which are the first steps on any FH search.

The simplest question or hint can often knock down the biggest of brick walls.

Such was my problem with Elizabeth Bailey who died May 6, 1877 and was buried in The Old Ulladulla Cemetery now under The Princes Highway. Who was she? Where did she come from? BDM NSW was of little help. Our own resources gave her maiden name, Palmer, born overseas. With much enthusiasm, I used TROVE NLA and found her notice of death which gave her age and little more. At 86 years of age, living in a colonial outpost who was helping her? After failing to find her in any of the usual databases (Monaro Pioneers, Family Search, Ancestry and so on) options were running low. Perhaps another forgotten pioneer of Milton Ulladulla.

A chance remark from a member suggested trying TROVE NLA and widening the search terms. BINGO, an entry in the Kiama Independent newspaper had an article from “information supplied by her son, Charles Fitch”. Ulladulla’s early shopkeeper and shipping agent. With the benefit of hindsight, I should have paid for a transcript of the death and saved hours of fruitless trawling on the computer. This one remark knocked down my BRICK WALL. Elizabeth’s story is now complete. Twice married, (from Palmer to Fitch to Bailey).
John Bailey was a very early schoolmaster at Balmain Sydney NSW. His will from Archives NSW tells of his devotion to his wife and her heirs. The Fitch family in England had stated in Ancestry.com on their Family Tree that she and her daughter, also Elizabeth, had died at the time of husband one’s death. NOT TRUE. Eleven months after the death of Septimus (husband one) she married John Bailey, schoolmaster, a widower. When they arrived in Australia they were noted as Mr and Mrs Bailey and Miss Elizabeth Fitch. No further information in the records. John Bailey bought land “near Ulladulla” and this passed to Elizabeth Bailey then to her son Charles Fitch. Miss Elizabeth Fitch had died a year after her arrival in the Colony.

I contacted the Balmain Historical Society for further information about their early schoolmaster and discovered that his story is unknown to them. On behalf of our Society, I have offered to tell the Bailey connection. Sharing the knowledge helps all of us.

SPENCER AND THE SNAKE
By Marg Magnusson

Spencer lived with his grandparents from a very young age at Currawan Creek near the Clyde River.

Part of his job when he was a young boy was helping to milk the cow and hanging the pail of milk from the rafter of the kitchen to cure it for cheese and butter. Some of the-milk went missing and his grandma would say “Spence will you stop drinking the milk” and he would say “I am not drinking it”. This went on for some time. One day Spencer said, “Grandma Spencer is drinking the milk” and points into the rafter's granny looks up and sees a snake with its head in the bucket of milk.

She very slowly moves backwards and feels for the shotgun and grabs it and takes aim and fires. The gun goes off with a big bang.

Well, the pail of milk falls to the floor with a BIG hole in it and the milk leaks over the kitchen floor, the snake falls to the floor without its head and there is a BIG hole in the roof that has to be fixed.

The gun was always left just inside the door loaded as grandfather was away long hours because of his work.
Spencer laughed about it in later years and said grandma was a good shot but she couldn’t miss the snake.

Roma Robbins Award –

This year our stories have been judged by Shoalhaven Library. Cathy Burns, Ulladulla Customer & Community Resources Manager and Megan Crook, Heritage Librarian who is based in Nowra were our two judges. The following are the results.

They both send congratulations to all the contributors of this collection of the family history stories. Megan and Cathy both enjoyed reading them and particularly were impressed by the images used in the articles. These they felt support the articles and enhanced the engagement of the reader.
Megan supplied the feedback –

1 **Burroman later known as Brooman**

This informative and liberally illustrated article opened a window in time into the social and economic life of early Brooman settlement. Exploring a few stories in-depth helped add the colour and movement of a once thriving community. I appreciated the reference made to additional residents, school pupils and business owners, which could provide a stepping stone for readers to engage in further research.

2 **What is in a Name? The story of a search for my grandfather**

The story provided a well-paced unfolding of an intriguing family history mystery. It highlighted the importance and benefits of connecting with distant cousins who may hold significant records and knowledge about shared ancestors. The response from the author's brother, "but are you still my father", also speaks to the heart of genealogy's complexity, that it can be both blood and bonds which define a family.

3 **Who was Elizabeth Bailey?**

I commend the author's dedication in tracing the family trees of those laid to rest in the cemetery at South Ulladulla. Readers are taken through the process of conducting multiple searches in deferent repositories until that one clue finally brings the story together. The biographical sketch of an early Ulladulla settler and her family has now been brought to light.

Marg Magnusson won the award

BURROMAN later known as BROOMAN.

The Brooman area was occupied by First Nation People for many hundreds of years as there were fertile riverbanks from the Clyde River-and an abundance of fish. There were at times up to 500 First Nation People gathering along the riverbank and flats.

The first European people to squat or own land around the Brooman area were businessmen from Sydney. They would put stockmen (sometimes with a family) on the places to clear the land for cattle and grow crops.

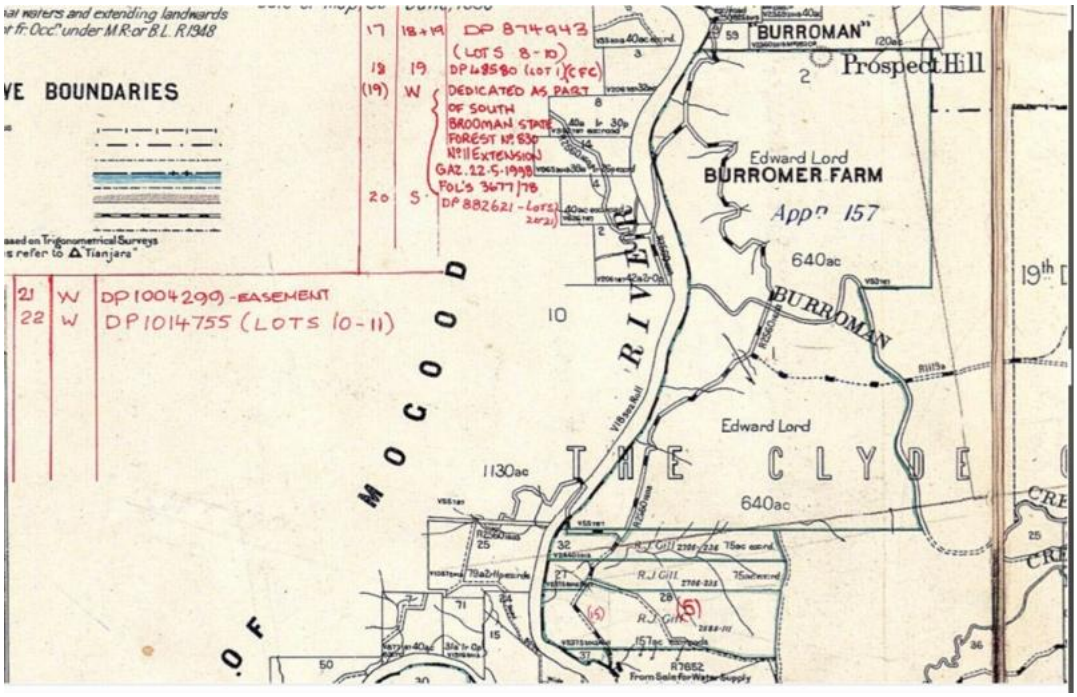
The wheat when harvested would be sent by bullock dray to markets in Sydney with the cattle going to Sydney too. There were no roads just tracks through the bush onto the coast and then the tracks would follow the coast up to Sydney. Some were loaded on to boats at Boat Harbour (Ulladulla) and at Wollongong for the trip to Sydney.

Edward LORD was granted land at what then was called Burroman in 1839.

One of the families to settle for a while were Rees and Ann JONES, Rees was the brother of David Jones of the retail David Jones". They were there about 1844 with three of their small sons, housekeeper and two work men. The youngest son only being nine months old.

They stayed there for maybe 12 months.

There was a caretaker and his family already on the property at the time who left not long after the Jones's arrived.



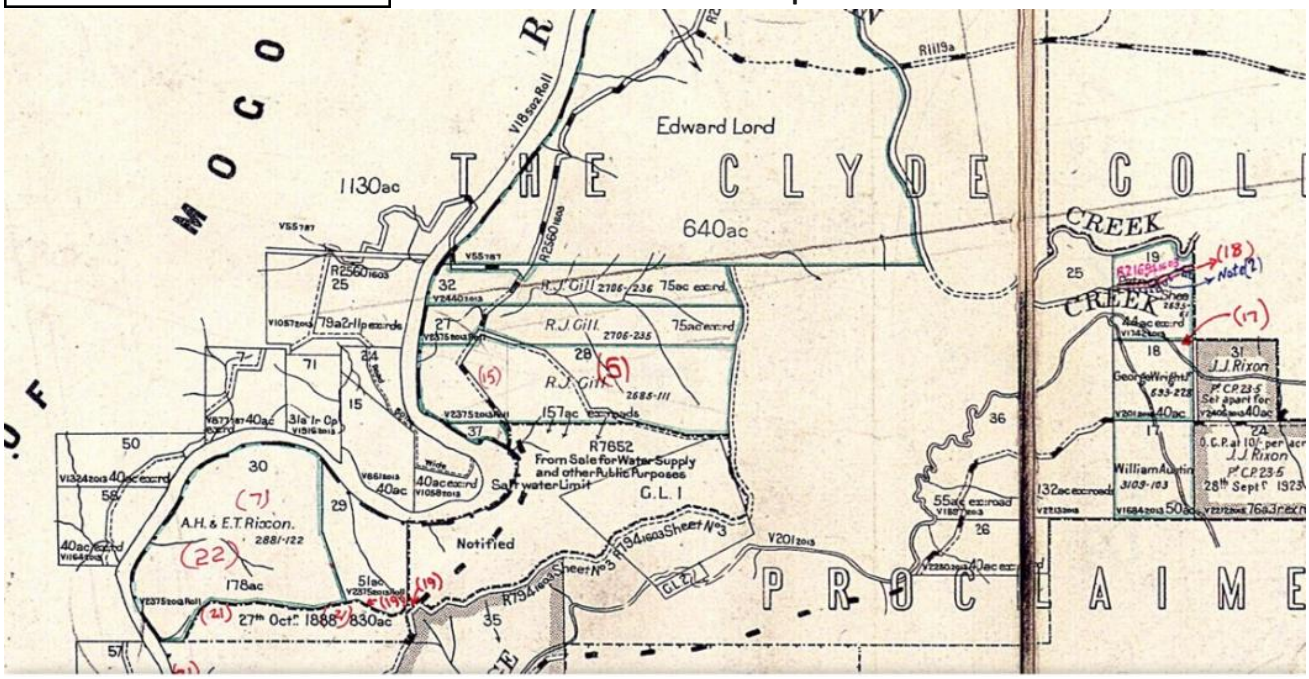
Ann her children, housekeeper and the two stockmen were left on the property for many weeks and sometimes months at a time while Rees went off travelling at times to Sydney and even as far as Yass. Storms, flooding from the Clyde and hunger were a part of her life there.

They did have some pigs and a cow for milk but not having fences the stock would stray with some not returning.

Without the help of the First Nations people giving Ann and her family fresh caught fish from the river they would have had a much harder time.

Map above is from

They later moved to the Yass district and bought land for farming cattle. Rees also had a mercantile shop at Yass



John MANN bought land in 1851 and sold it to William AUSTEN in 1859.

John and Catharine CORRIGAN had land in 1853.

Timothy CONDON also had 30 acres.

Some of the other people that had land at Brooman were Robert GILL. Robert had two blocks one was 30.35 and 63.54 hectares.

[1698]

Department of Mines,
Sydney, 18th March, 1884.

PROPOSED RESUMPTION OF LAND FOR ROAD UNDER 27TH SECTION OF ACT 43 VICTORIA No. 29.—LAND DISTRICT OF DOWLING.

NOTICE is hereby given that it is proposed to resume so much land as is embraced in certain Conditional Purchases (described in the appended Schedule), the same being required for the following road, viz.:—From the south boundary of F. M'Mahon's 640 acres, on the east side of the Clyde River, at Brooman, to the east boundary of G. and W. Millard's 41 acres, being part of the road from Nelligen to Milton, via Brooman, with three branch roads, county of St. Vincent.

[Rds. 84-001]

JOSEPH P. ABBOTT.

SCHEDULE REFERRED TO.

Catalogue No.	No. of C.P.	Parish.	Parish No.	Name of Conditional Purchaser.	Area of Portion. a. r. p.	Area Resumed. a. r. p.	Remarks.
V. 825-2013	76- 45	Boyne	8	M. Jones (now G. and W. Millard)	40 0 0	1 3 30	In lieu of reserved road; area increased by 18 perches.
" 626- 787	62-1650	Megood	4	T. Condon (now B. A. Austin)	40 0 0	1 2 20	In lieu of reserved road.
" 965-2013	78- 33	Do	14	T. Condon (now F. M'Mahon)	40 0 0	1 3 23	In lieu of reserved road; area decreased by 2 roods 14 perches.
" 952 "	75- 20	Do	8	M. Walker (now F. M'Mahon)	40 0 0	1 0 20	In lieu of reserved road; area increased by 1 rood 30 perches.
" 1057 "	79- 17	Do	25	James Gardner, jun.	80 0 0	0 1 29	.....

Others that had land south of Brooman was Thomas SHOEBRIDGE, Patrick DUFFY with nearly 21 hectares, William BEADMAN, James MCCAULEY, C.H. HIGGINS, William HAPGOOD, Patrick SHEA, Emanuel SELLICK, Joseph BEADMAN, George WRIGHT, Michael. SHEA, Thomas RIXON all had nearly 17 hectares each. In 1894 there was a bit of a gold rush at Brooman. There had been gold found on Mr McMahon's property by Mr. CLUGSTON who was renting 1280 acres from Mr McMahon. Mr Clugston was a farmer, dairy farmer. Mr Clugston had been in touch with Mr. McMahon about a mining permit. Mr McMahon who lived in Sydney thought he would buy the mining lease himself and was granted a permit to mine on the property or allow other men to mine for the gold. He decided to come down and inspect the situation. Mr Clugston said that the area could accommodate up to 1000 men. The warden at the time said, 'there were up to 150 men on the site". By 6th April that year it was reported in the Australian Town and Country Journal that there would be upwards of 500 people on the Clyde River mining by the following Saturday.

Maitland Daily

LATE GENERAL NEWS.

A good deal of doubt still exists whether gold exists in payable quantities at Brooman, in the Clyde River district, where a man named Clugston, who leases the land from Mr. M'Mahon, is reported to have found the precious metal. The balance of evidence appears to point to the fact that gold exists in the foothills about Brooman, but whether it can be obtained with ease or in quantities large enough to pay for the working is quite another matter. That gold has been found there for some years Mr. M'Mahon can prove, for a considerable period ago sufficient was gathered wherewith to make a ring for a favourite servant who was about to be married. The present law with regard to mining on private property will not permit Mr. M'Mahon to make a thorough test of his land, and there seems to have been much needless delay in granting him a permit, but it seems all the circumlocution of the offices has been nearly completed, and operations will shortly be commenced. Mr. Clugston appears to be quite satisfied that gold exists on the Clyde in considerable quantities, and the facts contained in the private letters from Mr. Clugston to his landlord and prospective partner will be seen to show that the find is alluvial, and the sinking is from 8ft. to 20ft., that the lead is at least 12ft. wide and the washdirt 2ft. 6in. thick, and the yield is payable and regular; and also that there is plenty of water and timber on the ground, two things that to diggers are almost as important as the presence of gold itself.

There was much fuss, and the men wanted more land opened to them.

Mr Thomas Hobbs's property was one that the miners wanted to use. The reports of the gold finds were somewhat exaggerated and there was even a story that the area was peppered with gold to make it look better. There was some gold found over the time on the Clyde and surrounding creeks though.

Looking south about 1940's

The main industry for many years was dairy farming, grain growing and cattle. Later, the Timber industry became very big with sawmills scattered around from Nelligen through Brooman to Milton. The first ones were steam operated. Later years they were diesel run.

Brooman mill was first established and run by Mr Thomas SHOEBRIDGE his son took over about 1912 until it was sold to SMITH and ELLIS in 1919.There were several owners of the mill over the time and it stopped operating for short bursts of time due to economic times. The last family to own and run it was Alfred FENNING, his two sons Eric and Edward. They bought it around 1932; they had it till it burnt down in 1966.

It is unsure when the houses were built. There were many families living and working there over the time. Some stayed for only a little while. But most stayed for many years.

Some of the men that worked at the mill- and travelled from elsewhere and some of the families that lived in the houses were-

MYRES, DAYBALL, DAVENPORT, DRURY, SHAW, SHEA, SHOEBRIDGE, WRIGHT, N, HEYCOX, HAMMOND, HEPPER, ONSLOW, SMITHERS, RYAN, RUMBLE, OSHEA, CARRIAGE, BEADMAN, BACKHOUSE, GAMBELL, GUMLEY, JACOB, TETLEY, STEFFONSEN, VEITCH, many more.

There were a lot of school age children of the farmers and mill workers around Brooman, so it was petitioned that a school be built.

Looking southeast abt

There were many families on both sides of the river, so it was decided to have two schools be built at Brooman they were half time schools. One was built on the west side of the Clyde called

Clydesdale, the one on the east side was Brooman. Brooman school about early 1960'sbottom one is at Milton school now.

Clydesdale was on Thomas Hobbs land it was a slab and bark They opened in August 1879 to 1894 and was opened on and off till 1966 and closed when the mill burnt down and most the Timber workers moved on. The teacher would teach for so many days at one

Brooman school abt

school then get in a boat and row across the river and teach the other children. It was much safer to have the teacher row across than the children. Some of the surnames of the children that attended when the school's first opened were IRELAND, HANNAH, HAPGOOD, JONES, THOMAS, GARDENER, SMITH, WALKER, BEADMAN, HIBBERD, SULLIVAN, HEYCOX, SHEA. Many of the children that attended later were Timber-workers children and the names have been mentioned above.

There was also a school on the road to Nelligen about five miles south of Brooman about one mile from Shallow Crossing some of the children from Brooman went there. The school started 1883 on and off till 1942.

From tales out of school

The last pupils at the school were Greg MARTIN, Tony ALLARD, Yvonne, Janie and Warren HEYCOX, Bill, Brian, Barry, Gail RIXON, Dot, Meryleen, Trevor, Lynette SMITHERS, Lynette RUMBLE.

There were many fun days had on the flats north going into Brooman with Cricket teams coming from Milton, Batemans Bay, and Nelligen there was quite a bit of rivalry.
Brooman football team 1928.

After the mill fire the houses were left with the odd house being lived in for a little while but most just gradually when to Rubble.

But in recent years what houses were left have been repaired and the Timber from the other houses have been used to build the homes again and it is starting to look great again.

There are still many of the families living in the district. Taken about two years ago when the house were being fixed up.

WHATS IN A NAME

The story of a search for my grandfather

Brian Clayton

They say that in genealogy, names are great indicators of relationships. A surname is usually inherited and, while it may be changed, some form of it is usually retained. Given names are more important in a way because they represent a voluntary choice by the parents or, sometimes, by an individual. A name is usually not given lightly. It represents thought and feelings and can be significant to the researcher.

And so it came to pass that my middle name is Edward, inherited from the person my mother believed to be my paternal grandfather, Alfred Edward Clayton. My father's sister, some years older than my father, according to a story told by my mother, raised her eyebrows when told the reasoning behind my name.

My grandmother, Bessie, died in 1976 and my father, planning her burial, visited the family plot at Rookwood, where his father, Alfred Clayton was buried. On the gravestone he noted the date of death as 7 January 1920. My father looked in stunned amazement, realising that his own date of birth, 20 May 1922 made someone other than Alfred his father.

This was a source of shock and great shame for my father. He questioned his sister, what did she know. His sister told the story of her mother, sometime after Alfred's death, meeting another chap and forming a relationship. Ultimately my grandmother fell pregnant at which news her new partner offered marriage but on condition that her two female children were fostered out to relatives. My grandmother would not accept this and my father was born out of wedlock but soon enough after Alfred's death, to be accepted as Alfred's last child. My aunt told my father that she knew his real father, that he was a musician and that his name was Walter Pleydell. The story was to remain a family secret.

Some years later my brother visited our aunt, who was by that time advanced in age and living in a retirement village. She gave my brother some hand written notes about her family, particularly her mother's Scottish roots. Somehow the subject of our grandfather was raised and she told my brother the story of my biological grandfather. My brother agreed to say nothing to the rest of the family. However, in the late eighties my father was helping another brother build his house on a farm in Armidale. Long work days often finished with a few drinks at a local hotel. At one of these occasions my father asked my brother "what would you think if I told you I was a bastard?", to which my brother replied, "but you are still my father".

And so, two brothers now knew the story. It was some years later, around 2005, when I was starting my family history journey that I explained to my brother the difficulty I was having tracking down Clayton ancestors. "Don't bother", my brother said and proceeded to tell me the story, sketchy though it was.
I knew that my biological grandfather was named Walter Pleydell but not much else. I started to search on the web and found one potential candidate, a Walter Pleydell, born in the Monaro district but had moved to New Zealand, an unlikely candidate.

Over a period of some years, in limited spare time, I continued my search using Google, Trove and anything I could think of searching for a lead. Meanwhile, in 2015, my father died.

At about that time I found an article in a Police Gazette from 1926 in which Bessie Marguerite Clayton had issued a warrant against Walter Augustus Pleydell, alleging child desertion. At last, a name and an age, and perhaps the source of my father's middle name, Walter. It seemed likely that my grandmother had sufficient feelings for her son's father to give him his father's name.

Among my search results was a one name society for the Pleydell family in the UK. There was an email address and so I sent a request asking if they knew of a Walter Augustus Pleydell living in Australia in the late 19th or early 20th centuries. The reply astounded me!
Geoffrey Pleydell, a distant English cousin, advised that Walter Augustus Pleydell was a descendant of the Rev Robert Pleydell (1601-1679) and that Walter's father and grandfather had migrated to Victoria during the gold rush in the 1850's.

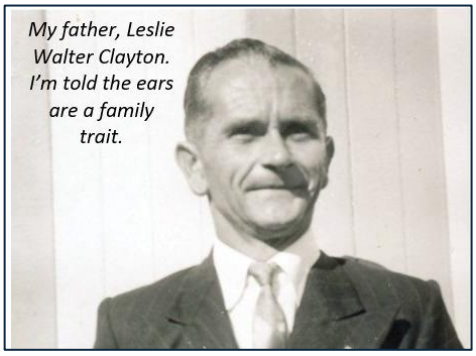
More importantly I was given the address of one of my great grandfather's descendants, still living in Ballarat.


Three of my father's siblings

The trail was now very warm. I wrote to my newly discovered cousin asking what she knew of my grandfather and I was staggered by the response.

Not only did I get a potted history of his life, I received a photo of my grandfather and another of his children from his first marriage, my father's siblings. My cousin provided much documentation, birth, death and marriage certificates and material related to our family history.

Briefly, the Pleydell family originated in Brittany in France and came to England at the time of the Norman conquest. While the Normans were of Viking or Nordic heritage, Bretons are of Britannic descent and trace much of their heritage to groups of Brittonic speakers who had emigrated from Southwestern Britain, including Cornwall, to avoid the invading Germanic peoples. Bretons also descend from the Gaul's and, in some parts, from Vikings. The original Pleydell, who landed with the Normans, was granted land near Wendover in Buckinghamshire.


My father, Leslie Walter Clayton. I'm told the ears are a family trait.

I have had the pleasure of visiting a distant cousin in England and many of the sites of my family history, including the remains of Coleshill House in the Cotswolds where the Rev Robert Pleydell was born, and Bury Court farmhouse, by the Severn River, where he lived. I visited the house in Chelsea where my great grandfather lived before migrating to Australia. I showed my cousin a picture of my father and he said immediately, "He is a Pleydell, he has the ears!"

The journey to find the source of my middle name ended with finding the source of my father's middle name. While personally very gratifying, the pity of this story is that I received this information just a few months after my father's death. He never knew the story of his Pleydell family, his father and his siblings.

So, what's in a name? Does a particular name become important for inheritance or social status? Are we looking for common ancestors? If you go back far enough you will find that everyone alive today has a common ancestor. In Europe where lineages have been closely studied, that ancestor lived just 600 years ago. So, you probably are related to royalty.

In my own case I think I am driven by a sense of belonging, of knowing who my family are and where they come from. What has your family done to create the society in which we live and to serve as an example to future generations. Even though many of my ancestors arrived in New South Wales as convicts, many of them were the pioneers who built this country. And I am driven by curiosity!

My grandfather, Walter Augustus Pleydell (1868-1949)

WHO WAS ELIZABETH BAILEY?

by Ron Smith

SHE WAS INTERRED IN ONE OF THE LOST CEMETERIES OF ULLADULLA NSW

Along the Princes Highway to the south of Ulladulla shopping precinct is a small enclosure containing three gravestone monuments. Investigation reveals a fourth stone embedded in the garden. It has a very tender love message inscribed by the woman's husband. The name of the person deceased bears no resemblance to those on the larger stones. Who were these people? Are these forgotten stories of pioneers of the area? So began my journey of discovery.

I was told by some locals that this was an old family plot. By others, that it was the remains of the original Ulladulla Cemetery and was beneath the roadway. With the need to uncover the truth burning within me, I joined the Milton Ulladulla Family History Society to learn how to trace family members and perhaps to find the truth of the graves beneath the bitumen.

In the MUFHSI library was a small volume written by Kath and Tom Shields which told the truth of the matter. In the 1980's, the government decided to relocate the Princes Highway to its present alignment. The engineers said it was a disused wasteland, so the decision was made to create a new road and ignore the burial sites although the boundaries were clearly shown on earlier maps. Despite local resistance, decisions were made. The residents were given playing fields at Warden Head plus an area of Crown Land beside the new road as appeasement. This is where the stones now stand near McDonalds Restaurant to the south of Ulladulla. It is the north western corner of what was known as Racecourse Cemetery, Old Ulladulla Cemetery, The Paddock, Burrill Public Cemetery and so on.

From the slim report written by Kath and Tom Shields of The Little Forest Family History Research Group, I discovered 81 names of people buried there. Another 10 who were buried within The Boatharbour Cemetery, location unknown at the time. The first burial recorded is 1856 the last is 1900.

Could a Family History Chart be created for each person named and made available through our database of local names? So begins this journey.

From NSW Births Deaths and Marriages site it was possible to find information allowing me to create family relationships for most people. Sadly, more than half were children and infants. There were many aboriginals (first nation people) and a famous artist, Mickey Flynn, whose story can be found on the internet. His work can be seen at The National Gallery in Canberra ACT as well as travel exhibitions.

An entry which caught my eye was a lady named Elizabeth Bailey who died in 1877. The daughter of Charles and Elizabeth Palmer, aged 81 years, born overseas in 1796. What was Elizabeth's story? How could I trace

her journey from somewhere to her final rest at Ulladulla. Two and a half years later with a few sleepless nights, the story can be told:

I started with Elizabeth's date of death, May 6, 1877 Regn. 09148/1877. Not much to gain here, so TROVE NLA was searched for a death notice which appeared in The Shoalhaven News of June 8, 1877. The notice was unhelpful with no additional information.

Try STATE ARCHIVES to look for Probate Records after 1877. No results.

Try TROVE again for any articles in the name of BAILEY ULLADULLA prior to 1877. Luck was in. The year 1860, Elizabeth Bailey was granted probate on the will of John Bailey of Ulladulla and Balmain Schoolmaster. This is from Government Gazette Notices.

Back to STATE ARCHIVES where the details were confirmed. John Bailey died at Ulladulla on April 10, 1858. BDM confirmed his death which was registered at Balmain registration 1678/1858 giving his father's name Jacob Bailey with mother as Elizabeth.

Next, I tried all the available Family History sites looking for Elizabeth Bailey born about 1788 with husband John Bailey and father Charles Palmer. No results so no shortcuts available. After much manipulation, I was able to find an Elizabeth Bailey who died at Ulladulla in several trees with the right death date, but these were certainly wrong as they all gave a birth year in the 1820's.

I tried to find John Bailey, schoolmaster. The only John Bailey I could find was a "seaman schoolmaster" attached to a Royal Navy ship surveying in Australian waters in 1842/43. The ship was identified as "HMS ANT". The crew was paid off at Portsmouth, England in 1846. A possibility for another time.

Using the information from BDM regarding the death of John Bailey, I found a marriage in England for Jacob Bailey and Elizabeth Bayley at Wittlesden, Middlesex dated May 1798. The couple had seven children including one John Bailey born in London in the year 1801.

This matched the NSW death record and would have been supplied by Elizabeth at that time. I found an Elizabeth Palmer who married a John Bailey in 1846 in England and thought it fitted the timeline of the sailor schoolmaster. Further checking showed that this couple did not migrate. Another brick wall.

What next? I applied for the probate records of 1860 from State Archives and upon its arrival was delighted to receive a copy of his handwritten will attached. It was penned in 1854 and lodged in Sydney NSW. In it he left all his possessions to Elizabeth Bailey and her heirs. He appears to not have had other relatives. The will also state, the property which he owned and described in detail with the location Ulladulla. The property named was "BAKERS FLAT". The only land of that name that I could find was out of Moruya in The Araluen Valley further south.

Back to State Archives where I found a land purchase at Ulladulla for John Bailey. I was able to download a copy and was rewarded with a comprehensive description of the property as well as a clear description of its location. We now know where Bakers Flat Ulladulla is situated. It is at the northern end of Corks Lane Milton near Narrawallee Creek. The 1880 Parish Map shows the property but names the owner as John BAILLEY. So, who were Elizabeth Bailey's heirs? Who helped her in her twilight years in this remote outpost outside of settlement?

I again tried TROVE NLA and widened the search area. As luck would have it, an article appeared in the Kiama Independent Newspaper of 1877 describing the passing of Elizabeth Bailey from information given by her son whose name was Charles Fitch of Ulladulla. This family is well recorded in our collection, but his mother's name was never connected. The mystery of Elizabeth Bailey can now be cleared. This then is the story of Elizabeth Bailey died 1877 at age 81 (also incorrect according to her son who gave her age as 86 years. The birth year then is about 1891.

From parish records at Holborn London, Elizabeth Palmer was baptized to parents Peregrine and Judith Palmer. In 1813, Elizabeth married Septimus Fitch in Saint Katherine Creechurch Aldgate London and bore six children of the union. Septimus Fitch was a haberdasher. They were living in Southwark and Aldgate during this time. Septimus died in 1835 at Aldgate leaving Elizabeth to care for the living family members. In 1836, Elizabeth Fitch married John Bailey in the church of Saint Helen Bishopsgate London. He, a widower. She, a widow. Some of the Fitch family decided to emigrate to the Colony of New South Wales. In the year 1839, Mr. and Mrs. Bailey with Miss Elizabeth Fitch arrived at Sydney Town aboard the ship "Duchess of Kent". Charles Fitch married Harriett Abbott at Hackney in the same year where their son was born and they also set sail to Australia. The journey

was broken in Tasmania where a second son was born, they arrived in Sydney by coastal vessel in 1845.

Charles Fitch and family arrived at Ulladulla in 1855. They would likely have lived on Bakers Flat which belonged to John Bailey after being purchased in January of 1853. At that time John was said to be "of Sydney Town". At John's death in 1858, he was said to be "at Balmain and formerly of Ulladulla".. Elizabeth and her heirs inherited the property in 1859. It is not known when Elizabeth Bailey moved to what became known as Milton after 1860, but it is possible that she would have followed her son Charles Fitch, his wife Harriett and their two young sons after the granting of probate in Sydney.
Miss Elizabeth Fitch's story has not yet been searched. This is the story of Elizabeth Bailey who is beneath the roadway at South Ulladulla.

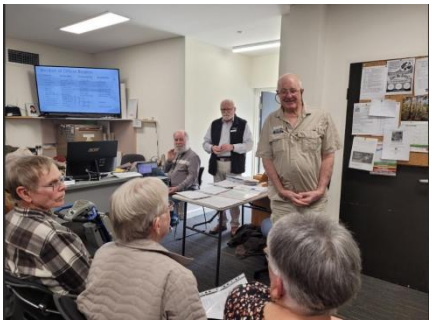
GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN, A TRUE PIONEER OF MILTON/ULLADULLA
REST IN PEACE ELIZABETH

SPECIAL EVENTS

AGM 14th August 2024

A good attendance and a birthday celebration too.
Christine cutting her cake.

AGM 2025



PROBUS TALK

The talk was held at the Baptist Church at Narrawallee on 11th April. Ron Smith gave the group a talk on the Shopkeepers book and some of the business people in the district. Julie Gullan also went with Ron with lots of the Shopkeepers books to sell. The talk was very successful and there were many shopkeepers' books sold.

COFFEE AND CHAT 30th September

A Talk to the Anglican Explorers Club of Gerringong at the Civic Centre

Our President Ron Smith was able to give a very interesting talk about the history of Milton-Ulladulla to the Gerringong Anglican Explorers group, which was well received. Ron had not been well for over a couple of weeks, so it was good to see him back with us for the morning to be able to give this talk. A few questions were asked to which Ron answered with an interesting reply as well as adding a bit of humour to it.

There were 35 people that attended. They gave a donation of $30, a book that was published by one of the members James Seymoor.

James Seymoor, Ron Smith