

# Camden Calling



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**Normal Membership Subscriptions:** Single A\$30.00 Couples A\$35.00  
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### W E B S I T E

[www.cafhs.org.au](http://www.cafhs.org.au)

### RESEARCH FEES

Non- members use of Resources- \$10.00 per session.  
Written enquires \$30.00 — provides up to fifteen printed or photocopied pages.  
A4 size stamped addressed envelope to be included with your enquiry.

### RESEARCH CENTRE

Family History Room  
Camden Library/Museum Complex.  
John Street. Camden. NSW 2570  
Thursday 10.00am— 3.00pm  
Friday 10:00am— 3.00pm  
Saturday 9:30am— 12 noon  
(Closed late December to late January)

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Camden Area Family History Society Inc. is held on the first Tuesday of August each year, immediately following the general meeting.

The Society meets on the first Tuesday of each month (except January) at 7.30pm in the Community Meeting Room of the Camden Library/Museum Complex

**40 JOHN STREET CAMDEN.**

**MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS ALL WELCOME**

## Camden Calling

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### **MEMBERSHIP**

C.A.F.H.S. Inc. Membership falls due on the **1<sup>st</sup> July each year.** and the prompt renewal of your membership is appreciated. To ensure all your details are current, e.g. telephone number and email addresses, please complete a Members Information Update form if your details have changed or notify the Membership Officer.

**Normal Membership:** Single \$30.00 Couple \$35.00

**Pensioners/Concession Membership:** Single \$25.00 Couple \$30.00

**We welcome new members from Australia and Overseas.**

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The year is fast drawing to a close, but what a year.

The Cowpastures and Beyond 2016 NSW & ACT State Conference is over and what a success it was, I spoke to a number of participants throughout the conference and they expressed how well the conference was run and commented that having all events held at the one venue made it easy for them.

The conference would not have been so successful without the work of the members of the conference committee. The Convener of the conference was Tony Jackson who carried a lot of responsibility on his shoulders, Barbara Sulley who kept a tight control of the finances, Cathey Shepherd who liaised with the speakers and worked on the program, Dawn Williams our minute secretary and chief donations officer, Fred Gibson who liaised with the Hotel and Motels re accommodation for our speakers and visitors to the district. A special thanks to Warren Sims who setup our web page and arranged for Wi-Fi during the conference. Warren was presented with the Dorothy Fellows award for the best website designed by a member and Gail and Helen Hanger from Picton who arranged for the publication of the conference program - the printer Ted from Alted Printing was flooded out during the recent floods at Picton but worked long hours to produce the program. Thanks Ted

As for me, I only had to attend to the arrangements at the Civic Centre and send out advertising. We paid for a page in the IMAG magazine and arranged for a half page in the District Reporter. When I contacted the District Reporter they advised that there would be no charge. Banners were placed at both entries to town.

During the Conference it was great to see the support of members who stepped up and gave the committee a hand, Del Clinton who arranged the flowers, Rosemary Gibson, Diana Rofe and Naomi Davies, Margaret Wheeler, Beverly Booth, Annette Clissold and especially new member Anne McIntosh. Rex Dowle was on hand throughout the weekend to assist as well as providing the hay bales that were part of the stage display. If I have missed any one then I sincerely apologise.

The Staff at the Civic Centre went out of their way to assist us when we needed help, they arranged for a meal to be available on the Friday as our other party cancelled a week before the conference. The Family History Fair on Friday was a great success with a large number of participants' sitting through the Lectures; Jo Oliver gave an insight to what can be found in the Local Studies area of a Library. The talk from Trove had a full house as this is another major source of information that is available to the Family Historian. Our Keynote speaker Professor Allan Atkins stayed for the full conference and it was noted by participants as at previous conferences they left after their talk.

One of the highlights of the conference was the Saturday night dinner; we had a cow on each table that was raffled off during the evening. One of the women that were seated at my table decided she wanted the cow and proceeded to follow the auctioneer Chris Rowan around and if a table did not want to bid then she would. She ended up with 3 cows on the night. Favourable comments were made about the meals provided throughout the weekend with more than enough food available.

A few things need to be finalised before we can put the conference to bed, but in the long run we have come out of it with the respect from the association that two small

family history groups could run a State conference so successfully.

The Conference for 2017 is in Orange in September so have a look at their website for more detail and fill in the expressions of interest form at [www.ofhg.com.au/conference](http://www.ofhg.com.au/conference)

I am starting to look for guest speaker for next year so if you have any one in mind then please contact me so we can start making contact with them and setup a program for the year. Both Andrea and I would like to thank you for your support during the year and look forward to seeing you in 2017.

Ray Herbert  
President

### **NSW&ACT Association of Family History Societies 2016 State Conference**

#### **Report on the 2016 Conference : The Cowpastures and Beyond**

What has been a very steep learning curve over the past 2 years is finally over. The 2016 conference was widely acclaimed by Delegates, Stall Holders and most attendees to be one of the best conferences for quite a while. Our speakers were generally well received especially Professor Alan Atkinson, with many people amazed that he stayed for the entire conference and not just for his speech.

We had a total of 200 Delegates registered and this was made up of 167 full registrations, 29 Saturday registrations and 4 for Sunday. Over 150 people attended the Meet & Greet with more than enough food, and 162 attended the Dinner. Both the Forum and AGM were very well attended as was the visit to Wivenhoe House and the two St. Paul's Cobbitty Cemetery Tours. Both of these tours were well attended and well received, congratulations Cathey for the work on these tours.

We had 46 Exhibitors with a total of 58 tables which stretched the available space in the Civic Centre, but we managed without having to place any of them in the foyer area. After the Friday Family History Fair we had to quickly reposition the Tables and again on Saturday night before the Dinner but this was done with no ill effect to the actual exhibitors.

We were very well served by our Major Sponsors, with Camden Council, Ancestry, Find My Past, NSW BDMs, Inside History Magazine, Joy Murrin, Marilyn Rowen, Gould Genealogy, Past Keys, and many more. We ran 3 separate Raffles over the weekend, one on Friday, another on Saturday and Sunday, and finally another at the Saturday Night Conference dinner. We had quite a number of Raffle Prizes with support from Local Business, particularly for the Friday Raffle, and also from a number of anonymous donations which all helped to raise about \$3000.00 in total.

The Conference Dinner was very well received and enjoyed by all with many favourable comments on the food served and the service provided by the Civic Centre Staff as well as well as the fact that all functions were able to be held in the same venue.

One of the highlights of the Saturday evening program was our own little Saleyard Auction. Our MC for the Conference Mr Chris Rowan changed hats and became Auctioneer for the night and really created a lot of excitement auctioning off the decorative Cows used to grace the tables - except for the one he broke and it now has been mounted in a display case and is takes Pride of Place in our rooms as requested by Chris.

Also I would like to congratulate Warren Sims who set up and maintains our Web Site for winning the **"Dorothy Fellows Award for the best Website setup and run by a society member"**, Warren also setup and maintained the Website for the Conference, thank you Warren.

The whole weekend progressed very smoothly, largely helped by the work done by our MC Chris Rowan who with his style made people feel at ease as well as keeping the program moving. The other area that helped make the weekend a success was the Civic Centre Staff, particularly Roger who was always available and nothing was too much trouble to fix. Again we had a lot of positive feedback on the Civic Centre venue and the staff from the delegates and exhibitors which were all passed gladly onto the Centre Management. I would also like to thank the Civic Centre for stepping in at the last minute to help by providing food for the Friday lunch after the Rotary Club pulled out at the last minute, again the food was very well received and reasonably priced.

Lastly I wish to thank the hard work of my committee Ray Herbert, Cathey Shepherd, Barbara Sulley, Warren Sims, Dawn Williams, Fred Gibson and Gail & Helen Hanger from Picton. I would also like to thank the other members of CAFHS who helped out during the weekend. These people are the reason for the very successful Conference.

Hope to see a lot of CAFHS members at the 2017 Conference in Orange.

Tony Jackson  
2016 Conference Convener

# **The John Vincent Crowe Memorial Address to the NSW Family History State Conference, Camden 10th September 2016**

**by Emeritus Professor Alan Atkinson DLitt FAHA**



I am honoured to be asked to give the John Vincent Crowe Memorial Address, and to be back at Camden. I have never lived here, but my imagination lived here for a decade or more, many years ago. It is particularly nice to notice that of the two rooms we are using one is named after Bruce Ferguson, whom I remember as the Mayor the Camden who enabled me to become involved in this place, as its historian.

I see from the program that there have been thirty-two years of family history conferences. This makes an entire generation since 1984, and at that point I was in the thick of writing my book Camden - Farm and Village Life in Early New South Wales (1988).

At about that time too, I read Carol Liston's biography of Sarah Wentworth, Sarah Wentworth, Mistress of Vacluse (1988), which cast new light on the wife of the great William Charles Wentworth. Maybe no one Australian historical figure looks more completely self-sufficient than Wentworth – more thoroughly the man alone, the dogmatic, intractable explorer, politician and entrepreneur. However, Liston's biography of Sarah Wentworth gives William Charles another dimension altogether. It shows the other, private dimension of his life and character. In particular, it shows his loyalty to his wife and his susceptibility to his daughters, who encouraged him to think better of religion and church-going, and those things must be taken as symptomatic of much more.

Historians need to take account of the enormous implications of this example. No-one knows a great man's frailties better than his wife and children, and something equivalent can be said for great women. And, on the other hand, during their lives public figures grow in complexity, they expand in their attitudes because of their families, and especially because of their wives or husbands, as they adapt to the multiple, ongoing impact – the emotional, intellectual, imaginative impact – which comes from living on intimate terms for years on end with someone else.

We need a new biography of W.C. Wentworth as public and private man together. We need to understand how Sarah his wife shaped his life and to see the man in the round, with his different motives interwoven. There are other historical figures where the impact of intimacy is even more obvious, such as William Windeyer and Alfred Stephen, judges in late-nineteenth-century New South Wales, both of whom were known to support justice for women, and both of whom were married to strong, independently minded wives. Husbands and wives educate each other. Consider too the Holders in South Australia – Frederick Holder, one of the founding fathers of Federation, and Julie Holder, Australian President of the Women's Christian Temperance Union. And note the Macquaries - the Governor would have done much less without his wife, Elizabeth Henrietta. His interest in Aborigines, for instance, is evident only after they had been several years in New South Wales, whereas hers appears very early, unfolding while his attention was elsewhere. The deep effect of married life on both parties is a truism, and family life as well, but it is very little recognised in history writing.

Family history does not just contribute to other larger kinds of history. It can also offer an entirely different approach to the past. It is a subdivision of history, but its independent potential has been unfolding for fifty years now, and it still has a long way to go. Three examples can be taken from my own career – and I have been doing family history in a way since I was about sixteen.

My history of Camden was first published in 1988. The original inspiration was the Macarthur family papers – masses of family letters of all sorts in the State Library of New South Wales – which showed the inner dynamics of a single family, but also hinted at hundreds of other families settled in the same place – this place – whose lives could be traced more or less. So the Camden history was an effort to see how the study of family history could be taken from one family to a community of families. It was an experiment in history writing taking advantage of similar experiments in England and the United States, using statistical methods. This was historical demography. But in my case I was very anxious that however much counting I did, the families and individuals would remain real and palpable. This was all the easier because the community was small and the numbers relatively manageable. Also, computers as we know them were then in their infancy, and even had I understood them there was little temptation to feed my subject matter into any machine. So they were always recognisable and memorable human beings, members of a network of families established in this place.

Nevertheless, there were real challenges in presenting statistical conclusions in a decent literary human form. It is one thing to get a good grasp of the detail of past lives, from a statistical point of view, and another thing to weave it into a narrative that makes sense and draws the reader in.

If you have read the book you might remember, say, the details on childbirth:

- the varying period between marriage and first birth. This was not just a matter of uncovering human frailty, but also a way of tracing just what marriage meant in that period, and what was the relationship between the marriage ceremony and cohabitation, and how men and women were drawn within new family networks. Marriage is constantly changing its significance, as we might guess from the current debate on marriage equality.
- the varying period between births, which cast new light on the families responding to hardship. The statistical pattern shows that there were effective ways of limiting families during periods of relative poverty, though we can only guess at what they were. Women might go on having children for the normal period of their lives, but ending up with less because they were more widely spaced.
- the roles of midwives, as crucially important local figures, whose skill and arcane knowledge gave them a particular role in community life.

These were all new discoveries. They were discoveries especially about the lives of women, as wives, mothers and householders, and as local authority figures. And they could be linked up with the literary evidence, the evidence of individual lives. They could make sense in a deeply human way through familiarity with the women involved. So it was possible to piece such lives together, by connecting statistical patterns with individualising detail.

As I say, this is a distinctive kind of history and it depends on taking families seriously as an object of research. And again the challenge lies not only in making sense of all the various connections, but in making sense of it for other people, in knowing what to put in and what to leave out. Research and analysis is one thing, and it is only part of the exercise. The other, equally important part is the writing part of family history. It is crucial. History has to have an audience.



Secondly, I want to say something about my own family history. This is what I started with when I was about 16. The crucial tools were three family trees printed up in great detail at the time my father's family came to Australia in the 1850s, by my great-great-grandfather, who was himself a printer. It is obvious that they relied partly on family documents, which have now been lost, partly on information from cousins and so on, and partly on family memories which went back to the early 1700s. In other words, my great-great-grandfather had some oral record of his own grandparents, and they had had some similar record of their own – a process of leap-frogging into the past which altogether created a wonderful record. Besides his own father's family, which is by far the most detailed, my great-great-grandfather made this effort with the ancestry of his mother and his wife. So we have three family trees, which include not only genealogical information but also notes here and there, as to the fate of lost cousins, for instance.

This was a very lucky opening to the family past, to which I have now been able to add an enormous amount, thanks to the internet and also to the digital copying of newspapers and other publications. Taken altogether, the vivid stories these various records throw up are innumerable, and deeply interesting, as anyone who has gone any distance into their family history will understand. And they make you think. For instance, there is the question of inheritance – not only material inheritance but what might be called our moral inheritance. From a family-history point of view, how far back can we go in explaining the way we present ourselves to the world, including our moral attitudes. Think of Proust, as he writes in his great book, Remembrance of Things Past:

*Our parents furnish us not only with those habitual gestures which are the outlines of our face and voice, but also with certain mannerisms of speech, certain favourite expressions, which, almost as unconscious or as our intonation almost as profound, indicate, likewise a definite point of view towards life.*

I can see that to some extent in my own inheritance going back even three hundred years – each generation being a hazy mirror reflection of the last.

But how much can't I see? There are the sorts of things, such as the way we laugh, the way we make our more trivial judgements, the way we articulate, which disappear with death. I think of my father and his father. There was something about my father and his mannerisms, a strange inconsistency, at odds with what I understood to be his normal habits of mind, which makes me think that sometimes he was mimicking his own father. In other words he was re-enacting mannerisms which didn't match his everyday self. So I guess, whether accurately or not, that in my father I occasionally saw the grandfather I never knew, because he died shortly before I was born.

Finally I want to say something about a project I have which has been bubbling away very quietly for a while, and which I want to get onto next year. This involves getting back to the Macarthur family at Elizabeth Farm and at Camden, revisiting all those letters, and trying to make sense of all those interconnections. I want to focus especially on the subtlety of family relations, on the relationship of husbands and wives, of parents and children, and of brothers and sisters, and I want to work through and present, in all its complexity, and over two generations, an intricate, intimate family network, a network of feeling and intelligence, instinct and learning interwoven.

I want to do this with the benefit of my own advancing age and also with the benefit of sources more easily accessible than they were when I made my first attempt, long ago. But I also want to do it with the benefit of all the work that has been done by all kinds of historians over the last forty years – say, since the time these conferences began in 1984. There is a mass of new work on the lives of women, on religious sensibility, and on the traffic and networking across the British empire, for instance.

There is also in the world today a new and still unfolding interest in the understanding of families and more broadly in the history of emotions. Emotion – loyalty, affection, intimacy, sex, the habits and ties of family and place – was once regarded as marginal to the real stories of the past. Now it seems central. This is largely thanks to family history, including the work done by individuals and associations represented here today, which has created a mighty flood which year by year has shifted the direction of history-writing at all levels.



John Wrigley with Alan Atkinson and his “prized” cow.

## The Lovelee Brothers

(Convict Brothers with a local connection)

One of the more interesting characters to spend time in the Macarthur region was Samuel Lovelee. Samuel (c.1791) was baptised in the village of Navenby in rural Lincolnshire by parents Thomas and Selina “Sills” Lobley but later documents record the family name variously as Lovelee, Lovlee, Lovely, and Loveley.

Samuel fought with the Royal Horse and Foot Artillery in the Battle of Waterloo which finally ended the lengthy war against Napoleon, but like thousands of others, and despite his skills as a cordwainer, he returned home to unemployment and an uncertain future. On 15 July 1820 he was convicted at the Lincoln Assizes of ‘burglariously entering the house of William Petchell of Timberland ... and stealing therefrom one gun of the value of 5s.’ Sam was sentenced to death which was remitted to transportation for life and he arrived in Port Jackson aboard the *Prince of Orange* on 12 February 1821.

Shortly after arriving, Sam was assigned to work at Government House and it was probably there that he learned how to work the system and despite being a ‘lifer’ he petitioned almost immediately for a Ticket of Leave. It appears that Governor Macquarie was in a generous mood in the period leading up to his departure from the colony and given Sam’s good conduct he received a Conditional Pardon in November the same year!

But Sam wasn’t the only member of his family to suffer the penalty of banishment to the Antipodes as older brother Richard (c.1786) had arrived in Hobart aboard the *Dromedary* in January 1820. It seems that Richard lived life on the edge as he had narrowly avoided hanging in 1811 after a conviction for sheep stealing was remitted to an 18-months prison sentence at hard labour. In 1819 he received another death sentence for a similar offence which was also remitted, this time to transportation for life. Richard’s larcenous ways continued and in 1821 he was found to have stolen wheat and poultry from his master, sentenced to receive fifty lashes and returned to public works on a road gang.

In 1824 Richard ran away and assuming the name of Pearce took passage for Sydney. There must have been communication between the brothers because Samuel, now a free married man petitioned for Richard to be allowed to remain in Sydney. Samuel already had one convict mechanic assigned to him, but inevitably perhaps given Richard’s record, the petition was denied and Richard was returned to Van Diemen’s Land where in 1826 and for a number of years after that he appears on the Musters for Maria Island an establishment for colonially convicted men sentenced to hard labour.

By 1832 and back on the Tasmanian mainland, Richard was able to procure a Ticket of Leave and the following year he married 16-year-old Elizabeth Green who had arrived free six months earlier. In 1834 he was granted a Conditional pardon, and in 1838 he was given permission to move to Sydney with his wife and two children to finally re-unite with his brother.

Meanwhile, in 1823, Sam had married Isabella Curran (nee Vickers) a convict who had arrived on the *Canada* (2) in 1810 and the couple lived in Clarence Street, Sydney. Isabella was the widow of Anthony Curran a stonemason from Co Mayo transported in 1800 as an Irish Rebel. Curran was murdered in 1823 and later found ‘buried in the ruins of one of the walls of the dwelling, which, to all appearance, had fallen in, and crushed the old infirm creature to death. The rubbish was removed, the body was found face downwards, lying on a soft pillow, and much bruised with the weight that had fallen; but, to the surprise of every one, upon looking at the countenance of the deceased, it was quite obvious that a deep laceration had been effected on the fore part of the cranium, which must have been produced by some sharp instrument, thus leaving but little doubt that the poor man was murdered.’ The murder was never solved.

In 1834 Isabella received a Conditional Pardon and disappeared from Sam’s life. However, Sam prospered despite the occasional run-in with the law (in 1825 he spent nine months in prison for assault) and by 1828 he had a three-man business as a Cordwainer at Airds and in 1834 he obtained a 40-acre land grant in the Parish of St Peter (Campbelltown). In 1851 he held leasehold property at Bringelly.

In 1857 Sam married Harriet Marie Bootes at St Peters, Cooks River and took on the *Blue Posts Inn* at Gannon’s Forest (now Hurstville) which he ran for a number of years. He died in 1874 at the age of 84

and an inquest found that he had ‘drowned without any marks of violence on the body, but how or by what means he became drowned there is not evident.’ Richard Lovelee had pre-deceased his brother by a number of years, dying in Irish Town (Bankstown) in 1847. - **Janet Howe**

## An Insoluble Conundrum

(a story from Janet’s family tree)

I suspect that all family trees have at least one puzzle that despite the best efforts of numerous researchers simply cannot be solved. The most frustrating conundrum in my family tree relates to the parentage of my maternal 3<sup>rd</sup> great-grandmother.



Ann Peake, at least according to family lore, was the daughter of William Pakenham, brother of the Earl of Longford and brother-in-law of the Duke of Wellington. Various researchers have attempted to prove this relationship (so far without success) and one story suggests that Ann changed her name to Peake because her family would not have approved of her marriage to a lowly sergeant in a foot regiment. According to Debrett's, the semi-official recorder of aristocratic family history in the United Kingdom, Captain William Pakenham RN never married and died without issue, at least none that were

recorded. Regardless of the official version, the Australian Channons certainly believed this story that can only have come down to them from Ann, so much so that her grandson James named his grand home in Hornsby, ‘Pakenham’.

Ann was born in Ireland around 1807 and one possible theory is that William Pakenham who was based in Ireland at the time, had an illicit affair which resulted in Ann's birth. While he lived, both Ann and her mother would have been accorded a degree of protection, however, with William's untimely death along with over 250 crew members in the wreck of the *HMS Saldanha* during a violent storm at Lough Swilly on the Inishowen peninsula in Northern Ireland, it became possible for the Earl of Longford and the Pakenham family generally to deny both Ann and her mother.

That being so, how did Ann get to Gibraltar? Two theories: her mother married a serviceman (possibly named Peake), who was then sent to Gibraltar, or Ann herself married a serviceman (again possibly someone named Peake) who took her to Gibraltar where she was widowed prior to her re-marriage. The former of these scenarios seems more likely and it is possible that the Pakenham family 'arranged' the marriage which was a common and accepted way of dealing with inconvenient 'mistresses' and their offspring.



Ann married Sergeant Thomas Channon (b.1806 in Devonport, Devon) of the 94th Regiment of Foot on May 25, 1829 at the Kings Chapel, Gibraltar. The couple's first child, James Robert was born in Gibraltar in 1830 and within the next 12 to 18 months, Thomas left the army and returned to England, settling his family in Berkley Vale, Falmouth and taking up a job as a Stage Coach guard. Life settled



into a routine and the family grew with the addition of sons John (b.1833) and Thomas (b.1835), and daughters, Emmeline (b.1838) and Ellen (b.1840). Ann died in 1844 when she was only 37 and years later sons James Robert (my 2<sup>nd</sup> great-grandfather) his family and his younger brother Thomas emigrated to Australia.- **Janet Howe**

## Intersections

(another story from Janet's family tree)

My paternal line descends from Ann Treble who arrived as a 4-year-old with her convict mother Elizabeth Smith aboard *Friends* in Oct 1811. Now is not the time for Ann's story as it is her mother's marriage that is of interest here.

Elizabeth Smith, my 4<sup>th</sup> great-grandmother, married in 1815, Joseph Eyles a convict transported on the *Canada* in 1801 who had since been emancipated, acquired land at Field of Mars and was doing well. Eyles later acquired a portion of the 'Cornish Hills Farm' that Macarthur gave up in exchange for his Camden land grant. Elizabeth and Joseph had six children and as the eldest Joseph Jnr was born in Oct 1812, his parents obviously got together not too long after Elizabeth's arrival.

A grandson of Joseph and Elizabeth, Edwin "Ted" Eyles ended up in Adelong and this is where the first 'intersection' occurred when Edwin opened a general store with John Channon, my great-grandfather on my mother's side. The relationship went beyond a business one when in 1875, Edwin married John Channon's younger sister Elizabeth Edith at the Wesleyan Church in Adelong.



Adelong is just outside Tumut, where my parents met in 1947 having both been posted as teachers to the local High School. This was long before the fashion and passion for family history and neither of my parents knew about the Eyles / Channon connection just down the road.

John Channon was brought to Australia from Cornwall in 1859 when he was nine-years-old. Father James Robert Channon was a mining engineer and the decline in tin-mining in Cornwall was almost certainly behind the

decision to emigrate and it seems that mining generally was to feature heavily in future family history.

After reversals which included the destruction of the Adelong store by fire and a distinct lack of success in his mining endeavours John Channon moved to Wyalong in mid-1899, in part due to the registration of a mining lease by the 'True Blue Gold-Mining company' of which John's older brother James was a partner. In later years, one of John's sons, Herbert John Channon managed the True Blue mine until working with dangerous chemicals ruined his health. Other members of the Channon family also moved to Wyalong. Herbert Channon's daughter Madge was my mother and her marriage to Gordon McNair in 1949 created the second 'intersection'.

My father's grandmother (Eliza Ann Myers nee Plume), whom he always knew as 'Granny Myers' was married and had a number of her thirteen children on the Sofala goldfields. In order to support his growing family Granny Myers' husband John Peter moved his family around the area with sojourns in Orange, Junee and Temora with a number of the children later settling in Wyalong, thus placing the Channon (my mother) and Myers (my father) families in the same town.

Attending a family event in Wyalong after their marriage my parents were surprised that older members of their two extended families knew each other!

Do you have any intersection in your family tree? - **Janet Howe**

One of our Legacy ladies, Mrs Catherine Constant, has very kindly provided us with previously unseen information about her father, Thomas Arnott, DCM, who served with distinction at Gallipoli. This is the first time the story of Thomas Arnott's service —before, during and after Gallipoli — has been told. We are grateful for Mrs Constant's generosity in sharing this story of her father's Anzac experience with us. The following article has drawn on family diaries, newspaper cuttings and published books, which have been duly acknowledged.

## Gallipoli Story: Tom Arnott at Quinn's Post, Anzac

by Simon Kleinig

*"...One afternoon we took a small trench from the enemy and it was during the attack that I was working the machine gun when another [Turkish] machine gun chap opened fire on me, blowing my sand bags down, leaving me open at the side. We fought for about a quarter of an hour when at last he got me in the jaw."*

Tom Arnott's war was counted in weeks. A machine gunner with the 1st Australian Infantry Battalion, Tom formed part of the second and third waves who waded ashore at Anzac Cove in the half light of Sunday, 25 April 1915 to write themselves into Australian history. Five weeks later to the day he was seriously wounded at Quinn's Post and evacuated to hospital in Alexandria. Although Tom's war was over, in those five weeks he had done enough to ensure he would return to Sydney a hero.

Thomas Arnott was born on 9 July 1894 into a family of eight children. Tom's father (Thomas senior) was originally a mining engineer from Dunfermline, Scotland; his wife Elizabeth was born in Sydney of Scots immigrant parents. Thomas senior raised his family as protestant Presbyterians, instilling along the way a strong, principled work ethic. The Arnott family lived in the inner Sydney suburb of Balmain.

By 1911 Tom, now aged seventeen, had been working for two years in the "seed trade" for the plant nursery firm of Horton & Co. Tom now felt it was time to move on. He left Horton's on good terms, his former employer writing that Tom had "fulfilled his duties in every way to our satisfaction." His working life also included army service in the militia, where he served as a "compulsory trainee".

The following year his father wrote to his son in a letter which may seem rather harsh by today's standards: *"A little criticism from me may do you good ... your composition is fair; your spelling very careless; your punctuation is very bad. A lesson from the schoolmaster would be of great value to you. I will promise you a new fountain pen if you promise me to make good use of it."* Despite the corrective tone of the letter the relationship between father and son was a good one.

Tom began work with James Bonner Ltd, a firm of engineers and founders situated in Ultimo on Sydney's south shore. As a pattern maker Tom quickly demonstrated high levels of skill and creativity in his work, which eventually took him to the dockyards. Tom successfully completed his four-year apprenticeship as a pattern maker. It was around this time that he became good friends with Roy Simon, a New Zealander from Invercargill. Roy was taken under the wing of the Arnott family and treated as one of their own. Tom and Roy would forge a close friendship. They were destined to serve at Gallipoli together.

In 1914 Tom and Roy Simon enlisted in the AIF. On 18 October their troopship, *Afric A19*, cleared Sydney Heads bound for Albany in Western Australia. Tom kept a small diary, dutifully recording each day's entry in the neat, precision hand of a pattern-maker. A week later, having marched through the streets of Albany, their ship joined the flotilla of 40 troopships bound for Egypt.

Tom and Roy Simon were posted to a machine gun section within the 1st Battalion, 'a good lot of chaps'. The long voyage provided plenty of time for the men to get to know one another, although everyone on board suffered from sea-sickness. On 4 December 1914 their ship berthed in Alexandria in Egypt. In Cairo they joined Mena Camp to begin their training in earnest. For these young Australians the past eight weeks had been an amazing adventure.

Sailing halfway across the world, through the exotic ports of Colombo, Aden and Port Said, they now found themselves encamped in the shadow of the pyramids. Tom and Roy did not forget the Arnott family in Sydney; each of Tom's brothers and sisters received an Egyptian postcard for Christmas. On leave they took donkey rides around the pyramids, visited Heliopolis and marvelled at the wonders of Ancient Egypt. In Cairo they walked through the bazaars — a heady mix of the sights, smells and sounds of a culture utterly different from their own. Egypt and Mena Camp now rests cheek by jowl with Gallipoli as an enduring part of the Anzac legend.

Tom's diary falls silent between February 1915 and the landing at Anzac Cove. His story comes dramatically to life again when describing the events of Sunday, 25 April 1915.

*"After many weary months of waiting and training in Egypt we landed on the enemy's shores just before daylight",* Tom wrote in a letter to his mother. *"As soon as the enemy knew we were there they opened up a heavy rifle, machine gun and artillery fire on us. Although it seems as though the odds were against us we charged right into them sending them running. Fierce fighting continued for the next few days."*

Tom, now aged 20, wrote to his father at the same time: *"After having waited to see a bit of a scrap for so long I only [had] about one month. We landed on the enemy's shores one Sunday morning [25 April 1915] and had a real good go-in with them, establishing a good landing for ourselves. The fight was fast and furious whilst it lasted. After four days tough fighting we found ourselves a good deal inland and established ourselves in a very secure position [Quinn's Post]."*

Of all the positions held by the Anzacs, none was more vital than Quinn's Post. It was named after company commander Major Hugh Quinn, and was established the same day as the Anzac landings on 25 April 1915 (Major Quinn was subsequently killed on 28 May 1915 and is buried in Shrapnel Valley Cemetery). Quinn's Post remains one of the most evocative of names at Anzac, ranking in importance beside Lone Pine and Anzac Cove.

Originally a scrubby hill, its vegetation was quickly blown away by enemy explosives and the soldiers' own digging and burrowing. *'Our most difficult and dangerous post'*, one general described it. Subjected to incessant sniper fire and grenade bombardments, Quinn's Post was overlooked by Turkish positions on three sides. Quinn's was a key strategic position, central to the defence of Anzac, and both sides knew it. If the Turks could overwhelm the heights at Quinn's Post, the way lay open for strikes deep into the heart of the Anzac-held areas below. Its loss would be devastating, even fatal, to the Anzac bridgehead.

## "PALS" AT THE FRONT.



PRIVATE ROY SIMON (KILLED) AND PRIVATE T. ARNOTT  
(SEVERELY WOUNDED AND RECOMMENDED FOR THE D.S.O.).

His initial enthusiasm of the early events at Anzac was tempered by the awful news that his best mate, Roy Simon was killed on the second day after landing. *"I have very, very painful news to tell you",* Tom informed his father. *"Roy Simon was killed in action on 27 April 1915 while bringing ammunition up to my gun. He wanted to be with me and I had put him on the gun the night before."*

A few days after Roy's death, Tom was wounded and hospitalised (probably at a Field Dressing Station at Anzac Cove). Tom wrote to his mother that he had received treatment for two wounds to his face, after his periscope was shot away by

enemy fire. Back at Quinn's a few days later, Tom found himself locked in heavy action with the enemy.

Tom recalls the action of the afternoon of 30 May 1915 in a letter to his father: "One afternoon we took small trench from the enemy and it was during the attack that I was working the machine gun when another machine gun chap (enemy) opened fire on me, blowing my sandbags down, leaving an opening at the side. We fought for about a quarter of an hour, when at last he got me in the jaw".

Tom had fired seven belts of ammunition until a stoppage required him to stand up to fix the problem. He was hit in the cheek with four bullets and the gun was put out of action. "I will be alright in about a week's time", Tom reassured his father. The whole exchange was witnessed by Brigadier-General Walker, who asked who the soldier was, before adding "I will recommend that man for the DCM [Distinguished Conduct Medal]".

The next day Tom received a note from General Walker's ADC (aide-de-camp), Lieutenant Richard Casey (Casey would later become Governor-General of Australia) in which he wrote: "Brigadier-General Walker has ordered me to write to you and congratulate you on your fine work in serving your machine gun under fire on the afternoon of the 30th May and wishes you to know that he is recommending you for the Distinguished Conduct Medal. The General would like to hear from you as to how you are getting on and hopes that your wound is not a serious one".

Tom had been badly wounded in the jaw. In Cairo hospital he asked a visiting padre whether he had been shot because he swore when the gun jammed. The padre replied that he didn't think so. Next, Tom was sent by hospital ship to Alexandria for further treatment and recovery. Eventually, his wounds were deemed serious enough for Tom to be returned to Australia. At Suez he embarked for Sydney on 17 August 1915 aboard *S.S. Themistocles*.





In October 1915 Tom returned home to a hero's welcome. His exploits at Gallipoli had been lauded in local newspapers and he was given a civic reception at Balmain Town Hall.

Tom's mother was presented with a bouquet of flowers tied with coloured ribbons representing all the allied forces. Tom's sisters were extremely proud of him, dutifully keeping all letters and newspaper articles describing their brother's exploits at Gallipoli.

That eventful month in his life culminated when Tom was presented with his DCM by the Governor-General of Australia, Sir Ronald Munroe Ferguson.

#### REFERENCES:

Thomas Arnott's letters, newspaper articles "The Maxim Jammed" and "Pals At The Front" and his diary (14 October 1914 to August 1915), in possession of Mrs Catherine Constant.

*Quinn's Post* by Peter Stanley (Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 2005).

*Quinn's Post* references: p.34; p.35,41; p.79; p.53; p.57; p.59; Quinn's Death—p.77-78; 87.  
Page

**While researching my own family tree I finally found a story on my 3<sup>rd</sup> Great Grandfather and how he came to be transported to New South Wales in 1830 for the 'term of his natural life' – Warren Sims Editor**

**THOMAS GARLAND** b. 15 Sep 1812, BERMONDSEY, SURREY, ENG, m. 22 Apr 1833, in CHRISTCHURCH CASTLE, NSW, **ANNE JONES**, b. 1816, HAWKESBURY RIVER,, (daughter of **WILLIAM JONES** and ? ?) d. 19 Aug 1909, ALLYNBROOK,. THOMAS died 4 Nov 1884, PENSHURST, NSW, AUSTRALIA. BIO:

Thomas Garland was the third child and third son of the marriage between Charles Garland and Naomi Lamb. He was born in Bermondsey, Surrey on 15th September 1812 and was christened in Saint Mary Magdalene Church, Bermondsey, Surrey, on 11th October 1812. At the time of his birth the family lived in Folley.

In February 1830, at the age of 17 Thomas found employment in the service of Madame Eliza Lucy Vestris, a resident of No 1 Chapel Street, Mayfair, London. Madame Vestris, a widow, was an actress who played at the Drury Lane Theatre. During his employment in service with Madame Vestris and while he was living in the house at No 1 Chapel Street, Mayfair, Thomas was allowed to have his brother Charles visit him and on one occasion Charles stayed with Thomas for one week at No 1 Chapel Street, Mayfair.

On the 27th April 1830, Thomas, who was employed as a footboy, accompanied Madame Vestris in her carriage to the Theatre, arriving between the hours of 11.00AM and 12.00 Noon. He was instructed by Madame Vestris to return for her with the carriage later that afternoon. Thomas however did not return with the carriage at the appointed time but absconded together with his elder brother Charles, after having taken three Bank of England notes each worth 10 shillings, several sovereigns, some silver, a Bramah Key and two rings, one worth 15 guineas and the other worth 10 guineas. A lace veil which Madame Vestris stated she had left in her carriage was also taken.

An advertisement, offering a reward for the apprehension of the Garland boys, which gave an accurate description of both Thomas and his brother Charles was placed in the newspapers by Madame Vestris. A member of the public who had chanced to read this advertisement, happened to see two youths who answered the description bargaining at a booking office in Fleet Street, London, for their conveyance to Frome in Somersetshire, by wagon. This person immediately suspected that Thomas and Charles were the persons being sought for the robbery of Mrs Vestris, and their evasive answers on being questioned by him confirmed his suspicions. He at once had them taken into custody. On being arrested the two youths admitted their part in the robbery and told the Police where they had changed the stolen notes. Most of the money stolen had been spent on clothes and other articles. They also told the Police where they had pawned the Lace Veil, worth about 12 guineas.

The Police Constable who arrested them said that when they were searched they had only 5 pounds in money, but that a leather trunk they had with them contained the clothes that they had purchased and a pair of loaded pistols with a powder flask and other items.

Thomas and his brother Charles went before Mr Roe the sitting Magistrate in Marlborough Street Magistrates Court on Monday 10th May 1830, and again before Mr Roe in the Marlborough Street Magistrates Court on 13th May 1830 for final examination. At the end of the proceedings on this day the two Garland boys were committed to Newgate for trial. On Thursday 27th May 1830, Thomas and Charles appeared before The Right Honourable, The Lord Mayor, Mr Justice Littledale and Mr Baron Vaughan at the Old Bailey on the charges of stealing from the dwelling house of Eliza Lucy Vestris, 24 Pounds in Monies, two rings and other articles, and Charles was additionally charged with receiving these articles, well knowing them to be stolen. There was no counsel for either the prosecution or the defence. The jury consulted for a few minutes and on the basis of the police reports returned a verdict of guilty against Thomas and acquitted Charles. The brothers were then indicted for stealing a veil, value 6 pounds the property of Madame Vestris. The verdict was the same. Charles was then discharged from custody

Having been tried and convicted in the Old Bailey of robbery, Thomas Garland was sentenced while at the Middlesex Goal (sic) Delivery to transportation to the Penal Colony of New South Wales for the period of his natural life. He was transported to the Colony on the SS "York", a Class E1 ship of 429 tons which was built in 1819 at the yards at Southwick, Sussex. "York" was 172.0 ft in length, had a beam of 32.5 ft and a depth of 21.6 ft.

With 200 male convicts including Thomas Garland and 198 female convicts embarked, the "York" sailed from the port of Sheerness on 4th September 1830, transitting via Teneriffe to the port of Sydney Town, where she arrived on 7th February 1831. Two male convicts died while on route to New South Wales. The master of the "York" was Captain David Leary, and the Ship's Surgeon was Campbell France.

The ship's indent describes Thomas Garland as being 5 ft 3 1/2 inches tall, of ruddy complexion with brown hair and brown eyes. He had a small perpendicular scar in the left eyebrow and a small horizontal scar on the left forehead. His prisoner's number was 31/113 and his trade or calling was recorded as being "Waiter and Footman".

On his arrival in Sydney Town he was assigned to work for the Reverend Charles Pleydell Neal Wilton, a Chaplain at the Female Orphan School at Parramatta. It was here that he met his future wife, Anne Jones, a girl who was born in the Colony, and who also worked for the Reverend Wilton and his family.

When the Wiltons moved to the Town of Newcastle to take over the Parish and Christchurch, both Thomas Garland and Anne Jones went with them as part of the household staff. Thomas was married to Anne in Christchurch Newcastle by the Reverend Wilton on 22nd April 1833.

Thomas, still serving his sentence as a convicted felon, was then reassigned to work for Charles Boydell, a free settler who owned the property "Rossett" at Cam Yr Allyn on the Paterson Plains .(See the NSW Convict Muster for 1837, D-J Vol 2 Folio 119). In 1842 Thomas was granted a Ticket of Leave (No 42/796 dated 12th March 1842) which stated that he was allowed to remain in the Paterson area and in 1848 on 1st March he was given a "Conditional Pardon to take effect in all parts of the World except the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland". This event was entered in the Records at pages 17 and 18, of Register 27 on 14th April 1848.

Thomas Garland spent the remainder of his life in the Paterson/ AllynBrook area. At age 72, having been ill for 10 days, he died without seeing a doctor at the "Penshurst Station" on 4th November 1884. Penshurst Station belonged to one of his sons-in-law. The death certificate noted that he died of "Bronchitis". He was buried in the cemetery at Saint Mary's Church at Allynbrook, New South Wales on 6th November 1884. On his death certificate his occupation shown as "Shoemaker".

It is interesting to note that in the first edition of the Sydney Herald newspaper published on 18th April 1831, under the heading of "Shipping Intelligence, Arrivals" it states:

"On Friday, 8th instant the ship York put back in consequence of contrary winds."

and under "Departures" notes that :

"The York and Thistle put back to port yesterday, on account of boisterous weather."

These sailing details pertain to the same SS York which brought Thomas to Australia and to its sailing from Port Jackson after disembarking its human cargo of convicts, including Thomas Garland in Sydney Town on 7th February 1831.

## **New Acquisitions to November 2016**

- AU 011b** The Europeans in Australia Volume 2 Democracy. Alan Atkinson
- AU 011c** The Europeans in Australia Volume 3 Nation. Alan Atkinson
- AU 082** Queensland Sources. Queensland Family History Society
- AU 083** Genealogy and Heraldry in the National Library of Australia.  
National Library of Australia
- AU 084** Sinners, Saints & Settlers – A Journey through Irish Australia.  
Richard Reid & Brendon Keslon
- BD 016** Gosford Times Marriage and Death Notices 1892-1954. Wyong  
Family History Group
- CD 122** Christ Church Newcastle NSW 1804 – 1900  
Transcriptions of Baptism, Marriage and Burial Registers 2011.  
Newcastle Family History Society Inc
- CD 123** Pubs and Publicans in NSW 1860-1900. Compiled by  
Ken Knight & Fred Scott for the Society of Australian  
Genealogists
- CE 087** Young Lawn Cemetery 2016. Young & District Family History  
Group Inc
- CE 088** Bowden Family Funerals Burial Records Wyong Shire  
July 1999 – January 2015. Wyong Family History Group Inc
- CE 089** Ronkana Cemetery Wyong NSW. Monumental Inscriptions,  
Photographs and Unmarked Graves, 2016. Wyong Family History  
Group Inc.
- CE 090** The Field of Mars Cemetery at Ryde, NSW.  
Kevin Shaw & Janice Eastment.

- CE 091** Badgery's Creek Cemeteries 2016. Liverpool Genealogy Society Inc
- CE 092** St. Matthews Church of England (The Little Slab Church)  
The Oaks Cemetery Transcript and Photo DVD. Camden Area Family History Society Inc
- EU 082** Irish Records – Sources for Family & Local History.  
James G. Ryan
- FA 124** The Holmes & Bangle Families – The Story of John Holmes & Sarah Bangle – Cambridge England 60 Canobolas NSW Australia.  
Wendy & Pamela Valentine – Twin daughters of Thelma Holmes.
- FA 125** Our Sommer Family – from Untereisesheim, Wurttemberg, Germany. Carol Foulger – Kindly Donated by Carol Foulger
- NS 089** The Early Days of Liverpool. William Freame.
- NS 090** The New South Wales Military Volunteers Land Grants.  
Laurel Burge
- RE 046** How to trace the History of your House. Des Regan & Kate Press.
- RE 047** The Library – A Guide to the LDS Family History Library.  
Jobni Cerny & Wendy Elliott
- RE 083** Share the Shoe Box – Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association. Joan Craymer, Nan Bosler & Mark Young.
- RE 084** Meet Your Ancestors – Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association. Nan Bosler, Joan Craymer & Mark Young.
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