



THE CAMDEN VALLEY VOICE

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May 2018

The Camden Area Family History Society Inc.

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WELCOME TO CAMDEN



From the Editor

Last meeting we had a very interesting talk by Lorraine Stacker who spoke on DNA and how you can use the DNA testing for family research.

This month's meeting we have Harry State-Gardiner who will be speaking on the process he followed in researching his family History Our

At our June meeting the Guest Speaker will be Peter Raksts and also we will have several of our members speaking on their personal experiences at the National Congress held recently at Darling Harbour.

As usual any members who have articles for both the next edition of Camden Calling and June Valley Voice please send them to me at w.sims@bigpond.net.au or cafhs2570@gmail.com all submissions will be greatly appreciated.

Happy Birthday To the following members for May 2018

Sandra Cooke 6th May
Naomi Davies 17th May
Michael McEwan 23rd May
Cathey Shepherd 3rd May
Warren Sims 14th May
Brian Stratton 23rd May



Camden Area Family History Society Inc.

**Research Room, Library/Museum Complex,
John St. Camden**

The research room is currently open

Thursday 10:00am to 3:00pm

Friday 10:00am to 3:00pm

Saturday 9:30am to 12:00 noon

**There is a charge of \$10.00 per session for
non-members to use our resources,**

There is a volunteer on duty whenever the research room is open. They are only too happy to assist with any inquires.

**If you would like to volunteer to assist in the
research room please contact the Library Co-
ordinator Tony Jackson on 4655 1098
letting him know when you are available.**

MEETINGS

Our meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month (except January) at 7:30pm in the Meeting Room of the Library/Museum Complex, John St. Camden.

To help cover the cost of supper we ask for a gold coin donation.

Visitors most welcome.

MEMBERSHIP

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE

Normal	Pensioners/Concession
Single \$30	Single \$25
Couple \$35	Couple \$30



CAMDEN AREA FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY General Meeting

This Month on Tuesday May 1st, Harry State-Gardiner will be speaking on the process he followed in researching his family History. From those who have heard some of the story of his research, we are assured of a very interesting night.

CAMDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY General Meeting

The monthly General Meeting of the Camden Historical Society will be held on Wednesday 9th May at 7.30pm in the Museum and the theme for the evening is in line with the Library's Australian Heritage Festival. In addition to this, the meeting will be addressed by Wen Denaro, Frances Warner & Laura Jane Aulsebrook



'My Culture, My Story'

A Joint Program by Camden Council Library Service,
Camden Historical Society & Camden Area Family History Society



The Grand Parade at Camden Show, 1920's

18 April - 20 May

Photographic Display

Come and see Camden's cultural heritage and stories through a photographic exhibition. These photographs look at Camden's culture through community involvement in festivals, anniversary processions and parades.

Where: Camden Library Adult Fiction

When: During library hours, see website for details

Tuesday 24 April

Mini-Discoverers - Our Culture

Preschool age children are invited to wear traditional or vintage style clothing for a storytime session including a mini tour of the museum.

Where: Camden Museum and Multipurpose Room

When: 11:00 - 11:45am

Enquiries:

www.library.camden.nsw.gov.au
Camden Library 46547951
40 John Street, Camden, 2570

Wednesday 9 May

Camden Area History Service

Meet and greet the Camden Area Family History Society for an opportunity for members and guests to share their family stories.

Where: Camden Museum

When: 7:30 - 9:30pm



Empire Day Parade Camden, 1931.





For Your Diary

**NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc.
ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2018**

Friday 14 to Sunday 16 September 2018 – At Batemans Bay Soldiers Club.

<p>NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2018</p>  <p>Sailing into History</p> <p>Friday 14—Sunday 16 September 2018 At the Batemans Bay Soldiers Club</p>  <p>Photographs: Courtesy Eurobodalla Shire Council ©2017</p>	<p>PROGRAMME</p> <p><u>Friday 14th September</u></p> <p>9.00 – 4.00 FREE Family History Fair open to the general public</p> <p>Free public talks; workshops for conference registrants</p> <p>Help desk to assist with family history research</p> <p>For conference registrants</p> <p>6.30 – 8.30 Meet and Greet</p> <p><u>Saturday 15th September</u></p> <p>8.30 Open</p> <p>9.00 – 3.30 Conference</p> <p>4.00 Annual General Meeting</p> <p>6.30 – 10.00 Conference Dinner</p> <p><u>Sunday 16th September</u></p> <p>9.00 – 1.00 Conference</p> <p>For further details access</p> <p>Website: www.sailingintohistory.org.au</p> <p>Email: info@sailingintohistory.org.au</p>
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NSW ACT Association of Family History Societies Annual Conference: Newsletter 4

Date: 14 to 16 SEPTEMBER 2018

Location: Batemans Bay Soldiers Club

Hello everyone,

Welcome to the fourth 2018 Conference newsletter. The Conference Organising Committee (Committee) did run into some rough water but now we are sailing along with a stiff breeze in our sails.

The programme was launched at the Australasian Congress in Sydney 9 -12 March 2018, and was enthusiastically received, with many people taking registrations forms and informing us that they already had their accommodation booked. With many more requesting inclusion on the newsletter email listing.

The full programme is on the Conference website www.sailingintohistory.org.au together with registration and trade table forms, for enquiries contact info@sailingintohistory.org.au

Early bird registrations are open and will close on 6 July 2018. Registrations will close on 9 August. Bookings can be made on registration@sailingintohistory.org.au Also the forms can be downloaded and scanned/emailed or posted. The Committee is very pleased to report that Conference registrations to date have exceeded our estimations. There is a possibility that the closing date could be bought forward.

We have had enquiries from people asking if they can book for the social activities only. At this time we feel that it is only fair to those who have full registration and their partners can book for the social activities due to the limited space available.

In the last newsletter details of an evening river cruise were provided. This has proven to be very popular with bookings at 60% capacity of the boat. There is also available a lunch cruise that goes into early afternoon, commencing at 11.30am, so that might be of interest for other people, contact: Merinda Clyde River Cruises (02) 4472 4052.

For the \$5-00 bus ticket from Sydney to Bateman's Bay don't forget to check out the Red Tickets specials from Premier Buses. For the Red Ticket specials phone Premier Buses on 133410. There are other discount offers detailed on their website www.premierms.com.au

There will be two raffles over the weekend, one drawn on Friday afternoon and the other one at the Conference dinner. We appeal to the societies and commercial traders to provide items such a copy of new publications, annual subscriptions and other items of general interest or your society could put together a hamper.



Featured guest speaker is Mr Peter Smith. Peter has been studying bushrangers and police since his school days. His other publications include *Tracking down the Bushrangers*, *My America's Cup Adventure*, *pack Tracks and Bridle Tracks of South-Eastern New South Wales*. *The Clark Gang*, *Outlawed*, *Outcast and Forgotten*, has been his major work, the results of nearly 50 years of research. He is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of History & Arts, president of Arms Collectors Guild of New South Wales and president of Braidwood & District Historical Society. Peter's presentation will tell the story of convicts, settlers, gold and bushrangers and puts the bushranging outbreak in perspective. The Clarke gang were arguably the worst and most troublesome bushrangers of all time. They were outlawed by an act of Parliament, outcast by society and in contrast to other bushrangers like Ned Kelly and Ben Hall forgotten after their executions.

For more details regarding our guest speakers, check out the Conference website under 'programme' and click the speakers' link.

Remember the Light Houses (2015) and the Cows (2016), for 2018 the Conference Dinner trophies will be sailing boats, these have been crafted by the Narooma Men's Shed and will be setting sail soon for their next port of call – the Conference Dinner tables.

The Conference Organising Committee has created a volunteers register and would appreciate assistance from member societies to volunteer an hour or two over the weekend to ensure that your fellow family historians have a great experience. Please email the Association Secretary nswact@gmail.com with your details if interested to assist, and to be advised as rosters begin to be developed.

Suzanne Voytas – Conference Convenor

NSW&ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc. www.sailingintohistory.org.au



Hello,

You are invited to the following event:

LIVING HISTORY TALK, MR PETE WATSON HOWELL LIVING HISTORY FARM U.S.A.



Event to be held at the following time, date and location:

Wednesday, 2 May 2018 from
2:00 pm to 4:00 pm (AEST)

Belgenny Farm
[100 Elizabeth MacArthur Avenue](#)
[Camden South, NSW 2570](#)
[Australia](#)

[View Map](#)

[Attend Event](#)

Share this event:



Belgenny Farm Trust Invites you and anyone you know who has an interest in agricultural history, rural museums, living history, farm based agricultural education and related activities to a presentation by Mr Pete Watson former Director of Howell Living History Farm, New Jersey USA. <http://www.howellfarm.org/>

Pete has also been President of the Association of Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums, an American association which unfortunately has no comparable organisation in Australia. <http://www.alhfam.org/>

The history of Howell Farm is long and varied. Since farming began on this site in the 1730s, just about every type of farming situation has occurred here. The farm has evolved from a grain producing farm to a dairy farm and over the years various crops have been grown, animals raised, products produced, etc. The farm has gone through periods of family ownership and occupation and absentee owner/tenant farmer occupation. Today the Farm exists in its rural setting as both an example of farming as it was practiced in New Jersey in the period 1890-1910 and as a landscape where one can find the remnants of over 250 years of farming practice and life.

Pete is visiting Australia on the invitation of the Primary Industries Education Foundation Australia to speak at its biennial conference in Canberra about education of school students leaning about agriculture and farming.

Share this event on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). We hope you can make it.

Regards, Dr Cameron Archer, Chair Belgenny Farm Trust



Captured! - James Francis Dwyer (1874 - 1952)

Still trying to find that elusive ancestor? Why not take a look at 'Captured: Portraits of Crime 1870 - 1930'. This exhibition produced by State Archives and Records NSW is available online from **8 September 2017 - 28 April 2018** and explores the stories of men, women and children incarcerated in NSW goals. You will find it at...

www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/exhibitions

One story is of a person, born in Camden (Camden Park), who was imprisoned in Goulburn goal for 3 years, and eventually left Australia to become a well-known author and poet.

James **DWYER** was photographed at Darlinghurst goal on 17 June 1899, the day after he was convicted of forgery and uttering.



Picture from NSW State Archives Online Exhibition. Photo No.7753

At the time 25 year old Dwyer was the assistant postmaster at Oxford Street (Sydney) Post Office. He was convicted with two others, Frederick Peter **CRAIG** (63) and Joseph **MILLER** (29), of forging a postal order for £10 with intent to defraud. They were tried by Chief Justice Sir Frederick **DARLEY**, at Central Criminal Court on 15 and 16 June 1899. Miller had been caught with twenty-two £10 postal orders, and confessed to his involvement in the plan, naming Dwyer as the instigator.



Peter Craig was sentenced to one-year hard labour; Joseph Miller was given two years and James Dwyer seven years penal servitude. The Judge stating that Dwyer's punishment would act as a deterrent to others.

At this time all sentences longer than three years, fell into the class of prisoners considered most dangerous and difficult.

James Francis Dwyer (1874 – 1952) was born on 22 April 1874 at Camden Park, the fifth son of Michael Dwyer, a farm labourer and his wife Margaret, both from Cork, Ireland. The family were living in Menangle in 1883 and by 1884 they had moved to Campbelltown. James was educated in local schools until aged 14 years when he was sent to live with relatives in Sydney. He worked as a publisher's clerk, letter carrier and finally a postal assistant.

James was sent to Goulburn goal after sentencing, and his journey to Goulburn was well described in his autobiography, titled Leg Irons on Wings (Macmillan, 1949). The prisoners, shackled, were put on the train at Sydney Central Station, in front of crowds of people, and then the train journey, stopping at his hometown, Campbelltown.

“Out of the clamour on the platform (Campbelltown Station) came the shrill voice of Mr Cole, who sold apples, oranges, cigarettes and cigars. Other remembered voices of long ago came to my ears. I recognised the shouts of boys that I had grown up with.”

But what was worse happened next when a person began rapping on the locked carriage door.

“... A person in authority was ordering the intruder away from the door of our compartment. Then a great flood of terror passed over me. A protesting voice answered the order. A voice that I hadn't heard for years. An angry voice now. It bit into my soul.”

“But I only want to see who is in the compartment” it cried loudly. *It was the voice of my father!* He continued to follow the train as it left the platform.”

From “Leg Irons on Wings” by James Dwyer (page 57)

James had always wanted to write, but it wasn't until he was imprisoned, that one of his poems was sent to the Bulletin (Sydney) and published. When he was released from Goulburn prison in 1902, after three years in goal, he travelled to Sydney and continued to write whilst serving out his ticket of leave working as a salesman, pigeon buyer and sign writer. After seven years he became a free man and left for overseas, initially to London, then America and France, where he pursued a career in writing. He travelled in America and Europe getting material for his novels and magazine articles. Thereafter his stories were published in many popular magazines, which proved very profitable. He became a prolific and successful writer, with ten novels and hundreds of magazine articles. Some of his novels can be read on 'Project Gutenberg'.

Despite never living in Australia again, James Dwyer always affirmed his Australian nationality. James sensitivity about his imprisonment whilst a young man saw him develop a determination to succeed and achieve public recognition. He said in his autobiography, *Leg-Irons on Wings* (Macmillan 1949):

“Yes, a proud Australian. I was born one and I will die one. I proclaim Australia's beauty and its strength. I speak of its opportunities and the fine hospitable hearts of its people. I sing the ballads



of its poets, Lawson, Brady and Paterson. I quote them to friends. I think we are a great people.”
(p. 282)

Dwyer settled in the French Pyrenees at Pau, and when France fell in 1940, he escaped through Spain and settled in the United States. He returned to Pau in September 1945 and died in Pau on 11 November 1952.

This is just one story in the Captured Exhibition.

Although the online exhibition finishes on 28 April, the exhibition will be on tour in the following places in 2018.

Charles Sturt University Regional Archives, Wagga Wagga ...	14 May – 8 June
University of Wollongong Library...	3 July – 3 August
UNE and Regional Archives, Armidale...	3 September – 27 October.

If you wanted to do further research on James Francis DWYER, it is indicated that he was supposedly married in 1893 to Selina Cassandra STEWART in 1893. This couple went on to have two children Eric F. DWYER (38505/1895) and Celia M DWYER (33221/1914). Some articles also indicate that the couple were divorced in December 1919 in Reno, Nevada. However, the role of the family historian is to prove and/or disprove this information. In his autobiography there is no mention of a wife and children. This research needs to be followed up.

The research already done will be filed in the family history room under DWYER. If anyone feels like doing further research, have a look at this file and we will add PROVEN facts to the file.

Cathey Shepherd