

# THE Cedar Log

**39th Year of Publication**

**Journal of the Richmond-Tweed Family History Society Inc.**

**Ballina NSW Australia**



*The Wedding of Princess Louise in 1871. Windsor Castle.*

**ISSN 0817-0185**

**ISSN 2203-0255**

**Free to Members**

**Issue No 151**

**March 2022**

**We acknowledge the Bundjalung people as the Traditional Custodians of the land and rivers where this journal is produced and pay respect to their elders past, present and emerging.**

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(Incorporated in New South Wales)

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## **Front Cover: The Wedding of Princess Louise in 1871. Windsor Castle.**

Photo courtesy [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Princess\\_Louise\\_in\\_her\\_wedding\\_dress.png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Princess_Louise_in_her_wedding_dress.png)

On the 21 March 1871, in St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, Princess Louise Caroline Alberta (1848-1939), the sixth child of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert married a commoner, John G. E. H. Douglas Sutherland Campbell, Marquess of Lorne (Scotland).

With the approval of her mother and support of the British people, Princess Louise was the first daughter of a sovereign since 1515 to marry a commoner and Queen Victoria thought that the marriage was the most popular act of her reign.

The dress, train and veil were of white satin and Honiton lace trimmed with cordons of orange blossoms, white heather and myrtle. It had the smaller frontal area of a bustle rather than the fuller crinoline of the previous decade. The floral headpiece was of orange blossom and myrtle. Around her neck was a diamond necklace, to which was attached a large ornament of pearls and diamonds, with a sapphire in the centre.

A full length photo of the princess and the dress can be found on this website.  
<http://www.avictorian.com/princesslouise.html>.

## Editorial

By Carmel Crosby

Welcome to 2022 and our first issue of *The Cedar Log* for the New Year. Hopefully everybody managed to stay safe whilst catching up with family and friends during the holiday season. We wait to see what 2022 has in store for us. No matter what develops on the health front, we can continue to research, expand and write our family histories.

This issue we have articles by **Frank Harvey**, **Leonie Oliver** and **Leigh Wilson**. Many thanks to these members for sending in articles for us all to read. Frank has filled us in on some events of 1871 and also praised **Marie Hart** for her initiative in commencing *The Cedar Log* 150 editions ago. Leonie has written about one of her complex Blenkins families and checked the results of her comprehensive research with DNA. Leigh responded to our call for more articles with a biography of one of his great grandfathers. It is a little longer than we would normally print, but it seemed better to have it all in one issue, rather than over two journals, 3 months apart. Also thanks to the writers of our regular features and to **Judy Cosgrove** and **Liz Marshall**, our assistant editors, who took photos and wrote about our Christmas Party held in December 2021 (see pages 16 - 19). Many thanks also to Judy and Liz for all their work in producing the journal every 3 months. Also thanks to **Joy Conlon**, **Alison Draper** and **Ann Emory** for volunteering as **Duty Officers**. Now we have only one space to fill!

**Carol Donaghey** has resigned from the committee after having served for 2 years and before that for 5 years as journal editor. We thank Carol for contributing and providing service and guidance in her calm and knowledgeable manner. Carol will continue to be a duty officer in the *Marie Hart Library* after she recovers from her upcoming knee operation. We wish her the best of luck

with her operation and recovery. This also means that there are now 2 spaces on the committee, if you would like to volunteer.

The **1921 census** is out at last on *Find My Past*. It can be searched from your home computer, though you need to have an account, which is free to set up. Otherwise, use the computers in the *Marie Hart Library*. Wherever you search from, you see the first names of some of the people living in the house, to show whether you have the correct people. If you want to see all the details you can purchase the transcriptions for \$4.80 or the actual census image for \$6.60. I found when I was searching that none of 3 families turned up in the 'Find an Ancestor' search, but they all were there when I used the 'Find an Address' search, so try both if you can. I was amazed to see, when I was searching on *Google* for something completely different, a photo on twitter of a **lady holding her 1921 census form!** I could not read the details, but she was presumably a very young girl at the time and is now at least 100 years old!

As we are always looking for articles on family history written by and for our members, perhaps it would be a good idea to **start thinking of what you could write about this year**. You might aim for a story about your **father or grandfather** for the September issue, which will be published around Father's Day. For December, **Christmas** could be the seed of an interesting story, such as, someone who was born, married or died on or near the 25<sup>th</sup> of December. As 2022 is the anniversary of some **1942 and 1972 war battles**, you may have a story to write about a family member who served at this time. As an encouragement to write an article for *The Cedar Log*, I am pleased to report that within a few days of the December journal being sent electronically to a Family History Society in the UK, a member there contacted me to ask me to pass on his details to **Jan Connor**, who had written an article about her ancestors in *The Cedar Log*. He and Jan have now communicated about their common ancestors. You too might be lucky by putting your family history out there for others to pick up on.

Happy researching!

*Carmel*, Editor

# EIGHTEEN-SEVENTY-ONE and all that!

by Frank Harvey – Member 724

As a former Editor of *The Cedar Log* may I offer my congratulations on the successful publication of the 150<sup>th</sup> edition of this Journal in December 2021.

Interestingly, the establishment of *The Cedar Log*, 150 editions ago, shares a certain similarity with the events in both Australia and England in 1871 – 150 *years* ago!

This Quarterly Journal, established by the Richmond-Tweed Family History Society (RTFHS) Founder - **Marie Hart** - has assisted RTFHS Members to *expand their family history knowledge and created friendships among family history researchers worldwide* ... in much the same way as early Australians greatly expanded their knowledge of the Northern Territory in March 1871 by discovering Alice Springs, and then opened-up their speedy contact with the rest of the world in November 1871, when engineers brought ashore the Australian end of the original London - Australia telegraph cable at Darwin!

**Meanwhile, in the United Kingdom, many events were unfolding**, which are still familiar to us in the 2020s, and will have some bearing on our UK ancestors who were alive in 1871, and who were quite unaware that we would be seeking to know more about them 150 years later:

- **Queen Victoria** was at the midpoint of her marathon reign (63 years and seven months), ● and on 2<sup>nd</sup> March had officially opened the Royal Albert Hall in London – named in honour of her deceased consort-husband, **Albert**, who died ten years earlier in 1861.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1871 saw the first UK Census which required the recording of the economic and mental status of the population.
- 26<sup>th</sup> May the British Parliament passed the Bank Holiday Act, granting four Bank holidays in Britain and five in Scotland.
- 29<sup>th</sup> June – trade unions are legalised by the Trade Union Act – ● and by August of 1871 the ‘Nine Hours Strike’ had begun on Tyneside (Newcastle-upon-Tyne), seeking a shorter working day. It took 14 weeks of strike action before employers capitulated to this demand.

- 10th November – Welsh-born journalist **Henry Morton Stanley** located missing Scottish explorer and missionary, **Dr. David Livingstone** in Ujiji, near Lake Tanganyika, and allegedly greets him saying, ‘Dr Livingstone, I presume!’
- Sometime in 1871 **Thomas Lipton** (of Lipton’s tea fame) opened his first Grocery Store in Glasgow, Scotland ... **Lewis Carroll** wrote his children’s novel: ‘Through the Looking-Glass’ ... and Charles Darwin wrote: ‘The Descent of Man’.

**Of possible interest to sports-lovers researching UK sport-loving ancestors in 1871:**

- The Challenge Cup was proposed, which gave birth to the now-famous FA Cup.
- Southall Football Club formed in Southall, London.
- Rugby Football Union commenced in London on 26<sup>th</sup> January – and the Neath RFC and Streatham-Croydon RFC are founded. The first [Rugby Union](#) International results in a 1–0 win, by Scotland over England at Edinburgh on 26<sup>th</sup> March.
- The world’s first Hockey Club was formed at Teddington, Richmond-on-Thames, London, Surrey.
- Reading (Berkshire) Football Club formed on 25<sup>th</sup> December

**THANK YOU, MARIE:**

To fulfill her idea for a Newsletter, Marie Hart needed to obtain permission to use the Gestetner machine owned by the Ballina High School, for the first few editions. It was created on three pages of coloured foolscap paper; carefully stapled together.

When the above events occurred in 1871, I am sure no one could have foreseen their significance to people 150 years into the future; in much the same way as Marie Hart could never have foreseen the significance of her *Cedar Log* idea - 150 editions later.



**Thank you, Marie, for your perseverance.**

# Charles Eaton TAPLIN

## By Leigh Wilson – Member 805

### Setting the scene

By 1857, Charles Eaton Taplin's birth year, the State of South Australia had existed for just over 20 years. It had been founded on the theories of Edward Gibbon **Wakefield**, the British diplomat, but was now struggling from a mixture of successes and failures. Even so, people of idealism and ambition were still being attracted. Two such people were Charles' father, George **TAPLIN**, and mother, Martha **BURNELL**, both of whom had immigrated from England, met and married, and by 1849 were "hard at it" developing the innovative Point McLeay mission near the mouth of the River Murray in South Australia.

### Childhood

Charles Eaton TAPLIN, the third child and second son from the marriage of George TAPLIN and Martha BURNELL, was born at Port Elliott, South Australia on 10 December 1857. Eaton was the maiden name of Mary **EATON** (1769-1843), one of his great grandmothers, who had died at Andover, Hampshire, England, 14 years before he was born.

Charles' childhood was spent at the Point McLeay Mission. He was educated here by his parents, especially his father who was well known as a very capable man.

### Occupational life & marriage.

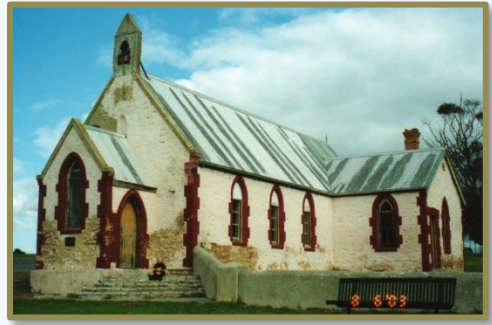
In 1873, aged 16, Charles was apprenticed to Mr P. Gray, a cabinet maker operating in Rundle Street, Adelaide. On 25 October 1877 his indentures were cancelled due to ill health; whether of him or his employer is unclear.

A few months later (January 1878) Charles married Flora Mary **WINCH**, whom he had met while working in Adelaide.





*The Taplin house at Point McLeay mission. Photo courtesy and permission to use by State Library of South Australia*



*The Point McLeay mission church in 2003*

### **'The Winch family's taint.**

Flora had migrated from London, England, with her parents Richard and Sarah Winch in 1866. Her father had died in 1873; her mother did not die until 1895. In May 1873, Sarah was the defendant in a lurid trial for alleged baby murder. When the matter was over, the situation was abundantly clear. Sarah and her eldest daughter had been charged as a result of intentionally malicious gossip and accusations by some neighbours, when in fact the two women had been doing their best to support the child who had eventually died. This child had resulted from the seduction of Sarah's youngest daughter by the husband of her second-youngest daughter. This happening would have been stressful and embarrassing enough by itself; the trial must have been harrowing. Although Flora herself was not directly involved in any aspect of the matter, she could not have avoided some taint. It seems that a cover story was developed by Flora and Charles and told to their children, that replaced the baby murder and associated matters with a very different pre-history - which, many years later, one of them (Constance) put in writing.

### **Charles and Flora proceed.**

On 25 October 1878 the first child of the marriage, Arthur Bertram, was born at Hindmarsh but died in infancy.

To enable Charles' older brother, Fred, to return to Point McLeay Mission (due to their father George's ill-health) Charles and Flora went to Naracoorte to look after a small farm holding that George had bought in 1876. George died at the mission on 24 June 1879, whereupon Fred was appointed as manager.

In November 1879 Charles and Flora moved to Hindmarsh, an inner suburb of Adelaide, where Charles worked as a journeyman carpenter until 1883, and then as a builder until 1885.

Their second child, Harold Eaton, was born at Hindmarsh on 7 March 1880.

Their third child, Gilbert Stanley, was born at Hindmarsh on 29 May 1881, but died in infancy

Their fourth child, Elsie Flora, was born at Hindmarsh on 13 August 1882. Elsie eventually married Frank Milton **Angel**, and was my maternal grandmother.

Their fifth child, Cecil Walter, was born at Hindmarsh on 22 February 1884.



### **Mission building in New South Wales.**

In 1885 **Charles and Flora (in photo at left)** moved to New South Wales, firstly to North Armidale, then to Harris Park near Parramatta.

In September 1886 Charles was appointed by the *Aborigines Protection Society of New South Wales* to manage an Aboriginal Mission at Brewarrina near Bourke in the west of the State. This was a demanding project – he had to design and construct everything from scratch, with little assistance from the Europeans with this project, he had to overcome great wariness by the aborigines, while surviving the difficulties of outback life. Flora accompanied

him, and their sixth child, Constance, was born here at Brewarrina on 24 July 1888.

Apparently tenacity, sincerity and energy helped him to win through and by August 1889 the mission was operating. At that time, he resigned on receiving news that his brother Fred, who had managed the mission at Point McLeay for ten years, had died while trying to rescue people from a fire in a multi-storey coffee palace and guest house in Hindley Street, Adelaide.

Management of the Point McLeay mission now passed to a brother-in-law of Charles, David **Blackwell**, and Charles started in business as a land agent in Gilbert Place, Adelaide.

In 1889 Charles' account of the Brewarrina mission was published in *The Register* newspaper, Adelaide.

### **Advocacy for aboriginal matters continues.**

Charles wrote a letter to the editor (Dec 1889) in which he forthrightly advocated for better treatment for the aborigines.

Due to his high profile in aboriginal matters, in 1890 he became involved in responses to rumours that aboriginals had been murdered to have occurred at the Finke River Mission (Hermannsburg) in Central Australia some 10 years earlier. Public interest was aroused and meetings were held. On 17 February 1890 he wrote-

“In our own day, what apathy follows on the public assertion of an eye-witness, made in the Y.M.C.A. rooms one day last month, that in the interior of our colony at the present time the blackfellow is regarded as an intruder on his native hunting-grounds; is shot down for disturbing the white man's cattle .....is shot down in chains, and his wife and daughters held in disgraceful concubinage by the “superior race”. All these things may go on without disturbing the conscience of a Christian public because it is at a distance; but one poor, wretched creature brought into our midst charged with murder awakens our sympathy to its fullest extent. ....Why do not the people rise up in like manner and insist on their representatives doing something for the protection of the natives in the interior?”

The South Australian government arranged for a 3-man party to investigate, with Charles as one of its members. Even now, Hermannsburg is very isolated, and it was much more so back in those days. The party transited past Chambers' Pillar where they engraved their names; only a dozen or so white people had ever been there previously. The on-site investigation was completed but back in Adelaide the matter became bogged down and eventually petered out. The topic was covered in detail by

Peter **Vallee** in his book “God, Guns and Government on the Central Australian Frontier” (Restoration) 2007.



*The Expedition to the Finke River Mission, Hermannsburg.  
Charles at centre rear.*

In its issue of 25 October 1890 the Evening Journal published Charles’ account of this trip entitled “On camelback in the Interior” by CE Taplin. Evidently Charles hoped his proposals for a chain of aboriginal reserves running across the continent would be advanced as an outcome of his participation in this enquiry. Although that did not happen, his active involvement in aboriginal affairs continued in addition to his building activities and a range of other community interests.

On 6 June 1891 the seventh child of the marriage, Juliet Ivy, was born at Parkside, South Australia.

In 1892 he started in business as an architect, working from premises at Tower Court, on the western side of Victoria Square, Adelaide. This building, which he designed and built, has since been demolished and replaced by a multi-storey office block. He became a skillful designer, producing several well-known churches in and around Adelaide.

On 16 December 1895, the eighth child of the marriage, Leonard Thomas Eaton, was born at Malvern, South Australia. The ninth child, Lilla Marjory, was born at Malvern on 26 January 1897, but died in infancy.



*Manthorpe Memorial church. One of several designed by Charles Eaton Taplin*

The tenth and last child, Wilfred Noel Eaton, was born on 26 January 1899 at Malvern.

In 1900 he was appointed Honorary Secretary of the *Council of Churches for South Australia* and a Justice of the Peace, sitting on the Bench at the Stipendiary Magistrates Court where he dealt with the seemingly endless parade of minor matters produced by tacky human behaviour.

By 1905, Charles was living in a house he had designed and built at Eton Street, Malvern. The property was named “**Brewarrina**” (photo on right was taken in March 2007) evidently in remembrance of the mission he had started in New South Wales. This house looks to be similar to the one he designed for his daughter Elsie after she married Frank Milton Angel (that house was demolished after Frank died in 1969).



*Charles Eaton TAPLIN and Flora Mary TAPLIN nee WINCH at the wedding of Frank Milton ANGEL and Elsie Flora TAPLIN, 1907*

On 12 June 1907 Charles’ eldest daughter, Elsie Flora TAPLIN, married Frank Milton ANGEL. We hold a letter written by Charles’ wife, Flora, on the C.E. Taplin business’ letterhead dated 23 May 1907, thought to have been sent to their son, Cecil, describing arrangements for the forthcoming wedding.



It seems that Charles gave Elsie 3 blocks of land on Fullarton Road as a wedding present. These blocks were registered in her name as sole proprietor in October 1907 and remained so until her death in 1956. By 1910 a house had been built on this land, and it seems likely that it was designed and built by Charles. That house, which was demolished after Frank Angel died in 1969, looked quite similar to the “*Brewarrina*” house.

C.E. Taplin came from a family with an open-minded protestant version of Christianity, and with high principles aimed at the good of their fellow man. In consequence, he participated in numerous groups and organizations such as several lodges, religious communities, the *Aboriginal Friends Association*, the *Co-operative Permanent Building Society* (chairman of directors), the *Hindmarsh Building Society* (a board member for over 20 years), and sat on the bench for many years as a justice of the peace. He was the photographic illustrator of his father’s (Rev. George Taplin) highly regarded writings on aboriginal matters.

On 19 December 1910 his wife Flora died aged 54 from cardiac problems. She had been ill for a few years, and had been attended at home by nurses. **(Flora Taplin’s gravestone on right)**



### **A second marriage - a new family starts.**

On 7 June 1911, 6 months after Flora’s death, Charles married one of the nurses who had attended Flora, **Mabel Hilda Gawler Coles**. The first of their 3 children, George, was born 5 February 1912.



Mabel Hilda Gawler Coles

It seems that these events caused strained relations with the children of the first marriage. After all, there had been quite a moral tone to Charles’ activities, and this apparently rapid acquisition of a second wife – perhaps even while the first wife was lingering on in poor health – does seem inconsistent. It may also have been thought by the first family that Mabel, as a nurse, took advantage of Charles’ vulnerability. Whatever the case, the descendants of these two marriages have had no connection with each other ever since; even though - in contrast - within each family, close and happy relationships existed.



By 1913 Charles was living in another house “*Onward*”, at Leicester Street, Parkside (photo on left). The name of the house indicates his determination to proceed positively following the second marriage. The design of the house seems quite different to “*Brewarrina*”, “*Murla*”, and “*Gingemulla*” (Elsie & Frank Angel’s house), so it is not clear whether “*Onward*” was built by Charles.

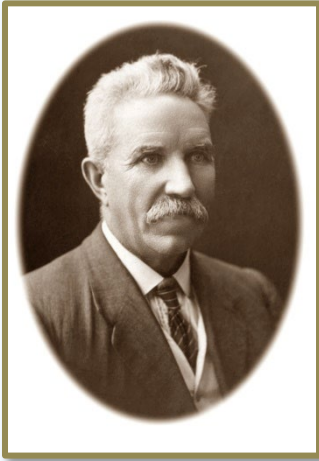
By 1919 he was living at his last house “*Murla*”, at 9 Florence Street, Fullarton Estate.

Photos below of “*Murla*” in about 1920 (left) and 2007(right). In 2007 the tennis court still existed. It was from the era when a tennis court was common for the houses of the comfortably well-off.



all born at Fullarton (born 5 February 1912), Betty Mabel (born 23 January 1916) and Frederick Eaton (born 10 June 1917).

Their descendants have said that Charles and Mabel’s marriage was a happy one (as also the first marriage had evidently been).



*Charles Eaton Taplin - in later life*

Charles’ success reflected itself in his family’s living standard. In the 1920s there was a maid at their house, they had a motor car, the children attended private schools (*Prince Alfred’s College* and *Presbyterian Girls’ College*), and there were family holidays. In his later years he went on a trip to Japan by ship in the course of which he was quite ill, yet still he made a point of getting as much out of the trip as possible.

It seems that early in his adult life he found it appealing to use his middle name “Eaton” as his personal name, which he did from then on. He included it in the names of his sons, from both marriages. In his public dealings he signed himself C. Eaton Taplin.

By the standards of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, his education was informal, individual, and unstructured; yet his father, George, was a very versatile and energetic missionary, operating a non-denominational Christian mission with education being a major priority. For a great many people of his era, self-education was allied with self-improvement after mid-teen age. It is not clear what, if any, education was necessary to operate as an architect.

In religion, he participated in Christian Protestantism, apparently with some varied affiliations in the course of his life. He grew up with the Congregational Church (and became secretary of Manthorpe Memorial Congregational Church for 12 years), but may have attended other protestant churches in mid-life, and he attended Pirie Street Methodist Church with his second wife Mabel. He was on the Council of Churches. At least some of the architectural work that he did for churches was done without charge.

In 1925, he was president of the *Aborigines’ Friends Association*, in which he had been active for many years. He was an enthusiastic writer of letters to the editors of



newspapers almost always advocating for the interests to which he had official connections.

**Charles died on 29 May 1927.** Death was due to morbis cordis (heart disease) and ascites (fluid retention). He was buried at Mitcham Cemetery, Adelaide (photo on right)



Following Charles' death, Mabel inherited several real estate properties and was considered well-to-do. Within a year or two, however, the financial collapse of the Great Depression started and properties devalued greatly. The government controls forced the rents to remain low despite demanding that the buildings be well maintained. Mabel herself was not financially astute, and her descendants believe that she was too trusting, evidenced by her comments such as 'everything will work out all right'. Fortunately, Wilfred, the youngest child from Charles' first marriage, was working in real estate and was a help with these matters.

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*The Saturday Journal*, Adelaide, South Australia - 04 June 1927

DEATH: TAPLIN — On the 29th May, at his residence, Florence street, Fullarton, Charles Eaton, beloved husband of Mabel Taplin, and son of the late Rev. George Taplin, founder of Point McLeay Mission Station, aged 69 years. No mourning by request.





# Christmas Party 2021

On 4 December 2021 Society members and friends gathered at Summerland House Farm for our Christmas luncheon. It was a festive occasion with people enjoying fine food, carol singing and answering questions to a very challenging trivia competition.



*Joann & Bert Clapham*



*Tanya Binning*



*Jenny Craddock & Carol Donaghey*



*Alison Draper & Kristine Pryor*



*Anna Wutte & Narelle Flanagan*

Jackie **Chalmers** produced an interesting pictorial tour showing the various meeting places of societies throughout the country, many of which were recognised by the members.

We are very grateful to Jackie and Anna for providing our table place cards with the words to the carol We Wish You A Merry Christmas printed inside so everyone could join in the singing continuing a tradition commenced by Alf **Clarke**.



Margaret **Playford** and Eric **Clark** were congratulated for reaching their 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday milestone this year.

*Eric Clark & Margaret Playford*



*Dianne McCombe & Nola Rodey*



*Jackie Chalmers, Jill Clarke, Liz Marshall & Anna Wutte*

Robyn **Wright** from Bangalow won our raffle prize and the Trivia Competition winner was Dianne **McCombe**.

It was most enjoyable to meet as a group socially and thanks to Gwen **Clark** for organising the event.



*Dianne McCombe*



*Leigh Wilson & Eric Clark*



*Kerrie Alexander & Marlene Lester*



**They Served –  
But they never enlisted!**

**by Frank Harvey – Member 724**



Henry Harvey in about 1870

The early years of the 20th century is known as the Edwardian period of history - years which replaced the perceived staid Victoria era with a new 'joie de vivre.' Huge inequalities between the rich and the poor still existed, yet the prevailing mood was one of optimism for the future; an anticipation of progress in all directions.

This optimism for the future was shattered when war was declared on Germany on the 4th August 1914, and the British people experienced a 'baptism of fire' with an unprecedented number of war dead and injured. My great-grandparent's (**Henry and Alice Harvey**) youngest child, **Kitty**, was aged nine when war began, and she never forgot seeing a number of her brothers riding off to war on their

horses - nor could she forget the sadness when news reached them of the death of young men they had all known.

Perhaps the worst item of news to reach them was the fate of Henry's two nephews<sup>1</sup> (the sons of his now deceased brother, **Eli Harvey**). In hindsight,

the timing of these two news items appear like tragic bookends to the horrific story of The Great War.

Meanwhile, four more years of wartime suspense was to follow. During this period an area of nearby Tiptree Heath, Essex (where Henry Harvey had lived in the 1870's) was used for the training of the 15th Mounted Brigade, which was part of a Field Ambulance Unit. During these war years Henry and Alice would have experienced many emotional times as their own sons and the sons of friends joined the war effort - coming back home for periods of military Leave from both England and France - only to return to further active service. Among these visitors were two other nephews of Henry Harvey who had migrated to Canada in 1911, to participate in a Canadian government-sponsored 'harvest excursion' scheme. At the onset of War these two men enlisted with the Canadian Army and returned to the Tiptree area several times during training in England and whilst on Leave from active duty in France.

## **THE HOME FRONT**

However, one of the forgotten elements of the Great War (1914-1918) was the emergence of the Home Front in England - a new terminology used to denote the war-effort support work performed by civilian members of the community.

Never before had such an intensity of war lasted so long, requiring such a constant supply of men, equipment and munitions - and producing such frenzied travel activity!

Because the war zones were so close to England's shores, it was possible for military personnel to be frequently sent back to England for periods of rest and refreshment. Wounded men were evacuated home for further medical treatment. This was not a war which civilians heard about when it was all over. This was a war, and this was the age, in which newspaper reports, government propaganda and personal stories from service men and women, gave civilians an almost ring-side view of events.

Some years ago, I created an interesting time-line of the events in the life of my great-grandfather, while living in the Essex village of Messing (now part of Tiptree). For many years I have also maintained a survey of the inhabitants of the village of Messing, with a view to understanding the

relationships which must have developed between the different families who lived in one small area of countryside for more than two hundred years. This survey allows me to imagine that when my great-grandfather walked down the streets of the village, he had a special family acquaintance/relationship with at least one in five of the people he met.

Henry was too old to enlist, but he and his wife - as well as many in his village - certainly served their countrymen well during this most traumatic period of their lives.

In the early 1900s Henry and Alice had purchased two adjoining cottages at Blue Row in Tiptree, Essex, receiving council permission to demolish a dividing wall, thereby turning the two cottages into a larger residence for their ever-expanding family. This home also became a place of refuge for some of his sons as they returned on military service in the Great War.

In the immediate years after the War he willingly shared his home with several of his children, when they first married and started their own young families. At one time his daughter **Alice** (named after her mother) married a very, very distant cousin, whose father was also named '**Henry Harvey**'. With two fathers named Henry and two mothers named Alice, one can only imagine the amusing, if not confusing, conversations whenever the two families got together!

Unfortunately, great-grandfather Henry Harvey was only semi-literate, so that his youngest daughter (Kitty) wrote letters on his behalf, addressed to his sons involved in Military Service during the period of the Great War.

These were some of the unsung heroes of the British 'Great War period.' People who served their country - but who never Enlisted!

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<sup>1</sup>Pte Walter Henry 'Harry' HARVEY (1893-1914). Killed in Action 12<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1914 in the Battle of Aisne in France – Aged 21 years. Walter enlisted with the British Army.

Pte Frederick James Harvey 1888-1951). Wounded in Action in France on 11<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1918 - aged 30 years - losing one leg and much of his hearing. Ironically, this was exactly one month before the Armistice. Frederick enlisted with the Canadian Army.



## Was She or Wasn't She?

### DNA to the Rescue

By Leonie Oliver - Member 610

When I started researching my husband Greg's family tree, I hit a snag quite quickly.



His paternal grandmother was Alice **Blenkins** (pictured on left in about **1885**) according to Greg's father's birth certificate. She was married in Perth, WA, in 1911, and I found the marriage record easily. She was born in London, her father's name was Henry Blenkins, and her mother's was Elizabeth **Adams**.

I couldn't find a birth registration for Alice Blenkins anywhere, but I didn't let that stop me! I launched into researching the Blenkins, thinking it

would be fairly easy as it was quite an uncommon name.

But I still didn't have that birth record, and as we are told to start at the beginning and work back, I decided I would try again. Still no luck, but I did find her living with her parents and her siblings May and Ernest, in both the 1891 and 1901 censuses, and she was born just after the 1881.<sup>10</sup>

However, I did find Henry Blenkins in the 1881 census - he was a widower, lodging with three of his four children, at 15 Cornelia St, Islington. The house was occupied by a Draper John **Gamage**, his wife Elizabeth, and their three children.

Could this Elizabeth Gamage be Alice's mother, I wondered?

So I looked for the birth registration of Alice Gamage, born in 1881 in Islington. And there it was! I sent for the certificate to find that John Gamage had registered the child's birth, and the mother was Elizabeth Adams.

I also found a baptism record for Alice Gamage, so John Gamage obviously believed she was his daughter. After all, he was married to Alice's mother! What to do now? I had spent quite a lot of time, researching the Blenkins family, and Alice may really be a Gamage!!

I went back to checking out Henry Blenkins, and found that he had appeared in court in September 1881, charged with theft. The newspaper reports went worldwide - he had run off with his landlord's wife, and his landlord's goods from the draper's shop! And all the children! It was an absolute sensation with many of the UK newspapers reporting on it, and even some international ones, including Australian, taking up the story.

In one report that I found while in the National Archives in Kew (London), Elizabeth, while appearing as a witness for the defence, admitted under oath that her youngest child was Henry's. She was subsequently hissed at as she left the court. Henry was found guilty and spent 22 months in gaol before his release. How Elizabeth managed to fend for herself with a small child is unknown, but as soon as he was free, Henry and Elizabeth set up house as a

married couple, and had another two children. Elizabeth's children by her marriage to John Gamage were removed by her husband and spent the remainder of their time growing up with him. Henry's other children stayed with other members of his family.



So now I believed that Alice was Henry's child after all, and while Henry named her as his daughter in his will, still that little doubt remained. Later in that trip to the UK, I met a second cousin of Greg's who bore a remarkable resemblance to Greg's brother. That and a **photograph he gave me of Henry Blenkins (see photo on left)**, who was also his great grandfather, just about sealed the deal.

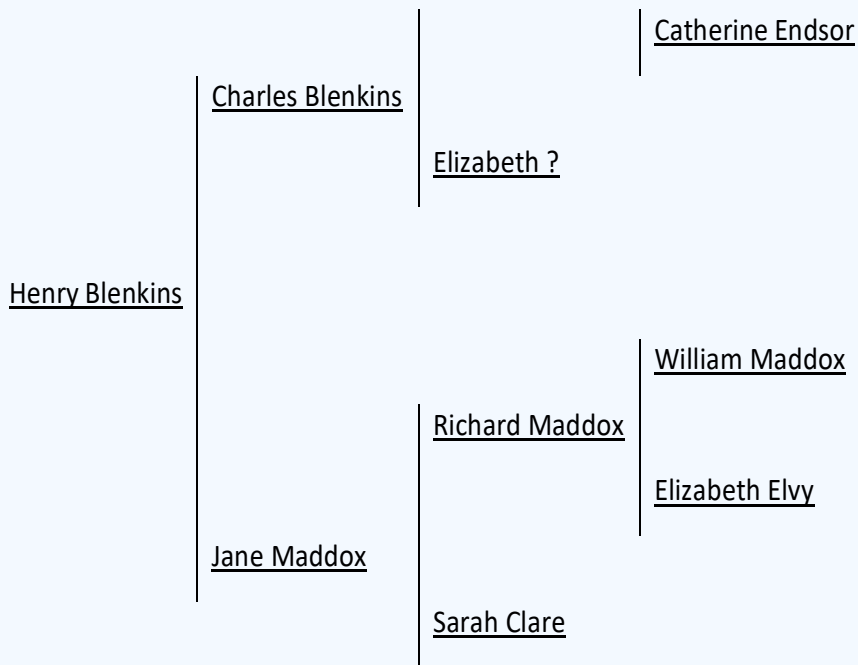
But still that doubt was niggling away – then DNA came along!

What I needed was a DNA match with another descendant of Henry's parents, Charles Blenkins and Jane Skeffington **Maddox**, or their parents and

so on back through the generations.

William Blenkins

Charles Blenkins



And there are many! Not a Blenkins in sight, but many, many Maddox matches. And one all the way back to Amelia, the sister of Richard Maddox, who were both children of William Maddox, Greg's 4x great grandfather. (Richard Maddox was Greg's 3x great grandfather).

So, after all that, Alice was definitely the daughter of Henry Blenkins, and all those years of research have not gone to waste.

A side note - Elizabeth Adams married three times. First to Richard **Wood** in 1862, next while again calling herself a spinster, to the widower John Gamage in 1868. Finally, three weeks after John Gamage's death in 1900, to Henry Blenkins. I have yet to find a death for Richard Wood, so I still don't know if the second marriage was bigamous. That is research for another day.

## Journal Gleanings

**By Janine Thomson**

“How to Get the Most Out of **familysearch.org**” An informative guide on searching the catalogue. *Tasmanian Ancestry – September 2021 Page 85*

“Crossing the River at Gundurimba” The first of a two-part story covering the early years of our local area. *RRHS Bulletin – November, 2021 Page 3*

“The Balmain Coal Mine Tragedy” A story from a time before Occupational Health & Safety was an issue. *Traces – Edition 17, 2021 Page 19*

“Local Resources for Family History – County Offaly”. This article deals with the specialised resources available for County Offaly (King’s County)

“Donna Moughty offers more helpful tips and tools for your Family History research” – Immigration and Death records for Ireland.

*Irish Roots – 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2021 – Page 10 & 16*

“Photo Books” Easy to follow instructions on how to bring you photos together in a professional looking book, saving them for generations to come.

“Trade Directories” explains how the Victorian equivalent of the Yellow Pages can provide a window into your British family’s past.

*Who Do You Think You Are - August 2021 - Page 27 & 63*

“Census Substitutes” if you can’t find someone in the UK census, this article provides a wealth of alternative sources to explore.

“Lloyd’s Register of Shipping” will help you make the most of this essential source of information if you are researching seafaring ancestors.

*Who Do You Think You Are – Summer edition 2021 - Page 19 & 52*

“Tips from the Teachers” 21 genealogy tutors share some of their favourite tips

“The Victorian Merchant Navy” Digitisation means it’s never been easier to research British seafarers in the Victorian era.

*Who Do You Think You Are – September 2021 - Page 18 & 63*

## **Australian eJournals Review**

## By Jackie Chalmers

The following journals are now received as eJournals and may be read in the Marie Hart Library on the alpha computer. If they are from the area you are researching you may well find information that will not appear elsewhere, so do check them out.

### Australian A-I

The Bitterness of Their Woe by Denise Newton

*The Heraldry and Gen. Soc. of Canberra Inc., The Ancestral Searcher*, Dec 21

Black-Eyed Susan by Robyn Coghlan

*The Heraldry and Gen. Soc. of Canberra Inc., The Ancestral Searcher*, Jun 21

Bonfires, Fancy Dress and Decorated Bicycles by Elaine Gifford

*The Heraldry and Gen. Soc. of Canberra Inc., The Ancestral Searcher*, Sep 21

Aussie Soldiers in the Channel Islands by Gail White

*AIGS Inc. Trading as Family History Connections, The Genealogist*, Sep 21

Intriguing Edwin Tylor Brown by Robyn Watters

*AIGS Inc. Trading as Family History Connections, The Genealogist*, Jun 21

Becoming an Author by Ian Kirkland

*Alstonville Plateau Historical Society Inc., The Pioneer*, Dec 21

Buttering Up the Locals by Bill Boyd

*Alstonville Plateau Historical Society Inc., The Pioneer*, Sep 21

In the Days of Cobb and Co. by Marie Larnach

*Bathurst Family History Society, Carillon Chimes*, Nov 21

Martin Griffin – One of Bathurst's Greatest Sons by Jan Page

*Bathurst Family History Society, Carillon Chimes*, Aug 21

The Air Search for German Raiders and Enemy Aircraft in Bega 1918 by Pat

Raymond *Bega Valley Genealogy Society, The Valley Genealogist*, Oct 21

Social Life at Pericoe by Wilfred Ingram

*Bega Valley Genealogy Society, The Valley Genealogist*, Jun 21

David Reid, Surgeon by Stuart Hume

*Berrima and District FHS, Newsletter*, Oct 21

- Holme Hale/Tor Lodge & Bowral RSL Club by Ian Mackey  
*Berrima and District FHS, Newsletter, Sep 21*
- Shedding Light on a Berrima Internee by Professor Davide Csermely  
*Berrima and District FHS, Newsletter, Aug 21*
- The Hanks Family at Lower Mittagong by Carolyn Dougherty  
*Berrima and District FHS, Newsletter, Jul 21*
- Aggie Green – the Boxer by Barbara Barnes  
*Botany Bay FHS Inc., The Endeavour, Dec 21*
- How Accurate are Your Sources? by Leonie Bell  
*Botany Bay FHS Inc., The Endeavour, Dec 21*
- Some Early Immigrant Voyages from Britain to Australia were Risky by Peter Londregan  
*Botany Bay FHS Inc., The Endeavour, Sep 21*
- An Unexpected Gift by Val Messer  
*Bundaberg G A, Family Ties, Dec 21*
- Found by Gail Dowie  
*Bundaberg G A, Family Ties, Sep 21*
- Norman Carrington Kingston and the Spanish Flu Pandemic by Susan Borel  
*Burwood & District FHG, Burwood Ancestry-tree, Sep 21*
- Lost and Found at East Gosford by Gwen Dundon  
*Central Coast FHS Inc., E-Muster, Dec 21*
- The Streets of the Rocks - Sydney by Heather Yates  
*Central Coast FHS Inc., E-Muster, Aug 21*
- What is a Cousin? from FamilySearch  
*Coffs Harbour & District FHS, Genie Allergy, Dec 21*
- How Many Female Convicts Do You Have in Your Family? by Sharon Ingersole  
*Coffs Harbour & District FHS, Genie Allergy, Sep 21*
- Cream Carriers by Win Wynn  
*Cooroy-Noosa G & H Research Group Inc., Missing Link, Nov 21*
- Michael Howe – Bushranger (Source: K R Von Stieglitz *Australian Dictionary of Biography*)  
*Descendants of Convicts Group, The Mail, Nov-Dec 21*
- Convict Transported Twice (from ‘our Family Past.com’)  
*Descendants of Convicts Group, The Mail, Sep-Oct 21*
- Sir (Arthur) Roden Cutler VC AK KCMG KCVO CBE (1916-2002) by Steve Clayton



*Dubbo & District FHS Inc., Newsletter*. Part 1: Jul-Aug; Part 2: Sep-Oct; Part 3:  
Nov-Dec 2021

Index Search by Tim Sherratt

*Dubbo & District FHS Inc., Newsletter*, Sep-Oct 21

John Gilbert Engineer Story by Stewart McLeod

*Dubbo & District FHS Inc., Newsletter*, May-Jun 21

Divorce Papers can be a Treasure Trove of Information by Judy McLeary

*Echuca–Moama, Bridges and Branches*, Dec 21

12396 Driver John James Lazenby Gibbon by Sue Shaw

*Echuca–Moama, Bridges and Branches*, Sep 21

Joseph Tuso FF Convict compiled by John Boyd

*Fellowship of the First Fleeters, Founders*, Dec 21-Jan 22

Was Peter Hibbs really on The Endeavour by Hendrika Johnson

*Fellowship of the First Fleeters, Founders*, Aug 21-Sep 21

Robert Payne (1830-1882) Convict-Exile and Pioneer of Gladstone, Qld by Belinda  
and Yvonne *Genealogical Society Gladstone District Inc., Timeline*, Nov 21

The Flying Tassels by Roger Bayley

*Goulburn Historical & Genealogical Society Inc., The Argyle Bulletin*, Nov 21

Early Breadbasket of the Hawkesbury by Judith O'Donohue

*Fellowship of First Fleeters, Hawkesbury-Nepean Chapter Newsletter*, Summer  
2021

Stanborough School sourced from State Archives

*Inverell & District FHG, Voices of the Past*, Nov 21



**eResources at Marie Hart Library**

**by Richard Goss, Library Officer**



Our books, journals, CDs, and maps are immediately obvious as you look round the Room. So are the computers, fulfilling your expectations for connectivity and guidance to The Society's eResources. By way of introduction, here's some of what you can find to point your research in fruitful directions.

The Society's collection of digitised monthly *Newsletters*, from 2019-2021, and *The Cedar Log*, from inception, plus its precedents, is increased each month and quarter. Searchable. Printable, if you must. Downloadable, with permission. We have a physical copy of all editions of *The Cedar Log*, which are retrievable by appointment.

### **Concordances of names – Increasing each month**

Members of The Society are contributing, now, to this ongoing project to prepare a concordance of the personal names referenced in unindexed local history books. More than 10,000 references have been recorded in a searchable database.

### **Kevin Geaghan Burials - 1852-1988 and 1988-1995 for the Ballina Cemetery**

The records compiled by Kevin Geaghan, a funeral director in Ballina now incorporated within Guardian Funerals, formed the basis for this project. Indexed and compiled by Members of RTFHS and Kevin's staff, records are presented alphabetically by Surname and Given Names.

**Photographs – 1,406 Ballina Shire photographs** - you may find yourself at our 35<sup>th</sup> Birthday, but the photographs are predominantly of landscapes, buildings and other developments in the Northern Rivers, particularly Ballina Shire.

### **Local Deaths & Burials – Master Index**

An index to 18,846 death and burial records in the Northern Rivers from 1814 to 2002. Each surname records the cemetery and relevant dates, when known. In many cases, the image of a notice or obituary will be found in the *Northern Star* notices.

### ***Northern Star* Notices of Deaths, Burials, Obituaries – 1876-2020**

### **School Admission Registers for 64 schools in the Northern Rivers of NSW**

A project completed by Members of The Society; the Master List index contains 44,611 names. Separately, the original records show many interesting aspects of life in their times. 65 Northern Rivers schools are included.

### **THRAMP – The Honour Roll and Memorial Project**

11,174 names with the location of the roll or memorial will guide you in your search for records.

**Members Interests:** a list of surnames, provided by members, hoping to make contact with others researching the same family. The list includes the surname, location and era of the member's ancestor of interest. 1923 surnames from 21 countries will spark an interest and start a conversation with at least one of our Members.

### **Wyong Anglican Church Records**

15,283 records, from 13 March 1838 to 23 January 1988, imaged and transcribed by Wyong FHG. An excellent search facility by name, event, relationship, date, place or occupation. Cross references guide you from the primary person to related names.

A treasure trove at your fingertips!



## **New Members**

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new members

Member No 1013	Maurice Russell	Ballina
Member No 1014	Donna Lloyd	Lennox Head
Member No 1015	Anne Daniels	Lismore
Member No 1016	Vicki Evans	Ballina
Member No 1017	Bob Hotchkiss	Ballina
Member No 1018	Michael Quinn	Ocean Shores
Member No 1019	Diane Smith	Doonbah

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

**The Marie Hart Library** holds numerous local records including the Local Schools Admission Registers, Cemetery Records, Burial Records, Honour and Memorial Rolls from many locations within the Northern Rivers.

Over the years, the library has expanded and now holds a wealth of information from across Australia including historical and pioneer records, war records, shipping lists, probate records, landholder returns, Colonial Secretary papers and cemetery books. There are family history journals either as hard copies from within Australia or in electronic form from overseas countries, which can be accessed on the computers or from home.

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

**Family History Research Requests** can be done by the Society for a fee of \$15 per hour. Please include a 22x11 cm stamped, addressed envelope and research fees where applicable.

## THE Cedar Log

**Journal of the Richmond-Tweed Family History Society Inc.**

Published March, June, September & December

*The Editor, Carmel Crosby, would be pleased to accept articles for inclusion in this journal. Ideally, they should be sent by email to [editorcedarlog@gmail.com](mailto:editorcedarlog@gmail.com) but typed hard copy is also welcomed. The format preferred is Times New Roman font; 12 point; single spacing.*

*Please add your contact details as the Editor may need to discuss with you any editing, abridgement or deferral to a future date of any material submitted for publication. It is your responsibility to ensure that your article does not infringe copyright. Items remain the copyright of the Richmond-Tweed Family History Society and the author.*

*Your input is important and makes for interesting and diverse reading for our members as well as to the other readers of our journal throughout Australia and overseas. We would love to hear about how you broke down those brick walls or any interesting information you have found out about an ancestor, so get those fingers typing.*

*The society does not accept responsibility for opinions and statements published by individual contributors. Original material in this journal may be reproduced with written permission from the society.*



# SOCIETY EVENTS

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

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

### **2022**

**Saturday 5 March: Meeting:** Researching Family History: Tips, Techniques

**Saturday 2 April: Meeting:** 1921 England and Wales Census explained

**Saturday 7 May: Meeting:** Organising Digital and Physical files, presented by Jackie Chalmers

**Saturday 4 June: Meeting:** Citations, Copyright and Ethics

**DNA Discussion Group Meetings** will be held at the Marie Hart Library on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month at 10 am conducted by Kerrie Alexander. Please advise Kerrie if you will be attending, as places are limited. [rtfhdna@yahoo.com](mailto:rtfhdna@yahoo.com).

The group conducted by Leonie Oliver meets on the **third Mondays**, commencing at 1 pm, when Leonie is on duty at the library. Please advise Leonie if you would like to attend at [gandloliver@gmail.com](mailto:gandloliver@gmail.com).

Members with any level of experience with DNA are welcome to attend.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership fees for the year 1 January to 31 December 2022 are \$35 Individual or \$45 Joint Membership.

Journals will be sent to financial members only