



ORANGE FAMILY HISTORY GROUP NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2021



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CULTURAL SENSITIVITY WARNING

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be aware that this newsletter contains images and names of deceased persons

Welcome to another jam-packed newsletter.

2021 is a significant year for Orange. We celebrate our semi sesquicentennial as a city and dodransbicentennial as a village. Alderman John Percival “Jack” Jaeger was our mayor in 1946. Dr Wally Matthews also served as an alderman at that time.

It is heart-warming to see a local church at Carcoar saved from sale by the local community and their generosity.

Other interesting articles include coroner’s inquest records, newspaper articles from the Central Western Daily and stories of unmarked graves.

Orange, Blayney and Cabonne shires have just been released from a COVID-19 lockdown. I hope everyone remains safe and well.

Stay safe and warm and enjoy your reading.

Julie Sykes
Local Studies Librarian

CITY OF ORANGE SEMISESQUICENTENNIAL

On 10 July 2021 Orange celebrated an historic milestone - 75 years as a city. Officially known as a Semisesquicentennial, this anniversary is commonly called a Diamond Jubilee. When, in 1946, the town's population reached 15,000 and revenue exceeded £20,000, Orange met Local Government Act criteria and was eligible to be proclaimed a city.

The City of Orange was proclaimed on 10 July 1946. The proclamation appeared in the *Government Gazette* dated 19 July 1946.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1919.—PROCLAMATION.

(L.S.) F. R. JORDAN, *Lieutenant-Governor.*

10th July, 1946.

I, the Honourable Sir FREDERICK RICHARD JORDAN, Lieutenant-Governor of the State of New South Wales, with the advice of the Executive Council, and in pursuance of the Local Government Act, 1919, as amended by subsequent Acts, do hereby proclaim the Municipality of Orange as the City of Orange.
(*Min. 46-3,670*)

By His Excellency's Command,

J. J. CAHILL.

(8638)

GOD SAVE THE KING!

Government Gazette of the State of New South Wales, 19 July 1946 [Issue No 78], page 1598.

Orange was the state's fourteenth city, the others being Armidale, Bathurst, Broken Hill, Goulburn, Grafton, Lithgow, Maitland, Newcastle, Parramatta, Sydney, Tamworth, Wagga Wagga and Wollongong.

State Member for Orange, Robert Emmet O'Halloran, was attending Parliament at the time of the announcement. He sent the following telegram:

Congratulations on the high honour long overdue for the finest country town in the State. I am delighted that the progress of Orange in recent years has been so fittingly recognised.

The Mayor, Alderman John Percival Jaeger's reaction was:

This is a red letter day, as by this action in proclaiming Orange a city, the Government has officially recognised it as one of the largest and most important centres in NSW.

Known as Jack, Jaeger had served on council since 1922 and had become mayor in 1945. Aged 49, Jack was one of the youngest ever mayors of an Australian city. When asked if he would be investing in a set of mayoral robes to mark the occasion he reportedly replied *"I think we should be more interested in roads."*

Alderman Jaeger served a total of 31 years on Orange Council, including two terms as mayor: 1945-1947 and 1951-1953. Jaeger Reserve and Jaeger Avenue are named in his honour.

On 18 November 2021 Orange will celebrate a second historical milestone: 175 years since it was proclaimed a village in 1846.

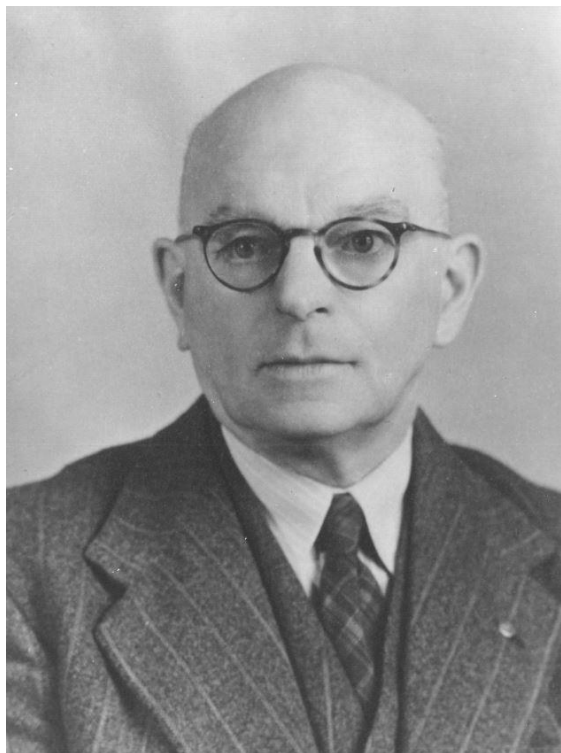


Alderman Jaeger
Image courtesy Orange City Library

Trudi Mayfield
Heritage Research Librarian
Orange City Library

DR WALLY MATTHEWS

When Walter Frederick Matthews died in February 1954 Member for Orange, Charles Cutler, announced: *"It is given to few men to serve their community as Dr Wally Matthews served this district in public life, and no less, to serve their country as he did."*



Dr Wally Matthews
Image courtesy Orange City Library

Dr Matthews, who practised in Orange for 34 years, was an alderman on Orange Council from 1931 until 1950, and serving as mayor for 12 years. At the time, Matthews was the city's longest serving mayor.

Born in Bellingen in 1884, Matthews was educated at Sydney Grammar School and St Andrew's College. He studied medicine at Sydney University, graduating in May 1910, and opening a medical practice in Warialda.

In 1915 Wally enlisted for service in the First World War. He served for four years in Greece and France. After the conclusion of the war he relocated to Orange, purchasing Sir Neville Howse's medical practice. Matthews was instrumental in the establishment of an ambulance service and a blood donation service in Orange. He also led the local anti-tuberculosis campaign and was the town's first person to be X-rayed.

A keen cricketer and footballer, Wally played rugby union for New South Wales in 1906, 1908 and 1910. He also managed the AIF rugby team which toured England, Scotland, Wales and France following WWI. In 1933 he was selected as tour manager for the Wallabies visit to South Africa.

In 1939 Matthews recommended that a new aviary be constructed in Cook Park, claiming that some of the birds could barely see daylight. He subsequently donated some of his own rare and exotic birds to the park's collection.

Following Matthews' death former mayor Jack Jaeger stated: *"his whole heart and soul were for the betterment of Orange and its people, regardless of colour, class or creed."*

Matthews Avenue and Matthews Park were named in honour of Dr and Mayor Wally Matthews. Dr Wally Matthews currently features in a display in the Endeavour Room in Bastick Cottage, Cook Park, of people who played a part in the park's history.

Trudi Mayfield
Heritage Research Librarian
Orange City Library

COWRA AND FORBES HISTORIC NEWSPAPERS ONLINE

Another selection of local newspapers has been digitised and is now available on Trove.

The continuing partnership between Central West Libraries, the State Library of NSW and the National Library of Australia is gradually adding more newspapers to the family historian's excellent online resource.

Most recent additions are:

- *The Cowra Free Press* 1911 – 1937
- *The Cowra Guardian* and *Lachlan Agricultural Recorder* 1896 – 1907
- *The Forbes Times* 1899 – 1920

A total of almost 16,000 pages from these newspapers was added using grants from the Cowra Shire and the Forbes Councils as well as from Central West Libraries resources funds.

A full list of all newspapers digitised and available on Trove can be found at trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/about Search by state or add the name of the newspaper in the "Find" box.

Rosalind Dorsman
Technical Services Librarian
Central West Libraries

UNMARKED GRAVE - PRIVATE SIDNEY HERBERT CHESTERTON

Looking for family or relatives of Private Sidney Herbert Chesterton, 55th Battalion, AIF. Service Number 3392.

Born around 1873 in Reading, UK. He died in the Orange area on 23rd January, 1949, aged 77 and is buried in an unmarked grave in the Orange Cemetery.

His occupation at the time of enlistment was Storekeeper.

Next of Kin was shown as his brother, William Chesterton. In 1917 his address is shown as Wallsend on Tyne, England.

Please contact me if you know of any family or relatives of Private Chesterton. My email is john@forgottendiggers.net.au

Please share or copy to ensure wide reach of this post.

Lest we Forget

www.forgottendiggers.net.au

FORGOTTEN DIGGERS

Sidney Herbert Chesterton is buried in an unmarked grave in the Old Church of England portion of the Orange Cemetery. He died on the 23 January 1949 in Orange. His obituary in the Central Western Daily of 25 Jan 1949 reads:

“A well-known resident of the Belgravan Kerr’s Creek district died at the Base Hospital on Sunday aged 83. He was Mr Sidney Herbert Chesterton, who served in World War 1. Several members of the returned Soldiers League attendant his funeral yesterday. Mr Chesterton is survived by his wife. The Rev. J S Richards officiated at the service in the Church of England portion of the Orange Cemetery and funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr A McGrath.”

Sidney’s birth was registered in Reading Berkshire England in the March quarter of 1866. He was the son of Joseph Chesterton, a draper and tailor and Elizabeth Ridley who had married in Reading in 1859. He was one of 8 children, 7 boys and 1 girl.

Prior to him arriving in Australia in May 1916 he must have at some stage migrated to New Zealand since this was his port of departure. Seven months later he enlisted at Kempsey New South Wales at the age of 44 years, his occupation is given as storekeeper.

Sidney formed part of the 55th Battalion, 9th Reinforcement embarking from Sydney on board HMAT A68 *Anchises* on the 24 January 1917 and proceeded to France on the 10 September 1917. He was wounded in action in France on the 26 April 1918 (wound not specified), returned to England where he was hospitalised and finally returned to Australia on the 25 March 1919.

In 1922 Sidney married Ettie Jane Evers at Molong. Ettie was the eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs William Evers of “Hillview” Molong. Electoral Rolls show they stayed in the Molong area under 1937 when they moved to Prince Street in Orange. It seems they never had any children as his will is online at Find My Past and there are no children mentioned on the death certificate.

Ettie died on the 3 Jun 1966 of a heart attack and is buried in Molong cemetery along with other Evers family members.

Forgotten Diggers



"The tale of [the Forgotten Digger] is one of the fugitive stories that haunt the margins of history, hidden in the pages of old newspapers and files. Damaged by war and economic depression, forgotten by his country, he was a casualty of his time." © John Low.

Forgotten Diggers
20 Henderson Ave, Panania NSW 2213
www.forgottendiggers.net.au
john@forgottendiggers.net.au

"Thanks for Coming". About the only real message most returning World War I Diggers received in 1919.

In 1919, tens of thousands of Diggers returned to Australia after the war to end all wars, where the art of mechanised killing and chemical warfare was turned into a fine art.

With the horrors of 5 years of merciless, unrelenting mass slaughter fresh in their minds, the primary message most received was "hand in your rifle" and "Thanks for Coming". The term Post Traumatic Stress Disorder hadn't yet been invented and about the only war related illness that was recognised was what, at the time, was called "Shell Shock". On top of that was the large number of physically maimed and disfigured warriors wandering around struggling to adapt to Peace.

Many of the returned Diggers found difficulty adapting to the peacetime world, with many dying from their war injuries. Many of them were honoured for their service with a grave and headstone provided by the Government. Many, however, were not so fortunate, with a significant number buried in unmarked, long forgotten graves around the country.

As the decades have passed, so too has the collective memory of these brave Australians who put their life on the line for the freedoms that we, as Australians, enjoy today.

For over 100 years we have intoned "Lest We Forget", but for many, sadly, they have been forgotten. **It's time to right that wrong.**



Who is involved with the Forgotten Diggers organisation?

It is the aim of the organisation to secure the involvement of a Committee comprising well known Business figures, representation from the Australian War Memorial, Service organisations and other like minded individuals.

Initial interested parties include:

John N. Thomas
Founder, Forgotten Diggers
President, 45th Infantry Battalion Association

Dr. Brendan Nelson
Former Director, Australian War Memorial
Forgotten Diggers Ambassador

Nick Fletcher
Head, Military Heraldry & Technology,
Australian War Memorial

Andrea Gerrard
Chairperson, Tasmanian Headstone Project

Don Nelson
Former Welfare Officer, RSL NSW

John Brownlie
Chairman, SA Headstone Project

What is the Forgotten Diggers Organisation?

The **Forgotten Diggers** Organisation was founded by John N. Thomas, the President of the 45th Infantry Battalion Association. The concept came after the Association raised funds to provide a grave for Private John "Barney" Hines, the Souvenir King from World War I, who had been lying in an unmarked grave at Rookwood Cemetery in Sydney.

Forgotten Diggers members comprise like minded individuals who share a passion to see the final resting place of Forgotten Diggers from World War I at least reflect their passing and to acknowledge their service to Australia.

What are we looking at doing?

It is the aim of the **Forgotten Diggers** organisation to identify those World War I Diggers who, for whatever reason, either did not qualify for, or did not apply for, a Commonwealth funded memorial and, as a result, are lying in unmarked graves. Once the circumstances of their situation is established, it is our aim to provide a headstone with a bronze plaque to commemorate and acknowledge their service to Australia and Freedom, either through the Commonwealth, or through other means.

These memorials will be funded through donations by the public, Commercial Sponsors, Benefactors, Philanthropists and, where available, Government or Private Sector Grants. Much of the Administration will be done on a largely volunteer basis thereby ensuring that the lions share of funding can be applied to providing as many memorials as possible while minimising the administrative overhead.

DONATION BY FAMILY MARKS KIND HISTORY

Blayney Chronicle – Thursday 18 March 2021: Page 11

Story by Mark Logan

In what could be the best ever example of paying it forward, a man whose great grandmother was helped by the Carcoar, Blayney, Mandurama and Lyndhurst communities in 1895 has donated \$100,000 to the Save St Paul's fund, effectively securing the church in the hands of the Carcoar community.

Just before Christmas John Woodward's niece Katie Vandine forwarded her uncle an article published on the *Blayney Chronicle*, detailing that the community had gained permission to purchase the church. His response was immediate.

"For years I've wondered if we could repay the people of Carcoar for the kindness they showed our ancestors, such as raising funds to help the recently widowed Emma Simons who was left with a young family of 12 children," he wrote in a response to Mrs Vandine, who then helped put the wheels in motion.

"He's such a beautiful man who helps out at his local church in Ashfield and teaches English to non-English speaking students," she said.



Emma Simons (centre) at Christmas 1930, with two unknown family members outside the family home at 33 Mount McDonald Rd, Lyndhurst. Photo contributed.

"For him it wasn't about helping the church, it was all about thanking and helping the Carcoar community.

“He has always looked after his nieces and nephews and he really wanted to find some way, many generations on, to repay the town.”

Mrs Vandine has given permission to reprint the story of Emma Simons and her great grandson John Woodward. An extract appears below.

In December 1895, Emma Simons, the mother of ten children, the eldest being only 16 years found herself a widow following the death of her husband James (“Jim Brickie”).

Emma and her husband James had both been born in the district. James was born in Carcoar in 1850 and Emma was born in 1857 near Bathurst to English immigrants, her father setting up a business transporting goods over the Blue Mountains with his bullock team.

Emma Stock married James Simons in 1879 in the Carcoar district.

At the age of 45, he succumbed to typhoid pneumonia and died in the local hospital at Carcoar leaving Emma and her ten children, as described by the Bathurst National Advocate newspaper ‘in absolutely destitute circumstances’.

It was during this terribly hard period for Emma, that in early 1896 the people of Carcoar, Lyndhurst, Blayney, and Mandurama demonstrated their generosity and compassion by raising over 80 pounds to provide support for her ten infant children.

The money was a result of Rev. Father Doran, Mr A B Whitney and Mr E Pritchard Bassett initiating the collection of subscriptions from over two hundred local residents in addition to the proceeds of a concert held in Mandurama.

Emma Simons died in 1941 at the age of 83 years.

In recognition of the wonderful generosity of the people of Carcoar, Lyndhurst, Blayney and Mandurama to Emma Simons in her time of need and the connection of many generations of the Simons family to the local area, that the descendants of Emma Simons have provided their donation towards the purchase by the town of St Paul’s Anglican Church.

* * *

CHURCH IS SAVED FROM SALE

Blayney Chronicle – Thursday 18 March 2021: Page 6

Story by Mark Logan

In a massive show of goodwill from over 300 individual donors around Australia, St Paul's Anglican Church in Carcoar has been saved from being put on the open market.

The church is being sold by the Bathurst Anglican Diocese to make redress for historic child abuse claims and in December the community was given until March 16 to purchase the building.

On Thursday March 11 at 7pm the final donation ticked the rally over the \$450,000 mark and for the Director of the St Paul's Carcoar Association George King, that moment will stay with him forever.

"Two weeks ago we only had \$62,000 in the account, and anyone who doubted that we could do this clearly underestimated the spirit of the Carcoar community and how much it means to so many people," he said to the community members who had assembled at the church on Friday morning to hear the news.

"As of 7 o'clock last night we have enough to buy the church."

Cheers rang out as the supporters took in the news that their greatest worry, that the church would become a private residence without access to family graves, wouldn't happen.

72 year old Del Howarth started cleaning the church when she was 16 years old and her husband Ken's ashes are interred in the wall outside the church. She said saving the church meant a lot for her.

"After 23 years I won't have to move my husband's ashes because that was what it was looking like" she said.

"We need this church, it means so much more to everyone than it just being a church."

Director McKenzie Graham said that the money raised by the community was more than just about buying the building.

"People who were abused are directly benefitting from our donations, it's a real win-win for them and us," she said.

"Out of something evil, a good thing has come."

George King said that donations are still coming in and more are expected.

“We’ve had individual donations from \$4 up to \$100,000,” he said.

“Thank you and congratulations to everyone who has supported this special community in keeping a historic and economically important building in the people’s control.”



HOORAY: Supporters of saving St Paul's Anglican Church in Carcoar celebrate on hearing the news that the money needed has been raised: Photo: Mark Logan.

CORONERS INQUESTS

John Taylor was born on the 2nd March 1881 at Orange. His father was John Samuel Taylor and his mother Amelia (Milly) Taylor (nee Toms). He was the first death from pneumonic influenza in Sydney on the 10th February 1919 at the Coast Hospital, Little Bay. He was a railway employee and resided at 281 Cooper St., Waterloo. He was buried in Catholic section Rookwood.

Information from *The Daily Telegraph* -11/2/1919. Also N.S.W. State Records - Railway personal history cards.

I found indexes of coroners inquests compiled by Lorna Hawkins and Pam Lawry. I was then able to find newspaper articles and checking the N.S.W. B.D.M. deaths for their date of death.

Below are some of the names I came across while doing my research:

****Coroner inquest - John Brett - held 3/6/1858 - Orange - death by hanging.

Empire Sydney 14/6/1858 page 4 - Orange (From a Correspondent of the Free Press.) Self-destruction-Another of those fearful terminations of a dissipated habit took place on Wednesday night, or Thursday morning last, tho unfortunate victim putting an end to his unhappy existence by strangulation or hanging. The deceased, Brett, followed the occupation of gardener or labourer, and latterly seemed to care for nothing but ardent spirits. His widow and children are left in destitute circumstances. We believe a magisterial enquiry was held by Mr. Templer, J.P., accompanied by Dr. Warren and the Chief Constable, but could not hear of any jury being summoned or present enquiry.

***Coroner Inquest -William Baird - held 17/7/1864 - Ophir - Found Drowned.

Empire Sydney - 20/8/1864 page 2 - A magisterial enquiry was held Ophir 17/7/1864 touching the death of William Baird. Job Lees deposed that Baird did not appear to be of sound mind. He was found drowned in a mud hole.

N.S.W. B.D.M.Death 14/7/1864 - 40 years – Orange

***Coroner Inquest -William Baird - held 17/7/1864 - Ophir - Found Drowned.

Empire Sydney - 20/8/1864 page 2 - A magisterial enquiry was held Ophir 17/7/1864 touching the death of William Baird. Job Lees deposed that Baird did not appear to be of sound mind. He was found drowned in a mud hole.

N.S.W. B.D.M. Death: William Baird - 14/7/1864 - 40 years - Orange

***Coroner inquest - held 13/9/1864 - Summer Hill - Inquires accidentally received

N.S.W. B.D.M. Death - 12/9/1864 - Bogg Margaret - mother Elizabeth – Orange

***Empire Sydney - 24/9/1864 page 2 -Fatal Accident. — An old lady named Margaret Bogg, in company with her daughter, Mrs. Clement Shakespeare of thistown, was being driven from the

Wentworth mines towards Orange by the latter on Monday evening in a spring cart when a mob of cattle passing near Mr Proctor's house causes the animal in the vehicle (a quiet mare) to shy and leap over a gutter partly covered by a culvert. Mrs Shakespeare and her mother were thrown out and both rendered insensible.

On examination it was found that Mrs Bogg's injuries were fatal. She was taken to Mr Bate's inn where the services of Dr Warren were called into requisition, but without avail, the old lady expiring shortly afterwards. An inquest was held on Tuesday when a verdict of accidental death was returned. Mrs Shakespeare was shaken a good deal by the fall, but not seriously injured. The immediate cause of death was fracture of the ribs and probable internal haemorrhage. — *Western Examiner*.

****Coroner inquest: William Cheeswright - date of inquest 28/6/1866 - Orange - From suffocation on the muddy road whilst in a state of intoxication.

N.S.W. B.D.M. Death - William Cheeswright - died 28/6/1866 45 years.

The Tumut and Adelong Times - 9/7/1866 page 3 - Another victim to the bottle - Saturday's Western Examiner states that information was brought to the police on Wednesday morning, that the body of a man was lying in the bush in the neighbourhood of the Racecourse. An inquest was held before the district coroner, on Thursday, and from the facts elicited it appeared the deceased, whose name was Cheeswright, had left the Racecourse Hotel in the course of Tuesday evening, and, whilst inebriated, must have fallen, and been suffocated in the mud. A bottle of the drink which lured him to his ruin was found alongside him.

***Coroner's inquest - Inquest held 18/6/1867- Molong - Natural Causes.

***NS.W.B.D.M. Death - Edward Cavanagh - died 17/6/1867

****Empire Sydney* - 2/7/1867 page 5: A sad end.

A magisterial inquiry took place in the court-house, on Tuesday, touching the death of a man named Edward Cavanagh, aged 80 years, then lying dead in the watchhouse. It appeared in evidence that the man had been a shepherd on several stations about Molong for a number of years, but had been ailing for some time, and had recently received treatment in the Bathurst Hospital. Being discharged from hospital, he was returning to his old haunts to seek employment, but took ill on the road about three miles from town, at the hut of a shepherd named Michael Haney. He became worse, whereupon Haney turned the poor wretch (in a dying state) out of doors, where he remained the whole of Saturday night, in the piercing cold, quite unable to move he was found the next day by the police, under a fence, with-out protection of any sort. Haney having ridden into Molong and given information, sergeant Wallings proceeded to the spot, and had him removed to the lock-up in a spring-cart, and sent for medical advice but he was beyond recovery, and expired next day at 11 o'clock. This man had been known for years in the neighborhood, and I regret to say that his end is but a too true type of many others.

Ordinary providence and forethought would have secured him in competency in his old age; one of these cheques squandered so foolishly would have provided him with every requirement in his last days, and saved him the bitter anguish he must have endured while exposed to last Saturday night's frost, and the humiliation of ending his last moments in a lock-up , - *Western Examiner*

****Coroner inquest - Margaret Bell - inquest held 9/1/1868 - Commercial Hotel Orange - Injuries accidentally received

Sydney Morning Herald 18/1/1868 page 5 - An aged women named Margaret Bell at Orange was recently burned severely whilst attempting to extinguish a bush fire, that she died.

N.S.W. B.D.M. - Death -8/1/1868 - Margaret Bell - father Fitzgerald - Orange

***Coroner Inquest - James Burnside - inquest held 5/9/1868 - Orange - Accidentally Drowned.

**Empire Sydney 16/9/1868- Accidentally drowned at Orange 4/9/1868 - James William Boyd - only son of James H. and Marie Burnside aged 11 years and 3 months.

***N.S.W. B.D.M. Death James Burnside -died 4/9/1868 Orange -Father James Mother Maria (note surname spelt Burnside).

***Coroner Inquest - Robert Edward Barsley - inquest held 8/11/1876 - Accidentally suffocated.

Armidale Express - 17/11/1876 page 4 - The ' Western Examiner' says:—One of these accidents to which children are so much exposed occurred on Tuesday afternoon, when a little child named Robert Edward Barsley, the son of Mr. Barsley, butcher, Lucknow, wandered into the water-closet and fell down through the hole in the seat, and was suffocated below. The child was missed for some time, and on search being made it was found dead by a man in Mr. Barsley's employment.

N.S.W. B.D.M. Death - 7/11/1876 - Robert E. Barsley - father Edward mother Annie – Orange.

Where did Thomas John McKimm die? He was born in Orange 1893 his father was John McKimm and his mother was Ellen McKimm (nee Austin).

In his sister's Alma Robson obituary, it was stated that her brother Thomas pre-deceased her by ten days, she died 14th March 1959 in Orange.

Central Western Daily - 12/3/1959: Obituary.

Mr T.J. McKimm - Mr Thomas McKimm a former resident of Orange died suddenly at his private home in Beverley Hills, Sydney on March 4, at the age of 66. He was the son of the late Mr & Mrs J.J. McKimm of Orange. Mr McKimm's wife was formerly Florence Jackson of Orange. He leaves three sons and two daughters, Reg, Max, Bob, Lorna and Fay. Another son Ken was killed during the last war. He is also survived by a brother and sister James of Townsville and Alma Mrs W. Robson of Orange. Mr McKimm was cremated at Rookwood crematorium Sydney last Saturday.

I could not find his death in NSW. B.D.M.

However I found this information in the Western Australian BDM. - McKimm Thomas John - 67 years - Father John Mother Ellen - Plantagenet - 1959. Registration No: 27

Also, information was in the N.S.W. state records - Probate Index: McKimm Thomas John - Date of death 3/3/1959 granted 28/8/1959

Research provided by Orange Family History Group Volunteer

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR INFORMATION REGARDING ANCESTORS IN ORANGE AREA

If you are looking for information regarding your ancestors in the Orange area, please contact:

**The Research Officer
Orange Family History Group
PO Box 35
ORANGE NSW 2800**

email: familyhistory@orange.nsw.gov.au

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Western Advocate - 11/10/1899: PUBLIC SCHOOL AT BLOOMFIELD

PUBLIC SCHOOL AT BLOOMFIELD - In our advertising columns tenders are called for the erection of a school building (wood) at Bloomfield. Plans and specifications can be seen at the Orange Superior Public School, and tenders close on Monday, October 23rd."

"GYPSY JONES - NUMEROUS papers in both the southern and western districts of New South Wales are just now busy lamenting the death of Gypsy Jones, the hero of the well - known purse trick, which event is said to have taken place at Parkes a week or so ago. Gyp, is perhaps as well known in the country districts of this colony as any individual frequenter of our racecourses, and it is doubtless because of his cleverness in doing his wonderful tricks with the purse and the sovereigns that his death is just now being so freely chronicled. But it would be just as well to be sure of his death before making such public announcements, for they are calculated to make poor Gyp, feel that he has been anything but obliging to his friends the scribes. As a matter of fact, he is not dead at all, and can be seen walking about almost any day in Lachlan- street, Forbes. True he had a very severe attack of pleurisy in Parkes a few weeks ago, and at the present time he seems to be developing a permanent lung trouble. But he is not dead - far from it. The individuals who have been chronicling his demise would find him a very lively -subject indeed if they were to invest in one of his "purses" at the present time. - *Forbes Times*."

Lithgow Mercury - 14/07/1943 page 2: Another Accident Death. Late Mrs E. M. Murdoch Struck by a sulky while walking along Macauley-street on Friday night, and admitted to the hospital in a serious condition, Mrs Emma Matilda Murdoch, aged 52, died in the institution this morning.

As a results of the accident she had sustained severe head injuries and was also suffering from shock. Deceased had been a resident of Lithgow for 25 years, and had during that period become very widely and favorably known. Tidings of her death will be heard by her many friends with deep regret, and sincere sympathy is extended to the bereaved family. Surviving are a husband, Mr Peter Murdoch, two sons, Neville and Peter, and one daughter, Mrs Mary Gunnell. Interment will be made in the Catholic portion of the Bowenfels cemetery, Mr E. McMurtrie having charge of the arrangements."

Central Western Daily - 30/8/1948: Obituary - George Pickett.

Born in March Street, near Anson Street 66 years ago. Mr George Sylvester Pickett died at the Base Hospital on Saturday after a brief illness. Second eldest son of early pioneers of the Orange district, the late Mr & Mrs James Pickett the greater part of his life was spent in his home town. George Pickett with two of his brothers was educated at the old Patrician Brothers school in Byng Street, now the Convent and later followed the trade of a plasterer. He was closely associated with the building of many homes and business houses in Orange when the principal tradesmen included the late McGregor brothers and Padey brothers. Recently he had been living with one of his daughters at Manildra and paid periodical visits to Orange where he was always welcomed by friends and relatives. He was well read, interesting and likeable personality and one conversation he always appreciated was to talk about the days that have been with old schoolmates. Three sons and two daughters survive: Jim and Lou (Sydney); John (Orange); Agnes (Mrs Murphy, Manildra) and Winifred (Mrs T. Wood, Orange). Mr James Pickett of Sydney who recently visited Orange is a

brother while the late Mrs Eddie Martin of Byng Street, was his only sister. The remains were interred in the Catholic portion of the Orange cemetery yesterday.

The Central Western Daily - 9/5/1949: Orange youth killed in Melbourne.

Ronald Major Eyles 19 brilliant young Orange musician was killed in a motor cycling accident in Melbourne on Saturday night. He was the youngest son of Mr & Mrs W. Eyles of Summer St., Orange. Ron Eyles was a talented cornetist and a distinguished career was predicted for him. Two years ago he joined the Royal Australian Navy as a bandsman and was stationed in Melbourne. At ten years of age he appeared on the Amateur Hour and polled the greatest number of votes on that night. Eyles was on leave from the Navy on Saturday and went to Frankston, a pleasure resort in Melbourne with other bandsmen. The party left Frankston by train, but Ron Eyles returned when he found that he had left some of his property behind. He then secured a ride on a motor cycle with the driver and another pillion passenger, Roy Martin. On the way to Melbourne the motor cycle skidded and the two pillion passengers Eyles and Martin were killed. The body will be brought to Orange for burial.

Central Western Daily - 28/7/1951: Obituary. Mrs I.M. Wass.

Following a brief illness the many friends of Mrs Ivy May Wass were shocked to hear of her sudden death at her residence "The Ranch" Glenroi Avenue, on Saturday last. The late Mrs Wass was well known throughout the district as before her marriage she was a departmental manager at the Western Stores Orange branch for a number of years and afterwards in the office of her husband's garage and engineering works. In later years she devoted her life to her home and her two young children, whom she idolised. She is survived by her husband Mr Charles Wass and two small daughters Margaret and Lorrene and also her father, Mr Gordon Naylor of Orange. Her mother predeceased her by 21 months. After a service at Holy Trinity the large cortege moved to the Church of England portion of the Orange cemetery where the remains were laid to rest beside those of her mother.

Central Western Daily - 30/1/1952: The late Mr H. Latham.

There was a large and representative gathering at Holy Trinity Church yesterday morning when an impressive funeral service was conducted for the late Mr Harry Latham before the cortege left for the Northern Suburbs Crematorium Sydney. Mr Latham had been ill for some months and died at his residence 76 Byng Street on Monday morning. Representatives of the organisations with which Mr Latham had been closely associated during his 14 years residence in Orange attended the church to pay their last respects to one whom they so highly esteemed. They included prominent members of the Returned Soldiers League, Orange Legacy and the Orange Bowling and Golf Clubs. Rector of Holy Trinity Rev. A.G. Halliday conducted the service and referred to the late Mr Latham's distinguished military career especially in World War 1 as well as his eminent service as a commanding officer during World War 11. Mr Halliday spoke of Mr Latham's popularity in Orange, his interests in civic matters, his love of life and unbounded hospitality. He would be missed as one of the city's outstanding personalities. At the conclusion of the service many Diggers conducted their traditional laying-on of Flanders poppies by placing them on the casket draped with the Union Jack as they filed past. Four Diggers acted as pall bearers Messrs H.L. Fenton, W.E. Holness; G.W. Ormiston and E.A. Rennie. They carried the casket to the hearse in waiting and with many other car loads followed it as far as the Cemetery Lane, from which the journey to the Northern Suburbs Crematorium was continued under the direction of Orange funeral directors Messrs Box and Jeffree.

The late Mr Latham was born in Cheshire, England 57 years ago. He was a son of the late Mr & Mrs Charles Latham. When quite a young man he came to Australia to follow a career on the land and acquired a property in the Wilga Downs district. But his experience in that direction was short lived because when war broke out in 1914 he returned to England to enlist with the British Army. Of soldierly bearing and commanding appearance, Harry Latham soon distinguished himself because of his close attention to duty. Promotion followed quickly and when he was elevated to the important office of Major he was recognised as the youngest officer holding that distinction in the British Army. Before the end of hostilities he was serving as Lieutenant General. Following his discharge from the Army he returned to Australia and came to Orange 14 years ago to act as an inspector of an important insurance company a position he held at the time of his death. Though beyond military age to enlist in the 1945 campaign he offered his services with the Australian Military Forces and had held the rank of Commanding Officer of training battalions at camps at Hume and Cowra. Mr Latham is survived by his wife one daughter and three sons Miss Norah and Harry, Robert and John. He is also survived by one sister Miss Norah Latham who recently came from England to Australia and arrived in Orange on Boxing Day to spend a holiday with her brother, sister-in-law and members of their family.

Central Western Daily - 13/1/1955: First manager of Mental Hospital Dies.

First manager of the Orange Mental Hospital when it was established in 1925. Mr Herbert George Toole of 208 McLachlan Street, died at his home late on Tuesday night aged 75 years. Mr Toole was a well known and respected identity in Orange. He had spent most of his life here. He was particularly well known because of his work at the Mental Hospital as a director of the Orange Base Hospital and as secretary of the Canobolas Club. He had been ill for some time. Mr Toole was born at Bathurst on 1/7/1879 in 1914 he married Miss Marion Norris of Rockley. After joining the public Service in March, 1895 Mr Toole was appointed manager of the Orange Mental Hospital on 8/7/1925, when the hospital was first established. When he was first appointed before the official opening the hospital consisted of a few wooden buildings. Since then it has become the most modern hospital in the state. The growth of the hospital was his greatest ambition. He was assisted in the foundation of the hospital by Dr E.T. Hillard now Medical Superintendent at Parramatta Mental Hospital. Mr J.T. Brown who recently retired from the Parramatta Mental Hospital as Chief Attendant, Mr L.F. Pring a former Chief Attendant at Orange who died recently and Matron A. Thurbon who is living in retirement in Sydney. Planted trees. He was jointly responsible with Dr Hilliard the first Medical Superintendent at the Orange Mental Hospital for the planting of the most of the English trees and other shrubs in the hospital grounds and for the construction of the cricket and sports oval for the enjoyment of patients and staff. Mr Toole remained as manager of the hospital until his retirement on June 30, 1943. Following his retirement Mr Toole became the secretary of the Canobolas Club in Kite Street. He resigned from this position several weeks ago but was still actively working for the club until his death. Hospital Board. Mr Toole was also well-known because of his long association with the Orange Base Hospital Board. He was first appointed to the board in February 1933 and became its treasurer in April 1936 holding the position until his death. Mr Toole's death was mentioned at last night's meeting of Orange Base Hospital Board by the chairman Mr W.S. Maloney and tributes were paid to Mr Toole's work for the hospital. Mr Toole was also a member of the Bloomfield Park Trust and the School of Arts Committee. He leaves his wife Mrs Marion Toole, one daughter Joan (Mrs A. Burton-Taylor) of Sydney and two sons Colin of Banz, New Guinea and William of Orange. Cremation will take place today at the Northern Suburbs Crematorium.

Central Western Daily - 14/5/1960: Obituary.

The death occurred at Concord Repatriation Hospital recently of a well-known Orange resident Albert E. Austin known to his many friends as "Darkie". Mr Austin was 75 years old at the time of his death. He was born in the Walgett district, where he spent his early boyhood. After serving four years in the 13th Battalion A.I.F. he was discharged in 1919 as medically unfit. From then on he worked mostly in the building industry until his health started to fall three years prior to his death. He made his home in Orange for 36 years with the Dean family of Autumn Street. Mr Austin was unmarried. The Central Western Daily gave prominence last year to an eventful episode in "Darkie's life. A light plane crashed in a paddock adjoining the Orange Showground many years ago and Darkie with no thought to his personal safety was the first on the scene in an attempt to rescue the pilot and passenger. He was buried in the Church of England section of the Orange cemetery.

Central Western Daily - 20/05/1960: page 1: Age to marry to be raised

CANBERRA, Thursday. - A bill to make marriage laws uniform throughout Australia was introduced in the House of Representatives tonight by the Attorney - General, Sir Garfield Barwick.

He said it was not intended to debate the bill until the new session in Parliament. This would enable State Attorney-Generals and interested organisations to give their views on the Bill, he said. One important effect of the bill will be to make the minimum age for marriage 18 for males and 16 for females. At present a marriage of a youth of 14 to a girl of 12 is acceptable in three eastern states. Sir Garfield said the Bill adopted the view that marriage of immature people solely to ensure that an expectant child was born in wedlock, was not in the real interests of the child, the parents or the community. A child born out of wedlock would be made legitimate by the marriage of his parents."

Central Western Daily - 30/9/1960: Obituary- Mr G. Preval.

A well-known and highly respected resident of 119 Endsleigh Avenue, Orange, Mr George Preval died in the Base Hospital on Wednesday at the age of 57 years. Mr Preval was a native of England and had lived in Australia for a number of years. He had been an attendant at Bloomfield Hospital for several years and he was later employed by the P.M.G Mr Preval was a returned soldier. He leaves a wife and a family of two sons Selwyn, Cabramatta and Lyle Randwick. There are five grandchildren. His funeral left A. McGrath's funeral chapel in Sale Street Orange yesterday for St Barnabas Church, thence the Canobolas Crematorium. A number of his workmates attended the funeral and Mr William Agland read the returned soldiers burial rites.

Central Western Daily - 14/9/1960: Geoffrey John Lloyd (Bro Josephus)

Obituary. Rev. Bro. Josephus. Rev. Brother Josephus died in the Moss Vale Hospital on Monday, September 12, at the age of 31 years. He was a native of Ashfield. In 1947 he joined the De La Salle Brothers and the greater part of his teaching career was spent in Orange. During the past 12 months he was on the staff of the De La Salle Junior at Burradoo. After the celebration of Solemn Requiem Mass at the De La Salle Training College, Castle Hill today, his remains will be laid to rest in the private cemetery within the grounds of the college.

Central Western Daily - 6/10/1966: Death of Mrs M.F. Blackwell.

After an illness of three weeks Mrs Marion Frances Blackwell 77 died yesterday in Dudley Private Hospital. Mrs Blackwell was well liked by a large circle of friends and since her husband's death 16 years ago had lived alone at her home in Sale St. Before her marriage she was Miss Marion Seaborn of Parkes. She came to Orange 38 years after her marriage to Mr Henry Gray a banker. Mr Gray died soon after the birth of their only son Robin and she later married Mr Frank W. Blackwell, former manager of the Union Bank in Orange. She is survived by two sons Mr Robin Gray of New Guinea and Mr David (Jim) Blackwell of Bellevue Hill. Another son Barrie Blackwell died some years ago.

Central Western Daily - 10/6/1966: Pioneer orchardist dies at 74.

One of the pioneer orchardists of the Orange district Mr Rowland Brown died yesterday. He was 74. Mr Brown's death in Dudley Private hospital followed a long illness. For 52 years until he was admitted to hospital Mr Brown lived on "Clearview" His Orchard property on the Pinnacle Road. Mr Brown selected and developed the "Clearview" site himself. For a short time as the young trees grew. Mr Brown grew peas and potatoes and daily walked the eight miles to and from another early orchard owned by the late Mr Jim Hicks at Canobolas where he worked. Then he turned his full attention to "Clearview". Three years after taking up his 30 acre site, Mr Brown married Isabel Crossley, The newly-weds had much in common both were born in England. Mr Brown having left Kent for Australia when he was 19 and both had great love and respect for the land. Mr Brown took his bride in a horse and sulky through the then rough Pinnacle area to "Clear-view". They lived there together until Mr Brown's death. There were two daughters of the marriage, Kitty (Mrs A. Helson, Canberra) and Dorothy (Orange). High quality. "Clearview" grown apples were of high quality. Over the years they have been shown in displays in London, Sydney and at Orange. Yesterday Mr Brown was described by friends as a quiet unassuming man with a great love of the land. Before he came to Orange, Mr Brown worked for brief periods on Harrigan's sheep station at Warren and in the copper mines at Cobar. Mr Brown is survived by his widow and two daughters. A brother Burden predeceased him. His funeral will leave Holy Trinity Church of England today for the Canobolas Crematorium.

(Note the following articles found on Trove Newspapers: Weekly Times Melbourne 13/4/1940- A new home at Orange - Dorothy Brown - "Clear View" Pinnacle Road, Orange. Was a weatherboard home partly demolished a new brick homestead. Home warming.

Farmer & settler - 15/6/1939 - Hard Work Brings Family Happiness - fruit growing and friendship - Busy Days on an Orchard - there is plenty of work on an orchard to keep one busy all the year round, says Mrs. Roland Brown, of Clearview, Orange.)

Central Western Daily - 10/6/1966: Death of Mr H. Carr.

A man well-known to many people in the Orange district, Mr Hedley Carr, died in Sydney yesterday after a long illness. Mr Carr was the senior partner of the Sydney firm of Hedley Carr, Allen and Watts architects for the Central Western Daily building in Kite St. He was a native of Orange. His parents were the late Mr & Mrs F.P. Carr of "Tyneside" Sale St. Mr Carr attended school in Orange and later attended Newington College. He is survived by his widow and a son Donald. He is also survived by three brothers Howard (Kerr's Creek) Arnold (Orange) and Bill (Wagga) and two sisters Helen (London) and Edith (Mrs W.H. Stocker, East Maitland). The funeral will leave the Methodist Church at Mosman Bay tomorrow.

Central Western Daily - 24/3/1967: Former leading printer dies: Mr Fred Eyles.

A man who in his day was considered an authority on the selection and installation of machinery for the printing industry died in Orange on Wednesday night. He was Mr Frederick Eyles of Byng St., who was born in Orange 78 years ago. He had been associated with the production of newspapers and commercial printing in Orange for half a century. For many years Mr Eyles was Foreman of the large composing and machine department of the Orange Leader, one of the two tri-weekly newspapers that were incorporated in the establishment of the Central Western Daily just after World War 11. Mr Eyles planned and directed the transfer and installation of various types of printing machines for the C.W.D Self-Taught. He was senior linotype operator and mechanic at the time when he was works foreman at the Orange Leader in the early 1920's. He was a self taught authority on the assemble and operation of the Mergenthaler linotype machine and was often called to other towns for advice about them as the old method of setting type by hand gave way to machine setting. Mr Eyles invented and manufactured devices for many types of machines used in the printing industry. His enthusiasm for finding quicker and more efficient means of doing things was unbounded. A mechanical contrivance which aroused wide spread public interest was his device to prevent front wheel wobble of the light touring cars of the early 1920's. His long list of hobbies included the design and making of powered model aeroplanes which attracted the attention of so many boys that Mr Eyles formed a boys club similar in activites to the present Police Boys Club. After his retirement from the Central Western Daily in 1952. Mr Eyles became associated with is son Keith, in the development of the laundering and dry cleaning industry. He is survived by his wife, one son Keith (Orange) and one daughter Norma (Mrs Keith Chambers, of Mosman) and six grandchildren. His funeral will be held tomorrow morning Saturday.

Central Western Daily - 22/3/1975: Mr A. Tranter.

The death occurred suddenly on March 12 of Mr Alex Tranter at his Gosford home. His passing came as a shock to his family and friends. Formerly a resident of Orange, Alex was well known, following the pursuits of the grocery trade. Born at Bigga in the Crookwell district he married Eva Picker a member of the well-known Picker family of Bigga. In the early 1940's they with daughter Nola moved to Orange to reside, Alex joining the staff of the late J.T. Williams store in March Street where he worked for many years prior to joining the staff of the Western Stores Grocery Department in the days of counter sales groceries. Alex worked here until his retirement during which time he saw the counter trade give way to supermarket shopping. His death thins the ranks of the old "order man" days when as a familiar figure he rode his bike around town to collect the grocery orders for his firm. Alex was a staunch member of St Barnabas Church along with his family. Despite moving to Gosford with his family to live, six years ago, Alex made many return trips to visit his many relatives and friends and followed the many growth changes occurring in his home town. To use his own expression he "loved" Orange. His love of flowers is portrayed in the lovely garden of the Tranter home at Springfield Gosford, where he enjoyed his retirement years. Much sympathy is being express to his wife Eva and daughter Nola and sisters Rita (Orange) and May (Ryde).

Central Western Daily - 22/3/1975: Mrs A. Dwyer.

The death occurred in a private hospital in Melbourne on March 16 of Mrs Annetta Laura (Nan) Dwyer formerly of Orange. Mrs Dwyer was the widow of Mr Jack Dwyer who served with the 18th Battalion 1st A.I.F. She is survived by her son Leighton (Blue) of New Guinea and her daughter Marie (Mrs S. Bullock) of Melbourne. Mrs Dwyer was well known in Orange Legacy activities and was a foundation member and first president of the legacy Mothers Club since known as the Laurel Club.

ORANGE CEMETERY UPDATE

There is a new spreadsheet for the Orange Cemetery now available. It contains the burials up until the end of June 2021 as well as some new information on some of the occupants of unmarked graves. This spreadsheet has been made available initially on the Orange City Council website. Direct links are available from the [Central West Libraries](#) / OFHG website for your personal use in researching your relatives or friends. We assumed that users would realise that and would not, as has unfortunately been the case, upload the entire [Spreadsheet](#) to another website ie. "Find a Grave" without any acknowledgement of or permission from OFHG.

Apart from the theft there are several problems with this. The first problem for the user of that website is that the researcher is not aware of where to direct his/her query. The second problem is that no updates will be available unless the person who submitted the database is prepared to add the new additions and to search through the latest updates on our website and transfer these to "Find a Grave" Apparently their spreadsheet cannot be deleted, according to our research, so it will remain static or "dead". OFHG deletes the older spreadsheet before uploading the latest one.

OFHG have been gradually researching the unmarked grave occupant's details. Those with headstones have at least some hints re their family (parents, spouse, children, etc) whereas the unmarked graves have only a name and date of death. We are also photographing the allotment of the unmarked grave and placing, in the photo, a marker with name and allotment number. This photo shows the area surrounding the allotment. This and the GPS co-ordinates that we add enable ease of location for the researcher. As our group find more details about the occupant, we add the most relevant of this information in the "Comments" field to enable researchers to identify if he/she is the person whom they are researching. If there is more information for which there is no room in that field then we make a note that "More information can be obtained by contacting OFHG jsykes@cwl.gov.nsw.au We have over 4,000 unmarked graves so you can imagine that it is going to take some time to find all this information.

Please respect the amount of work that has been put into compiling this database and use it for your own research but do not take it and pass it onto another website. By all means you can post the 'url' for our website so that the updated spreadsheet is accessible to others.

Which brings me to another point. As I have said in a previous newsletter, the photos were to be added to the database sometime next year. The IT staff are prepared to carry out the necessary and complicated process in order to do this. At this stage there are 33,000 photos in my Lightroom application. If researchers request a photo, as many have, then it is sent to them via email. However, we know that it is easier if the photo is actually on the website.

With regard with what has happened with the spreadsheet will it be necessary to put a copyright on all the photos so that they are not 'stolen' for other websites? Alternatively, do we not put the photos onto the website at all and only provide them by request. It would be a lot less work for the IT staff and much less cost to the Council.

If you have an opinion re the "photos" then you can email me at pandoragra@icloud.com. OFHG will discuss the subject of the photos at our next meeting and will let you know the decision that we make in our next Newsletter

Lynne Irvine - Volunteer – Orange Family History Group

UNMARKED GRAVE IN ORANGE - ANNIE PAYNE

Researching the unmarked graves in Orange Cemetery always throws up items of interest. Sadly, for some nothing can be found and so the “dash” between birth and death records is left blank.

Annie Payne died on the 6 June 1940 at Bloomfield Hospital (Ref 11391/1940 parents William and Clara). She is buried in an unmarked grave in the Church of England Section and surprisingly Annie lived most of her life as a man.

According to the newspaper articles found on Trove she was born in Derbyshire in 1875. Her death certificates stated she was born in Rugby. Parents are given as William Payne and Clara Cuff but to date no birth registration can be found for her. Since most of the information comes from newspapers found on Trove what is written here can only be repeated from those articles.

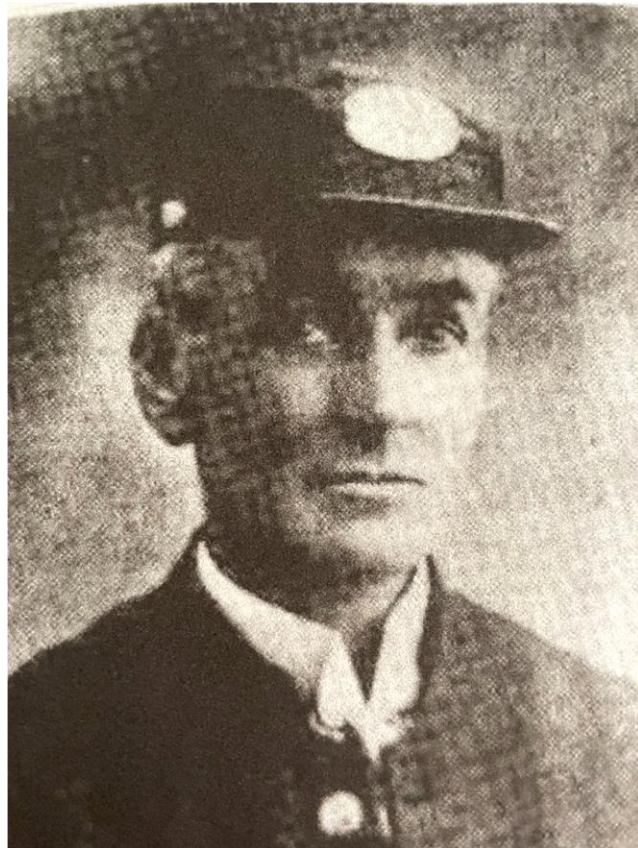
Annie called herself Harcourt Frederick Payne once she arrived in Australia. Her arrival is also a matter of conjecture; the newspapers report she arrived when she was 12 but there is a Frederick Payne arriving in Melbourne via “Austral” in 1898 aged 23 (equates to a date of birth of 1875).

First mention of Harcourt was in 1913 electoral rolls residing at Hartley Mt Victoria, occupation accountant. Also with him was Harriett Payne domestic duties. Since Harcourt had two “wives” one would assume that this is the first “marriage” to Harriett Smith. No date can be found as yet. Harriet’s death was registered in Auburn in 1927 (ref: 707/1927). She was buried in Rookwood Cemetery on the 17 June 1927.

Harcourt Frederick Payne remarried at Lidcombe on the 7 April 1928. His new “bride” was a widow 15 years his senior Louisa Maria Adams (nee King), Louisa had brought with her children from her first marriage. In the early 1930’s Louisa became ill with Alzheimer’s Disease and Harcourt nursed her till her death in 1938 (Ref: 14625/1938). She too was buried in Rookwood Cemetery.

For 51 years Annie lived her life as Harcourt Frederick Payne. She dressed like a man, at one time had a long black moustache like a man and worked like at a man at various jobs including tram conductor, tram driver, labourer, commercial traveller and assistant town clerk.

In 1939 Harcourt was 64 years old. No longer able to work, he was receiving 40/- pension at this time. He collapsed walking down a street in Lidcombe and was taken to his local doctor who had him admitted to the Old Men’s Benevolent Home in Lidcombe for short term care. Harcourt was weak and incoherent. No relatives could be located but his next-door-neighbour Mrs Chandler confirmed him as Harcourt Frederick Payne and said he was a perfect gentleman who kept to himself much of the time.



Photograph of Harcourt working as a tram conductor in 1917
Image from '*The Queerest of Crimes*' by Roy Maloy

Nurses at the hospital were shocked when they undressed him ready for a bath. Panic ensued and the doctor was recalled. Harcourt/Annie was bathed redressed and taken to Newington State Hospital for Destitute Women. At Newington she was subjected to the indignities of physical examinations both externally and internally. Examining doctors called in the police and the Director of Public Health. The media were in a frenzy, reports appeared daily in the newspapers of the time. They presented her as a congenital freak.

It was not a crime to dress as a man so no charges could be laid. However, courts found Harcourt / Annie to be "insane" because of her manner of dress and "marrying" twice. She was sent to Bloomfield Mental Hospital in Orange, placed in a woman's ward and made to dress like a woman. She died twelve months later. There is no newspaper report on her death.

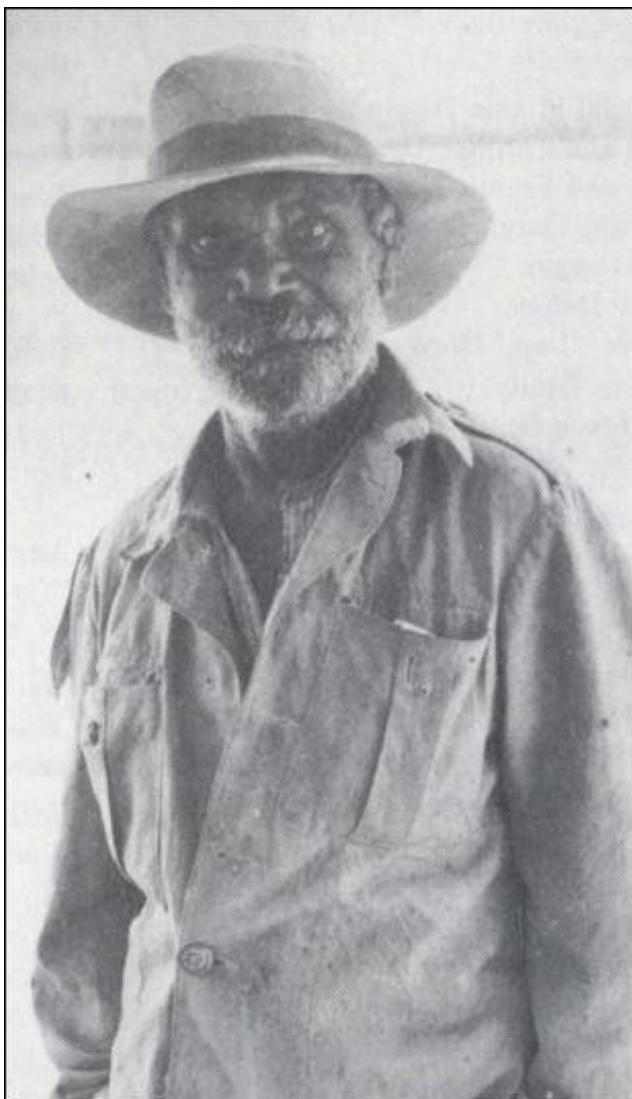
"Madness in Australia" edited by Catherine Coleborn and Dolly MacKinnon recounts the story of Annie in Chapter Nine. It's a sad read. Bloomfield Hospital in the 1930's was using restraint, both chemical and physical on their patients. The hospital was overcrowded with 1,300 patients and only 4 doctors to look after them. Roy Maloy also recounts the life of Harcourt Payne in his book *"The Queerest of Crimes"*.

Sharon Jameson
Volunteer – Orange Family History Group

JACK PEELER

PEELER Jack (recorded in burial register as Peel and indexed as Pooler in NSW Births Deaths and Marriages) died in Orange on the 14 November 1969. He is buried in the RC lawn cemetery Section 3 and Row 10 No 7. Interestingly Jack is recorded in the burial register as the “Last fullblood Aborigine in New South Wales”.

Jack’s death certificate (36736/1969) shows that he was born in Peak Hill and never married. There is no birth registration (that I can find) of his birth and newspaper articles show various ages for him when he is mentioned.

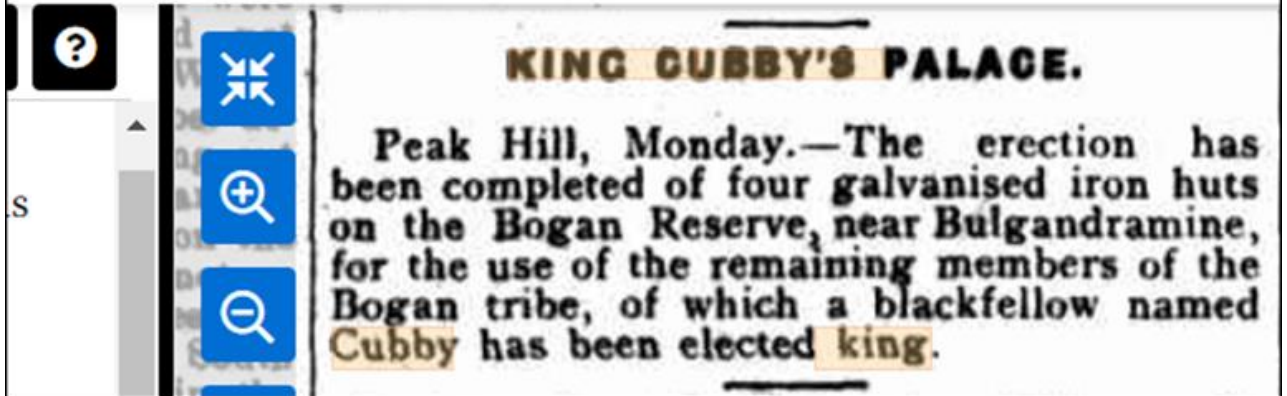


Jack Peeler
Photograph from “*Memories of Bulgandramine Misson*” by Rita Keed

His mother was Margaret Peeler (nee West) who died in extraordinary circumstances in Trundle in 1934. Jack (John) is given on her death certificate was aged 42. This would have him born about 1892. Since Margaret lived on the Bulgandramine Mission near Peak Hill, one would “assume” that this was also Jack’s birthplace, making him a Wiradjuri tribe member. According to her death certificate he had four sisters and three brothers (one deceased at the time of his mother’s death). According to Ancestry John Peeler (his father) died 1919, again I can find no death certificate.

The Leader dated Wed 14 Mar 1934 page 2 records “The Trundle Tragedy”.

“James Whiton, who was shot dead by his paramour at Trundle who afterwards turned the rifle on herself and committed suicide, was known in Orange, where he resided for a number of years. His father is stated to have been a Scotsman and his mother a Maori. Mrs Whiton, his wife, is said to be still living in Orange. They had a family of 13, ten of whom are still living. Margaret Peeler, who shot him, was an aboriginal and the widow of the late King Cubby of the Lachlan and Bogan River blacks, who was well-known in the Trundle district. Margaret Peeler had been a resident of the Trundle District for 22 years.”



At the time of her death Margaret and James were living at Brideoake's slaughterhouse in Trundle. (James Whiton was a butcher by trade.) Jack said his mother and Jim had been fighting when he left and when he returned his mother told him she had "shot Jim". Jim was lying on the bed with a bullet wound to his head. Jack called the police and when they arrived Margaret went inside and turned the gun on herself. The coroner's report ruled it murder/suicide. According to "The Truth" on Trove, they had been arguing because Jim had been seeing a white woman. James and Margaret were buried together in the Trundle cemetery.

It is hard to know if Jack was also living with his mother and her partner. Electoral Rolls from 1933 to 1936 have him residing on the Mission Reserve at Wellington. (Nanima Mission).

In 1938 Jack was involved in a car accident that run off the Tomingley Road and struck a tree. He was admitted to Dubbo Hospital with fractured ribs, laceration, shock and possible fracture skull. The newspaper at this time gave his age as 48.



The Dubbo Liberal dated Saturday 16 December 1944 records that Jack “an old offender ... who had been absent for some time from the district” was fined 5/- when he was charged with drunkenness. He pleaded guilty again in August 1945 and was fined 10/- or in default 24 hours gaol.

Nothing more can be found on Jack up until his death in Orange in 1969.



Cubby, “King of the Bogan”, with his family and Rev Champion at Trundle c.1915.

*King Cubby and his family in 1915
Lady in front of cart is Jack’s mother – Margaret Peeler
Source unknown*

Sharon Jameson
Volunteer – Orange Family History Group

SOME OF THE SECRETS OF LONG LIFE - OLD AGE AND HOW TO REACH IT

Twelve years have been added to the span of human life since many of us were children. That is to say, the 'average man' lives longer than did his grandfather. It is a wonderful, an amazing achievement of modern medical science.

But it possesses one great drawback: Neither you nor I nor the other fellow is the 'average man'. In other words, we may not have the luck of the majority. What does it matter to me that the 'expectation of life' has increased by twelve years, if I am likely to die in six months? (writes a Harley Street doctor, in the "Weekly Dispatch").

WHAT IS ONE'S CHANCE?

What I personally, want to know is what my own individual chances of living to a good old age may be?

It is not an easy question to answer, through the great life insurance offices have been making more or less accurate guesses at it for half a century. But in these last few years we have gained a great deal of fresh knowledge.

If, for example, you tell me your occupation, I will be able to give you at least a rough idea of your chances. For there are 'jobs' in which men live long, and other 'jobs' in which, for some mysterious reason, they do not.

A short time ago, some wonderful figures dealing with this matter were published in England. These figures, prepared by the Registrar-General himself, show that the most long-lived occupation are those of clergymen, gardeners, nurserymen, and tallow, soap and flue manufacturers. All these happy people have a 50 per cent better chance than the rest of the community.

Right at the other end of the scale, with a 50 per cent worse chance, are tin-makers, file-makers, costermongers and hawkers.

That is to say, if a man belongs to one of these last callings, he is not so likely to reach 70 as if he belongs to one of the first group. But the fact remains that some clergymen die young, and some costers live to a very ripe old age.

MIDDLE-AGE MISTAKE

Much more important than occupation is what doctors speak of as 'habit of body'.

I know many people will with me, yet experience has taught me that it matters very little in the long run what this habit may be, so long as it does not change. Stout people, in my opinion, have just as good a chance of living to 100 as have thin ones.

But if a man or woman grows noticeably stout with the approach of middle age, I always feel anxious. For that middle-aged stoutness is not a habit of body; it is weakness of circulation. As a rule, it is accompanied by shortness of breath and general flabbiness.

Even in cases of that sort, however, it would be a great mistake to jump to conclusions. If these people care to go into training, expand their chests, and so obtain more oxygen for their blood, they will, in many cases, become thin again. And then their chances of long life will be restored.

The cause of most middle-aged stoutness, indeed, is flabbiness of the muscles of the chest and back. The shoulders droop, the chest sinks down, and the breathing, in consequence, becomes shallow. Shallow breathing means that the lungs are not expanded, and that, of course, means that the blood in the lungs does not receive its proper supply of oxygen.

This latter is the draught of the fire of life. In its absence, our food is not 'burnt' as it should be, but is stored up as fat. We have no energy, though we may be eating great quantities of energy-making foods.

Obviously the cure is exercise and deep breathing. It follows that men and women who have an outdoor hobby are likely to live longer than men and women who have no such means of keeping fit. Every exercise which entails the use of the muscles prolongs life – if taken in moderation.

Tall people are more prone than short people to this trouble, because their muscles tend to become flabby more readily.

Consequently, as a general rule, a short or medium-sized man or woman lives longer than a tall one. But the odds, of course, are the other way, if the short person has grown stout and the tall person has remained spare.

One of the tallest and thinnest men I know has just reached his 86th birthday, and is still absolutely fit.

Want to exercise, of course, is far more common among women than among men, and if this was the only cause

of a short life, most men would become widowers. There is, however, another factor to be reckoned with.

Men, as a sex, live shorter lives than women, because they are exposed to more chances of catching cold and to the risks of occupational disease. Thus a clergyman and his wife probably have about an equal chance of catching pneumonia. The chances of a costermonger and his wife in connection with this disease are enormously different.

Last year, in England and Wales, 13 men died out of every 1000 persons in the country. The number of women was only 11.

Nowadays women are getting more exercise and are learning more about the rules of health. Consequently woman's chances of a long life are increasing faster than man's – for he is still compelled to 'brave the elements' on days when she may stay at home.

MARRIED V SINGLE

Perhaps, for that reason, it is safer to be a married than an unmarried woman. Marriage and motherhood, of course, have their own risks. But these are becoming much smaller than they used to be, thanks to more careful medical attention. On the other hand, a married woman lives at home, her work is indoors, and she has a husband to provide for her.

Most unmarried girls are compelled to go out to work, just as men are. They therefore share the dangers of bronchitis and pneumonia.

Unmarried girls, too, often eat too little food, or content themselves with food which is not sufficiently nourishing. It is a curious, but well-known fact – which I have verified for myself, again and again – that the presence of a man in the house is necessary to make women eat proper meals. The married woman has to provide her husband with substantial food, and shares his food with him. The unmarried girl is under no such necessity. That, I firmly believe, is why so many girls look much fitter after marriage than they looked in the days of spinsterhood.

The same kind of reasoning, however, does not apply to married men and bachelors. Though this may not be pleasant news for women, the fact remains that a bachelor has a better chance of long life than a husband. Nor is it difficult to understand why. When a man is single he almost invariably gets plenty of exercise and all the good food he wants. His time and money are his own.

After marriage, both time and money become more valuable. Memberships of golf clubs are dropped, and food is often curtailed. Worry, too, is apt to accumulate.

The married man, however, scores in other directions, and so does not lose so heavily as he would if the bachelor enjoyed all his advantages with none of his troubles. Marriage usually brings a new incentive to effort and a new sense of personal importance. Both of these make for a long life.

DANGER OF 'RETIRING'

Indeed, it is my experience that if a man accustomed to an active life, loses his incentive to work, he soon dies. There is no doubt whatever that to retire from business is to court disaster in the great majority of instances.

It so happens that I know well a small town which, about forty years ago, suffered a severe period of depression after having enjoyed a period of great prosperity. Just before the 'slump' began, several manufacturers in the town retired as rich men. Without exception, they all died within a space of ten years.

Those who did not retire soon found themselves involved in a sea of troubles. Three of them are still alive and at work – all being octogenarians – one died at the age of 74, and one is now bedridden at 79.

To pension a man off while he is still capable of work is, in most instances, to kill him. For our bodies follow our brains. They receive from the mind the stimulus of enthusiasm just as the blood receives fresh oxygen from the air we breathe. If this stimulus, this tonic, is removed, the body languishes. It then becomes the easy prey of disease.

There is no more pathetic sight than the retired man of business, who finds he has nothing to do and realises that he no longer 'counts'. Very similar to him is the countryman transplanted to town in his middle or old age, and the townsman compelled to go and live in the country.

We are all creatures of habit, and the older we grow, the less easy is it for us to change our way of life. Such changes, after youth has passed, are highly dangerous and undoubtedly take years off the normal span of existence.

Rich men, men with pensions, and men whose wants are provided for, have the advantage of being able to take care of themselves. But they are far more liable than poor men to the depressions and boredom of inactivity. And so the curious fact emerges that a rich man does not, in general, live longer than his poorer brother.

There is no royal road to old age

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