



## ORANGE FAMILY HISTORY GROUP NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2020



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### HELLO TO ALL OUR READERS

I'm sure that we are all in agreement that we've been living in strange times over the past few months. We have been limited in how we are able to engage with our members and in particular our volunteers. That's not to say that nothing has been happening! The reverse is probably closer to the truth as people have found time to unearth their family history. There have been many enquiries for information through our Facebook page with some pleasing results. The interest in genealogy during lock down has been widely recognised. You might be interested in this article from the [ABC](#).

Meetings of the Orange Family History Group are once again permissible provided the COVID guidelines are followed. It was great to see members attend the first meeting in many months last week – lots to catch up on! A highlight was the official 'handing over' of the Orange Cemetery work by our stellar member, Lynne Irvine. What a labour of love that has been. Julie Sykes has written more about it below. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Lynne for the work she has done on this project over several years.

To you all, keep well, keep busy and stay in touch!

Warm wishes

Jan

## **ORANGE FAMILY HISTORY GROUP CEMETERY PROJECT**

A big thank you to Lynne Irvine, a member of Orange Family History Group (OFHG), who over the last ten years has endeavoured to update information for the Orange and District Cemetery Memorial Inscriptions CD. Lynne has liaised with both Council Cemetery and IT Departments to coordinate data collation. This includes headstone photographs, their GPS positioning and obituary information. Lynne has been assisted by other OFHG members.

In the beginning OFHG members visited many cemeteries in the district including Orange, Cargo, March, Millthorpe and Byng cemeteries to transcribe headstone information by hand. This material formed the current Orange and District Cemetery Memorial Inscriptions CD which was published in 2002. With the long term intention to publish the cemetery updates and photos on the web, Lynne and her helpers powered ahead. 55,000 photos and over ten years later Lynne is hanging up her photographer hat. Orange City Council has added the Cemetery Database web project to their IT project plans for the next two years. We eagerly look forward to the day it can be accessed from anywhere in Australia or the world. Thanks Lynne!



## **DNA INTEREST GROUP – SEEKING EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

Orange City Library hosted a seminar on DNA, presented by Marilyn Woodward from HAGSOC Canberra on 28th February 2020. Members of the audience indicated they would be interested in belonging to a DNA interest group in Orange.

The DNA interest group would run on similar lines to that formed by HAGSOC in Canberra – meeting bimonthly.

If you are interested, please contact Orange City Library on 02 6393 8105 or email [library@cwl.nsw.gov.au](mailto:library@cwl.nsw.gov.au)

## HISTORICAL GRAFFITI AT BORENORE CAVES

The Borenore Caves area was inhabited by the Wiradjuri people for many thousands of years prior to European settlement. The name “Borenore” is believed to be derived from *bora* (ceremony) and *nora* (shelf, overhanging rock).

The first European to visit the area was John Henderson in early 1830, who undertook geological reconnaissance work. Surveyor-General Thomas Mitchell followed later that year. The area is rich in fossils dating from the Silurian era, 400 million years ago.

The area surrounding the caves formed part of a travelling stock route in 1878 and was a popular tourist destination. Many people from the Orange district enjoyed fossicking and picnicking at the caves.



*Picnic at Borenore Caves c1900*

*Image courtesy Orange and District Historical Society*

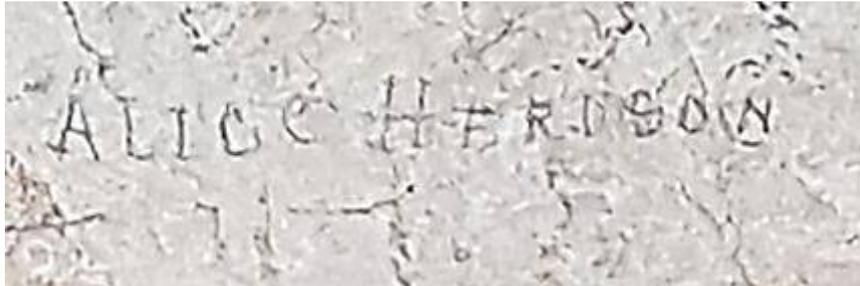
In 1886 the *Australian Town and Country Journal* noted:

*As a picnic resort the location is one of the most favored in the Orange district, and the beautiful scenery surrounding well repays the difficulties of reaching the ground.*

Visitors over the years have left their mark on cave walls and ceilings. Indeed, the article above also observed: “*blackened inscriptions give evidence of many previous visitors*”.

Alice Margaret Herdson was one such visitor. Born in Sydney in 1865, Alice was the daughter of Jonathon and Margaret Herdson. During her twenties Alice met Alfred Hale, whose father, John Hale, was a pioneer, architect and Town Surveyor of the Orange municipality.

Alfred and Alice married in Manly on 3 October 1894. At some stage prior to their marriage the couple travelled to Orange and visited the caves, where Alice left her mark.



*Alice Herdson graffiti, pre 1894*

Alice and Alfred settled in Mosman, where Alfred worked as an architect and building inspector with the local council for 25 years. They had two sons: Norman in 1898, and Herbert in 1902. Norman followed in his father's and grandfather's footsteps and became an architect.

Alice died on 14 November 1938 aged 74, and Alfred in January 1941 aged 73.

Elizabeth 'Lissie' Larance also left her mark at Borenore Caves. Born in Gulgong in 1875 Lissie was the third daughter and last of five children born to Henry William and Catherine Larance. When Lissie was two years old her family moved to Lords Place in Orange where Henry opened a butchery. Henry was the first Orange butcher to introduce local meat to the Sydney market. His business flourished, and at its height transported 2,000 head of cattle per annum.

In October 1910 Lissie married Reginald McLachlan, the son of prominent Orange solicitor John Charles McLachlan and his wife Dora (the daughter of Orange pioneers Joseph Moulder and Caroline Clemens). The couple made their home in Wellington, where Reginald ran a successful stock and station agency, and had one son, Ronald.



*Lissie Larance graffiti, pre 1910*

In 1930 Lissie and her family relocated to Coogee in Sydney, where Reginald work in a sportsware emporium. They were regular visitors to Orange, staying at Reginald's family home, *Wingello*, in Anson Street.

Reginald's health deteriorated during the 1940s, and he passed away in March 1949, aged 69. Lissie followed him three and a half years later, in November 1952, aged 76 years of age.

## COBB & BEASLEY FAIRWAY GARAGE, SAMPSON STREET ORANGE

Julie Sykes Librarian at Orange City Library recently received an enquiry regarding a vacant block of land behind Jack's Mini Mart, in Moulder Street Orange. The block itself is located in Sampson Street.



From what Julie could recall there was a garage, known as the Fairway Garage located here. The last operator was Arthur Baker (1908-2001). Julie couldn't find any history other than the following notice in the *New South Wales Government Gazette* 12/10/1956 issue 110 page 3010:

"NOTICE is hereby given that the partnership heretofore subsisting between the undersigned Alfred John Cobb and Harold Bruce Beasley, carrying on business as motor garage proprietors under the name of Cobb & Beasley, at Fairway Garage, corner of Moulder and Sampson streets, Orange, has been dissolved by mutual consent as and from the first day of October, 1956, and all debts due to and owing by the said business will be received and paid by the said Alfred John Cobb who will continue to carry on the business at the same place. ----- Dated at Orange, this first day of October, 1956. A.J. COBB. Witness,----- D. OSBORNE HAWKE. H. B. BEASLEY. Witness,----- D.OSBORNE HAWKE, Solicitor, Orange. 1225 -----£1 1s."

Julie remembers purchasing petrol here. There was a workshop and petrol bowsers. The first car Julie owned was serviced here in 1972. It is not know when the garage was demolished, but Arthur Baker returned to servicing cars after a short period of retirement, and from around 1974 was working at Keith McDonald's in Hamer Street.

Julie Sykes  
Librarian - Orange City Library

## **INTERESTING PIECE OF TRIVIA**

While undertaking some family history research recently, I came across a bit of trivia that may be of interest:

There is a town in NSW called Collector.

Collector has 3 cemeteries:

- Collector Anglican
- Collector Catholic
- Collector Uniting

The total number of graves is 329.

The population of Collector and district is 313 (2016 census)

Collector is located on the Federal Highway, halfway between Goulburn and the ACT.

Information from Wikipedia and Australian Cemeteries Index.

Michael Sharp  
Member - Orange Family History Group

## **CANCELLATION**

### **NSW AND ACT ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES 2020 CONFERENCE**

Sadly the 2020 NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies Conference which was scheduled for September 2020 has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 social distancing restrictions. The Conference was to have been hosted by the Newcastle Family History Society and the program looked fabulous! As planning had already begun for the 2021 Conference to be held in Port Macquarie. The 2020 program *Riding the Waves of History* has been deferred to 2022 and it will be held in Newcastle.

Make sure to keep checking the [2021 conference web page](#) to keep up to date with what's happening.

Thanks to the 2020 conference committee – decisions such as this are very difficult.

## **WIDE SKY PEOPLE**

When Bruce Mitchell received an email from Carol Sharpe from the OFHG in June 2012, little did he know that it would lead to his first novel, *Wide Sky People* being published eight years later. Mr. Mitchell had contacted the group for help in tracing his ancestors, and they unearthed a wealth of information that filled in many gaps. *'The group provided valuable details of when they arrived, where they settled in Orange, and some tantalising news clippings over the next 70 or so years,'* said Mitchell. *'But I often wondered how they led their lives day-to-day – what challenges they faced, how their kids grew up – things you just don't know unless you were there. So, I started to write a story, and stopped 80,000 words later.'*

*Wide Sky People* follows the fortunes of the Thornton (alias 'Mitchell') family who emigrate from Ireland to Sydney in 1841. The family consists of husband and wife Mick and Cate, and sons Michael and John, aged 6 and 5. While the book is fiction, historical facts, events and people have been included. The book covers the period from 1841 to 1890, with a final epilogue set in the year 2022. The story begins in Sydney and follows the family as they traverse the Blue Mountains and settle in Orange in the state's Central West, initially as employees of a landowner, and ultimately on their own property.

*'It is an adventure – a pacey, rollicking yarn.'* Says Mitchell. Over 50 years the fortunes of the family include false arrest for larceny, a lost child in the Blue Mountains, a home invasion by a bushranger, encounters with Aboriginal people, gold mining in Ballarat, the death of one of their children, and a devastating bushfire, among others. Historical events include the Aboriginal resistance movement under Pemulwuy (1792-1802), the Bathurst convict uprising of 1830, the Eureka Rebellion of 1854, the Eugowra bullion robbery of 1862, the opening of the Orange rail line in 1877 etc. Orange's history is intertwined with fictional characters as well as actual Orange landmarks.

Mitchell hit something of a roadblock when he included Sir Henry Parkes as one of the characters, as permission was required from Parkes's family to use the name: *'I was lucky enough to track down Ian Thom, Chairman of the Henry Parkes Foundation and great, great grandson of Sir Henry, who generously gave permission.'*

*Wide Sky People* is published by Austin Macauley of London, and can be purchased on-line in e-book and paperback format at Booktopia, Angus and Robertson, Dymocks and Amazon.com.au

As the cover says:

*'It is a story lived by many, but told by few; with action, passion and wry humour. It tells of the men and women who saw a Wide Sky full of promise, and turned a colony into a country.'*

**BRUCE MITCHELL**

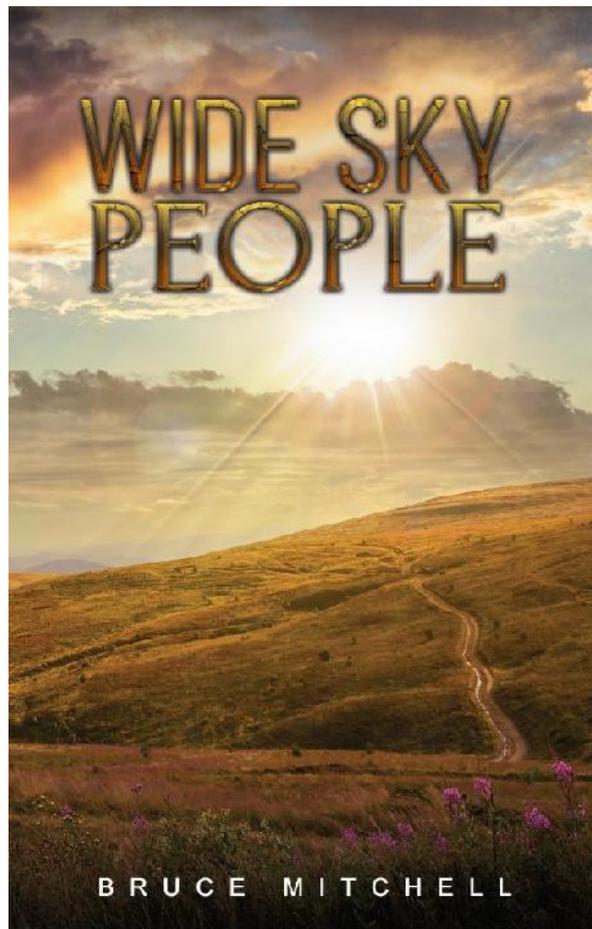
**AUTHOR – *WIDE SKY PEOPLE***

Bruce Mitchell has worked as a labourer, copywriter, waiter, bookmaker (the one who takes bets; not the one who binds books), film maker, musician, consultant and corporate director. None of these pursuits made him rich, but they were rich in personal reward.

His corporate business career with Coca-Cola and Brown-Forman (makers of 'Jack Daniel's'), took him across the world, with expatriate posts in South East Asia and New Zealand. A native of Sydney, he lives in Bowral, in the Southern Highlands of New South Wales, Australia.

Bruce's first book *Wide Sky People*, published by Austin Macauley of London, takes the reader on the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century journey of the Thornton family from Ireland to Sydney and the plains of New South Wales. Mick and Cate Thornton and their two boys survive four months at sea to encounter false arrest, bushrangers, crooked cops, a devastating bushfire, and the gold rush, to name just a few.

*Wide Sky People* can be purchased on-line in e-book and paperback format at major Australian book retailers and Amazon.com.au. As the cover says, *'It's a story lived by many, but told by few; with action, passion and wry humour. It tells of the men and women who saw a Wide Sky full of promise, and turned a colony into a country.'*



## NEWSPAPERS ARTICLES

*Leader Orange* - 5/7/1937: Young Girl's Death.

Cyclists march at Funeral. Under tragic circumstances death occurred at the District Hospital on Saturday of Miss Kathleen Blanche Bateup, aged 16, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Bateup, of Lords Place, Orange. She became ill about a week ago and was admitted to the institution. She lingered until Saturday. Members of the Junior Cycle Club, of which she was an ardent supporter, one of her brothers being a rider, marched at her funeral yesterday afternoon. Though in Orange only two years, Miss Bateup won a legion of friends, many of whom sent floral tributes which were placed on the hearse. Miss Bateup was born at Dubbo, where she was educated. She is survived by sorrowing parents and three brothers, Victor, Mervyn and Kevin. After a service at St. Joseph's Church yesterday afternoon her remains were interred in the Catholic portion of the Orange cemetery. Mr. P. J. McGowan had charge of arrangements.

\*\*Orange Cemetery - Kathleen Bateup - Unmarked Grave.

*Central Western Daily* - 10/10/1945: Obituary - Mrs Matilda Jane Reedy.

After a brief illness the death occurred at the Base Hospital yesterday of Mrs Matilda Jane Reedy a native of Orange at the age of 84 years. Her father the late Mr John Smith was the first Clerk of Petty Sessions and also one of the early school teachers of this district. Mrs Reedy resided with her late husband (Thomas Reedy) who predeceased her many years ago, near the racecourse, when the latter was a well-known and trusted employee at Dalton Brothers old flour mill in Summer Street. Her only son died a few years ago and she is survived by four daughters Mrs Mary Norris (Sydney); Mrs Laurie Gander (Orange); Mrs Bert Beaulock (Orange) and Mrs W. Bone (Orange). Mr Frank Smith of Billimari is a brother. The funeral will leave P.J. McGowan's funeral parlor this afternoon for the Church of England portion of the Orange cemetery.

*Central Western Daily* - 14/11/1953: Orange priest collapses, dies at Melbourne.

Rev. Father James O'Dea a member of the clergy attached to St Joseph's Church, Orange, collapsed and died in a street in Melbourne yesterday morning. Accompanied by Rev Father Noel Grant and Mr N. Veech, both of Orange. Father O'Dea motored to Melbourne on Wednesday with the intention of spending a few days there. Father O'Dea who appeared to be in a normal state of health celebrated Mass in one of the Melbourne churches yesterday morning and before having his breakfast walked along the street to purchase a copy of the morning's paper. He suddenly collapsed on the footpath and was taken to a hospital by an ambulance officer but he was dead when he arrived. The body will be brought to Orange at the weekend. Born in Ireland. Father O'Dea was born at Killenaule, County Tipperary, Ireland, 40 years ago and was ordained a priest in 1937. He had been connected with the Bathurst diocese for some years and was transferred to Orange in February 1951. A deeply religious priest, a fervant preacher and a likeable personality, Father O'Dea had endeared himself not only to members of his own flock but all with whom he came in contact and his passing will be deeply regretted. Rev. Brother Desitheus (Orange) and Rev. Brother Joseph (Ashfield), both of the De La Salle Order are brothers of Father O'Dea. His mother lives in Ireland. There will be solemn Requiem Mass on Monday. The funeral cortege will leave St. Joseph's Church.

*Central Western Daily* - 20/12/1954 : Obituary. Mrs G. Gartrell.

The death took place at Ferney Creek, Victoria on Saturday of a former Orange resident Mrs Gertrude Gartrell widow of the late William John Gartrell at the age of 81 years. The late W.J. Gartrell was a well-known painter and decorator and lived in Summer Street. Mrs Gartrell left Orange after the death of her husband about 10 years ago and went to live with her daughter Mrs E. Thornly at Ferney Creek. She leaves one son and one daughter Edna (Mrs Thornly) and Eric Clive (Brisbane). Her funeral will leave the Methodist Church tomorrow after a service, for interment in the Methodist Cemetery Orange.

*Central Western Daily* - 7/1/1960: Death of former bandmaster.

Former Orange bandmaster William Drew (Major) Eyles 68 of Summer Street, died in the Orange Base Hospital on Tuesday night. Mr Eyles was born in Orange and after leaving East Orange Public School became a painter. He carried on the business of painter until his death. Mr Eyles was bandmaster of the old Orange Municipal Band for many years and later became bandmaster of the Orange Industrial Brass Band when it was formed a few years ago. He was also interested in Orange sub-branch of the R.S.L. and in the early days was its treasurer. Mr Eyles saw active service in Egypt and France in World War I. He is survived by his wife Rita and two sons, William and Cecil both of Orange. There are eight grandchildren. He is also survived by one brother Mr Fred Eyles of Byng Street, East Orange. Orange bandsmen and members of the R.S.L. sub-branch will attend his funeral and the R.S.L. service will be held at the graveside. After a service in Holy Trinity Church of England today he will be buried in the Church of England portion of Orange cemetery.

*Central Western Daily* - 5/11/1960: Mr David Starr of Molong.

A member of one of the oldest Molong District families died in a Bathurst hospital recently. He was Mr David Starr who was aged 93. He was a member of an old and well known brickmaking family and was employed in that capacity until the kilns closed many years ago. Mr Starr later worked for the council in the Molong district. He also owned an orchard. He left no family. His wife having predeceased him a few years ago. His funeral left the chapels of C.A. Hyland and son for the Canobolas Crematorium.

*Central Western Daily* - 5/11/1960: Obituary - Mr E.L. Rowe of Orange.

The death occurred unexpectedly at his residence 432 Summer Street, Orange, of Mr Edward Lawrence Rowe. Mr Rowe aged 57, was born at Wellington and was the son of the late Mr & Mrs Francis Rowe. Prior to enlisting in the Army in World War II he worked on the land in various areas of the Central West. He came to Orange in 1941 and for 15 years was employed at Emmco until he had to retire because of bad health. He is survived by his widow who was formerly Miss Ruby Osborne of Orange, and two brothers Wilfred and Milton of Wellington. The funeral left Holy Trinity Church of England Orange for the Orange Cemetery.

*Central Western Daily* - 5/11/1960: Obituary - Mr C.H. Peck of Orange.

A well known Orange resident who died at his home at 47 Icely Road was Mr Charles Henry Peck aged 56. He was born at Richmond where he spent the early years of his life. He was the

son of the late Mr & Mrs Robert Peck. He came to Orange from the Windsor district in 1930 and joined the staff of Bloomfield Hospital as an attendant. He enlisted for Army Service in World War II and served in the Middle East. On his discharge from the Army he resumed duties at Bloomfield Hospital and remained there until ill health forced him to retire a few years ago. He is survived by his widow Mrs Minnie Peck, one daughter Marie of Orange, a brother Jack of Enfield and three sisters Mary, Dulcie and Edith, of Sydney. The largely attended funeral left St. Barnabas Church of England for the Canobolas Crematorium. Bloomfield Hospital attendants were pall bearers and R.S.L. honours were observed at the Crematorium.

*Central Western Daily* - 5/6/1961 :Obituary - Mr L.H. Edey.

Mr Leslie Harold Edey whose parents owned the Royal Hotel in Orange for 30 years up to 1918, died suddenly at his Brisbane home at the age of 72. Mr Edey was the second youngest son of the late Mr & Mrs Andrew Edey, who owned the Hotel. He was born in Orange in 1889, and lived here until World War I, when he served in France. After the war Mr Edey went to England for musical training and returning to Australia to live in Brisbane where he taught singing and voice production. He was known by many in Brisbane's music circles and was a member of the committee which worked for the establishment of the Brisbane Conservatorium of Music. Mr Edey is survived by his wife, one son and two daughters. Also surviving are three brothers and two sisters, Sir Benjamin Edey; Bert and Lionel all of Sydney; Mrs L. Remfry of Sydney and Mrs Ken Gavin of Orange.

*Central Western Daily* - 15/10/1962: Obituary. Mr T.W. Mackenzie.

The death occurred in Orange Base Hospital on Friday morning of a well-known and highly-esteemed businessman, Mr Thomas Wilson Mackenzie, at the age of 57 years. He was a son of the late Alexander Mackenzie and lived all his life in Orange. He married Mona Sanders of Wentworth in 1937 and is survived by his widow and three sons Robert (Broken Hill); Thomas and Peter (Orange) and two daughters Margaret (Mrs Gregoy Ryan of Canowindra) and Pamela (Orange) and two grandchildren. An infant son Anthony predeceased him by four years. He is also survived by four brothers Alexander (Barney); Arthur and Alan of Orange and William (Sydney) and one sister Peggy (Mrs Lyle Williams (Orange)). Two brothers Laurie and Stuart, predeceased him. For the greater part of his working life he was connected with the motor trade as a garage proprietor, taxi and drive yourself car proprietor, and for many years as an insurance loss assessor throughout Western N.S.W. He was managing director of Canobolas Caravan Motel Ltd. from its foundation in 1955. He was an ex-member of Orange Apex Club and a past president of Orange High School P & C. Association. The large gathering at Holy Trinity Church on Saturday afternoon and later at the interment in the Church of England portion of the Orange cemetery, together with the many floral tributes was ample witness to the high regard in which Mr Mackenzie was held by those who were privileged to know him best.

*Central Western Daily* - 4/9/1963: Death of Mr J.M. Mallon.

A former Casino man who had spent the past 15 years in Orange, Mr Joseph Matthew Mallon, died at his home in Kenna St, yesterday aged 65. Mr Mallon was well-known in stock circles as one of Orange City Council's saleyards staff. He is survived by a brother Jack of Vaulcuse two

sisters, Mrs Harris of Anson St., Orange and Mrs McDonald of Casino and a daughter Joanna Mary of Orange. Mr Mallon began his career near his home town of Casino at the Government Experiment Farm at Wollongbar. He was eventually promoted to the head of the stud piggery section of the farm, a post which he retained for a number of years, Farm Manager. He then moved to Sydney where he took up the position of farm manager of pigs and cattle at former Federal Minister Sir Frederick Stewart's property. During the 10 years he spent there he took many prizes at the Royal Sydney and Brisbane Shows. Mr Mallon was also appointed chief steward of the Parramatta Show Society during his time in Sydney. Later he started a stud farm at Camden for former Daily Telegraph sub-editor Mr J. McBride. In Orange, Mr Mallon started as leading pig buyer for Rogers Meat Works and later joined the saleyards staff of Orange City Council, a position he retained until his death. Mr Mallon was a ring steward for Orange Show Society and clerk of the course for Orange Jockey Club. He was held in high regard by all who came in contact with him. Mr Mallon's funeral will leave St. Joseph's Church for Orange cemetery.

*Central Western Daily* - 23/12/1965: Obituary. James Martin Boles - Manildra.

The death occurred in Orange Base Hospital last week after a short illness of a well known former Manildra resident Mr James Martin Boles, aged 78. Mr Boles came from Dubbo to undergo a serious operation a few days previously. His health had been failing for the past 12 months. He had been a resident of Dubbo for the past few years. Mr Boles was born at Cargo the son of the late Mr & Mrs William Boles and he spent his early life at Bogan Gate before coming to Manildra with his parents about 40 years ago. He held several jobs while living in the Manildra area. He was a carrier and school conveyance contractor for Toogong Road, children attending Manildra Public School. Mr Boles was well known for the interest he took in organising dances, particularly oldtime dances. He served in Europe in the 1914-18 War and suffered disabilities from wounds. Interment took place in the Catholic portion of the Meranbrun Cemetery after prayers and recitation of the Rosary at St. Michael's Church Manildra. Rev. Father Bevan of Orange officiated at the church and graveside and pall bearers were Mr Boles' four nephews Messrs C.W. Hayes; H. Perks; W. Boles and W.D. Williamson. Surviving him are three brothers, Patrick (Campbelltown); Leo (Hurstville Grove) and Gregory (Parkes) and five sisters Mrs Howard (Sydney); Mrs Perks (Millthorpe) Mrs Kelly (Sydney); Mrs E. Williamson (Manildra) and Mrs C.P. Hayes (Manildra). Three brother William; John and Basil and one sister, Mrs Pittis predeceased him.

## **NATIONAL ARCHIVES**

People may not be aware that you can access some post office records on the National Archives of Australia website.

Just enter the name of the post office in the Basic Search, and if there is a notepad symbol displayed, you can view the records. So far I have found records for Byng, Cadia, Murga and East Orange Post Offices.

## DAFFODIL FARM MEMORIES



*Daffodil Farm visit by the Ellis family of Orange*

A recent enquiry took the Library team down memory lane when we were asked about Daffodil Farm at Nashdale. We found a newspaper reference to an article in the *Central Western Daily* in 1959 referring to it as a “showpiece”. The article was about the Watt family Golden Wedding Anniversary celebrations for Mr and Mrs Joseph Watts who had lived at the farm for more than 50 years. The youngest guest was their baby grandson David.

We put the call out to the Family History Group and The Old Orange Crew facebook pages to discover people who remembered the farm in Mount Lofty Road Nashdale, located next door to another tourist drawcard called Once Upon a Time Land. The search for information was brought to life when the Ellis family shared a photo showing a paddock full of blooming daffodil bulbs.

Dave Watts (the grandson from the newspaper article) recalled growing up on the Daffodil Farm with his parents David and Iris Watts, Grandmother Mabel June Feltham Watts and Aunt Marge.

*“We had a happy childhood - the six of us. We had plenty of room to run around. We used to ride our bikes to Nashdale School. Our grandmother brought lots of bulbs out from England. They built the house with slats of wattle and mud stuck in between with a high-pitched roof and no ceiling and worked hard on the farm. It was a beautiful little property,”* he recalled.

*“We had to pick the daffodils and bunch them up and send them off in flat cartons. Sometimes we would load up bunches and sell them in Post Office Lane, Orange.”*

*“You never forget the smell. There’s not a more beautiful aroma than a golden spray of daffodils and jonquils,”* he reminisced.



1959 Central Western Daily article

Dave also mentioned his grandmother contributed information to a Lions Club time capsule buried in Robertson Park in 1974. It is due to be unearthed on 29 June 2023 and we look forward to learning more about Mabel Watts' life on the famous Nashdale Daffodil Farm.



Lions Club time capsule plaque in Robertson Park, Orange

As a result of all the research, the enquirer was put in touch with family members currently researching the Watt family history and they plan to visit the farm's Nashdale location.

## WILLIAM WRANGHAM

A chance find while researching WW1 soldiers for the Centenary in Orange led to unravelling the story of an ordinary man doing "his bit" for the war effort.

The following article appeared in the *Orange Leader* on the 18 May 1921:

*Digger's lonely death at the hospital yesterday. William Wrangham, a returned digger, passed away after suffering from wounds received and being gassed in the recent war. The Returned Soldiers' Club were notified of the sad end and also informed that deceased was a stranger to the town, he would have been buried as a pauper, but the Diggers of Orange have arranged to give their late comrade a fit and proper burial and the secretary asks all returned men who possibly came to attend the funeral, which will leave the hospital this morning. Deceased had been visiting about the district for some time. He was aged 56 years.*

William Wrangham was born in Whitehaven Cumbria England on the 12 June 1865 to George and Isabella Wrangham. What prompted him to come to Australia is unknown but he arrived in Victoria via "*Liguria*" in August 1886. He stayed in Victoria for eight years before travelling on to Albany in Western Australia arriving March 1894 via "*Gabo*". Gold had been discovered in Kalgoorlie in 1893 and perhaps he thought that the prospect of making his fortune was better in Western Australia than it had been in Victoria. Electoral Rolls and advertisements in the *Coolgardie Miner* in 1898 revealed he became a carrier/contractor in Norseman owning a jinker (trailer) for moving houses.

War broke out in Europe in 1914. William attested at the Blackboy Hill Camp, about 22klms from Perth, in Western Australia on 29 December 1915. He gave his age as 44 years but in reality, he was 50 years old by this time. He was described as 5 feet 8 inches tall and weighing 140 lbs with dark complexion, grey hair and grey eyes. He gave his brother-in-law Mr J Myers in England as his next-of-kin. Recorded as SN5454, he formed part of the 17<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion and on the 17 April 1916, he boarded HMAT A60 *Aeneas* bound for England and then onto the Western Front in France.

According to his war record, he acted as a driver and for some time was driving for the Australian Army Veterinary Hospital both in England and in Calais. He was hospitalised several times in 1917 but his record does not state the reason. He did manage to forfeit 2 days pay for "overstaying furlough" in France on the 26 April 1917.

William's health deteriorated, he returned to Australia per HT *Balmoral Castle* on the 1 Feb 1918. He was discharged as medically unfit on the 12 April 1918. By this time his age was recorded correctly as 53.

For his 19 months service in France William Wrangham was awarded the 1914-1915 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

One must ask how a man born in England and working in Western Australia ended up in Orange. Perhaps a clue comes from one of the witnesses mentioned on his death certificate, L.R. Anlezark. Leslie Reginald Anlezark had joined the Coo-ee March from Gilgandra to Sydney

in 1915 and went on to serve in France and Belgium. Leslie too was hospitalised several times in 1917 and perhaps the two became friends and he invited William to Orange for a visit or to work.

William died in Orange Base Hospital on the 17 May 1921. He never married.

Searches on Ancestry located a family tree mentioning William Wrangham's family. A sister Ann was wife of Mr J Myers mentioned as next-of-kin in his war record and also named in William's will as beneficiary. Two descendants of Ann have now been located, one in Braidwood New South Wales and one in Ballarat Victoria.

As stated in the above newspaper article, the Returned Soldiers Club of Orange organised a burial befitting a returned soldier. However, no marker was ever placed on his grave so for almost one hundred years, William Wrangham has lain forgotten in the Church of England section of the Orange Cemetery until the above newspaper article was discovered in 2018.

It did not seem proper that a WW1 soldier should be found and not have his grave officially marked. On the 18 December 2019 an application was made to the Australian War Graves Commission for official commemoration to be placed on his grave. On the 5 June 2020 this application was granted. As it stands now William's details have been forwarded to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to be added to the Debt of Honour database. Once this is complete an application form will be provided for a commemoration to mark his grave in Orange Cemetery.

Sharon Jameson  
Orange Family History Group

## **AN OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT**

*Leader* (Orange, NSW : 1899 - 1945), Wednesday 23 January 1907, page 2

### **A YOUNG OVERLANDER**

Master Archie Danvers, the thirteen year old son of Mr. Danvers, of the Club House Hotels (says the *Wellington Times*) has put up a rare performance for a young Australian. Having lost a couple of horses, which were bred in the Tumut district and were evidently making their way home with that instinct which is typical of most animals, Mr. Danvers sent Archie in search of them on Monday. He traced them as far as Molong, and then wired for instructions as to whether he should continue the chase. "Go on," replied Mr. Danvers, and Archie did so with vengeance. The horses had a fortnight's start, but with the grit that characterises an overland drover the lad followed the trail and picked his way, and after passing through Cowra, Young and Cootamundra, and numerous other places en-route, he came up with his quarry at Gundagai on Friday night, at 10.30, from which town he wired to that effect. He had them safely yarded there, and after a day or two's rest with his relatives at Tumut, he returned with the strays. By the way Archie says that he and his brown pony arrived at the end of the long journey, of 300 miles, as fit as a fiddle. It is performance of unusual interest. (We learn today that one of the recovered horses is a thoroughbred filly, belonging to Mr. Thomas McCormick, of Orange, and late of Wellington. Ed. *Leader*.)

## **HAVE YOU EVER FOUND THAT YOU COULD NOT LOCATE A DEATH RECORD IN THE BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES REGISTRY?**

I found the following article in the *Orange Leader* 5/2/1936:

TAKEN BY SHARK - tragedy at South Steyne - Body not recovered.

Sydney. Tuesday.

David Paton (14) disappeared while surfing near the rocks at South Steyne, Manly this afternoon and is believed to have been taken by a shark. So far no portion of the body has been recovered, but a bloodstained patch of water bore evidence of a tragedy. Paton, who lived at Manly, went to the beach with Benjamin Redfern (14) and another lad immediately after school was dismissed. They were surfing between 150 and 200 yards from the beach when Redfern heard a swish in the water and a cry "*Oh, my god*". He looked around and saw the tail of a shark, while the water was stained with deep red, but there was no sign of Paton.

Redfern said he swam to the spot where he had last seen Paton and searched for a minute or two and then returned to the beach for help. Dudley Beer, well-known Rugby Union footballer, who was on duty as beach inspector, organised a search. Despite danger, Beer swam out from the rocks and searched the spot where Paton disappeared without success and then returning to the beach, assisted other members of the Manly Surf Lifesaving Club, who went out in a boat armed with harpoons.

Subsequently another boat also went out, while an aeroplane was ordered to fly over the scene in an endeavour to locate Paton, but nothing was seen of him. Eye witnesses said that Paton was about ten yards further out than Redfern when he was taken by the shark. Frank Davies was watching from the beach and the boat was within 30 yards of the victim when a breaker half lifted Paton from the water, which was deeply bloodstained, Paton then disappeared. There was no sign of him when the surf boat covered the remaining distance.

END

David's body was never found and his death was not recorded in Births, Deaths and Marriages. The only information available was found in newspapers on Trove and a plaque at Northern Suburbs Memorial Park.

His father was William Charles Paton (1883-1954), a produce merchant at Orange. He married Ethel Alice Paton (nee Purdie, 1891-1937) as reported in the *Orange Leader*, 6/11/1913. They lived at 62 Byng St, Orange. David's older brother, John Charles Paton, was born in Orange on 25 September 1914, he married Joan Charlton Smith in 1941 and was killed in a flying battle in Germany on active RAAF Service 9/3/1945. He is buried in Reichswald Forest War Cemetery in Kleve, Germany. Nora Kitner (nee Paton) was David's sister. She was born in Orange in 1916 and married Clifford Rodney Kitner who was a USA serviceman. Unlike her brothers, she lived a long life and died in 2015.

Sadly for David Purdie Paton, his short life from 1921-1936 is described on the plaque only as 'Lost off Manly Beach', and apparently lost from the official records of Births, Deaths and Marriages too.

## **OLD AGE, I DECIDED, IS A GIFT**

I am now, probably for the first time in my life, the person I have always wanted to be. Oh, not my body! I sometimes despair over my body ... the wrinkles, the baggy eyes, and the sagging butt. And often I am taken aback by that old person that lives in my mirror, but I don't agonize over those things for long. In Ed's eyes I am still the svelte gal he married. Who am I to question his Judgement.

I would never trade my amazing friends. My wonderful life, my loving family for less grey hair or a flatter belly. As I've aged, I've become more kind to myself, and less critical of myself. I've become my own friend. I don't chide myself for eating that extra cookie, or for not making my bed, or for buying that silly cement Frog That I didn't need but looks so Avant-garde on my patio. I am entitled to overeat, to be messy, to be extravagant. I have seen too many dear friends leave this world too soon; before they understood the great freedom that comes with aging. Whose business is it if I choose to read or play on the computer until 4 a.m... and sleep until noon? That's me, Rose, the midnight owl. I love it being awake when everyone else is snoozing.

I will dance with myself to those wonderful tunes of the 60's. I will watch those Korean Soap Operas that I adore and cry over some sad movie....I will walk the beach in a swimsuit that is stretched over my bulging body, and will dive into the waves with abandon if I choose to, despite the pitying glances from the bikini set.. Who cares...

Hell, they too will get old...

I know I am sometimes forgetful. But there again, some of life is just as well forgotten and I eventually remember the important things.

Sure, over the years my heart has been broken.

How can your heart not break when you lose a loved one, or when a child suffers, or even when a beloved pet gets hit by a car? But broken hearts are what give us strength and understanding and compassion. A heart never broken, pristine and sterile and will never know the joy of being imperfect. I am so blessed to have lived long enough to have my hair turn grey (tinted brown) and to have my youthful laughs be forever etched into deep grooves on my face. So many have never laughed, and so many have died before their hair could turn silver. I can say "no" and mean it. I can say "yes" and mean it.

As you get older. it is easier to be positive.

You care less about what other people think.

I don't question myself anymore.

I've even earned the right to be wrong.

I like being old.

It has set me free.

I like the person I have become.

I am not going to live forever, but while I am still here,

I will not waste time lamenting what could have been or worrying about what will be, and I shall eat dessert every single day.

So, to all my friends.... Live It UP, There might not be any tomorrow, Cul.. Rose.

By Rose Kane 2006 <http://oldageidecidedisagift.com/contact.html>

# *My Mean Mother*

*I had the meanest Mother in the world  
While other kids had lollies for breakfast, I had to eat cereal,  
eggs and toast.  
While other kids had cans of drink and lollies for lunch,  
I had to have a sandwich.  
As you can guess my dinner was not only different from  
other kids - I had to eat it at a table and not in front of television.*

*My Mother also insisted knowing where we were at all times.  
You'd think we were on a chain or something.  
She had to know who our friends were, where we were going,  
and even told us what time we had to be home.*

*I'm ashamed to admit it, but my Mother actually had the nerve  
to break child labour laws.  
She made us wash dishes, make our beds and even learn to cook.  
That woman must have stayed awake at nights, just thinking up  
things for us kids to do.*

*By the time we were teenagers our whole life became even more  
unbearable.  
Our old-fashioned Mother refused to let us date before we were  
15, and then insisted that the boys had to come to the door to  
collect girls from our family instead of tooting the car horn for  
them to come running.*

*She really raised a bunch of squares.  
None of us kids was ever arrested for shoplifting or busted for  
dope  
And who do we thank for this?  
You're right - Our Mean Mother.  
Everyday we hear cries from our people and politicians about  
what our country really needs.  
What our country really needs, is more*

## *Mothers like mine*

contributed by Jenny Gillard

## THE WHILEY STORY

The Whiley Story begins in the towns of Friskney and Wainfleet, Lincolnshire, England with Samuel Whiley and Mary Stephenson (married 17 October 1786), who were quite influential farmers and business people in the area. One of their sons William who married Betsey Whiting (married 13 June 1809), they had seven children:

1. Mary born 5 May 1810, died 9 August 1811
2. John born 12 January 1812
3. Michael born 11 October 1813
4. Isaac born 16 April 1816
5. Mary born 15 September 1817
6. George born 18 March 1821
7. Joshua born 14 June 1853

George married Susanna Maidens and the couple emigrated on the ship "Mary Ann" arriving in Sydney on 30 August 1840, he was a Cord winder by trade. The couple had a couple of children when Susanna died in childbirth in 1852 at Penrith. Twelve months later George married Mary Colless on 24 June 1853. Mary was the descendant of convicts.

George's brothers Isaac and Joshua also emigrated to Australia, Isaac with his wife Mary Holland and their children on the ship "City of Edinborough" and Joshua with his wife Mary Baldock and their 6 children on the ship "Stornaway".

Later their mother Betsey also came to Australia on the ship "Dublin" landing in Sydney on 1 November 1844 after her husband committed suicide. Betsey remained in the Blacktown area until she died on 18 November 1867 and she is buried at the Prospect Cemetery beside the church.

The three brothers moved over the Blue Mountains to Bathurst and they drove bullock carts to the Hill End gold fields with supplies for the miners. After making money doing this for a few years the brothers obtained Publicans licences and ran the Railway and Wagoner's Inn hotels in Bathurst for a few years before Isaac moved to Redfern and invested in property. While George and Joshua came out to Orange. Joshua obtained land at Milthorpe and ran a farm called "Locklea", this farm is now being run by his grandson Peter Whiley.

George bought up quite a lot of properties within the town and a farm at Spring Hill. George was worth a considerable fortune when he died on the 19 November 1891, he is buried in an unmarked grave at the Orange Cemetery and his wife Mary died 9 May 1866 and is buried at the Pretty Plains Cemetery. George's family fought over the estate and after a considerable court case there was very little left for the family to inherit. George and Mary's son George was well known in the district as Ploughman George after winning many awards for his ploughing abilities.

Therese Lloyd  
Orange Family History Group

## DEAR ANCESTOR

Your tombstone stands among the rest  
Neglected and alone  
The name and date are chiselled out  
On polished marble stone  
It reaches out to all who care  
It is too late to mourn  
You did not know that I exist  
You died and I was born

Yet each of us are cells of you  
In flesh and blood and bone  
Our blood contracts and beats a pulse  
Entirely not our own

Dear Ancestor ... the place you filled  
One hundred years ago  
Spreads out among the ones you left  
Who would have loved you so  
I wonder If you lived and loved  
I wonder if you knew  
That someday I would find this spot and come to visit you.

Author unknown

## NO FOOTPRINTS IN THE SANDS OF TIME

It's nice to come from gentle folks who wouldn't stoop to brawl,  
Who never took a lusty poke at anyone at all.  
Who never raised a raucous shout at any country inn,  
Or calmed an ugly fellow lout with a belaying pin.  
Who never shot at a revenuer hunting for a still,  
Who never rustled cattle and agreed with Uncle's will.  
Who lived life as they ought without uncouth distraction,  
And shunned like leprosy a thought of taking legal action.  
It's nice to come from gentle folks who've never known disgrace  
But oh, though scandal is no joke it's far easier to trace.

By Virginia Scott Miner

<https://www.makefunoflife.net/generations/no-footprints-on-the-sands-of-time>

## CENSUS TAKER

It was the first day of census, and all through the land;  
The pollster was ready ... a black book in hand.  
He mounted his horse for a long dusty ride;  
His book and some quills were tucked close by his side.  
A long winding ride down a road barely there;  
Toward the smell of fresh bread wafting, up through the air.

The woman was tired, with lines on her face;  
And wisps of brown hair she tucked back into place.  
She gave him some water ... as they sat at the table;  
And she answered his questions ... the best she was able.  
He asked of her children... Yes, she had quite a few;  
The oldest was twenty, the youngest not two.

She held up a toddler with cheeks round and red;  
his sister, she whispered, was napping in bed.  
She noted each person who lived there with pride;  
And she felt the faint stirrings of the wee one inside.  
He noted the sex, the color, the age...  
The marks from the quill soon filled up the page.

At the number of children, she nodded her head;  
And saw her lips quiver for the three that were dead.  
The places of birth she "never forgot";  
Was it Kansas? or Utah? or Oregon ... or not?  
They came from Scotland, of that she was clear;  
But she wasn't quite sure just how long they'd been here.

They spoke of employment, of schooling and such;  
They could read some .and write some . though really not much.  
When the questions were answered, his job there was done;  
So he mounted his horse and he rode toward the sun.  
We can almost imagine his voice loud and clear;  
"May God bless you all for another ten years."

Now picture a time warp ... its' now you and me;  
As we search for the people on our family tree.  
We squint at the census and scroll down so slow;  
As we search for that entry from long, long ago.  
Could they only imagine on that long ago day;  
That the entries they made would effect us this way?

If they knew, would they wonder at the yearning we feel;  
And the searching that makes them so increasingly real.  
We can hear if we listen the words they impart;  
Through their blood in our veins and their voice in our heart.

By Darlene Stevens

### **MISS ME – BUT LET ME GO**

When I come to the end of the road  
And the sun has set for me  
I want no rites in a gloom filled room  
Why cry for a soul set free

Miss me a little, but not too long  
And not with your head bowed low  
Remember the love that we have shared  
Miss me – but let me go.

For this is a journey that we all must take  
And each one must go alone  
It's all a part of the Masters plan  
A step on the road to home

When you are lonely and sick of heart  
Go to the friends you know  
And bury your sorrows in doing good deeds  
Miss me – but let me go.

Author unknown