



ORANGE FAMILY HISTORY GROUP NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2019



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*Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year!*

DIGITISATION OF WORLD WAR II SERVICE RECORDS

The Australian Government has provided \$10 million in funding to the National Archives of Australia to digitise 850,000 World War II service records over the next four years. The digitisation is due to start early 2020. Army and Air Force records from four series (B883, B884, A9300 and A9301) will be digitised and made freely available online through the National Archives' website. The current digitisation on demand services will continue to be available for a fee. This project will ensure Australians have easier access to records that help tell the stories of the service and sacrifice of those who came before us.

Information obtained from SAG-E October 2019

Jan Richards
Orange Family History Group

VALE – ORANGE FAMILY HISTORY GROUP MEMBER – EDITH MYRAM ‘SUE’ GRIFFIN

It was with great sadness that we report the death of Orange Family History Group member Edith Myram ‘Sue’ Griffin (nee Morthorpe) on 3 November 2019. Sue was an active member of the Group from its inception in 1988 until her death.

Sue is best remembered by members of the Group for her outstanding information finding skills, and for many years Sue was Research Officer and Newsletter Editor. At her funeral her granddaughter recounted how family road trips included visits to cemeteries to do a little transcribing.

Born in Eugowra, Sue spent most of her life in Orange and was a font of knowledge about the City. A keen photographer, she also captured events on film and some of these have made their way into local publications. We extend our sympathies to her daughter Diane, son Lyle and their families. Sue will be greatly missed.



EXCERPT FROM SHOALHAVEN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC TIME TRAVELLER - AUGUST 2019

Victorian Birth, Death and Marriages (VIC BDM):

In early 2019, the Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, launched a new website <https://www.bdm.vic.gov.au/research-and-family-history/search-your-family-history>

For family history searches. This new website has greatly restricted the functionality and search flexibility, when compared to the previous system. The registry has acknowledged the limitations and “will implement service improvements as part of the continuous improvement of our online services. Some updates will occur quickly, others will be implemented over time.” In the meantime, if you have a large Victorian connection to research, it is probably easier to set aside some time to visit Pyree and dust off “Digger” or the fiche cards, before getting online.

The AIF Project: <https://aif.adfa.edu.au/aif/>

This has been around for years. It is a great initial search tool if you are researching a WW1 soldier who embarked. Recently included an additional three search field options.

Chronicling America:

The Library of Congress website <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>

This has over 15 million pages of Historic American Newspapers to search for free. The digitized newspapers are drawn from all over America and are currently between the years 1789-1963. Well worth a visit even if you don't have American ancestors.

WieWasWie (Who Was Who):

The Netherlands WieWasWie, while technically not new, it has a new name and webpage.

Formerly www.genlias.nl this old site will redirect to the new website <http://wiewaswie.nl> . First noted in our April 2012 edition, this is an amazing website if you have Dutch ancestry. There is an EN (English) button for those of us who need it! Simple searches are free, or there are a couple of low cost subscription options. From its infancy, the website has grown to include over 200 million names from 22 participating institutions, including National and Regional Archives, with many of the records digitized. The basics to remember: BS Overlijden (death), BS Huwelijk (marriage), BS Geboorte (birth) and Bevolkingsregister (population register aka census), and that, *“Every day new personal data records are added to WieWasWie.”*

Balmain Cemetery: <https://balmaincemetery.org> .

Again another website featured in the April 2012 edition of the Time Traveler. The website provides a burial register of the more than 10,000 people interred between 1868 to 1912. Even if you don't have an ancestor buried here, there is a must watch, 1.43 minute film of the destruction of the cemetery (<https://balmaincemetery.org/about-the-cemetery.html>) - every family historian's worst nightmare!

**EXCERPT FROM CLEVELAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL JULY 2019
(Vol 14, No 3) Page 23**

Getting to the Hartas of the Matter

Back in 2000 Ian Hartas set up Cheshire BMD website. Yorkshire, Lancashire and many other regions of the country followed and this loosely coupled set of websites became known as the Local BMD Project. Alongside of this he set up the UKBMD website as a means tying all of these websites together. Skipping forward nearly two decades, he took the plunge and had his DNA tested. The results have it that he is 71% English, centred on Yorkshire and the north east of England, 15% Irish/Scottish and 14% Norwegian. The 71% English element is easy to understand as all the research that he had done pointed back to Yorkshire and Durham. He was also put in touch with a lady, Dianne Bartlam, who has Hartas family in her direct line. Dianne had registered the name with the Guild of One-name Studies and has delved deeply into several Hartas branches.

Ian volunteered to set up a one-name study website for the Hartas name and all of its variants. This website is now open to researchers and contains collected sets of various data, consolidated into one place and corrected in many cases by comparing multiple sources. The long term aim is to enhance this website to make it the one-stop-shop for all things related to the Hartas name.

Do you have Hartas family in any of your trees? If so they would love to hear from you with a view to sharing information. Contact Ian at <http://hartas.name/>

<https://one-name.org> for the Guild of One-name Studies.

<https://UKBMD.org.uk> for the UKBMD website, which has links to the various local BMD websites on its Local BMD page.

PROGRESS TO DATE - ORANGE CEMETERY DATABASE

As at 19 November 2019 the Orange cemetery database has:

- 25,456 entries
- 14,558 entries with photos attached
 - ❖ Roman Catholic 9,945 entries, 7,194 have photos
 - ❖ Church of England 6,818 entries, 1,454 have photos
 - ❖ Methodist 2,714 entries, 1,878 have photos
 - ❖ Anglican 1,969 entries, 1,678 have photos
 - ❖ Presbyterian 1,901 entries, 679 have photos
 - ❖ Total no of photos 19,011

Please contact the Orange Family History Group if you would like any further information.

LAND HOLDERS IN ORANGE AREA 1885

From return to Legislative Assembly.

Showing name, name of Holding, and nearest Post Town.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Bailey, Edwin T | Spring Mount Vittoria |
| Beauchamp, Stephen | Kerr's Creek, Orange |
| Bergwanna, Henry | Springside, Orange |
| Berry, Arch. Campbell | Inglesby Lodge, Millthorpe |
| Blood, Richard | Jackson's Swamp, Vittoria |
| Bourke, M. | Milthorpe, Millthorpe |
| Bowyer, Mary | Pretty Plains, Lucknow |
| Bourke, * | Rosedale Paddocks, Orange |
| Burns, Mary, Mrs | Guyong, Guyong |
| Caldwell, George | Cargo Road, Orange |
| Cantrill, John | Borneo, Orange |
| Capps, Robt. | Kings Plains, Guyong |
| Carroll, W. J. | Lucknow, Lucknow |
| Cashen, William | King's Plains, Vittoria |
| Cole, Ths. | Gosling Creek, Orange |
| Cornwell, Francis | Tremearne, Lucknow |
| Coulson, * | Rosedale Paddocks, Orange |
| Dalton, James | Amsterdown, Orange |
| Dean, Saml. Sen | Greyham's Town, Milthorpe |
| Denham, E | Broken Shaft Creek, Orange |
| Denning, Jas. | Emu Swamp, Orange |
| Eslick, Richard | Springside, Orange |
| Eslick, Stephen | Springside, Orange |
| Eve, Saml. | Milthorpe, Milthorpe |
| Ezzy, Mary | Spring Grove, Milthorpe |
| Fairs, Fred. | Pretty Plains, Guyong |
| Fardy, Matthew | Greyham's Town, Milthorpe |
| Finch, C. H., Mrs. | Wiiow Bank, Kite-st, Orange |
| Fisher, Ed. | Fair View, Orange |
| Fisher, S. J. | Guyong, Guyong |
| Frape, John | Milthorpe, Milthorpe |
| Frost, Robt. | Campdale, Orange |
| Fuller, Alfred | Spring Mount, Vittoria |
| Fuller, Robt. | Brooklin Farm, Gorman's Hill, Orange |
| Giles, Edward | Springside, Orange |
| Glasson, Josh. | Womersley, Guyong |
| Glasson, Richard | Guyong, Guyong |
| Goodie, George | Spring Grove, Milthorpe |
| Goodman, Charles | Spring Creek, Vittoria |
| Harvey, George | Byng, Guyong |
| Harvey, Lewis | Byng, Guyong |
| Harvey, Thomas | Byng, Guyong |
| Hawke, Wm. | Byng, Guyong |
| Hawkins, John | Milthorpe, Milthorpe |
| Hazell, Charles | Greyham,s Town, Milthorpe |
| Hazell, James | Spring Grove, Milthorpe |
| Hennessy, Pat. | Spring Creek, Orange |
| Herrick, John | Orange, Orange |
| Hetherington, Christ. | Forest Hill, Orange |
| Hicks, Joseph | Foveat, Orange |

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Huzart, Peter | Foveat, Orange |
| James, W. H. | Guyong, Guyong |
| Jones, Arthur | Orange Town, Common, Orange |
| Kelly, John | Spring Grove, Milthorpe |
| Kerr, A. T. | Wellwood, Orange |
| Kerr, Donald | Emu Swamp, Orange |
| Kingham, Charles | Wattle Farm, Milthorpe |
| Kingham, George | Spring Grove, Milthorpe |
| Lane, W. G. | Orange, Orange |
| Lister, J. H. | Pretty Plains, Lucknow |
| Maxwell, John | Vittoria, Vittoria |
| McLachlan, J. C. | Walaroy, Orange |
| Milne, George | Vittoria, Vittoria |
| Miskeh, Jeremiah | Guyong, Guyong |
| Monder, John | Guyong, Guyong |
| Morgan, Stephen | Guyong, Guyong |
| Morgan, Stephen | Guyong, Guyong |
| Murphy, Denis | Guyong, Guyong |
| Naylor, * | Rosedale Paddocks, Orange |
| Oben, B | Rose Hill, Milthorpe |
| Old, Thos. | Vittoria, Vittoria |
| Pendray, Wm, Jno. | Trangoff, Vittoria |
| Roach, Charlotte | Guyong, Guyong |
| Rock, Michael | Vittoria, Vittoria |
| Rodwell, Charles | Rosebud Farm, Guyong |
| Rose, Matther | Guyong, Guyong |
| Rotton, J. B. | Orange, Orange |
| Sands, George | Spring Grove, Milthorpe |
| Scott Robt. | Spring Hill, Lucknow |
| Slater, George | Ophir, Orange |
| Smith, J. W. | Emmaville, Orange |
| Smith, John, Hon., M. L. A. | Rosedale, Orange |
| Tarlton, Wm. | Byng, Guyong |
| Tatlor, Edward | Pretty Plains, Lucknow |
| Thomas, Francis | Guyong, Guyong |
| Tom, Nicolas | Woodville, Byng, Guyong |
| Toner, W. | Guyong, Guyong |
| Townsend, John, Senr. | Pretty Plains, Guyong |
| Treweek, Fred. | Trengowan, Clifton Grove, Orange |
| Waddell, J. A. | Grove Farm, Guyong |
| Walkom, Charles | Vittoria, Vittoria |
| Webb, T. G. Estate late | Springfield, Byng, Guyong |
| Webster, A. J. J. | Ophir, Ophir |
| Whiley, Joshua | Milthorpe, Milthorpe |
| Whiley, Joshua | Milthorpe, Milthorpe |
| Whitlock, Charles | Vittoria, Vittoria |
| Whittmee, Wm | Spring Hill, Spring Hill |
| Wilcox, Robt. | Springside, Orange |
| Willes, Mark | Milthorpe, Milthorpe |
| Williams, John | Spring Terrace, Orange |
| Williams, Wm. | Emu Swamp, Orange |
| Wise, C. | Milthorpe, Milthorpe |
| Wise, W. H. | Guyong, Guyong |
| Woolard, Isaac | Milthorpe, Milthorpe |

UPDATE - CENTENARY OF WWI IN ORANGE

The Centenary of WWI in Orange project drew to a close just over a year ago, with the centenary of the signing of the Armistice on 11 November 1918. It is hard to believe that a year has passed since the re-enactment of the Armistice celebrations in Orange, which was the final event in the WWI commemorative program developed by the Orange City Council World War I Centenary Community Committee.

Since then two family history volunteers have continued to research the district's WWI servicemen and women as identified on the Centenary of WWI in Orange blog: <http://www.centenaryww1orange.com.au/>

Determined to pay tribute to each and every one of the district's WWI service personnel Sharon Jameson and Margaret Nugent have worked tirelessly to compile a database containing information about 2,040 service personnel. The database contains military records, birth, death and marriage records and, where available, relevant newspaper articles etc.

This has been a significant undertaking and has resulted in the creation of an invaluable resource for family historians. Thank you Sharon and Margaret for your dedication and commitment!

Please contact Orange City Library if you have an enquiry about a WWI serviceman or woman. Telephone 6393 8120 or email library@orange.nsw.gov.au

IRISH FAMINE ORPHANS

A new book, *'Fair Delinquents?': Irish famine orphans of colonial Bathurst and beyond* by Leonie Glynn Blair and Perry McIntyre, 2019, Eitherside Publications, was launched at Bathurst Entertainment Centre on Friday 15 November 2019. I was unable to attend. However my husband and I met the author Leonie Blair, in Bathurst and purchased a copy the night before, when we met attending family from Albury.

During the Irish Famine over 4,000 Irish teenage girls were sent to Australia from the Irish Poor Law workhouses. This book follows some of those Irish girls who ended up in Bathurst and beyond.

My husband David is related to Elizabeth Kennifick from County Cork. She left the Midleton Workhouse in December 1849 arriving in Sydney aboard the "John Knox" in April 1850.

She met and had a family with Moses Sykes, a convict who lived at Summer Hill just outside Orange. We wondered how she ended up in the Orange/Bathurst area after landing first at Hyde Park Barracks. *Fair Delinquents?* throws some light on this. Some of the girls were sent to Bathurst Immigration Centre and perhaps Elizabeth was one. Unfortunately, the Disposal List for the "John Knox" 1850 is missing from the NSW State Records. This would have listed who Elizabeth Kennifick would have been apprenticed to.

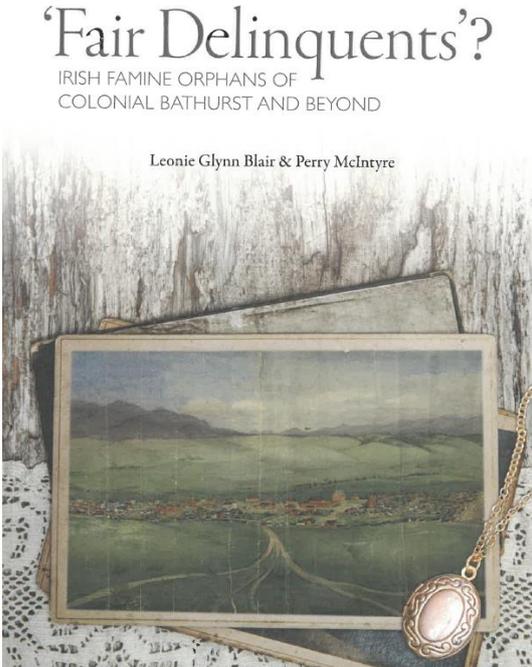
We have recently returned from an overseas trip where we visited Midleton, County Cork, to see if the Midleton Workhouse still existed and were lucky enough to find that it did. It became a hospital in the 1920s and today is Midleton Community Hospital. One of the nurses took us on a tour of the grounds and through the chapel.

On a visit to Cork County Archives, David and I viewed the workhouse register for the beginning of 1849. Unfortunately, the register for the second half of 1849 was missing. We

concentrated on the surname Kenniffick hoping to find Elizabeth but with no luck. We found other Kennifficks and noted these entries.



David and Julie Sykes at Cork County Archives



'Fair Delinquents' book cover



Midleton Community Hospital showing buildings from Midleton Workhouse

MURIEL MYEE NICHOLSON (NEE STEINBECK). STEINBECK

Central Western Daily - 22/7/1982: page 14.

Death Notice – Nicholson (Steinbeck) Muriel Myee 20/7/1985 at hospital, Orange.

Late of "Araluen" Culya Road, Orange. Wife of Brian. Mother of Jan (Mrs Stewart, Sydney). Godmother of John Steinbeck. Sister of Clare (Mrs Lyons, Pearl Beach) and Bill and Ted Steinbeck (both deceased). Born 22/7/1913.

Central Western Daily:- 22/7/1982: page 3.

Death of Former Actress.



Former actress, broadcaster and media personality Miss Muriel Steinbeck, died in Orange on Tuesday night after a long illness. She was renowned in Australian theatrical circles as a great beauty and had been involved in every facet of theatre, radio, television and film during her long career. Muriel Steinbeck lived with her husband Mr Brian Nicholson, now retired on their small property several kilometers out of Orange. Mr Nicholson said yesterday that his wife had received many offers from overseas film producers after her enormous success in the film *Smithy*, about Charles Kingsford Smith, in which she had starred just after the war with actor, Ron Randall. The film had premiered in Singapore where Miss Steinbeck had been feted. The film offers were rejected by Miss Steinbeck who did not want to leave Mr Nicholson and their families. Miss Steinbeck worked for about six years as a broadcaster with ABC radio 2CR in Orange in the early 1970's. Her programs included 'At home with Muriel Steinbeck' every Friday morning, 'Kaleidoscope' and 'Artistry in Rhythm'. A funeral for Miss Steinbeck will be held tomorrow in Orange.

More information on Australian Dictionary of Biography - Steinbeck Muriel Myee (1913-1982)
Trove Newspapers search "Muriel Steinbeck"

ROBERT JOHN (BOB) BAKER

Below is a photo of my father Robert John (Bob) Baker born 11 December 1920. In the photo is his sister Ena May Baker born 24 December 1915. You will note that in the photo he has a tube coming out of his nose. He would have just recently been discharged from hospital. On the back of the photo my Auntie Ena wrote *Bob very ill from eating peas. They may have been seed peas.*

An article in the Leader dated 9 May 1923 Spring Terrace:

Little Bobbie Baker was brought home last Sunday from Nurse Todd's private hospital where he had been a patient for a fortnight, suffering from an acute bowel complaint. At one time the little fellow's life was almost despaired of, but now I am pleased to say he is on the mend.

He lived to serve in World War II, married and went on to have five children. He loved playing bowls and he died of a heart attack while playing bowls on 8 January 1983.

Looking carefully at a photo may reveal information that may otherwise be overlooked.



Carol Sharp (nee Baker)

DOUBLE MURDER AT FORBES

While doing some family history research I came across an interesting if somewhat gruesome story about a double murder at Forbes in 1935. All the following reports can be found on Trove Newspapers:

***Grenfell Record and Lachlan District Advertiser* 14 October 1935.**

"What is considered to be a case of murder or suicide, or one of the most callous and cold-blooded in the history of the State, was perpetrated on Fitzgerald's Bridge, about a mile and a half from Forbes, on the South Condobolin Road, last Wednesday night, about 8 o'clock. An Italian market gardener, Luigi Origlia, and Mrs Ethel Wells, his neighbor, were shot dead as they were returning home in Mrs Wells' sulky, from the railway station, where Origlia had met her to bring her home from a visit by train to Parkes.

It is believed Origlia either jumped or fell from the sulky, after being shot, while the horse walked on, undisturbed by the sound of the shots, to graze on the far side of the bridge."

***Western Argus* 15 October 1935.**

"All other avenues having proved of little value, the police who are investigating the murder at Forbes of Luigi Origlia (41) and Mrs. Ethel Wells (60), are now searching for the rifle which they believe was used by the murderer. It is stated that if the rifle is found an arrest on the charge of murder will be made within 24 hours. For two days men in boats have been dragging the Lachlan River beneath the bridge where the murder was committed and others, in bare feet, have been wading along the banks.

It is now believed that Origlia and Mrs Wells were killed as result of a quarrel arising out of business dealings, and the motive for the crime was revenge."

Newcastle Sun (NSW: 1918 - 1954), Friday 10 August 1945, page 3

FORBES. — William Robert Bathgate, 47, farmer, was charged today with the murder of Luigi Orilga, 38, Italian, and Mrs. Ethel May Wells, 48, at Forbes on October 9, 1935. He was remanded to August 23.

His arrest followed inquiries during the past weeks by Detective Sergeants Latrobe and Dimmock and Detective Doherty of Sydney, assisted by detectives from Dubbo and Orange. Orilga and Mrs Wells were shot while travelling in a sulky across the Fitzgerald bridge, about a mile from Forbes. The shooting occurred about 8 pm.

Three bullets hit Mrs Wells and two Orilga. Two bullets passed through each body. Investigations at the time showed that Mrs. Wells had been to a Parkes sports meeting and had been picked up at the train by Orilga to be driven to her home, a little distance from where he lived. They were found dead in the sulky by a resident shortly after the shooting.

Grenfell Record and Lachlan District Advertiser (NSW: 1876 - 1951)

Thursday 21 March 1946, page 2

**BATHGATE FOUND GUILTY
FORBES MURDER TRIAL**

William Robert Bathgate, farmer (47), of Forbes, was found guilty and sentenced to death for the murder of an Italian market gardener Luigi Orilga at Forbes, on 3rd October, 1935.

Northern Star (Lismore, NSW: 1876 - 1954), Thursday 30 May 1946, page 5.

FARMER ACQUITTED OF ONE MURDER CHARGE

SYDNEY, Wednesday — William Robert Bathgate (47) farmer, was found not guilty in the Quarter Sessions today of having murdered Luigi Orilga at Forbes in 1935, but was charged immediately afterwards with having murdered Mrs Ethel May Wells.

He was remanded on £500 bail. Orilga and Mrs Wells were shot dead by a .32 rifle near Forbes In 1935. Bathgate was previously convicted of the murder of Orilga, but on an appeal a new trial was granted and at its conclusion the jury found him not guilty.

In statements from the dock before the jury retired, Bathgate said he had made stupid statements and threats but he did not commit the crime. At the same time he said two men, Gillespie and Coatesworth, who had given evidence about his alleged threats, had not given that evidence at the inquest ten years ago and "no doubt had their own motives for giving false evidence against me."

Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Friday 14 June 1946, page 4.

CROWN DROPS MURDER CHARGE

The Crown's decision not to proceed with a 10 year old murder charge against William Robert Bathgate, 47, farmer, of Forbes, was announced by the Clerk of the Peace. Mr R W Hawkins, yesterday.

Bathgate was acquitted at the Central Criminal Court on May 29 of a charge of having murdered Luigi Orilga, 41, at Forbes in October. 1935. He was then charged with having murdered Mrs Ethel Wells 61, at the same time and place.

Orilga and Wells were shot dead in October, 1935 while crossing Fitzgerald Bridge, over the Lachlan River.

In March this year, Bathgate was sentenced to death for the murder of Orilga but appealed, and was acquitted after a fresh trial.

Michael Sharp
Orange Family History Group

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Western Advocate - 20/9/1899: Death of Miss Blackman.

In the death of this lady a very old resident of Orange disappears. Miss Blackman was a resident of Bathurst before she came to Orange and was we understand a governess at Mrs Philipatal's one time well-known school in Bathurst, which turned out so many well-educated young ladies some 45 years ago. Miss Blackman was one time governess to the late Mr B. Nelson's family when they lived in Byng Street in the house at present occupied by Miss Jones. She was responsible for the education of the daughters of the family and also taught them music their proficiency in which showed the devotion and skill of their teacher and the ability of her pupils. Later on Miss Blackman taught music privately and to her many ladies (now grown up) owe their first lessons in the divine art. For many years the deceased lady lived a retired but lonely life, but always managed to support herself in comparative comfort by her own independent exertions. She was not only a well-educated woman, but had a rigorous intellect and almost masculine understanding. She took an unobtrusive though keen interest in politics both local and general and possessed a knowledge of past and current history quite surprising in one so apparently retiring and seemingly unobservant. She was as familiar with the pros and cons of most jubilee questions as most men who interest themselves in public affairs and could discuss them intelligently. For a great many years she led a truly solitary live though by no means indisposed to converse freely with friends and acquaintances when she met them. Miss Eliza Anne Blackman was a native of Sligo, Ireland and the daughter of medical man and her brother was recently chairman of the Land Board at Grafton. She was supposed to be about 70 years of age and the cause of her death was senile decay and weakness of the heart. Though the circle of her acquaintance was small she was highly respected by all who knew her and was esteemed most by those who knew her best.

Leader Orange -10/8/1917: Obituary: Miss M.A. Carter.

Miss Mary Adelaide Carter aged 18 years and 9 months of Sydney died at the Orange District Hospital yesterday. The deceased young lady had been in indifferent health for some time and came to Orange about six weeks ago to spend a holiday. A few days after arrival she contracted a cold, pneumonia pleurisy which caused her death.

**Sydney Morning Herald 10/8/1917 - Carter.—August 9, at Orange, Sarah Adelaide, youngest beloved daughter of Ellen and the late Charles Carter, of Arthur-street, Ashfield (pleurisy), aged 18 years buried 11/8/1917 - St Thomas Cemetery Enfield

***St Thomas Cemetery Enfield - Headstone: S.A. "Tibby" Carter died 10/8/1917 aged 19 years.

Central Western Daily - 22/12/1948: Ballet Dancer in Spain.

Stephanie Edye daughter, of Dr Ben Edye of Sydney who spent his boyhood days in Orange with his parents the late Mr and Mrs Andrew Edye of the Royal Hotel, is dancing in Spain. A niece of Mrs Ken Gavin, of Hill Street. Stephanie has been acclaimed by ballet critics in all her continental appearances. She is staying with the former Spanish Consul to Australia. Senor de Baeza and his family, whom she knew well when they were in Sydney. The young dancer leaves for Canada on January 15.

Central Western Daily - 4/10/1969: Obituary - Mrs Elsie Thomas.

The death occurred on 25th September at Orange Base Hospital of Mrs Elsie Adeline Thomas of "Wontama" Homes. She was almost 85 years old. Mrs Thomas was the wife of the late James Thomas who predeceased her almost nine years ago. Mrs Thomas was born in the Young district and resided in earlier years at Forest Reefs but spent the greater part of her life in Orange. She was a very kind and loveable lady whose Christian character endeared her to all who knew her. She was a member of a remarkable family noted for longevity. She is

survived by a daughter Ethel (Mrs Wade of Molong) and one son Roy of Orange. A son Edgar James predeceased her about 37 years ago. She has 11 grandchildren (two deceased) and 28 great-grandchildren. She is also survived by a sister, Mrs Cecil Thomas of Wontama Orange. Mrs Thomas was the first person to be admitted to Wontama and took a great interest in its activities such as fetes for which she worked diligently. A special service of remembrance was held at the Salvation Army Citadel last Sunday morning to pay tribute to the life and work of Mrs Thomas who had been a very conscientious member for the past 44 years.

Central Western Daily - 11/2/1970: Obituary - Mr Frederick Townsend.

The death occurred suddenly on Saturday November 21, at his home at Lithgow of Frederick Townsend aged 54, son of the late Mr and Mrs Bert Townsend of Manildra. Although his death was sudden he had been in ill health for some time as a result he was forced to relinquish his position on the railway. Fred was well known and liked in Manildra having spent most of his schooldays here and the early years of his married life leaving about 1942 to make his home in Lithgow. He is survived by his wife Amy (nee Ahearn, of Red Hill), three daughters Lorna, Daphne and Janet and one son Bert. Brother Keith (Sydney) sisters Audrey (Mrs E. McCarthy, Cairns) Doreen (Mrs D. Youngman, Orange) Poppy (Mrs Starr, Lithgow) and Betty (Mrs H. Bennett, Manildra).

Central Western Daily - 17/11/1970: Obituary: Richard Johnston Mackay.

The death occurred after a short illness in the Parkes District Hospital on November 3 at the age of 76, of Mr Richard Johnston Mackay of Phillip St., Parkes and formerly of "Bellevue" Manildra. Mr Mackay was born in Abbey Town in England, near the Scottish border. He was the second eldest son of a family of eight. In World War 1 he served with XIth Battalion Border Regiment and was one of the few survivors of one of the bloodiest battles of that war - the Battle of the Somme 1916. In 1917 he was taken prisoner by the Germans and not demolished until 1919. Prior to coming to make his home in Australia he worked as a farmer in Northern England and on arrival in this country worked around the districts of Weethalle and Trundle. In 1934 he purchased the property "Bellevue" in the Gumble and Manildra district and married Lily Broderick of Sydney and formerly of London. He was a highly respected resident of this district and while there took an active part in his church, being steward and treasurer of the trust of the Methodist Church. He was also a member and past master of the Masonic Lodge of Mandagery. With his wife and daughter Patricia he took a trip to England to visit relatives in 1952. In 1967 with his wife he took up residence at Parkes, where he lived until his death. He is survived by his wife Mrs Lily Mackay son Richard (Gumble), daughters Patricia (Mrs J. Broderick, Parkes) and Elizabeth (Mrs Gerrard, Roseville). Five grandchildren. The late Mr J.R. Mackay of Mandagery, was a brother. The funeral took place on Thursday November 5, from the Parkes Methodist Church and was preceded by a Lodge of Sorrow held in Manildra.

* * * * *