



**ORANGE FAMILY HISTORY GROUP NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2021**



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What a year 2021 has been! Hopefully your research has progressed during the lockdowns.

As usual our newsletter contains lots of interesting articles. Orange City Librarian, Sean Brady, interviewed and shared our research with Natalie Brasingthwaite for an episode of Who do you think you are? The RAHS article on Looking for soldiers in your local area is timely, as the Library Heritage team are starting to research World War II service personnel who were born, lived, or enlisted in the Orange district. Just looking for names for now. Sharon Jameson updates us on the Forgotten Diggers project. Other articles include Charles Corse, the five Millar sons in WWI, HMAS Sydney unknown sailor identified, Coroner's inquests, snippets from the Central Western Daily and much more.

January 2022 is the due month for UK 1921 census to be released. This will be a great resource. Start organising your research now.

To all our readers and OFHG members we wish you a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

Julie Sykes
Local Studies Librarian
Orange City Library

**SBS PROGRAM WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?
RESEARCH PROVES SHOW BUSINESS IS IN THE GENES**



Image courtesy SBS – Who Do you think you are?
Orange City Librarian Sean Brady shares Bassman family history information
with celebrity Natalie Bassingthwaighte

Imagine a pianist teaching young ladies, her performing comic husband entertaining crowds in packed halls and a family troupe receiving much applause from the audience during the golden age of showbusiness in the 1800s. Then fast forward to present day when a celebrity on a genealogy television program plays detective and uncovers her rich musical heritage.

The researchers and production team behind the television documentary genealogy series Who Do You Think Are? visited Orange to film a segment about singer and actress Natalie Bassingthwaighte's relative Wilhelmina Bassman.

Orange City Librarian Sean Brady shared Wilhelmina's story with Natalie and was fascinated to discover the show business connections that obviously run through her genes.

Natalie is one of Australia's most versatile entertainers and has achieved significant success as an actress, musician, presenter and author. She has also appeared on the stage with roles in Australian productions of Footloose, Rent, Grease and Chicago. Her first taste for performance came during Grade 6 playing Tinkerbell in a production of Peter Pan.

Natalie's story came full circle on the show when Sean revealed her great-great-great-grandmother was a remarkable woman Orange music teacher and vocalist Wilhelmina Eastwick (nee Bassmann) (1834 - 1917).

Wilhelmina was widowed in 1881 and relocated to Orange in 1884. Her mother, Elizabeth Browne had died in 1883 but her stepfather, James Browne was still in the town.

She was a pianist of some renown playing at benefit concerts and was highly thought of as a piano teacher to young ladies. One of her accomplishments was performing at the Australian Hall in January 1889 with a Mr Hartas as the comic singer who replaced her deceased husband Henry.

Mr Hartas, it turns out, was Wilhelmina's son-in-law. Wilhelmina's daughters Isabel and Annie also performed at the concert - so the family tradition of performing together continued – though smaller in scale than those the family held before Henry's death in 1881.

Wilhelmina went bankrupt in October 1890 exactly 30 years after her husband's insolvency in Sydney. Wilhelmina explained why she went bankrupt stating, "I promised I would pay you when I sold my house." But she had difficulty selling until it was finally sold to her daughter for the price of the mortgage. The overall debt was 61 pounds which is about \$14,000 in today's money.

Two months later, in December 1890, there was another life-changing event when her 21 year old son, Edward died in Orange aged 21 of TB. He was a blacksmith in Orange.

Then a newspaper article from August 1902 revealed Wilhelmina went to bed after performing one night, and tragically woke up blind the next morning.

Wilhelmina continued to play the piano and her other interests included crafts like needlework and knitting. She won many prizes at local shows. One of the highly commended awards for her needlework was won after she went blind.

Here is more about Wilhelmina's husband's death:

Corowa Free Press, 24 June 1881, p2

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/235843891>

On last Sunday night, after a long and distressing illness, Mr. Henry Eastwick passed away. Deceased was an old colonist, having arrived with Governor Fitzroy in H.M.S. Carysfort, in the year 1846, being then twenty-two years of age. He was a native of London, and having, at an early age, betrayed special aptitude for theatricals, left the ship on her arrival in Australian waters and took to the stage as a comedian and comic vocalist. For some years he appeared at the City Theatre, Sydney, then became lessee of Evans' Music Hall in the same city, and subsequently leased the Princess Theatre in Newcastle. He was at Ballarat at the outbreak of the gold fever, and followed his profession successfully there and in Melbourne for many years. Of late years he gave up the stage and settled down to the business of hairdresser in Orange and Wagga Wagga, coming from the latter place to Corowa about five years and a half ago. As a comic vocalist he was a fair specimen of what pleased the public taste in the early days of the colony, but his style was considered, in these days, antiquated, though meritorious in other respects. He had reached his fifty-seventh year, and has left a widow and large family.

Here is an article about Wilhelmina's death:

Leader, 5 January 1917, p3

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/117820540>

The death was briefly announced in our last issue of Mrs. Eastwick, a very old resident of Orange. She had reached the great age of 83 years. For some time she had been in failing health, and recently a fall fractured her thigh. The deceased lady was a remarkable woman. Sixteen years ago her eyesight failed, and she became totally blind. Despite this affliction she made life as happy as possible, playing the piano and knitting and crocheting for hours at a time. Her work was the acme of neatness. Years ago she was a leading spirit in musical circles in Orange. Being an expert pianist, her services were widely sought after and freely given. Nurse Burns (March- St), Mrs. Vincent (Sydney), Mrs. G. Hartas (Sydney), and Mrs. Massey (Culcairn) are daughters.

This SBS TV episode *Who Do You Think You Are?* was aired on 27 July 2021.



Studio portrait of Wilhelmina Eastwick (nee Bassmann)
seated at a piano, c 1850s-1860s
Gift of Mary Barnett, Orange Regional Museum collection

RESEARCHING SOLDIERS IN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

No Australian community is untouched by war. More than 300,000 Australians served in World War I from a population of less than five million. Two decades later, another million answered the call. Local memorials remember not only the tens of thousands who gave their life for their country, but the many more thousands who came home again, forever changed by war.



This website aims to give you the tools to find out about your local soldiers, organised into eight themes. It complements our [downloadable research guide](#), which outlines the online resources available for soldier research and how best to use them. You will find links to the guide, local soldier stories, and YouTube video guides for each major resource. Discover key questions to ask about your local soldiers' experience of war: why they enlisted, what the nature of warfare was really like, and how Australia has commemorated them, 100 years on.

www.rahs.org.au/researching-soldiers-in-your-local-community/

FORGOTTEN DIGGERS

There have been 43 Diggers located in unmarked graves in Orange cemetery to date. Applications have been made to the Office of Australian War Graves for six of these men and so far 4 have been accepted:

AKERS Francis (Frank) No 1244 born Cobar in 1886 and died in Bloomfield Hospital Orange in 1963. He was aged 28 when he embarked in Melbourne bound for the war zone in December 1914. While serving at the Dardanelles in May 1915 he was severely wounded in the left arm and then returned to Australia in July of 1915. He was awarded the 1914-1915 Star, British War Medal, and Victory Medal.

BAXTER Frederick John was born in Victoria. During his time at the Front he was hospitalised for TB (the newspapers state he was gassed). By September 1917 he was promoted to Lieutenant. He returned to Australia in January 1918 because his bronchitis was so severe. In 1934 Frederick John Baxter aged 38, manager of the Angullong Station near Cadia, was found dead in a paddock with his revolver beside him. He was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

CRUMPLER William was born in 1888 in London England. He arrived in Sydney on the 31 October 1907 via "Howth" aged 19, his occupation was seaman. In 1915 he enlisted in Lithgow and embarked at Sydney on the 22 August 1916 bound for the Etaples France. In May 1917 he was received a severe gunshot wound to his arm and was returned to England to recuperate. He then returned to his Battalion in October 1917 and was again wounded in June 1918. He returned to Australia in 1919.

It would appear that William only had one living relative his sister Ada (given as his next of kin) who wrote to the Army wanting to know where her brother was. Ada died in London aged 79 in 1958.

He died in Bloomfield Hospital on the 21 April 1967 aged 81 years. Correspondence from the Army was addressed to William at the Hospital as far back as 1947, indicates that he spent the last 20 years of his life as an inmate of the Hospital.

He was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

WHITE William was born in Bungowannah near Albury in 1867. When he enlisted in 1914 he gave his age as 35, given that he was born 1867 he would have been 43 years old at the time. He embarked for overseas service on the 20 October 1914 and joined the Mediterranean Expeditionary Forces at Alexandria in April 1915. He suffered alternate bouts of frost bit, rheumatic fever, rheumatism and chronic arthritis. When he returned to Australia in May 1916 he was discharged in August of that year. He was granted a pension of £3 per fortnight. William died in Bloomfield Hospital in 1945. He never married.

He was awarded the 1914-1915 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Most of the soldiers located in unmarked graves were not local men. They were from overseas and had joined the Australian Army when the war broke out. For most no family can be found in Australia. The

majority had died in Bloomfield Hospital and laid to rest in an unmarked grave. Forgotten Diggers is working towards rectifying this situation and it is hoped that in the future each soldier will have a headstone to mark their passing.

Special mention should be made of the involvement of the Orange Sub Branch of the RSL in this venture. Death certificates are required for each of these soldiers to ascertain whether they are entitled to a war grave. Forgotten Diggers thanks the Orange Sub Branch of the RSL for their financial support in purchasing these certificates.

Lest We Forget.

Sharon Jameson
Researcher
Orange Family History Group

FIVE SONS TO KING AND COUNTRY WAS THIS A RECORD?

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-page10548886>

Mr and Mrs Alfred David Millar lived at Petersham in Sydney when WWI broke out in August 1914. They had lived in Nyngan and the Orange - Molong area. Mr Millar was a stock and station agent, auctioneer, and valuer in Molong. The couple had ten children: Alfred Charles (born 1890), Edna (born 1891), Lancelot Orbury (born 1892), Stanley Reid (born 1893), Oswald Charles and Osmond Humphrey (born 1894), Mildred (born 1895), Valerie (born 1899), Douglas (born 1901) and Lorna (born 1902). The children grew up and went to school in Molong. By 1911 the family had moved to 174 New Canterbury Road Petersham where Mr Millar continued in business as an estate agent.

When war broke out, Alfred Cyril Millar [service number 478], a clerk, enlisted on 17 August 1914. Stanley Reid Millar [service number 535], a clerk, enlisted on 27 August 1914. Both were in the 1st Light Horse Regiment C Squadron and embarked on HMAS *Star of Victoria* on 19 October 1914. They were in the charge at Lone Pine and in the Gallipoli trenches for six months without a scratch. Stanley joined the ANZAC provost Police Corps in the field serving in France. He returned to Australia in October 1918 on submarine guard duty on D28. Alfred also transferred to the ANZAC Provost Police Corps in the field in September 1916 and returned to Australia on submarine guard duty on D28 with his brother.

Oswald Charles Millar [service number 18962], station overseer, served in the Home Service as an Engineer. He tried to enlist but he was rejected because of his eyesight. He finally joined the AIF on 11 April 1917 and disembarked in Devenport England. He served in France in 1918 in the Engineer Reinforcements. He returned to Australia per *Anchises* and was discharged medically unfit in December 1919.

Lancelot Orbury Millar [service number 5005], chemist, joined on the 14 July 1915. He served in the Australian Army Medical Corps, hospital transports staff on No. 1 Hospital ship *Karoola*. He was discharged 10 August 1916 to train in the Pharmacy Course.

A FIGHTING FAMILY.



SONS OF MR. AND MRS. A. D. MILLAR.

Osmond Humphrey Millar [service number 26382] joined on 20 April 1916. He served in the field artillery, 8th reinforcements, 5th Brigade. He embarked in Sydney on the *Mashobra* disembarking at Plymouth on 2 November 1916 He was gassed in France on 18 March 1918, convalesced in England and returned to Australia on the *Kyber*, arriving on 14 May 1919.

All five sons returned safely to Australia.

Julie Sykes
Local Studies Librarian
Orange City Library

“SHOOT YOU BASTARD, SHOOT!”

“Shoot you bastard, shoot!” were the last words bellowed by blacksmith Charles Corse on the afternoon of 3 August 1872. The directive was issued to Richard Spencer, manager of the Ophir Mining Company, following a protracted argument over the ownership of a saddle found on a lost horse.

Corse, a champion wrestler standing 1.8m tall and weighing 95kg had just turned his back on Spencer, bent over and presented his rear while making “a disgusting noise with his mouth.” Spencer, generally regarded as a quiet and peaceable man, lost his patience and fired, hitting Corse in the back of the head. Fearing he had killed the man, Spencer fled to Orange to advise Dr Warren and hand himself over to the authorities.

Spencer’s gunshot did not kill Corse, he survived a further seven days, succumbing on 10 August. The headstone erroneously records his death as 18 August.

Spencer was tried at the Bathurst Circuit Court in October before Chief Justice Sir Alfred Stephen and a jury of twelve men.

John Findlater Clements, a former employer of Charles Corse, testifying to Corse’s violent nature, described him as *“without exception, the most exaggerated compound of gigantic strength, brutality and unmanliness I have met with.”* Others described him as a *“quarrelsome drunken bully with a most scandalous and insulting tongue.”*

Richard Spencer, the on the other hand, was considered *“a kind and upright Christian gentleman of unimpeachable moral character and a valuable member of society.”*

At the conclusion of the trial the jury spent less than five minutes to find Spencer guilty of wilful murder., He was sentenced to three years in Bathurst Goal.

The people of Ophir were not convinced that justice had been served; the following advertisement appeared in the Western Examiner, on 1 March 1873:

The charitable sympathies of the community of Ophir are appealed to for the purpose of providing a fund for the erection of a tombstone to the memory of Charles Corse, cruelly murdered by Richard Spenser. The subscription will afford an opportunity to the people of Ophir to express their benevolent sympathy with the unfortunate deceased, cut off in the prime of his life and strength, and to mark their sense of the savage and cowardly act so inadequately punished.

Richard Spencer returned to Ophir after serving 18 months of his sentence. He and his family later moved to Sofala, where he died in 1890.



Charles Corse headstone, Ophir Cemetery
Image courtesy Orange City Library

The headstone reads *"Sacred to the memory of Charles Corse, aged 35 years, who died at Ophir August 18 1872 through a gunshot wound. And in his anger he slew him but the Lord visited him with a sore affliction for the same."*

Trudi Mayfield
Heritage Research Librarian
Orange City Library

EXEMPTIONS FROM GOVERNMENT LABOUR

As stated in a Circular to Magistrates from the Colonial Secretary dated 1st January 1830 the Exemption Ticket allowed:

"simply the privilege of residing until the next 31st December with the person therein named, generally a relation, in some specific district and no other".

A Ticket of Exemption did not allow a convict to be self-employed or to own property (as a Ticket of Leave allowed). It appears that the Tickets of Exemption were used as a form of assignment to relatives. The detail provided can help to easily trace the life or details of an individual convict.

The above was discovered on the NSW state records website: <https://www.records.nsw.gov.au>

Researcher
Orange Family History Group

ALDS. DON'T WANT FEES

Central Western Daily - 23 August 1963

SYDNEY, Thursday. NSW Country Party Leader, Mr Cutler MLA (Orange) said today country alderman and councillors did not want to be paid fees. Both the Liberal and Country Party today indicated they would strongly oppose a bill fixing annual fees up to £250 for NSW aldermen and councillors.

The Bill introduced in State Parliament by Local Government Minister Mr Hills today passed the first reading stage. Speakers for the Liberal and Country Parties said the Bill would be strongly opposed at the second reading stage.

They forecast it would be a controversial measure. The Bill provides that fees are to be fixed by a council and are to be paid to a member for:

- Attending meetings and committee meetings of the council
- Carrying out inspections within the council's area provided the inspections were undertaken in compliance with a council resolution.
- Undertaking council business outside the council's area also in compliance with the council resolution.

Mr Cutler said fees for aldermen and councillors were '*not wanted*' in NSW country areas. He accused the Government of trying to create a '*semi official*' body of public servants. This would not improve the services given by councils.

'Whatever the feeling is in the city for payment for aldermen. I know it is not wanted in the country' he said. He said it would further the intrusion of Party politics in country areas '*and this, too, is not wanted*'.

Mr Cutler forecast that people interested in personal monetary gain would be attracted to Local Government.

Researcher
Orange Family History Group

CORONERS INQUESTS

I found indexes of coroners inquest compiled by Lorna Hawkins and Pam Lawry. Which I was then able to find newspapers article and checking the N.S.W. B.D.M. deaths their date of death. Below are some of the names found.

***Coroners Inquest - Edward Dickson - held 5/10/1852 - Orange - Natural Causes. *Bathurst Free Press* - 23/10/1852 - Orange - On Sunday evening the 3rd. ult., a young man named Edward Dickson, residing with his father at the Heifer Station, about six miles from this township, died suddenly in the hut of a person named Ivers. Deceased had been in the enjoyment of his usual health and spirits almost to the very moment of his death, and after stooping down to stir the fire, he gave two or three deep drawn sighs and expired. On Tuesday the 5th, an enquiry was held by I. A. Templer Esq., J. P. as to the cause of death, when Dr. Bell, who had in made a post mortem examination of the body, deposed, that death had resulted from a rupture of the Aorta, or principal blood vessel of the body, communicating with the pericardium or sac containing the heart, which was completely filled with coagulated blood. This Heifer Station has become quite notorious from the fact of several sudden deaths having occurred there, together with innumerable fights, and the last, not the least, the stabbing case which occupied the attention of a jury in Bathurst, at the last Circuit Court.

***Coroners Inquest: John Emmett - inquest held 10/12/1850- Molong - found dead. *Bathurst Free Press* - 21/12/1850 -Body Found. — The body of a man in an advanced stage of decomposition, and much, mutilated by dogs, was found by a lad in the employment of T. Kite, Esq., last Wednesday, in the channel of the Molong Creek, about three miles hence. Information was sent at once by the chief constable to Dr. Curtis the coroner for the district, but after waiting two days without that faunctionary appearing, common , decency required that the remains should be interred, which was accordingly done with becoming- respect. The body is supposed to be that of a man named John Emmet, recently arrived from Mumble, who had been drinking at one of the public houses, and was in very bad health.

***Corners inquest - Kasper Joseph Eutch - inquest held 8/11/1865- Shepherds Creek - accidental scalding
N.S.W. B.D.M. Death - Entch Kasper - died 5/11/1865 - Wellington - Father Matthew mother Elizabeth

***Coroners inquest - Mary French - inquest held 21/9/1866- Cadia - Exhaustion from intemperance - exposure.

Sydney Morning Herald - 3/10/1866 - Death from intemperance.

The Cadia correspondent of the Western Examiner reports that an inquest was held by the district coroner, Mr J A Templar, near Cadia, on Friday, the 21st ultimo, on the body of Mary French who died a day or two previously. From the evidence of her son, it appeared that the deceased, aged 63 years, had been drinking in the village from Saturday till Wednesday morning. When brought home deceased complained of cold and weakness, and who died whilst witness was absent from the hut. She had for many years been addicted to excess in drink. Dr. Morgan, after post-mortem examination, was of opinion that deceased died from syncope, induced by exposure and intemperance. The jury, after careful

consideration, arrived at a verdict that the deceased died from exhaustion brought on by drink and exposure- the evidence of Dr. Morgan being considered conclusive on that point.

***Coroners inquest - Thomas Farrell - inquest held 21/1/1850 - Molong - Found dead (intempal)
Sydney Morning Herald 1/2/1850 - Dreadful death - near Molong Creek.

***Coroners inquest - William Norman Walter Good - 24/7/1869- Orange - accidentally burnt to death.

Coroners Inquest - William Hartell: inquest held 3/1/1857 - Lewis Ponds - Accident
N.S.W.. B.D.M. Death - William Hartell - died 28/12/1856 - 60 years – Orange

***Trove Newspapers - Illawarra Mercury - 12/1/1857 - William Hartill; N.S.W. Government Gazette -
16/1/1857 - William Hartill - of Bathurst - Detective of Police force.

***Bathurst Free Press*- 10/1/1857-The missing constable:

The body of the unfortunate William Hartill who was drowned whilst attempting to cross the Lewis' Ponds Creek, on the 8th ult., was found on the following Friday by three diggers, who had been searching for it from the time of the accident, under a rock in the creek below the Ophir police barracks. The same day a magisterial inquiry was held on the remains, and a verdict returned of accidental drowning. In consequence of the decomposed state of the body, Mr. Finnerty had it buried in the neighbourhood immediately afterwards.

***Coroners Inquest - Hickey Isabella - McLehain Isabella - inquest held 5/9/1855 - near Four Mile Creek
- Natural causes intemperance.

***Maitland Mercury* 12/9/1855- An inquest was held by Mr. Parker on the 5th instant, at the hut of John Hickey, alias Wallaby Hickey, Four mile Creek, on the body of Isabella Mackie Main, Alias " Bella Hickey," aged 67 year. Deceased, who during her lifetime had been fond of drinking, had complained of feeling unwell on Monday last, and had sent for a neighbor to stay with her. She ate some beef and drank some rum, and lying down afterwards became speechless, and in about two hours, died. Verdict returned that deceased came to her death from natural causes, accelerated by long habits of intemperance.

***Coroners Inquest - Henry Holditch - inquest held 22/5/1864 - Orange - Exposure and intemperance.
Empire Sydney - 28/5/1864 page 4 - Coroners inquest.

An inquest was held on Sunday last, at the Globe Hotel, Orange, by A. T. Templar, Esq , on view of the body of a man named Henry Hellditch aged forty-five years, who was found dead by sergeant Walsh, in an allotment of land adjacent to Mr. Mulholands store. Form the evidence ..., it appears that the deceased was at one time in the employ of Mr Peisley, but lately had been working at Pretty Plains. He arrived in town on Friday, the 20th instant and commenced drinking and the following morning about seven o'clock,

he was seen alive where his body was found and had the appearance of being laying there all night. At three p.m. when the sergeant found him, he had been dead some time. The jury returned a verdict that his death was caused by exposure, ascerately by intemperance. Orange Guardian.

***Coroners inquest - Isabella Halles/Hallen - inquest held 29/4/1849- Blackmans Swamp - accidentally burned.

Bathurst Advocate - 5/5/1849 page 5 - Deplorable Accident. — An accident of a deplorable character, occurred at Summer Hill, near Blackman's Swamp, on Saturday last. A little girl, three and a half years old, was burnt to death in consequence of her clothes igniting by coming in contact with the fire. The parents are servants belonging to Mr. Kerr and reside on his estate. On Saturday last, the mother went out to draw a bucket of water, and though only out a very short time, yet, upon her return, found her child standing in the door, and severely burnt on other parts of the body. The child died shortly afterwards. A magisterial inquiry into the affair was held on the next day (Sunday), before Dr. Rickards, and A. Templar, Esqs.(Note not all article).



Amplify is a platform managed by the State Library of New South Wales that enables participating libraries to upload audio files such as oral histories and have an automated transcription of the speech into text.

Central West Libraries have joined this project and uploaded Interviews from the [Email/Emmco/Munitions Factory](#).

We are asking interested members of the community to participate in the transcription of these oral histories.

First time transcribers can create their own login via the link below.

You can read through the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) and the Tutorial. Both are accessible from the Amplify landing page.

<https://amplify.gov.au/centralwestlibraries>

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:

The Maitland Mercury - 7/8/1896- 24/7/1869: Dubbo Dispatch.

Death - William Good - 17/7/1869: died Molong

A shepherd residing at Geenanagee, named William Good (whose wife has left him) started last Saturday out with his sheep, taking a little boy, four years old, with him. The little fellow began to complain of cold, when his father told him to go back to the hut and warm himself. On the father arriving home in the evening, he could not see his son. However, he at last got on his track, finding pieces of clothes dropped off as the little fellow ran in his flight from the hut, and about two hundred yards away he saw his child lying dead without a rag on him, burnt from head to foot. What must that woman feel when she hears her son is dead, and that had she been with her husband (as she ought to have been) he would have escaped that death of agony which he suffered, and might have been a blessing to her in old age.

Central Western Daily - 28/5/1946: Captain David Cooke.

The death occurred suddenly on Sunday morning at Terrigal of Captain David Cooke who for some years had been adjutant at 11 A.G.H. Captain Cooke who was on the staff of the Orange Brill Hall for many years, lived for some time in the big house at the corner of Lord's Place and March Street. After leaving Orange he was stationed at Parkes for some time and later went to Sydney. Last week in company with Lieut Col Hills who also resided in Orange years ago. Captain Cooke was on an inspection tour of camps. For some time he had been in indifferent health. Yesterday he was buried with full military honors. He is survived by his widow (formerly Miss Alma Gifford member of the well-known Orange family), two sons David and William and two daughter Lucy and Ann.

Central Western Daily - 18/6/1958: Well-known wheat specialist dead.

A well known grazier of the Orange district and renowned wheat-seed breeder who won an International award at a World Wheat exhibition at Regina Canada, in 1933, Mr John William Eade, 65 of "Eadevale" Euchareena died in Dudley Private Hospital on Tuesday night. Mr Eade won the wheat award with "Boomey" a seed he bred on his property at Euchareena. After attending the wheat exhibition and winning the award he travelled around the world before returning home. Previously he had won the middle western wheat competition in 1927 and has won prizes with wheat at Royal Shows all over Australia. For many years he helped organise the central western wheat exhibit at the Royal show and had been president of the Molong Show Society for several terms. Mr Eade came to live at Boomey near Molong in 1890 at the age of two. He was born in 1888 and was the only son of Mr & Mrs J. Eade. Several years later the family moved to "Eadevale" Euchareena where they made their home. Mr Eade was a veteran of World War 1. He leaves a wife Mrs Phyllis Vera Eade (nee Lyons) Four sons George, who is married with two sons and a daughter; Edward who is married with two sons, Bruce, Jack and a daughter, Mary (Mrs C. Milne), who had two daughters, all living in the Euchareena district. His funeral will leave the Methodist Church Orange today.

Central Western Daily - 23/8/1965: Death of Orange identity.

A prominent surveyor who served as an alderman on Orange City Council for 25 consecutive years died at Doonside Convalescent Home, near Sydney on Friday morning. He was Mr Hector Kenneth West MacKenzie and his funeral will be held at Holy Trinity Church of England at noon today. The late Mr Mackenzie was born at Bowral in 1877, the son of a schoolteacher. Following his education there, Mr MacKenzie studied as a surveyor and established a practice at Byron Bay on the north coast. He came to Orange in 1907, where he eventually set up a partnership with Mr A. Stevens and later with Mrs A.W. Brierley. In 1910 he built the well-known district residence "Delvine" on Canobolas Road. The late Mr

Mackenzie was very active on the city council for 25 years and was recognised for his contribution to early developments in the city. Board Member. In 1913 he married Muriel Lane, daughter of one of the pioneer families of Orange. Mr Mackenzie retired from surveying in 1947 and later became a member of the Board of NSW Fire commissioners. In this capacity he was the country council's representative and reported to the Board weekly on rural developments. Ill health forced him to surrender his position on the Board about eight years ago and he became an invalid living at his home in Anson Street. The late Mr Mackenzie went into hospital nine months ago and later was transferred to Doonside, where he died. Mr Mackenzie took a keen interest in all sport and was an early member of the Canobolas Club. For his work in the field of surveying he was admitted as an Honorary Member of the Australian Institute of Surveyors. The late Mr Mackenzie was predeceased by his wife by eight months and his only sister the late Mrs F.J. Bootle of Orange. He is survived by his two children Dr John K. Mackenzie of Blacktown and daughter Jill (Mrs Dan Barnett) of Orange. Six grandchildren also survive. Following the funeral today the late Mr Mackenzie will be buried in the Church of England portion of the Orange cemetery.

Central Western Daily - 20/5/1967: Death of Mr Leon Bolot.

Well known Orange resident of Mr Leon Bolot 46 died yesterday at his Prince St., home. Educated at St Joseph's College at Hunters Hill in Sydney. Mr Bolot came to Orange in 1951 to practice as a chiropodist. He was well known as a sportsman playing cricket and later as a member of Orange City and Bloomfield bowling clubs. He was also an accomplished musician and taught the guitar and piano accordion as well as playing both instruments at many social functions throughout the Central West. Mr Bolot is survived by a widow a son and a daughter. The funeral will leave St Joseph's Church tomorrow for the Catholic portion of Orange cemetery.

Central Western Daily - 27/11/1968 : Obituary – Millthorpe.

After a short illness the death occurred at "Roselands" Convalescent Hospital, Sydney of Mrs Daisy Edith Letondeur at the age of 76 years. Mrs Letondeur was a former well known resident of Blayney and was the widow of the late August Letondeur who died 28 years ago. She was the daughter of the late Mrs Ada Dean of "Den-o-mine" Guyong and the step-daughter of Mr George Dean, of Guyong. Mrs Letondeur is survived by six daughters; Constance (Mrs H. Hagen, Wagga); Hazel (Mrs A. Schofield, Woonona); Colleen (Mrs A. Creaeay, Blayney); Patricia (Mrs A. Furner, Ashfield); Melva and Iris (Belmore) three sons Andrew (Blayney) Dennis (Revesby) and Clifford (Forest Lodge) Four sister Rene; Gwen; Grace and Madge all of Melbourne and a brother Claude of Sydney. After a service at the Lakemba Chapel the cortege moved to the Rookwood Crematorium.

Central Western Daily - 30/10/1970: Obituary. Mr Walter Dawson.

The death occurred in hospital on October 26 of prominent Orange resident Mr Walter Dawson. Mr Dawson was born in Manchester, England 83 years ago and came to Australia as a young boy. He studied engineering after leaving school and then worked for some time in Sydney. During World War 1 he worked with the RAN as a gun emplacement engineer. After the war he returned to Sydney to continue his engineering career. During World War 11 he was appointed manager of the small Arms Factory in Orange, which employed almost 2,500 people and then later the feeder factories at Forbes and Wellington. After World War 11 he founded the W.S. Engineering Company in Orange and manufactured precision instruments. Mr Dawson was also very active outside his business interests. He was president of the Orange Trout Acclimatisation Society and a member of Rotary for 25 years. Over the past few years he gave up these interests and took an interest in shooting. He was a member of the Orange and Bathurst branches Australian Sporting Shooters Association. Mr Dawson also had the honor of being the only Orange resident who was a member of the Institution of Production Engineers. He is survived by his wife

Sally and brother Harry (Brisbane) a sister Nell predeceased him.

Central Western Daily - 8/6/1971: Mr Merv Blacket dies.

A man who had worked with the Email organisation for 31 years died in Orange Base Hospital on Saturday night. Mr Mervyn Cuthbert Blacket 74 had been in ill health for 10 weeks prior to his death. During the 25 years he lived in Orange he was a well known and popular personality liked and respected by all who knew him. He came to Orange from Sydney and was paymaster at the Email plant for 17 years. Mr Blacket retired in 1962 and for the past five years held the position as secretary of the Canobolas Club in Kite St. He was a keen golfer and rarely a week passed without a round of golf or practice session at Orange Golf Club. For 20 years he was treasurer of Orange Branch of the Far West Children's Health Scheme and a member of Orange Sub-branch of the RSL. Mr Blacket saw active service in World War 1 serving for almost the four years of the war. After a service at Holy Trinity Church of England yesterday afternoon, Mr D. Donohue, RSL sub-branch secretary conducted an RSL memorial service at the Canobolas Crematorium. Mr Blacket is survived by his wife, Elsie of Kenna St., two daughters Helen (Mrs John Graham, of Medlow Bath; Julie (Mrs Terry Annis -Brown of Orange) and their children.

Central Western Daily - 2/10/1971: Death of Mr J.S. Douglas.

One of the most well-liked and most highly esteemed citizens of Orange Mr James Stuart Douglas, died in Orange Base Hospital late on Thursday night. He died as the result of a car accident in Kite St., last Friday night Mr Douglas (pictured) was a foundation and life member of the Canobolas Club and the club's patron and was crossing the road on the way to the club's annual meeting. Mr Douglas celebrated his 90th birthday in May this year and was one of the few men of his age to still hold a driving licence. He had been in good health and this year led the World War 1 contingent in the Anzac Day march along Summer St., He is survived by his wife Mrs Isabel Douglas; two sons Dr Ken Douglas (Launceston P; Dr Bruce Douglas (Melbourne); two daughters Mrs Jean Chambers (Kirribilli); Mrs Mary Tredinnick (Orange) and one brother Mr Lorne Douglas (Manly). He was a retired timber merchant and member of a family whose name has long been associated with the history and progress of Orange. Mr Douglas was born in Orange and was educated at the old Rural School and Wolaroi College. His father was a building contractor who left many fine buildings in Bathurst and Orange as monuments to his skill and craftsmanship. The Orange buildings include the Post Office, the Presbyterian Church, the home now owned by the Canobolas Club and Knockalong in Hill St which adjoins the Douglas family's home. His education completed Mr Stuart Douglas enlisted with the 19th Battalion 1st A.I.F and left for Gallipoli. With 20 others he was the last in his battalion to be taken off the beach. After the war he lived in Sydney for a while before returning to Orange to take over his father's business. James Douglas Timber Yard which was sold in 1954 to the Western Stores. Mr Douglas retired from an active business life that year. PLC Founder. Mr Douglas was one of the founders of Orange PLC. With other he was instrumental in converting the home and land known as "Campdale" on the Cargo Road, to a boarding school for girls. He was on the original PLC Council and was chairman for 12 years. He retired two years ago. Mr Douglas was a former president of Orange Rotary Club and a life member a foundation member of Newstead Bowling Club and at the time of his death the club's patron. He has always been closely associated with St. John's Presbyterian Church and was baptised in the old church now the school hall.

Central Western Daily - 8/9/1973: Mr J.K. Crooks.

Mr Jack K. Crooks who died on August 22, was a member of the Original Old Aged and Invalid Pensioners Association for more than 20 years. For nearly the whole of that time he held the office of vice-president and was also a member of the Pensioners Amenities Trust. He had a wealth of courage hope charity a good sense of humor and above all a great love for his fellowman. Although he was a spastic he did not

let his disability keep him from giving a helping hand to those in need or less fortunate than himself. No job was too big for him to try his hand at. Those who knew Jack had a friend for life. I know this because he grew up with my brothers and sisters and we honored his friendship highly. Our deepest sympathy goes to his sister May and her family from all the members of the Association and Trust Committee and my family and me. (contributed by Mrs P. Mills, Publicity Officer.

Central Western Daily - 24/4/1985: Death of former ambulanceman.

A man who served as an Orange ambulance officer for more than 30 years and helped with fund-raising to expand the city's ambulance service died in Sydney on Monday. Mr Ewart Lilley 74 joined the ambulance as a member of the honorary staff and after three years became a permanent officer. He chose to stay in Orange rather than accept promotion and transfer elsewhere. When he first joined the ambulance district officers received only a small allocation from the government towards the running costs and salaries. They worked long hours for only a basic wage and had to raise funds to help pay their way. One of an ambulance officer's duties was to raise money usually at carnivals where chocolate wheels, shooting galleries and other fair activities attracted the public. Mr Lilley was also responsible for establishing an Ambulance Youth Club which raised funds for the station. This group donated a new vehicle to the ambulance at one time. Mr Lilley was awarded a bronze medal from the Royal Humane Society of NSW for heroism after he attempted to rescue an elderly man who died in a fire at Wolaroi. He also ran first aid classes for many years for many different groups. Mr Lilley was a drummer in the The Golden Glow Orchestra which played at many district balls and local dances. He retired from the ambulance in 1978 because of ill health and moved to Sydney about three years ago. His funeral service will be held today at St Joseph's Catholic Church Orange.

DNA INTEREST GROUP SEEKING EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Orange City Library held a DNA seminar in 2020. This was presented by Marilyn Woodward from HAGSOC Canberra.

Members of the audience indicated they would be quite interested in joining a DNA interest group based in Orange. Our DNA interest group would meet bimonthly.

If you are interested in joining our DNA group, please contact Julie at Orange City Library on telephone 02 6393 8105 or send us an email library@cwl.nsw.gov.au

UNKNOWN HMAS SYDNEY II SAILOR NAMED AFTER 80 YEARS

19 November 2021

www.minister.defence.gov.au/minister/andrew-gee/media-releases/unknown-hmas-sydney-ii-sailor-named-after-80-years

Eighty years after the Australian warship HMAS *Sydney* (II) sunk off the West Australian coast, the only body recovered from the tragedy has now been identified.

New DNA evidence has confirmed Able Seaman (AB) Thomas Welsby Clark from New Farm in Brisbane as the previously unidentified sailor.



The *Sydney* sank on 19 November, 1941 following an intense battle with the disguised German merchant raider HSK *Kormoran*, about 120 nautical miles (222 km) west of Steep Point, WA.

AB Clark is believed to be the only sailor to have made it to a life raft after the ship went down.

Despite surviving the battle and the sinking, he tragically died at sea in the life raft. His remains were found near Rocky Point on Christmas Island nearly three months later.

DNA samples collected from his body in 2006 have been extensively tested over the past 15 years and revealed both mitochondrial DNA, passed from mother to child, and Y chromosome DNA passed from father to son.

Research facilitated by the Sea Power Centre – Australia has successfully identified two living direct relatives.

Minister for Veterans Affairs and Minister for Defence Personnel Andrew Gee said the formal identification was a significant development in *Sydney's* story and an historic moment for Australia.

“To finally learn Tom’s name, rank, service number and home town, 80 years after he was lost is truly remarkable”, Minister Gee said. “It says a lot about Australia that, despite the decades that have passed, our nation is still working so hard to identify those lost in war and ensuring we honour the sacred commitment to remember them.

“I know this is a terribly sad time for Tom’s family. Like his brave shipmates, he died defending Australia, our values and way of life. His family should be immensely proud.

“The Office of Australian War Graves has agreed that next year Tom’s grave in Geraldton War Cemetery will be marked by a new headstone bearing his name. He will be ‘unknown’ no longer.

“By identifying Tom, our nation honours all those who lost their lives in HMAS *Sydney* (II).

“His story helps Australia understand the immense sacrifice made for our country and also the loss and grief that is still felt by the descendants of those who perished on that day.

“Today our nation also extends its deepest sympathies to the descendants of the 644 other crew members who were sadly never recovered after that infamous battle.

“They gave their lives protecting our nation and fighting tyranny, and by ending the threat posed by the *Kormoran* they undoubtedly saved many other Australian lives.

“At this time we remember them and all of the 39,000 Australians who lost their lives in the Second World War.”

Chief of Navy Vice Admiral Mike Noonan said AB Clark was just 21 years old when he died and was representative of the many young lives lost in the battle.

“Of *Sydney*’s total complement of 645 men no one survived. This included six Royal Australian Air Force members, eight Royal Navy personnel and four civilian canteen staff. Eighty-two officers and sailors were killed in *Kormoran*,” said Vice Admiral Noonan.

“We revere the service and sacrifice of all who perished.

“Solving this World War II case involved specialists in DNA analysis, forensic pathology and dentistry, ballistics, anthropology, archaeology and naval history. I commend the combined effort spearheaded by the Sea Power Centre to confirm AB Clark’s identity.

“The Australian Federal Police National DNA Program for Unidentified and Missing Persons was instrumental, as were the Australian National University, Australian War Memorial, University of Adelaide and University of Sydney, not to mention Able Seaman Thomas Clark’s family.”

“His long voyage is complete, may he Rest in Peace.”

Dr Leigh Lehane, (a retired academic) was surprised and saddened to learn her Uncle Tom was the unknown sailor.

“To be quite honest it was a bit upsetting,” she said. However, she said establishing the truth was important. “I am so grateful for the many, many people, well over a hundred, who helped ascertain the truth about his identity,” Dr Lehane said. She was born in July 1941, the month before her Uncle Tom joined *Sydney*. According to a family story he met his new niece on a final visit to Brisbane. “He came and held me as a little baby. That’s a very pleasurable thought because I don’t think anyone else is alive now who knew Tom sort of eye to eye,” Dr Lehane said.

BACKGROUND:**BIOGRAPHY: THOMAS WELSBY CLARK 1920 – 1941**

Thomas Welsby Clark was born in the Brisbane suburb of New Farm, Queensland on 28 January 1920; the third son of James Colin Clark and Marion Clark (nee Welsby). His father was a grazier who was the eldest son of James Clark, an orphan, who as the result of hard work and wise business investments in the pearling industry had risen from abject poverty to become one of the richest men in Queensland. Thomas's mother descended from Scottish immigrants who had arrived in Victoria in the early 1850s.

Thomas was educated at Slade School in Warwick, Queensland but also spent time working on the family properties and their Brisbane oyster leases. He was an excellent swimmer and a keen yachtsman. Upon leaving school he became an accountant in Brisbane and on 14 March 1939 enlisted in the Militia (Army Reserve) as a private in the Queensland Cameron Highlanders. He was discharged from the Militia on 19 August 1940 in order to join the Royal Australian Navy. His elder brothers, Arthur and James served in the Army and Air Force respectively. Thomas Clark joined the Royal Australian Naval Reserve on 23 August 1940 and was posted to the anti-submarine training school, HMAS *Rushcutter*, in Sydney where he completed training as a Submarine Detector. On completion of his training he served as an ordinary seaman in the anti-submarine training ship HMAS *St. Giles* based in Sydney Harbour. Thomas was promoted acting able seaman on 15 July 1941 before completing a short period of training at HMAS *Cerberus*, the RAN's premier training depot in Victoria, during July –August 1941. On completion of that training he joined the light cruiser HMAS *Sydney*, in August 1941 which at that time was tasked with conducting patrol and escort work on the Australia station.

MEDIA NOTE

Imagery of AB Clark and HMAS *Sydney* II can be found at: <https://images.defence.gov.au/S20213532>

Footage is available at:

https://innovatehub.sharepoint.com/:f/s/mediahub/EqiOEYRt8ghDuXV_coAbN3wBCCwfu4IAjzWDuh0RBbTzlw?e=1o6AKM

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
or
email: familyhistory@orange.nsw.gov.au