



## ORANGE FAMILY HISTORY GROUP NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2023



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### **CULTURAL SENSITIVITY WARNING**

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

Welcome to the final newsletter for 2023.

Looking back on this year there have been some achievements and events which have been extremely noteworthy. Two I would like to acknowledge were the 40th celebrations of the Orange Family History Group and the retirement of Julie Sykes as Local Studies Librarian at the Orange City Library.

As the new Local Studies Librarian I would like to thank everyone I have met so far for their warm welcome and look forward to meeting others in the coming year and hearing about your research and discoveries.

This newsletter is full of information. Read about Billy Dargan and his role in the capture of Ben Hall, a short history of the Wentworth Mine at Lucknow, an update on Forgotten Diggers project, 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations for Cook Park, newspaper articles and lots of interesting items. Why not browse our publications for sale for some great Christmas gift ideas!.

If you have any items you would like to share with us in future newsletters please send them through to us at [familyhistory@orange.nsw.gov.au](mailto:familyhistory@orange.nsw.gov.au)

I would like to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Ruth Bingham - Local Studies Librarian Orange City Library

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## FORGOTTEN DIGGERS UPDATE

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> October RSL President Mr Ray James OAM and Mr Chris Colvin President of the City of Orange Sub-Branch unveiled a wall containing the names of the seventeen WWI soldiers who are buried in Orange cemetery in unmarked graves. Because the location of most of these graves is unknown a wall was erected behind the newly installed flagpoles. I have to thank Orange Sub-Branch for doing this. It is a fitting memorial for men who served their Country during WWI.

Forgotten Diggers was also notified that Australian War Graves will commence installing 20 war graves this week. This will bring the total of new war graves to 24, with 16 remaining to be installed, leaving 50 remaining soldiers requiring a headstone. A few grants have been applied for to provide funding for this. Thank you to Mr Andrew Gee and Orange Ex-Services Club for their support.



Sharon Jamieson  
Researcher - Orange Family History Group

## CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF COOK PARK

This year marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Cook Park, one the finest examples of a Victorian era urban park within regional NSW.



The Duck Pond, Cook Park  
Image courtesy Orange City Library

After gold was discovered in the area in 1851, the village of Orange was surveyed into allotments and marked for residential sale. In 1853 John Templer and other local prominent citizens agitated that an area be set aside (Section 27) as a public space. A year later, the area now known as Cook Park was reserved for public use by John Templer, Commissioner of Crown Lands, Coroner and Magistrate. Early parks and gardens were established as a result of the colonial government's reservation of Crown Land.

In 1873 Sir Hercules Robinson, Governor of NSW, granted Section 27 to Orange Municipal Council as a recreation reserve for peppercorn (nil) rent in perpetuity, showing the boundaries as they are today situated on four hectares, bounded by Clinton, Summer, Sampson and Kite streets.

The area was cleared and stumps removed in 1878 and a wire and timber post fence was erected at a cost of £130. Two years later, Aldermen Windred and Dalton were given £20 to select exotic trees from Sydney Botanic Gardens.

In April 1882 the area was officially named Cook Park in honour of Captain James Cook. The park opened with Alfred Andrew Patterson as curator in 1887. Patterson was the son of a Swedish botanist and had worked as a gardener for James Dalton at Duntryleague. His skills were highly valued; he turned a wilderness of grass and weeds into ordered lawns and colourful flowerbeds. A broad gravel walk was laid down and a conservatory filled with choice plants. Two rustic pavilions (one of which was a fernery along Summer Street to the west of the cottage) were built, garden seats were installed, and a caretaker's cottage was built. Philanthropic gestures such as a gift or feature to a park from a wealthy citizen was a common occurrence. This has been the case with the Dalton Fountain, gifted in 1891 by James Dalton, the bandstand gifted by the Orange Town Band in 1908 and, in 1922, a German World War I field gun trophy gifted by Canobolas Shire Council.



Post card of the Dalton Fountain, Cook Park  
Image courtesy Orange City Library

Parks became symbols of civic pride, providing visitors and residents with attractive surroundings in which to enjoy their leisure time.

In 1894 seventeen-year-old James Bastick joined the Orange Municipal Council garden staff. By 1903 he had been appointed head gardener of Cook Park.

Funds for park maintenance were often scarce, so the head gardener was kept busy organising flower shows, fetes, and band recitals to raise much needed funds for park improvements.

The head gardener also acted on behalf of the Trustees (council) to enforce the park's rules and regulations. The caretaker was responsible for locking the gates each night and reopening them every morning. They were expected to remove (by force if necessary) any person who was disorderly, causing an annoyance or breaching park regulations. These included damaging fences, enclosures, footpaths, plants and removing firewood or timber.

No tents, booths or stalls were to be erected without the written consent of the mayor; no climbing of trees, no walking on the grass bordering a path, nor was any person allowed to walk, run or lie on any lawn or flower bed. Offences encountered a penalty not exceeding £4 (approximately \$690 in 2022).



Reception for the Duke of Gloucester in Cook Park, November 1934  
Image courtesy Orange City Library

Over the last 120 years many improvements have been made to Cook Park. These include the construction of a caretaker's cottage, installation of ornamental wire fencing around the perimeter of the park, pathways, gates, Victorian Fountain, fernery, area for a zoo and emu

enclosure, excavation of ponds, aviary, annual flower beds, a Federation bandstand, a Inter War Glass Conservatory and Dutch Garden. Such improvements would not have occurred if it wasn't for the many open-air concerts, comedy shows and band recitals that have been held in the park to raise funds for enhancements.

The Bastick family have had a long association with Cook Park. When James Bastick retired in 1946, he was replaced by his son Jim. Between them, James and Jim tended Cook Park for more than 90 years.

Two generations of the Bastick family have long been able to call Cook Park their home. What a wonderful backyard in which to celebrate birthday parties and Christmas, not to mention playing in the snow. Not only important to the Bastick family, Cook Park is a significant Victorian era urban park within regional New South Wales. It is a popular recreation area and a paradise of lush lawns, luxuriant plants and a delight for both residents and visitors to Orange.



The Caretakers Cottage  
Image courtesy Orange City Library



### VISIT WENTWORTH MINE – A GREAT FAMILY DAY OUT

The Lucknow goldfield was discovered in 1851, soon after Australia's first payable gold was found at nearby Ophir. The Wentworth Main Mine, located on the eastern side of the village, relates to the 1890s and 1930s mining booms.

The entire mining area was situated on land initially owned by William Charles Wentworth; the gold field was known as the Wentworth Field until the name Lucknow was adopted in 1863. It is said the name 'Lucknow' derived from good prosperity the town offered ie luck now.

The Wentworth Main Mine tells the story of goldmining in the Central West, from its early stages in the 1850s, through three stages, until its closure in the 1950s. It has been estimated that the fields yielded around 14,000 kg of gold in all.

One hundred and sixty years on, the landscape around Lucknow is still dominated by its gold mining heritage. Poppet heads, mine buildings, mullock heaps and bluestone dam walls are still plainly visible in and around the village. Lucknow, near Orange, which was worked extensively from 1862 to 1867, yielding 504 474 oz to 1923.

Lucknow is a small village located 9 km south-east of Orange on the Mitchell Highway and 250 km north-west of Sydney.

#### OPENING TIMES

Wentworth Mine is open the first Saturday and Sunday of each month 10.00am – 2.30 pm.

Group and bus bookings are available on request, contact 02 6393 8170 or email [museum@orange.nsw.gov.au](mailto:museum@orange.nsw.gov.au)

It is recommended to wear closed-in shoes, bring along a hat, sunscreen and water.

Find out more information about the Wentworth Main Mine by following this link: [wentworthmine.orangemuseum.com.au/](http://wentworthmine.orangemuseum.com.au/)



## HOME FRONT: TWO YOUNG MEN AT WAR - A MUNITIONS BOX AND A HAVERSACK

While rummaging in my storage shed I came across a munitions box and a haversack! The items were ideal as objects for display in connection with my course of study, 'Museum Practice'. But who were the men behind these items?

Fred Smith, Piano tuner, aged 38, and his cousin, Jack Adams, meat retail and hospitality, aged 30, were about to enter a new chapter in their lives. They were both natives of England and lived in Orange, NSW. Jack's mother, Annie, had married Fred's father, Harry (both parents were widowed).

Broadcasting to the nation in September 1939, Prime Minister Menzies reported 'Great Britain has declared war upon (Germany) and that, as a result, Australia is also at war'. Australia was part of the British Empire; that is, people living in Australia were formally British subjects. It was not until 1949 that Australian citizenship was recognised.

The outbreak of war saw another round of recruitment to swell the five infantry divisions raised during the Great War. These units were maintained at a reasonable high standard of training as the home army. However, in this war two armies would be needed, one for home defence and another for overseas service. To facilitate the second requirement, the second AIF (Australian Imperial Force) militia (citizen force) was formed.

At first, Australians saw only a 'phoney war' in Europe. Fred Smith married Margaret Turner in January 1940 and during the war years had two children. Jack Adams continued at his employment, but like so many of his age group was called up to join the militia. The home front was very vital part of the Australian war effort but, as with the military, the civilian section in Australia was virtually unprepared for war. Even after the war commenced in 1939, there appeared to be little activity on the war front for almost a year. In wartime, it is difficult for civilians to gain a clear picture of how the war is going.

Everything changed in December 1941 with Japan's coordinated attacks across South-East Asia and the Pacific. Prime Minister Curtin later reported: 'We are at war with Japan. This happened because in the first instance, Japanese forces launched an unprovoked attack on British and United States territory'. In February 1942 Singapore fell and Darwin was bombed. Japanese forces landed in the swampy jungle and mountainous territory near Lae, New Guinea, in March 1942.

Faced with the grim possibility of invasion, all Australians became involved in the war.

A second line of men and women at home worked to produce supplies and equipment for the army. The civilian population set to work in the factories and recruiting for active service began. The Government decided to call up youth under Compulsory Military Act to train for home defence. Prime Minister Curtin warned of the critical situation. With a million young people away fighting in two arenas, the call went out to the stressed community for an even greater input into the well-being of the nation and its war effort

## AT WAR

Many civilians, both men and women, were drafted into the munitions factories. A Manpower Commission was established to administer the employment of men between the ages of 18 and 45. It had the power to direct workers to particular jobs where they were most needed. The requirements of the armed forces were given priority, followed by the intensive labour requirements of the munitions industries. In effect the Manpower Commission imposed industrial conscription. By March 1942 It controlled all male labour of British subjects over sixteen years of age.

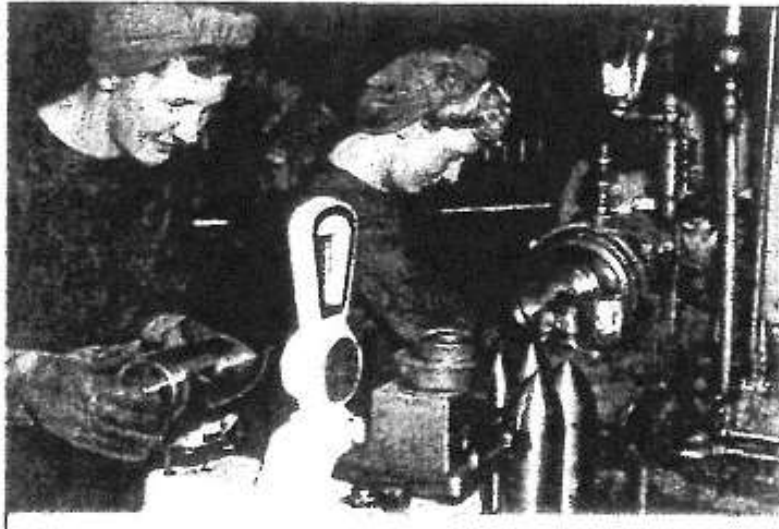
With the outbreak of war with Japan and the emergency in the Pacific, Fred Smith and Jack Adams were 'called up' for military service. Fred Smith was medically unfit for overseas service, and was conscripted to undertake technical training at Sydney Technical College, Ultimo, to operate light machinery, lathe work and grinding.

The Australian Armed Forces were made up entirely of volunteers at the outbreak of war in 1939. Conscription was introduced in 1940, requiring all young men to register for military service. However, only volunteers could serve outside Australia. But in November 1942, Prime Minister Curtin made it possible for conscripts to serve in Australian territories (New Guinea and Papua). Militia conscripts who transferred to the second AIF were sent north to supplement the AIF divisions. Those men who could not enlist due to age, essential civilian service or poor health contributed in other ways. They joined Civil Construction, like the railway building at Junee, NSW.

In NSW the recruiting campaign opened in April 1941, organisation appeared impressive but recruitment was slow. A mobile unit visited Orange to show pictures at the Strand Theatre and to sing patriotic songs. Men of the Orange district of military age reported to the Eastern Command Military Forces. This was for medical checks and enlistment under the Defence Act. Jack Adams duly took the oath to fight for King and Country, but Fred Smith, medically unfit (he wore glasses), was not called up for duty but assigned to machine trade training. Jack Adams later saw active service along the north coast of New Guinea with the 2/11 Australian General Hospital, at Aitape and Buna.

The workforce in munitions in NSW at this time rose to 12,000 with the inclusion of increased shift work. This included 6,000 at Lithgow and 6,000 workers in feeder factories established at Orange and throughout the Central West to assist the Lithgow Operations. The sub-divisions of Littleton and Glenroi were built for the work force in Lithgow and Orange.

The Australian Army had adopted the Bren .303 inch calibre light machine gun. The production at small arm factories was to a large extent re-organised for the manufacture of this weapon. Peak production of small arms amounted to 4,000 rifles, 150 Bren guns and about 70 Vickers guns per week.



Munitions Factory, 1942  
(Photo Australia War Memorial)

A plan was conceived for the Australian Forces to take over from their Allies in a number of key locations in New Guinea. This also side-stepped the situation which expressly denied the use of militia conscripts outside Australian territory. One location chosen was the area around Aitape on the north coast of New Guinea. The Australian force made up of the 6<sup>th</sup> Australian Division which included the 2/11 Australian General Hospital, became identified with the operation known as the Aitape-Wewak campaign.

#### IMAGE

The first Australians to arrive at Aitape set up a works company, general hospital, field ambulance, ordnance depot, dock and general transport company. Fighting started in November 1944 to drive the Japanese towards Wewak. The 6<sup>th</sup> Division lost more than 400 men killed and more than 1,100 wounded. Many soldiers were admitted to hospital because of sickness which placed a great physical demand on the 2/11 AGH. Stretcher bearers and jeep-ambulance brought the sick and wounded to hospital.

The Aitape-Wewak campaign was the final Australian military campaign on mainland New Guinea, when the 6<sup>th</sup> Division overwhelmed the Japanese positions at Wewak. The campaign ran from November 1944 to the war's end in August 1945.

Fred Smith saw out the war years at the Lithgow and Orange small arms factories. Six days after a second atomic bomb was dropped, Emperor Hirohito of Japan asked his people to 'accept the unacceptable' and surrender.

After demobilisation Fred Smith returned to his young family of two and to his trade. Manpower controls were lifted in March 1946. Jack Adams was discharged from the army in April 1946 and found employment in mixed business retail. He later married Aileen Williams in Orange. Two daughters followed.



General Thomas Blamey at the 2/11 AGH, Aitape, 1945  
(Photo: Australian War Memorial)

The munitions box, a strong diagonal dovetail tenon joint timber box made for factory use, now a very useful tool storage box, along with the 1937 web canvas military haversack, also useful as a day pack for scouting and bushwalking, will again go to war as museum items to tell the story of our home front during World War II.

References:

- Small Arms Factory, Lithgow*, Lithgow City Library, 1980
- Australia and the Pacific War*, Andrews, 1985
- Long Green Shore*, Hepworth, 1995
- Australia in the 1940's*, Ciddor, 1998
- Riverina Ramblings*, McInnes, 1999
- Aitape-Wewak Campaign*, Dept of Veterans Affairs, 2005

Article submitted by Mr Harry Smith

## VIEW SOME OF OUR ONLINE COLLECTIONS

Central West Libraries have various collections and databases available for your use:

- [Orange Family History Group](#) ([newsletters](#) and help with research)
- [Local Studies blog](#)
- [Orange Cemetery Database](#)
- [Local Publications for sale](#)
- [Manildra Memories](#)
- [Centenary of World War I in Orange](#)
- [The Orange Wiki](#)
- [Digitised historical newspapers](#)
- [Genealogy](#)



## CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS – WE NEED YOUR HELP!

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>



## ORANGE CEMETERY DATABASE

You can search for your ancestors using our Grave location search via the Orange Cemetery Database. This can be accessed by clicking on the image above, or visit the Orange City Council Website [www.orange.nsw.gov.au/orange-cemetery/](http://www.orange.nsw.gov.au/orange-cemetery/)



## MANILDRA MEMORIES

Do you have relatives from the Manildra area?

In 2007 Central West Libraries asked the Manildra community to share photographs of people, homes, farms, shops, buildings and landscapes relating to Manildra to build our Local History Collection. In a short space of time we had amassed 100 photographs for the collection depicting just some of the industry, buildings, scenery and characters that make Manildra unique. This included sons going off to World War 1, pioneering farmers in the field, early shop owners, significant buildings such as the Flour Mill, Railway Station, School, Scout Hall, Baptist Church and amazing aerial shots. view the 'Manildra Memories' project via the Central West Libraries website [cwl.nsw.gov.au](http://cwl.nsw.gov.au) or follow this link [manildramemories.cwl.nsw.gov.au](http://manildramemories.cwl.nsw.gov.au)

## INTERESTING INFORMATION FOUND IN OTHER JOURNALS

Reading the *Cedar Log journals* - June and September 2023, I read an article on the drowning of Stan Karkoe. As Bathurst is located near Orange I checked our local paper *Central Western Daily* and found the following article:

*Central Western Daily* - 28/12/1963: page 1 - Camper Drowns.

Bathurst Friday - Desmond Stanley Karkoe 28 of Oakdale, near Camden, drowned today while swimming in the "Randwick" waterhole in the Macquarie River, nine miles from Hill End. Karkoe and a number of relatives were spending a camping holiday at the spot, which attracts many tourists and anglers. Children swimming in the 12ft deep waterhole noticed he was missing and called two of his brothers. They searched for half an hour before they located Karkoe's body. They tried mouth to mouth resuscitation for almost three hours, but could not revive him. Meanwhile, other campers had driven to Hill End to call Bathurst police and ambulance. The waterhole is a popular camping area for Sydney people because of its fine scenic setting. A roughly made road leads to the waterhole.

*Links 'N' Chains* - Liverpool Genealogy Society Inc - October 2023 - page 22

Dorothy Nell Brain BEM (nee Stonestreet) -Born 8/7/1923 Blayney-13/4/2023. Daughter of Dorthy and Arthur Stonestreet of Gregghastown.

## INTERESTING ITEMS FOUND BY ORANGE FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCHER CAROL

I was looking for the marriage of Ernest Mosman Cornell to Maude Corby as I had found their divorce on the NSW State Records. After searching I could not find a marriage on NSW. B.D.M.

While looking through our files I found a marriage at Holy Trinity Church Orange for Ernest Mosman Cornell and Maude Corby 11/4/1923. I checked the NSW B.D.M. marriages by searching surname \* - date 11/4/1923 and found this record: (8428/1923) - Corby Ernest M. Cornell Ernest M), also checked NSW B.D.M. CD - same as above, so the error has continued.

I was looking for a railway personnel card on the website of NSW State records for a Raphael Hunter Marsh. I found Raphael Hunter Casselic crossed out known as Raphael Hunter Marsh - Born 3/8/1896.

When checking NSW B.D.M. - Casselic\* - registered Quirindi - I found three other children born to Elizabeth, Father unknown however their surname was spelt Casselick.

Carl William Warburton.

Parents William Thomas Warburton and Isabell Warburton of Millthorpe. Carl was born 27/11/1892 at Millthorpe. He went to Millthorpe School and Bathurst school. He entered the service of the Bank at Millthorpe on the 31/8/1910 and was transferred to Head Office in 1912, then to Dungog in 1913.

He enlisted in the Australian Army in World War I on the 5 February 1915, joining the 5th Infantry Brigade 5th Field Ambulance. He returned to Australia on 8 April 1919. In the Second World War he joined the 2/1 Australian Ordnance Stores Company on 7 July 1940. Warburton edited the B.O.D. (Base Ordnance Depot) Journal while in the Army.

1st marriage Hazel Mary Pirey Evans 12/4/1928 Qld.

2nd marriage Thelma Ada Parkes 1942. (Note: NSW B.D.M. Marriage - Warburton Carol William/Thelma Ada Parkes).

Carl wrote two books *White Poppies* and *Buffaloes adventure and discovery in Arhem Land*. The Orange City Library have copies of these above books.

His service number for World War 1 was 2924 and World War 11 NX25433.

Carl died 22/10/1963 Concord Repatriation Hospital -Rookwood Cemetery. His wife Thelma Ada Warbuton - died 4/12/2010 95 and was buried Katoomba Cemetery, she has a headstone.

His brother, Wallace Allan Warburton was born 3/12/1889 Millthorpe, also served in World War 1. His service no 3537. He married at Los Angeles California U.S.A. to Marie Margaret Compton 3/5/1930 - died 9/2/1973 Los Altos U.S.A.

I enjoy reading the magazine *Regional Lifestyle*. I happened to find three stories that have local connections In the Winter 2023 edition:

The First story is on page 90 – “Map Maestro”.

Coonabarabran's John Whitehead 87 years old who attended primary school in Orange during the war years. John was a professional rabbit trapper.

The Orange City Library has three of his books - *Tracking and mapping the explorers* - Volume 1; Volume 2 and Volume 6.

The second story on page 98- “In Rachel's footsteps”.

Jeff Gill's journey into his family's past.

Jeff wrote the book *Rachel, Brumby hunter, medicine woman, bushrangers' ally and troublemaker for good , the remarkable life of Rachel Kennedy*.

Rachel Kennedy was a colonial folk hero. Born in the wild and remote Warrumbungle mountains of western New South Wales in 1845, she was described by Duke Tritton of The Bulletin as Australia's greatest pioneer woman of them all.

I was told about the book *Rachel* by a man who was visiting the Orange City Library from Gilgandra. This man now lives in Orange. Shortly after this I happened to read the article in the magazine. I have purchased a copy of this book and hope to read it soon.

The third story page 168- A doctor driven - Dr Steve Peterson Councilor Orange City Council.





## BILLY DARGIN

Billy Dargin was an Aboriginal police tracker who was instrumental in the capture of notorious bushranger Ben Hall. Between 1862 and 1865 Hall and his various associates committed more than 600 crimes throughout the central west of New South Wales.

Soon after the NSW Police Force was established on 1 March 1862, "blacktrackers" were employed to assist police hunt down criminals. Trackers' skills were drawn from an intimate knowledge of country. A competent tracker could detect the smallest change in the landscape and identify in which direction a person or animal was travelling. Aboriginal trackers were employed in NSW until 1973 when the last tracker, Norman Walford, retired.

Very little is known about Billy's parents or his early life. He was born on the Bogan in about 1843. While Dargin is a common Aboriginal surname from that area, it appears that Billy acquired his surname from one Peter Dargin, a squatter who owned land in the Bathurst district, and into whose service Billy entered as a boy.

Billy Dargin's name first appeared in the Police Salary Register in September 1863, but he had been tracking for the police since the Escort Gold Robbery in June 1862.

On 7 February 1863 Ben Hall, John O'Meally and Patrick Daley stole a rifle, carbine, ammunition, a pair of saddle-bags, and a bridle from the Pinnacle Police Station, near the Weddin Mountains. Dargin and Sub-Inspector John Oxley Norton took off in pursuit of the trio, who they soon located. Norton opened fire but was forced to surrender when he ran out of ammunition. After his horse was shot from beneath him, Dargin escaped into the scrub and continued on foot for about 13 kilometres. When the bushrangers overtook him Dargin threw his empty revolver at Hall, striking him on the head. Hall reputedly said to him:

*"Well, old man, you're a plucky one, we'll let you off, but we'll stick up your barracks tonight."*

[Interestingly, Billy was 20 years old at the time, and Ben 25.]

Billy Dargin continued to pursue the Hall gang and their associates throughout 1864. In October he helped arrest Tom White (a colleague of Hall's) at Gillenbah on the Murrumbidgee River, having followed him some 300km from Wheogo, west of Grenfell.

On 23 April 1865 Dargin was stationed at Forbes when Sub-Inspector James Davidson received word that Hall and members of his gang were in the district and preparing to leave in the coming days. At 4am on 29 April, Billy and another tracker, Charley Edwards, left Forbes with Davidson, Sergeant James Condell and four constables. They set up camp at a remote location on Billabong Creek where they had been informed that Hall had been camping, patiently awaiting his return. Hall returned to his camp on 4 May. When he rose at 7am the following morning and went to check his horses Davidson called on him to stand, but Hall proceeded to run, revolver in hand. Davidson fired, striking Hall in the shoulder. Hall cried out: *"I am wounded; shoot me dead"*. Billy and Condell fired two shots each. Charley and the four constables then commenced shooting in earnest. Hall died seconds later, with no less than 32 bullet wounds. Despite being armed, Hall had not fired a single shot.

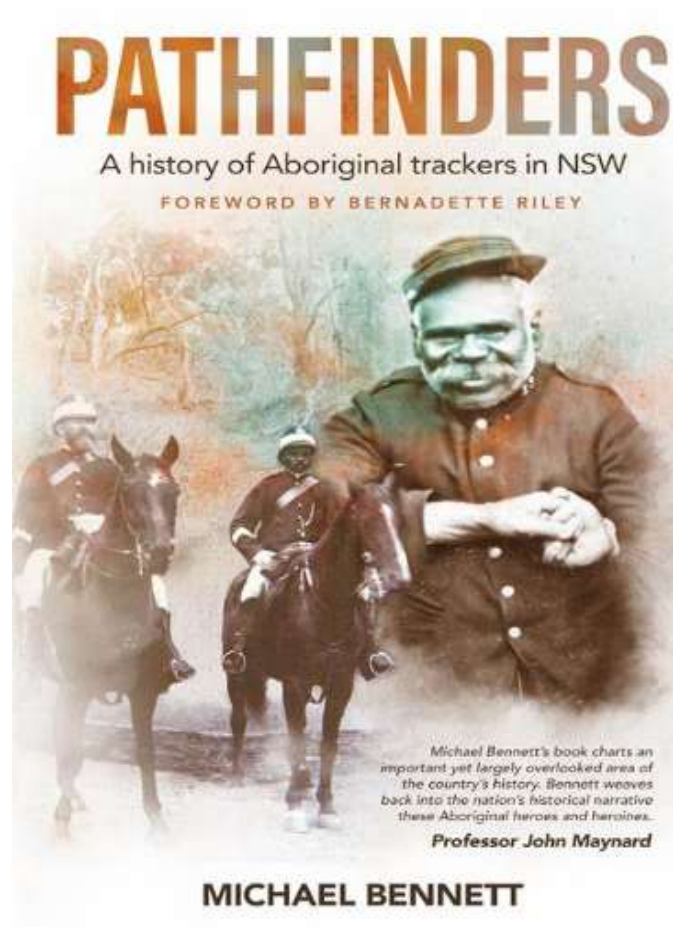
Sub-Inspector Davidson praised Dargin's role in Hall's death, declaring that *"his coolness, courage and determination were worthy of some substantial reward."*

Billy Dargin was profoundly affected by the manner of Ben Hall's death. He later recounted that most of the bullets had been fired after Hall had fallen to the ground. According to one account, Dargin's remorse over Hall's death drove him to drink. Billy Dargin died in Forbes on 28 October 1865, aged 22 years. It was also suggested that Billy may have met with foul play, possible revenge for the brutal manner in which Hall had died.

According to the *Lachlan Reporter*:

*The black tracker, who has been in the police force about three years, died very suddenly on Saturday last. At 10 in the morning he appeared in great agony, but became easier, and died about noon. His remains were handed over to the undertaker, and on Sunday morning he was quietly buried in the Presbyterian portion of the cemetery, there being neither followers nor mourners.*

Source: Bennett, Michael 2020, *Pathfinders: a history of Aboriginal trackers in NSW*, NewSouth Publishing, Kensington, NSW.



This title is available to borrow from Orange City Library.

Trudi Mayfield - Heritage Research Librarian, Central West Libraries

## NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

*Central Western Daily* - 28/10/1949: Death of Cyril Gartrell.

Mr Cyril Mortimer Gartrell 51 grandson of a pioneer of the Orange district, died suddenly at his residence Anson Street, on Wednesday night. This followed closely on the death of another prominent Orange businessman Mr T. Mallick. Mr Cyril Gartrell was the youngest son of the late Mr Richard Gartrell and of Mrs Gartrell of Cargo Road. His grandfather, Richard Gartrell snr., took up dairying on the Molong Road and was one of the first dairymen to introduce a daily milk service to the residents of the town and district. Cyril Gartrell who was educated at the Orange District Public school, joined the Navy at the early age of 14 years and later served in World War 1. On his discharge from the Navy he was appointed manager of the Shell Oil Company's depot at Bathurst and about 10 years ago returned to his native town to open a tyre repairing business in Anson Street, which he conducted successfully right up to the time of his death. Cyril was a popular member of the Orange Bowling Club and one of its most constant attendants. In addition to his aged mother, he leaves a widow and one daughter Patricia both of Anson Street. One brother Harold and two sisters Amy (Mrs Wall, of Hornsby) and Blanche (Mrs McQueen, of Concord) also survive. Following a service at Holy Trinity Church yesterday morning the remains were conveyed to Sydney for cremation at the Northern Suburbs crematorium.

*Central Western Daily* - 9/3/1951: Former resident's death.

A former resident of Dubbo and Orange, who had lived for many years at Leura, was buried in the Presbyterian portion of the Dubbo cemetery last Saturday. She was Mrs Connie Clements Deeble aged 72. Her husband Mr John N. Deeble, a Government architect, died in 1940. For many years the late Mr Deeble had made Orange his headquarters while attending to Commonwealth Government buildings, principally post offices and banks throughout the Western townships. Jack Deeble was a popular member of the Orange Bowling Club and his wife also associated herself with public and charitable organisations. Since the death of her husband Mrs Deeble had lived with an old friend Miss Darling of Leura.

*Central Western Daily* - 27/10/1952: Many at funeral.

The funeral of Mr Daniel Michael Redmond at Millthorpe yesterday was one of the largest seen there for many years. Mr Redmond who was one of the best known produce merchants in central NSW. died at Nowra on Monday. He lived at Crowson St., Millthorpe and was 71 years old but had been ailing for some time He had been visiting his daughter at Nowra when he became ill and later died in Nowra Hospital. Mr Redmond popularly known as "Danny" was born at Forest Reefs . He was the eldest son of Mr and Mrs Peter Redmond who had a farm in the Forest Reefs district. His father also did some gold mining. In 1913 he joined the staff of W and E Hayes as a buyer and traveler. Before that he had a varied career. In 1933 he was appointed manager of the business at Millthorpe and remained there until his death. He married Matilda Russell at about the time he joined the staff of W and E. Hayes. Produce expert. His interest in the Millthorpe and Orange districts were many and varied. He had an unusual knowledge of all types of farm produce particularly in the hay and potato spheres. As a buyer and traveler for the firm he went all over NSW. and Queensland. He was very interested in all types of sport and charitable works. He was patron of many sporting

associations and was for many years a member of Orange jockey Club. Mr Redmond was the patron of the Millthorpe R.S.L. and for many years a president of the Millthorpe Progress Association. He was also a Justice of the Peace and prior to 1932 was a member of the board of the Orange District Hospital. Mr Redmond leaves his wife and five daughters. There are also three brothers. They are Mr Peter Redmond (Browns Creek), Mr Jack Redmond (Brown's Creek) and Mr Greg Redmond (Forest Reefs), Mrs Win Hill; Mrs Pat Fitzpatrick, Mrs Nell Lynch, Mrs Eileen Johnson (all of Orange) and Mrs Jean Heffron ( of Nowra). His funeral left the Millthorpe Roman Catholic Church yesterday for the Millthorpe cemetery.

*Central Western Daily: 23/9/1958 : Obituary- Mrs Elizabeth Doran.*

A member of the pioneering McAtamney family of the Central West, Mrs Elizabeth Doran died in Orange on Saturday aged 79. Mrs Doran and her late husband Mr Christopher Doran were well known in the hotel trade in Orange and surrounding districts. In the early 20's Mr and Mrs Doran came to Orange and conducted a restaurant in Peisley Street. They later became licensees of the Commercial Hotel Cumnock. They also conducted hotels at Dubbo, Millthorpe and George's Plains. Mr Doran died in Orange in 1941. Mrs Doran's parents came to Australia from Ireland and took up land at Wattle Flat. After her marriage she and her husband moved to Orange. Mr and Mrs Doran conducted the Cumnock hotel for three years before returning to Orange to live in retirement. Mrs Peter Quirk of Store Creek is a sister of Mrs Doran and the only surviving member of the McAtamney family. Mrs Doran is survived by a family of three sons as well known in Orange and three daughters. They are: Jack now of Sutherland Bill (Marrickville) and James (Orange). Daughters are Elizabeth (Mrs Coffey, Orange) Peggy (Mrs Anderson, Orange) and Sister Walsh of Mater Misericordiae Hospital, Crow's Nest. Her funeral was held yesterday following prayers at St Mary's Roman Catholic Church and interment was at Orange.

*Central Western Daily - 10/7/1959 - Obituary - Mr R. McKenzie.*

Mr Robert McKenzie of Spring Street, died suddenly at his residence on July 3, at the age of 65. Mr McKenzie was born at Shadforth, where he spent most of his early life, but when he married he came to Orange to live. His widow Ivy is the daughter of the late Mr H.A. Taylor and of Mrs A. Taylor. He had lived in the Orange district for the past 36 years. Mr McKenzie was well known as a builder and carried on his trade until a few months before his death. Some years ago in conjunction with the late Mr Hugh Redwood he erected the Rural Motors in Sale Street and adjoining shops. On leaving the building trade for eight years Mr McKenzie and his wife conducted general store in Lord's Place. He leaves his widow, four daughters Monica (Mrs Gough), Marie (Mrs Neal), Ivy (Mrs Carroll) and Leonie (Mrs Scarr) all of Orange and eight grandchildren. Two brothers Fred of Lane Cove and Angus of Orange also survive him, two sisters predeceased him. His funeral which was largely attended left Holy Trinity Church of England, Orange after a service conducted by Rev G. Smee for the Orange cemetery.

*Central Western Daily - 4/6/1965: Obituary- Mr L.G. Paddison*

The death occurred last weekend at his residence, Banora Point, Tweed Heads of a former Manildra resident, Mr Leslie George Paddison, aged 66. He was a son of the late Mr and Mrs G.W. Paddison who were owners of a property on the Molong- Manildra Road. He married

Miss Marjorie Griffith daughter of the late Mr and Mrs G. W. Griffith prominent Manildra business people for many years. After leaving Manildra many years ago Mr Paddison was engaged in a farming pursuits at Baradine and Glen Innes. He is survived by his widow a son and daughter, a brother John and three sisters Ivy (Mrs Gosper); Rita (Mrs J. Aston) and Miss Olive Paddison. Another sister Dorothy (Mrs G. Strom, Manildra) predeceased him 14 years ago. Mrs J.M. Miller of Orange St., Manildra is a sister-in-law.

(Leslie George Paddison -died 29/5/1965, Marjory Emma Paddison - Born 7/8/1906 - died 4/4/1965 -headstone - Glen Innes Cemetery). Children: Zeta and Bruce.

*Central Western Daily* - 6/10/1965: Obituary - Mrs A.A. Smee.

The death occurred recently in Orange of a well known residence Mrs Alice Ann Smee aged 66. Mrs Smee lived at 13 Kokoda St and before that at 42 March St. Her husband Harold Thomas Smee predeceased her by 13 years. Mrs Smee was born at Orange the daughter of Mr and Mrs Herbert Astill. She was a member of the Bloomfield Bowling Club but could not take part in events as much as she would have liked because of ill health. She leaves four sons Roy (Orange), Stan (Villawood), Reg (Cronulla) and Noel (Orange) and two daughters Mrs R. Fewings (Orange) and Mrs J. Bryon (Dubbo). She is also survived by three brothers Humphrey (Brisbane), Cyril (Melbourne) and Phil (Bourke) and a sister Mrs F. Murray (Wagga). The service was held at the Holy Trinity Church of England.

*Central Western Daily* - 26/6/1968 - Obituary- Mr E.J. Welch. Lithgow.

The funeral was held this week of Mr Edward James Welch of 38 Geordle Street, whose death occurred in Lithgow Hospital last Thursday night. Mr Welch had been an invalid for the past 30 years. Born at Lucknow 73 years ago he came to Lithgow in 1919 and had lived here ever since. He was employed at the old Zig Zag Colliery up until his retirement and was a keen supporter of Rugby League. Surviving Mr Welch are his wife Rose three well known sportsman sons Jim (Cronulla), Jack (Hassan Walls Road) and Stan (Portland) one daughter Sylvia (Mrs Marsh, Lane Cove) 12 grandchildren and one brother Ernest of Shadforth. After a service in St Paul's Church of England cremation took place at Canobolas Crematorium Orange.

*Central Western Daily* 15/10/1974 - Obituary- Mr C.E. Thompson.

The death occurred recently of a well-known Orange resident, Mr Charles Edward Thompson. Charlie as he was known to his many friends was born at Emu Swamp near Orange in 1894. He spent almost all his life in Orange. As a young man he worked on the land in the district the Cadia mines and the railway department. While working with the Railways he became intensely interested in first aid. This was to become his life's work. He gained the necessary St. John Ambulance certificates and became a voluntary ambulance officer at the then Peisley St. Ambulance station. After some years as a voluntary he was appointed to the permanent staff. The rest of his working life was spent in this capacity until ill health forced his retirement. Because of his work assisting the sick and injured he became widely known in Orange and district and neighboring towns. He would be remembered by many people whom he tutored in first aid. He conducted classes in co-operation with Orange doctors for many years, enabling students to qualify for their St John's First Aid Certificated. Vale- Charlie Thompson

a dedicated man who loved his work giving himself to the maximum for the needs of others (contributed).

*Central Western Daily - 7/9/1992: Former teacher will be missed.*

Percival Thomas Rootes (known as Perc) passed away at Blayney District Hospital on July 7, 1992. Late of 19 Rowlands St., Blayney formerly of Carlingford he was 86 years of age. Funeral service was held at Canobolas Gardens Crematorium Orange July 10. He is survived by his sister Mrs Edna Johnston and a brother Eric Rootes both of Bathurst. Married to Phyllis Ann Cobb of Mandurama on January 6, 1940 she passed away on August 29, 1990. Born at Upper Lansdowne (North Coast) on January 31, 1906, Perc moved to Lyndhurst with his parents in 1910 on the transfer of his father Mr E.T.J. Rootes to the position of headmaster at Lyndhurst Public School. His early education was at Lyndhurst then at Bathurst High School before taking up training for his vocation of schoolteacher. Country schools in which he taught include Tilpa, Stuart Town, Burnt Yards, Millthorpe, Orange Rural, Bellingen then to the Sydney metropolitan area until retirement. Following retirement, he continued on as a casual teacher for a number of years. Mr and Mrs Rootes moved to Blayney in 1984 and in their remaining years enjoyed meeting many old friends and acquaintances from earlier years. They also forged many new worthy friendships. Perc was widely known and highly respected, both as a person and a teacher due to his interest in people and local activities in the town in which he served and lived and from his long involvement in the Masonic field. In the latter he achieved the office of Past Junior Grand Warden and he also served for a number of years on the governing body of the Order, the Board of General Purpose. At the time of his death he was member of Lodge Belubula at Mandurama (having joined that Lodge in 1926) and the more recently formed "day" Lodge at Millthorpe. Conscientious in all things in which he became involved, a courteous and caring man with very strong principles, ever willing to assist people when called upon, he will be sadly missed by all who knew him. He is deeply and sadly missed by the remaining members of his family.

## 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](mailto:familyhistory@orange.nsw.gov.au)

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## JOIN OUR GROUP

Do you live locally and have a keen interest in family history research?

We are looking for new members to join the Orange Family History Group.

Our group meets upstairs in the Orange City Library on the third Tuesday of the month at 1.30pm, except December. Everyone is most welcome.

We publish a newsletter three times a year – April, August and December.

We encourage our members to help others in their family history discoveries – by assisting people undertake research; helping with indexing projects and many more initiatives that we have planned!

*The Bulletin* – 19 May 1948

[ADVERTISEMENT]

# SUGAR SHORTAGE

SYDNEY,  
5TH MAY, 1948.

TO THE PUBLIC:

Raw sugar has started to arrive here after a two months' stoppage of supplies caused by the Queensland watersiders' strike.

We are pleased to say our Sydney refinery has immediately resumed refining to fill the accumulated demand. Ordering will be very high because stocks of sugar normally held by housewives and by grocers and factories have been exhausted.

Already 15,000 tons of refined sugar production has been lost this year by waterfront and coalfields strikes. This loss is 20 per cent. of what we would have produced normally in the first four months of the year.

We have a serious manpower shortage at the factory which limits the speed at which recovery can take place. However, we are refining at about 4,000 tons a week and delivering as quickly as the sugar can be packed.

Naturally, as a business enterprise, we are anxious to refine and sell as much sugar as possible. We very much regret the inconvenience caused to our customers by the shortage.

C. W. ROTHE, General Manager,  
The Colonial Sugar Refining Co. Ltd.