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# Macleay River Historical Society

## NEWSLETTER

November 2012

### President's Report

Welcome to our first newsletter for some time. We had previously included a Newsletter in our earlier Journals however due to not enough volunteers this couldn't be maintained. I have elected to edit the newsletter for the next twelve months and with increasing volunteer and member involvement I hope this will become a regular feature once again.

We were recently honoured to have presented to us a set of diaries of Enoch Rudder, Kempsey's founder. The diaries were handed over by Enoch's great grandson, David Rudder. David has also given us transcriptions of the Diaries.

Last year we were successful in obtaining a Community Heritage Grant from the National Library of Australia and engaged Dr Roslyn Russell, of Significance International to carry out a Significance Assessment of our Museum's collection. We are currently awaiting Ros' final Report.

Phil Lee  
President

### Benefits of Membership

Membership Applications and Renewals start from February in the New Year. Members of the Macleay River Historical Society now enjoy the following benefits:

Quarterly Journal (posted or pick up from Museum)

Quarterly Newsletter (posted, emailed or pick up from Museum)

Discount of 20% on basic Research Fee (\$20.00 instead of \$25.00 per subject)

Discount of 10% on Photograph orders (excluding postage)

### Research Report

Michael Scott completed research on the history of the Kempsey District Hospital for Graham Books and Associates. Ruth had to interrupt her research on Cavanagh's Bus Company, Woods Newsagency and Woodhaven Hereford Stud due to Noel's surgery at the Prince of Wales Hospital. Unfortunately Noel has had to return to Hospital in Sydney and we all wish him a speedy and successful recovery. Michael Scott is taking over Ruth's research for her until her return. He completed research on the Lawson family and also researched the Avery family and Hollywood House built by Richard Avery.

Pam had to also put her research on hold for a while due to surgery in August. She has now made a good recovery and is continuing with her Secretary role as well. I personally admire her for her dedication to the Society during a worrying time.

Garry and Sue Munday returned from their holidays in July. Colin Bull had written in Garry's absence for information. Garry completed research on the Jamieson Sawmill and Captain John A Jamieson.

Garry also had an email from Wales regarding Lewis Lewis who was a leader of the Merthyr Rising of June 1831. This was an uprising of the working class population of Merthyr in South Wales over unemployment and lowering of wages. Two men including Lewis Lewis (Lewsyn yr Heliwr) were sentenced to death however Lewis' sentence was commuted to transportation.

According to the enquirer, Lewis died a convict at Kempsey on 6 September 1847, however Garry could not find any information to verify that. He referred Steffan to Port Macquarie Museum who said Lewis Lewis could have been buried on one of Charles Steele's properties where he worked.

We have now received another email from Steffan to ask if we know of his burial on any of Steele's Macleay holdings. This will be a curly one for Garry to investigate. Following on the burial theme, Garry also looked into a request on laws regarding private burials and the cemeteries at East and West Kempsey, Frederickton and Toms Gully.

Turning to Toms Gully; I spent many an hour looking for information on who "Tom" was and when did the area and cemetery get the name. Kempsey Shire Council wanted to update their cemetery records and approached us for the history surrounding the area. I found the cemetery was gazetted in 1892 but was known as Uralgurra cemetery for some time, although Long Tom's Gully was already named. Billie Crawford seemed to think it was named after Tom Waters. I did a TROVE search of "Tom's Gully" and "Long Tom" and came upon an article from a Walgett newspaper. Alexander Walters was in Walgett Court giving a character reference for an alleged horse-stealer up on trial. Alexander

said he was known as “Long Tom” and ‘Tom’ on the river. It made me wonder if I was barking up the wrong tree, searching for a local man named “Thomas”.

I also sent more research to a descendant on the Tillbrook family and researched George Pearson and Lieut. Steele for Geoff Budden.

John Wall finalised his research on Charles Henry Wittig. John copied the entire Pantom file for a visitor to the Museum and posted it off to her.

Peter Ryan finished his research on Thomas Armitage Salmon and the Rose Inn for a descendant who didn't have much time to research the family herself. Thomas' son, AJ Salmon had a publican's licence for the Rose Inn at Spencers Creek, originally known as the Spencer's Creek Hotel when they were the licensees. He also ran the ferry service at Jerseyville for travellers to South West Rocks and Trial Bay Gaol. Peter Ryan also researched the history of Dr Rankine's holiday house at Crescent Head for the new owner. There were no photographs of the house in our files however Carol McMaugh had a photograph of the house she had taken in 1999, so all was well. A further request from was for information on the good Doctor himself. John Wall has been printing out interesting articles from the digitised Argus relating to same.

Other enquiries for Peter Ryan were Fowler family history and a visitor who wanted a photograph and death notice of Dr Louis Gabriel.

An enquiry was received from Kempsey Police re Edward Hampson who was killed Christmas Creek, near Yarrabandinni Gates on Christmas Eve 1862 when his young horse threw him against a tree. It was believed Edward was a police constable and had died on duty, and the information was required for a book on police killed in the line of duty. A death certificate in Research records however gave Edward's occupation as a farmer, as did a marriage certificate for his oldest son, Wright Harrison Hampson. It appears Edward was a police constable at some stage but had left the Force prior to his death.

Another Jamieson descendant obtained information on the Jamieson family for her in-laws' wedding anniversary dinner.

Desley Nunn did another of her marvellous demonstrations and talks on “School in the Old Days”; her recollections of school in the early 1950s for Frederickton Public School. They were very enthusiastic pupils who enjoyed their pen and ink instruction and playing with some of Desley's games from that period. She also set them questions on items to locate in the Museum and cottage. They were very attentive.

Peggy Gould  
Research Section

## Photography Report

During the year the Society purchased a new Epson Scanner and Printer. The V700 flatbed Scanner is capable of copying photographic slides and also negatives of all sizes including glass plate negatives. Our new Stylus Photo R3000 printer will produce high quality archival photographs up to A3+ size (13” x 9”).

The Society provided historical photographic images to Kempsey Shire Council to be used in new interpretative signage for Flagstaff Hill at South West Rocks.

Debbie Reynolds continued to work on scanning the Angus McNeil collection glass negatives and Judy Waters followed up with cataloguing. The latest count for AMN photographs (26 October 2012) is 19,498 and the total number of photographs catalogued is 41,279. It is estimated that our Angus McNeil collection of glass negatives numbers over 30,000.

What pops up never ceases to amaze Debbie. In a batch she worked on in August, there was a photograph of Sarah McNeil Wheeler, old Angus' mother, on the verandah of her Rocky River home (near Uralla, NSW). She was widowed as a young thirty-four year old pregnant mother of six when Angus McNeil senior died from a heart attack. Their youngest son was born nearly eight months later. Somehow Sarah must have struggled on before remarrying in 1874 to Edward Wheeler. There was another son born to the Wheelers the following year. Our Angus was just a toddler when his father died.

A few years ago, we were given a photograph of Sarah sitting on her rocking chair on the verandah of her home. Last week, there was Sarah again this time in our collection; a similar



*Judy Waters and Jane Symons at the “Images on Glass” book launch*

photograph but this time she was standing with her rocker behind her.

Still on the McNeils, we were sad to read that Arthur (Snow) McNeil passed away at Macleay Valley House Nursing Home, Frederickton. Snow was the son of Lil and Earl McNeil, old Angus' son, who took over the Studio when his father retired. Snow was an artist of some note and lived at Rawdon Island where he had a studio.

The book launch on 29 July for *Images on Glass - Volume 2* went well and we had a lovely afternoon entertaining friends of the Museum. Jane Symons, the founder of the former Australian Picture Library, enjoyed her all too short visit and thanked us for inviting her. The McNeils were well represented and are always good to have around. They appreciate what we are doing with their great-great grandfather's precious collection and it is good to hear kind words about the way the society is handling it.

We would like to thank each and every one who contributed to the book launch in any way. Members excelled themselves once again providing a delicious afternoon tea. We appreciate their generosity and thank each one for the time and effort they put in to make it all such a success

Hopefully *Images on Glass - Volume 2* book sales will cover Volume 3. We have been asked when it might be expected and we just say "between now and two years" which gives us time to get organised. It would be nice to say 'every year' but that might be a bit ambitious. Perhaps when we make enough to cover the printing of Volume 3 might be a good time to make plans.

Photo orders continue to roll in keeping busy people even busier. Some Fridays seem to have wall-to-wall people lined up waiting for assistance. It is good to see the Museum busy, especially in the cooler months, and to see bus tours returning.

One of our Book Launch guests came back the following week and identified members of her family in twenty-four photographs. It was quite exciting as she kept finding more and more people as we went along.

Debbie and Judy would like to extend an open invitation to the public to come to the Museum on Sunday, 11th November, Remembrance/Armistice Day, in an all effort attempt to get some of our unidentified soldiers remembered too. The Society will waive the admittance charge for that day. John Russell will give us some publicity on Tank Radio and the Macleay Argus ran an initial story on 23 October and will follow-up before the 11th. We are also inviting people to bring out their photographs of any soldier (identified or not) in any war and Debbie will be available to scan them. All photographs will be returned immediately.

We expect that any person who accepts our invitation will

be in their 70's and 80's and we would like to offer them morning or afternoon tea.

Judy Waters  
Photographic Section

## Publications

Books currently being researched include the following:

*Racing in the Valley*, a history of racing on the Macleay 1840-1939 by Garry Munday

*Kempsey to Armidale Stock Route, Kempsey to Armidale Road (Trunk Route 75), Past and Pioneer Schools of the Macleay Valley* by Garry Munday

*Letters from South Africa*, service personnel from the Macleay who served in the Boer War 1899-1902 by Phil Lee

If you can assist in any way with information, stories or photographs please contact the person concerned via the Society.

Book launches held at the Museum during the year included *Riverboats of the Macleay* (Garry Munday), *Images on Glass Volume 2* (Judy Waters and Debbie Reynolds), *Transport in the Blood*, (Al Robinson). All these publications are available from the Society.

## Herborn Lane or Herborne Avenue?

Our Society had a request from the author Gavin Souter enquiring about when Herborn Lane, East Kempsey, was changed to Herborne Avenue. The author of *Lion and Kangaroo*, had spent his early years in East Kempsey. A study of council minutes, Society records and newspapers produced the following information.

Ernest William Lewis (Louis) Herborn was the second son of William Herborn of Wiesbaden, Duchy of Nassau (now in Germany). He married Fanny Rudder, daughter of Enoch William Rudder, Kempsey's founder around 1855 in St Thomas' Anglican Church, Port Macquarie. He was perhaps Kempsey's first registered surveyor. Ernest is credited with surveying the first subdivision of Central Kempsey, surveying the Trial Bay Gaol grounds and also with the first survey of the village of Nambucca. One of his sons, Otho Albert, also became a registered surveyor.

In 1892 Ernest wrote to the Borough Council offering to dedicate to them a lane running through his property from the Port Macquarie Road to Innes Street. His offer was accepted and it came to be known as Herborn Lane. In 1932, Kempsey Council made Herborn Lane a one-way traffic street, for "up" traffic only. In 1933 the only son of Stanley and Olla Carpenter, eleven year old Stanley Gerard James

Carpenter, was killed when he rode his bicycle down Herborn Lane and was struck by a car on the Highway.

A detailed study of the life of war hero Stanley Franzien Carpenter by Harry Willey of Scone, NSW was published in Digger magazine, No 32 September 2010. Stanley junior was a pupil of East Kempsey Public School and was on his way to have lunch at his parents' business in Smith Street. Afterwards Herborn Lane was closed to through traffic at the lower end.

In May 1937, Council received a petition from local residents and ratepayers asking for a change of name from Herborn Lane to Herborn Avenue, stating that the class of residences fronting onto and adjoining it warranted a "better-sounding" name. They also did not wish to retain the name "Herborn". Council replied and asked the petitioners to come up with a new name. The petitioners suggested Triangle Lane. The matter was considered in Council in June 1937. Alderman McElhone said he could see no reason to obliterate the name of Herborn and moved that the Lane be renamed Herborn Avenue. Alderman Warhurst seconded this and the motion was carried.

Since then to the early 1950's, there were still mentions both

of Herborn Lane and Herborn Avenue. We have been unable to find out when the spelling changed to "Herborne" but the original name was Herborn.

### **Kinchela Boys Visit**

On September 27th our museum was visited by Kinchela Boys who were in Kempsey for a reunion. Part of the Stolen Generation, Kinchela Boys were part of a group of around 600 children of the Kinchela Boys Home who were taken from their families and housed there between 1924 and 1970 in often brutal conditions.

The Kinchela Boys read our Research files, looked at photographs and digitised newspaper records. A highlight was the reading of his own poetry by "Crow" (Ian Lowe) detailing his feelings and experiences at the Home.

Kinchela Boys are looking at establishing a keeping place in Kempsey for any memorabilia associated with the Home. If you can assist please contact the Museum.

### **MUSEUM REPORT**

Volume 2 in our Macleay Heritage series (*Shorty Ranger – A Son of the Macleay*) is now available and the first copy



*Herborne Avenue*



Courtesy of Jann Kesby, Dughutti-Ngaku Aboriginal Art Gallery.

*The Kinchela Boys.*

was sold last week. The Macleay Heritage series will be a range of inexpensive “print on demand” books we will print and bind in house. A range of subjects on the history of the Macleay will be available and they will be suitable for general reading, school projects or reference. Already available in the same series is *The Angus McNeil Collection*, the story of our famous glass negative collection.

Our long-time printing and graphic arts expert, Gary Marshall, has been training one of our new volunteers, Richard Mohr, in the job and so far Richard is doing well. New printing software including Quark Xpress and Adobe InDesign Creative Suite was purchased during the year.

I responded to an article in “Australian Family Tree Connections” magazine re Flt Lt Arthur Probert (son of Toorooka’s postmaster in the 1930’s) of RAAF Squadron 460 who was killed when shot down on a mission over France in 1944. The article was put in by Friends of 460 Squadron, who said the French Government were building a monument and wished to contact any relatives of the aircrew. Some time ago the late Bettina Hunt, Arthur’s niece, donated photographs of Arthur and his step-brother Robert to our Society. I have put Friends of 460 Squadron in touch with Bettina’s son who they will ask to attend the ceremony in France. The Committee of the Friends of 460 Squadron said they were very grateful for this as only one descendant of the aircrew of six Australians has been found so far. RAAF 460 Squadron, famous for the Lancaster bomber “G

for George” now in the Australian War Memorial, had the highest casualty rate of any Bomber Command Squadron during World War 2 with 51% of its members killed in action.

In conjunction with the RSL Kempsey Sub-Branch, we utilised the services of an anthropology graduate in July. Bernice Sim was involved in arranging new interpretative signage for our Aboriginal History display. This was paid for by the Brolga Project, an initiative which strives to place (mostly) metropolitan-based university students into rural and regional businesses for a period of work experience. For more information see [www.brolgaproject.com.au](http://www.brolgaproject.com.au).

Glenn Coughlan, husband of our treasurer Barbara, has completed an excellent stand for the Light Horse saddle on display. He has donated his labour and materials which will be acknowledged in new signage for this display. The Light Horse saddle is a reconstruction although the iron frame, seat, flaps and Numnah are original.

The Society was successful in obtaining a Grant from Department of Veterans’ Affairs for our book, *Letters from South Africa* about men from the Macleay River who served in the Boer War. I have started ordering research material from State Records, National Library of Australia, Births Deaths & Marriages transcriptions etc which I will copy and pass onto our Research Section. I gave a talk to U3A, Kempsey, on the Boer War in July and a lot of interest was shown in the subject which augurs well for the book.

Donations during the past few months have been steady with two horse-drawn scarifiers (circa 1900), an eight-seater cedar school desk, Kempsey Rifle Club archives and a loan of photographs and letters for scanning, relating to the career of Richie Walker, the Macleay's famous surf lifesaver. We also received an historic nail puller used on crates unloaded on the Gladstone Wharf and artefacts relating to the Rocks Bakery.

Office equipment donated to our Society during the year included microfiche readers from Coastline Credit Union and two vertical map filing cabinets by the NSW Department of Water.

The Society has lists of servicemen and women from the Macleay for both World Wars and will shortly add a list of servicemen for the Boer War. Names are accompanied by a regimental number allowing the user to look up the person on the various online databases.

I attended a Significance Assessment workshop in Port Macquarie ran by Kylie Winkworth on Friday 14 September and our chosen object, the Ship Recognition Model, attracted great interest. The Workshop was arranged by the Mid North Coast Chapter of Museums Australia. We were also given several items with Macleay provenance by Port Macquarie Historical Society for our collection.

Phil Lee  
October 2012

In August, we received a letter from one of our long-standing members, Mr Les Sullivan of Pambula Beach who wrote:

"I was very interested in the *Letters From the Front – 1917* issue of the Journal, August 2012. Had I known that such a subject was being planned I could have offered the attached letters written by my uncle Edgar Athling Morris who was a native of Frederickton where his father, Constable Richard Wilde Morris was the Mounted Police Officer in the 1890's."

Mr Sullivan goes on to say that his uncle Edgar was born on 24 January 1892 and as a young man worked on the Lower Macleay. After his father retired from the Police Force and moved to Bankstown in 1912, Edgar found employment with the NSW Government Railways there. He enlisted in the 1<sup>st</sup> AIF on 22 November 1915 as Regimental No 4736 Private Edgar Atheling Morris, and went to England as part of the 12th reinforcements for the 20th Battalion, 5th Brigade, 2nd Division AIF. Private Morris was killed by a German shell at the Battle of Poelcapelle in the Passchendaele Campaign on 9 October 1917 whilst acting as a stretcher bearer.

We now reproduce the following letters from Edgar Athling Morris with the kind permission of his nephew, Mr Les Sullivan. Lest we forget.



*Courtesy of Mr Les Sullivan*

*Private Edgar Athling Morris*

**LETTERS FROM PRIVATE EDGAR  
ATHLING MORRIS Reg No 4736,  
20th BATTALION AUSTRALIAN  
IMPERIAL FORCE**

Hurdcott (near Salisbury, Hampshire, England)  
23. 4. 17

Dear Don (*his older step-brother*)

I received your welcome letter a few days ago. How are things looking in Aussie, How I wish I was back again & the war was over I am sick of the lot of it. We are having some beautiful weather over here now it seems too good for a war to be on.

In your letter Jean (*Don's wife*) put in a note giving an account of your acting as chucker out and I would have liked to have been their and enjoyed the fun, Well if you were to act as chucker out over here you would be chucking out all night we have some good bossers in this hut & as a rule are as good as a circus so do not require being put out, I was very sorry indeed to hear about Charlie (*their eldest son*), but

honestly Don you would wonder how a fellow could ever live through such as you get thrown at you over their it is raining shells day and night God help Fritz he gets a jolly sight more than we do no wonder there is no more fight left in him when our fellows charge him all the fight is knocked out of him.

I was marked fit for active service yesterday so I suppose the next you will hear of me will be in France, We are forming a new division over here so will not be able to get back to our old unit, I can tell you we had a fine Battalion all such good steady fellows but I think the best of them are knocked out,

Well Don I don't think I will stay in Aussie, that is if I have the luck to return, I am greatly taken up with Colombo and there is any amount of good work their if the heat does not go against me

Today has been a great day with the Ausies Anzac day they have been going strong

all day we had a church parade this morning & at the close of the service the bugler sounded the last post & then the band played a dead march in respect for our dead comrades Well Don I think this is all for this time so will close I will write to Jean before I go to France. Fond love to Self and Jean

I Remain Your Affectionate Brother Edgar

*(An interesting reference to Anzac Day being commemorated by the troops as early as 24th April 1917, only two years after the event)*

**YMCA ON ACTIVE SERVICE  
YMCA WITH THE BRITISH  
EXPEDITIONARY FORCE**

(OAS)

No 4736 Pte E.A. Morris  
12 Reinf 20 Battalion  
5 Brigade 2nd Division, AIEF  
Overseas Base Depot

*(Undated)*

My Dear Sister *(Constance Judd, nee Morris, wife of Aden Judd a dairy farmer at Clybucca, Macleay River District)*

I received two letters from you today which I was very pleased to receive, I have not had any letters from home for a good while, I am pleased you are all well. France is not as good as England what I have seen is nothing but *(indecipherable)* worse than the desert & that was bad enough we have been out in the rain drilling all day and I can tell you we are more like ducks than soldiers. You say in your letter if I remember giving Aden *(sister's husband)* notice, only too well there is no such thing as notice over here, we are here to stay and see it through, some of the boys are getting good on the French language and often have a

few words with the frogies in French. I can speak a few words but not as good as some of them I am very sorry to say Arthur and I have been separated from Frank, he was very sorry to part from us needless to say we were the same.

As church is just starting I will have to close. Fond love to all on the McLeay *(River)* I Remain your Affectionate Brother Edgar

*(Written in pencil)*

**OFFICIAL WAR POSTCARD PASSED BY  
THE CENSOR  
FIRING A HEAVY HOWITZER IN FRANCE  
(One of the earth-shattering howitzers on the  
western front)**

Dear Frank *(younger brother)* You will see by these cards what sort of a time we are having over here, those sorts of guns are the ones Fritz doesn't like they frighten hell out of the Huns. You have heard before that Albert Jacka has been killed also a Zepp has been brought down in London. I hope you are sticking to your job at Kampsie *(Campsie ??)* Love Edgar

A postcard from France embroidered with the blue and white

**Macleay River Historical Society  
2013 Calendar**  
Available 1st October, 2012

**Limited Edition**

Theme: Processions and Celebrations

**Only \$6.50**

Macleay River Historical Society  
2008-09 127 661 268  
Lynch Rd 5000, South Kempsey NSW 2440  
Ph: 08 4962 1712 Fax 08 4962 1311  
email: mrs@kempsey.com.au  
Website: www.kempsey.com.au

British ensigns, a crown and ROYAL NAVY written on 2.9.17 (five weeks before he was killed in action) addressed to his brother Frank Morris of 7 Marion Street, Bankstown, NSW and worded: 'To Dear Frank from Edgar Could not get one before'.

A postcard written on the same date as above embroidered with the Union Jack and roses: 'To Dear Con and Aden from Edgar'.

#### Aboriginal Place Names and Meanings

as compiled by Arthur Gill of Kempsey  
(Some names have two meanings given to a place by different tribes)

Place Name	Meaning
Algofera	Dark bush OR a lot of white clay
Beranghi	A quiet place
Boonanghi	Wild cattle
Bowra	Bullrout
Buccrabendinni	Make line
Carri (Carrai)	Very sandy
Colatine (Kallateenee)	Burning grass
Collombatti	Good view
Comara	Sinews
Congarinni	Fog
Corangula	Blue mountain bird
Dondingalong	Apple tree
Dulconghi	Place of sick
Dungay (Dongai)	Iguana
Eungai (Unkya)	Place of water OR long river
Euroka	Sunlit corner
Iluka	Near the sea
Kalateenee	Burning the grass
Killawarra	A scrub
Kippara	Meeting place
Kolodong	A scrub
Kundabung	Wild apples grow there
Kunderang	Buck paddymelon
Missabotti	Place of the wild dog
Moparrabah	A cave
Munga	White ants nest
Nambucca	Crooked river
Parrabel	Wild cherry tree
Tamban	Kurrajong trees
Temagog	Little hornets
Toorooka	Small ticks
Toorumbee	Mountain
Uralgurra (Ooral Gulla)	Big ironbarks
Utungun	Plenty frogs
Wabra (Warbro)	Brook or creek
Willawarrin (Warina)	Possum standing erect on its hind legs
Wirrimbi	Tree leaning over water
Wittitrin	Perpendicular
Yarrabandinni	Crayfish
Yarravel	Native bear
Yessabah	White gum tree



## Macleay River Historical Society

*Office Bearers:*

**President**

Phil Lee

**Vice President**

Garry Munday

**Secretary & Public Officer**

Pam Parmenter

**Treasurer**

Barbara Coughran

**Patrons**

Billie Crawford

Terry Eakin

Geraldine Yabsley

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Website: [www.kempseymuseum.org](http://www.kempseymuseum.org)

**Membership**

\$18.00 single

\$23.00 plus journal and postage

**Committee Meetings**

Meetings are held at 3pm  
every third Tuesday of the month

**Research**

Monday: Ruth Woodward

Tuesday: Peggy Gould

Wednesday: Peggy Gould

Thursday: Garry Munday

**Photographic**

Friday: Judy Waters, Debbie Reynolds, Phil Lee

**MUSEUM OPEN**

10.00 am to 4.00 pm daily except

Good Friday and Christmas day