

# The Oaks Historical Society Inc

Est. May 1979

The Oaks Historical Society Inc.  
43 Edward St The Oaks 2570  
(PO Box 6016) T: (02) 4657 1796  
E: tohs1988@bigpond.net.au  
www.wollondillymuseum.org.au



## Newsletter

August 2021

### Wollondilly Heritage Centre & Museum

# ST BARNABAS AT WEROMBI

**St Barnabas Church** at Werombi is located at 1505, Werombi Road. The area when firstly settled was known as Mulgoa Forest and for a period in those early years the churches at Werombi and Brownlow Hill were attached to the Parish of Cobbitty but changes in 1872 and after a meeting of Parishioners they reverted to the Parish of St Johns.

The original Church of St Barnabas was built on the site of the present hall in 1866 and was of wooden slab construction with a shingle roof. The main instigation to build the Church came from Mrs Marden and the Cuthel family who had settled in the area in the early 1850's. Mrs Marden gave a tree of the Blackbutt variety, standing on her property. The local bushmen and timber cutters were able to secure the whole of the slabs required for the building from that one single tree. The building was about 25 feet long and 15 feet wide and so big was the particular tree that after sufficient slabs had been cut and split some 15 feet of the butt of the tree remained unused. Bullock teams were used to draw the timber to the site of the Church and willing hands soon had the building in order. The rather difficult task of shingling the roof was carried out by John Cuthel. Despite the fact the building was erected in 1866, in 1937 the 15ft of the remaining tree was still lying in the paddock, straight across from the Church, where it was felled some 70 years previously. The land on which the Church was built was dedicated on 12<sup>th</sup> March 1869. The Trustees were John and James Cuthel and George Brown. Records are not all that clear but probably the first baptism in this Church, on 24<sup>th</sup> April 1866 was William Duck, son of farmers William and



Elizabeth Duck. The building was used as a Government School for about 15 years (1869-1884) with 40-50 students attending (sometimes). In time the people asked for a new school but deliberation by the Government took up to 2 years. In an effort to hurry a decision, James Cuthel induced the Church Committee to write to the Education Department stating a rental of 10/- per week would be charged for the building whilst it was used as a school. Two years later a new school

up the road was opened and along came a cheque for £52.

Towards the end of 1894 it was decided to build a new Church. Mrs Onslow promised the Rector C.J. King she would lay the foundation stone on the 11<sup>th</sup> February 1895 but the season being very wet and with the lady's advancing age it was thought inadvisable for her to make the journey of some 20 miles. Instead her daughter Sibella and son George went to Werombi to lay the stone.

Incidentally it wasn't a stone at all but a short wooden block about 30 inches high and carved with the date 11-2-95 and placed in the north eastern corner of the building. The Rector was a traditionalist and tradition decreed one placed a foundation stone in the N.E. corner. The building was completed by and dedicated on the 8<sup>th</sup> May 1895 by the then Primate, Bishop William Saumarez Smith. The report of the Easter Meeting of 1896 said '*The building was well and substantially built.*' The builder was a local, Mr Wedsweller and the cost was £320 of which Mrs Onslow lent them £200 and by the Easter Meeting only £120 of the debt remained to be re-paid. Continued over page.....



# President's Report

Trish Hill

Hello there members and friends. I hope you are as well as you can be in this extended era of lockdown. If there is any positive currently (it's certainly not the daily numbers) it is that the worst of winter should be over by the time we get out of lockdown. How fabulously are our Olympic team doing for us with a great medal tally and some exciting finishes. Go the Aussies!

As you can imagine there's nothing happening at the Centre though there is still some work behind the scenes on collection maintenance, research and story compilation etc. Our Treasurer as always is on the lookout for opportunities as well as paying bills. Her diligence has been rewarded this month with a couple of successful outcomes of funding applications. Debbie has advised we have received Wollondilly Council Community Grants funding for new

uniforms. Uniforms have been desperately needed for some time so this is a real boost for our volunteers and our thanks to Council for this. Received also from Museums & Galleries is funding for a large display cabinet and from Veolia funding for a spruce up of our Barbeque area. So lots to look forward to once we can again get out and about freely.

Our thoughts are with Cynthia Collison and her family in the sad loss of Noel.

This month Sue has a great report for August Family History month and we are utilizing our exhibitions for next months History Council event themed 'From The Ground Up' ■

Stay safe everyone!

## St Barnabas Werombi continued.....

In 1881 the Adams family came to Mulgoa Forest and George Adams was elected a church warden of St Barnabas, an office he faithfully carried out for almost 60 years. Some years previously Jesse Hayter had been elected a church warden and to this day the Hayter family have continuously provided a church warden for the church.

It would appear the first baptism in the new church was on 17<sup>th</sup> May 1896, that of Minnie Alena Rideout, daughter of Daniel and Nellie Rideout-Sawyer. Marriage records are very clear and the first marriage was that of Frederick George Hayter and Sarah Jane Gibson on 26<sup>th</sup> September 1899.

The Camden News of Feb 1897 (Trove) reported at a meeting of St Johns Church Wardens *'an Incumbent mentioned that the amount of debt due on Werombi Church would be fully paid before many months.'*

St Barnabas Cemetery (pictured) is located on Hayters Lane just west of the church and those early pioneering families of Mulgoa Forest and Werombi are reflected in the cemetery.

In the early 1900's the population increased

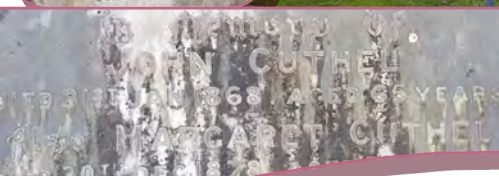
considerably and for quite a number of years the offertory exceeded that of any of the outlying churches. Werombi had a choir of about a dozen voices and no doubt choir practice was a very useful social outing for the young ladies and gentlemen. Sometime before the turn of the century, Werombi began its Annual Anniversary Sports Day and Social. A major fundraising effort and important social event which was to last up to the early days of the second world war. These days we have no concept of the of the simpler entertainment our forebears enjoyed. Foot racing for men, women, boys and girls, catching a greasy pig, for the ladies-catching a rooster, nail driving and so on were all part of the event.

This type of event was standard and Mt Hunter's was held on Boxing Day, Cobbitty on New Year's Day and Werombi on Anniversary Day.

The agricultural character of the area has changed greatly since St Barnabas was built, with timber felling, dairying, fruit and vegetable growing almost gone. Today replaced with cattle and sheep grazing, horse rearing and development

however the Church remains ■

Bottom headstone is John Cuthel-buried 1868.



From our Archives— an extract from A Brief History of Werombi by R Nixon compiled for the visit of Archbishop Marcus Loane in September 1981 and Trove references included.



# Family History & Local Archive Research Corner

Sue Davis

August is **NATIONAL FAMILY HISTORY MONTH**. We would normally be celebrating with some special event at the Wollondilly Heritage Centre but this year will be different due to the pandemic restrictions. You might like to access what is happening nationally in Family History, by visiting the website- <https://familyhistorymonth.org.au/>

On the 1<sup>st</sup> August there is a special opening of the month-long celebration with a talk by Shauna Hicks via Zoom. It will also be available from the website for 2 months afterwards if you are unable to watch it. The topic is *A Look at Family History's Role in 21st Century Society*.

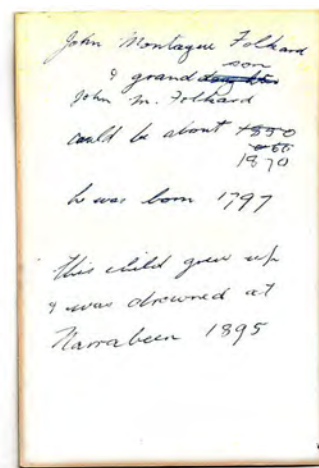
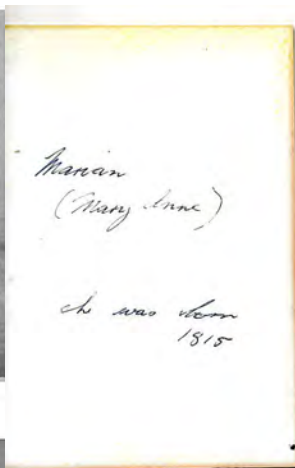
If using the internet to find out information is not for you then you might like to get out some of those **family photographs** in the back of your cupboard and try and work out how to store them best for their preservation or in deed find out who is in the photographs and why your relative thought it was special to keep them!

I had an album that my mother had so lovingly made of her

didn't realise what treasures I was going to find when on the back of most of the photographs was more information about the subject or the only information! When I added the photographs to the archival sheets, I could now preserve them without touching them and also read the reverse side (See pictures below). I now know my ancestors so much better than before and have organised them into family groups so that others will also learn more about our family.

The sleeves I have used are made from polypropylene. They came in many different arrangements to suit photograph and document size. I source mine from *Archival Survival* who I find are very reasonable in cost and quick with orders. They also have binders and slipcases that keep your sleeves safe and secure. You can learn more about them by visiting their website on [www.archivalsurvival.com.au](http://www.archivalsurvival.com.au) Ideally old photographs should be rephotographed so that they can be shared with other family members and viewed

in different sizes. It is amazing how much more you can see in a photograph when it has been enlarged. Black and white photographs are better for publishing, so if you digitise you can then choose whichever form suits your needs.



side of our family. She had purchased a special album with the sticky pages and magnetic plastic film covering!

I can hear you saying, 'Oh NO!!!' I had dreaded working out what to do but a few years ago I had purchased an archival album with a variety of archival clear sheets and pockets. Just before lockdown I had some time, I needed to be home so I gathered my archivist items together (fishing line, horsehair brush, prayers etc) and started the task. I

have secured your photographs, ensure that you store them away from sunlight, fluorescent light, dust or bugs, where they will get air but not subject to radical changes in temperature or humidity.

Enjoy reliving some family history memories in National Family History Month! Let us know about your successes! Happy researching in this time when we need to stay at home during the pandemic!



# Acquisitions Report

**Allen Seymour**

With lockdown in place there is not much happening. The sad passing of Noel Collison reminds us of the legacy he left us. The Butler funeral journals I'm transcribing to a spreadsheet came to us through Noel and his work on the cemeteries. 26 journals altogether as well as some cash journals. I'm working on them at home currently and with one journal to do, the spreadsheet is at 7,500 entries, and should finish up at just under 8000, covering the 1920's through to the 1970's. Noel had already worked through these journals and put them into 5 volumes. Noel also documented the local cemeteries which he put into 15 volumes, covering cemeteries at Picton, Bargo, Thirlmere, The Oaks and Burrarorang. There are also 13 volumes of "A History Etched in Stone", detailing some of the burials in these cemeteries. Noel produced a total of 33 volumes, a truly remarkable achievement for which we will always be grateful.

We have quite a few journals that came from "Ellensville" and the Moore family at Mt Hunter. John E Moore was involved in a lot of property and money transactions and kept very detailed records. Journal (item 16-57) details the 1894 sale of "Vanderville". The Wilds sold "Vanderville" and it came into the possession of Charles and Henry Dunn.

They sold a 50% share to E. L. Moore and this went to John E Moore upon his father's death then Dunn's sold a further 25% to John E. Moore. They sold half of their remaining share to John Lakeman, so the ownership breakdown was J.E. Moore 75%, Dunns 12.5%, Lakeman 12.5%. On April 28<sup>th</sup>, 1894 some 121 lots were offered for sale. These ranged in size from just over 1 acre to over 200 acres in size. J.E. Moore kept a detailed record of the sale including lots, size and the price per acre. Not all lots were sold and the size of some not recorded, but when the total of the acreages known is added up, it comes to 1880 acres.

John E Moore provided finance to many of the purchasers. In June 1895 he purchased the unsold lots from Charles Dunn. In September 1896, Peter Schmarr purchased lot 30, Leslie James Mallow purchased lots 34 & 35, while William, Albert, John & Frederick Rolston purchased lot 33. Unfortunately we have not located a plan of the sale showing the location of all the lots.

Robert Seymour was a brother of my great grandfather. He called his property "Wild Oaks" and retained it until he died in 1938. He was the grandfather of Jean Wheeler and Audrey Moore, and is buried at St Matthews, along with his wife Maggie. The buyers are listed in the table below ■

Name	Lots	Name	Lots
J. Devitt	1, 23 , 27	F. Mitchell	46, 47
J. Smith	2, 3	R. Gaudry	48
W. Shoebridge	4	J. Lakeman	50, 51, 52, 53, 57, 58, 59,63,64,74,80, 80A,111 - 113
M. Holohan	5	L. Moore	60, 61, 62
M. Geurin	6	George Mitchell	54
C.T. Whiteman	7, 9	Charles Dunn	55, 56
S. Taylor	20	George Ray	65 - 71
E.P. Moore	21	J. E. Loomes	72, 73, 75
H.J.M Cook	22	A.V. Moore	76
J. Wheeler	24, 25	J. McEvoy	79
J. Bensley	26	Robert Seymour	81
J.E. Moore	28 - 41 & 43	T.M. Inglis	114, 115, 116
J. Williams	42	J.E. Inglis	118 - 121
T. Simpson	44, 45		

# PIONEERS BRYAN CARLON & JOHN JAMISON

Extract from *Carlton's Town* by Damian Gleeson in our reference library

**Bryan Carlon**, pioneer settler in Burragorang was an Irishman from the Baileborough district of Cavan. Bryan grew up in an age where England, still ruled (by military occupation) a country where the majority of people wanted to remain quite independent of England both in faith and governance. The history of Cavan was one of turbulence and an unfair policy around the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century was the British raising taxes on lands legally owned by the Irish, such as Bryan Carlon. The Irish had few options: put up with the oppression and face economic ruin or take a stand against the British. Those who chose the latter formed into groups, many secretive including Ribbon Societies. The farmers included Bryan Carlon, Robert and Thomas Reilly and were probably attracted to these principles because it sought to protect the already diminished lands owned by Gaelic families and their descendants.

So it was in 1815 a tax collector named Matthews increased taxes on a number of the local farmers, crippling their ability to provide for their families. Deciding they'd had enough, late one night the group of Ribbonmen which included Bryan Carlon and the Reillys decided to seek out Mathews. A fierce fight occurred and Mathews was overwhelmed and killed. A reward was offered, though initially no-one came forward and it wasn't until 1817 that the leaders were arrested and imprisoned, charged with murder and after a trial, were executed. The remainder were arrested in the following year with Bryan Carlon and the Reillys pleading guilty. Perhaps Bryan Carlon's minimal involvement in the crime might explain why his name was so infrequently mentioned and significantly not mentioned by any of the witnesses or informers. After a trial at Lent in 1819 the three were convicted of conspiracy to murder. There is no evidence the three inflicted any direct harm on Mathews however their presence at the scene was sufficient to implicate them and it appears that they agreed to plead guilty if the death sentence was commuted to life transportation to the British Penal Colony of New

South Wales.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1820 the *Hadlow 2* departed from Cobh Harbour carrying 149 male convicts for Botany Bay and on board were Bryan Carlon and the two Reilly Brothers. It was possible that Bryan's wife Ann Reilly was related to Thomas and Robert. After the ship arrived on the 5<sup>th</sup> August 1820 Bryan and the Reilly's were assigned to Sir John Jamison in the Penrith District. John Jamison had been born in Country Antrim (not far from the origins of Bryan Carlon) and was educated as a surgeon. He joined the British Army and was knighted for his work in curtail- ing a major disease outbreak in Sweden (we could use him now!) John had arrived in NSW in 1814 and took over his father's properties on the Nepean. In 1817 he received a grant of 1500 acres with a further 460 in 1819. Both grants made Sir John one of the most signifi-



cant landowners and free settlers in the early days of the colony. Indicative of his large landholdings, Sir John was allocated 59 convicts between 1814-1819 and just prior to the arrival of the *Hadlow* he had complained about the lack of builders and anyone skilled in fashioning wood and iron. He sought these convicts for the construction of his major property at Regentville. A promi-

nent Mason, he was known as the '*Knight of Regentville*' because he showed a liberal hospitality to his friends and strangers alike. Interestingly in 1818, during the tenure of Governor Macquarie (and about the time Bryan Carlon was being sentenced) Sir John explored new territories including a visit to Burragorang. (Pictured – Burragorang today in the vicinity of Carlon Land)

Hard working and well behaved convicts benefited from Sir John's hospitality. He helped them obtain tickets of leave and free passage for their families and supported convicts being in private assignment, as he believed they benefited from being able to use their initiative. Accordingly, skilled ex-convicts such as blacksmiths and wheelwrights benefited from higher wages, an incentive for quality work and good behaviour ■

More next month.....

## Vale Noel Collison



By Vivian Allen

My first contact with Noel was when he was principal of Tahmoor Public School and I was working as a casual teacher. It was not until many years later, after he and Cynthia joined the Oaks Historical Society and became volunteers at the Museum that our friendship grew.

Noel was intensely interested in history, especially local history and with Cynthia had researched his family history. I also shared these interests and was amazed to find that there was a distant family connection. While helping my grandson research his father's family, the name Collison emerged and with assistance from Noel we found a shared ancestor. Noel generously gave my grandson copies of his family research.

Noel compiled records of births, deaths marriages and burials from local cemeteries and various other sources. He wrote *The Little Slab Church, St Matthews Church of England, The Oaks NSW*.

While Cynthia was indexing the Ron Mills Yerranderie Scrolls Noel collected stories, poems and reminiscences from the scrolls and created extensive valued resources for The Oaks Historical Society that are constantly in use by researchers.

After moving to back Wagga Wagga, where Noel had spent 13 years as Principal at Sturt Public School, he retained his connection to TOHS. Noel and Cynthia were able to return to visit for some of our special events and enjoyed reading our newsletter.

On several occasions while we were visiting family in nearby Marrar, Cynthia and Noel made us welcome and we enjoyed their congenial company over a delicious morning tea and lunch.

Our sincere sympathy goes to Cynthia and her family and we will always have fond memories of Noel.

If undelivered, please return to:-  
**The Oaks Historical Society Inc.**  
**P O Box 6016 The Oaks NSW 2570**

