

TAKING CARE OF THE PAST Scrapbooks

Almost every family I know has a scrapbook. Often these are started for youngsters in the family. Occasionally families have scrapbooks handed down through the generations. These constitute unique social histories and deserve preservation. Many are created from off the shelf scrapbooks and the quality can vary enormously. Often scrapbooks contain clippings from newspapers and magazines, tickets for events, photos and sporting ribbons etc. All of these need different preservation treatments. Newspaper clippings tend to turn yellow over time. The adhesive used to stick clippings into a scrapbook may discolour and breakdown.

[Here are some tips for looking after scrapbooks.](#)

Keep scrapbook in a dry place and preferably in a good quality archival storage box. Choose good quality scrapbook that has materials listed as lignin free, rag, rag pulp, cotton, buffered and archival paper. If you need to use plastic protective sleeves use the most stable such as Mylar or Melinex. Don't use adhesive stickers or dots even if they are marked acid free. Avoid using metal fasteners such as paper clips and staples and fancy metal embellishments. Store items such as letters unfolded in clear Mylar sleeves so you can look without touching them. Never laminate important documents or photos.

REMEMBER IF IN DOUBT
CONSULT A
PROFESSIONAL
CONSERVATOR

Ruth Binny

October 2022

Derwent Echo

BOOK REVIEW

The Angry Women's Choir – Meg Bignell

Once in a while, everyone needs to be heard

The Angry Women's Choir opens in 2019, when we were free, in the newish area of West Moonah. Founded by a colourful old feminist hippy from Dynnryne, Bizzy, it is full of bouncing characters. They accidentally recruit the book's heroine, Freycinet, by running her over, which sets the madcap pace of the novel.

Its premise is a rather 1970s version of feminism, lots of sloganeering and jeering, but in a way that keeps it light. So, against a backdrop of wicked developers who want to tear down cultural icons, it's a romp through its characters' lives and protests. For Derwent Valley folk, your own Peter Hudson serves briefly as a foil to the footballer villain who wants to rip up Laetere Gardens for filthy lucre. Of course, the Women foil HIM in great knockabout fashion. Quite right too – you should see what he's done to The Queen Alex! It's a good read, full of familiar things and fun, especially if you are into landmark spotting. There's lots of observational humour, and the ladeez' politics are never fierce enough to frighten the horses. Freycinet's alter egos, deployed to great comic effect, made me guffaw at times. It's an affectionate look at Hobart through the prism of familiar competing interests and character types, an ode to the Virtues, a warm-hearted tribute to a beloved city and its residents.

Where Bignell really shines is when she tells individual stories. She is delicate, intuitive, as she leads the reader through deeply personal experiences. I could not help but cry for them, come to love their heart and will them on. I imagine that most readers will find something to share in the tale of Freycinet's betrayal, Lily's descent and resurrection and in walking along wise Rosanna's stepping stones.

Just a warning though – readers of a sensitive nature should brace themselves for Quinella Doyle!

Meg Bignell grew up in the Derwent Valley. She now lives with her family on a dairy farm at Bream Creek.

www.megbignell.com.au

Sian Harris

September 2022

FROM THE EDITOR

Something to say or a story to tell! Write to the Editor Derwent Echo, NNHIC, C/- Derwent Valley Council PO BOX 595 NEW NORFOLK.

Once again the holiday season is almost upon us and it is time to reflect on the year 2022. The NNHIC has welcomed visitors from all over Australia and responded to a number of queries from overseas in relation to family history matters.

We continue to catalogue the collection using Mosaic software especially designed for small museums and heritage centres.

We are working with Derwent Valley Council towards incorporation for the NNHIC. This promises to be a 'win win' outcome for both parties.

Ruth Binny

Editor

24 October 2022

Email: query@nnhic.com.au

NNHIC

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PUBLICATIONS

Publications of the NNHIC include:

- * New Norfolk Homes and Pioneers (Series I)
- * New Norfolk Homes and Pioneers (Series II)
- * New Norfolk History and Achievements (Series III)
- * St Matthews Burial Records (Series IV)
- * North Circle Public Cemetery (Series V)
- * People and Places (Series VI)
- * Historic New Norfolk (Series VII)
- * Memoirs of J J Cowburn (Series VIII)
- * Federation to Millennium (Volume I)
- * Federation to Millennium (Volume II)

All of the above are available from the New Norfolk Newsagency.

ISSUE NO: 25 October 2022

Derwent Echo

A WHALER'S CONNECTION TO BACK RIVER, NEW NORFOLK

Captain William Young was one of Hobart Town's successful whalers for nearly 40 years from 1826-1866, so it may seem a little surprising to find he owned two properties in the Back River area (near Magra), when he was mainly based in Hobart Town and Trumpeter Bay, Bruni Island. The connection may well come from his having family already living and farming in the area, namely Robert and Elizabeth Jillett, who were his parents-in-law. William had married Rebecca Elizabeth Jillett in 1825, years after she had relocated with her parents from Norfolk Island to Van Diemen's Land.

Their land ownership began with the purchase of three Lots, auctioned on behalf of James Triffitt, Jr. in March 1841. These comprised 38 acres, 40 acres and 50 acres which adjoined each other. What William did with this land initially is not known, but in December 1845 he purchased a neighbouring 420 acres of land from Margaret Macqueen, the widow of William Macqueen, following this up in December 1846 with a further purchase of an adjoining 180 acres from John Gray and Margaret Gray (formerly Macqueen). This total land ownership of 728 acres was to become the property Thorngrove. It has not yet been discovered what the origin of the name was, or what buildings were on the land, and who built the original dwelling and when. What is known is that William and his family did not live there.

In 1849 William and Rebecca acquired a further 84 acres 2 roods of land that had belonged to Robert Jillett, then his widow Elizabeth, before it was owned by their sons Thomas and John Jillett. Although the second property was adjacent to Thorngrove, it was separated from it by the Back River. It was always a leased property while in William and Rebecca's ownership.

The Valuation Rolls and contemporary newspaper information have made it possible to follow the history of the leasing of these two properties from about 1853-1879. The Lessees of Thorngrove were Henry Cockerill, Charles Cockerill, Andrew & Robert Blackwood, Alfred & W.G. Salier and Henry Adams. The Lessees of the smaller property were recorded from 1858 with William Bradshaw, Snr., William Parkinson, Alfred Salier and Henry Adams.

William Young became ill in September 1866 while on a whaling expedition. He had to return to his home in Campbell Street, Hobart Town, where he sadly never recovered, and passed away on 27th December. The two Back River properties remained in Rebecca's ownership for her lifetime. Following her death on 14th February, 1879, the two properties were advertised to be auctioned on 5th June. Thorngrove was sold privately to William and Rebecca's son James Henry Young, who was farming at Trumpeter Bay, Bruni Island. James and his family moved to the Thorngrove property and farmed it for many years.

The 84 acres were sold to Joseph Mapley of New Norfolk, thus ending the Young family's ownership. At some stage James' brother, Samuel Thomas Young and his wife Florence, also relocated to Back River from Bruni Island, and farmed with him. During James' ownership the property was divided by the construction of a road, (Daniels Road). When James Young died on 2nd April, 1910, he left Thorngrove to his widow Frances Young.

In December 1919 Frances sold 97 acres 2 roods and 23 perches of Thorngrove to James Morgan. A further 19 acres 2 roods were surrendered to the King as part of the Closer Settlement Scheme, in March 1921. The remaining 600 acres and house remained as Frances' home until her death there at 90 years of age, in July 1934.

The property was then sold to George Hardwick on 11th April 1935, thus bringing the Young family's ownership of Thorngrove to an end.

Anne Suter & Margaret Harman

YOUR LOCAL
CONTACTS ON
NNHIC

Community

Representatives:

Justin Derksen
Liz Derksen
Carol Collins
Leanda Balmforth
Liz Virtue
Peggie Stubbersfield

Secretary:

Brian McNab

Family History Officer:

Anne Salt

Chairperson:

Ruth Binny

FAMILY
HISTORIES

*The New
Norfolk Historical
Information Centre
has over 700 Family
History Files.
Come in on the last
Saturday of the
month from 2 to 4 pm,
and see if your
Family History is
here.*

*Below is a list of the
'O' files:*

Oakes
Oakford
Oakley
Oberlin-Harris
O'Bradley
O'Brien
O'Callaghan
O'Donnell
Officer
O'Keefe
Okenyo
Oldmeadow
Omond
O'Neil
Onslow
Orr
Osborne
O'Shea
O'Toole
Otto

One Man's War: Letters Home
Letter No 14

TX1697 Drv. D
E Troop
16 Fd. Bty.
2/8 Fd. Regt.
6 Div Arty
18/12/40

Dear Mother,

Well at last I have arrived in Palestine. Had a wonderful trip all the way. When I got off theI had athe desert, but as I neared ourthe country changed & the country I am in now is fairly fertile. It is also country that saw a fair bit of action last war.

This afternoon I walked up to the top of a nearby hill & saw the Mediterranean.

Last night I met two boys that were at Dookie when I was there, & they told me a lot about the place.

Well as I have got to get this letter in straight away I will have to close now.

I don't know how you have been sending your letters but I think you had better send them Air Mail. There is an air mail service twice a week.

I am feeling very fit.

I hope that you are both well & having a good holiday.

I sent a cable C/o of Mrs S.....

Love D.....

Letter No 15

TX1697 Drv. D
E Troop 16 Fd. Bty.
2/8 Fd. Regt. A.I.F.
6 Div Arty Abroad
29/12/40

Dear Mother,

Well our Xmas in Palestine is over, quite a good Xmas under the circumstances, although our Xmas turkey didn't arrive from the local town, but we hope to have it for New Year's Day.

On Xmas day we had donkey races at the camp, with a tote operating a b& & a loud speaker. Although the boys & officers rode the donkeys, the black boys did the most work running along behind belting the donkeys with sticks.

I managed to pick one winner, but I cam out about square.

I got a letter from Miss Allen a couple of days ago, I must answer it soon. I sent her a Xmas card while we were at sea.

The A.C.F came to light with a Xmas hamper for everyone, which contained the usual cake & pudding etc.

There is a chance I might be seeing Peter & Louis in the near future.

The weather the last week has been a bit warmer than our first few days, thought we have had no rain to speak of.

Well I must close now if this is to catch the mail.

Love D.....

PS Just received letters No's 2 & 3, haven't finished reading them - Will answer them next letter.

What's In A Name
ROBERT WILLS
(Wills Place)

This small side-street in Fairview is named after Robert John Wills, who served on the New Norfolk Council from 1891-1905 and served as its "accidental" Warden from December 1903 - December 1904.

He arrived from England in 1854, aged twenty, and soon settled at New Norfolk as a clerk. In 1858 he married a local girl, Matilda Salier, and by 1862 they were living in "Denmark Hill" at Back River (Magra). Some time after 1880 they moved to Hayes, living at the estate of "Ballymony" (later renamed "Rosendale") and working it primarily as an orchard.

At Back River Robert had joined the Methodist Church and for over forty years was a lay preacher and Sunday School teacher. In 1863, when the first Council elections were held, he nominated Ebenezer Shoobridge. He was himself elected in 1891.

His appointment as Warden resulted from an embarrassing oversight by others. When the elected Councillors met to choose a Warden after the 1903 elections, there were not enough of them to form a quorum because the Warden Ellis Dean and several long-standing councillors had forgotten that they needed to fill out nomination forms. They had failed to do so by the deadline and could therefore not be declared validly elected, so an extension was granted to give them time to do the paperwork.

The newly elected councillors met in December 1903, and it appears that a majority of them held Ellis Dean responsible for failing to remind them of the need to nominate, so instead of re-appointing him as Warden they decided to appoint Robert Wills on the understanding that he would stand aside for Ellis Dean after twelve months, which he duly did.

He retired from Council in July 1905 due to declining health. He died in 1910, aged 71, and Matilda died in 1917. Both are buried in the Back River Methodist Cemetery.

Brian McNab

October 2021

TRIED & TRUE

Native plants use by early settlers and indigenous people.

The early settlers no doubt learned from indigenous peoples how to select and identify native plants that were a useful addition to their medicinal plants they had brought out on the First Fleet but they were reluctant to make use of this knowledge and initially preferred to choose native plants that resembled their familiar European plants. This was despite not always being efficacious.

*The main health problem facing the first European settlers was scurvy as they had no supplies of fresh food and were ignorant of the food available to them in the Sydney bush. The most popular scurvy remedy was Bush Tea or Sweet Tea made from the leaves of native Sarsparilla (Smilax glycyphylla).

Eucalyptus species were used extensively by the early settlers and indigenous peoples.

The gum excreted from damaged bark (kino) is astringent and dissolved in water was used to treat throat infections, bladder inflammation, bleeding and diarrhoea.

Kino is an Indian word.* Kino from Australia was introduced into Europe as early as 1810 when the gum of the ironbark (Eucalyptus siderophloia) was collected by convicts under the name Botany Bay Kino. The kino from the scribbly gum (Eucalyptus haemastoma) was used to treat cuts, wounds and ulcers. It was also used as a throat gargle.

From uses in potpourri to antibacterials, linaments and treatment of sores including venereal disease were other applications.

Others were used for the purpose of relieving stomach aches and colic and the crushed leaves of Eucalyptus viminalis (Manna Gum) were effective as a mild laxative.

Old Man Saltbush (Atriplex nummularia) was utilized by early settlers as a cooked vegetable and in the management of scurvy and blood diseases. Banksia species flowers are rich in nectar and were soaked in water and drunk to soothe sore throats and colds.

Early settlers reported using gum from wattle trees dissolved in hot milk for the treatment of diarrhoea and dysentery with good results but no one knows which wattle gum was used.

The juice of Pigface leaves was applied to stings, burns and scalds, the Sticky Hop Bush (Dodonaea viscosa) was applied as an astringent as well as the chewed leaves used for toothache and applied to bites and stings.

Aborigines made an infusion of the Narrow-leaf hop bush (Dodonea attenuata) to sponge the body and calm a fever.

The leaves of the Hop bitter pea (Daviesia latifolia) was used as a hop substitute in brewing and the early settlers made an infusion which was a tonic and an aid for fever.

Crushed foliage of Clematis glycinoides was inhaled by both aborigines and bushmen to cure headaches and colds.

The leaves of Native Hollyhock (Lavateria plebia) were made into a poultice to apply to boils and the roots were eaten.

A plethora of other native plants also had a role to play.

Di Cowburn September 2022

Ref.*Jennifer Farrer:The information is from a variety of sources including the book Australian Medicinal Plants by E.V. Lassak and T. McCarthy (Reed New Holland, 2011) gathered by Jennifer over many years as a guide with Boronia Tours.

An Australian Herbal by Penny Woodward

