

Moama Cemetery

The Moama Cemetery Working Group is still looking for information about burials in any of the many unmarked graves at the Cemetery.



Two plinths at the cemetery with a total of 396 plaques, bearing the names of people who are buried in unknown unmarked graves have been completed, with the plaques on hand for the next two plinths, when we are able to hold a working bee. Besides these a number of plaques have been placed throughout the cemetery when the site of a grave is known but has been unmarked.

If anyone can provide information about anyone known to be buried at Moama, especially in an unmarked grave, please contact:-

Anita Bartlett, PO Box 1343 Echuca 3564. or 0439992767

HON PETER WALSH MP

Member for Murray Plains

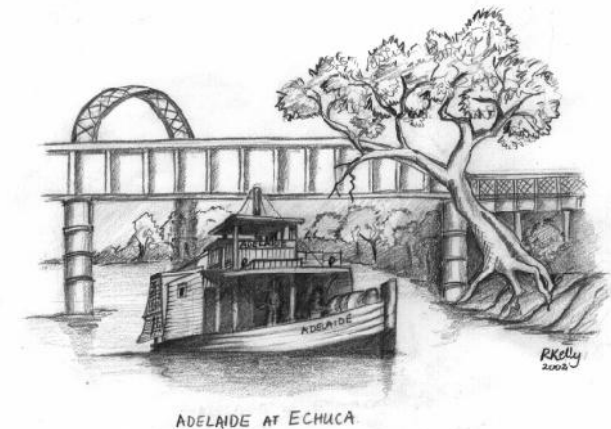
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Bridges & Branches

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ADELAIDE AT ECHUCA

Quarterly Newsletter
of the
ECHUCA-MOAMA FAMILY HISTORY
GROUP INC.

Echuca-Moama Family History Group Inc

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The Monthly Group Meeting is held in the Research Room, in Murray Esplanade - the second Tuesday of each month, except January, at 1.30pm. **The Monthly Group Activity Session** is held from October to March, on the third Thursday at 7.30 pm, and April to September on the third Saturday at 1.30 pm. **At St James Parish Centre, Maiden St. Moama.**

Excursions can replace the Group Activity Sessions.

The **Research Room** at 9 Murray Esplanade, Echuca, is open and manned every Monday and Friday between 11.00am -3.00pm, except on Public Holidays. At other times contact Barbara (03) 5480 1501

Towns /areas covered by the EMFHG Inc

In Victoria: Ballendella, Bamawm, Barmah, Echuca, Echuca Village, Kanyapella, Kotta, Koyuga, Lockington, McEvoy's, Millewa, Nanneella, Patho, Piavella, Pine Grove, Restdown, Rochester, Roslynmede, Strathallan, Tennyson, Tongala, Torrumbarry and Wyuna

In NSW Bunnaloo, Caldwell, Mathoura, Moama, Thyra and Womboota

The Editors welcome articles, notes, queries, book reviews, comments and any items of interest. Contributions to Bridges & Branches are accepted in good faith but the Echuca-Moama Family History Group Inc. or the Editors, do not accept responsibility for the accuracy of information nor for the opinions expressed. Items can be emailed to:-
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to get a lot to have my own revenge back with the Germans and the Turks. I did pretty well the first two days I was there; it was bonzer sport. I got a good lot on Sunday, but on Monday I did not get many; they got me instead. The old South African soldiers say

they saw more active service on the Sunday than they saw in three years at the Boer war. They thought they were under fire there, but they are quite satisfied now they were not.

Riverine Herald 1915

* * * * *

When Frederick Melanthon Milgate enlisted at Echuca on the 19th August 1914 he was aged 24 years and he gave his next of kin as his father George. He was a farmer at Tattalia, Moama. Frederick embarked in Melbourne on the 2nd October 1914 for Egypt. As told in his letter he sailed to Gallipoli where he was wounded soon after his arrival, and returned to Egypt.

After Frederick recovered he was moved to England and then on to France. On the 17th October 1916 he was promoted as Sergeant, and then on the 9th July, George was informed that his son, Frederick had been mentioned in despatch by General Sir Douglas Haig. The despatch read; "I have the honor to submit the name of the undermentioned non-commissioned officer serving under my command, whose distinguished and gallant services, and devotion to duty, I consider deserving of special mention : - No.934 Sergeant Frederick Melanthon Milgate.

Frederick was wounded on several occasions and then on the 9th August

1918 he was killed by a falling bomb, and was buried at the Copse Corner Cemetery, Vauvillers, Corbie. Frederick had only had eight days leave in his almost four years of service.

Frederick's brother Ernest Albert Milgate was 30 years and also a farmer at Tattalia, when he enlisted at Echuca. Ernest sailed on the *Orsova* leaving Melbourne on the 1st August 1916. He was killed in action at Bullecouth on the 12th May 1917.

Two other brothers also enlisted, Samuel Arthur and William Murray, who was the youngest of the brothers to enlist. Both were wounded but returned home.

Two cousins, Frederick John and Sydney Valentine Milgate who were only 19 and 18 years when they also enlisted, were both killed in action. Frederick John at Gallipoli on the 25th April 1915, and Sydney Valentine in France on the 16th October 1917

This is a further example of the appalling toll which World War 1 took on families and small communities.

Shirley Durrant

Unfortunately the name of the author of the story about George Alexander Kerr which is printed on the previous page is missing. Would the author please contact me so they can be acknowledged in the future. *Shirley Durrant*

Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass, it's about learning to dance in the rain.

Private F. M. Milgate letter from Egypt

Writing to his parents at Tatalia, Private F. M. Milgate, who was wounded at Gallipoli, and is now in the Government hospital at Alexandria, says:- We left Mena cap 4th April (Easter Sunday), 10 o'clock at night, marched into Cairo, arrived at Cairo at 2 o'clock on Monday morning, left Cairo by train at 5 o'clock for Alexandria, arrived Alexandria and embarked on the *Galeka*. We were packed in like sardines. We used to say we were packed on the *Hororata*, but it was nothing to the way we were packed on the *Galeka*. We stayed at the pier till the 8th, when we steamed out at 6 o'clock in the evening, and sailed on till the 11th, when we anchored off Lemnos Island at 7 o'clock in the morning. We stayed on board till the 24th, and steamed out on the 25th. We arrived at our landing place at 4 o'clock and landed under heavy rifle and shrapnel fire at 6 o'clock. Major Bleazard was wounded after we landed. We advanced a good way, but had to retreat a little at night and dig in. Had to keep firing all night. The Turks crawled up within 20 yards of our trenches in place. On the morning of the 26th we gave the Turks a rough time. About 4 o'clock in the afternoon they peppered hell into us with shrapnel. This is when I stopped one. I was hit in the thigh; the bullet went clean through, but missed the bone. I got back, and got on the hospital ship at midnight. I did not get my wounds dressed till the 29th. Some of the poor chaps were badly wounded; 23 died, and were buried at sea on our way back to Alexandria. We had a German on board who was wounded in four places. He also died on our way back. Bad and all as he was, he refused to say

a word. We arrived at Alexandria on the 30th, and were taken to the hospital, and we are all being treated well. The native men do nearly all the work; there are about a dozen of them. I am sending home a small photo of our ward, you can only see a bit of my head and one of the niggers standing at the door. There are 48 beds in the ward. There is another ward up stairs, and another department the same size about 20 yards away, full up with sengalese. They are inhabitants of East Africa, and the French. They were wounded while fighting at the Dardaneiles. I don't know where the rest of my coppers are, we got parted when we landed. I heard that Ossy Tankard and Walter Lawry were wounded. They must be in another hospital here or else at Malta, where some have been taken for treatment. I have not heard anything of cousin Fred. He cannot be out of the action yet. I am still in hospital, but able to get out every afternoon. The wounds are not healing up very quickly. I will have to have patience, as they will take time to heal. I was out for tea Tuesday evening at some French people's place. We had a good tea, and spent a pleasant evening. On Thursday we were out to a small picnic party on the cricket ground. The ladies waited on us with dainties, sweets, etc. I had a look through the Museum, Gardens and Zoo. The gardens are lovely, but very poor display of animals in the zoo. Alexandria is a very much cleaner place than Cairo. There are a lot of French people here in business; a lot of them don't understand English. There are a lot of English nurse girls here, and it is a real treat for us to talk to them. Tell Ben that I will do y best, but I will have

President's Report

Welcome to our spring edition of B&B. Unfortunately I can truly say that nothing has happened in the last three months. Hopefully you have been busy at home doing your research and writing your stories. I did say in the last edition that in times like these, when we have time to slow down and contemplate our lives nostalgia becomes quite a motivating force, but also with prolonged periods at home it is necessary to have some structure to daily activities, and so too with family history. I hope you have found this balance.

As you know we had had a Monthly meeting in June, but nothing since with the restrictions imposed at the beginning of August. The AGM has been put on hold until October with the approval of Consumer Affairs, who have further extended the time to hold such meetings for Incorporated Associations like our group. By that time we may have better idea of the restrictions that are still on activities.

The one issue that has been under discussion has been the Shire License that was being negotiated before the lock down in March. In the June issue of Bridges and Branches I outlined the response we made to the Shire, and I am pleased to report that we have had no reply to that response. If you have read the June minutes of the Monthly Meeting then you are up to date with all that has happened. John has been circulating any eNews that is relevant to everyone on email, and Barbara is still monitoring the group's finances. The one thing we would encourage every one to do is to pay your membership for 2020-2021, as we are not receiving any income from fund raising because it has all been put

on hold. You can pay it directly into our bank account, or by cheque in the mail to our post office box number.

In the past month I have been investigating the value of inquests in family history research. It has been a topic that Val Ellis and I have been discussing on the Monthly radio program. Inquests can change the direction of your family history research dramatically

An inquest can

- * Give you and insight into the person who has died, including basic facts about their lives, their feelings and state of mind at the time, their interaction with other members of the family

- * Reveal family secrets and family tragedies and find out the extent of trauma in a family.

- * Have an influence in the wider community and have a major influence on changing the law.

- * Give you an insight and a greater appreciation of the times in which the dead person was living.

- * Reveal who is living in the family home at the time.

- * Give you a greater understanding of close family members if they have to give witness statements and the impact of the death on them. Sometimes the signatures of these witnesses that can help you to verify their signatures on other historical documents.

Inquests are held because

- * A person has died unexpectedly due to natural causes.

- * Of accidental death.

- * Of death by misadventure.
- * Of a suicide.
- * A person died in an asylum or other government institutions such as a prison or hospital.

Many inquests are written up in the newspapers of the time. In the nineteenth century this was the only way that such information was circulated, so there are graphic accounts of what happened including most of the witness statements. There were often gruesome details of the cause of death and the medical information associated with the autopsies.

When reading inquests, particularly those written over one hundred years ago, you can encounter quaint phrases that are no longer used. The following are some examples “life was extinct” or the doctor assisted in efforts to “restore animation”. One victim was described “as a man given to intemperance”. One poor woman was suffering from delusional insanity and was “in somewhat infirm health”. Her inquest reported that she was in legal custody as a lunatic. Another man was “desponding in mind” and yet another

was not an “omitting man”. Nervous debility, malaise and melancholia were terms used quite a lot when people were suffering from depression. One cause of death resulted from “sanguineous and serious apoplexy of the brain”.

Inquests were held in various places in the 19th century ranging from courthouses to hotels near to the victim’s house, and the hospital where the victim had died. Inquests could be conducted by a magistrate or the local mayor in smaller towns. At most inquests there was a jury ranging from 10 to 14 men, who had to view the body along with the witnesses who were called.

Victorian Inquests are available on the PROV website. Many are in digital format and can be downloaded, but there are others that are only in read only format, so that you have to go to their records in North Melbourne. Unfortunately they will be closed due to restrictions now.

Bring on December and hopefully some normality. Stay safe.

Judy McCleary

Limiting Drinking Keeping Paris Sober

20 April 1937

Fearing that the extra leisure provided by the 40-hour week will result in increased intoxication, the Academy of Medicine is urging the Government to close bars and estaminets on Saturday and Sundays in conformity with the 40-hour week.

It also asks the Government to organise popular health meetings where only soft drinks will be served and to limit the places where alcohol may be sold.

Riverine Herald, 22 April 1937

enlistment papers state that he had been in the Citizen Forces in Echuca.

He was given the Service Number 4793 and posted to D Coy, 12 Reinforcement, 23rd Battalion. Joe arrived in Alexandria, Egypt on 1st June 1916 and departed very shortly for England on *HMT Minnetonka*. From there he went to Etaples Army Base Camp in France from 6th to 19th September 1916 then was ‘Taken on Strength’ with his unit in Belgium.

On the 11th November 1916 Joe was taken by the 5th Australian Field Ambulance to the 38th Casualty CI Station, then by the No. 7 Ambulance Train to the 11th Stationary Hosp. Rouen, France where he was diagnosed with Trench Foot. He spent time in Beaufort War Hospital, Bristol England and the 3rd Auxiliary Hospital Weymouth England, before going to Perham Down on the Salisbury Plains on the 28th March 1917. This was one of four Australian depots in the UK, where soldiers who had been discharged from hospital trained, before being sent back to France and Belgium.

While Joe was in England his sister-in-law Isla had a baby boy born on the 1st March 1917. Bill and Isla called him Joseph after his uncle. Sadly the baby only lived for a few months, dying on 9th August 1917.

Joe left Perham Down on 9th May 1917 for Folkestone, and then back to Etaples in France, where he stayed for eleven long weeks until 25th August, when he re-joined his unit in the 6th Bde in Belgium.

The battle of Ypres was at its peak with the fighting on the Menin Road and Polygon Wood area being very fierce. Joe was in the thick of it in the area between Glencorse Wood and Polygon

Wood, when he was ‘Killed in Action’ on 22nd September 1917.

Joe’s service record shows that he was buried near where he fell, but another document stated his body was not found after the war. Elizabeth Kerr always hoped that her son would be found. On the 2nd November 1920 she wrote to the Secretary Department of Defence requesting that Joe be buried with a tombstone, and his grave be marked with a cross and the inscription “Death is swallowed up in Victory”.

There was added confusion when the family was notified with a different Service Number to the one they had been using. His sisters wrote asking for his death to be confirmed. An official notification dated 29th January 1918 was finally received four months later saying that George Alexander Kerr No 4802/4793 had been Killed in Action. Looking at his service record now we can see that he was enlisted twice on the 12th January 1916, filling out two forms, and given the Service Numbers 4793 and 4802. Both these numbers were used at different times during his service.

Joe was posthumously awarded two medals:-The British War Medal, and The Victory Medal, plus a Memorial Scroll and Plaque. All were sent to his father at different times up to 1922.

George Alexander Kerr is remembered on three memorials: - The Echuca Cenotaph, Australian War Memorial, Canberra and Ypres, Menin Gate Memorial, Belgium.

After WW1 Kitty McLoughlin moved to Melbourne and married in 1930. She kept the locket and photo Joe gave her all her life. Since her death in 1975 one of her Granddaughters has this family keepsake.

1982 at Cohuna, aged 89 years. They are both buried in the Echuca cemetery, in the same grave with William and Emily Turner.

Horace William Turner married Alice Ruby Turner on the 11th of June 1918 in Echuca. She was the daughter of Thomas Henry Turner and Mary Ann (nee Donagnue), of Torrumbarry. Horace and Alice had five children; Jack Turner 1919 – 1919, Stanley Turner 1920 – 1992, Ethel Turner 1924 -1999, Norman Turner 1926 - ?, Rita Turner 1936 -(dec). Alice died in 1963 at Drouin, aged 65, and Horace died in February 1965, at South Yarra, aged 70. They are both buried in the Drouin cemetery.

William's wife Emily Turner died on 6th

July 1940 at Echuca aged 72 years. She was buried with her husband, William in the Echuca cemetery, Methodist section, Row 6, grave 10.

William Turner was my great Grandfather.

Sue Shaw



William on his trotter Winsome Direct

Kerr G. A. A name on the Echuca Cenotaph.

Although he had the grand names of George Alexander Kerr he was known to family and friends as Joe. He was born in Echuca in March 1895. His father was William Alexander Kerr, who was thought to have been born 1853 in Armagh, Northern Ireland and who died on 29th November 1935 at Echuca. His mother Elizabeth Healey Kerr was born in 1860 at Glebe, New South Wales, Australia. They were married in 1878 in Victoria. At the start of WW1 Joe had five sisters; Annie, Margaret, Cecilia, Elizabeth and Eva, and one brother William known as Billy (1888-1963), still living. The family had a grocery store in Mitchell St. Echuca where Joe worked with his father and brother. Joe was engaged to Katrina (Kitty) McLoughlin born in Echuca on 11th

August 1894. His brother Billy had married Kitty's sister Isla McLoughlin born in Sandhurst, Victoria on 15th January 1890.

Family history relates that the Kerr seniors were patriotic and wanted one of their sons to fight for King and Country. As Billy and Isla had a daughter Mollie born on 13th September 1914, and Joe was only engaged it was decided that Joe should go.

On the 12th January 1916 when Joe enlisted at the AIF Recruiting Depot, Town Hall Melbourne he was 20 years and 10 months old. He was 5 feet 5 inches in height, with a dark complexion, brown eyes and black hair. His religion was Church of England and his Next of Kin was his father. His

1653A Private Percy Joseph Helms

Born at Bloomfield near Warragul, Victoria, Australia in 1895 to Joseph Helms and Mary Sarah (nee Newton), Percy enlisted on the 9th of March 1916, in Bendigo, Victoria, Australia. He was a single farm labourer from Gunbower, aged 20 at the time of enlistment. His father Joseph Helms of Gunbower, Victoria, was listed as his next of kin. Percy became a member of the B Coy 38th Battalion, and he embarked on the 20th of June 1916, on board the *Runic HMAT A54*, along with three other comrades from Gunbower, including, 513 Private Sidney Thomas Bridgeman, 528 Private George Cockayne, and 540 Private Richard Dickinson. They were all members of B Coy 38th Battalion.

Percy proceeded overseas to France from Southampton, on the 22nd of November 1916. After he reported sick to field hospital on the 16th of March 1917, he embarked for England on board the *Princess Elizabeth*. On the 22 of March 1917, he was admitted to Middlesex War Hospital with boils on his right knee. When he was well he went back to France from Southampton on the 25th September 1917, Percy Helms was taken on strength of the 38th Battalion AIF from the 67th Battalion on

the 6th October 1917, Private Percy Joseph Helms was promoted to Lance Corporal on the 13th of September 1918. He returned to Australia, leaving England via Devonport on the 27th of May 1919. He arrived back in Australia on the 17th of July 1919, and disembarked in Adelaide. He received the 1914 – 15 Star Medal, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Percy returned to farming at Gunbower, after the war. He married Matilda Evelyn Moore of Kerang, who was a daughter of Richard Purcy Moore (1853 – 1945) and Jane Manley, 1854 – 1938); in 1922.

Percy and Matilda farmed at Tandarra near Mitiamo, Victoria, then later in the 1930's they shifted to Wunghnu, near Numurkah, Victoria. Towards the end of the 1930's they shifted to Daylesford, Victoria, and ran a carrier business. Later the family shifted to Bendigo where Percy worked as a cement worker during the late 1940's through to the 1960's.

Percy Joseph Helms died in Bendigo in 1983 aged 87.

Sue Shaw

No Moama Sir Walter Raleigh

Much consternation was caused to a lady pedestrian yesterday while trying to negotiate one of the muddy roads in Moama. Her dainty feet stuck fast in the glue. The distressed dame then tried to advance, but the shoes refused to budge. After a considerable delay, the victim rescued the foot-leather, and finished the last few frightful feet in her stocking feet! Though two Moama gents watched the ladies predicament, neither volunteered to lay his overcoat in the mud for the passing of Moama's Queen Elizabeth. The incident has caused much dissatisfaction.

Riverine Herald 1926

Ann Underwood 1836-1923

On 12th January 1843, Louisa Underwood was convicted of passing counterfeit coins in Bristol, UK and was sentenced to 7 years transportation to Van Diemens Land. This was not the first occasion when Louisa had been before the court, having been convicted of counterfeiting on 11 previous occasions. Louisa embarked on the *Emma Eugenia*, at Woolwich from Millbank Prison and arrived in Hobart on the 2nd April 1844.

Accompanying Louisa were her two illegitimate children, Ann and George Underwood aged 8 and 5 years. On her convict Indent Records, Louisa named James White as the father of her two children and stated that they had lived together for 9 years. On arrival at Hobart Ann and George Underwood were placed in the Queen's Orphan School at Newtown.

Louisa Underwood was assigned to work in the Buckland area and on the 18th September 1846, she married Joseph Whiting Lane in St John's Newtown. Louisa and Joseph had two children, Joseph Henry Lane born 16th October 1847 and Emily Lane born in 1849. Emily accidentally died from burns at the age of 3 years.

Joseph Lane had been convicted in Leicester in 1835 of stealing a horse. He arrived in Van Diemens Land on the Asia in 1836, and was sent to work for Major Thomas Lord in the Spring Bay area. Joseph was given a Life Sentence, however he was given his Ticket of Leave in 1846 for "serving his master, Major Thomas Lord for 10 years without complaint, and having

committed no offences."

When she was 12 years old Ann Underwood was released from the Queen's Orphan School into the care of her mother, who by then had received her Ticket of Leave. Sometime later Ann changed her name to Louisa Ann Lane. George was released in 1850.

Nothing more is known of Louisa Ann Lane until her marriage on the 27th January 1853 to Thomas Judge in St Georges Church, Hobart. Thomas, a Millwright was born in India to Thomas and Ann Judge (nee Sanders). The Wedding Certificate lists Thomas' age as 29 years and Louisa Ann's age as 17 years. Sometime between 1853 and 1856 Louisa Ann and Thomas moved to Victoria.

In 1856, their first child Bartholomew was born in Ashby, West Geelong but died the same year. The year of birth and death of second child Thomas is unknown. A third child George Joseph was born in Melbourne 1861, and the last child, Ann was born at Quarry Hill, Bendigo in 1866 and died in 1870.

In 1863/1864 Thomas was the first Lighter-Up at the North Melbourne Sheds, and he fired the first train over the Bendigo to Echuca Line. Sometime in 1867 Louisa and Thomas Judge move to Echuca.

Sadly on the 29th January 1865, Louisa Ann's, mother, Louisa Lane aged 57 died at Sandy Bay, Tasmania, from liver disease. Louisa Lane is buried at the St Georges Church at Battery Point.

Louisa Ann's step father Joseph Lane, her brother George Underwood and half

dawn till dark".

William selected land at Torrumbarry North, now known as Patho, and he called his land Pinewood, as it was sand hill country covered with Murray pine, on the bank of the Gunbower creek, (part of which would later bear his name, now known as Turner lagoon). He then married his childhood sweetheart Emily Hawkins, on the 24th November 1891, at the Church of Christ in Echuca, Victoria. Emily was born in the Barrabool Hills near Ceres in 1867, and she came to live at Wharparilla with her parents George Hawkins and Emma (nee Crook), and her siblings,

William and Emily had three children, Stella Rosanna in 1892, Stanley John in 1893, and Horace in 1895 all at Wharparilla, where they all went to Patho State School.

William bred and raced trotters and was a founding member of the Gunbower harness racing club (which is still going today). He was also on the Patho State School Committee. William and his property were significant, as part of early pioneers of irrigation in the district, as William's steam engine would pump water from Turner lagoon, and water his own farm, as well as two of his neighbours farms, because William's pump site was on the highest ground. (The original pump site is still in use today).

William's son, 1626 Private Stanley John Turner married in May 1914, to Susan Rowlands of Gunbower. She was a daughter of Daniel Rowlands and Maria Antonia (nee Barassi). Before he went to the war Stanley, was a member of the 8th Light horse regiment, and he was killed in action at El Burg, Palestine in part of the



William's steam engine pumping water, pictured are Stella with Jean and Bill, Harry and William, taken 1927c.

battle of Jerusalem on the 1st of December 1917. Stanley was buried in the Ramleh Cemetery, Israel, Ramleh is a small town about 12 kilometres south east of Jaffa.

Stella Rosanna Turner married William Henry (Harry) Poxon of Glen Forbes, Gippsland, Victoria, in 1920 at the Church of England Gunbower and shifted to Wonthaggi, Gippsland, Victoria. Harry was the son of the late William Poxon and Sophia Hunt (nee Martin), Harry and Stella later returned home to Patho and took over the farm, while William retired to Darling Street in Echuca.

William Turner was killed while riding his horse from Moama to Echuca on the Echuca side of the Murray bridge. His horse reared up and fell on top of him, fracturing his skull. He was taken to Sister Ferrier's hospital, but he never regained consciousness and died on the 9th of November 1929. William was buried on the 10th of November 1929 in the Echuca cemetery.

Stella and Harry had two children, Florence Jean Poxon 1921 – 2010, and William Henry (Bill) Poxon 1925 – 2012; Stella died in September 1974 at Cohuna, aged 82 years, Harry died in November

William Turner

William Turner was born on the 6th December 1867 at Murghebuloc, Victoria, Australia to John Turner and Rosanna Turner (nee Beckham). His father was a Miner who was born about 1829 in Wallsend, Northumberland, England. His parents were John Turner, an engineer, and Jean Pullock.

William's mother, Rosanna Beckham was born, on the 5th November 1846, in Mattishall, Norfolk, England. She came out to Australia, when she was 7 years old, from Cape Town, South Africa, on board the ship *Harmony*, arriving on the 12th September 1853, with her parents Robert Beckham and Mary Ann Beckham (nee Basham or Basson), as well as her sisters Harriet Beckham 10, Sarah Beckham 3 and Mary Beckham 1.

Robert was a farmer, so the family settled around Murghebuloc, Victoria. They must have been quite successful, as the family was soon to increase with the arrival of Charlotte in 1853, then James in 1856 at Inverleigh, Victoria, and Robert in 1859. Robert died, aged 2 months in 1859 at Murghebuloc. Then twin girls, Susannah and Louisa Beckham were born in 1860, but Louisa died 5 months later. Two more sons were born; George in 1862 followed by Arthur Beckham in 1867. Susannah died on the 23rd of June 1880, in Ballarat, Victoria, aged 20 years.

The Beckham family came to Wharparilla during the 1870's, and selected land along the Terrick Terrick Road, out where Dargan's Bridge, is now. It used to be known as Beckham's Bridge. Robert farmed the land next to the Wharparilla West school, also he and his sons ran a carrying business carting goods to and from the gold fields, with horses and wagons. Mary Ann Beckham died at 72 in 1897 and is

buried in the Echuca cemetery. Robert married Janet Hilet (nee Green) in 1899. He retired and sold the farm in 1900, then shifted into High St, Echuca, where he died in 1902. He is buried in the Echuca cemetery, and he was 82 years of age at the time of death.

In 1875 Rosanna Turner died after giving birth to a premature still born baby boy at Italian Gully, Victoria. William who was 8 and his siblings, John Robert 9, Mary Jane 5, Alice 4, and Robert Turner 2 came to Wharparilla to live with their grandparents, as their father was away working in a mine at Gulgong, NSW.

The Wharparilla West primary school, was partitioned and was opened 1875, so William and his siblings were some of the first students at the school.

More bad news followed, as William's father, John Turner was killed in a mining accident at Gulgong, NSW, in 1879.

William's brother John Robert Turner, butcher of Forrest Street in Bendigo, gave William a horse when he was starting out, and later when William was a bit more prosperous, William returned the favour by giving John a horse, to pull his butchers cart. The horse was alright but it only had two speeds, flat out or stopped, so it wasn't any good for pulling the butchers cart. Finally John gave it to the Fire brigade in Bendigo, as it suited them well.

William remained at Wharparilla, but when he went shearing sheep, he would ride his horse, from Wharparilla, and later from Patho, as far as the Queensland border and back, shearing.

William was also a horse farrier, and would shoe quite a few horses, as he loved horses. It was said "his hours were from

brother, Joseph Lane all moved to Echuca. The family unit was together.

Louisa Ann's husband Thomas Judge died in Echuca on the 2nd August 1872. At the time of his death Thomas owned a horse and 3 acres of land with 1 acre planted with fruit trees and vines. His Estate was valued at £250.

In 1876 Louisa Ann Judge married Henri Stobener, son of Henri and Charlotte Stobener (nee Cornel). Henri's occupation on his wedding certificate was a cabinet maker and Louisa Ann a market gardener.

On 13th September 1881 Louisa Ann's step father Joseph Lane died in Echuca aged 86. Her brother George Underwood died suddenly from a heart attack on August 28th 1884 in the Mathoura Woolshed and he was buried at Moama, NSW.

When Henri Stobener, died in 1913, his address is listed as Hare St, Echuca. Louisa Ann Stobener died from pneumonia on the 27th June 1923. She was residing with her grandson in Pakenham Street, Echuca at the time of her death. On her death she left one son George, eight grandchildren and five great grandchildren. She was buried in the Presbyterian Section of Echuca Cemetery beside her husband Henri Stobener.

Louisa's obituary in *The Riverine Herald* on the 29th June 1923 says "she was of the most charitable disposition, but few knew the extent of her generosity." She really had the most remarkable life.

Robyn Murray
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BD&M notices from the Riverine Herald 1869 to 1954

The snipping of BD&M records from the Riverine Herald has gone as far as it can go at this time.

The first death notice in the Riverine Herald was printed in 1869, eleven years after the paper had commenced, and they are available for search on Trove up until the end of 1954.

Starting with just Birth, Death & Marriage and Funeral notices in the paper, then the paper gradually added In Memoriam, Thanks, and Obituary notices. All these, plus notices of fatal accidents and Wedding Reports are included in the index.

The way that Trove can be searched has changed from time to time, and I think with the present format notices are

picked up that may have been missed in earlier versions. The down side is that it is much slower to use.

The amount of detail in the notices varies greatly from very basic to most comprehensive, with the Obituary and Wedding Reports generally the most informative.

There are 19501 names in the index. The index up to 1925, is available in the Family History Rooms. Until we are able to get back to the rooms, I would be happy to check the index, for any names of interest, for anyone who contacts me. The actual entries have been snipped so they can be read as they appeared in the paper

Shirley Durrant

A letter from Corporal Matthew Hoy

The following letter from Corporal Matthew Hoy, of the Australian Military Police, who has been mentioned in despatches by General Sir Ian Hamilton, and has been received by his relatives, who are residents of McConnell St. Kensington.

Lambert House for Convalescents, Berks, England. 5 September 1915

I am going to try and write a letter to you left-handed, so you will have to excuse my first attempt. To begin with, I was wounded on the 19th of May, a shrapnel shell bursting just over my head, and one of the bullets hit me in the back just where the arm meets the body, and came out on the right chest after going clean through the body. During its course, it severed the auxiliary artery, the main artery of the arm, and also cut four nerves, including the main nerve of the arm; as a result my right arm is paralysed. I was at Malta just over two months, and they operated on me for aneurism and tied up my artery. I was put down as permanently unfit for further service, and on the 30th of August about 30 of us were put off on a hospital ship en route for England to be put off at Gibraltar to catch a boat home. To our dismay we were brought on to Southampton, and eventually taken to Wandsworth. I was there subjected to a searching examination by four Harley street specialists, the leading men in England. As a result I was operated on again by one, if not the leading surgeons of England, namely Sir John Bland Sutton. He performed the remarkable feat of reuniting the nerves - a wonderful operation.

As it takes at least six months for a nerve to knit the result cannot yet be judged. I am now under massage treatment and although I cannot move my arm Sir John seems to think I will get some movement in time. It is only one surgeon in a hundred who could undertake an operation of this kind and I am indeed fortunate to get under Sir John. But if ever a human being suffered agony, My God, I have.

For three weeks at Malta they had to give me nothing but morphia. I was raving in pain. I have even begged the nurses and orderlies to hit me on the head and finish it off. I honestly think if I could have got hold of something I would have done something desperate. I was in the landing 25th of April, and I shall never forget that it was Hell let loose. I went ashore with General Bridges and headquarters staff.

On Thursday night, about 8 o'clock a small pinnacle came alongside our boat at Lemnos and took off all the staff and military police, and took us on board a battleship, and on the Saturday, the troops who were to make the landing came on board. We left Lemnos about three o'clock in the afternoon and arrived at the scene of operations about 1.30 on Sunday morning, the moon shining brightly. The troops, after hearing prayers and Kitchener's message read, started to disembark and proceed towards the shore. The moon was just sinking and not a word was spoken. We were all anxious to get ashore, little thinking what was waiting for us. I gave a last thought to all at home and Alice's letter seemed to keep saying to me; "When you strike, strike a hard,

strong blow for Justice, Liberty and Old England".

About 100 yards from shore, cannon, rifles and machine guns opened on us, and however I came through I can't tell you. The hot Shrapnel was falling in the water just like your kettle boiling on the stove. I shall never forget it.

England is a lovely place. We are living on the Thames, electric boats and garden parties every day. The place we live in is owned and financed by a millionaire named Lambert. He pays for everything, even a shave. The people go mad when they see an Australian. We had a

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I found this letter whilst researching a family that comes into my family tree.

Matthew Hoy was born at Ararat 25th September 1878 and enlisted 17th August 1914 a month shy of his 36th birthday, so not a young man by any means.

From 1900 to 1905 he was in the police force also.

He died 22nd August 1925 and the

visit from the King and Queen and the Queen Mother and Princess Henry of Battenburg. I had a long yarn with the Queen Mother. She was very proud of the Australians and said she was sorry to see us wounded. The last letter I got was from Gwen on 3rd May and I read that under shrapnel fire. Out of 14 of us in the tent at Broadmeadows there are only two of us are still alive. Kitchener's last message was:- "Remember, once you set foot on Gallipoli Peninsula, the thing must be carried through"

Matthew Hoy

death notice from his mother states he died as result of war injuries.

I haven't found out how he fared after that operation. He was listed as a labourer in the electoral rolls later on.

The second time I have contributed, getting better, eh??

enjoy,

Janice Smith

Plucky Nurses

After distinguished services which they rendered yesterday, Matron Stokes and the nurses of the Echuca District Hospital should be enrolled as honorary members of the fire brigade. About 1 o'clock in the afternoon the yard man of the institution was burning some rubbish in the paddock at the rear of the hospital when the fire spread to the adjoining grass, which was long and dry, and the conflagration got quickly out of control. He raised the alarm, and immediately Matron Stokes and all the available staff on duty hastened to the

rescue. The matron and Nurses Gordon, Eisfelder, Baker, Bridgeland, and Wadham, and Mrs Griffiths, the cook, quickly armed themselves with wet bags, and after strenuous efforts not unattended with danger, succeeded in subduing the fire after it had spread over an area of about half an acre. Sergeant Gary is very grateful to the matron and staff for the splendid work which they did, as he had in the paddock, which he rents, a trotting mare which he values at over £100. Had the fire not been checked the animal would in all probability have been suffocated.

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