

## Moama Cemetery



The Moama Cemetery Working Group is still looking for information about burials in any of the many unmarked graves at the Cemetery. The first two plinths at the cemetery have a total of 396 plaques bearing the names of people who are buried in unknown unmarked graves at the cemetery, with the plaques on hand to do the next two plinths when we are able to hold a working bee. Besides these a number of plaques have been placed around 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

## Coming Events 2021

- Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan. Bunnings sausage sizzles  
Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1.30pm Monthly Meeting  
Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> Feb. 7.30pm Michael Thompson on Military Memorabilia  
Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> Mar. 1.30pm Monthly Meeting  
Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> Mar. Excursion to Rochester Sports Museum

**Any or all this could change if conditions re the virus changes**

## HON PETER WALSH MP

Member for Murray Plains

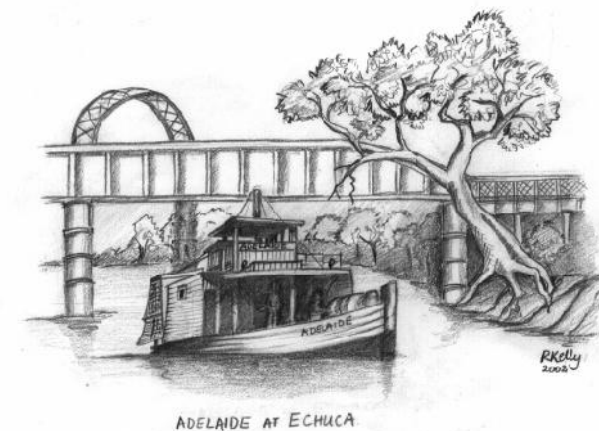
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# Bridges & Branches

Number 120 December 2020



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:-  
ksdurrant1@bigpond.com or judysupercool@gmail.com

## A Plague of Possums

As a band of possums had become quite a problem, the Presbyterian Church called a meeting to decide what to do about their possum infestation. After much prayer and consideration, they concluded that the possums were predestined to be there, and they shouldn't interfere with god's divine will.

At the Baptist Church, the possums had taken an interest in the baptistery. The deacons met and decided to put a water slide on the baptistery and let the possums drown themselves. The possums liked the slide and unfortunately, knew instinctively how to swim, so twice as many possums showed up the following week.

The Lutheran Church decided that they were not in a position to harm any of god's creatures. So, they humanely

trapped their possums and set them free near the Baptist Church. Two weeks later the possums were back when the Baptists took down the water slide.

The Episcopalians tried a much more unique path by setting out pans of whiskey around their church in an effort to kill the possums with alcohol. They sadly learned how much damage a band of drunken possums can do.

But the Catholic Church came up with a very creative strategy! They baptized all the possums and made them members of the church. Now they only see them at Christmas and Easter.

And not much was heard from the Jewish Synagogue. They took the first possum and circumcised him. They haven't seen a possum since...

## From the Riverine Herald 100 Years ago this month

### The River Falling

A Hurry-up For Echuca-Bound Vessel

The Mildura office of the Murray Shipping Ltd. Received a telegram on Thursday from its Echuca branch which read, "Do not delay dispatch *Pevensey*; river falling fast." The steamer left at 10.30 yesterday morning for Echuca with a large cargo of wool and general merchandise.

Her skipper is hurrying to his destination with all possible speed. During the past few days the gauge at Mildura has shown a rapid fall, and the average daily has amounted to nine to fifteen inches. Yesterday's figures showed the height of the water to be 12 feet 3 inches, and the bottom will be out of the river in a very short time. Old timers of 30 years experiences of the river cannot remember a normal year when the water has fallen as quickly.

### Exciting Bolt

Two horses harnessed to a waggon, and three others attached, the property of Mr W. Pearce of Willow Grove, took fright while standing in the Esplanade yesterday morning and bolted. Turning into Leslie Street, thence into High Street, the affrighted horses galloped into Dickson Street, a miscellaneous collection of groceries and other articles, which had presumably only just had been purchased, being scattered along the roadway from the jolting waggon. Reaching the top of Dickson Street, the animals passed into Victoria Park, where their career was brought to a close by collision with a tree. It is understood that very little damage was done.

## Another Stage of the project completed at the Moama Cemetery

After months of not being able to hold a working bee, finally on 5<sup>th</sup> November, a small number of the Working Group members were able to complete the next stage of the “Walk of Remembrance”, at the Moama Cemetery .

Ninety nine plaques were attached to the next plinth, which completed another stage of project. The project has been largely funded by money from the New South Wales Heritage Grants Program, but the funding does not include anything for the countless hours which



Plaques placed on known grave sites

have been involved in research.

The aim of the Cemetery Group is to have a memorial for everyone who has been buried at the cemetery.

With the first known burials taking place in 1858, and no early records of burials at the cemetery, and just one incomplete early plan, identifying just who has been buried in the hundreds of unmarked graves, is a very ambitious project. The number of unmarked graves has been exacerbated by the past practice of maintaining the cemetery by an annual burn, thus destroying all of the small wooden crosses and most of the red gum headstones.

When the grave site is known or that of a near relative, a small cement deck top is placed on the grave with a plaque or

plaques with the name, date and family details when known. At this stage 495 plaques for people in unknown graves, have been placed on the plinths and



The completed sections of the “Walk of Remembrance”

approximately 100 on actual graves.

The next stage of the plan includes landscaping the area between the half plinths and the Catholic Section of the Cemetery, and placing a rock with details on the project in the foreground.

Anita Bartlett has been the driving force for this project, and the Cemetery Group is most appreciative of the countless hours of her involvement. Her attention to detail is amazing.



Additional plaques placed on the “Berry” grave

The result of this effort is producing something very special and unique to the Moama Cemetery.

## President's Report

Welcome to our Christmas edition of B&B. Since September Victoria has come a long way in terms of curbing the Covid menace. During this time hopefully you have continued working on your family research. I have found family research and story writing a motivating force, providing some structure to daily activities. We have been so lucky living in country Victoria through this pandemic, not to mention living in Australia, given the state of many countries in the rest of the world. Being an island continent has many advantages. We should consider ourselves lucky that we have not endured a world war like our ancestors before 1919. We should also be thankful that modern medicine has been used to save lives whereas in 1918-19 people were not so lucky. It is said that over 50 million people died from that Influenza. Many of you would have ancestors who suffered in those times, and their stories should be documented for future generations. You should also consider documenting your stories through our Covid times.

I am hopeful that our group will operate from February next year in the new post Covid world. We will have to live with some restrictions but the rooms will be open for research from Monday February 1<sup>st</sup>. We will have to limit the number of people doing research, due to social distancing regulations, and there could be time limits imposed, if there are a number of people wanting to do research. There will be two members on duty as in the past, and the diary sign in will ask for your phone number. Current Covid rules will apply to all who enter with sanitizing hands and furniture, and the wearing of masks, if they are still in place then.

The other exciting news is that Monthly activities will recommence on the third

Thursday in February with a guest speaker, Michael Thompson on Military Memorabilia. In March we will have the excursion to Rochester Sports Museum that we missed out in March 2020. Both are subject to confirmation.

At the last Monthly meeting in October the committee passed a motion stating that the current office bearers would remain in their positions until the group is able to hold an AGM in July 2021.

One issue that was being negotiated before the lock down in March was Shire License, and we now have that response, after a long delay due to Covid. The committee discussed the response at the December Monthly meeting. The Council are asking us to pay the building insurance which is \$687.00 and the fire service levy which is \$737.13. This is an extra \$1424.13 a year plus the water charges which were not detailed in the letter. Currently we pay the electricity costs, and we understand that we should pay the water and sewage costs as a licensee.

The group already pays out \$961.29 to GSV to cover Asset/Business Protection Insurance, Public and Product Liability Insurance, Association Liability Insurance, and Voluntary Worker's Personal Accident Insurance.

The committee has decided to seek legal advice about the Council's demands, and whether we are legally required to pay these costs on a council owned building. We also want to know what concessions not for profit organizations can claim in a situation like this. Council has not acknowledged the contribution our group has made to preserving local records, and this should be pointed out to them. Further negotiations will be pending.

John has continued circulating any eNews that is relevant to everyone on email and Barbara is still monitoring the group's finances. The Financial Statement for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020 was included in the minutes of the December Monthly Meeting. While we cannot present it to our members in person, it has been published so that all the members can read it, and send any questions to the committee for the February 2021 Meeting.

The one thing we would encourage everyone to do is to pay your membership for 2020-2021, because we

are not receiving any income from fund raising as it has all been put on hold. You can pay it directly into our bank account, or by a cheque in the mail to our post office box number.

Bunnings sausage sizzles are starting up again with new Covid procedures in place. We have one booked on Saturday January 23<sup>rd</sup> under new Covid 19 restrictions. It will certainly be good to have some income.

Merry Christmas  
*Judy McCleary*

### Edward Taylor's War Memoirs

I enlisted on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1917. Drafted September 1<sup>st</sup> 1917 to Broadmeadows camp, Victoria.

Instructors mostly Indian Army Sergeant Majors. My first bayonet fighter instructor was one. He said "an infantry man's best friend was his bayonet and to learn all we could about the use of it". I did!

After several weeks training, rumor had it, we were going overseas with the next draft. Standing on parade next morning, a couple of men from headquarters came along and started picking out men - 19 of us - we were told to join E Company Reserves and stay there, as we were under age. My company Sgt. Major came to me and advised me to join the N.C.O. School, as I would find it much more interesting and would learn more. I did!

From there I managed to get into a draft going to the 46th Battalion. Embarked

28<sup>th</sup> February 1918 on the ship *Nestor*. On ship, I met Roy Phelan, who was to become a lifelong friend; Bert Naisrith, the man was later to get me out of the Lendenberg front line after I was rendered useless from an explosive bullet, and Jack Batten. We later carried Jack Batten out from the Hindenburg front line a few hours before I was hit. Disembarked Liverpool, England 20<sup>th</sup> April 1918.

In camp at Codford, England. Bert Naismith and I used to practice bayonet fighting 6 nights per week in the gym. One day during instruction, we caught the instructors eye and he came over to Bert and I and asked us if we wanted to go to Aldershot - a British finishing school- and come back and instruct here. We both said "but we haven't been to France yet". I often wonder how much less pain there would have been in life if we had accepted the offer.

Cyril Joseph Phyland was born on the 15<sup>th</sup> October 1896 at Balranald, NSW, the son of John Phyland (1865 – 1945) and Lucy Christina Phyland (Garonne) (1871 – 1899).

Cyril enlisted with the 29<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade reinforcements on the 5<sup>th</sup> February 1917, in Melbourne. He was a farmer aged 22 years and 2 months. He gave his next of kin was his father, Mr. J. Phyland of Lake Vale, Balranald.

Cyril embarked on board the *HMAT Port Sydney A15*, from Melbourne, on the 9<sup>th</sup> November 1917. They disembarked at Suez, then in January they proceeded to Southampton .

In March 1918 Cyril was sent to France with his regiment as a driver. He returned to home on the ship the

*Prinz Hubertus* on the 24<sup>th</sup> August 1919, and was discharged on the 16<sup>th</sup> September 1919. Cyril returned to his home at Lake Vale, Balranald.

Cyril was awarded the 1914 – 19 Victory Medal and the British War Medal.

Cyril Joseph Phyland married Annie Winifred O'Loughlin (1901 – 1972) in 1926. Annie was born at Tungamah, Victoria, the daughter of Michael Joseph O'Loughlin (1872 – 1952) and Winifred Teresa O'Loughlin ( Hasset 1875 – 1959).

Cyril Joseph Phyland died on the 9<sup>th</sup> April 1970, at Werribee, Victoria,

*Sue Shaw*

### Exit the Indian Hawker

25<sup>th</sup> January 1939

Australian Bush. During the last fifteen years the trade has been confined entirely to a few straggling Afghans and Hindoos, who, with horse and covered wagon, have eked out an existence travelling the back lanes and district stations. But even these can no longer carry on. Headed by the three well known Singh brothers, with their headquarters at Natya in the Mallee, seven Afghan hawkers sailed on Monday as deck passengers on the British-India steamer *Itinda* for Bay of Bengal ports to return home, mostly after an absence of more than thirty years. Moreover, they will be joined in Sydney by six more of their countrymen from the Broken Hill district, with their goods and chattels who are on the way home to their

native land.

Thus the days when the picturesque covered waggons pulled up at the horse yard and the turbaned owner charmed the homestead folk as he displayed his colorful cloths on the nearby rails, are already, like so many phases of Australian life, a part of a bygone era.

*A Pyramid Hill Publication*

For many year, the hawkers were frequent visitors throughout this area, with some later turning to market gardening. A number of the hawkers were buried at the Moama Cemetery. These include Sham Singh who died on the 24<sup>th</sup> July 1936, and Ellen Sing, wife of Charles, who died 11<sup>th</sup> August 1929 and Coon Sing a market gardener who died 24<sup>th</sup> February 1932.

destination was Armentieres where they were to stay until March 1917.

Bob did not spend much time with the Company as his malaria returned in December 1916 and he was transferred to an Auxiliary Hospital for treatment. This pattern continued through the following months, being admitted to a number of Auxiliary hospitals to recuperate. In June 1917 he was sent back to England on the H S 'Carisbrook Castle', for treatment and furlough. His record stated that he had malarial arteriosclerosis. His malaria had returned and the Arteriosclerosis that was diagnosed was a cardiovascular condition that builds up fats, cholesterol and other substances in and on the artery walls. Malaria can also affect vascular pathways that cause inflammation in the heart, which could lead to fibrosis and then heart failure. There were outbreaks of malaria in the France and Belgium (and also other European countries) during 1914-18, but these were thought to be mainly due to introduced malaria. Malaria was to affect many armies in southern Europe. Of the 480,000 Allied troops on Gallipoli, 90,000 were evacuated due to sickness, many due to malaria.

Bob returned to Australia on 27<sup>th</sup> July 1917 and he was discharged on 27<sup>th</sup> October 1917 after medical examinations. These examinations concluded that Bob's health had been severely affected when he caught Malaria in New Guinea in 1914 while on duty there. He received an army pension of 15 shillings per fortnight, while his wife Becky received 7 shillings and 6 pence. His son Archie received 5 shillings and his daughter Ida

received 3 shillings and 9 pence. The total per fortnight from the army was 31 shillings and 5 pence, or 1 pound, 10 shillings and 5 pence. Today's equivalent would be approximately \$190.00.

Bob died on 23 February 1927 aged 53 in the Melbourne hospital, and is buried in a family grave in Coburg Cemetery with his wife, Becky and their oldest child Robert. His death certificate states that he died of cardiac failure, but that he had Bronchial Pneumonia for six days prior to his death. He died within 10 years of his return from France and it is most likely that his service in New Guinea was the cause of his early death. Ironically the Army did not officially recognize his volunteer service in New Guinea. This was made clear to Bob when he applied for a military medal to commemorate this service, as New Guinea was "not a theatre of war during 1914/15". He would surely have felt aggrieved with this response given his health issues. It is lucky that he enlisted in the AIF in 1916 as this service was to give him and his family financial support while he was still alive. Becky, his wife died in 1924 of cancer, so their two children had lost both parents within three years of each other. His brother Adam was to live another 20 years, but because he was a volunteer he did not receive a pension.

*Judy McCleary*



*Adam in the Victorian Scottish Regiment uniform*

Proceeded overseas to France via Folkstone, England 8<sup>th</sup> July 1918. 18<sup>th</sup> August 1918 I was wounded in right shoulder by a piece of shell. Sent to R.A.P.(Regimental Aid Post) for 3 days. I have for many years suffered from arthritis in that shoulder.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> September 1918, I was again wounded in action, by an explosive bullet in the left foot. Shattered all metatarsals and severing all but one sinew in the foot. After operation in France, I was invalided to England with severe gunshot wounds on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September. Admitted to Royal Hants. County Hospital Winchester, England on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept. I remained in hospital convalescing for 6 months. Discharged from hospital on the 9<sup>th</sup> April 1919. Sent to Weymouth Depot from hospital and then repatriated home on the 19<sup>th</sup> April 1919 on the ship *Marathon*. Reunited with Roy Phelan, who by coincidence was also on the *Marathon* returning home. I was in slightly better shape than Roy, who when picked in the trenches had his brain exposed. Arrived Melbourne, Australia 7<sup>th</sup> June 1919.

After 18 months and 8 surgical operations in France, England and Victoria, I was discharged deemed medically unfit 7<sup>th</sup> January 1920, with hundreds of small pieces of metal still in my left foot. Knowing only farm work I went back to it and eventually took up 1158 acres north of Barellen, New South Wales. I celebrated my 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday sitting under a pine tree.

At first some small pieces of bone and shrapnel etc. worked their way out, but as a visit to the doctor took 3 days by horse back I learnt to live with it. Following doctors orders in 1929, and after 7 years of drought I swapped my

dry area farm for Jack Tarr's irrigation orchard in Hanwood, N.S.W. (Next door to McWilliams Winery Hanwood). Doctors orders were complete change and rest, so I exchanged the dry area for wet; complete change alright, but no rest!

I met my future wife, Pauline Delves at a local dance and we were married in Griffith June 2<sup>nd</sup> 1933. During WW11, as I was medically unfit for active service, I served in the Volunteer Defense Corps. At the end of 1945, I purchased another orchard Farm 463 in Hanwood, on the site of the original pioneer settlement of Bagtown, later Griffith.

After a very hard days work in 1934, I developed a terrific cramp in the left leg - first one but I've had scores since. Hot foment (cloths) were the only way to shift the pain. A Melbourne specialist in 1951 advised giving up hard work, but my legs lasted until 1962, by which time I had been reduced to 4 hours per day. Later by the time I had made arrangements for my son, Ray to take over the orchard, I had found two hours work was all that I could tolerate. I retired into Griffith in 1962 and lived there until May 1984, when Pauline and I moved to Bendigo.

*Edward Taylor*

*Edward Taylor 'Ted' passed away on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1990 at Bendigo in his 92<sup>nd</sup> year He is survived by his wife Pauline, and four children, Ray (Qld), Glenn (Qld), Heather Benham (Spain), and Elayne Andrew (Bendigo) and 6 grandchildren (Jason, Rhonda, Greg, Jenni, Kate, and Elisabeth).*

*Elayne Andrew*

## Captain James Cook in early life.

In adult life, the exploits of Captain James Cook as a surveyor, navigator and explorer have been well documented.

James Cook “ye son of a day labourer” was born in Marton, Yorkshire, on 27 October 1728, and records indicate that young James achieved his life’s ambition in difficult circumstances.

James’s father, also named James, came from Ednam in the Borders region of SE Scotland and settled in the North of England. In about 1725, James senior (1693-1779) married Grace Pace (1702-1765), and they both built a mud brick cottage or clay biggin in Marton, now a suburb of Middlesbrough, North Yorkshire.

The children of James senior and Grace were John (1727-1750), James (1728-1779), Christiana (1731-1795), Mary (1733-1737), Jane (1738-1742), Mary (1740-1741), Margaret (1742-1804), and William (1745-1748).

In 1736, James senior moved to Airyholme Farm (2km from Great Ayton) to work for Mr. Skottowe, and when young James aged 8 attended a school established by Mr. Postgate in 1704, his fees were paid by Mr. Skottowe.

His school was eventually dismantled and a replica built as a museum in the centre of Great Ayton, complete with the classroom and teacher’s quarters. Although the town house in Great Ayton, built by James senior, has been moved to Melbourne, Victoria, the statue of a 16 year old James junior, “who lived in Great Ayton between 1736 and 1745,” remains in town.

In 1745, after 4 years of basic education

and several years of work on the farm with his father, James left home to work for William Sanderson, who had a grocery business in the coastal village of Staithes, about 15 km NW of Whitby. However, it soon became obvious that James had other interests, and Sanderson decided to introduce him to Captain John Walker in 1746. Walker, a Whitby resident, was the owner of several colliers and may have had a reputation for assisting young men like James. Walker was convinced that James preferred a life at sea, and agreed to accept him as his apprentice on a three-year term (1746-1749). It is believed that when on shore in Whitby, James lived in the attic of a Grape Lane house owned by Walker’s mother Esther, and it was through sheer perseverance, in such conditions, that the quiet and reserved young James managed to study all of his maritime subjects.

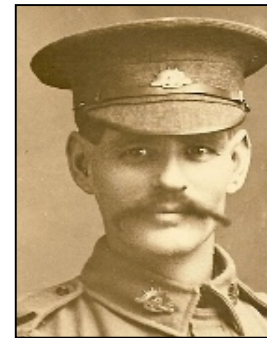
The activities of James during his apprenticeship can be found in Whitby shipping records.

A microfilm of the Complete Muster Rolls of Whitby for year 1747, the first full year of James’s apprenticeship, has been examined and a transcript for the September-December period is now accessible on a GENUKI website.

These Muster Rolls show that there were several men and youths with the surname Cook travelling on vessels in and out of Whitby in 1747. Travellers who had a birthplace or abode on the East coast were: Thomas Cook, age 52, a cook on vessel *Asleby*; Thomas Cook, a seaman on vessel *Cumberland*; William Cook, age 16, a servant on

permanent guard at the base, until he was admitted to hospital on 10th April 1916 with severe acute gastritis. After six weeks of treatment with little improvement in his condition, he was discharged from the army on 31st May 1916. Adam was to live another 31 years dying on June 6th 1947 at the age of 70.

His brother Robert (Bob) Boyle Smith joined the 3rd Battalion and Military forces Tropical Unit on 17th November 1914 after being in the Victorian Scottish Regiment for 3 years. Previously Bob had served in the Boer war for just over one year in the Fifth Mounted Rifles. The Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (AN&MEF) was a small volunteer force of approximately 2,000 men, raised in Australia shortly after the outbreak of World War I, to seize and destroy German wireless stations in German New Guinea in the south-west Pacific.



Robert Smith

Following the capture of German possessions in the region, the AN & MEF provided occupation forces for the duration of the war.

Bob left from Sydney on 25th of January 1915 on the HMAS Eastern as part of the AN&MEF occupation forces and headed to German New Guinea. This area was in the equatorial zone of high transmission of Malaria from vector mosquitoes. He was to return to Australia on furlough, on 6th of December 1915 on the SS Te Anau, with Malaria, so he was admitted to a convalescent Home called Clifton Springs. He spent sixteen days there and

was assessed fit for military duty, but not in the Tropics as the doctor said given that he “feels acutely every fall of temperature and requires to be more warmly clothed than other patients”.

After Bob recovered he was formally attested for the AIF on 25 March 1916, and discharged from the volunteer Tropical Unit. He was given a new roll number when he joined the 10th Machine Gun Company on the same day. Bob was nearly 43 years old.

The Australian Archives have the war diaries for the 10th Machine Gun Company month by month after it embarked on the HMAT A11 ‘Ascanius’ on 27 May 1916 and arrived at Devonport England on 18 July 1916. The ship stopped in Cape Town where the whole Company had three days of route marching, and then the ship stopped at St. Vincent in the Cape Verde Islands. On its arrival in England the company went to Larkhill Amesbury. Larkhill is a garrison town in Wiltshire, England and was used extensively in WW1. The company spent 4 months training and was a part of the remarkable transformation of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF). They were learning to use weapons that were not used in the campaign in 1915 on Gallipoli, but were to transform the fighting on the Western Front. These soldiers had almost to re-learn all the elements of the soldier’s craft, and do so while absorbing unimaginable new weapons and combat related systems. They were given a number of new light machine-guns, known as Lewis guns. They had to learn how to operate, employ and exploit these new weapons.

Once the training was completed the Company was sent by train to Southampton where they embarked for Havre, France. Ultimately their

## The Smith Brothers War Experience

Adam McLeod Smith had a very different war to many of the soldiers in the 1914-18 conflict. In contrast his brother Robert Boyle Smith, like many other soldiers experienced enlistment and overseas duty. Adam was born in Dunedin NZ on August 21st 1876, after his parents Archibald Smith and Margaret Boyle had emigrated from Scotland with Adam's older brother Robert (Bob), who was born in Stevenston on July 19th 1874. The two brothers came to Melbourne before 1900 and lived and worked in Brunswick. This was where they were to meet my grandmother Mary Jane and her sister Sarah Rebecca (Becky) Burrows. The connection was made when Bob was living next door to Becky and her family. Both Adam and Bob joined the Victorian Scottish Regiment VSR, which was an infantry regiment of the Australian Army.



Adam Smith

It had been formed in 1898 as a volunteer unit of the colonial Victorian Military Forces. In 1902, the volunteer system was changed to a system of partially paid militia, and the military forces of the former independent colonies became part of the Commonwealth Military Forces. In 1911, the regiment was renamed as the 52nd Australian Infantry Battalion (Victorian Scottish Regiment). Upon the outbreak of World War I the decision was made not to deploy the previously existing militia units to the fighting

overseas. During the war the militia units remained in Australia on home service, providing security at ports, defense installations and other facilities of importance to the war effort, although many of its members did volunteer for overseas service.

Adam was a sergeant in the 52nd A I B and he was called up on 16th November 1914 to Langwarrin Internment Camp possibly as a guard, as he had been rejected when he volunteered for the AIF because of his medical history. He had an operation for a Gastric Ulcer in 1911 and had continuing issues from this, particularly gastric catarrh, which excluded him from overseas duty. He had been in the citizen forces for 8 years.

Langwarrin Internment Camp was situated on the Mornington Peninsula, south-east of Melbourne. German, Austrian and Turks living in Victoria were detained at Langwarrin as 'enemy aliens'. It housed up to 500 internees in poor conditions, as they lived in tents and the facilities for washing and bathing were inadequate. Langwarrin camp closed in 1915 and most of the internees were transferred to other camps in Australia. The camp then became a detention centre for returned Australian soldiers who were suffering from Venereal Disease.

Adam was then sent to Point Cook where Australia's first Military Flying School had been established in 1913, and during World War I the Australian Flying Corps (AFC) was established there as a new element of the army. Many of its pilots saw active duty overseas, in the Middle East and the Western Front. Due to the success of the AFC in WW1, the AFC became a separate service, now known as the Royal Australian Air Force. On Adam's army record it states that he was a

vessel *Freelove*; James Cook, age 19, a servant on vessel *Freelove*; Robert Cook, age 41, a seaman born in Whitby; and, Thomas Cook, age 12, a servant on vessel *Endeavour*. Thomas Cook at age 12 returned to Whitby from Ramsgate, Kent, on vessel *Endeavour* in 1747 – many years before James Cook set out from Plymouth on another *Endeavour* in 1768.

The collier *Freelove* owned by John Walker had a master, mate, carpenter, cook, 5 seamen and 10 servants and all were travelling from London to Whitby in 1747.

The so-called servants were returning to Whitby on the same ship which took them to London previously. James and William Cook were in a group of 10 youths aged 14 to 19, classified as servants, and may have been involved in a training exercise. Their 'Entered' and 'Discharged' dates were 29 September and 17 December. On another of Walker's ships, the *Friendship*, there were 7 Whitby youths aged 13 to 19, classified as servants, travelling from Whitby to London. Their 'Entered' and 'Discharged' dates were 29 September and 11 November.

Records show that Walker was the owner of *Friendship*, *Three Sisters*, *Two Brothers*, *Three Brothers* and *Truelove* (aka *Freelove*). *Truelove* was eventually lost at sea in a channel crossing. In addition, at any one time Walker may have had several apprentices under his wing.

For the period 20 April 1749 to January

1752, James was a qualified seaman aboard ships *Three Brothers* and *Mary*, but after promotion, he was the ship's mate aboard *Friendship* from March 1752 to 14 July 1755.

Muster Rolls for 1752 show 30 March 1752 for embarkation and 10 November 1752 for "Time when, and Place where Discharged, Hurt, Dead, Killed, Slain or Drowned". These records show that the pay for all men was about six pence per month but no mention of an additional payment for the captain and mate. The captain, mate, carpenter and cook were each paid 3 shillings and 6 pence for their 7 months duty and some sailors received 5 pence for 25 days.

On 21 December 1762, James Cook married Elizabeth Batts, daughter of Samuel Batts, at St Margaret's Church, Barking, in Essex. James and Elizabeth occupied a house in the Mile End area of London and raised children James (1763-1794), Nathaniel (1764-1780), Elizabeth (1766-1771), Joseph (1768-1768), George (1772-1772), and Hugh (1776-1793).

James Cook received recognition for survey work around Newfoundland as an ordinary seaman in the British Navy, and for oversighting the reconstruction and seaworthiness of His Majesty's barque *Endeavour*. The *Endeavour*, with botanists Banks and Solander on board, sailed out of Plymouth on 25 August 1768 under the command of Lieutenant James Cook.

Brian Collis

In the September edition of Bridges & Branches we featured the story of George Alexander Kerr, without its author. Thank you Anne Cox for letting us know that it was your contribution.

## Soldiers Honored Wamboota & District Function

The School of Arts at Wamboota was the scene of a most enthusiastic welcome to returned soldiers and nurses belonging to the Wamboota, Thyra, Bunaloo, Perricoota, Altcar and Thule districts on the 16<sup>th</sup> instant.

The hall was beautifully decorated with innumerable flags, evergreens and flowers and over the front of the stage a huge "Welcome Home". Punctually at 7.30pm the doors opened and the hall was packed in minutes. Indeed so large was the attendance that over 50 could not find room, even to stand inside, but as the night was one of the best, the windows were opened and cars arranged along outside, so that many were able to get a view or at least hear The chairman, Mr Glenn, had with him. On the platform the Hon J.C.L. Fitzpatrick, State Treasurer, Mr B.J. Doe, MLA, the district State member and Mr J.J. Farrell, President of the Murray Shire. The singing of the Anthem was followed by a beautifully executed overture by Miss Mollie McKindlay. A short vocal and instrumental programme arranged by Mr and Mrs M.J. Nolan of Mathoura was splendidly carried through. Mr Nolan was in great voice in the song, "Heroes of the Dardanelles" and Miss Francie Nolan received an encore for her song, "The Army of To-day". Mr Nolan and family were then encored for the sailor song for which the children were dressed in navy costumes. Miss Kitty Nolan, quite a little dot, then sang, "Home Again" and so delighted the audience that she had to come back. "A Toast to Anzac" by Mr Nolan was encored as was Miss Francie Nolan's second song, "Johnny". The programme was concluded by a "medley" from the whole family, Mrs Nolan played

the accompaniments.

In opening the second portion of the evening programme in the address of welcome, the chairman said, "We are here tonight to tell these boys how glad we are to see them back and how proud we are of their glorious work on the fields of Gallipoli, France – in fact wherever duty called them"

The Hon. J.C. Fitzpatrick then addressed the soldiers and said in congratulating them that it was a mistake to say they were sent – they went. (Loud cheers) The speaker said that but for an accident he would have been one of them, the accident was that he had been born too soon.

Mr B.J. Doe (our member) in a neat address, gave some interesting information on what the State Government had done, were doing, and intended doing for the soldiers, for whom nothing was too good. He also referred to the workers in Red Cross branches and V.A.D. workers and paid a high complement to the women of Australia, concluding a stirring address with a warm tribute to soldiers present.

Other speakers were the Rev. T.N. Oldfield, E.I. Beer, D. Blythe, C.H. Smith, W. Williams (Moama) and A. Leitch. The Rev. Oldfield called for three cheers for the soldiers and probably Wamboota never heard such a hearty one. The chairman then called on Mr Doe to make the presentations, and in well chosen words that gentleman presented first to the relatives of the brave fallen a very handsome souvenir of their dear ones, expressing sympathy with them in their loss. The recipients bore up bravely under trying circumstances. The Mayor of Moama (Mr I. Martin) was the first

recipient, and spoke his thanks bravely. Rev. T. Oldfield responded for Mrs Thompson and Mrs A. Barnes, sisters, who had lost their husbands and Mr W. Williamson responded for Mr and Mrs F. Freeman who had lost a son. The souvenirs in these four instances consisted of a very choice tea and coffee service of silver. Mr and Mrs Cleary, Mr and Mrs Santilla, Mr and Mrs Harrington and Mrs J. Robinson were presented with a gold watch and chain as a memento of their sons who were killed in the great fight. The soldiers were then called upon. The first was Lieut. Borella, VC MM and, as appropriate of the occasion. Mr W. Williams said "A soldier and a Man", which so pleased that popular "Billy" had to come back when he sang "In My Old Kentucky Home". Mr Doe congratulated Lieut. Borella on the high distinction he had attained and congratulated Thyra on the honor of having such a man. Lieut. Borella in responding, told a few amusing "tales out of school" about our diggers. He received a most enthusiastic reception. In addressing Sergeant J.A. Mackintosh, Mr Doe said he was the first from the district to enlist four days after the stunt commenced. The popular sergeant briefly responded. The other recipients, viz. C. Borella, J. Borella, W. Zeally, Corp. J. Disher, L. Riley, C. Charles, C. Charles, H. Salt, A. Ball, H. Sinclair, I. Sinclair, L. Santilla and Nurse A. Bowtell, each received a gold watch and chain or in the case of Nurse Bowtell, a gold wristlet watch. The articles are uniform in value, but in the case of the bereaved it was of their own choice. In addition to the above, Mr J. Mason, of Melbourne, has also received a gold watch and chain in memory of his son, R. Mason of Perricoota. There were 21 presentations made that evening and about 34 still to be made. Several returned soldiers were prevented from being present, viz Mitchell

Bros (Melbourne) J Service (Deniliquin) S. Yeo (Melbourne) J. Wales (Pyramid Hill) Corp. Colin Sinclair (Sydney) Sergeant Geo Oakley (Moama) Geo Thompson (Echuca) W. Zeally (Perricoota) and Nurse Bowtell – several of whom are in hospital or business engagements prevented. However the presentation will be held over for them.

Upon the conclusion of the presentations, the chairman announced that supper was his next item, and then the ladies got to work, and never did ladies work so well or so untiringly. The catering was done by Mr Manger, of Echuca and there was abundance of everything, and if anyone went supper-less it was his own fault. The committee desires to thank all those bodies who assisted to make their welcome a huge success, and who ungrudgingly took on their shoulders the decorations and made the old school of arts a bower, the superintendence of supper, unpacking, working, repacking, and generally attending to everything.

In speaking to the Hon. Sec. Mr C.H. Smith, and asking who did this and did they get paid for it, he smiled and said "You are not acquainted with our ladies," and immediately introduced me to about 40. Further, he told me that when they wanted anything done in catering for social functions or for patriotic work each man casually tells his women folk and troubles no more about it, they see to the rest. So I've concluded that the men fold in Thyra, Wamboota, Bunaloo etc are thrice blessed with handsome, adorable and obedient women folk.

On the whole it was a splendid tribute to our soldiers, and one of the best organised and orderly functions ever held in the district.

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