

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

Echuca Moama Pioneers

Books 1, 2, 3, & 4.

All four books are available for purchase at a cost of \$15 per book, plus postage, (\$10.00 for 1 book, \$15.00 for 2 to 5 books)

from - EMFHG, PO Box 707, Echuca 3564

These books contain a total of 196 family stories, written by people, whose families have lived in the area for many years

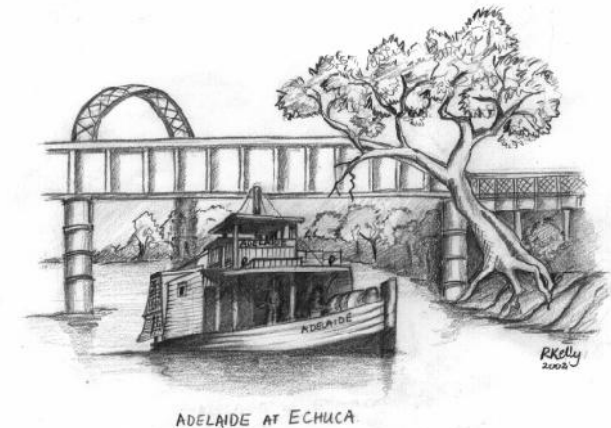
Getting a Bed

A man named Heher Harrison called at the police station in the early hours of Wednesday morning and asked for a bed. On being told that he could not be accommodated he went away, but returned later and gave himself up saying that he had put a brick through a window in High Street. He was given a bed and yesterday appeared in court to answer charges of wilful damage of property. He was remanded to Bendigo. The victim of the offence was Mr Hart Hicks, but as the window was insured, he will not, apart from some inconvenience suffer any loss. Mr Hicks stated nothing seemed to have been removed from the shop.

Riv Herald 1927

Bridges & Branches

Number 121 March 2021



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

Echuca-Moama Family History Group Inc

President: Judy McCleary

Vice President: John Howe

Secretary: John Howe

Treasurer: Barbara Goldsmith

Librarian: Lorraine Johnson

Editorial Committee: Shirley Durrant, Judy McCleary, & Helen Hastie

Research: Barbara Goldsmith

PO Box 707, Echuca, Vic, 3564

[A00227447]

Research & Information: Telephone: (03) 5480 1501

Email address: emfhg9@hotmail.com

Website / Internet: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~emhist>

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

James retired to Echuca in 1888 where he continued as a director of L. Kickham Flour Milling Co. the Moama Grain Storing Company, and J.F. Golding.

Another four children were registered at Echuca, Joseph Francis in 1887, Geraldine Agatha 1889, Herbert Aloysius 1891 and Matthew James in 1894.

The actual number of children is unclear with only four girls registered. When both James and Ellen died 5 daughters were named, but Teresa has not been found registered in either state.

When Ellen died in May 1919 her obituary stated that there were eight sons, seven of whom were living. Unfortunately none were named. But, Patrick had died in 1871, Herbert Aloysius aged 4 years in 1896 and William had died in April 1919, making a total of 10 sons. Probably it were Patrick and Herbert who had been overlooked. But who was the seventh

son who was alive when Ellen died, and not listed when James died?

Three years earlier when James died six sons were named in the obituary. Two sons had died as children making a total of 8 sons.

The Rev. Dr. Skelly's name was John, but no child named John has been found on the registers of either state. Just to add to the confusion Michael James, who was born in 1876 appears to have been known as Patrick, and Geraldine Agatha born in 1889, served as a nurse with the army during World War One using the name Dene.

James and Ellen were buried at the Echuca Cemetery together with their children Herbert, John, Geraldine, Teresa.

William, Patrick, Michael James, and Sister Mary Anthony are also buried in the Echuca Cemetery.

Shirley Durrant

Destruction of Vermin—The State Cabinet has decided on March 15 as the day on which there is to be a simultaneous destruction of vermin. Under the Vermin Destruction Act, every occupier and owner of land is compelled to destroy all vermin on land occupied or owned by him or on land adjacent half width of all roads bounding or adjoining his property.
Riverine Herald, 12 March 1921

More Cemetery humour

On a grave from the 1880's in Nantucket, Massachusetts

Under the sod and under the trees,
Lies the body of Johathan Pease.
He is not here, there's only the pod,
Pease shelled out and went to God.

In a cemetery at Ribbesford, England
Anna Wallace

The children of Israel wanted bread,
And the Lord sent them Manna.
Clark Wallace wanted a wife,
And the Devil sent him Anna

Shocking Fatality

A shocking fatality happened at Echuca on New Year's Day when Mr James Skelly, one of the best known identities of the Echuca district was killed.

The old gentleman went on to the line at the railway station to take the numbers of some trucks of wheat when an engine came on him unawares, and he was fatally injured.

Much sympathy is felt for the deceased's family, consisting of a widow, five daughters and six sons. They are Rev. Mother Mary Claire, and Sister Dominic, Brigidine Convent, Mentone; Sister Anthony, Brigidine Convent, Echuca; Nursing Sister Deane Skelly, who is in Egypt with the Australian Nursing Staff; and Miss Teresa Skelly, Echuca; Messrs James Skelly, Sydney; Patrick and Joseph Skelly, Echuca; Rev. Dr. Skelly, Myrtleford; William Skelly, of Skelly and Sons, Bourke street, Melbourne;

and Matthew Skelly representative of the latter firm in Tocumwal.

Deceased was a director of the L. Kickham Flour Milling Co; a trustee of the Moama cemetery, and chairman of the Moama Grain Storing Company.

He also was sub-agent for J.F.Golding, Melbourne, under the Government wheat purchasing scheme. Mr Skelly had for many years acted as a Justice of the Peace for the Moama district of New South Wales, and was universally respected.

The remains of the late Mr Skelly who was 75 years of age, and resided in Echuca, were interred in the Echuca cemetery on Sunday, the funeral being largely attended. An inquiry will be held on Wednesday next.

Newspaper unknown, 3rd January 1916

James Skelly

James Skelly was born at Mullingar, West Meath, Ireland, in November 1841, the son of James Skelly and Mary Carroll.

In about 1860, James decided to leave Ireland and settle in Australia. He arrived in Melbourne and made his way to Ballarat where his first job was digging potatoes. In later years he often said, that having come from Ireland, he thought that his first occupation had been appropriate .

In 1865 James selected land at Ararat, where he married Ellen Liston in 1868. Ellen had been born in County Cork, Ireland. Three children were registered,

Mary 1870, Patrick who was just 10 months old when he died in 1871, and James born in 1872.

Together with Michael Weldon, in 1873 James, Ellen and the children moved to New South Wales, selecting joining blocks of land at Moira just north of Moama. Both were quite large holdings. In 1882 Deniliquin Land Records list James as having 3240 acres with 3 horses and 1996 sheep and Michael had 2600 acres with 14 horses, 8 cattle and 1800 sheep.

Four children were registered at Moama, Ellen in 1873, Michael James 1876, Ann 1880 and William in 1882.

President's Report

A hearty welcome for all our members to a new, positive year in family history, as this year could really be a significant one in the history of our group. We have survived the vagaries of the pandemic and have learned to live in a Covid environment in the 'Lucky Country'. Truly we do live in a country blessed in its isolation, its enriching environment, its inspiring health professionals and its community willing to work for each other, and follow the Covid directives to protect everyone.

Finally our research rooms were opened at the beginning of February, and we have had a few people come in to do research so the Covid rules have not been a problem. We have managed the social distancing, the sanitizing of hands and the furniture. There are three members on duty to help you with your research and the diary sign-in asks for your phone number. Please come and take advantage of our genealogy web sites and research advice.

Monthly activities began on the third Thursday in February but unfortunately our guest speaker, Michael Thompson was ill, so he will be coming to the April meeting. Please check the monthly meeting minutes for more information. It was our first gathering since March 2020 so it was great catching up with everyone, and there were no restrictions as we were meeting in NSW. We have a full program to the middle of the year, so come along, particularly on the excursions we have planned.

Most of you will be aware that we have been investigating the possibility of moving to a new home, as we had come to an impasse over the License Agreement that the Shire of Campaspe

wanted us to sign. The Friends of Old Moama welcomed our approach to them regarding the occupation of the Old Telegraph Station on the Heritage Trail in Moama, and at our February Monthly Meeting our group endorsed this move. After several meetings with the Friends of Old Moama and council representatives, our request along with some important paperwork, will be presented at the Murray River Council meeting on March 23rd. Hopefully the Council will support this move and we will move onto the next stage in the process.

Last Saturday we had our first Bunnings sausage sizzle for well over a year. We were to hold one in January of this year, but the weekend we were allocated was one with extreme temperatures, so it was cancelled. We had a very successful day and experienced the new procedures under Covid regulations. These were not too onerous, but next time we will require more people to help, in order to cut down the four hour stints to something more manageable. Thank you to the seven members who worked at the sizzle, and a special thank you to Barbara Goldsmith who organized all the sausages, bread, condiments and the money.

I would like to thank the committee for their work during 2020 as the Covid conditions did provide some obstacles, but they kept the group functioning very effectively. John continued circulating the eNews and circulated relevant emails to all members, while Barbara monitored the group's finances with appropriate reports. Shirley definitely kept our spirits up with the publication of Bridges and Branches as usual. There is also a special

thank you to the members who submitted articles for the magazine too.

The one thing we would encourage everyone to do is to pay your membership for 2021-2022. Those members who were not financial after June last year could pay now up until July 2022, for \$45.00. You can pay it

directly into our bank account or by cheque in the mail to our post office box number.

Hopefully everyone is feeling more positive about 2021 and will venture down to the research rooms for more exciting family history moments.

Judy McCleary

Research enquiries September '20 to February '21

SUTTON Family	David Bowe	SUTTON family in Echuca
LYNCH & LYNN Families	Narelle Catling	Families in Echuca
WILSON James Richardson	Lyell Wilson	Peter Johnston
SMITH / TONGE	Robyn Jeffriess	Stray Certificate- Marriage
DOMAILLE Abraham & Mary	Maureen Cuskelly	Info on family
SHALE Capt Donald James	Ben Thomas	Photo
MAIDEN James	Rory Arthur	Info
MARSHALL Thomas & Family	Jean Bantow	Fellmongers in Moama
DAY & WALTON	Deonne Lilley	Info on Day family
McLEAN Family	John McLEAN	Rushworth & district

Coming Events 2021

- Tuesday 13 April 1.30pm Meeting
- Saturday 17 April 1.30pm Guest Speaker
- Tuesday 11th May 1.30pm Meeting
- Saturday 15 May 1.30pm Excursion - Moama Cemetery Walk & afternoon tea
- Tuesday 8 June 1.30pm Meeting
- Saturday 19 June 1.30pm 40th Anniversary - Vicki Montgomery GSV
- Tuesday 13 July 1.30pm Meeting
- Saturday 17 July 1.30pm Luncheon AGM
- Tuesday 10 Aug. 1.30pm Meeting
- Saturday 21 Aug. 1.30pm Guest Speaker Maureen Doyle, "Irish Research on the Web"

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

Francis Joseph Schmitt, Joseph Aloysius Schmitt, and Francis Patrick Schmitt, of 39 Rosebery street, Auburn, wish to announce that in future they are to be known by the name of Smith.

31st May, 1918.

Joseph A. Smith

Dr. Jenner's Work on Cow Pox

2nd Edition, published in 1800

In the Press, and will soon be ready for issue, a fac-simile Reprint of the Second Edition of Dr. Jenner's work on Cow Pox, containing all his original observations on Variolæ Vaccinæ. The Book contains four coloured plates. [Price, 21s.]

Thos. Richards,
Government Printer.

Government Printing Office,
Sydney, 23rd December, 1884.

Ancestral Mathematics

In order to be born you needed,

- 2 parents
- 4 Grandparents
- 8 Great-grandparents
- 16 Second Great-grandparents
- 32 Third Great-grandparents
- 64 Fourth Great-grandparents
- 128 Fifth Great-grandparents
- 256 Sixth Great-grandparents
- 612 Seventh Great-grandparents
- 1024 Eight Great-grandparents
- 2056 Ninth Great-grandparents

For you to be born today from 12 previous generations, you needed a total of 4094 ancestors over 400 years.

Think for a moment, How many struggles ? How many battles? How many difficulties? How much sadness? How much happiness? How many love stories? How many expressions of hope for the future? - did your ancestors have to undergo for you to exist in this present moment.

The following are the result of recently discovering the fascinating treasures which can be found in the NSW Government Gazettes through Trove. They start in 1832. At first mixed with the numerous Impound Notices, comes a wide variety of topics.

It would be interesting to know just how well the supplies left over from the convict Ships sold.

Rewards which seem extremely high amounts, were frequently offered, for various offences.

Following WW1 many people registered in the Gazettes, their change of name, mostly those of German extraction.

TO BE SOLD BY PUBLIC AUCTION
BY MR. BLACKMAN,
AUCTIONEER,

On FRIDAY, the 23rd instant, at Ten o'clock

At the Commissariat Stores, Sydney,
The following Remains of Stores,
landed from Emigrant Ships, on account of the Colonial Treasury,
Flour, Biscuits, Oatmeal, Peas, Suet,
Molasses, Rice, Vinegar, Barley, Lime Juice, Wine, Preserved Meat, Preserved Soup.

Also

The following Articles, being remains of Stores,
Of Convict Ships from Ireland -
Flour, Biscuits, Peas, Suet, Cocoa,
Raisins,
Barley, Preserved Meats, Wine,
Vinegar,
Hospital Furniture, Bedding, Old Lead, Wood Fittings, and other Articles.

Also,

A quantity of Hospital Furniture, Bedding, and Other Articles, landed from Convict Ships from England. Sydney, 14th February, 1838

Colonial Secretary's Office
Sydney, 15th January, 1838
THIRTY POUNDS REWARD

Or

A CONDITIONAL PARDON

Whereas it has been represented to the Government that Serjeant James Fox, of the 80th Regiment, about eight o'clock in the morning of the 30th of December last, was attached at a place called Lennox Bridge, between Emu Plains and the Pilgrim Inn, on Mitchell's Pass, by two armed men, (one of whom has been apprehended) having their faces covered with pieces of striped cotton cloth, and was robbed of money to a considerable amount; and whereas a man named Thomas Williams (whose description is annexed) supposed to be the other offender, is still illegally at large.

Notice is hereby given, that a Reward of THIRTY POUNDS will be paid to any Person if free, who will give such information as will lead to the apprehension and conviction of the said Thomas Williams, or if a Prisoner of the Crown, he will be recommended to Her Majesty for a CONDITIONAL PARDON.

Description:-

Name - Thomas Williams

Native Place - England,

Height - About five feet six inches,

Complexion - Fair,

Hair - Light brown,

Eyes - Light Hazel,

General Remarks - Nose cocked, rather larger than common, light sandy whiskers, original trade a Potter, he has been employed since he obtained his freedom as a sawyer, and was lately employed along with Stokes, by Mr. Henry Hall, of Emu Plains, in sawing timber for him in the bush, about three miles from Lapstone Hill, Bathurst Road.

By His Excellency's Command,
E. Deas Thompson

Captain James Ritchie

Captain James Ritchie, was born in Cockenzie, East Lothian, Scotland on the 22nd of August 1831. His parents were James Ritchie (1799 -) Martha Ritchie (nee Colston) (1808 – 1864). James had two sisters Margaret (1829 – 1910), who married John Barclay, and Ann (1840 -). He also had two brothers John (1833 – 1918), and George(1838-).

James came out to Australia, as a crew member of the little steamer *Lioness*, captained by Robert Kay. With him was his brother John , and George and Thomas Johnston, John Barclay and William Barber, for the Captain Cadell's River Murray Steam Navigation Company, The *Lioness* was later sold and used as a tug boat at Port Melbourne,.

They rigged the little steamer with three masts and turned her into a schooner, putting her wheel housings and paddlewheels in the hold. In December 1853 James Ritchie, John Barclay, George and Thomas Johnston, returned to Scotland on board the *Admiral"* . James married Alison Johnston (1829 – 1913), on the 5th of May 1854, at Cockenzie, East Lothian, Scotland..

She was the daughter of James Johnston (1806 – 1854) and Isabella (Ross 1805 – 1880), Thomas Johnston was a 1st cousin to Alison Johnston, and also a cousin to George Johnston, George married Elizabeth Barclay (John Barclay's sister) on the 3rd of December 1852. John Barclay married James Ritchie's sister Margaret Ritchie on the 20th of April 1854. William Barber (1835 – 1922), married Elizabeth Catherine Hennessy (1847 – 1886) on the 17th of October 1859 , Elizabeth was the sister to Wenfried Hennessy (1847 – 1876) wife of John Ritchie (1833 – 1918) brother of

James Ritchie (1832 – 1881). They were both daughters of James Hennessy of Ireland. Captain Robert Kay's wife Anne Ross, was a first cousin to James Ritchie (1832 – 1881) as her mother was



Catherine Ritchie, sister to James's father James Ritchie snr (1799 -). James Ritchie was issued his UK and Ireland masters certificate Number 11.503.in 1854.

James Ritchie, George and Thomas Johnston and John Barclay returned to Australia on board the Brig *Lady Emma* on Thursday the 18th of January 1855.

The *Lady Emma* captained by none other than Robert Kay, (who had Captained the *Lioness*, on their earlier voyage to Australia). In the hold were the steamers *Gundagai"* and *Albury*, in bits and pieces, to be put together in Australia, and a saw-mill, as freight, for Captain Cadell's River Murray Steam Navigation Company.

James Ritchie's wife Alison and their 2 1/2 year old daughter Isabella left Scotland for Australia, on the 18th of October 1857. They were travelling with Captain George Johnston's wife Elizabeth (nee Barclay) and her daughters Georgiana and Jane, on board the *Planter*, to join their husbands. They arrived in Melbourne on the 14th of January 1858, and the first thing that greeted them, in Melbourne, was the little steamer *Lioness*, which had brought their husbands to Australia the first time.

James Ritchie was employed by the River Murray Navigation Company in 1857 as barge master of the paddle steamers, *Eureka* and *Goolwa* and later as mate of the *Melbourne*.

James and Alison shifted to Port Willunga in 1860, as James was employed by Mr. Samuel White as a Brig master. Samuel White was a miller, ship owner and trader of flour to Melbourne. I haven't been able to find proof of this, but they weren't there long.

They shifted back to Goolwa in 1861. In 1863 James took the former barge *Wakool*, now a screw steamer to New Zealand for the River Murray Navigation company, and he was in New Zealand for a short time. It was later reported in the NZ newspaper the Hokitika Times that the *Wakool* was wrecked on the beach, on the 24th of May 1865. The master had to run her ashore to save the lives of the passengers and crew.

James Ritchie was one of twelve trustees to purchase land so the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, in Bingham Street, in Goolwa, could be extended, in October 1868.

James was again working on the river out of Goolwa, when they shifted to Echuca and he became a share holder in the Hay steam Navigation company. It traded between Echuca, Victoria and Hay, New South Wales, operating from about 1874, with the paddle steamers *Burrabogie*, and *Corrong* and their barges. The main share holders were the squatters J.A. Tyson, McGaw and some others, until about 1879 when the company was liquidated.

James then purchased the paddle

steamer *Pioneer* in 1880, and it was to be his last paddle steamer, as James passed away on the 23rd of April 1881, in Echuca, when he was 49. He was buried in the Echuca, Cemetery . He was survived by his wife Alison and children; James Ritchie Jnr, 1858 – 1939, John 1862 – 1942, George 1864 - 1944, Margaret Ann 1876 – 1950, David Johnstone 1874 – 1963. His oldest daughter Isabella born 1855 predeceased him in 1871, and also David Robert who died in 1870 aged just 6 months old.

After James passed away Alison and the children moved back to Goolwa, SA, to be closer to family. Alison passed away in Goolwa on the 20th of February 1913, and was buried in Currency Creek cemetery, Alexandrina, South Australia. James Ritchie, was a pioneer of navigation of the Murray River. He was also a crew member of the *Lady Augusta*, which was one of the first paddle steamers on the Murray and Darling Rivers. He was a well known legend of the river trade, while his sons James, John, George and David, were all river boat captains in their own right, working the *Pioneer* after their father died, George bought his brothers out in 1891 and kept it going until 1899. George became a member of Parliament in South Australia, and was also acting Premier at one stage. He was knighted in 1935.

John and David were both Mayors of Goolwa, with John serving 4 years, and David for 3 years. David also a councillor, for Port Elliot Council.

Sue Shaw

Look after yourself.

Lovingly yours

Mother

(The above letter was written by Drusilla Dunham who lived at Torrumbarry, to her daughter Elsie Frances who was living

7271 Private Walter Musgrove,

Walter Musgrove was born on the 27th of June 1885 at Wharparilla, Victoria, Australia to Thomas William Musgrove and Jane (nee Perkins).

Walter enlisted on the 4th of September 1916, in Melbourne, and he became a member of the 8th Battalion, 24th reinforcements. His next of kin is listed as his wife Verna Grant Musgrove 1892 - 1963 (nee Wilson). Her parents were Alexander Norval Wilson, and Mary Isabel Wilson (nee Grant) of 501 Lydiad St, Ballarat, Victoria. Walter was a 32 year old a labourer living in Ballarat at the time of enlistment.

He embarked from Melbourne, on board the *HMAT Ballarat*, on the 19th of February 1917 and disembarked on the 30th of April 1917 in England. He was admitted to Tidworth hospital, on the 5th of September 1917 with sciatica and was discharged from hospital, on 24th of September 1917. Tidworth was the headquarters for the Australian Imperial Force in the UK from mid-1916, being close to the numerous Wiltshire camps where the Australians were based during the war.

Walter reported to barracks on the 22nd of October 1917, and on the 28th of October 1917 the 2nd Light Machine Gun Battalion. As an acting Lance Corporal he reverted to ranks, and marched out to No 1 command depot, at Sutton Veny, 2nd reclassification on 18th of November

just across the Murray at Perricoota.

Although as the crow flies they were only a few miles apart, to visit it was necessary to travel via Echuca a trip of about 60km.

Drusilla was Val Ellis's grandmother. The letter, which in parts was very hard to read was transcribed by Val.)

1917, then reclassified again on the 2nd of December 1917. Walter was absent without Leave on the 16th of December 1917, and apprehended on the 17th of December 1917 when he proceeded from Sutton Veny to Southampton , He was in custody and awaiting trial for three days, and then he got 10 days without pay for his AWOL stint. Walter then proceeded to overseas to France from England on the 19th of March 1918. He marched into Le Havre, France on 20th March 1918, to his unit which was taken on Battalion strength on the 4th of April 1918.

Walter was admitted to hospital with influenza on the 29 of June 1918. He was awarded the 1914 - 15 Star Medal, British War Medal and The Victory Medal. Walter returned to Australia on-board the *HT Gaika*, and disembarked on the 19th of December 1918. He was discharged on the 21st of January 1919. Walter and his wife Verna, had one son born in 1916, Walter Athol Musgrove, and a stepson Robert Norman Wilson (1911 - 1973).

Walters sibling were: Florence (1871 – 1900), Albert Robert (1872 – 1952), Thomas Henry (1874 – 1950), Adelaide Isabella (1875 – 1950), Victor William (1878 – 1952), Mabel (1880 – 1913), and Leslie (1887 – 1902).

Walter died in 1957 aged 72 in Echuca, and is buried in the Echuca Cemetery *Sue Shaw*

A letter to her daughter

Torrumbarry,
13-5-39

Dear Elsie

I was pleased to get your letter today and to know that all well. I was a bit sorry when one didn't come last week, but glad too, for I would have answered it and we had a house full of bad colds and it might have sent a germ to you. I think by the way we are all barked and felt that it was some kind of flu we all had. I had been sick enough before I got it, and it just made me feel as if I didn't give a hang if I never got out of bed again, but we are all just about rid of it now, and hope I don't send any of it to you and the babies.

I am glad you are not cross because the girls wouldn't come over to you, my dear. I think they are a bit scared of just one of them being here alone with me. Dad and Doug are finished over at Ormandy's now but Roy is still away on the wood cutting.

Harry is working at the lock again. Jean & the kiddies were home for a couple of days. They are all well. Barrie is growing like mushrooms & John is lovely. Dad and Dave are on. It's a bit monotonous again, isn't it, and isn't Mabel an awful singer, and isn't Bill Smith an old nait, and he has booked the first lesson for the dancing class.

The girls and Roy are going to see Alice McNaught tonight, she is home for a fortnight.

The basket ball is going alright I think. I don't that much interest in it. Their uniforms are very nice, white blouses & navy blue shorts.

I am glad that Mrs Frances and Mollie and Edie are all well.

We are without a car again for over a week, second time in a month. Damned old car, ... wants scrapping, along with a lot more of them about here. Roy took a part to Echuca last Saturday and it was to be ready on Tuesday. Dad rode his bike Wed. and it wasn't there so that means no Echuca this week, and I want to go in to see Dr. Brown about my medicine.

It is a bit of a ... about the cars around here. Ours in being Uncle Tom's got a nice knock up. Roman has did the big end of his last Saturday. Rodwells big car and truck both ... and Doug slipped off the track and knocked a hole in the radiator of his. So far as cars go, things are only middling.

Arthur Russell was here on Tuesday, he was asking after you and wished to be remembered.

Evelyn Russell is home. I don't know if I told you.

It will be twelve months on Sunday since my poor girl was taken from us and how I am going to put in the day I don't know. Had the car been alright I would have got right away from the place and everyone, but I can't. I think that it is only that I have been fretting a bit more than usual, that I have been so sick again and I worried about Arthur when he was away, but he got back safely and was a good boy. He wrote every few days to let me know how he was.

I won't expect a letter each week dear, but unless I am feeling really off I will send a few lines every week, if there is a chance of getting it posted.

Now my dear I will stop, best love to yourself and Tom and the babies.

From us all

AVOCA

My grandmother's house was called Avoca. It still stands 140 years later in Pascoe Vale South in Melbourne, although the area was called Moonee Vale when Mary moved into the house in 1917. The double fronted weatherboard house with its Victorian bull nosed verandah was quite palatial for her. She had been living with her mother in a single fronted four roomed cottage, with a kitchen out the back in West Brunswick, along with various members of the family since 1907. Mary brought her two children with her leaving behind the cottage that housed up to 10 people at any one time. Avoca or Carrington Street as we called it was the house of my childhood. I was four when we moved in with Mary. As a small child the house was wondrous. It had six rooms with high ceilings, wood paneling in the lounge and dining room, small Victorian fire places in three rooms, picture railings and ornate ceiling roses. The hall way had a varnished wooden door with brightly coloured lead light glass in the upper half. The kitchen was the most homely room in the house with a one-fire wood stove that was constantly in use for most of the year. Mary and my mother, Mavis were expert cooks managing to produce the most wonderful meals, with just a knack of regulating the amount of wood that was fed into the fire section of the stove, in combination with the air vent on the door of the oven. Mary had taught Mavis to cook on that stove when she first came to visit when she was seventeen. Mavis had lost her mother when she was nine, and her maiden aunt and her older sisters had cared for her, so Mary encouraged her culinary skills. To our delight we could toast our bread

on the fire with long forks to protect our hands. There was always a kettle whistling on the stove, and while the kitchen was warm in winter, in the heat of summer there was a Metter's gas

wonder to cook our food. The stove was the hub of the house in times past when Mary lived with Uncle Adam, (known only as Uncle in my childhood). He would sit with his back to the stove in winter, and have one of the dogs as a foot warmer under the table, according to my father Elliott. The kitchen furniture was just as exotic in my young eyes with an old wooden dresser matching a table, and a long stool for children to sit at the table. The mantelpiece above the fireplace had all the basic necessities; tea and sugar caddies in a willow pattern, the Westminster chiming mantel clock, an hour glass cooking timer and other 'odds and sods'. There was a sitting room off the kitchen where we would listen to the radio, particularly on Sunday night, when the whole family would be there. It also housed two Singer treadle sewing machines that Mary and Mavis used constantly.

The back door that led into a fernery was bright blue and had an old horse shoe nailed to the outside for good luck. It probably was put there by Adam as he worked at Hoffmann's brick yard in West Brunswick as a carter, so he had a lot to do with horses. The door was used for loose teeth extraction as Mary could not afford dental visits, so a piece of



Mary with her dog and cats

string and the door handle provided all the dental equipment necessary. The fernery was fully enclosed with green trellis walls that let the light through the chinks onto a range of exotic plants including Aspidistras, with their shiny smooth leaves, elk stag ferns and orchids in a range of colours. The floor of the fernery was made of Hoffman bricks. It was large enough to have a 'wash house' on the southern side, that included a small fully enclosed bath house with a tin bath, and small chip heater at one end for hot water. There was a bench, a small cupboard and a mirror with a razor strop hanging beside it. Like the back door the strop had more than one use, providing a visible means of discipline for us children to contemplate. We bathed once a week and we were always the last to use the water!! Next to the bathroom and part of the wash house was the area for washing clothes in a large brick enclosed copper, which had a small fire place encased below the copper to heat the water. Two very large cement troughs were nearby, and perched between them was a heavy mangle, that was used to take out the excess water, once the washing had been rinsed in the troughs. Washing days were Mondays and Fridays for Mary. Still in the fernery in the back corner was the outdoor 'dunny', that was far enough away from the house in the early days for the 'Night man' to come for his weekly visit, and not be seen as there was access to the 'dunny' from the rear of the fernery. No wonder Mary and other family members had 'guzundas' that provided a convenience

for them during the night. Not only was the 'guzunda' a startling memory from my grandmother's bedroom, but her cream wrought iron double bed, with a fancy fascia board and decorative knobs was another. Another convenience, given the distance from the bath house, was the wash stand with its marble top on which sat a china wash bowl, a water jug, a soap holder and a shaving mug. The house was built in 1881 so there were no conveniences inside and this still was the situation in the early 1950's. The only water in the house was from the taps over the kitchen sink. The back exit to the fernery revealed a very large yard divided into three sections, the first section being divided with a white picket fence. The next section was a wire fence stretched across a wooden frame that enclosed the chook pen. The first section contained a garden shed, packed with wondrous objects. Not only were there garden tools, but carpenter tools, tins of nails and soap molds. Mary made her own soap from household drippings including animal fats; lard and castor oil, and used it for personal use and hand washing the delicate clothes. She always said lard was very good for your skin. On the same bench was a cast iron boot and shoe cobbler's stand for repairing the soles or heels of our shoes. The repair kits were purchased from a boot maker. The most fascinating object was Uncle's Scottish Busby hat which we would try on when the adults were not present. Uncle had been in the Victorian Scottish Regiment prior to WW1 as he had Scottish ancestry. The

wire clothes line in the yard was strung between two poles with a very heavy piece of wood with a fork on the top of it to raise and lower the line. There was a garage on the northern side of the property which had large bins that contained the chook food. In later years my father's ford coupe with a dickie seat was housed in there. There was also a sleep out, a single roomed building, where my brother slept. The second section of the yard was covered with trees, several plums, a lemon and an apricot, with a veggie garden under the trees. Sometime during the 1920's Mary's younger sister Lizzie, who was quite the bohemian in the family, lived in a tent in one of these sections. She was according to my father quite avant-garde in her life style!! The final section on the back fence was a chook yard with two large hen houses. One vivid memory I have is a chook running around with no head, and another being plucked by Mary after it had died.

Two small water tanks on wooden stands stood alongside the back of the house, next to the fernery catching water from the roof. This water was piped into a very deep brick lined well and was the only source of water in 1917. Mary used a hand pump that pumped the water into buckets or other utensils for use in the kitchen, the wash house and the garden. This was my grandmother's world. It all came about because of Uncle who had bought this house for her, and her children to live in, as she could not afford such a residence, even though she worked in a tobacco factory until she was 70. Her life and her struggles are a story for another time.



Mary with her dog and chooks

Judy McCleary

New Members

Robyn MURRAY Stephen TIDSWELL Deonne LILLEY

Welcome to you all

Who said cemeteries aren't funny?

In a cemetery at Uniontown, Pennsylvania
Here lies the body of Jonathan Blake
Stepped on the gas instead of the brake

In A cemetery in London, England
Here lies Ann Mann, who lived an old
maid, but died an old Mann Dec. 8 ,1767