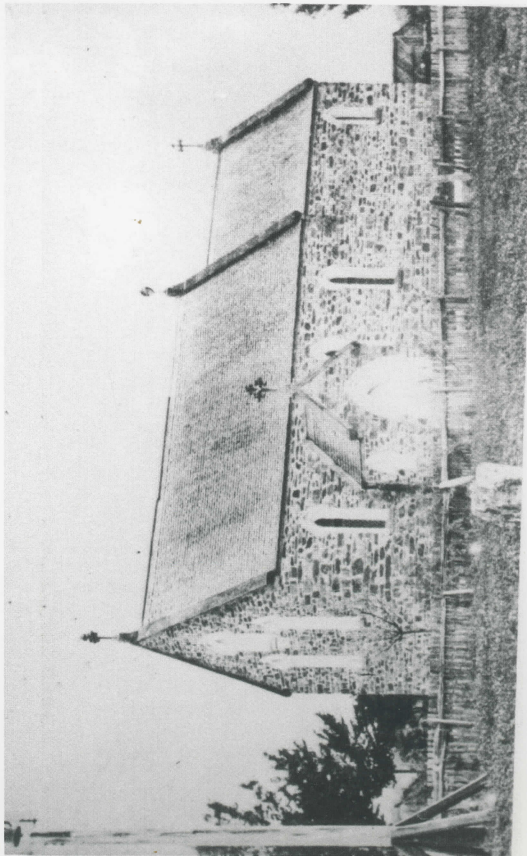


# Quinbean

Volume 12 No 1  
April 2019



The Journal of  
Queanbeyan and District Historical Museum Society Inc.

# QUEANBEYAN & DISTRICT HISTORICAL MUSEUM SOCIETY INC.

QDHMS is a local history society aiming at preserving the history of the city and its wider district and sharing this, with the strong support of the Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council through the context of the Museum of Queanbeyan.

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## THE MUSEUM OF QUEANBEYAN

Is found at 10 Farrer Place Queanbeyan, next to the Police Complex and opposite the State Office Building.

The Museum is open from 1pm to 4pm Saturdays and Sundays or by arrangement.

Cover Photograph: St Gregory's 1870. Photo Beaufoy Merlin

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QUEANBEYAN & DISTRICT HISTORICAL MUSEUM SOCIETY

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## SOCIETY REPORT

It has been a sad time for us with the loss of Ruth Blunden, Louis Folger and Kris Flynn from our immediate Museum family and volunteers have lost siblings and partners. The death late last year of a vital member of our committee, Kris Flynn, has left big shoes to fill.

Despite the losses, the Society has continued to operate and prosper. Frances Flanagan has taken on the organisation of the weekend roster and group and school visits and has been pro-active in approaching schools to encourage more visits to the museum. A grant for an Education Kit is being followed up and a visit from an advisor is expected later in June.

The work of the Treasurer and Secretary continues. *Quinbean* continues to be published, still attracting interesting contributions about our regional history. Work continues updating and correcting the Museum database in Librero and a Conservation Studies student is conserving a heritage game board from the collection.

Volunteers continue to keep the museum open and tidy. We would love more volunteers for some tasks such as keeping the garden watered regularly.

The project to build a more appropriate display area for the Museum's large farm equipment has proceeded. We are waiting for Council sign-off on the plans. In the future the machinery will be more protected, more easily viewed and more fully described.

The QPRC Heritage Awards were held at the Braidwood Museum this year. They will be held at the Queanbeyan Museum in alternate years. A new Museum exhibition around the 2019 Heritage Festival's theme of *Space* has been mounted and opened to the public. The museum is the perfect source of records of the space that is now Queanbeyan and its district. We have maps and plans, photographs and objects that show how the space has been used, altered and mapped over time.

## FROM THE EDITORS

First, we must apologise to Maria Lukacs for an error in Kristina Flynn's dates: they should be: 25 June 1954 - 27 December 2018 (*Quinbean*, Volume 11 Number 3, p 36).

Thanks to all our contributors in this edition, another fascinating mix of articles exploring the history of our region.

Local historian, Nichole Overall, notes the compelling story behind the Influenza Pandemic of 1918-19. John McGlynn has continued his exploration of our oral history collection.

Kristine Howard has written about the history of cricket in the district as related to her family history. Peter Procter has contributed a story celebrating a great early story teller of this district: William Wright.

Gillian Kelly, local historian and former editor of *Quinbean* has contributed two more interesting pieces about the history of our district.

Some books have more than the usual impact on us and Kerrie Ruth has contributed a review of *Deep Time dreaming – Uncovering Ancient Australia* by Billy Griffiths (2018).

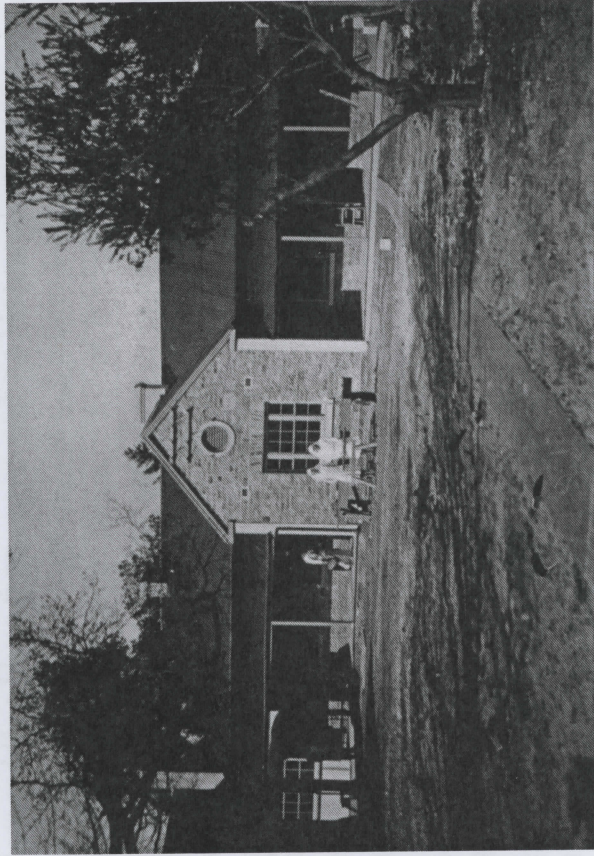
Long time QDHMS member Marilyn Folger has written a tribute to her husband and a much missed and fondly remembered QDHMS volunteer, Louis Folger.

Thanks again to our regular contributors. Contributions most welcome to our Journal, articles, short or long, poetry, snippets, quirky news clips - it is all of interest! Contact John at mcglynn\_john@hotmail.com

**John McGlynn & Kerrie Ruth**



## QUEANBEYAN AND THE INFLUENZA PANDEMIC OF 1918-19



**Old Queanbeyan Hospital. Photograph QDHMS**

The patient writhed fitfully in the narrow bed of the primitive if picturesque Queanbeyan District Hospital of 1861 with its two wards and no electricity.

As she retched up a frothy, bloody mucus, long-serving local doctor Patrick Blackall had done all he could. Admitted only five days earlier, 45-year-old Marion Dunlop was displaying symptoms of a respiratory infection, but her condition was deteriorating rapidly.

A fever, rasping cough and a sharp headache, to be expected in the circumstances. So, too, the onset of enervating aches and nausea. More concerning: delirium, black spots blooming on the cheeks and the lips taking on a bruised hue. Indications of literally drowning in her own bodily fluids.

It was January 13, 1919, and the war they said would end at Christmas four years before had reached the climax of its catastrophic throes just two months earlier.

Millions from around the globe were dead and as those left made their way back to landscapes and populations forever scarred, on their heels was a fresh terror that would wreak even greater carnage than all just witnessed.

Marion's death notice declared she died of double pneumonia. Her family though, still living in the Canberra region, have long held the culprit to be the infamous Spanish Flu that a century ago potentially claimed as many as six times the lives lost to the Great War.

The Influenza Pandemic of 1918-19 came to be labelled a "medical holocaust"; a serial killer on an unimagined scale that couldn't be seen, let alone escaped. It remains the most lethal and mysterious incarnations of the disease ever to plague humankind, just one unusual aspect, its effect on the young and healthy.

One hundred years on, where it came from and when, the level of virulence of this strain, and the full scale of its impact continue to mystify: all seen in the singular instance of a middle-aged woman's untimely death in a place far removed from the potential "Ground Zero" of the battlefields of Europe.

The beginning of 1918 saw the first of three "waves", but to the chagrin of the kingdom for which it was named, it is agreed the deadly trajectory didn't begin in Spain – although between March and May, up to eight million Spaniards contracted it, including their King, Alfonso XIII.

A diabolical plan of the Germans, Chinese labourers carrying it to the continent, or the more preferred Kansas army camp, all have been considered suspects in inflicting it on the world. There's also a theory it was first seen in a frontline French hospital as early as 1916. Certainly



it was the sheer volume of troop movements that resulted in its unprecedented spread.

Like something out of a science-fiction novel or an apocalyptic TV series, in less than a year, from the largest cities to the most remote hamlets, hundreds of millions were infected and tens of millions died, often very quickly and quite painfully: "One of the most striking of the complications was haemorrhage from mucous membranes, especially from the nose, stomach, and intestine. Bleeding from the ears and... haemorrhages in the skin also occurred."

However, one of the most touted inaccuracies is the 50 million victims of the pandemic (it can vary from 20 million to as high as 100 million). In Australia, it's generally stated between 12,000 and 15,000 succumbed. The actual number worldwide can never be known with certainty, and for a variety of reasons, including its murky origins.

In the early stages, the disease was also both regularly misdiagnosed – everything from cholera to typhoid – or dismissed as the normal seasonal flu.

Along with not initially being compulsory to report or record instances of its appearance, censorship also played its part. With the already deadly state of global affairs, much information was suppressed so as not to impede the war effort or negatively affect morale. Accordingly, the severity remained unacknowledged or unknown in many afflicted areas until undertakers literally began to run out of coffins.

By October, 1918, the most severe stage of the outbreak, Australia had quarantined itself. Its first "detected" case was reported just three days before Marion's death – a soldier in Melbourne. Nonetheless, there were opportunities for it to have arrived in the antipodes earlier, particularly with returning wounded servicemen.

As late as March, 1919, "The Queanbeyan Age" was still questioning the exact nature of the situation and how to deal with it: "This obvious

danger seems to have been entirely lost sight of through hysterical dread of a hypothetical 'germ' which may exist or not exist, but which, if it did exist, would have every opportunity of making its way through the [protective] masks."

Perhaps the most compelling evidence in support of the idea its insidious reach was far beyond that recognised: 2005 research revealed that many didn't die of the flu itself, rather, from secondary complications for which the virus paved the way. Namely, pneumonia.

Canadian Lt-Col John McCrae MD wrote one of the most recognisable poems of World War I, "In Flanders Fields". On January 28, 1918, he died in France – not combat, but pneumonia. Today, virologists say this most certainly was a result of the Spanish Flu.

Given all of these factors, along with many still unanswered questions, could Marion, daughter of John and Jane Dunlop, of Bungendore, have indeed fallen victim to the "plague of the Spanish Lady" before the Australian experience became clear? If so, how many others may have suffered a similarly undocumented fate?

*For more on the regional and wider aspects of this mystery plague, see [anoverallview.wixsite.com/blog](http://anoverallview.wixsite.com/blog)*

## Nichole Overall



## ORAL HISTORY – STORIES FROM THE PEOPLE

Oral history is a rich source of stories of the past, often linking the past with the present. I have written some narratives based on the oral history interviews of people who came to Queanbeyan in the rush of migration after the Second World War. However, there are many more stories to come, some already recorded and other to organise.

They cover people whose families helped to mold the district from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to others who have come in very recent times. We even have one from an indigenous resident. All have their own special contributions to Queanbeyan and the district and will make fascinating article for future editions of Quinbean.

For example, Tom Mavec came as a teacher from the United States of America in the 1970s, settled down here and had a successful career as Science teacher and head of the Department at Queanbeyan High School. More than that he became a dedicated and effective elected member of Queanbeyan Council.

Elaine De Mamiel is descended from the Morton's of local fame and is already writing a story for the next edition of the journal.

We also have interviews with officials such as the former Mayor of Queanbeyan, David Madew and a Catholic Bishop, Pat Power, who was a priest at St Raphael's.

A final example is Jim Williams. The bones of his history, below, may warrant fleshing out in the future.

Jim Williams is a descendent of a John Williams who arrived in Australia in 1829, and so the story of his family represents the development of this country.

Jim's father and mother met singing in church choirs despite a difference in their religions and Jim was one of nine children. The family had a shop where the Riverside Plaza is now and Jim is able to recall how interesting it was, especially on Thursdays when the cockies came to town – There was always something going on. The town was a busy town in the early days." "We used to have fun in the main street at night – just go out and play cricket or anything."

He remembers the Americans coming to town in the war years and having meals in the tearoom attached to the shop.

He also remembers going to the pictures at the Star Theatre when the shop shut on Saturday afternoons. They used to go for walks or cycle or play in the main street – there were few cars – or swim in the river. And picnic on the banks. This was in the early 1950s.

He also remembers the large cattle sales by the river that went on for a few days every couple of weeks with hundreds of sheep and cattle from all over the place providing a bit of excitement for the children.

The first phase of Jim's life ended when JB Youngs bought out the family shop in 1963.

**John McGlynn**



## QUEANBEYAN DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB

### POOLEY CUP - 1898-1902

The Queanbeyan District Cricket Club, one of the oldest cricket clubs in Australia, was officially formed in 1863. The original name was the Queanbeyan Cricket Club. Cricket matches were being played between the Queanbeyan Cricket Club and the Goulburn and Ginninderra cricket clubs as early as 1857.

During the 1880s and 1890s cricket matches were played between teams throughout the Goulburn, Yass, Queanbeyan, Braidwood and Cooma districts. Teams often had to travel long distances by coach to venues and sometimes stay overnight. Because of the sheer logistics of travel and accommodation, there was no organised competition and matches were organised as challenges between nearby communities. Travel time by coach between Queanbeyan and Micalago was 6 hours, Cooma 15 hours, Ginninderra 4 hours and Gundaroo 8 hours. These times indicate that an afternoon or a full day of travelling was involved by either side of a game of cricket. Cricket teams playing in games between Queanbeyan and Cooma, Braidwood or Bungendore were sometimes assisted with travel by Messrs Philip and Arthur Pooley of the coach firms A and P Pooley and Malone and Pooley, with the provision of a gratis coach.

In 1896, Mr Philip Pooley, who was a Vice President of the Queanbeyan District Cricket Club, donated a trophy for the best batsman in the club. The trophy was a wrought metal shield and crown, attached to a silver watch chain. It was won by Mr E Wilton who scored the top average of 34, his six completed innings reaching 204 runs, highest in an innings 108 not out. The Queanbeyan Cricket Club was successful that year winning six matches, losing three and having a tie with Micalago. Mr Philip Pooley, who was also the owner and

licensee of Pooley's Hotel in Queanbeyan, passed away suddenly at the age of 40, on 28 January 1897.

Challenge cups that were played for in the district during the 1880s and 1890s included the Chapman, Foord, Hayes, O'Sullivan, Russell, Rylie, Affleck, Muriel, Hassell and Pooley Cups. These cups had different rules of play and eligibility. The Affleck Cup was presented in 1895 by the then State Member for Yass, Mr W Affleck for competition between clubs in the Yass and Queanbeyan electorates. The competition lapsed in about 1921 and the Affleck Cup was lost until returned by Mr Jasper Bell of Bundanoon to the Yass District Cricket Association in 1976. Bell found the Cup in a box of goods he bought at an auction. The Cup was recontested in Canberra in 1976.

In November 1897, the Flat (Captain's Flat) cricketers who had become the permanent holders of the Chapman Challenge Cup put the cup back into competition again, extending the radius for clubs qualified to play to 100 miles, instead of 50 miles. This gave outlying clubs, who had been excluded before, an opportunity to play for the Cup. Captain's Flat was subsequently beaten by Queanbeyan.

In July 1898, Mrs Marianne Pooley, widow of Philip Pooley, announced her intention to make two presentations of trophies to the Queanbeyan Cricket Club, to create a little more interest in cricket in the district. The first trophy was to be a valuable cup, for competition amongst clubs in the district. The rules were to be drawn up by a committee of the Queanbeyan District Cricket Club. The second trophy was a gold medal, for the best all-round player during the next season.

The *Queanbeyan Age* on 31 August 1898 described the Pooley Cup: *"THE CRICKET CUP. We have been shown the cup presented by Mrs Pooley to the Queanbeyan Cricket Club for competition. It is a very handsome one, and probably the best cup offered in the district. It*



stands eighteen inches high, and is beautifully figured, has two handles, and is surmounted with a statue on the lid. The Queanbeyan Cricket Club will be asked to draw up a code of rules under which the cup is to be competed for. Mrs Pooley is also giving a medal for the best all round player of this season. The prospects of the town club are very, bright at present, as several probable new players have reputations better than any of last year's players. In fact the team will be practically a new one. We hope the club will soon get into work, and be in good fettle before the season starts."

On 14 September 1898, the *Queanbeyan Age* reported that the Annual Meeting of the Queanbeyan District Cricket Club, a Pooley Cup Rules Committee had been elected. The Committee decided that for a cricket team to be eligible to challenge for the Pooley Cup, players had to live within 8 miles of the locality of the club they played for.

In October 1898, the Queanbeyan District Cricket Club accepted the first challenge for the Pooley Cup from Michalago to be played on 5 November. The match resulted in a win for Queanbeyan, one innings and 9 runs. First innings Queanbeyan were all out for 112, Michalago all out for 67. For their second innings Michalago were all out for 36. The Goulburn Evening Penny Post reported on 5 November 1998 that a cricket team had been formed at Booth's Farm (near Gundaroo) to challenge for the Pooley Cup. The Booth's Farm Club was formed so that the majority of the present Gundaroo players could qualify to play for the Pooley Cup under the 8 mile rule. Most of the prominent Gundaroo players joined this club.

*Goulburn Evening Penny Post* on 1 December 1898 reported:  
*"Booth's Farm Cricket Club was strongly represented in the match against Queanbeyan on 26 November for the Pooley Cup. It was billed as the most exciting match of the season."*

*The farm club is composed of Gundaroo players, it having been found necessary to form this new club in order that the absurdly stringent regulations in connection with the Pooley Cup might be complied with. Booth's Farm at the end of the day had scored 169 in their first innings with Queanbeyan scoring just 62. In the beginning of their second innings at the end of the day Queanbeyan had lost 5 wickets for 75. The game was to be resumed on 10 December. It was reported that a protest would be lodged against Booth's Farm taking the Cup based on evasion of the cup rules."*

The match for the Pooley Cup between Queanbeyan and Booth's Farm was resumed on Saturday 10th December.

*The Goulburn Evening Penny Post* reported on 15 December:  
*"There was never a more forcible illustration of the glorious uncertainty of cricket than that afforded by Saturday's match. The local team started for Queanbeyan sanguine that they would return the proud possessors of the much coveted Pooley Cup and the state of the game certainly warranted their display of confidence. But alas what appeared to be best of good things for the Booth's Farm combination was in the course of the day's play turned into a splendid win for Queanbeyan. Queanbeyan won by 60 runs and if ever a team deserved a victory they did. At the beginning of the day's play it appeared to be but a forlorn hope ad nothing but pure grit pulled them through."*

By 1899, there was fierce competition between clubs and teams in the district for a number of challenge cups with Gundaroo holding the Hayes, Russell and Affleck Cups, Cooma the Ryrie Cup and Queanbeyan the Pooley Cup. There was no shortage of challenges for the Pooley Cup. In January 1899 Captain's Flat, Bungendore and Ginninderra all challenged Queanbeyan for the Pooley Cup. The match between Queanbeyan and Bungendore on 21 January for the Pooley Cup was declared a draw. Bungendore was soundly beaten



Queanbeyan who scored 116 in their first innings and Bungendore 50. In the second innings Queanbeyan scored 246, Bungendore had scored 73 and was 312 behind when they decided to forfeit the match, as they had no hope of winning.

In return match on 12 March of 1899, Bungendore defeated Queanbeyan claiming the Pooley Cup. On their return to Bungendore the team were invited to McAlister's Hotel where the President and Committee held a celebration in their honour. The Cup was filled with champagne and the president and all present drank from the coveted prize. The President congratulated the cricketers on their splendid victory in wrestling the Pooley Cup from the Queanbeyan Club, for which several of the best teams in the district had competed in vain. The cup was put on display in WH Crowe's window.

A return match for the Pooley Cup between Bungendore and Queanbeyan was played at Bungendore on Saturday, 25 March 1899 and resulted in a win for Queanbeyan in one innings and 19 runs. The game was played in drizzling rain. Queanbeyan gained an advantage in going in to bat first.

The *Queanbeyan Age* on 8 April 1899, reported that there had been seven challenges already for the Pooley Cup in 1898-1899. The last challenge for the 1898-99 season was from Gininderra in April. Queanbeyan scored 146 in their first innings and Gininderra 117. In their second innings Ginninderra scored 54 leaving Queanbeyan only 25 runs to win. Ginninderra forfeited at this point, not having any chance to win.

There were several challenges to play Queanbeyan for the Pooley Cup at the beginning of the 1899-1900 season. Cooma, Michalago and Bungendore all issued challenges.

The Cooma match was reported in the *Queanbeyan Age* on 11 November 1899:

*"The Queanbeyan Cricket Club on Thursday lost the Pooley Cup to the Cooma club, who gave the local team an inglorious drubbing. The excellent bowling of E Goodwin and Royle soon played havoc with the whole team out for 60. The Cooma innings were declared closed at 1 for 163. Queanbeyan fared even worse in the second innings only putting up 40. Cooma's E Goodwin got the splendid average of 6 for 11; G Goodwin 2 for 8 and Royle 2 for 19. Cooma won the match by an innings, 9 wickets and 63 runs, a record that will take some wiping out".*

In January 1901 the Queanbeyan Cricket team travelled to Cooma by mail train for the return match to try to win back the Pooley Cup from the Excelsior Cooma Club. Cooma first innings 205, (E Goodwin not out for 100) all out Queanbeyan 8 out for 126. The match was declared a draw as the Queanbeyan team were anxious to catch the returning mail train back to Queanbeyan and the match rules require that two innings be played. Queanbeyan could have returned and resumed their innings the following Saturday, however it was thought that they would issue a challenge, at a later date. Cooma therefore retained possession of the Pooley Cup.

It is not known what ensued after this uncompleted match, or whether there was another challenge by Queanbeyan or any other club, for the Pooley Cup. Previously, the district clubs had been very enthusiastic about challenging for what had been regarded as a prestigious cup. Perhaps, it was just too far for cricket teams to travel to Cooma and it was difficult to fix dates due to other commitments of the players. In April 1899, Queanbeyan had cancelled a proposed trip to Cooma to challenge for the Ryrie Cup because a number of the team members found it impossible to travel to Cooma.



There is no record of any further challenges to the Cooma Excelsiors for the Pooley Cup. A number of the Queanbeyan, Bungendore, Micalago and Ginninderra team members were away in South Africa at the Boer War from 1899 to 1902, and it was thought this may also have been a factor.

Mrs Marianne Pooley, donor of the Pooley Cup, moved from Queanbeyan to Sydney in November 1901. She died suddenly in Sydney on 2 July 1902 at 42 years of age.



**Mrs Marianne Pooley**

In 1902, the Cooma Excelsiors Club decided to present the Pooley Cup to a member of their winning team who was departing Cooma for a post in Wagga Wagga. Cooma had held the Cup for 18 months and had not been challenged for 12 months. There may have been a provision in the

Pooley Cup rules providing for a club, holding the Cup unchallenged for more than 12 months, to become permanent holders of the Cup.

The presentation was reported in *Manero Mercury* and *Cooma and Bombala Advertiser* on Friday, 11 April 1902:

*"On Tuesday, 8 April 1902, Mr B Greville, an accountant with the AJS Bank in Cooma for the past 4 years and a member of the Cooma cricket team was farewelled at a function at the Cooma Hotel. Mr Greville was presented with the Pooley Cup which had been won by the Cooma cricket club, in November 1899, by the President of the club. Mr Greville was to take up a new position in Wagga Wagga. Mr Greville had been a member of the Cooma team that won the Pooley Cup. Mr Greville said he felt that he had done nothing to deserve it and would prize the gift very much. The cup was suitably inscribed."*

The current whereabouts of the Pooley Cup is unknown, presumably it has been passed down through the Greville family. Competition for the Ryrie Cup continued for some time after the donor Captain Granville Ryrie went to the Boer War in 1901. Matches were recorded up until 1906 for the Ryrie Cup. There were still challenges recorded for the Hassell Cup up until 1904. The Affleck Cup was recontested in 1976 after having been lost in 1921. It is not known what became of the Chapman, Foord, Hayes, O'Sullivan, Russell, and Muriel Cups.

### **Pooley Cup Rockley Contest**

Mrs Maryanne Pooley also donated a cup for the Rockley contest. The Juvenile Cup was presented by Mrs Pooley for the purpose of encouraging juveniles to take up the game of cricket. The cup was open for competition among the private and public schools of the Queanbeyan district. The holders of the cup on 24 May 1899 became the permanent owners and could award it to their best player.



The Pooley Cup for the Rockley contest was won by the Queanbeyan players by 6 points. The cup was presented to Sid Hincksman having contributed mainly towards the winning of it.

Mrs Pooley also donated 10 gold brooches for girls averaging not less than 20 in five first-class matches. The gold championship brooch was won by Mary Nugent with an average of 40 runs. The second gold brooch was won by Florence Weldon with an average of 24 runs. The third gold brooch was won by Elizabeth Moor of Bulga Creek with an average of 21.

References: National Library of Australia, Trove, Digitised

Newspapers:

*Manero Mercury*

*Cooma and Bombala Advertiser*

*Queanbeyan Age*

*Goulburn Evening Penny Post*

**Kristine Howard**

## **WILLIAM DAVIS WRIGHT: CANBERRA'S STORY TELLER**

If you were asked to tell a story today, what would you do? Could you re-tell a traditional tale like Cinderella to a grandchild? Perhaps it would be more simple to get out a book or even a DVD, and do it that way. But if your audience was an adult one, and they looked encouraging enough at afternoon tea, perhaps you could bring up the good old days. If your audience is on side, and the words begin to flow, then you've got the floor.

William Davis Wright liked to share his stories of the past. He was so good at telling them that he was asked to write them up. Wright obliged readily. That lot of Wright's written work is called 'Reminiscences of Olden Times'. There was a run of them from early 1895. They are mainly about Queanbeyan. Each article fills almost two columns in the newspaper. All around the country, this sort of thing became useful. In newspaper terms, it is known as 'fill', because it covers over any blank space on the page between the endlessly repetitive advertisements. Today, there are actually two collections of Wright's stories. The other lot of Wright's writing came out in 1923 as a book. That publishing event kicked off a Canberra phenomenon that saw similar books follow on. Remember, Australian history was in its infancy.

A good talker must have something to say. What Wright wrote is readable, if you like that sort of thing. It was of its time, but not humorous like Steele Rudd's 'Dad and Dave' who appeared in 1895 and from 1899 in the book *On our Selection*. It was long before television adverts, radio personalities, or 'social media' grabbed attention. In those days, Wright had an audience.

A story of Wright's turned up recently in the Queanbeyan Library. It was a surprise to realize that his stories were specially written for John Gale's newspaper *The Queanbeyan Observer*. Wright himself saw that



article of his printed in September 1895. This one was about horse-breaking. In Wright's opinion, one man who did that now old-style work was an expert, and better than those who still had to do the same thing with horses, even in 1895. Wright put together more than a yarn. It had a named person, a local place that was a bit out of town, and a useful familiarity with the appropriate horse terminology. As usual, it is an easy read, even if it was about people and horses long ago.

The character that Wright had in mind was a local called George Kettle. You may never have heard of him. Wright says that George Kettle's way of handling a wild colt was very successful. He would catch him in a yard and make the horse face him. He had to stand until Kettle put the bridle or halter on the horse. Kettle used a rugged training method and special equipment which is described in the story. Wright says that one of Kettle's posts still stood on the flat at 'Booroomba'. By 1895, it had been 'standing there for over 40 years'.

There is a lot more of interest in the story, and a few of his asides as well. You can find out that a 'government man' was not a convict. Then there was a 'kid' which was strapped securely. It provided assistance in a moment of need. He says, 'Kettle had a splendid style such as never seen before'. Without pausing, Wright then says, 'I recollect an old chestnut horse at Cuppacumbalong, called Bob.'



**Murrumbidgee River at Cuppacumbalong Station**

**NAA: A3560, 1700**

But wait a moment. This red herring changes the subject away from Kettle. If the story about Kettle was really reminiscence – the words 'I recollect' pop up from time to time – did Wright know when and where Kettle lived in the district? Did the two ever meet? What happened to George Kettle?

Well, Wright's story was good enough anyhow that part of it was retold by local author Bruce Moore. It is in Moore's 1999 book, *Cotter Country*. Kettle's details are also mentioned by the other modern authority on Canberra, Lyall Gillespie. However, Wright's story was not repeated in his own 1923 book. Why would anyone think twice about Kettle now? It's so long ago. What is the point of questioning it? It might be more obvious when this approach is seen as a necessary feature of looking at local history. The red alert blinks on at the word



'Reminiscences'. It was a headline at the start of every article by Wright. Recently those stories have been renamed 'oral history'.

Now, while Wright is a good story teller, for the sake of a pinch of veracity, it is worth looking for a hint of confirmation in what he tells. That support needs to come from some record that is contemporary with Wright's recollections. Unfortunately, William Davis Wright offers nothing about his sources, other than his memory. That is, except when he said the post used during the horse-breaking had stood at 'Booroomba' station for over 40 years. It is a clue that points back to the year 1855 or before that.

Local records available in Queanbeyan show that George Kettle really was in the district. He and his wife Mary Ann registered the birth of three children in the area. Their daughter Louisa was born at Queanbeyan in 1862, and William in 1864, while son George was registered in 1866. That is all.

However, in April 1867, according to the *Queanbeyan Age*, Mrs G W Kettle, wife of George, sold up everything, and left. There was an 'Unreserved Sale of household furniture and effects, farming implements, live stock, etc, etc'. The terms were cash! Did George Kettle vanish into the distance on one of his well-trained colts, leaving his wife and children behind? Where had they been living? The same advert in the paper gives their address as 'Mulligan's Flat, Gininderra' (sic). For those who need help with the district's layout, 'Booroomba' and Mulligan's Flat are at far opposite ends of the district. One is in a valley near Tharwa on the south; the other is well north on the flat. In addition, the fact that the dates of the children are a decade out raises more questions. It is a familiar issue when reminiscences are concerned.

It is now known that George Kettle told his own story towards the end of his life. There are two similar versions in print. In neither of them

does he mention the four years he spent with his family at Mulligan's Flat. In fact, no history of Canberra or Queanbeyan links George Kettle to that place. Today it is just a newish Nature Reserve, in the far northern Canberra suburb of Forde.

Very briefly, George Kettle was born in Sydney in 1828. After working in a Sydney office, he 'took to the country'. He found his way north to the Macintyre River, now part of the border between NSW and Queensland. Then while heading for the California Gold Rushes, about 1849, he got as far as Gayndah, inland from the port of Maryborough. Family circumstances saw him return to Sydney instead. He married Mary Ann Bolland in 1856 in Parramatta. The couple's first two children were baptised at St Luke's, Liverpool, while the family were living on the Liverpool Road, where George was a 'settler'. Their diversion to Mulligan's Flat – not 'Cuppacumbalong' either – came after the new Robertson's Land Act became law in 1861. Queanbeyan district was of little consequence to the Kettles. George and family headed for the place he loved, Queensland, and to Clermont where they really settled. George later became Shire Clerk for over 40 years. George Kettle died in 1918. There is a large monument to both him and his wife in Clermont Cemetery. Strange to say, part of the countryside thereabouts has been designated the Kettle Nature Reserve.

Left out of this story is a brief aside. In early January 1865, George Kettle was a new member of the Gininderra Cricket Team. The record shows G Kettle scored 0 in the first innings and 3 in the second in a match against Gundaroo. It was reported in the *Queanbeyan Age*. Otherwise, Kettle was a carrier with a bullock team always on the road to Sydney and back. How did Wright know about Kettle? They never met.

There was an opportunity to glance through Wright's main work, too. His seminal book has a one-word title, *Canberra*. Though published in



1923, because of some of its contents, Wright is still highly regarded as an authority about people, places, and events in Canberra's history.

In his book we see that one of the friends of Wright's family were Mr and Mrs Hall, of Charnwood. Wright says that they were a devoted couple. In particular, he knew Mrs Hall to be 'a gentle, refined, and gracious lady'. As far as horses go, Hall had an Arab one which had a great reputation, though 'he was too small'.

Wright informs us that Henry Hall of Charnwood 'had been in the employment of the Australian Agricultural Company when he arrived in New South Wales in 1823'. Wright was mistaken. A straight-forward history of that enterprise shows that it was physically, biologically, and historically impossible for Hall to do that then. Wright also believed that Henry Hall 'was probably the first resident at Lake Bathurst'. He meant the first European resident, but that was understood. In 1821, according to the *Historical Records of Australia*, 86 colonials were there already by that year.

Actually, Hall was a 'free' arrival in Van Diemen's Land, bringing with him authority to obtain a land grant. Instead he moved on to Sydney. He was given a position working for his once more famous relative called Edward Smith Hall. E S Hall was one of the founders in 1813 of the Benevolent Society in NSW. Edward became the proprietor and editor of *The Sydney Monitor*, which was considered to be radical at that time.

It is said that in 1820/21, E S Hall was promised land beside Lake Bathurst. Like similar grant recipients in that vicinity, E S Hall commenced farming there. Yvonne Browning in 1990 described a similar set-up called 'The Waterloo Plains Station at Lake Bathurst'. Edward S Hall soon employed his relative Henry to manage the farm and its convicts. Henry Hall discovered an unusual opportunity. As Lake Bathurst dried up, its shore line receded. Henry claimed for

himself the space between the farm and the disappearing Lake. Henry sought to enforce his claim with violence against his sponsor, Edward. It resulted in a case before the Supreme Criminal Court in Sydney. The *Monitor's* report begins on 6 October 1826. As well, a map of the disputed land claim is still available through NSW State Records. The digitised image reference is NRS13886.

As Wright believed, Henry Hall did work for a time at Port Stephens. There, the A A Company employed him as a stud master from 1830 to 1835. The A A Company had been founded in London as a traditional joint stock company in association with some Macarthur names, but that happened after Hall had already emigrated. Hall left the work at Port Stephens when the A A Company changed.

To their advantage, Henry Hall and his wife Mary Fisher married in 1838. As a young boy, Wright obviously met this couple at their Charnwood estate. Both Henry Hall and Wright's father James were local magistrates. Henry Hall's escapade at Lake Bathurst is hardly a topic that a devoted wife would share with little Willie Wright, as he was known then. That confrontation does not appear in the *Goulburn Herald's* obituary for Hall, after his death at Yass in October 1880. The story is missing from Leon R Smith's *Memories of Hall*, published in Canberra by Roebuck in 1975. Henry Hall's Lake Bathurst interlude looks like it was a memory they would all prefer to forget. William Davis Wright had heard the place name, but had no idea of the story itself.

It is time to pause and reflect on W D Wright and his story telling. Seeing what Wright wrote about George Kettle and also about Henry Hall, it is important to realize that this present check-up is not based on 'cherry picking' and finding only two holes in Wright's reminiscences of olden times. Parts of other stories by him do not seem to add up either. It all begins to look like Canberra's chosen, acknowledged, and



established authority about its people may turn out to have a problem. Wright may be better at entertaining his audience than at being a reliable source for local history details. William Davis Wright may be an unreliable narrator.

If time and opportunity permit, it might be possible to look at Wright's stories about other local identities such as the Campbell, Palmer, and Gallagher families, or about a popular topic such as the bushrangers or food. It surely must hold water that Wright did get some of his stories right.

#### References

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#### Peter Procter

#### A MISADVENTURE OF PATRICK KINSELA

Patrick Kinsela was Queanbeyan's first Chief Constable, having been appointed in 1838 to a completely non-existent town. Amongst his tasks was the capture of runaways.

Patrick was not a teetotaller but nor was he immoderate. If this had been the case the Sydney press would have used this fact to its maximum damaging effect in its attempts to destroy Faunce, if not Patrick himself. However, on at least one notable occasion he threw discretion to the winds.

One Alex Weatherhead was overlanding five hundred cattle with a team of drovers from the south coast to Adelaide, coming up through Araluen and Braidwood. They camped one evening at Long Swamp and overindulged at Hyland's Inn. Having just settled down for the night the men were awoken by a very tipsy Chief Constable Kinsela who was on the rampage searching for a runaway.

One of the drovers, Henry Benson, did not take kindly to the intrusion and was quite insolent, causing Kinsela to collar him. Benson threatened to knock his white hat off and no sooner had he uttered the threat than the hat rolled and a scuffle ensued. The gathering was greatly amused as Patrick was fully clothed with a top coat and Benson wore nought but a shirt, and a very short one at that. Weatherhead split them up but Patrick foolishly drew his pistol, causing the drovers to join the melee and toss the pistol away.

Kinsela returned to Hyland's inn where he was staying and the next morning the drovers found the pistol and returned it to Kinsela who wore 'a much bruised face'. Benson was not happy though and insisted



Kinsela replace his shirt. The matter was eventually settled to apparently every one's satisfaction with another round of drinks!<sup>1</sup>

Gillian Kelly

A snippet from the past, contributed by Brigid Whitbread, QPRC  
Local History Librarian:

HARE VS GOANNA

**To the Queanbeyan Observer a resident of that town has described a desperate fight to a finish between a young hare and a fair-sized iguana on the Bungendore Road, the combatants being fierce and of some length. The combatants are said to have fought desperately, when, eventually, the iguana got the best of his antagonist, and was not slow in first tearing him to pieces, and then devouring him.**

Nepean Times Saturday 18 March 1893, page 6

<sup>1</sup> Weatherhead, Alexander *Leaves from my life : being fifty-six years' experience on the south coast of New South Wales, Australia*, Eden Museum 1984, p 16

## DEEP TIME DREAMING A REVIEW



*Deep Time Dreaming: Uncovering Ancient Australia,*  
Billy Griffiths, Black Inc. Australia, 2018

This is a book that I feel we all should be reading to give us a deeper grounding in this place Australia that we call home. It explores relationships between people and the land, between archaeologists and indigenous Australians. It tells the fascinating history of how, as the science of archaeology in Australia developed, a deeper understanding of Australia's Indigenous Culture and respect for its people grew to be the norm in the profession.

On the way we learn about European archaeologists and their journey through Australia's human history; all the big characters, controversies of dating and misunderstandings have been well covered in the book. It is accessible history that you can't put down.

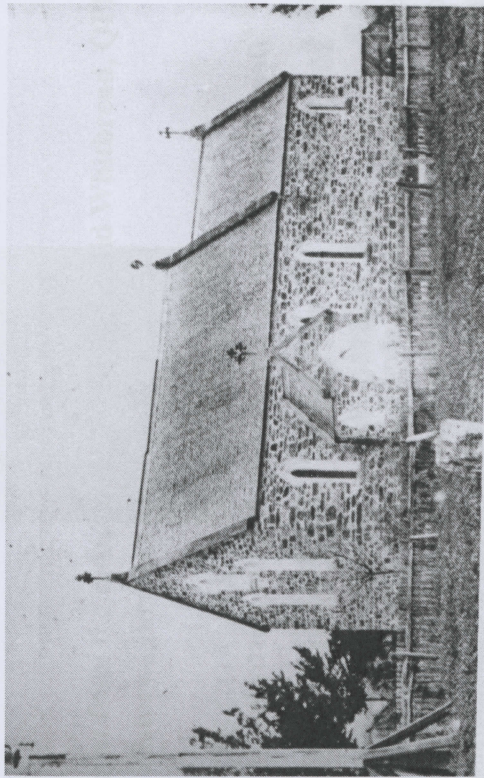
Highly recommended.

Kerrie Ruth



## THE BELLS OF ST GREGORY'S

The grand little Catholic Church of St Gregory's in McQuoid Street was built in 1849 by Daniel McCloskey to a design by the acclaimed English architect Augustin Pugin. The original plan included a belfry on the southern gable, but this did not eventuate and a bell was erected on a very tall pole to ensure the sound carried across the village.

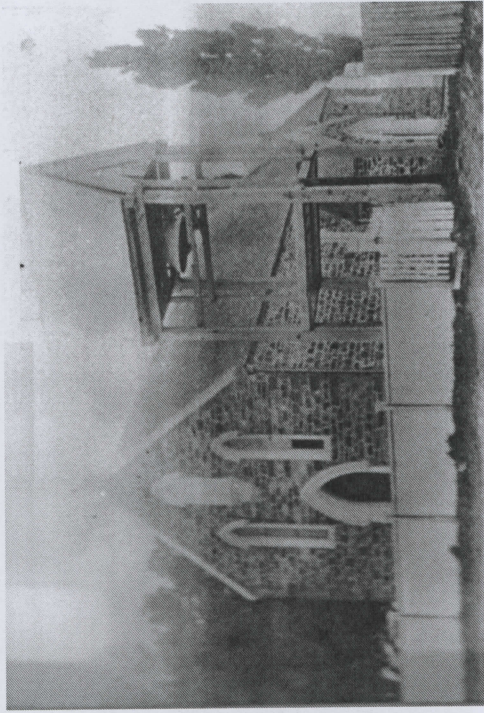


**St Gregory's with original bell on far right,  
1870 Photo Beaufoy Merlin**

The bell on its high perch was in effectual but it wasn't until the August of 1880 that the matter got the better of Father Patrick Birch and initially he bought a bell of major proportions out of his own pocket.

This new bell was mounted to the left of the original front door on a temporary belfry with a platform under it, presumably to allow someone to climb up and strike it. The bell was dedicated at the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This was another day of high celebration with the choir leading the congregation to the tower for it to be dedicated.

Around the base was engraved: *Santa Maria, semper virgo, ora pro notus* (Holy Mary, eternal virgin, Pray for us) with the initials of Father Patrick Birch and Martin Byrne added as the benefactors.



**St Gregory's with its new bell, 1890. Claremont Post Card**

The bell's proximity to the windows behind it led to trouble because the vibrations of such a large bell cracked the glass, story told by Harry Barber about that bell was that its tones vibrated so much that it cracked the windows and the permanent tower had to be moved.<sup>2</sup> A permanent bell tower was built between the presbytery and the sacristy of the church – a much more convenient spot for the bell ringers.

Time has passed and the whereabouts of both bells is a mystery, but the new hall has its own bell that is currently being used to mark the hours of a school day – a pleasant sound that rings out across the older part of the city as a reminder of a different era.

**Gillian Kelly**

<sup>2</sup> As told by Harry Barber to Errol Lea-Scarlett



## VALE LOUIS FOLGER

### LOUIS (LUDWIG GEORG) FOLGER

25 July 1935-15 June 2018

Louis arrived in Australia in 1958 after an eventful voyage (the *Skaubryn* caught fire and sank in the Indian Ocean) and his 2 year working holiday turned in to 60 years! He did visit his beloved Cologne in Germany many times but enjoyed life in Australia with his wife Marilyn and son James and daughter-in-law Anne.

He had many interests, including the Queanbeyan Museum. Marilyn had enough local relatives for herself and him he said – the McInnes family is rather large.

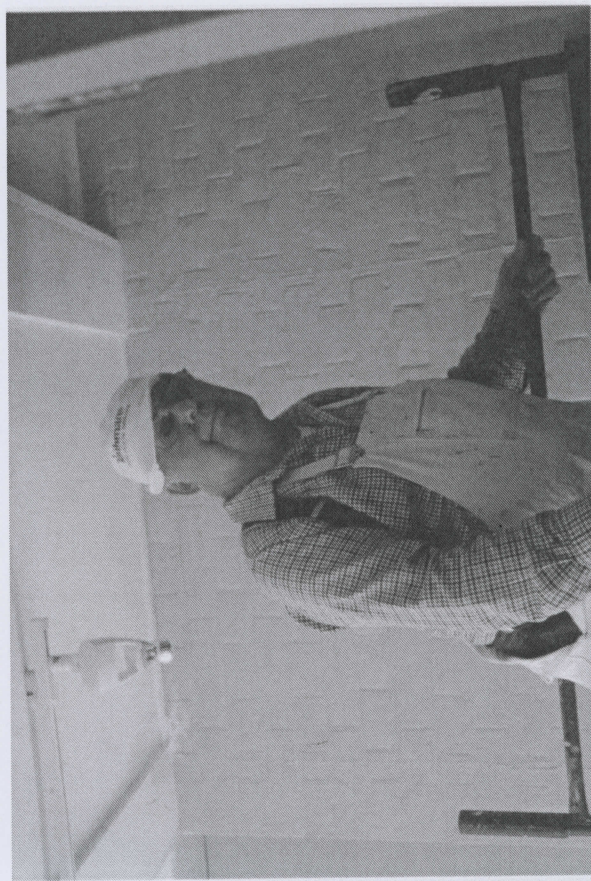
Louis, the painter, spent a lot of time helping with the major refurbishment of the Museum when the floors were redone, new partitions installed and when we moved so many treasures into the new Archive/storage building. He always helped with exhibitions – who can forget two gents out the front of the museum painting the naked ladies black – mannequins for the Wedding Dress exhibition. The Mural wall preparation was a hard task team effort but look at the result. Lunchtimes in the kitchen were good fun, Louis loved to tell stories and jokes.

Unfortunately, his Parkinson's in the last couple of years brought his volunteering days to an end but he did make it to an open day just a couple of months before he passed away. Need we say he is very much missed.

**Marilyn Folger**



Louis and Margaret Hadfield at the Museum



Louis painting the back veranda during our big renovation project



## **Membership of QDHMS Inc.**

Would you like to contribute to the work of the Society and Museum in Queanbeyan and district?

### **Membership Fees:**

Annual membership single: \$22.00

Annual membership joint/family: \$32.00

Membership includes issues of *Quinbean* and Newsletters and invitations to Society events. Additional copies of *Quinbean* may be purchased for \$4.00 for members and \$5.00 for non-members.

### **Payment:**

Cash during Museum opening times: 1-4 Sat & Sun. except for Summer holidays (late Dec-Jan) and Easter.

Money Order or Cheque made out to Q&DHM Soc. Inc.

Post to Treasurer QDHMS PO Box 480 Queanbeyan 2620

Include your contact details and whether you would like a receipt.