

Quinbean

Volume 12 No 2
September 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: Pupils at Duntroon School April 1916
Supplied by Ted Arneson**

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QUEANBEYAN & DISTRICT HISTORICAL MUSEUM SOCIETY

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SOCIETY REPORT

An inspirational training session was held by Helen Whitty from Tasmania in June with good ideas and training material to help us deal with school visits. In July, Queanbeyan East Primary School visited the Museum and in August there was a very successful visit of four groups from St Gregory's School. The Proboscis club also had an enjoyable visit.

Volunteers continue to keep the museum open and tidy. We would love more volunteers to help behind the scenes on the collection and gardening as well as keeping the Museum open.

The project to build a more appropriate display area for the Museum's large farm equipment has proceeded. A Queanbeyan company, Ranbuild, has been chosen as the builders for the project. We have now placed a new application form, including all specifications to obtain a quote for the Construction Certificate. On Tuesday 6th August, Frances submitted the quote and payment. At the time of the journal's printing, we haven't received any notification. Without this Construction Certificate, the builders can't demolish the old carport, to build the new display area.

The Oral History Project has been resumed with a University Student as a new volunteer, as well as some renewed enthusiasm from former participants. We also have another participant who is eager to concentrate on the history of environment movements in Queanbeyan. There is always room for new blood, not only to conduct interviews but to find new subjects and to transcribe the oral interviews to writing. New volunteers as well as existing volunteers are continuing to work behind the scenes on the management of the collection. We have had contact from students at Uni Canberra who wish to do a project with museum as part of their studies in museums.

We also continue, with council help, to prepare data and photographs of the objects in the collection so they can be uploaded onto the Libero data base. When finished this will provide electronic access to the collection 24/7.

A meeting was held with hospital management and the museum regarding the various objects we were holding on their behalf. In short it was decided "in the interest of the community" that the objects would be best included into the museum collection. Work has started on cataloguing these items.

QDHMS Management Committee

FROM THE EDITORS

We have a good number of contributions for this edition. Thank you for keeping the study, research and writing of our fascinating local history alive! We are very grateful to everyone. We are gathering articles for the next editions so please keep contributing.

We have introduced two new features to this edition: Tips and Tricks for local history research and a spotlight on items from the museum collection. This edition's collection highlights are a beautiful handmade night gown and camisole from the glory box of Elizabeth Collis R Higgins born 19.7.1897 Quirindi, known as Betty. She married Arthur (Jock) Denne Campbell (great Grandson of Robert Campbell from Duntroon). These were donated to the Museum collection by Jill Warner.

You might notice Rusten House in Collett St is being restored. It now has a new roof and we are looking forward to it becoming a useful part of the community again. Gillian Kelly, one of our local historian treasures has explored the story of Matron Rusten's husband.

Ted Arneson has contributed a short family memoir. We have many items in the Museum collection that have come through the Arneson family.

Peter Proctor continues his entertaining and fascinating exploration of early regional history through writer William Davis Wright.

Elaine de Mamiel is a member of the Morton family who have been part of the Queanbeyan community since the 1840s. She has contributed an article on the brothers Dr Andrew and William Morton who were the first members of the family to come to Queanbeyan. Elaine has also written her own story. Elaine has contributed an Oral History to our collection. The oral history interview was conducted by Jane Underwood. Please contact John McGlynn if you would like to be involved in our oral history group.

Life moves by so quickly and change is happening even quicker. We often ponder whatever happened to? what was there before? as we drive around and see things changing. Queanbeyan Pitch and Putt was an innovation in its time and Mervyn Britten has told its story for us.

Nichole Overall has unearthed some fascinating history of the tough and plucky Irish women and girls that were pioneers in this area.

Contributions most welcome to our journal, articles, short or long, poetry, snippets, quirky news clips - it is all of interest! Contact John McGlynn or Kerrie Ruth at mcglynn_john@hotmail.com

John McGlynn & Kerrie Ruth

LOCAL HISTORY TIPS AND TRICKS

The newly enhanced & expanded Historical Land Records Viewer (HLRV) has been launched and is now available to access. This is the online application to view digitised historical maps, plans, titles and indexes and contains more than 6 million digital records from 62 collections relating to NSW. It can be accessed online at <https://hlrv.nswlrs.com.au/>

Click on the small ? in the top right-hand corner for instructions on searching and help.

NSW LRS worked with a number of stakeholders, including the Royal Australian Historical Society, to ensure it is an improved experience for its users. RAHS President Christine Yeats said: *"The new HLRV is a wonderful improvement that will greatly benefit our members and historical researchers. We hope it encourages more people to explore their family or local history."* To find out more about the records available see

<https://www.nswlrs.com.au/Historical-Records-Online>

Brigid Whitbread
Local History Librarian

Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council, Queanbeyan Library

NEW MUSEUM ACQUISITION

A Night Gown at the Museum ... why?

Quality! A rare find, vintage, full-length white voile night gown with camisole, delicately hand sewn and hand embroidered and decorated with pink bows and buttons. A garment of quality.



Vintage night gown front detail Photograph QDHMS

And the owner? Elizabeth Campbell. A woman of quality.

Elizabeth was born Elizabeth Collis Higgins on Monday, 19 July 1897 in Quirindi NSW to Dr Frederick Higgins and Mrs Florence Higgins.

Dr Higgins, physician and surgeon, was a highly respected dignitary and Christian, a friend and benefactor to many, all-round athlete and musician. He was a devoted father to Elizabeth and her three sisters.

Elizabeth married the distinguished Mr Arthur Campbell at the magnificent St James Church, King Street, Sydney in 1922. The wedding service was officiated by the Archbishop of Sydney.



Vintage night gown rear detail Photograph QDHMS



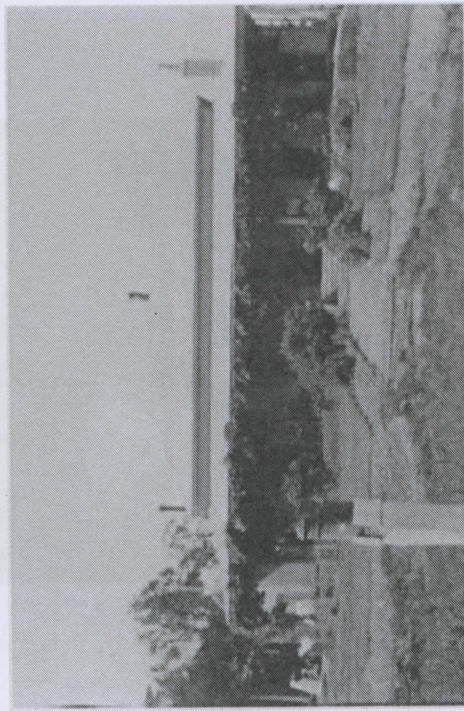
Vintage Camisole Photograph QDHMS

Arthur Campbell was a descendant of the pioneering Campbell family. They owned the lands of *Duntroon*, *Woden* and *Yarralumla* that, over time, were resumed by the Commonwealth of Australia to become the nation's capital. The Canberra suburb of Campbell pays tribute to the original pioneer, Robert Campbell (1769 - 1846).

Elizabeth's eldest daughter married a senior public servant who became Australian Ambassador to the United States. Her son had a

distinguished and highly awarded career including the St John Ambulance.

The social pages of the Campbell era have Mr & Mrs Arthur Campbell hosting the Queen Mother to afternoon tea at *Woden* Station during the royal visit 1958 as well as socialising with Prime Minister Menzies and dignitaries, attending debutante balls and parties of the sophisticate.



Woden Homestead c. 1930s

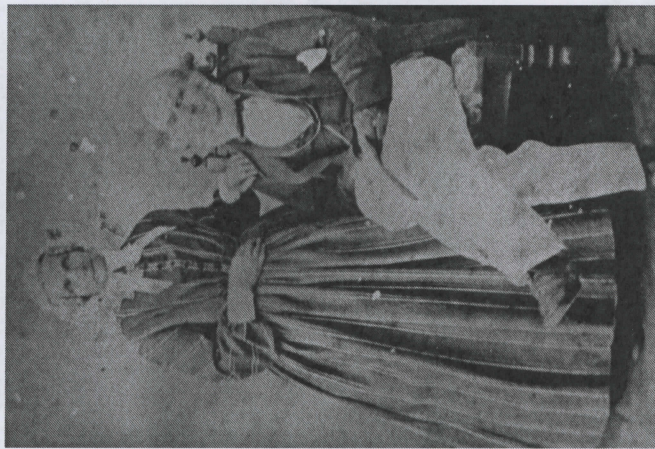
Woden homestead has a strong association with the early development of Canberra with important figures in the region's history, including a lengthy connection with the Campbell family. The property still operates in a reduced capacity. The homestead is still there, now known as Hill Station Tralee, Hume.

Elizabeth died on Saturday, 4 December 1971 and was buried in the designated Campbell family plot, St John's Church, Reid ACT.

Mrs Elizabeth Campbell. *A life of quality.*

Lynne Miller

THE MATRON'S HUSBAND WILLIAM RUSTEN



William and Mary Rusten

Image QDHMS Collection, date unknown

William Rusten, a brass founder, arrived in Australia at the end of 1820 on the third voyage of the convict ship *Elisabeth*. He had been tried at the Worcester Assizes for housebreaking and initially sentenced to death, later commuted to life imprisonment. In mid-January 1821 he was transported from Sydney to Airds where he was employed as an ostler in government service.

William's life was seemingly quiet until May 1827. Captain James Stirling of the 39th Regiment, with an establishment force of 30 soldiers, 14 marines, a surgeon, a stores keeper and 22 convicts left Sydney for Raffles Bay, to the east of Melville Island where he was to establish a

settlement and a trading post to be named Fort Wellington. William was one of the 22 convicts. The mission failed and the entourage returned to Sydney with William again disappearing into the colony.



SETTLEMENT AT FORT WELLINGTON.

By 1832 his address was given as Sutton Park, in the highlands of NSW but by 1836 he was working on a little-known local property, *Carven*, adjoining *Yarralumla* on its western side. He was living there and working with one William Peel, building and fencing for the owner Captain Edmund Harrison Cliffe. Two years later Rusten became entangled with a matter of law. He was charged with harbouring.

Patrick Kinsela, Queanbeyan's Chief Constable, had recognized William Peel as a runaway. Peel acknowledged that this was the case and that he had been on the run for seven years, working with Rusten for four but had always considered himself to be in charge. For the indiscretion of harbouring, convicts were routinely punished with fifty lashes, but not so Rusten. The incident was regarded as a misdemeanor undoubtedly because Wright of Lanyon, Campbell of Duntroon and Murray of Yarralumla all knew who Peel really was.ⁱⁱ

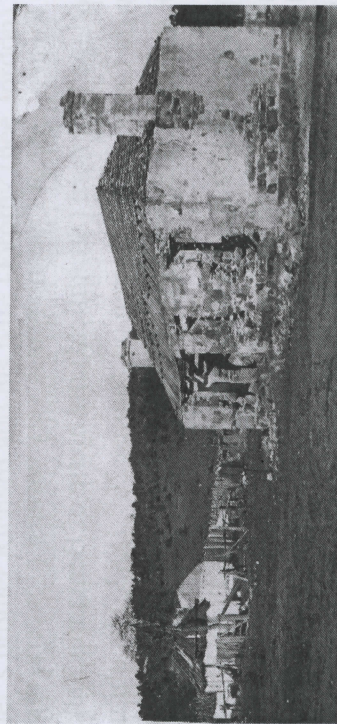
Twelve months later William married Mary Ann Salkilld whose family had emigrated to Western Australia, but Mary Ann and her brother Benjamin eventually came to the Limestone Plains. The Rev. Smith had been posted to the district and was living at the bachelor's quarters at Jerrabomberra and this is where he married the couple.

Within the year their first child, John Thomas Rusten was born at Lanyon, indicating that William was working for Wright and in 1840 he was granted a Conditional Pardon that gave him the freedom of the world, except very curiously, for England and Ireland.

By 1843 he had joined the Queanbeyan constabulary and continued in this role until 1848, sometimes as the lock-up keeper.

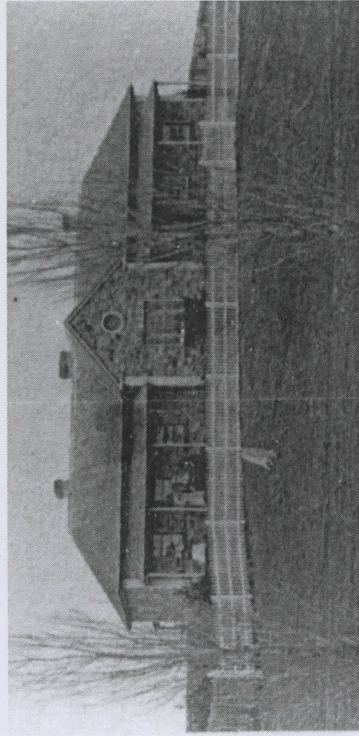
Mary Ann and William had produced four children by 1846 and had cared for two other children: John Mellor and Lillian Rye. She and William had raised John since he was six days old.

Then, in 1848, a Benevolent Society to care for the ill and frail who had no other support was commenced. The Committee rented a small property on Faunce's Dodsworth, on what is now Dodsworth Street in which to support people in need. Mary Ann became the Matron, and William the Master of the institute conjointly with his position of Lock-up Keeper.



The Benevolent Society Asylum, Dodsworth Street

This small building remained in use until 1862 when its status was changed from Asylum to Hospital and a new purpose-built hospital was created on the hill above Antill Street. The number of patients in the ensuing years was negligible and the Rusten family used the entire building as a family home.



The Queanbeyan Hospital, now Rusten House, 1876

Photo E Fallick

Mary Ann died in 1875 leaving William without the right to call the hospital home. He lived with his married daughter and moved from Queanbeyan with her in 1881. He was frail and many thought he would not survive the move,ⁱⁱⁱ but he rallied, and ended his days with his eldest daughter Caroline who had married her cousin Ben Salkilld.

William Rusten, one of Queanbeyan's very earliest pioneers, died at Maud Cottage Redmyre (Strathfield) the home of Benjamin Salkilld and his wife Caroline nee Rusten on August 26th 1883. His obituary read: *Mr Rusten was deservedly held in esteem by all who knew him.*

Gillian Kelly

i The land was described in 1837 as '2560 acres at Yarralumla, commencing at a large Oak Tree at the Molonglo River and bounded on the south west by a line of 380 chains'; promised by Sir Richard Bourke on May 13, 1836.

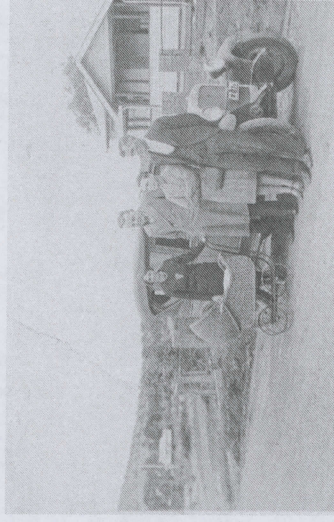
ii Moore, Bruce, **The Lanyon Saga**

iii Queanbeyan Age, 28 August 1883, p4

TALES OF QUEANBEYAN

I was born at Queanbeyan on 13th January 1940. I was a home delivery at 51 The Crescent.

I didn't live there for very long because after dad went away to Darwin. Mum and I moved up to Rocky River and Grandfather Hazelwood's farm until after the war.



Ted Arneson aged under one in the pram outside no 51 The Crescent, Queanbeyan. The others are Ted's Dad and Mum, Arthur and Nina (nee Hazelwood) and her sister May Troth and husband Ben.

My Father's brother Richard and his wife Dorothy (nee Jordon) also lived at 51 The Crescent. My Mum's other sister Doris lived in Canberra with her husband Joe Sacagio who was the manager of J.B. Young's in Queanbeyan.

My paternal Grandfather Anthon Edvard Hansen was born in Norway on 31 August 1858. He came to Australia as a ship's chandler on a ship being delivered to Brisbane. He took the name Arnesen (later Arneson) from part of his family ancestry. He worked initially towing wood barges up and down the Tweed River and married Kathleen McBean

who was born in London in 1867. He then moved to Port Macquarie and helped Claude Sheather build boats at Wauchope. Sometime around 1914 he moved to Duntroon as the plumber building the Royal Military College.



This photograph is the converted stable they lived in at Duntroon. On the left is Richard aged 15, then Anthon and Kathleen and the boy with the bicycle is my father Arthur aged 6.

I expect the sulky in the background was their other form of transport.



Pupils at Duntroon School April 1916

Dick Arneson's father aged 8 third from the left 2nd row.

Sometime during WWII both my Grandfather and my Uncle enlisted in the army. Uncle Dick would have lied about his age which I'm sure the recruiters worked out, so both he and Grandfather were posted as guards at the Queanbeyan German Internment Camp. All the adult males and teenage boys were interned. Mothers, the girls and young children stayed at home. The story was that there was a hole in the back fence and the men went home at night and came back in time for roll call the next day.

Ted Arneson 3rd June 2019

WILLIAM DAVIS WRIGHT: TRUE FAMILY STORIES

Forty is the old age of youth; fifty the youth of old age.

— Victor Hugo.

A previous article looked at Canberra's favoured story teller, William Davis Wright. Now there is the opportunity to compare and contrast other aspects of his recollections which, in this instance, were first published on 6 September 1895 at the request of the editor in the *Queanbeyan Observer*. Wright embellished these stories for his book, *Canberra*, which was published in 1923. That book is recognised as the authority about the district's local history. Does it add up? Surely the way that local history is written has changed since the days of W Davis Wright.

For Wright, the term 'Olden Days' meant his childhood. The stories that he supplied to the newspaper for the public of Queanbeyan to read refer to people and events barely remembered by most of them. Wright recounted recollections about his family and his family's relatives and friends. A few stories also mention employees who once worked on his father's property which was in the district.

Willie Wright liked the Gallaghers. The couple were usually called Mick and Betsy, but properly he was Michael. Of them Wright said, 'No better old couple ever lived.' It was his opinion that Mick Gallagher was 'honest as the day, industrious as the bee' as well as 'kind and hospitable'. In Wright's 'Reminiscences' of 1895, he remembered Mrs Gallagher sitting on the 'little stool that [she] had by the fireside'. He had seen her there hundreds of times. If it is correct that as he said, the Gallaghers 'lived with my father for many years', then it is possible this little stool was somewhere in the family house, perhaps in the kitchen. Willie Wright does not say. The stool might have been in a building next door.

Wright said that the Gallaghers arrived from England in March 1842. He does not know how they left Ireland. They came out with 'Mr Wm Davis and the rest of his family', arriving in the district after a long 200 mile journey, travelling through the bush, camping out, on the way to 'Lanyon'. Wright may have been told that. It was not something he knew first-hand.

Although their time together with Wright's family was long, he does not say what either of the Gallaghers did at 'Lanyon'. Perhaps that just reflects his childhood perspective of the time. It was a long time ago.

By 1923, when W Davis Wright's book came out, the author could supply more information about the Gallagher couple. Wright noted that Michael Gallagher came from Westmeath, Ireland. There he had worked as a groom and gardener to 'Dr Lavington'. Wright also mentions Mick's wife's name. It was Elizabeth Moran. He then noted that their five sons died before the parents arrived in NSW in 1842. Four died in Ireland and one very early on during the voyage out. This observation implies that the family were part of the Bounty Immigration scheme, and that they were escaping from an Irish disaster then happening.

Wright's memory of Mrs Gallagher was that she 'was a kind-hearted, motherly woman'. On one occasion when he was a lad, Mrs Gallagher heard of an accident at Wright's place. 'Though getting on in years [she] set out and walked the six miles to our house to offer aid and service'. She had to cross the Murrumbidgee on the way. There she had to 'tuck her clothes up under her arms and walk through the river'. This anecdote remained Wright's alone. Reading between the lines, it looks like the two families were then living on opposite sides of the river.

Michael Gallagher died when W D Wright was in Queanbeyan. Everyone there might have seen the long obituary for Mick in the *Queanbeyan Observer* on Friday 18 November 1898, and on the following day in the *Queanbeyan Age*. Several papers throughout the Colony publicly noticed the passing of Michael Gallagher. The denominational *Freeman's Journal* followed them up. In the papers his age was given as either 93 or 95. That was noteworthy of itself. His tombstone in the Queanbeyan Riverside Cemetery indicates that he was born on 23 September 1805. The discrepancy is only three years. However, besides his age, it was Gallagher's fine reputation that brought his passing to notice. Several papers mentioned the exceptionally large attendance at the funeral. There were over 200 people. They reported that the shearing sheds of Mr F Campbell at 'Yarralumla' and Mr James Cunningham at 'Tuggranong' (sic) closed, so that men could knock off and attend the funeral.

The obituary for Michael Gallagher provides a few details that complement and contrast with Wright's recollections. Firstly, Wright never raises Gallagher's religious denomination. The Protestant-Catholic as well as the English-Irish divide was a well-known issue in the Colony, on properties across the district, and in the town of Queanbeyan. (Refer to Errol Lea-Scarlet for classic examples of this situation.) So, it is a plus that Wright, like many others, admired Mick Gallagher as a person, and for his service.

Secondly, there is some confusion about Gallagher's employment in county Westmeath. The obituary names 'Dr Larving' and 'Captain Lavington' while Wright in 1923 mentions his employer as 'Dr Lavington'. On the contrary, the Irish landed estates database says the family name was Levinge, and the estate where Gallagher worked was Levington Park near Mullinger, co. Westmeath. That town is Mick's native place.

Next, Wright muddles details about Mick Gallagher's wife Elizabeth. Given that the marriage took place about 1830, how was it that 'her people were in the employ of Mr Cunningham, of Lanyon'. These two things do not quite coincide. Betsy's brother, Hugh Moran, arrived in 1862 on the *Annie Wilson*. He moved north and died there in 1930 at Missabotti, which is near Macksville NSW. Another brother, Andrew Moran, arrived in 1877 on *Star of the East*. He did work at for Cunningham at 'Lanyon' as a labourer. Though the period is uncertain, he was there in 1896. There was a fracas between Cunningham, Moran, and Isaac Grogan, who together waited at Tharwa for Henry Ffrench Gillman. It ended up in the Queanbeyan Police Court. The *Queanbeyan Age* of 13 June 1896 explains why they were going to throw Gillman in the river. Betsy's other relatives in Queanbeyan fit this general time scale, not the 1830s.

Another issue is a concern about Wright's memory for people's names. For example, in the 1895 'Recollections', although we can deduce that his mother's surname was Davis, W D Wright does not use her Christian name. She was just referred to as 'my mother' or 'Mrs J Wright'. His mother appears as 'Mary' in the 1923 book. Then, the lass who arrived at the same time as the Davis and the Gallagher migrants in 1842 was just 'a girl'. She became known as the (common law) wife of Joseph Oldfield. Records at the time show her name was Mary Keegan, or Keagon, or Caigon. The spelling of some Irish surnames does vary like that. As Mary Keegan, not Oldfield, she died in 1907 at Granville NSW, but that is another story. He calls it Pary's Gap (*Canberra*, p12.) instead of Geary's. That is just a mistake. Wright said, 'I knew him personally', but the wheat expert 'William Farrar' (*Canberra*, p42.) is usually known as Farrer. Then the 1923 book states that 'The Gallaghers sent home for a niece and nephew.' (*Canberra*, p79.) No names were given. Mick sponsored Patrick Gallagher, son of his brother Peter. Patrick arrived as an assisted immigrant in 1880 on the 'Devon'.

It was Patrick who sponsored his own niece, Mary Gallagher. She arrived in 1886 on the 'Port Victor'. It is all just detail.

Fifthly, both Wright in 1895 and in the obituary of Michael Gallagher in 1898 there is a passing mention of an item that could be investigated further. All agree that Michael Gallagher lived in Tuggeranong. His farm 'Erindale' was one such place. However, Wright says that the Gallaghers lived for a few months at Molonglo. He means the part of the river that is well east of Queanbeyan. The obituary clarifies it further. It reports that 'he was offered and accepted a trusty position from Mr Thomas Jeffson to go to Carwoola (then Molonglo), but this turned out a failure'. Given the time scale of events, that offer probably came in the late 1850s. Thomas Jeffson does not exist but Thomas Jephson of Terrick Terrick in Victoria could be the person. He became bankrupt in the 1850s and moved on. The sequence of Rutledge families at 'Carwoola' itself from 1836 onwards suggests this episode in Michael Gallagher's story is hard to believe.

Local place names used by W D Wright are also worth checking. In his book he claimed authority about it. These are some examples: Boorooroomba (*Canberra*, p31.) for Booroomba; Grongarleen (in these 'Reminiscences') for Gungahleen (*Canberra*, p12.), Tinmanbilly or Jedbenbilla ('Reminiscences') and Jellbinbilla (*Canberra*, p38.); while Gigeline is spelt several ways, still. Later, in 1901, Wright gets into a long, fiery confrontation with Stewart Mowle in the *Queanbeyan Observer*. It was about spelling those sort of names. Few noticed that Wright could not speak the local language but Mowle could. Wright stuck to his own opinions and his own spelling.

Wright's articles called 'Reminiscences...' provide a challenge. His 1923 book has more of them when it comes to local history. The very first sentence in *Canberra* begins this way, 'Robert Campbell, merchant and shipowner...'. Such pre-eminence as a European settler at Canberra

is appropriate and widely acknowledged. Wright then tells the story of how Mr Campbell saved the early Colony from starvation, and consequently ended up with Duntroon. Wright reports that about 1800, the colonial authorities commandeered 'two vessels and sent them to Batavia for rice. Unfortunately, both vessels were lost, and the authorities became liable for the value to Mr Campbell'. (*Canberra*, p5.) Campbell did lose two ships in 1806, but their stories were not connected in the way that Wright said.

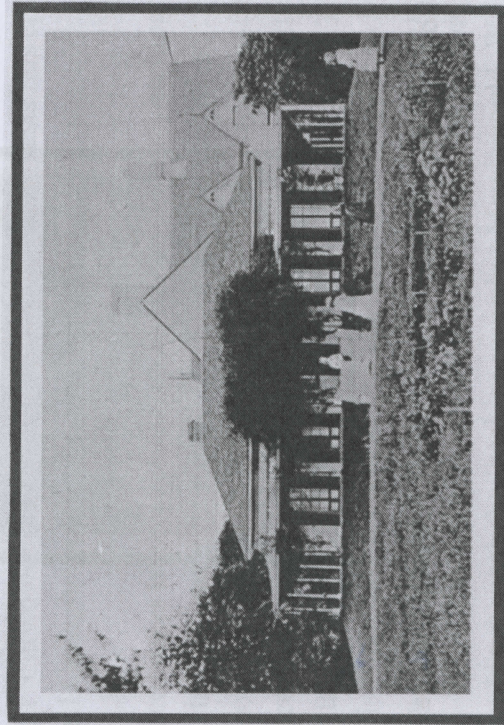


Robert Campbell (unknown artist and date NLA Trove)

Robert Campbell's two ships were the *Sydney* and the *Venus*. One was chartered by Governor King to procure provisions from Calcutta in India. That ship was lost on the coast of New Guinea. The second ship was piratically seized at Port Dalrymple, the entrance to the Tamar River in northern Van Diemen's Land. It ended up in New Zealand. Robert Campbell only claimed for the loss of the *Sydney*.

Correspondence on this matter between Campbell and Governor Darling is in *Historical Records of Australia* as late as 1829.

On the next page in his book, Wright repeats the story about a 'new chum named Ainslie' who had been at Waterloo. We now can see that Robert Campbell realised his mistake in employing James Ainslie at 'Duntroon'. Campbell took definite action in 1835. However, local historians accept Ainslie as a 'character'. He was viewed that way in a 11 December 1909 article in the *Goulburn Evening Penny Post*. More significantly, Henry Selkirk vamped up the hyperbole about him in the *Federal Capital Pioneer* on 24 May 1926. It took until 2012 before Rowan Henderson upended the traditionally entrenched published piffle about Ainslie. Wright was just another one who repeated the Ainslie stories he had been told. As we all do.



DUNTROON HOMESTEAD
C 1835

Whenever the recollections and the book of William Davis Wright are examined carefully, it becomes more and more obvious that he is the

classic example of an unreliable narrator. Another time, it may be possible to look through what he says about bushrangers in the Canberra district. That topic used to be very popular.

P Procter, February 2019

References

The Queanbeyan Observer, 1894-1908, W & F Pascoe microfilm, Queanbeyan-Palerang Libraries, Queanbeyan, Local History Collection.

WRIGHT, W Davis, (1923) 1977 (facsimile), *Canberra*, [John Andrew & Co, Sydney], Library of Australian History, North Sydney, 105p.

POSTSCRIPT

So much for 'true family stories'. Davis Wright mixed up two different people. Yes, Michael Gallagher, who arrived in 1842 and lived at 'Lanyon' and later at 'Erindale' never worked at Carwoola. Yet, Michael Gallagher did become a shepherd at 'Foxlow', the nearby property of Thomas Rutledge. Gallagher worked there from 1868 onwards. His wife, Mary Sarah Gallagher (nee Kennedy) and child drowned accidentally in a local creek in 1869. A report of the inquest is in the *Queanbeyan Age* on 23 August. This 'other' Michael Gallagher came from Fermanagh in 1841. He died in 1894 at 'Brown's Flat' near Bywong. The author acknowledges Sue, who read the article and wondered about this extra family.

Here's good advice. Look at what any amateur or highly qualified professional historian writes in a book, paper, or online, and then do the spade work in the relevant primary documents. Davis Wright was not a reliable narrator about early settlers in this or any district. It was wrong in 1977 to commend him as 'our authority'.

Peter Procter, August 2019

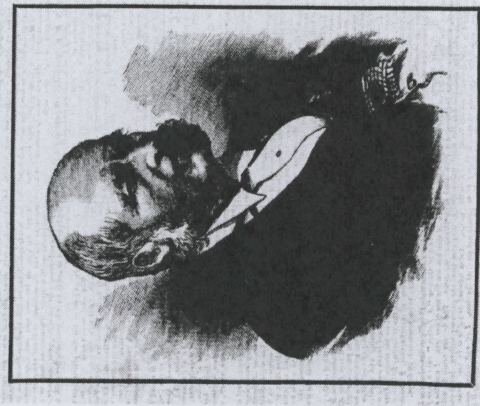
THE MORTON BROTHERS – ANDREW AND WILLIAM

The Morton brothers were born in Forganderry, Perthshire, Scotland – Andrew on 6th January 1812 and William on 14th December 1814.

Early in the 1840s the brothers accompanied two of their sisters to New Zealand. One was to join her husband and the other was to stay with Andrew who planned to open a doctor's practice, while William continued to Queanbeyan to join his Perthshire friend J. J. Wright who had interests in Queanbeyan and later in Cooma.

Andrew Morton 1812-1881

As there was no opening for a doctor in New Zealand Andrew followed William to Queanbeyan where there was still no opening for a doctor.



THE LATE DR. ANDREW MORTON.

Picture from obituary

Town and Country Journal November 26 1881 (NLA Trove)

Before qualifying as a doctor in Scotland, Andrew was a schoolmaster so he took up the position of school master at the school at Christ

Church, Queanbeyan for 30 children, both boys and girls. However, because of drought years the parents could not afford the fees of one shilling a year and the school closed.

Andrew then worked as a shepherd on Campbell's property at Duntroon and then transferred to an out-station. When Mr Campbell delivered supplies to Andrew he saw Andrew's qualifications as a doctor. Mrs Campbell acted as midwife in the area and when a Mrs Skinner was having difficulties requested her husband obtain help from Goulburn. However, Mr Campbell brought Andrew who successfully delivered the baby.

Andrew later transferred to 'Yarralumla' owned by Dr Murray as a shepherd. Dr Murray was the local member of parliament from the area and spent time in Sydney.

On his return from Sydney Dr Murray discovered that one of workers had broken his leg. On examining the worker, he discovered the leg had been professionally set. He then discovered that he and Andrew had both qualified from Edinburgh University. He then took Andrew to Queanbeyan to join Dr Hayley, who later moved to Goulburn. Andrew took over as coroner, J.P. and returning officer for Queanbeyan electorate.

In 1841 Andrew complained that his name had not been included in the medical register. It was included in the next edition without apology. Andrew's cousin William Thomas Green had moved from Scotland to Massachusetts and they regularly corresponded. Dr Green publicly administered chloroform to remove a tumour successfully. Drs Hayley and Morton were successfully using chloroform in Queanbeyan before it was used in Sydney. In 1857 Andrew Morton successfully removed diseased tissue from Michael Maloney in the Queanbeyan Benevolent Asylum.

ELAINE DE MAMIEL'S STORY

Andrew was the Father of Presbyterianism in the Queanbeyan district. He was the lifetime chairman of the church's Board of Management and regularly contributed to the stipend and other funds of Protestant churches with emphasis on bringing benefits to the most needy.

Andrew Morton and John Gale were jointly responsible for the opening of the Queanbeyan Public School, now known as Isabella Street school. Andrew never married although he had been engaged at one time.

He lived with family of his life-time friend J. J. Wright and was buried in the Wright family tomb in the Church of England section of Queanbeyan Cemetery.

William Morton 1814-1898

William came to the Queanbeyan district from Perthshire, Scotland via New Zealand in the early 1840s to join his friend J.J. Wright who had business interests in Queanbeyan and Cooma, William later managing the Cooma interests.

In 1865 William and Ellen Le Count were married in Cooma by Rev. W. Baker. Their first four children were born in Cooma – William John (later Dr), Andrew, Muirton and Louise. David was born in Gundaroo where his father was an inn keeper. Sometime after 1881 William moved to 'Glenloch', Weetangera which was burnt down in 1897 destroying all records. George Nairn was born in a cottage on the corner of Crawford and Morrisset Streets, Queanbeyan which now houses a business. Norman and Evelyn were also born in Queanbeyan. Norman migrated to Canada and Evelyn was a great horsewoman and took part teaching riding to the early U.S. film industry. She died in the Sydney area around 1960.

My name is Elaine Heather de Mamiel, widow of George Talbot de Mamiel, son of Dorothy and Oswald who lived in Queanbeyan about 50 years.

I was the only child of Ellen and Frederick Morton born on 8th March 1929 at 7 Wood Avenue, Queanbeyan where I have lived all my life except for approximately nine years from 1953 when George and I and our children Peter and Anne lived at 34 Cooma Road, Queanbeyan. After my father died we moved back to live with my mother at Wood Avenue.

I was the eldest grandchild of Eliza and George Morton. George was a son of William Morton and nephew of Dr Andrew Morton. Andrew, my grandfather George, my father Fred and his brothers Norman and Ray and Ray's children were involved with the history, business and sporting and social life of Queanbeyan. George started brick making, cordial factory, grocery shop and bakery.

I was a pupil of the Queanbeyan Intermediate High School (now Isabella Street school) from 1936 to 1943 before transferring to Canberra High School until 1946.

After leaving school I worked as a book keeper for my father who owned Morton's Bakery for twenty years, then J.B. Young's account office before joining the NSW Department of Agriculture for twenty years. While the Department of Agriculture was in recess for a short while I worked at NSW Department of Valuer General. I was also in partnership with George trading as G.T. & E.H. de Mamiel conducting building maintenance until George's illness and death.

For over 80 years I have been involved with many local organisations, sometimes holding the position of President, Secretary, Treasurer or Publicity Officer.

The first organisation was the Junior Red Cross under the guidance of the esteemed Miss May Walker. Among other organisations were the C.W.A. Younger Set, Methodist Girls' Comradeship, Ladies Church Auxiliary, QHS Mothers' Club and P&C, also a canteen volunteer at Primary and High Schools, Girl Guides local association and tester, Probuss Club (both Ladies and Combined), Quota Club, Tennis and Bowling Clubs, polling clerk for State and Federal elections, Laurel Club and War Widows Guild and many others.

My grandfather owned property at Tuross Head where I had my first birthday in 1930 and spent most holidays there. I still own a house there where my daughter and her family live and I visit frequently. I am proud of my children and their spouses Peter and Ingrid de Mamiel, Anne and Christopher Dickson and their children James, Rees and Stephanie and great grandson Lachlan Oliver Gale.

When the children were teenagers, we spent many weekends and holidays water skiing either locally or at the coast. George drove our boat "Frenel", I was the observer, the children and their friends skiing. Peter was a champion bare foot water skier.

I am neither famous nor achieved anything outstanding, just an ordinary resident of Queanbeyan.

Postscript. My son Peter George passed away on 26th June 2019 from Motor Neurone Disease. He has a star, 'Peter 26th June', which was named after him by a friend in Perth.

Elaine de Mamiel

QUEANBEYAN PITCH AND PUTT



My Name is Mervyn Laurance Britten. In late 1989 I bought a block of 9.5 acres of land on the corner of Furlong Road & McCray Street Queanbeyan with the intention of building our own house on it with a small Golf Course, when I told my wife Margaret what I had in mind to do ... Shock Horror ... No Way ... she said ... so a quick change of plans and we went along with a small Golf Course and nine townhouses so Queanbeyan Pitch & Putt was born.

1990 I submitted the plans for the Small Pitch & Putt Course, a Clubhouse and 9 Townhouses. It was very slow going at the time as nobody in Council had seen anything like it, first I had to get a Surveyor in to count the trees on the block which had 250 gum trees. I can't remove any of them without Council Approval, after what seemed to be forever in changing things, trying to convince the Council on what was going to be an asset to the Town, we were finally given the green

light to commence building. The building work, the clubhouse and the townhouses were done by Ken Harvey of Chapman Constructions. Under the path down from the Clubhouse to the car park there was a Time Capsule put in, for somebody to find one day and wonder just how life was so long ago.

The Pitch and Putt Golf Course was built by myself and business Partner at the time Andrew Osborne and many sub-contractors, it was a great learning experience for both of us. It was on a big block of land not fenced on the outskirts of town and we had trouble with things getting pinched. When we were getting close to laying the turf, we could buy it from Melbourne for half the price of what we could buy locally. The first day a semi from Melbourne that came up late in the afternoon ...next Morning we couldn't believe a third of it was gone! So, from that time on Andrew put up a tent and spent his nights sleeping on the block till we had it fenced.

As it all started to take shape, I had two apologies: the first was my wife Margaret. We were in the second unit; the painting had been done also the grass had been put down on the Golf Course it was looking great, Marg said I owe you an apology this is wonderful. She said I could live here too late I said, (actually we did live in the end Townhouse for 18 Months while our new house in Calwell was being Built in 1991, and I loved it).

The Opening day was the 16th of February 1992. It was a great day; it was opened by the Ambassador of Ireland; we went with the Irish because they are such fanatics on Pitch & Putt. Many, many family & friends came. I had my second apology, it was my Accountant Jim Neill he said to me I owe you an apology mate, you were right I was wrong, sorry I tried to talk you out of it.

It was something new to the town, we went along slowly, the town folk loved it. It was something that didn't take all that long to play, Greg Norman put his name to it, made a commercial for it and it was a winner. The Pitch & Putt locals were very good, we went down to Melbourne on a number of occasions, we hired a bus and they were great days. In 1996 we had the Irish Team visit us for a team International they beat us quite easily but we did get a few wins over them for the first time in many visits to Ireland where they sent us home with better luck next time Aussies. In 1998 we added a Putt Putt Course to it which I thought would go very well but it let me down.

Queanbeyan Pitch & Putt when it first opened in town went along quite nicely. When in 1998 Woden Pitch & Putt opened up soon after another one in Narrabundah all within 10 minutes of each other, we all struggled, we went along till 2003. The opportunity came along for us to sell up and we did, so sorry to close up but it just wasn't viable to stay open.

In April 2003 we had a big open day with Pitch & Putt players coming up from Melbourne and Wagga for one last timeSadbut Life goes on.

Mervyn Britten

BELFAST GIRLS LOCAL CONNECTIONS

The waifish Irish girls were judged fit for purpose: aged between 14 and 20, single - and free of any infectious disease.

On July 25, 170 years ago, Anne and Alicia Keefe, wearing the blue shifts that marked them as Earl Grey Orphans, boarded an English transport ship bound for the other side of the world.

They were escaping an Ireland riven by famine and destitution.

Packed off with some clothing, a prayer book and a hairbrush, Anne and Alicia were two of more than 4,100 of their countrywomen - girls, really - to arrive in Australia between 1848 and 1850.

While the parent-less teenagers weren't convicts, the colonial outpost was bursting with men who once were (as well as others still serving at Her Majesty's Pleasure). In short supply were domestic servants and marriage prospects.

The initiative of Earl Henry George Grey, Secretary of State for the Colonies, sought to relieve the "misery, poverty and in likelihood, early death" that came in the wake of the "Great Hunger". In addition, it would address this gender imbalance.

The destiny of the Keefe sisters was to be among a select few to put down roots in what would become the capital region - where some of their descendants continue to live today.

Robyn Sherd McVey, formerly of Canberra and now tiny Ungarie (central west NSW), is Alicia's great-granddaughter.

"I'm quite obsessed in relation to all aspects of my courageous, pioneering ancestors," she says.

"It was through searching for information on Alicia I discovered she was an Orphan. What I hadn't realised until now was how young she may have been."

The records on this are conflicting. The shipping register states Anne was 16 and her sibling (also listed as Alice) 15, but official certificates indicate Alicia was only 11. Given the minimum age requirement, Alicia's was perhaps altered to ensure the pair wouldn't be separated.

Almost on the anniversary of their departure, a play on the short-lived "Potato Orphans" scheme opened at The Q in Queanbeyan on August 24, 2019.

"Belfast Girls" focused on five such women during their months-long journey. Set in the third-class confines of a crowded ship, it explored the impetus and potential for transformation of those faced with such a situation.

According to playwright, Jaki McKarrick, it was always intended as an allegory, its central quintet an amalgam and embodiment of the thousands of stories. The title is a reference to those less inclined to fulfil another of the stipulations: "obedient."

"At the time of writing, I think I was more angry at how the populace - and women in particular - were treated during the Famine," Jaki says.

In 1849, the Emerald Isle was far from the sparkling jewel its poetic appellation suggested. After three years being ravaged by the Great Famine, brought on by a potato blight, a million or more of its citizens were dead.

Workhouses built to cater to the starving and the wretched were overcrowded, disease-ridden and devoid of promise. The alternative was a life of crime or prostitution.

While emigration may have precluded such fates, it wasn't always a step up.

Anti-Irish/Catholic sentiment was strong among an aspirational population trying to shake itself of its criminal origins. The local press declared the arrivals "workhouse sweepings", and worse, "hordes of useless trollops, thrust upon an unwilling community."

As a result, a goodly proportion allowed themselves and their stories to be swallowed up in the unexplored wilds of this isolated new world. Others sought to reinvent themselves.

Anne and Alicia, plucked from a "hated" institution in Queen's County, arrived on November 21, 1849 (less than nine months later the controversial program would end). They gained employment relatively close to each other; Anne near Crookwell, working for store owner W.E. Morriss, Alicia at Goulburn under the employ of first landholder on the Limestone Plains, Lt. J.J. Moore.

Less is known about Anne's story, save that she married Thomas Murphy of Bungendore in 1851. Her great-niece, Robyn, is of the belief their progeny were numerous and that many of the family wound up in Braidwood and Moruya.

In 1859, the first of seven children was born to Alicia and William Sherd, a Bungendore "confectioner".

"When William left England [c1853], he left his wife and two sons," explains Robyn.

"I'm a novice with genealogy but suspect that Alicia and William may have been in a common law relationship."

Today theirs is a well-recognised name throughout the area, with Bungendore's main sports ground named for one of Alicia and William's great grandsons, Mick Sherd.

On Alicia's death in 1896 in the Queanbeyan Hospital, she was buried in an unmarked grave in Bungendore's cemetery.

A third local Orphan has also been unearthed: Mary Ann Duddy. As a 15-year-old from Galway, she was sent out in early 1849.

The image shows two historical tables from a document titled 'List of Emigrants per Ship' and 'Arrived on the 14 April 1849'. The left table lists emigrants by ship name, with columns for ship, name, age, sex, and occupation. The right table lists arrivals by ship name, with columns for ship, name, age, sex, and occupation. Both tables contain numerous entries, many of which are handwritten.

SHIP	NAME	AGE	SEX	OCCUPATION
40	40	40	40	40
41	41	41	41	41
42	42	42	42	42
43	43	43	43	43
44	44	44	44	44
45	45	45	45	45
46	46	46	46	46
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50	50	50	50	50
51	51	51	51	51
52	52	52	52	52
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92	92	92	92	92
93	93	93	93	93
94	94	94	94	94
95	95	95	95	95
96	96	96	96	96
97	97	97	97	97
98	98	98	98	98
99	99	99	99	99
100	100	100	100	100

Mary Ann Duddy arrived on the "Digby" 14 April 1849

The following year, she married Robert Sindel, 23, settling in Queanbeyan in 1859.



Robert Sindel Jnr. 1851-1896

Although illiterate (unlike the Keefes), Mary Ann helped run her husband's general store, Manchester House. And she gave birth to 11 children. When she died – on the premises – she was just 37.

**To Let,
MANCHESTER HOUSE,
QUEANBEYAN.**

THIS Establishment will shortly be vacant, and to a respectable tenant the rent will be moderate. The building and situation are second to none in Queanbeyan, for either **STORE** or **HOTEL**. Will be ready for re-occupation on the first day of September, 1872. Application to be made to

WILLIAM ROOHAN, Queanbeyan.

Mary Ann appears on the Welcome Wall of the Maritime Museum, erected in honour of all who've made Australia home.

Another memorial, the Irish Famine Monument at Hyde Park Barracks, Sydney - the initial residence of the Orphans - marks its 20th anniversary on August 25.

Its glass panels are etched with 420 individuals representing all those so displaced.

"I attended the Famine Commemoration at Hyde Park last year with three of my siblings and it was wonderful to see Alicia noted there," says Robyn.

According to its artists, "as their names fade on the glass so does the memory of some of these young female immigrants."

Works such as "Belfast Girls" and those keen to preserve the identities and contributions of their forebears are ensuring they will never truly fade.

* Since a version of this article first appeared in *Canberra CityNews*, a fourth Orphan has been brought to my attention:

"Hi Nichole,

Great article on the potato famine orphans. Just wanted to let you know of another local potato famine orphan - Catherine McNamara, my 3xG Grandmother. Catherine & her sister Bridget were from Ennis, County Clare, and arrived on the Thomas Abuthnot in Feb 1850. Both girls could read. From Sydney they traveled to a depot at Yass.

After 14 days at the Yass depot Catherine was employed as a house servant to Mr I McVitey 'Primrose Valley' Molonglo for 1 year. Her sister Bridget was sent to an employer at Boorowa. Some years later Bridget placed an ad in the Goulburn newspaper in search of Catherine but it is not known if they saw each other again.

Catherine married John Lambkin in 1856 at Queanbeyan. They farmed & lived in the Foxlow/Hoskinstown/Rossi area for the rest of their lives where they had 11 children. Trove newspaper articles reveal the family was very involved in local sawmilling, cricket, tennis & catholic fundraising in the Bungendore/Hoskinstown areas.

Catherine died in 1884 & is buried in an unmarked grave in Bungendore. Her name also appears on the Irish Famine Memorial at Hyde Park Barracks. She has many successful local descendants spread across the older farming communities of southern ACT/Royalla, Braidwood, Crookwell & beyond."

Visit anoverallview.wixsite.com/blog for more.

Nichole Overall

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Please include your contact details and whether you would like a receipt.