

DUBBO & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC



Newsletter 20 July-August 2015

Location: Ground floor – Two storey Community Arts Building Western Plains Gallery, Cnr. Gipps and Wingewarra Streets, Dubbo.

Opening hours: Tuesday 1.00-4pm, Thursday 2.00-6.00pm, Friday 10.00-1.00pm, Saturday 10.00-4.00pm

Society webpage: www.dubbofamilyhistory.org.au

Society email: info@dubbofamilyhistory.org.au

Postal address: PO Box 868, Dubbo. 2830 NSW

Society phone no: 02 6881 8635

Management Committee

Cynthia Foley	68840500	cafoley@bigpond.com	President
Linda Barnes	68878284	martinandlinda@gmail.com	Librarian
Ken Fuller	68818128	kfuller8@bigpond.com	Treasurer
Robyn Allan	68844572	rpallan@bigpond.net.au	Minute Secretary
June Wilson	68825366	juniwil@clearmail.com.au	
Carol Korn	68847298	tjkorn@bigpond.com.au	
Karlyn Robinson	68855773	karlynrobinson@tpg.com.au	
Kathy Furney	68825533	johnnkathy7@bigpond.com	

Management Committee Meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 10am in DDFHS Library. Members are welcome to attend these meetings, or simply contact any of the committee listed above if you have anything you would like discussed at the meeting.

Newsletter Information The Newsletter is sent every 8-10 weeks with the next one due out in mid-August. Anyone with interesting information, news of an interesting website, or maybe a breakthrough with their family history, please contact Kathy Ph.68825533 or email johnnkathy7@bigpond.com. We would love to print your item as it is exciting to hear about our member's research. A big thank you to those people who have been sending me items for the newsletter.

Feedback on the Newsletter is always welcome, or if you have an idea on how it can be improved, contact Kathy so that the suggestions can be taken to the monthly meeting. The Newsletter is normally on the Society's website www.dubbofamilyhistory.org.au soon after publication. Those without email addresses will receive the Newsletter by post.

(2)

Note: If changing your email address, or connecting to the Internet: Please advise Ken Fuller. (See address above).

Your annual renewal subscription (\$40) plus \$10 joining fee if you are a new member, can be paid online, or you can still pay in person at the DDFH rooms if you so desire. Particulars for paying on line are as follow:

Bank – Westpac, BSB 032 646, account no 581832

Please ensure you enter YOUR **NAME or Membership Number** (if known) in the appropriate box. Receipts and membership cards can be picked up in the DDFHS Library.

* There is a sliding scale for new members, so cost reduces each month.

Society News

New Website, new website!! Thank you to those people who attended the very successful launch morning tea on the 30th June 2015. It was a chance to meet with Troy Maynard who runs Central West Data Recovery who has been helping us extensively with the new website and computers. He has given us many hours of his time on a voluntary basis as well as finding some new screens for the society at a good price. If you are looking for a good computer technician at reasonable prices, contact Troy on 6884 3282 or recovery@cwdr.com.au Make sure you keep an eye on the website for interesting items.

Think Tank Group Don't forget this group is up and working again. They meet in the Family History rooms on the **first Wednesday** of each month, so the next meetings are 5th August, 2nd September and 7th October. For more information contact June Wilson on 68825366 or email her at juniwil@clearmail.com.au

World War 1 With the focus fully on the Anzac anniversary, members are reminded of the journal held in our rooms called "Digger". This is published by a group called the Families and Friends of the First AIF Inc. It has a local flavour being edited by a Dubbo resident. If you are at all interested in stories of the First World War, you must have a look at these journals.

Dubbo Holy Trinity Church Are you aware that our society holds copies of baptism and marriage records for this local church? We now have an index to all these records in the Dubbo section of our records. If you are doing local Dubbo research these records hold could hold some helpful information for you.

Manchester Unity and Talbragar Lodge The minute books from these lodges have been generously donated to our society. However to utilise them, they need to be indexed. As you can imagine this will be a big undertaking, so we are hoping there might be **members** out there who could **volunteer some time** to assist with this indexing. It can be done at your leisure either in the rooms or by taking a book home. Please contact Kathy Furney (contact details at top of newsletter) if you would just like some more information on this project or think you could spare some time to help out.

(3)

“Dipso” Dubbo’s War Horse, WWI,

by Lesley J. Abrahams, B.A. DipEd., AALIA

I researched this horse while collecting information for the Dubbo District School Honor Roll 1914 – 1918 (Dubbo Primary School, Senior building). Recently Dubbo & District Family History Society Library received a donation of archives from the Macquarie Picnic Race Club, from 1911 to 1970’s which revealed more information relating to “Dipso”.

Dipso’s owners were Reginald Roy Brown, and Russell James Brown who both attended Dubbo District School (around 1902), and served in The Great War. “Dipso” was a popular race winner, maybe a famous racehorse in his day, from around 1912, in Dubbo and surrounding towns in Western New South Wales. He was a well-known picnic race performer in Dubbo, Nyngan and Warren, for the Brown family who were the owners of the stations “The Angle”, Cullengoral, and “Egelabra”, Warren, NSW. They bred and trained racehorses, as well as running cattle. Both Russell Brown and Reg Brown were fine horsemen. On checking the Macquarie Picnic Race clubs records, we discovered that “Dipso” had run in the following races:

15 May 1912, Macquarie Picnic Race club event. Bundemar Race, on 1st day, 2nd race, in which he ran 3rd place. 1st day, 4th race - 1 ¼ mile.

16 May 1912, Macquarie Picnic Race club event. Dipso ran in: Lady’s Bracelet handicap, 2nd day, 3rd race; and then “Geraldine Handicap”, over 1 mile. This was the fifth race on the 2nd day. Owner Reg R. Brown, Jockey Paterson. Colours: Brown & pale blue.

Mr. James G. Brown, the father, was Chairman of the Directors of “Western Stores” Dubbo, and Russell James Brown, was one time manager at Western Stores as well as running the properties. Russell also worked as an amateur jockey, and praised “Dipso” as “champion among grass-eaters”. “Dipso” was a natural stayer, beating many professionally trained horses. He became one of the original horses of the 6th Australian Light Horse Regiment, travelling to Egypt aboard HMAT *Suevic*, with Trooper Reg Brown, Regimental No. 84, on 21 December 1914.

Trooper Reg Brown was evacuated from Gallipoli, to Malta, and then to England, 7 September 1915. He wrote to his mother that he was leaving “Dipso”, with another Trooper in Egypt, named Grimshaw. The only Grimshaw brothers from western New South Wales (Canowindra) that can be located were in Egypt with the 1st Light Horse and the 7th Light Horse at a later date. However, the Australian War Memorial has recorded that Trooper Brown transferred the horse to his Commanding Officer of the 6th Light Horse Regiment, Captain (later Major, DSO) Stuart Tooth. Major Tooth served out the duration of the war in Egypt, and used “Dipso” in Sinai and Palestine campaigns.

There was a popular belief in Egypt that a racing camel could beat any horse over a long distance. Major Stuart Tooth threw out a challenge for “Dipso” to run any racing camel over a distance of from five to ten miles, but no one seems to have cared to back the camel. “Dipso” won a number of races in Egypt, among them the Grand Championship of that country, run over two miles. In toughness of fibre he must have been a second Carbine. The horse was hardly ever trained, yet after one gallop he could be depended on to run out a distance.

(4)

WELL-KNOWN PICNIC PERFORMER OF WESTERN DISTRICT WINS AT ARMY MEETING ON RAFA BATTLEFIELD. *The Referee*, 5 Sept 1917, p. 6:

Lieut. Herbert Dickson, of the B Squadron, 1st Australian Light Horse, writes from Palestine (20/6/17): "Enclosed is a photo of "Dipso", a well-known picnic performer in Dubbo, Warren, Nyngan, etc. The military authorities over here decided to celebrate the Rafa victory by holding a race meeting on the site of the battleground on 4 April, and the principal race of the day was the Rafa Cup. There were 32 runners, and they pretty well represented the world, as the English were represented by horses from all parts of the United Kingdom. The field got away well together, and old Dipso soon took up a good position, running about third, and when near the straight went to the front and won very easily. "Dipso" is now ridden by Capt. Stuart Tooth, A Squadron, 6th Light Horse Regiment, and is by Goodfellow from Agnes. He was ridden in the race by Sgt Thompson. The majority of the races at the meeting were won by Australian horses, including a 2½ miles steeplechase. This was won by a horse named Seymore (pedigree I do not know), of the 3rd Light Horse Brigade. The Pommies were very sure of this race, saying they had some picked horses from England, but they had no hope with Seymore. I thought the above would be of interest to you and the Western picnic sports. As this is probably the first race meeting ever held in this part of the world (and it's one of the very oldest-known), and was held on the actual battle ground of Rafa. Capt. Tooth naturally values the cup as much almost as he would the Melbourne Cup.

Trooper/Lieutenant Reginald Brown was killed in France on 31st October 1918, having won the Military Cross in the Royal Field Artillery, British Army.

Trooper Russell Brown returned to Australia 28 January 1919. Major Stuart Tooth, DSO, returned to Australia 28 June 1919.



References: *The Referee* (Sydney), 5 September 1917, p. 6; and 2 January 1931, p. 10
Australian War Memorial, B00474 (www.awm.gov.au/collection/B00474) & B001382

(5)

National Archives of Australia, WWI service records. Macquarie Picnic Race Club records, 1911-1912

This might sound familiar to some of our volunteers, especially with an hour before the library closes! Thanks to Carol Korn for this submission.

Reprinted from *The Greenwood Tree* May 2015 Vol 40 No 2 The Somerset & Dorset Family History Society. This magazine is printed 4 times a year and is available in our library.

Dear Archivist
I'm looking for my granddad
He was one out of eight
He died when he was about 60
In or about 1958.
He lived down in Dorset
And worked on a farm
They called him Handy
He had one arm.
His dad was a poacher
So I was told
He was sent to Australia
Locked in the hold

Where do I look now
To find out some more
Will you do it for me
My eyes are quite sore.
Perhaps you could tell me
If I wait awhile
All of my ancestors
That you have on file.
I really am patient
I'll just sit and wait
If I give you an hour
Can you get back to 1538??

NSW Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages has over 18 million Family History records going back to 1788. They have records of births, deaths and marriages in NSW from 1856 (registrations), and Church records from 1788 to 1855 (Volumes). Please note that Volume records are issued as baptism, marriage or burial records. Please visit our website for more information: www.bdm.nsw.gov.au

Hints and tips for searching online

Public records become available from the exact date of birth, death or marriage. Births over 100 years ago, Deaths over 30 years ago and Marriages over 50 years ago. Eg. Born on 12/12/1915 – the birth record will become available to search on 12/12/2015.

When searching our online indexes, use wildcard characters to find or replace text.

Use this...	to find	For example
*	Any string of characters	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• R*n will match Ron, Ran, Roan etc• 'Bro*' it will match any word starting with Bro e.g. Brooks, Bromley, Bros
?	Replace a single character	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• R?n will match Ron, Ran etc. It will not match Roan
@	Represents a soundex	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• @colin will match Clune, Colan, Cullan, Callahan

(6)

General information

Annual Family History Conference A reminder to everyone that the Annual Family History Conference will be held from **11th-13th September 2015**. The conference this year will be hosted by the Port Macquarie & District Family History Society. This is a great forum for learning more about family history research, and maybe an opportunity to have a break at the Coast. It would be good if we could get some representatives to attend this conference. Check out the Port Macquarie website for more information.

Fellowship of First Fleeters Are you aware that there is a family history group with this name? As the name states it is made up of descendants of those on the First Fleet, with 18 chapters of the group in various parts of Australia, but mainly in New South Wales. And of course they publish a magazine which Dubbo Family History receives every two months. Check the magazines out in our rooms.

Lancashire Family History magazine – flicking through the latest May 2015 issue, I came across a reference to **Isaac Pendleton** born on 7th August 1825 who married Ellen Grimshaw and emigrated to Australia on the ship “Hope” in 1852. They had a son, also called Isaac born 1860 in Alma, Victoria who became a school principal in that town. Isaac snr, died in Clunes, Victoria in 1886.

I was also surprised to see an article in the same magazine from an Australian contributor at Wagga Wagga. This article related to Michael Roberts who was a watchmaker and chartist in Derbyshire.

Inside History Magazine Launched in November 2010 by Cassie Mercer from her Erskinville office, this impressive magazine is printed 6 times a year. Beautifully presented and put together in a clear and easy to read manner, *Inside History* contains interesting articles for the genealogist from how to date photographs, the Myall Creek massacre, life in the workhouse, tracing your family, to name a few plus the latest websites available to genealogists and tips and tricks to make research easier and rewarding.

In each issue I have always found something that is helpful and relates to my family history. It is easy to order. Log on to www.insidehistory.com.au and click on ‘Subscribe’. A choice of digital or paper magazine is available and they also have an up to date face book page.

Or, if you prefer, telephone 02-8227-6486

Treat yourself! You will be so glad you did. Thanks to Karlyn Robinson for this information

Book Notes Anyone interested in Aboriginal family history research should have a look at a new edition to our library called **“Survival Legacies” written by Peter Kabaila** of Canberra. Although rather large at over 500 pages it contains “stories from Aboriginal settlements of south eastern Australia”. It contains stories, maps, sketches and photographs of people involved in aboriginal settlements in areas from Dubbo through to Rylstone, Wagga Wagga, Hillston, Condobolin and numerous other settlements in these areas.

(7)

Another book which would interest fans of the television series *Who Do You Think You Are?* is called "**Not My Father's Son: A Family Memoir**" by Alan Cumming. He is a British born entertainer writing about his experiences of appearing on the British series in October, 2010. His family memoir gives insight to how the program is made. It allowed Cumming to delve into his family history, uncovering many disturbing stories and events, some of them parallels to his own experiences, particularly with his father. Alan Cumming spoke about this book at the recent Writers' Festival in Sydney, May 2015.

A snapshot of early life in Australia Following is an interesting piece of history submitted by Bill Noad. It gives an insight into life in early Australia and the hazards of attending a wedding in those days!

Ben Hall and the Reverend Richard Leigh

On Monday 19 December 1864 Ben Hall, Gilbert and Dunn committed a series of robberies between Goulburn and Shelleys Flats, thirteen miles from Goulburn. They were intending to rob the mail coach from Sydney but through a miscalculation on their part, the coach did not arrive on that particular day. Instead they commenced stopping all travellers at about eight o'clock and continued doing so until the mail from Goulburn to Sydney passed at 1.30 pm.

As travellers came in sight, Hall or one of his comrades would march them a few yards into the bush, where they were detained with the others. About thirty persons were detained in this way. All detained were searched but by all accounts not very closely. Lunch was served for those who wished to partake. Some port wine was taken from one of the drays, and bread, cheese and butter from another as well as some cherries from a woman who said they were intended as a birthday present for a small child that she knew.

Among the persons detained was the Reverend Richard Leigh, a Church of England Minister who was on his way to Shelleys Flats to celebrate the marriage of Miss Plumb to Mr Summers. The ceremony was to have taken place at nine o'clock but was thus delayed until after three. Owing to the non-arrival of the minister, the bride's brother went to see what was the matter, and he too fell into the hands of the bushrangers. Leigh explained the nature of his errand to the bushrangers, and expressed a hope that under the circumstances they would allow him to proceed, but they refused. The reverend gentleman also took the opportunity to remark on the sinfulness of their occupation, and exhorted them to return to honest courses but without effect.

At about 2 pm all detainees were allowed to depart as the bushrangers turned their attention to the arrival of the Goulburn-Sydney coach. However, they threatened to join the wedding party at Plumbs and later rode near Shelleys Flat exchanging shots with a Mr. Macleay who owned a revolving rifle. The bushrangers turned away as they were only armed with revolvers, which did not have the range of Mr. Macleay's rifle.

Meanwhile, Reverend Leigh, having performed the ceremony and partaken of an unusually late wedding breakfast, started his return to Goulburn by going through the bush to avoid the bushrangers but they saw him and followed him and asked why he had done so. Leigh stated he was anxious to avoid being delayed as he had an engagement in Goulburn that evening. He did not check his horse, and after riding alongside him for some distance, the bushrangers let him continue on his way. Before parting Leigh encouraged them to think

(8)

over what he had said that morning. They did not respond and were last seen leaving the district as they passed by Murrays Flats later that day.

Richard Leigh, at the time of this incident, was in charge of the Parish of St Nicholas, which was part of the diocese of Goulburn. An energetic man, he worked tirelessly over many years for the church and its parishioners in the Southern Tablelands of New South Wales. From 1872 to 1876 he had charge of the parishes of Toowoomba and Rockhampton in the diocese of Brisbane. He subsequently returned to the diocese.