

progenitor



Genealogical Society of the Northern Territory Inc.

The Family History Place



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GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY INC

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FRONT COVER:

The 'Gulnare' at Southport. 1871.

Photo: Samuel Sweet

Southport NT Collection. State Library of South Australia.

The 'Gulnare' accompanied the 'Moonta' in Surveyor General Goyder's expedition to Port Darwin in 1869. In 1870 it took the first Government Resident, Bloomfield Douglas, to Port Darwin as well as acting as a supply ship after Goyder's arrival. Samuel Sweet was Captain and H.R. Marsh, later Captain of 'Flying Cloud', was mate. Gulnare: Schooner, 151 tons. Built 1856. Lbd 103.6 x 24.2 x 10.7 ft.

DR ROBERT JOHN aka Bob THISTLETHWAITE

Born 31 August 1941 – Passed peacefully after a brief illness on 09 May 2021

Burial Centenary Memorial Gardens Cemetery Sumner Qld.

I first met Robert aka Bob Thistlethwaite early 1981, I think it was about April of that year. A friend had told me that a new group of "like minded" family researchers had registered the Genealogical Society of the Northern Territory as an Association. At the time I was trying to find out more about my father's family and thought this might help me in my search. The first meeting I attended was at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Trower Road in Millner. At the time the Church was constructing another build-

ing on the site. There was no outside lighting, but really we were in a construction site. My friend Patricia fell down one of the footings, like all good friends we had a good laugh about that.

There were about 4 or 5 people at this meeting one of whom was Bob. As we progressed in those coming months, it turned into years. Bob was always promoting our group, he was like the media person, the President and helped in the publication of 'Tombstone Territory' Newsletter. He would just do whatever it took for us to achieve. We started to learn other Societies had journals, so we started producing our own journal, *Progenitor*. I am not too sure who thought of the title but Bob was in there somewhere. He took on the role of printing and collating and I would do the posting. At one stage I worked in the Government Office where Bob was employed. Bob was considered as an expert in his field of Forestry, however some days I would find myself involved in "little" jobs for the genies.

I think it was around the middle of the 1980's Bob and his family moved to Queensland. Bob kept in touch and then in 2006 when our Society hosted the 11th Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry he came to Darwin to support our efforts in hosting the Congress. Bob was our biggest fan, we didn't need a PR person, we had Bob, he was so proud of our success from humble beginnings and would share these with others at the Congress. Every now and then I would get a phone call to ask what we were up to.

Rest In Peace Bob, June Tomlinson

THE SCHOONER 'GULNARE'

From Facebook

In January 1869 Captain Samuel Sweet took command of the two-masted schooner 'Gulnare', which was later bought by the South Australian government for the Northern Territory survey expedition.

He sailed from Adelaide on 12 February, returning in June, and again in February 1870 to collect more supplies. He also visited Timor and returned to Palmerston (Darwin) on 15 September with eighteen buffaloes, ponies, monkeys, fruit and vegetables.

In September in Darwin he photographed the official party at the ceremonial planting of the first pole of the overland telegraph; he also took pictures of the township, the men at work and forest scenery.

In November he sailed to the Roper River and took part in the survey there before sailing to Normanton, Queensland, for more supplies, returning in March 1871.

In October on his way back to the Roper from Darwin the 'Gulnare' grounded on a reef near the Vernon Islands and by 1872 was condemned.

(Information copied from Australian Dictionary of Biography vol 6) by Allan Sierp.

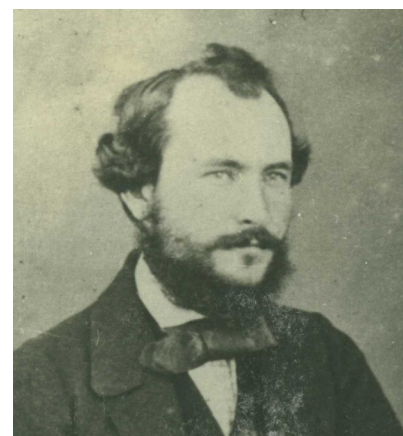
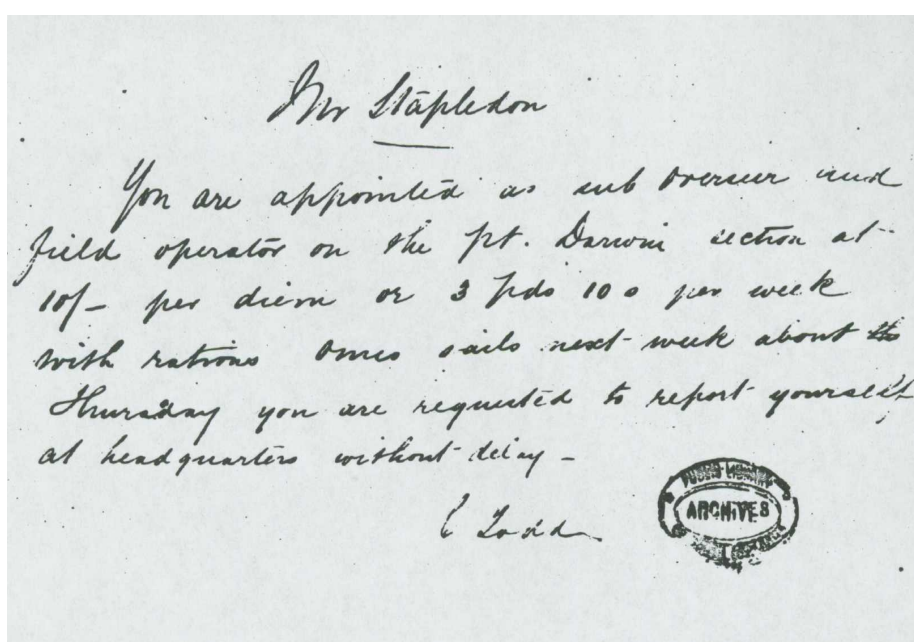
Additional info from NT Place Names Register:

Gulnare Street & Park in Millner and Gulnare Road at Bees Creek are named after this ship.

STAPLETON, STAPLETON CREEK & STAPLETON CEMETERY

Stapleton as a District figures very prominently in the early years of the northern settlement of Palmerston. Stapleton as a location was reached firstly by crossing the Darwin harbour to Southport, thence down the old Coach road from there along the route of the Overland Telegraph Line to Stapleton Creek towards the Adelaide Crossing.

When some of the first appointments as sub overseers of this Line were announced in 1870, these included a William McMinn, who took a group down the Line, exploring the route and naming some of the unnamed features encountered. One such feature was Stapleton Creek, 96 kilometres from Palmerston (Darwin), which McMinn had named in 1871 after his Canadian colleague, James Laurence Stapleton, who had been appointed by Charles Todd in August 1870.



Whilst Stapleton was on the Line overseeing the first part of the Line and was a popular officer with those connected with this task, he wrote many letters to his wife Emily, reporting on the Line as it was constructed. In one of those letters, he tells of his study of surveying, whilst on the Line as an operator at Providence Hill, south of Katherine.

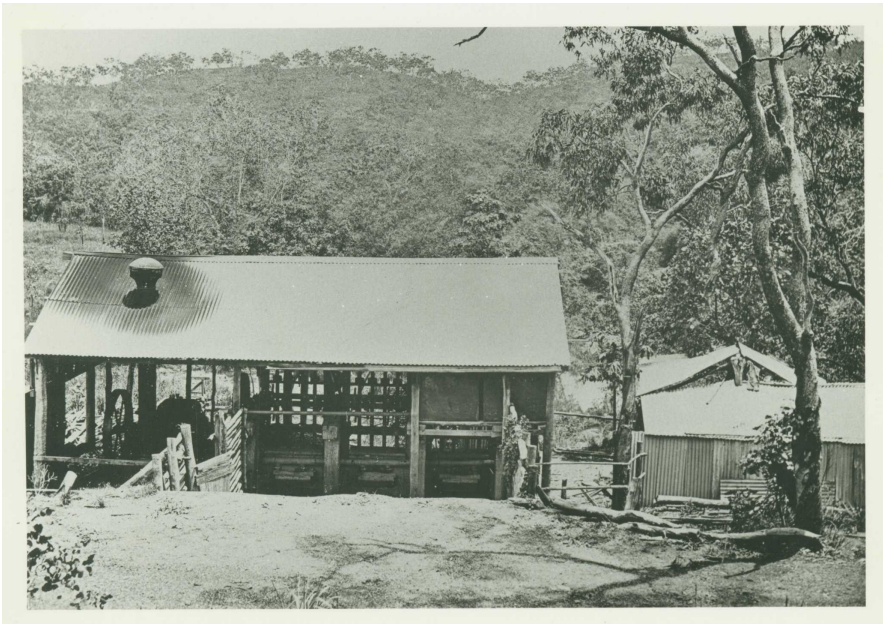
One of the first deaths to occur on the route of the Overland Telegraph Line was on 6 November 1871. It was that of **John Bowman** at Stapleton Creek. The death of Bowman will confirm at that time, the creek feature, Stapleton Creek had been identified by the Telegraph parties and a name had been ascribed to it.

John L. Stapleton had served on the Line until 1874, when he was transferred further south to Barrow Creek Telegraph Station, where he died aged 41, when the Kaitish aborigines attacked the Station. He

and J Franks were killed at that time and were buried there.

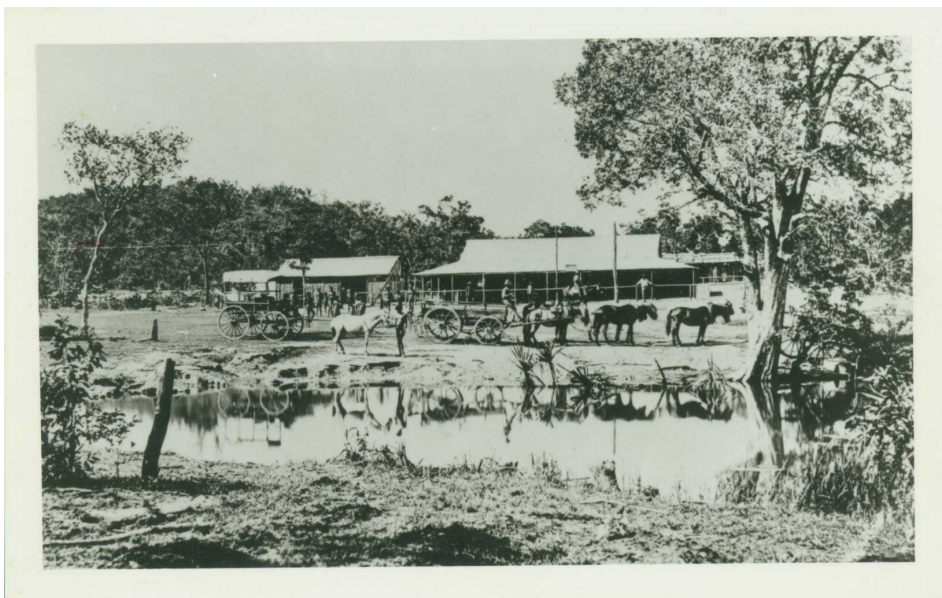
A young Scottish surveyor from the Isle of Skye, Alex L. Mackay, carried out surveys at the Tumbling Waters in 1874, expanding the small townsite and also a trigonometrical survey of what was later known as Batchelor, locating and naming two hills there, Mount Minza and Mount Durand. Mackay named them after George Minza, an auctioneer of Palmerston, who had come north to manage the properties of George Duddell. Edouard Durand was the French Consul for the Territory area and had a business in Palmerston. Mackay was one of those who tragically drowned in the wreck of the *Gothenburg* off the Queensland coast in February 1875.

Things settled down at Stapleton Creek by April 1875 when the “Our House Hotel” opened as planned by Charles Haimes, nearby the creek on the O.T. Line. A Mine – the Virginia Gold Mine – had been discovered in the low hills. In the first years of the settlement at Stapleton Creek there were five deaths at the site including a drowning.



Virginia Gold Mine

Whilst **John Bowman**, the bullock driver who came from Sydney, was the first death at this location in 1871, the second death was that of **Donald McMillan** on 5 December 1873, aged 40. He was an employee of the Port Darwin Mining Company, who had arrived on the *Omeo* five months previously and had been at the Reefs. He suffered from a fever and had left to consult a doctor. He was accompanied by a Mr Weger, but died near Stapleton and was buried there on 23 November 1873. (N.T.T.G 5.12.1873).



Our House Hotel, Stapleton Ck
1875

Ah Prung, a Coolie aged 24 years from Singapore died at Stapleton creek on 20th September, 1874.

Phillip Curran, a gold miner died at Stapleton Creek on 23 November, 1874. A Robert Curran, who may have been related, came up to join the N.T Police in Palmerston in January 1877, resigning in 1879.

In Country Correspondence in the *N.T Times and Gazette* of 6 November, 1875, there is an account of a fatal drowning which occurred at Stapleton Creek on 2 November, 1875.

“**Thomas Walker**, one of the Virginia Company men went to a billabong as usual on Saturday afternoon to wash himself and clothes. As he did not come to tea when called, one of the men in the Company employ (C.F Keleher) went to look for him. He quickly returned to the hole and Mr Clegg and David Johnson went into the water to try and find him, but without success on account of lilies and weeds. After dragging without avail for some time, a raft was constructed and by the aid of ropes on either side and Mr Clegg on the raft, carefully searched every part of the hole until the body was recovered about 8 p.m. . It was conveyed to the Hotel and information sent to the Police Trooper at the Adelaide Crossing. The arms were crossed at the wrist and tightly bound together with reeds. From the tracks at the waters edge, it appears that Walker who was a good swimmer had walked in some way and getting entangled in the reeds could not rise and was drowned. P.T Lees came down on Sunday morning took particulars and at 4 in the afternoon, the body was buried in the presence of all his fellow workmen, who knew him as a sober, steady man, a good workman and a good mate. He was I believe a single man and had no relatives in the Colony.”

The Hotel at the Adelaide Crossing was in charge of Mr and Mrs Mathew Lane in early 1877 after approval in the Licensing Court. Rose Isabella Lane of London had married on 17 May, 1877, Leslie Samuel Benison, son of the late Major Benison of H.M 39th Foot at Port Darwin Camp by the Rev Langsford. Mr **Mathew Lane** aged 39, Hotelkeeper at Adelaide River, died at Stapleton on 9 October, 1877..

An unknown Chinese was found dead near Stapleton on 12th April, 1879

Mr **William Stevens**, a well known prospector died at Stapleton on 4 June, 1879 aged 36 years from general debility. "He had been a long time in delicate health on the Union and his mates at last persuaded him to go down to the Palmerston hospital. He only reached Stapleton, where he died. Stevens was a single man but his parents are in Adelaide." *N.T Times 14.06.1879.*

A Chinese **Yung Ah Chew** from Daly Waters had died at Stapleton on 9th June, 1879. During this year many at Southport, Stapleton and in the goldfields had died of fever in these parts..

Two further Chinese were buried at Stapleton, dying respectfully on third and seventh of December, 1879.

A year later on 29 December, 1880, a **Frank Ellison**, seaman aged 42 years died at Stapleton.

On 30th December, 1882, **Ah Young**, a carpenter died at Stapleton.

Ah Cooley, a labourer from Palmerston aged 28 years died at Stapleton on 1st January, 1888.

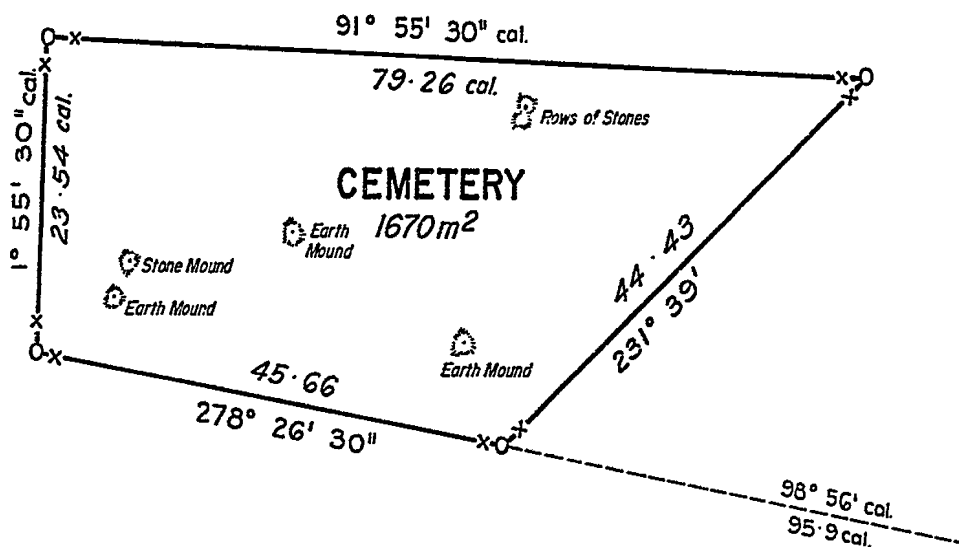
In early 1891, a man named **Conrad Engel**, a miner from Germany, "who had been for some months past prospecting around Pine Creek, was last week in a starving condition by a traveller on his way to Pine Creek. He was then 23 miles away. He stated he had no tucker for 11 days and was in a wretched condition He was given food and drink and the police brought him to Pine Creek." *N.T.T G 2.01.1891.* However Engel died on 17 June, 1897 in a hut at Stapleton. The deceased had been prospecting around the Stapleton and the Adelaide River districts for the past few month before his death

William Thomas, a miner aged about 40 years at the Great Northern was killed by the train at Stapleton on 10 April, 1902, but was buried in the Palmerston Cemetery.(Grave No. 209).

W.J Sowden's book "The Northern Territory As It Was", 1882 describes this Cemetery "as the only fenced Cemetery in the Goldfields, enclosed by a two railed fence. The place is neglected. There is no care taken of God's acre here. Death is likely esteemed in the locality" The Stapleton Cemetery survived and was surveyed by E Copley Playford in November, 1908, but resurveyed in 1989 by Graeme Everingham. Let us hope that heritage legislation will preserve this "God's Acre" and those who died here at Stapleton in the Territory and the local Government Council will take on its care.

STAPLETON CEMETERY – LISTING 16 DEATHS

| | | | | |
|------------------|------------|--------------------------|---------------|----------|
| BOWMAN, John | 1871.11.06 | Bullock Driver Syd | Stapleton Ck | 3/1/1 |
| MCMILLAN, Donald | 1873.11.28 | Labourer, Pine Ck | Nr Stapleton | 22/6/1 |
| AH PRUNG | 1874.09.20 | Coolie, Singapore | Stapleton Crk | 25/11/1 |
| CURRAN, Phillip | 1874.11.23 | Gold Miner | Stapleton Crk | 18/15/1 |
| WALKER, Thomas | 1875.11.06 | Virginia Coy | Stapleton | |
| LANE, Mathew | 1877.10.09 | Hotelkeeper | Adelaide Riv. | 92/28/1 |
| Unknown Chinese | 1879.04.12 | Chinese found dead | Nr Stapleton | 50/45/1 |
| STEVENS, William | 1879.06.04 | Miner Union Reef | Stapleton | 86/51/1 |
| YUNG AH CHEW | 1879.06.09 | Lab. Chinese Daly Waters | Stapleton | 88/51/1 |
| Unknown Chinese | 1879.12.03 | Chinese | Stapleton | 146/61/1 |
| Unknown Chinese | 1879.12.07 | Chinese | Stapleton | 158/63/1 |
| ELLISON, Frank | 1880.12.29 | Seaman Stapleton | Stapleton | 10/92/1 |
| YOUNG AH | 1882.12.30 | Carpenter Stapleton | Stapleton | 1/114/1 |
| COOEY AH | 1888.01.01 | Lab Palmerston | Stapleton | 15/160/1 |
| ENGEL, Conrad | 1897.06.17 | Miner Stapleton | Stapleton | 247/4 |
| THOMAS, William | 1902.04.09 | Miner Stapleton | Stapleton | 353/5 |



Extract from Survey plan S88/249, by G Everingham

J. Kyriakos, aka James Kyriakos, aka Jimmy the Greek /

By R. Sheridan

As a volunteer I was given a scrap of paper showing a plan with 'Jimmy the Greek' and 'J. Kyriakos' pencilled on it. When I mentioned this to others, they assumed it was the Kyriakos that had the Zero in the Tropics café. I set out to find the truth about 'Jimmy the Greek' using Trove, books and National Archives. This is what I found.

J. Kyriakos, aka James Kyriakos, aka Jimmy the Greek was born **Dimitrios Kyriakos** on 26 February 1886 at Kastellorizon, Turkey (later Greece) to parents Kyriakos Pipazaris and Maria (nee Stephanou). His siblings were Sevasti, George, Yannis (John), Agapitos, Anastasia, Costa, Panagiotis and Stamatis.

Dimitrios Kyriakos arrived in Fremantle, W.A. on 30 March 1907 several years before the main wave of Kastellorian immigration to Western Australia. Restrictions under Turkish rule and economic hardship were the push factors.

Kyriakos worked in Perth for three years then moved to Sydney where he worked until December 1912 when he returned to W.A. He started a business (fish and supper rooms) in Avon Terrace, York in March 1913. In the same year he applied for naturalisation which was awarded on 24 August 1913.

Kyriakos may have been one of the 7 Greeks, all from Kastellorizon, on board a WA State Shipping Line steamer to Darwin in 1914 referred to in Michael Christie's book (From the islands: A history of Greek settlement in the Top End of Australia 1914 - 84). Unfortunately, the passenger lists for that year are missing.

A 'J. Kyriakos' was elected to the committee of The Hellenic Association in Darwin in 1918. Mr J. Kyriakos appears in the newspaper again in 1919 with reference to the dissolution of his partnership with L. Smith in the Imperial Café. That this café was experiencing financial worries is evident by the sale by auction of "chairs, tables, cutlery, crockery, cooking utensils and sundries" in March of the same year.

On 16 August 1919 appears an advertisement for the 'Darwin Café and Supper Rooms under entirely new management – Kyriakos Bros.' Brother George has joined Dimitrios as his employee as is evidenced by information on George's naturalisation papers. George came to WA in 1912 and worked in a fruit shop in Perth before moving to Darwin where he married in 1919. The two brothers had bought the business from George Livisianos.

It appears that by this time Dimitrios Kyriakos is using the trade name James Kyriakos. The anglicised version of 'Dimitrios' is 'James.' Perhaps he uses this to appeal to his white European customers in the same way as his advertisement promising 'All cooking done to European taste.'

By 1921 it appears that the brothers have parted as business partners – there is no longer a reference to Kyriakos Bros. in his advertising. Further news accounts refer to Kyriakos undercutting competition from State Hotels (1921) and refusing to serve 'scabs' during a strike (1922).

Kyriakos closed his business on Easter Monday 1924 in considerable debt. A meeting of his creditors was called for 30 April at Wing Sang Tong's premises. His debts were about £260. He was stony broke. To make ends meet he began making and selling hop beer which contained spirits. Unfortunately, he was caught selling it to an aboriginal in 1925 and was fined £50, or 6 months gaol. As he had used all his assets to meet his creditors' demands he had to take the gaol sentence.

In 1926 Kyriakos went to Sydney and returned with his bride, Eleni Xarsas. They were married on 21 February 1926 in Sydney. The newspaper report refers to him as 'formerly of the Darwin Café.' In 1926 when Kyriakos was a witness in an assault case, he stated that he lived in Mc Minn St.

The next reference to what Kyriakos is doing comes in this advertisement from December 1926 ... 'the Cosmopolitan Lodging House is now open for business. The well-known Jimmy the Greek (J. Kyriakos) is one of the managers, which is a guarantee that the wants of patrons will be catered for. The rates are 1/- per night or 6/- per week.'

Concerned that he might be confused with Veyianos Kyriakos, Dimitrios posts this letter to the newspaper in 1927.

AN EXPLANATION

(To the Editor).

Sir,-The N.T. Times"24/8/27, under the heading of Police Court, states that a man named Veyianos Kyriakos was fined for keeping dirty premises, viz., the Darwin Cafe. It should have read Veyianos Keriakos. As late proprietor of the Darwin Cafe I would like the public to know that I was not the person mentioned or any relation.

JAMES KYRIAKOS (Better known as "Jimmy the Greek.")

Kyriakos has another date in court in late 1927 when Biolas Kyriakos sues him with respect to the sale of fish and money lent. *The Northern Territory Times* outlines the circumstances and outcome thus:

Kyriakos v. Kyriakos Before N. C. Rell, Esq. S.M. on Tuesday, Biolas Kyriakos sued Dimitrios Kyriakos for £9/2/6, balance of account rendered alleged to be due in respect of sale of fish and money lent.

...

Biolas Kyriakos, through his interpreter, Tom Savis, said he knew defendant when in their own country. He lent defendant £4 three or four days before Christmas 1923 with which to buy some stuff from Man Fong Lau. Defendant was then keeper of the Darwin Cafe. When he closed the Café, he went to live near the hospital and made hop beer. He went to see defendant, found him broke, and lent him another £2. Defendant was caught selling hop beer and went to Fanny Bay Gaol.

On his release he went to plaintiff's fish trap near Fanny Bay. Plaintiff was cooking and gave him something to eat. Defendant then asked for a couple of pounds. At plaintiff's request Mrs Magriplis got £2 and gave it to defendant, the two children Agapitos and Katie Magriplis being present. ...

... Katie Magriplis, manageress of the Darwin Cafe, said she remembered when the family lived at Fanny Bay, where Biolas Kyriakos ran fish traps. When defendant came out of jail, he asked plaintiff for a loan of

£2 which her mother gave ... at plaintiff's request. She did not know the date, she thought in 1925, but had no idea of the month.

Dimitrius Kyriakos, the defendant, stated that he knew nothing about the £4 alleged to have been lent him. He used to get fish but paid for it.

After losing the shop he lived near the hospital and made hop beer. He had money. When he came out of Fannie Bay, they were waiting for him outside with a sulky and invited him to lunch. ...

To Mr Barratt: He closed his business on Easter Monday 1924. He was then in debt and was still in debt. He attended a meeting of his creditors. His debts were something like £260. He had £5 or £10 in his pocket when he went out of the shop. He wanted that money to live....

His Worship said the evidence on both sides was unsatisfactory, excepting the evidence of the two children regarding the £2 said to have been lent when defendant came out of jail. Defendant admits they met him with a sulky and invited him to dinner. Under the circumstances it was a very natural thing to lend him £2. With regard to the debts the evidence was very unsatisfactory. A verdict was given for plaintiff for £2 and costs.

The electoral rolls for 1927 – 1930 record Dimitrios Kyriakos as a café proprietor in Darwin. The 1931 – 1937 rolls show him and his wife living at Woods Lane, East Sydney. He is a labourer. He dies in 1939 in Sydney and his wife dies in 1988.

The name Kyriakos is most remembered in Darwin for Kyriakos' Zero in the Tropics café which operated from 1936 under the joint ownership of Vayanos Kyriakos (not related to Jimmy the Greek) and John Magripilis. They installed what was probably the first refrigeration in the town and were known for selling wonderful ice cream.

An undated map showing the properties in Darwin City clearly shows that the Darwin Café of Jimmy the Greek and the Kyriakos, Zero in the Tropics Café are situated in different locations. The former is opposite the Terminus Hotel and the latter on the corner of Bennett and Cavenagh St.

Sources

National Archives of Australia

Northern Territory Times and Gazette, Saturday 2 August 1919, page 14

Northern Standard, Thursday 4 August 1921, page 4

Northern Standard, Tuesday 13 July 1926, page 2

Northern Standard, Tuesday 14 December 1926, page 2

Northern Standard, Friday 2 September 1927, page 2

A great Australian:

Kettle, Ellen Sarah, MBE (1922 - 1999)

Born in Colac, Victoria, in 1922, Ellen Kettle completed her general nursing training at Geelong district hospital in 1945 and her midwifery certificate in Townsville, Queensland. After completing her training in 1951 Kettle spent the six months on Thursday Island caring for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. This experience reawakened a childhood ambition to work among aboriginal people which prompted her to write to the Director of Health in Canberra asking about the opportunities for employment as a nurse in the Northern Territory. A few weeks later she was interviewed and commenced nursing on a Government Aboriginal settlement about 185 miles from Alice Springs. Conditions were rough on the isolated Yuendumu settlement which consisted of about 400 desert people. Most of them had no English and Kettle did not speak their language. The hospital and living quarters were constructed of unlined war-time camouflaged iron with no electricity or reticulated water.



In 1954 Nurse Kettle was appointed the Commonwealth Department of Health's first Rural Survey Sister pioneering mobile health work in isolated areas of the Northern Territory. Over the next five decades she almost single-handedly revolutionized Aboriginal health in the area by creating medical records for thousands of patients and drawing attention to their plight, particularly in regard to high infant mortality. In 1958 she began work on introducing standardized records and weight graphs for infants under five years of age. She visited all church missions, Government settlements and large cattle stations and started a register of Aboriginal births and deaths. In 1966 she used data obtained from the Northern Territory Methodist Missions to publish the first record of weight and height curves for Aboriginal children under five. In 1968, on her own initiative, she prepared a submission for the Northern Territory Director of Health detailing how nursing in the outback needed to be organised and what sort of staffing levels were required. Her approach and calls for change were usually met with indifference and even opposition. However the medical records that she gathered amounted to a body of evidence that the authorities could not deny. They formed the basis of improved service provision to remote Territorians, as imperfect as they still may be. In 1967 she was awarded an MBE for services to nursing.

In 1969 Kettle was seconded to Papua New Guinea as Principal Matron in charge of all nursing in the country. Here her key focus was on preparing indigenous nursing staff for senior posts as the country moved towards independence. She returned to Australia in 1975 and in 1977 was appointed Regional Matron for the East Arnhem region of the Northern Territory, a position she held until 1980. In retirement,

Kettle began to record her own experiences as well as the broader history of health services in the Northern Territory and Papua New Guinea. She passed away in Darwin in 1999.

Australian Women's Archives Project and Libraries Australia

JOYCE DAVIS ON FACEBOOK.

It seems that a lot of people are not aware of the first white man taken around Darwin by a crocodile.

The first man taken was a policeman that arrived with the first lot of settlers to arrive in Darwin. One day not long after coming they were out on a boat and he decided as it was so hot he would go for a swim, against the warning of the others about crocodiles in the water. He dived in and saw what he thought was a floating log near the shore and was swimming towards it. The others on the ship were screaming out to him but whether he heard or not we do not know. He was not far from the log when he realized it was a crocodile so turned and hastily swam towards the ship but the croc was a quicker swimmer and caught him and killed him. His name was William Davis and he originally came from Victoria.

THE CROCODILE CHRONICLES AUSTRALIA

<http://thecrocodilechroniclesaustralia.com/crocodile-attacks-n-t/>

16th May 1872. Trooper William Davis was attacked by a saltwater crocodile Darwin Harbour. FATAL.

"A young trooper by the name of Davis, a keen swimmer, disregarded the general order, and one morning early went for a swim. Far out in the harbour he noticed what he and others took to be a floating log. Many of the northern trees float, and are washed down in the wet season to the open sea. Out went the strong swimmer, nearer and nearer to the supposed log, until too late he recognised his mistake, and that he was approaching instead of a log a huge and apparently listless crocodile."

A WARNING CAME – TOO LATE!

"But the knowledge came too late to be of any service to poor Davis, though some men called out to him (from a small craft close by) to 'go back,' 'go back,' and Davis did make an attempt to retreat, and was swimming manfully shorewards when the huge brute flashed down upon him at a terrific speed, and opening his great jaws to their utmost capacity came down with a smack that was heard even to the shore, and inside their cruel grasp was trooper Davis's head. Then with the quickness common to the saurian it had disappeared with its victim."

CROCODILE ATTACKS N.T. AND FOLLOW UP.

"Every possible attempt was made to recover the body, but without success, though the harbour was soon alive with boats, and the water thrashed around for a considerable time. Though this means failed the body was soon afterwards found lying on a rock, or rather a reef, some little distance from the scene of the accident."

SALTWATER CROCODILES OR SALTIES, KILLERS OF MAN AND BEAST.

"The crash of the brute's jaws had broken his neck, the teeth marks being most noticeable on both temples. The lowering of the boats and the noise of the beaten water had no doubt caused the monster to let go his prey and leave it in the power of Davis's fellow-townsmen to afford him Christian burial, which was done the same evening, the coffin being borne by his late comrades, the whole forming a most impressive and sorrowful ceremony."



FROM FACEBOOK 'THE BUSHIES'

Australian Dictionary of Biography

Buffalo Shooter, Joe Cooper, Melville Island 1912.

Robert Joel Cooper, (Joe Cooper) born, 29 Feb, 1860, Fairview, SA.

Joe Cooper was one of the first and most famous buffalo shooters.

Sometime between 1878 and 1881, Joe and his brother Harry, drove a mob of horses from Adelaide to the Territory.

In June 1895, Joe Cooper, Harry Cooper, Barney Flynn and some Iwardja Aborigines set up a shooting camp on Melville Island where they were attacked by Tiwi tribesmen. Joe Cooper was speared in the shoulder, but managed to escape, abducting four Tiwi Aborigines, including two women.

From 1898, for about 7 years, he was mining at Pine Creek and cutting timber and buffalo shooting in the Malay Bay area. Joe learned the Tiwi language from the abducted Melville Islanders and in 1905, returned to Melville Island with the Tiwi Aboriginals and twenty Port Essington Aboriginals.

Joe Cooper became the first European settler since Fort Dundas was abandoned in 1828 and stayed for ten years, shooting around 10,000 buffalo. He also cut Cypress pine and harvested trepang, transporting his products to the mainland via his lugger 'Buffalo'.

In 1890, Joe married a Port Essington Aboriginal girl named Alice Rose and they had three children. Joe became a legend in his own time and was referred to as "The king of Melville Island". He was appointed honorary sub-protector of Aborigines in 1911 and mainland Aboriginals addicted to alcohol or opium were placed in his care.

Joe Cooper returned to the mainland in 1916. He lived at Port Bremer for a while and by 1933 was in Darwin where he died on 7 August 1936.

Photo: Library & Archives NT. Photo number: PH0100/0132

Photographer: Campbell, James Pinkerton

Citation address:

<https://hdl.handle.net/10070/730353>

THE BUFFALO'S FAREWELL

I'm an old Grey Buff near a waterhole,

Just outside of Kakadu.

They've shot me cows

And they've shot me calves

And They're out to shoot me too!

There's a long nosed pig standing with me here

And he heard the gunships too;

He knows there's a feed in this thing for him

When the airborne cowboys' through.

This long nosed pig has a terrible cough

And he says that he's got TB;

But I've never had a sniffle in me long weary life

But the gunships' 'r after me!

I'm not bitter at the airborne cowboys;

They're just shooting for the Do-re-me,

But the ones who ordered all this killing,
They're just doing it for policy.

I'm a Free Range Buff who's about to be shot;
And they won't even use me hide.
If I was a Black or a Chinaman
They'd call it Genocide.
If I was an old Bald Eagle,
A Seal or Koala Bear
The Greenies would shout to the end of the earth' "This killin just isn't fair!"

They say I'm an introduced species
So it's alright to shoot me out'
But Whites are introduced also,
So's me mate here with the big long snout.
Where are the people who've lived off me
For a hundred years or so
Are they going to stand by and watch me die
And not even strike a blow?

I'm an old Grey Buff and I'm hiding here
'Neath the shade of a banyan tree.
I'm hunted each day
But I heard them say,
I'm the symbol of the Territory!
If this is what they do to their symbol;
If this is the name of their game;
The stink of my rotting carcass
Will bear witness to their shame!

I'm an old Grey Buff
And I can't really talk
And I can even write you see;

I haven't any clout
And I'm being wiped out;
Would you do one thing for me?
Write a list of all those who wiped us out
From the clerks to the ministry,
So you can tell your kids
And their children's kids
That This is our History!

Nick Byrne

Humpty Doo, N.T.

11 December 1989

Found on Facebook

FamilySearch Completes Digitization of Massive Microfilm Collection

21 September 2021



SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH It is a milestone 83 years in the making. Today FamilySearch International announced the completion of a massive project to digitize its collection of millions of rolls of microfilm containing billions of family history records from around the world. The archive containing information on more than 11.5 billion individuals is now freely available to the public on FamilySearch.org.

"We hope that all those who contributed to this milestone in the last 80 years feel a sense of humble accomplishment today," said Steve Rockwood, the CEO of FamilySearch International. "And we hope the millions of individuals who will discover, gather, and connect generation upon generation of their family members for years to come because of these efforts will have a deep sense of gratitude for the many unheralded contributors who made those discoveries possible."

"It's a game-changer for everybody in the world. So, instead of having to come to the library, people can start accessing these records from home," said Becky Adamson, a research specialist at the FamilySearch Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Over 200 countries and principalities and more than 100 languages are represented in the digitized documents. Completion of the project makes it much easier for individuals to make more personal and family discoveries.

To explore FamilySearch's free collections of indexed records and images, go to [FamilySearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org) and search both "Records" and "Images". The Images feature enables users to peruse digitized images from the microfilm collection and more. A free FamilySearch account will be required to access the service.

History of FamilySearch Records Preservation

FamilySearch and its predecessors have been collecting, preserving, and providing access to genealogically significant historical records for more than 100 years. Those records include birth, death, marriage, census, military service, immigration, and other types of documents.

FamilySearch began microfilming in 1938 as the Genealogical Society of Utah. It was one of the first major organizations to embrace the use of microfilm imaging. That microfilm collection eventually grew to more than 2.4 million rolls.

For many decades, duplicates of the original rolls could be ordered and viewed at one of FamilySearch's more than 5,000 family history centers worldwide. The process of duplicating and distributing microfilm copies, and the laborious research that followed, seems excruciating by today's instant online research standards, but at the time, it was innovative and the easiest, most economical way available to help patrons worldwide find family information without having to travel to an archive holding the original records.

FamilySearch ended its microfilm distribution to family history centers in September 2017 when it began its transition to an all-digital, free, online access approach. The microfilm collection will continue to be preserved, but the information the rolls contain can now be easily viewed and searched online.

FamilySearch continues to capture images of original records at an ever-increasing rate, howbeit in digital form, bypassing the need to transfer the information from film.

The Microfilm Digitization Timeline

Digitization of the rolls of film began more than 20 years ago when FamilySearch purchased its first microfilm scanners in 1998. The project was expected to take over 50 years to complete, but advances in technology helped shorten the timeline by nearly 30 years. The last of the microfilm scanning was completed this year. The project took a leap forward in 2006 when software and processes were developed by FamilySearch in conjunction with the Church History and the Information and Communication Services Departments of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The scanning began with about 5

employees. As the process was developed, up to 30 employees using 26 scanners were working on the process, even during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The digitization effort has been directed by the Church Historian and Recorder and executed by preservation professionals in the Church History Department. The last roll of film added to the collection was captured by FamilySearch's in-field cameras in 2018.

FamilySearch is committed to collecting, preserving, and providing access to the world's genealogical records to help individuals and families worldwide discover and connect with their family histories. FamilySearch will continue to increase the digitization of new records worldwide from its digital camera operations and partnerships. It will also begin digitizing 335,000 microfiches in its collections.

About FamilySearch

FamilySearch International is the largest genealogy organization in the world. FamilySearch is a non-profit, volunteer-driven organization sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Millions of people use FamilySearch records, resources, and services to learn more about their family history. To help in this great pursuit, FamilySearch and its predecessors have been actively gathering, preserving, and sharing genealogical records worldwide for over 100 years. Patrons may access FamilySearch services and resources free online at FamilySearch.org or through over 5,000 family history centers in 129 countries, including the main Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Web Sites

<https://sydneybenevolentasylum.com/index.php>

Sydney Benevolent Asylum

Index to Admissions and Discharges 1857 – 1900

<https://hobart.catholic.org.au/2021/07/08/cemetery-records-digitised/>

Archdiocese of Hobart

Catholic burial & cremation database now accessible online

CONVICT REFERENCE SITES

This document is a short list of various sites which are of assistance when researching convict ancestors. It may be of use to those just getting started on this journey.

There are also many helpful FaceBook groups which are worth searching for. V 1.2: Steve Farmer August 2020.

With thanks to all the people who contributed to this document

Free

Claim a Convict

<https://www.hawkesbury.net.au/claimaconvict/search.php>

Established by genealogist Lesley Uebel, the Claim a Convict website originally went online on the 19 August 1998. The site offered researchers a free service that enabled those researching the same convicts ancestors to contact each other directly by email.

Irish Convicts to NSW

<http://members.pcug.org.au/~ppmay/cgi-bin/irish/irish.cgi>

Provides a free searchable database thanks to Peter Mayberry

Convict Records

<https://convictrecords.com.au/>

This website allows you to search the British Convict transportation register for convicts transported to Australia between 1787-1867.

Old Bailey Online

<https://www.oldbaileyonline.org/>

A fully searchable edition of the largest body of texts detailing the lives of non-elite people ever published, containing 197,745 criminal trials held at London's central criminal court.

State Records of NSW

<https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/>

We are the custodian of the archives of the NSW Government, the State Archives Collection. The Collection documents the Government's activities and functions from 1788 to today.

There are many convict records available here, as well as the Colonial Secretaries letters.

Of particular interest are;

<https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/guides-and-indexes/convicts/indexes>

<https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/guides-and-indexes/colonial-secretaryspapers>

<http://colsec.records.nsw.gov.au/>

National Library of Australia

<https://www.nla.gov.au/>

The national Library of Australia holds many records related to convicts

Trove

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/>

Search for digital copies of newspapers, Government Gazettes, maps, magazines and newsletters. Or books, pictures, photographs, archived websites, music and interviews. Even information about famous Australians, including copies of letters, diaries and personal archives.

Australian History Research

<http://www.australianhistoryresearch.info/>

Australian History Research is operated by Historian Cathy Dunn Heritage & Public History Consultant, Professional Family Historian. Author and Publisher of many Australian and local history books

HMS Sirius

<http://hmssirius.com.au/>

Also operated by Historian Cathy Dunn

Provides detailed information on HMS Sirius and Norfolk Island

Tasmanian Library Service

<https://libraries.tas.gov.au/convict-portal/Pages/convicts.aspx>

Tasmania Libraries site with a lot of information

State Library of Queensland

<http://onesearch.slq.qld.gov.au/primoexplore/>

A searchable database of convicts related to Queensland

Subscription Sites

Biographical Database of Australia

<https://www.bda-online.org.au/>

BDA is a new research tool for historians and genealogists comprising transcripts and indexes of original records and published biographies of deceased individuals who arrived in, or were born in, Australia. It has a modest subscription fee

General Sites

Genuki

<https://www.genuki.org.uk/>

GENUKI provides a virtual reference library of genealogical information of particular relevance to the UK and Ireland. It is a non-commercial service, maintained by a charitable trust and a group of volunteers.

FreeBMD

<https://www.freebmd.org.uk/>

FreeBMD is an ongoing project, the aim of which is to transcribe the Civil Registration index of births, marriages and deaths for England and Wales, and to provide free Internet access to the transcribed records.

Irish Genealogy

<https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/en/>

A website that allows users the opportunity to search a wide range of record sources in their search of their Irish Ancestry.

Scotlands People

<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>

The ScotlandsPeople website is the official Scottish Government site for searching government records and archives. It has free searching and a pay per view model.

UK General Register Office (GRO)

<https://www.gov.uk/research-family-history>

GRO has all the records registered in England and Wales from July 1837. You'll need to look at parish records to trace back further.

Members Interests:

Please contact the Genealogical Society of the NT if you have any interests in the following:

J Farr

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|-----------|---|-------------|
| Griffiths | Rhondda Valley, Glamorgan, Wales | 1870 – 1910 |
| Farr | London, St Catharines, Ontario, Canada | 1870 1910 |
| Adams | Devon, England | 1860 – 1910 |
| Watson | London, St Catharines, Ontario , Canada | 1860 1920 |

B Cowling

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|---------|-------------------|------|
| Cowling | Cornwall, England | 1890 |
| Wachen | Sussex, England | 1920 |

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| K Costello | Roman Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia | 1800 |
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S Bone

| | | |
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| Bone | Ayrshire, Scotland | Pre 1900 |
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| Bone | NSW , Australia | |
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| Duckworth | NSW , Australia | |
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| Elkington | NSW , Australia | |
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| Vitnell | NSW , Australia | |
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| Vitnell | Qld, Australia | |
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| Vitnell | Canterbury, England | |
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H MacMillan

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| Dowson | Durham, England | 1800 |
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B Manning

| | | |
|--------|--------------------|----------|
| Norton | Yorkshire, England | <present |
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| Manning | Ballinrobe, Mayo, Ireland | <present |
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| Mannion | New York, USA | <present |
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