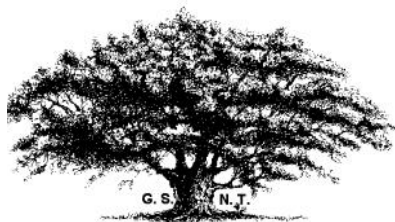


progenitor



**GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE NORTHERN
TERRITORY INC.**

The Family History Place



GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY INC

POSTAL ADDRESS:

The Secretary Genealogical Society of the NT Inc.

PO Box 37212

Winnellie NT 0821 Australia

ENQUIRIES:

Telephone 0412 018 015

Email:

committee@gsnt.org.au

Web Page:

www.gsnt.org.au

PATRON - His Honour the Honourable Austin Asche AC QC

HONORARY OFFICE BEARERS:

Acting President:

Neville Jones

Senior Vice President:

Julian Schuller

Vice President:

Judy Boland

Secretary/Public Officer:

June Tomlinson (0412 018 015)

Treasurer

Patsy Hickey

Committee Members:

Elaine Barry

Neville Jones

David Boys

Librarian:

Ruth Sheridan

Research Officer:

Vacant

Pioneer Coordinator:

Keven Young

Editor Progenitor:

Dianne Tessmann

Assistant Editor:

Jeanice Levez

Web Administrator:

Jeanice Levez

MEMBERSHIP: The membership years from July through to 30 June.
Half year membership is from January to June.

Joining Fee: \$10.00 (for one address)

Family: \$48.00 for 1st person plus \$40.00 per additional family member at same address

Single: \$48.00

Country: \$33.00 for 1st person plus \$25.00 per additional family member at same address -
Includes 4 hours Research - available to those living beyond Batchelor in The Northern Territory and includes all States and ACT

Family Pensioner: \$33.00 for 1st person plus \$25.00 per additional family member at same address

Single Pensioner: \$33.00

Overseas: AUD \$25.00 (Journal only)

Visitors Fee: \$20.00 per person

Donations to the Genealogical Society of the Northern Territory Library fund over \$2.00 are tax deductible.

Publications: A list of publications for sale is available from the Secretary and on our website

ADVERTISING IN PROGENITOR :

Advertisements for members less 5%

Full page for four consecutive issues \$160

Full page for one issue \$50

Half page or four consecutive issues \$100

Half page or one issue \$30

Members can advertise their research name free of charge.

PROGENITOR
THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY OF THE
NORTHERN TERRITORY INC.

This Society does not hold itself responsible for statements made or opinions expressed by authors of papers published in this journal. The accuracy of offers, services or goods appearing in *Progenitor* cannot be vouched for by this Society.

CONTENTS	Page
Early Nursing in Northern Territory Hospitals and Nursing Personalities	1
The Cornish Food Riots of 1847: Background and Context Cont'd.....	12
From the Ashes: The 1922 Irish Public Record Office Fire	30
How I came to be Living in Darwin, NT by June Tomlinson	33
Book Review: Unimaginable Futures	35
The Missing.....	38
Old Occupations.....	52
Alexandra Land	53

FRONT COVER: Darwins Nurses Quarters ‘The White House’ 1925

EARLY NURSING IN NORTHERN TERRITORY HOSPITALS
AND NURSING PERSONALITIES

By Jacqueline O'Brien OAM (Deceased)

If you consider hard work, frustration, bureaucracy, bungling, financial strangulation, corruption, bribery are related to the immediate past or present, you are wrong. It has been evident since the British Royal Marines settlement was established at Fort Dundas on Melville Island in 1824. It was evident in our Health system and Hospitals.

ALICE SPRINGS HOSPITAL - 1935 The population here violently rejected the Government Hospital and wanted to keep the Australian Inland Mission's Adelaide House Hostel of 1926. A short time later the Alice Springs people picked up the gauntlet and a Hospital was built in 1938.

TENNANT CREEK – People and Mines – Mrs S. Goddard, a trained Nurse held a health clinic in a room of the Mines Warden's Office. In 1935 a Hospital was built – two Wards of four beds. Sister Muirson, Matron.

KATHERINE HOSPITAL was opened in 1931.

THE SHACKLE/YAM CREEK MINER'S HOSPITAL was opened 1878 – 1890. The building was originally a Hotel built by Ellen Ryan, who later built the Victoria Hotel in Darwin.

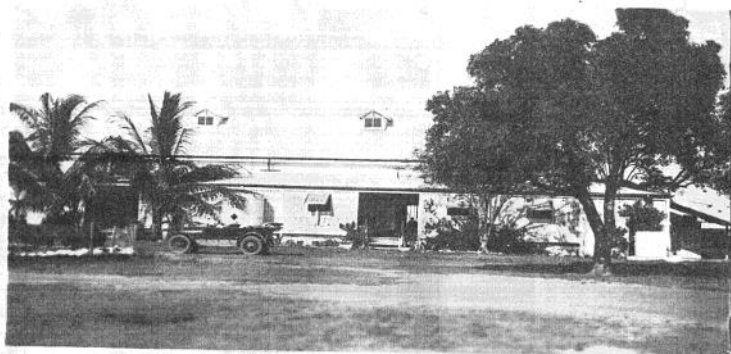
BURRUNDIE HOSPITAL (Built for the Overland Telegraph workers on the Railway in 1883 – 1903.

PINE CREEK HOSPITAL – Ex Burrundie Hospital, which was dismantled by hand and transported to Pine Creek for the sum of £2, 000 pounds, opened in 1911, closed in 1927 and reopened in 1934.

PALMERSTON HOSPITAL – There was a public meeting of residents, surveyors of the Overland Telegraph Line, Miners etc who sought the need for a Hospital in January 1874. A contract was let in April 1874 and the building was built through Chinese labour (paid at 1/- to 1/6 daily). On the 19th June 1874, the Hospital was opened for the public, it was situated on the edge of Doctor's Gully with a 90 foot drop to the sea (now Packard Street). The South Australian Government stated that if the Northern Territory wanted a Hospital, they should build it

themselves. It was never proclaimed a Hospital as South Australia did not want responsibility for its cost.

Miss Louisa Da Costa donated £1,000 pounds and locals raised £1,650 pounds for the necessary costs of the structure. The Hospital had two wards of six beds each, quarters for the Matron, kitchen, small room for drugs and surgery.



Nrs0341_0020_schultz DARWIN HOSPITAL - MAIN BUILDING

STAFF: Mrs Alice McGuire, First Matron of Darwin (Palmerston) Hospital appointed on 15 May 1874 – 1878. Salary of £52 pounds a year. Other staff included, a Chinese Cook, two Aboriginal ladies to do the washing when available, otherwise done by Matron McGuire. She drew water from the well.

There was no Female Ward. In 1888 the Hospital was overcrowded. Eighty one patients were discarded, 58 patients cured, 20 greatly relieved, 2 relieved and one unrelieved. In 1888 a Female Ward was built. In 1889, there was a nutrition need and a cow, which grazed on the wild pastures of Fannie Bay and the milk going to the Hospital. In 1897 the Hospital was destroyed by a cyclone, it was repaired with a new living quarters for Matron Davoren.

In 1911 the South Australian Government handed over control of the Northern Territory to the Commonwealth Government.

In 1912 Justice Mitchell ordered by Doctor Gilruth to oversee the laying of open drains to the edge of the cliff. It appeared then that effluent, urinals, bedpans, bathwater, laundry waste, mortuary etc were being directed over the cliff edge behind the Hospital site.

In 1918 Hurricane lamps were replaced by a Delco lighting plant which allowed ice, cold storage and a bell for every patient. New rules brought in restricted visitors for two hours only for two days a week. Patients found gambling, intoxicated, using profane language or causing a disturbance were immediately discharged from the Hospital.

In 1926 there were nursing problems at the Hospital, Matron Lang who was unpopular, found it difficult to manage staff, enforced long working hours. The Matron allowed her chooks (Fowl) to roam the hospital. Four Sisters went on strike and two Student Nurses did the work then went on strike. The chooks were penned and all returned to normal.

In 1930 the Hospital purchased a vehicle for £355 pounds, mechanic bill was £3.10s.11pence. Medical Fund for 12 months was 2/- per family, 1/6 for single people. The cost of each patient in hospital was 15/-, the hospital had 34 beds.

In 1935 Doctor Cook negotiated the transfer of Kahlin Compound to Bagot. In 1941 the new Kahlin Hospital had 130 beds. There were no fans or air conditioning. It had its own self styled air conditioning 11,000 louvers. The Kahlin Hospital was officially opened on 2 February 1942 – Population of Darwin approximately 7,500.

Nineteen days later Darwin was heavily bombed by the Japanese planes on 18 February 1942. All patients were evacuated to the Army Hospital at Berrimah. The Kahlin Hospital continued to do surgical operations by torch light held by volunteers (evacuation – Medical Superintendent and Matron). Kahlin Hospital Medical Superintendent and Matron were transferred to Defence Army control to the Navy. In 1946 the Hospital returned to Government as a General Hospital later with four million dollar extensions after cyclone Tracy on 24 December 1974.

In 1980 the Darwin Hospital was resited to Casuarina in an eight storied complex with 350 beds. In December 1983 this Hospital was known officially as the “Royal Darwin Hospital”.

LOUISA DA COSTA - the construction of the Palmerston Hospital was through Louisa's donation of £1,000 pounds in 1874 this was donated through her lawyer. Louisa also gave money for furniture and items at the time for the Da Costa Infectious Ward that never occurred. A park area on the edge of Larrakeyah call Da Costa Park was gazetted in Darwin.

Louisa and her brother Benjamin had arrived in Adelaide in 1841 and lived in Grenfell Street, Benjamin was described as a Business General Merchant. Louisa was of Jewish extraction and a devoted Anglican. In 1850 Louisa returned to the United Kingdom to live.

In 1899 Benjamin died, Louisa was the sole executor of his will. The Da Costas gave generously to Schools and Hospitals, eg The Samaritan Fund in South Australia and the Northern Territory Diocese Guild - start of the Adelaide Hospital 1882, funds for surgical appliances for discharged patient.

MATRON ALICE McGUIRE (nee Martin) – She was the most important nurse in the Northern Territory – its first Matron ever. She resided at Bridge Street, Kensington Adelaide South Australia. Alice was a married woman whose husband was John Samuel McGuire, they had two children when she applied for the Matron position in Palmerston in 1874. The appointment took effect from 5 May 1874, serving four years at a salary of £52 pounds per annum. When Alice took up residence at Palmerston, her nursing staff was a Chinese Cook and two washer ladies. Matron McGuire had her problems at the Hospital. In 1877 she handed in her resignation due to Dr Sturt's highly unethical treatment of her patients and health work in general. Wisdom prevailed and Dr Sturt left. The Matron stayed on at the Hospital as it was helped by the worthy donations by Louisa Da Costa in Adelaide.

The Palmerston Hospital was very isolated in the scrub far from the town. Matron McGuire was assaulted by strangers quite a few times, but when a Malay man assaulted her in her bed, her husband was allowed to reside at the Hospital. John Samuel McGuire was a Police Trooper, dismissed by Paul Foelsche, Police Inspector for his highly aggressive manner and frequent brutal alcoholic bouts. He was appointed orderly and then bookkeeper at the Palmerston Hospital. Matron McGuire gave all her monetary funds to the Rev. Bogle for safe keeping early in 1878. The Matron had a severe accident, returning from seeing Mrs Gilbert McMin off at the jetty – her sulky hit a large boulder, injuring her face and head, she recovered. On 1 July 1878 whilst her husband was south, the Rev Bogle arranged a passage on the SS "Atjeh" for herself and two daughters to leave by ship via Batavia, Hong Kong and thence to the UK where she remained and lived.

5/1

Sir,

Crown Lands Office,
ADELAIDE, 15 May 1874

By direction of the Honorable the

Commissioner

I beg to notify to you the following appointment in

the Northern Territory

Department.

Name of Officer—

Alice McGuire

Vice—

Newly Appointed

Title of Appointment—

Nurse

Grade as per Classification Regulations—

Date of Appointment—

1 May 1874

Amount of

Salary

£52 per annum

Allowance (Money, &c.)—

How to be provided for—

N. T. Estimate

Personal a/c

Head of Vote on Estimates—

Sub-head of Vote on Estimates—

Amount of Security to be given—

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

The

Auditor General

Sam. W. B. B. B.
1874

MATRON MARIE DAVOREN (nee Marie Sheehan 1858 County Clare Island) – Marie Davoren arrived in Australia on the ship "Arundel Castle". In 1884 she graduated as a Register Nurse at the Adelaide Hospital. She signed on as a suffragette. She applied for the position as Matron of the Palmerston Hospital and on the 26 August 1896 she sailed ex Adelaide on the SS "Australian" for Palmerston. Salary quoted at 144 pounds per year. On arrival due to the lack of South Australian Government finance she was appointed Acting Matron at a yearly salary of £96 pounds. She was the most maligned Matron of the Northern Territory. In 1897 a cyclone damaged the Palmerston Hospital, destroying the living quarters of the Matron. It was repaired within a year. In 1899 she took sick leave without pay. In 1902 Matron Davoren applied for an increase in her meagre salary, she was recommended by Doctor Goldsmith after five years of continued tropical service, but the Government Resident C. J. Dashwood refused, stating there was a decreased work load at the Hospital. In 1904 she continued to work and ill health continued, becoming gravely ill at intervals. On 29 March 1906, Matron Davoren died of dysentery and other body function failures. A funeral service was held at the Roman Catholic Chapel and she was buried at the Palmerston Pioneer Cemetery. Forty mourners and numerous wreaths were laid at her obituary, stating she won the heart and affection and sincere respect of a large circle of Territorians. Her contribution to nursing was a very difficult time for finance, the Government of the day using it unwisely. The naming of Davoren Circuit in Moulden (Palmerston) remembers her service to nursing in those years.

SISTER CONSTANCE STONE M.B.E., R.R.C. – Born in 1879 Sister Stone was appointed Matron of the Darwin Hospital in 1928 for one month. She transferred to the new position of

Clinic Sister. She had been awarded the M.B.E. and the medal of the Royal Red Cross for Nursing Service in World War 1. The Clinic was then situated in what was then the Administrator's Office, opposite the end of Christ Church Cathedral, Smith Street Darwin. Sister Stone opened an Anti and Post Natal Clinic for mothers and babies, Out Patient Department dressings, immunisations, infectious diseases and their tracing, home visits to patients in Health vehicle, the commencement of statistics, babies weight 8 ½ lb dry season, as opposed weight of 8 lb wet season. School medical inspections at Darwin and Katherine, height, weight, age, sex, sight, ears, worm testing (eg Hookworm). Travel was by train, rail quad, Dr Fenton, air, she taught invalid cookery to Staff Nurses at Darwin Hospital.

In July 1934 a Reunion and Complimentary Social by the R.S.L. to celebrate her M.B.E. decoration, Mr Barney Allen, Head Gardener of the Botanic Gardens, said that one of her virtues not mentioned was she was a better gardener than he was. She had turned the area of the Clinic from a wilderness to a paradise. Sister Stone retired at the age of 60 years in 1939 (pre World War II). When next you see a street name Constance Court in Palmerston you should remember the Army Nurse who single handed brought new meaning to the first Health Clinic services to pre war Darwin.

SISTER ELSIE MURIEL JONES M.B.E. (nee King) – Born 11 November 1889 at Barinsdale Victoria, trained as a Nurse 3 September 1916 Sale Hospital Victoria.

1916 – 1919 Army Nursing Service. Served at Salonika and Egypt WWI. 1921 Midwifery Certificate, joined A.I.M, in 1922 arrived in Darwin by ship. Posted to Maranboy, but a rider

came from V.R.D. with the news that eleven percent staff down with Malaria. Sister King had nursed malaria patients in Egypt. She was seconded to V.R.D. and nursed patients on the verandah of the V.R.D. Homestead. In 1923 she was appointed to the Wimmera Hospital, A.I.M. Sisters King and Gray made many hazardous horseback journeys to assist the sick and injured and delivering babies. Sister King had never been on a horse in her life. She rode for two days to reach a Policeman with a broken leg, she set the fracture, staying with him until he was well enough to travel. Sister King was later congratulated for what was a perfect union, not part of the Nurse/Policeman – but of the fractured bone.

In 1925 Sister King married John Jack Jones a Cattle Drover from V.R.D. In 1933 Mr and Mrs Jones and two children took on the task as Matron of the Half Caste Home at Pine Creek, she also attended the sick community there until the Pine Creek Hospital reopened in 1934. In June 1934 the Half Caste Home was transferred to the Bungalow (ex the original Overland Telegraph Station of 1872 at Alice Springs). They cared for 140 boys and girls, coped unaided with epidemics of measles, whooping cough, all children were immunised for diphtheria which was the only immunisation known at the time.

In Alice Springs their children Jack Jnr and Barbara developed Trachoma, caused by dust, the children spent most of their time in Victoria being treated, this meant they were away from their parents. Sister Jones requested the Government for a northern posting to avoid Trachoma and to be with their children, on 10 December 1936 she was appointed Matron to the Leprosy Hospital at Channel Island indicating how uncaring a Government posting can be. Sister Jones and her husband were unable to have their children living with them, there were

no visits by the children who lived with Eileen and Harry Gribbon in a house in Woods Street Darwin until they were able to attend a boarding school at Charters Towers. Sister Jones's pay was at the bottom of the range at £210 pounds per year, as the Leprosarium was deemed to be not busy, her salary was dipped to £190 pounds per year!!!

Elsie Jones delivered nursing care of the highest order and was greatly appreciated and loved by patients. She trained young patients as Nursing Assistants, she later helped in the war emergencies. Jack Jones was a signalman in the Army and taught the patients at the Leprosarium Morse Code with a torch to signal the Police Office across the Harbour in emergencies. He taught useful occupations to men, such as making furniture etc. He commanded discipline and respect and got it. In 1938 Elsie Jones was awarded the M.B.E. for services to Nursing. On 19 February 1942 Sister Jones was a patient at the Darwin Hospital when it was bombed by the Japanese. Next day she returned to Channel Island and arranged the evacuation of patients to the Quarantine Station and the mainland. On the 24th February she left with a Darwin convoy to Tennant Creek, she went by private transport to stay with Ray and Mrs Easy of Rockhampton Downs Station. She was acutely ill with a duodenal ulcer. The Royal Flying Doctor was not available, Dr Walter Straede and his wife Vivian new arrived at Tennant Creek took the long journey to Rockhampton Downs. They had refused a guide and extra maps and taking excess water. The car broke down and both of them died in the heat. Elsey finally flew Qantas from Cloncurry to Brisbane, on 17th May 1942 Sister Jones died at the Brisbane General Hospital aged 54 years. Jack Jones later died on 21 June 1979 in Tasmania.

The Cornish Food Riots of 1847: Background and Context Cont'd.....

By Francis Edwards



The Famine Statues, Custom House Quay, Dublin. By Rowan Gillespie, 19971. The potato blight that caused the Irish Famine also hit Cornwall in the winter of 1846-7

Rise of the Miners: Penzance, May 27, 1847

The present season of commercial difficulty ought to unite all classes of the community more firmly together – teach property that it has duties to perform...and labour that it has rights to respect...

“The Anticipated Famine”, Penzance Gazette, June 2, 1847

The above lines may have been written more in hope than expectation. The season of “commercial” difficulty (note the inference here that the problems are linked to business and trade, and that, therefore, is where the readers’ concerns ought to lie), was in fact driving an even bigger wedge between all society’s classes. “Property” was increasingly looking to protect its own interests, and “labour” looking to assert, or perform, their long-held right of marching for food and price-fixing in times of dearth. And so it was to prove in Penzance.



*Thomas Simon
Bolitho, Mayor of
Penzance.
Photograph by
Camille Silvy, 1862.
National Portrait
Gallery, NPG
Ax57380*

The Mayor of Penzance at the time was Thomas Simon Bolitho (1808-1887), of a powerful family of West Cornwall land-owners, adventurers, and tin-smelters. He would therefore have had ears in high places, and subterranean ones. Subsequently, rumours had reached him and the town's authorities over a week previously that the miners of the Breage and Germoe region intended to come to Penzance with what he would have viewed as nefarious purposes on market day – the 27th. This may have given Bolitho little cause for concern; after all, their numbers in Helston had only been a few hundred, and the Mayor there, Rogers, had demonstrated what could be done with a decent show of strength. However, on the 26th he received word that Breage's forces were to join with that of the miners from the St Just area, and this represented a far more considerable strain on Bolitho's resources.

The soldiers of the 5th Fusiliers had barely dumped their kitbags on the barrackroom floor at Pendennis Castle when they received yet another order to mobilise against civilians. Captain Simmonds (or Simmons) was again in command, as he had been in Helston. By dawn on the 27th, 60 Redcoats were in Penzance. Bolitho then pressed the coastguard, and a number

of sailors, into service. Besides this he also deputed a private army of 200 Special Constables. The shops were shut, taverns closed, and market trade suspended. Bolitho obviously feared the Breage and Germoe mens' hands. The town of Penzance was now utterly "begloomed".

From 9am, men "in bodies varying from 50 to 200 in number" began appearing at the town's outskirts. Two local padres, Fathers Punnet and Graham, met many of these itinerant bands and "expostulated with them, but in vain". By 11am, 3,000 miners, men, women and children, were at large in Penzance. This total later increased to 5,000, as the hungry of St Just joined forces with the hungry of Breage in the town centre.

These were now tense moments. As the crowd turned down Market Jew Street, it became apparent they were marching into a trap. The soldiers had been stationed "in a position to command from the windows the whole of the principal directions of the heart of the town": the army was covering the marchers with their muskets from an elevated position. It may have been Capt. Simmonds force, but it was Bolitho's town: he was the man issuing orders in cahoots with his fellow-magistrates, and managing the forces at his disposal, lest "evil ensue". He hadn't looked for this situation, but he can't have wanted it to end in a bloodbath either. The miners yelled at the sight of the Redcoats grimly scrutinising them from above, the women screamed murder, and the mob's overall appearance "bespoke fierceness", but, mercifully, nothing happened.

As at Helston, a rampage of looting was out of the question, if it had even been considered by the majority of the miners. Watched, probably from a safe distance, by fascinated townspeople, a halt was called at Eastern Green. Again, as at Helston, it was decided that a deputation of miners should

address Bolitho et al, at the Market House on Market Jew Street. Their purpose was to

...lay their case before them, and to ascertain what they could engage to do to alleviate their condition...

Penzance Gazette, June 2, 1847

And so the negotiations began. In a show of good faith, bread and victuals were distributed amongst the crowd by principal townsmen. Eventually, a deal was hit upon, with both sides apparently getting what they wanted. The miners would leave Penzance in a peaceful manner (and with the militia in town, this was something akin to gunboat diplomacy by the town authorities), and the town council would “use their utmost exertions” to secure a supply of barley, distributing said supply to the mining districts for sale at a reduced rate. With their stomachs full (or no longer empty), the crowd dispersed. Peacefully.

Reports state, with some relief, that “no violence...was resorted to” that day in Penzance. Matters had been attended to without serious incident, and supplies would soon be winging their way to the mining districts, courtesy of the town’s authorities.

But such arrangements take time. The bushels would only begin to arrive in the inflicted areas from June 5. For many, this was simply not fast enough. For many stricken families, even buying food at reduced rates was frankly no longer an option. And many therefore decided that sitting tight in their squat cottages waiting for good news was no longer feasible.

There were further riots, unrest and confrontation attributed to famine during 1847 at both Pool and Redruth with the final uprising taking place in St Austell.

Trouble in Clay Country: The Food Riots of 1847

The evil disposed

Charlestown United and Bucklers Mines, St Austell, have long vanished from the face of the earth. There's now a kitchen furniture dealership and various other businesses on Bucklers Lane, Boscoppa, near the old location of the mines. Back in 1847, though, these workings were a ferment of unrest. On the morning of June 11, the Captain of Bucklers, Hancock, became aware that some of his men had "risen", and by that he didn't mean coming to grass at the end of their shift. Approaching an open shaft, he came upon around 30-40 men, led by Charles Faull, 25, of Treleavens Cross, and Richard Kestall (or Kestell, or Kestle), 28, of Crantock.

Both Faull and Kestall were said to be earning good wages at a prosperous mine, but, as they had heard the price of bread had yet again risen in St Austell,

...it was no use for them to work any more...

The Royal Cornwall Gazette, 6 August 1847, p1

They, and their mining colleagues, were going to town to put matters right. They were also going to get reinforcements from among the men of the poorer-off clay works. These were two things Hancock found difficult to understand. What business would you have with them, he asked, for they are

...poor men [who] are differently situated from what you are, with the wages you are getting.

The Royal Cornwall Gazette, 6 August 1847, p1

But the miners were not to be talked down, and became increasingly impassioned, with Kestall telling Hancock that

...we'll go in and rob the shops and shove the
b_____s in the common sewer...

The Royal Cornwall Gazette, 6 August 1847, p4

A short while later, Kestall and Faull, their band now numbering over two hundred, arrived at the Blue Barrow Clay Works. They used persuasion and a bit of force to commandeer 24 of the 30 men on shift that day at Blue Barrow. This ever-burgeoning force was the “evil disposed” and their “poor dupes” who “intended interference” at St Austell market.

Parley? What parley?

There was to be little in the way of negotiating prices, or bartering with the authorities. Whereas, in previous disturbances, looting was a last resort, those who had heard what the miners were about that day in St Austell plainly came to town expecting “meditated plunder”. Local women, to the “disgrace of their sex”, walked the streets laden with baskets and containers of any stripe, in gleeful anticipation of some pillaging. They certainly encouraged their male counterparts to action, and were as conspicuous throughout the events as the miners.

2pm. 3,000 people are in the town centre, with an estimated hard core of 300 rioters. The tradespeople, as we have seen previously, did what tradespeople are wont to at any sign of people marching for food: they shut up shop, with the flour merchants and butchers to the fore.

Nonetheless, with the situation deteriorating, various minor incidents broke out. At Hannah Rowe’s bakery, going towards the old West Turnpike from Fore Street⁸, a swarthy band of individuals armed with a pick-hilt entered, demanding loaves and throwing bread to the crowd outside. Undeterred, Rowe slung the ringleader out on his ear, he threatening to “scat her brains out”. John Badge, a flour merchant on Fore Street proper, had a menacing visit from William Bunt, 46, a

blacksmith at Bucklers Mine. When Badge flatly refused Bunt's demand that he sell his flour cheaply, he was told that "you'll be the next we come to".

Bunt left, with the threat hanging in the air. Badge rapidly put his shutters up, and doubtless had a worrying few hours.

All of which begs the question: where were the authorities?

Enter Nicholas Kendall



*British (English) School; Nicholas Kendall
(b.1800); Royal Institution of Cornwall; [http://
www.artuk.org/artworks/nicholas-kendall-b-
1800-14110](http://www.artuk.org/artworks/nicholas-kendall-b-1800-14110)*

In fact, the authorities knew the miners were rising not long after Kestall and Faull marched out of Bucklers Mine. The High Sheriff of Cornwall, Nicholas Kendall (1800-1878), of Lanlivery, received word and was in St Austell before lunchtime. Kendall was also Conservative MP for East Cornwall, a County

Magistrate, and also a Captain of the Royal Rangers Militia¹². He was also, it must be said, a man of no little physical courage and resolve. Even when you strip away the somewhat fawning eulogies he received in the wake of the events, there's little doubt his industry and purpose ensured there was to be no repeats of what had happened in Pool and Redruth. The magistrate in Redruth, Magor, had had days to prepare for a mob of several thousands to march into the town, and matters there still degenerated into a full-on riot. Kendall, by contrast, had hours.

It was all he needed. By 1-2pm, with fellow magistrates Sir Joseph Sawle and Thomas Hext, Kendall had rustled up 55 soldiers of the 5th Fusiliers from Bodmin, mobilised the Coastguard, and deputised 30 Special Constables. Although the Redcoats had been observed marching toward St Austell, once present in the town they did not, for the time being, "show themselves". Kendall possibly wanted some element of surprise.



St Austell Town Hall and Market House, Market Square, erected in 1844

Setting up base in the new Town Hall, Kendall was soon informed of a disturbance by his Under Sheriff, Thomas Coode, of Pondhu House. Coode's residence provided a suitable

vantage point from which to observe the throng below, and what they saw was not promising. A crowd of four hundred, many brandishing sticks of “an enormous size”, were crying out that they were headed for “Warne’s Mills”, and dashed off in that direction. Kendall and Coode, realising, too late, that the soldiers were too distant to be deployed effectively, sprinted out of Pondhu House in hot pursuit.

Warne’s Mills

In the crowd of miners and clay-workers was Joseph Hore, 35, a man with a “peculiar eye”, a feature which counted against him later, and Matthew Roberts, 21, from St Breward. They, and their fellow-looters, rifled a few shops en route to the mill and, once arrived, took to the doors of that building with boots, pick-hilts, and whatever came to hand.

It’s important to note that, at this point, there had been no delegates nominated, to address the town’s authorities and/or merchants as to the crowd’s demands. All pretence toward diplomacy had, for the time being, been suspended. It was down to Kendall to restore it.

Mounting a wall, whilst the horde below him hacked, sweated and swore at the entrance to Warne’s Mills, he addressed them, later stating that:

...under ordinary circumstances nothing would induce me to hold a parley...but as I knew there was great distress in the country I would gladly hear all they had to say...

Royal Cornwall Gazette, 6 August 1847, p4

He advised they send a deputation and, after some grumbling, Kendall was told he could expect their demands in an hour’s time, back at the Town Hall. (The doors of Warne’s Mills were obviously pretty impregnable, and the men were getting

nowhere with them; if they'd forced entry, there would have been no deputation.) In the interim, Kendall warned them not to "keep up a row during that time", or else, of course, all bets were off.

The Town Hall

No sooner had Kendall and Coode returned to the Town Hall, hoping to have bought some time, when they were alerted to news of yet more looting close by. Again, Kendall chose to go with minimal back up: this time, he had one Special Constable with him, a civilian sworn in hours earlier, to go and pacify who knows what mayhem.

It was a mistake that could have cost him. As he spoke to the looters in rather schoolmasterly tones, ordering them to disperse "in the Queen's name", the miners turned and, in his words, several "squared up" to him, raising their sticks to put one through his jaw.

Maybe Kendall flinched; I doubt it. In the nick of time, a force of several Constables arrived, and a scuffle ensued. Two rioters were rapidly disarmed, clobbered, and dragged off to the nearby clink, which in those days was situated in the Town Hall.

Matthew Roberts then made a dash for Kendall, drawing back his own cudgel for a hardy swipe but, to his amazement, Kendall himself squared up to the man, grabbed him by the throat, sneered "how dare you" into Roberts' face, and threw him off to one side, for another Constable to deal with. Coolly wiping his hands, Kendall returned indoors to meet the delegation.

Stalled negotiations

Kendall was clearly a force to be reckoned with, and after the set-to outside the Town Hall, his blood must have been up. The delegates got short shrift, being told that lowering the price of corn was "perfectly impossible", under the current

circumstances. Corn was so scarce, he lectured, that

...we ought to be obliged to the persons who would bring us corn in this neighbourhood at any price...

Royal Cornwall Gazette, 6 August 1847, p4

Which is all well and good, if you can afford it.

He then went on to echo the earlier opinions of the Captain of Bucklers Mine, that the most riotous that day were actually more affluent than the more peaceably-minded. Kendall believed their motivations to march for food and riot were therefore wholly spurious, and driven more by a desire for general anarchy than any genuine need. He did, however, promise to call a meeting with Sir Joseph Sawle with a view to setting up a subscription fund for the town and outlying areas. This was agreed on, but when the spokesmen demanded the immediate release of those taken prisoner, they provoked Kendall's ire:

...you mistake your position; I am the commander, and not to be commanded...

Royal Cornwall Gazette, 6 August 1847, p4

Faces in the crowd



Market Square, St Austell, 1800s

But the crowds outside hadn't heard Kendall's stern words as regards the prisoners. When he went forth yet again to address them on the outcome of the negotiations, the hundreds in Market Square yet again demanded their release. Kendall must have surveyed his barrackers with mounting frustration.

There was that man Hore again, with his distinctive eye. And there was Philip Matthews, 27, a labourer from the Penhale Clay Works, with his mate, 22 year-old John Payne (or Paine), from Tresayes. Kendall spoke to William Bunt, who had earlier threatened John Badge, telling him to get off home before things got serious. Bunt's reply stayed with him:

It as well to be shot as starved.

Royal Cornwall Gazette, 6 August 1847, p4

Near to where Kendall was standing was John Cock, 28, from Western Hill²⁴. Shouting over Kendall, he warned anyone who would listen that

...if you meddle with us, it will be death to every one of you; we will have life for life, and blood for blood.

Royal Cornwall Gazette, 6 August 1847, p4

This line upstaged Kendall, and Cock was cheered to the rafters.

Obviously, the miners were spoiling for a fight, and there was much more big talk from big men circling the Town Hall that afternoon. One man who was advised to discard his weapon replied in the negative, for "by and bye it may be useful". Another recorded statement was that "we are prepared to die, we may as well go now as at another time". William Hancock, a 24 year-old from Broadlane, Roche 27, told Under Sheriff Coode that force would be met with force.

Bayonet point



A Barnett London Brunswick Rifle, with bayonet. The British Army's rifle in the 1840s

"I have done", Kendall later remarked, "that which I would have given hundreds of pounds not to have done – I have read the Riot Act"²⁸. Remorseful or not, he read it in front of the Town Hall, and within minutes, the militia had the crowd surrounded. Coode announced that the soldiers had already loaded and primed their muskets, and had further received orders to fire into the crowd, rather than over their heads.

With bayonets fixed, and doubtless a few fingers on triggers, the streets of St Austell were cleared, people rushing ahead of the Redcoats' deadly march. Kendall was still active even here, identifying key malcontents for further investigation.

The aftermath

At the Bodmin Summer Assizes of 28 July, the rioters were damned, for choosing to disturb the peace "to a most outrageous degree", and exploiting the famine "which did not bear upon you as it did upon others"³⁰. Kendall, by contrast, was feted as a hero, by the authorities and citizens of St Austell

alike. He'd saved the day, uniting “kindness and forbearance with a proper manly firmness”. He also kept his word, chairing a meeting at the Town Hall on the Monday to organise a relief. Invited to attend were St Austell’s principal residents, magistrates, and the neighbourhood’s mine owners and adventurers.

No miners or clayworkers were invited. In other words, those most in need of aid were denied a voice. Martin Luther King once said, “riot is the language of the unheard”. Riot, they did. But still nobody listened.

Instead, several rioters were imprisoned.

Richard Webb	Aug 27	2	Riot and Assault
Elias Newcombe	Aug 32	2	2 nd
William Osborne	Aug 24	2	2 nd
Richard Julyan	Aug 31	2	2 nd
John Bennetts	Aug 24	2	2 nd
Jacob Hancock	Aug 24	2	2 nd
Philip Anthony	Aug 22	2	2 nd
John Payne	Aug 22	2	2 nd
Joseph Rose	Aug 25	2	2 nd
William Brent	Aug 26	2	2 nd
Anthony Roberts	Aug 31	2	2 nd
John Cook	Aug 21	2	2 nd
William Hancock	Aug 24	2	2 nd
Charles Faull	Aug 20	2	2 nd
Richard Haines	Aug 28	2	2 nd

England and Wales Criminal Registers, 1791-1892, County Assizes, 28 July 1847. From Ancestry. The names of those acquitted are Richard Webb, Elias Newcombe, William Osborne, Richard Julyan, John Bennetts, and Jacob Hancock. William Tellam’s sentence is on the next page

For “riot and assault” (see image above), Charles Faull and

Richard Kestall both received two years hard labour. Matthew Roberts and John Cock, 18 months hard labour. William Hancock, 12 months hard labour. John Payne and Philip Matthews, 6 months hard labour. William Tellam was sentenced to nine months for his involvement in the St Austell riot – with hard labour.

The outbreak at St Austell was the final food riot of 1847. The now numerous – if belated – relief funds throughout Cornwall, combined with a bountiful harvest and “flourishing” crops, meant that the scenes of violence and desperation seen in many major Cornish towns, finally ceased.

Afterword: The Making of the Cornish Working Class?

Whilst researching the Cornish Food Riots of 1847, two questions occurred to me. The first was, could these events, as a whole, be taken as a general Cornish insurrection or uprising, to rival those of 1497, or 1549?

The answer, obviously, was no. No army of rebels marched on London, with discontented noblemen at their head. Nobody was shot. No Cornish people, to my knowledge, even crossed the Tamar in search of redress for their hardships. The people who marched and rioted, put simply, weren't marching and rioting against the Government per se; they marched for food, and rioted, or tried to riot, against those who denied them.

What we are seeing in the events of 1847, perhaps, is class conflict. At St Austell, the authorities couldn't understand why better-off workers were rioting, when, after all, they could almost certainly afford grain. It was almost as if they were acting on behalf of the poorer clayworkers, who the authorities believed were the “deluded ignorant”, and were duped into acts of lawlessness. Alternatively, you may argue that this

represents solidarity, and organisation: the twin problems of food shortages and high prices were the problems of all of Cornwall's working class, not just its most destitute members. Working people from St Just joined people from Breage and Helston. Men marched with women; children carried bags of flour for looters in Redruth. To be prepared to riot, and face the military, on yours and others' behalf, or, in the words of William Bunt, it is as well to be shot as starved, maybe represents a liminal class consciousness.

You might say the authorities realised this too. In excluding members of this nascent working class from their discussions of relief funds, you might level E.P. Thompson's famous accusation at them, that they were guilty of "the enormous condescension of posterity". Relief from hunger was solely the business of the people who could provide that relief, and not that of the people most in need of said relief. Instead, they were the evil disposed and deluded ignorant in St Austell, or misguided fellow-creatures in Redruth. Therefore these people needed to be treated with at a distance, and with some caution. More research is needed in these areas.

My second thought was, was there a genuine 'famine' in Cornwall, akin to the Great Hunger in Ireland, with thousands starving to death? Determined to find an answer, I decided to look at parish burial rates, choosing, somewhat fittingly, Breage and Helston, from the years 1845-1850.

	1845	1846	1847	1848	1849	1850
Breage	99	100	83	82	80	83
Helston	68	59	68	65	60	57

Parish Burial Rates, 1845-1850. Figures taken from Cornwall Parish Records

I was expecting to see a significant spike in burials for the years 1847-8, but was surprised to discover no real increase. Indeed, the figures for Breage drop in 1847-8 from a peak of 100 burials in 1846; Helston's rates are relatively constant. Admittedly, this is a very small sample, and the numbers don't tell us how people died. But why, if there was such apparent shortages of food in Cornwall in the late 1840s, don't the figures markedly increase?

The answer is this: people left.

The Hungry Forties see the first instances of the Great Cornish Migration of the nineteenth century. For example, between 1841-51, the parish of Breage and Germoe lost 27% of its population. The nonconformist and radical West Briton newspaper positively advocated emigration from the late 1830s as a "radical 'improving' cause". Even the West Briton's Tory counterpart, The Royal Cornwall Gazette, was advertising reduced steamship fares in 1849. All this burgeoning culture of emigration, combined with the food shortages and the cholera outbreak of 1849, made people leave Cornwall and not want to come back. One man, Samuel Robins from Penryn, broke a promise he made to his sister to return home from Australia in 1847. The account his sister had given of all things Cornish was so "wretched", he decided to stay put. Richard Kestall, the St Austell rioter, also left, starting a new life in Glamorgan.

Judging by the number of people who, after reading this series of posts, have contacted me to remark that their ancestors left Cornwall in the late 1840s, many hundreds must have done the same.

Source: <https://the-cornish-historian.com/2022/01/09/the-cornish-food-riots-of-1847-background-and-context/>

Assistant Editors Note: I am of Cornish descent. My ancestors left Cornwall in 1848 arriving in Australia in 1849 on the 'Trafalgar'. I have often wondered why they left Cornwall. Perhaps now I have some answers.



If you don't know
your history, then
you don't know
anything. You are a
leaf that doesn't
know it is part of a
tree.

– Michael Crichton



FROM THE ASHES: The 1922 Irish Public Record Office Fire

Launched on 27 June, Beyond 2022 is a virtual treasury of millions of Irish records lost or damaged in the public record office fire of 2022 – painstakingly restored and replicated by a global team of researchers. In our special report, David Ryan looks back at what was lost in the terrible fire, and looks ahead to what the new archive offers those with Irish ancestors.



Image - showing a bomb exploding on the site of the Four Courts

On June 30th, 1922, the Four Courts and the neighbouring Public Record Office of Ireland (PRO) were consumed by fire, with the destruction of over 800 years' worth of documents relating to Irish history and genealogy. Professional Irish genealogist David Ryan looks at which records survived and how modern technology and conservation techniques are helping in the recovery of some of the material once believed lost.

The Backstory: Background of the Irish Public Record Office and The Four Courts

The Four Courts, located on Inns Quay in Dublin, is the most prominent court building in Ireland and familiar to anyone who has visited Dublin. The building originally housed four superior courts, of Chancery, King's Bench, Exchequer and Common Pleas, which is where the name of the building originated. In 1877, the original four courts were replaced by two - the Court of Appeal,

Destruction of the Public Records Office

The siege of the Four Courts and the Civil War that followed had their roots in the struggle for Irish Independence that had begun with the Easter Rising in 1916.

When the infamous explosion on 30 June 1922 occurred at the Four Courts it could be heard 2km away. It shattered windows on Grafton Street, Dublin's premier shopping street, scattered the ducks in St Stephen's Green and sent the populace scurrying for what shelter they could find. A member of the Public Records Office staff, SC Ratcliff, recalled a scene of utter devastation afterwards. The glass and slate roof built in 1867 had fallen in and a huge crack emerged in one of the walls. The floor of the repository was piled up to 5m high with twisted ironwork and debris. The iron boxes containing many precious records had melted in the heat.

Aftermath of the fire

It was the 17th of July before it was considered safe to begin retrieving documents from the rubble. James Morrissey, Assistant Deputy Keeper, led staff in gathering up fragments which were then sorted and identified. Everything retrieved from the wreckage was wrapped in brown sugar paper, labelled, and secured with string. The Records Office was made available in Dublin Castle for sorting and cataloguing the retrieved documents.

The list of documents that were stored in the office's record treasury departments are contained in a single 300-page manuscript, which fortunately survived the fire. This unpublished book, compiled in 1919 by Herbert Wood, the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records Office, was described as the "most depressing in Irish history" because it chronicles so many priceless documents that were incinerated in the fire.

The surviving records

It is often incorrectly assumed that everything was lost in the 1922 fire. However, there were many records which were not stored in the Public Records Office or were in the Reading Room at the time of the fire. For example, we have some surviving fragments of the 1821-1851 census. Some transcripts of testamentary records survive. Indexes to probate records are still available and provide a basic summary of the lost wills. Records for churches other than Church of Ireland, such as Catholic, Presbyterian and Methodist, were not stored with the Public Records Office. In addition, there are many records which were preserved in other repositories. For example, records for Irish military service and policing in the period before 1922 were kept in the UK and are available from the National Archives (UK) in Kew.

Other records relating to the British administration of Ireland were kept in Dublin Castle.

It should also be noted that although severely damaged, there was a lot of material salvaged from the fire. More than 25,000 sheets of paper and parchment were retrieved from the rubble. These records, which date from the 14th to the 19th centuries and are known as the '1922 salvaged records', are now held at the National Archives of Ireland. Using the latest conservation techniques and technologies, conservators continue the work to someday make this material available to researchers.

Examples of the material which was salvaged include the Roll of Attorneys for the period 1785–1834, 250 Writs of Summons from the Law Exchequer for 1894, Revenue Exchequer Accounts from Dublin Port on wheat premiums for the period 1762–1789, sixty-six Yeomanry monthly returns from County Carlow for 1798, and Roll of Certificates issued to adventurers for land for the period 1665–1668. During a recent investigation of unopened parcels of records, archivists also identified a number of documents significant to the history of Dublin port for the period 1817-1818.

Beyond 2022

Launching on 27th June 2022, Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland is an all-island and international collaborative research project working to create a virtual reconstruction of the Public Record Office of Ireland. Together with their five core archival partners and over forty other participating institutions in Ireland, Britain and the USA, they are working to recover what was lost in that terrible fire one hundred years ago. On the centenary of the Four Courts blaze at the end of June 2022, they will launch the Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland online. Many millions of words from destroyed documents will be linked and reassembled from copies, transcripts and other records scattered among the collections of the archival partners. The rich array of replacement items will be represented within an immersive 3-D reconstruction of the destroyed building, which users will be able to tour virtually. The Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland will be an open-access resource, freely available online to all those interested in Irish history at home and abroad.

Source: <https://www.virtualtreasury.ie/the-1922-fire>



How I came to be living in Darwin, Northern Territory

By June Tomlinson



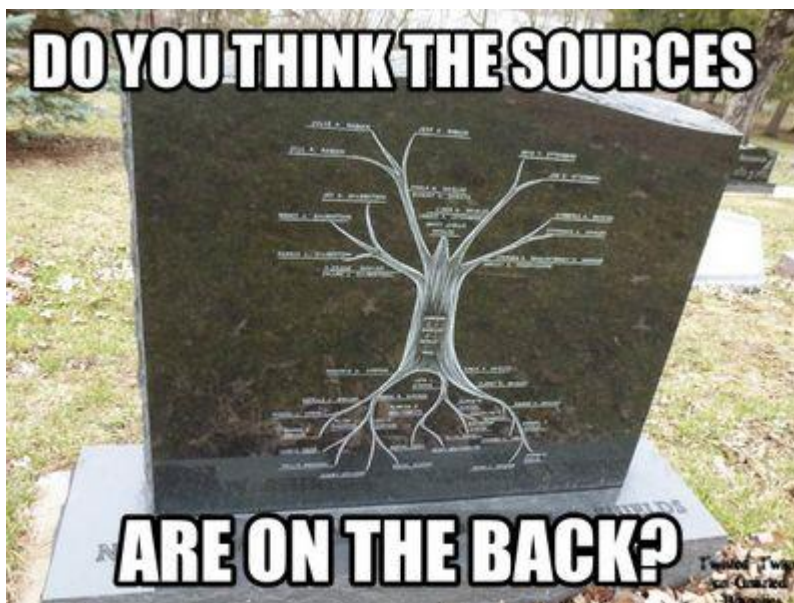
Last year AANT sent me a mug for 50+ years membership. That included less than 12 months of membership in the NSW NRMA. It also started me off thinking about how I arrived in the Territory and how the RACQ helped me as I drove through Queensland. Below is my story.

I am often asked where I originally came from. I was born in Leichhardt which is a suburb of Sydney. As a Leichhardt High

School student we had an English teacher in 1st year who had one copy of *We of the Never Never* by Jeannie Gunn. This teacher decided she would use some of our lessons reading the book to us. I became a great fan of the Northern Territory but never thought I would go there and certainly never live there. The book made an impact on just about all the students in my class we were all eager to hear what was next.

AANT (Automobile Association of the Northern Territory Inc) sent me a beautiful Yeti mug engraved on it was 50+ years Member. Receiving this mug I thought about my trip to the Territory. I have shared some of this story over the years, it is amazing when you look back on things you did when you were young that you would not even think about today. In some respects I am lucky because I had this experience at a time very different from today and what others now experience.

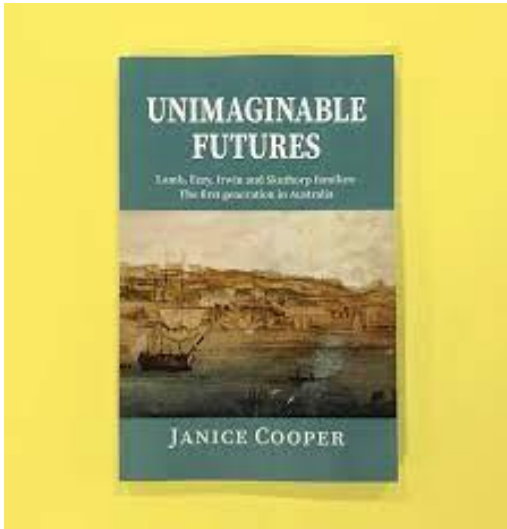
In 1969 after 5 ½ years in Port Moresby I moved back to Sydney. Port Moresby was where I got my driver's licence. I had to do a hill start on the biggest hill anyone should not tackle as a learner, from about half way up the hill all you could see in your rear vision mirror was the sea. I had to do a hill start, manual car no rolling back. This Morris was a bit antiquated and to give you some idea, if you stalled you had to restart the car with a crank handle. Thank goodness that did not happen on the day. The other part of the test was I then had to reverse in the figure 8 in and out of the palm trees on Ela Beach. A bit tricky for a new driver. You only got one shot at it and could not make corrections.



BOOK REVIEW

Unimaginable futures. Lamb, Ezzy, Irwin and Skuthorp families: The first generation in Australia

Author Janice Cooper



In this impeccably researched family history, the reader learns of the role of the Lamb, Ezzy, Irwin and Skuthorp families in the first 50 years of European settlement in Australia. As the author in her introduction asserts, it focuses on providing a

glimpse into early colonial life for convict and free women in NSW and Tasmania.

Elizabeth Chambers is transported to Australia for seven years for the crime of theft and marries Henry Lamb of the NSW Corps. Jane Ezzy accompanies her convict husband William to NSW while pregnant Eleanor Irwin joins her convict husband on his journey.

Cooper adheres to the conventions of historical writing, providing evidence from sources to support the narrative.

Acknowledgements are made when evidence from sources is

unavailable when she speculates about what might have happened. For example, using 'probably ...', 'it seems possible that ...,' and 'may have worked as ...'. In this way there is an uninterrupted flow for the reader.

The reader/researcher is provided with ample access to the contents with a thorough index including See and See Also references. Footnotes appear as Endnotes; acknowledgment is made of the different types of sources used and an extensive bibliography provided. A section entitled Genealogy provides charts of the different families with births, deaths and marriages arranged sequentially. Once again, an invaluable section for other researchers.

This reader was confused by different surname spellings such as 'Skulthorpe, Sculthorp, Skuthorp, Skuthorpe' and 'Ezzy, Ezzey, Hizzy and Hizey' but Cooper explains how this has happened over the years by reference to several documents. This experience will resonate for many family historians confused by variations in spelling.

In terms of layout, it is pleasing to read transcripts of sources shown as indistinct images. Some images are difficult to decipher. Photos, drawings, and maps, however, are well reproduced on the page.

The women's stories, in their historical context, illuminate aspects of Australian history. For this reader, the operations of

the NSW Corps and mechanisms whereby land was allocated/ acquired by free settlers and ex-convicts stand out.

The author's aim of 'providing a basis for other historians to continue researching of their own family line' is certainly met with extensive references to guide them. A well written book, recommended to family historians and other readers interested in this period of Australian history.

Ruth Sheridan



THE MISSING

When WW1 brought Australians face to face with mass death, a Red Cross Information Bureau and post-war graves workers laboured to help families grieve for the missing.

The unprecedented death toll of the First World War generated a burden of grief. Particularly disturbing was the vast number of dead who were “missing” - their bodies never found.

This series of photo essays explores two unsung humanitarian responses to the crisis of the missing of World War 1 – the Red Cross Wounded and Missing Enquiry Bureau and the post-war work of the Australian Graves Detachment and Graves Services. It tells of a remarkable group of men and women, ordinary people in extraordinary circumstances, who laboured to provide comfort and connection to grieving families in distant Australia.

False Hope of the Missing

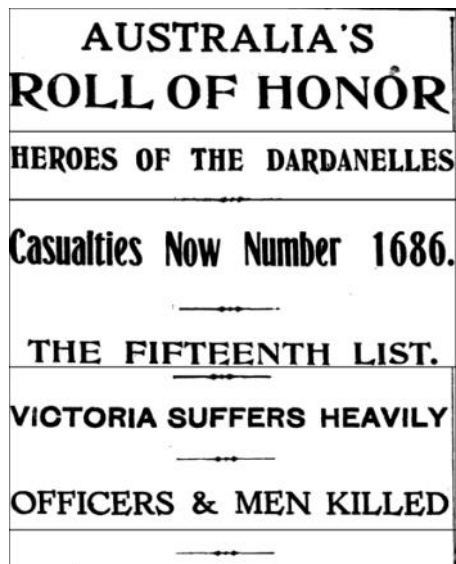
In World War 1 the deadly power of machine weapons caught armies, soldiers and families unprepared.

An estimated sixteen million combatants and civilians were killed worldwide. In population terms that's a number the size of a small country. It's a fatality list two thirds the current population of Australia.

62,000 Australian soldiers died: this is a small number in comparison to the millions of dead Russians, Germans, Austro-Hungarians and French from the war; but it is a large number in comparison to the small Australian population at the time.

Perhaps as many as every second Australian family suffered a dead son, father, brother, cousin, nephew, uncle or friend.

The bodies of a third of the Australians killed were never recovered.



Newspaper - Article, The Age, Melbourne, 'Australia's Roll of Honour, Fifteenth Casualty List', May 15 1915, p.12, National Library of Australia

The first major reports of Australian war casualties arrived in 1915 after the Gallipoli campaign in Turkey. Casualty lists were published in the national and local newspapers.

Pictured above is one of the early casualty list reports from the Australian engagements at Gallipoli: 1686 wounded in the Dardenelles, reported in the Age newspaper on the 15 May 1915.

The numbers of wounded and dead from Gallipoli were a dreadful shock. No one then had any idea how high the number of dead would reach once the Australians were sent to the Western Front of France and Belgium, where from 1916 to 1918 tens of thousands of Australian soldiers died. Campaigns such as Fromelles, Somme 1, Ypres/Passchendaele and Menin Road



Photograph - Crowd waiting outside a newspaper office in Melbourne for tidings of Gallipoli, The Argus, Melbourne, 1915, Central Highlands Library

would become notorious for the number of Australian deaths in battle.

Pictured here is a crowd gathered on a Sunday morning outside the Melbourne offices of the newspaper The Argus, late in 1915.

The caption on the picture, from CEW Bean's Official History of the First World War, reads: 'Newspapers were not ordinarily published on Sunday in Melbourne, but special editions were sometimes issued during the war. The news most anxiously awaited was always that contained in the lists of casualties.' Families might read in the newspaper that their loved one was classified as "missing in action".

Amongst the military, soldiers knew that "missing in action" meant the person was probably dead. But few people in Australia in 1915 comprehended how suddenly and brutally bodies could be destroyed by 20th century mechanised warfare.

For those at home being informed someone was “missing” generated intense anxiety because it implied there was a hope of life.



Photograph - Makeshift wooden cross marking a grave at Gallipoli, T.P. Bennett, 1915, State Library Victoria

Pictured here is a makeshift wooden cross marking a grave on a ridge at Gallipoli in 1915.

The confronting stories of dead bodies lying on the battlefields of WW1 are well known: military authorities were overwhelmed by casualty numbers. Soldiers dealt with the scene of death in many ways, including inventing macabre and descriptive names for places where corpses and body parts lay exposed for weeks or longer.

Bodies weren't left lying in the open callously – burial duty was constant. Soldiers would find and bury dead comrades where they could, looking after their friend's graves often with great care and reverence.

But not all bodies could be buried or found.

If a battle had been lost, there was little chance to go into enemy territory and seek out fallen mates, such as, for instance, at Gallipoli, where almost half the Australians who died there have no known grave.

Even in friendly territory not all bodies were found to be buried. Machine weapons could obliterate bodies beyond recognition.

Sometimes even the dead who had been identified and carefully buried would be churned into the earth as territory shifted back and forth over the four years of war.

The dual-identity disc system –dog-tags – was introduced during the First World War. It helped identify partial body remains and otherwise unrecognisable bodies.

Pictured here is the aluminium identity tag worn by World War I serviceman G.W. Connell, #1924 (aka 1924A), during his service in the Middle East during World War I.

Private George Walter Connell, a young country labourer from Victoria, served at Gallipoli in the 5th Battalion from mid-1915. He returned to Australia in 1916 after receiving a gunshot wound to the head. He lived for many decades more, and in 1967 was living at 3 Vail St, Prahran.



Memorabilia - Identity tag (item NU 44463), c. 1915,
Museums Victoria

TOTAL CASUALTIES.

8,000,000 DEAD.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

LONDON, 31st December.

It has been officially announced that France will pay honor to her dead in the war by erecting a memorial in the Pantheon at Paris. The names of all the soldiers and sailors who have died for France will be inscribed in registers, which will be deposited in the Pantheon. In these registers will be included the names of non-combatants who were the victims of enemy violence, and also those who died while exercising public functions.

France is the only great belligerent Power which from the beginning of the war to the end published no information as to the extent of her casualties. The British Government not only published almost daily official lists of casualties, which were reproduced in the newspapers, but during the first two years of the war it disclosed at irregular intervals the total casualties for the information of the public. The practice of disclosing the total casualties was stopped in the third year of the war, but up to the end of the conflict lists of casualties, giving the names of those killed, wounded and missing, were published. The German practice was somewhat similar to the British, with the exception that the German newspapers were forbidden to reproduce the published official list of casualties. These official lists, however, could be purchased by the public. At monthly intervals official summaries of the total German casualties were published, but it was generally believed in Entente countries that the published totals were much below the actual figures.

Newspaper - The Age,
Melbourne, 'Total Casualties: 8
Million Dead', March 8 1919,
p.19, National Library of Australia

The war ended in November 1918. Pictured here is one of the first attempts to number the dead.

Reported in March 1919, an estimated 8 million people were dead from the conflict. Scholars now estimate that if you include civilian casualties, at least twice that number, 16 million, died.

The Red Cross Information Bureau

In response to the mass of missing and wounded reports coming out of WW1, the Australian Red Cross formed an information bureau to help families trace what had happened to their relatives.

Official Army information around death was often sadly lacking, particularly when the status was 'missing in action'.

If a body was never found or identified, there was little the military could do. Official periodic inquiries into the status of the unlocated dead were held where evidence into the missing was assessed. After inquiry most missing soldiers were pronounced killed in action.

Families could wait months or years for the official inquest results.

Many sought answers about the final hours and location of their loved ones. This desperate need for news prompted the Red Cross to form an Information Bureau to help families find out what had happened.



Photograph - Portrait of Lady Helen Munro Ferguson, c. 1905, State Library of South Australia

The Australian Red Cross was formed in Melbourne in 1914 directly in response to the First World War by Lady Helen Munro Ferguson, the wife of the Australian Governor-General.

Both men and women volunteered to work for the Red Cross, whose remit was to look after the sick and wounded.

The Australian Red Cross Wounded and Missing Information Bureau to trace the whereabouts of the sick, missing and wounded was formed in 1915 after the death tolls from Gallipoli began

U.T. No. 7.
NEW ZEALAND

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT, VICTORIA:

No. _____

Office Date Stamp
SEYMOUR
20 JUL 15

CABLEGRAM.

This message has been received subject to the Post and Telegraph Act and Regulations.
All Complaints to be addressed, in writing, to the Deputy Postmaster-General.

Number and Route.	Station from, Date and Time Sent.	Number of Words and Official Transmittal.
Eastern I	Baccharanah Alexandria 27th 12.25P	74 B. G.
Lady Helen Munro Ferguson		
Passenger by Sydney Express Seymour.		
Australia red cross have joined with British Red Cross and formed Bureau of information respecting sick wounded killed and missing. Stop. Unofficial enquiries on these subjects may be made to it. Stop. Bureau is auxiliary to official bureau of Australian intermediate base, the commanding officer of which is fully informed. Stop. Cable enquiries should be addressed Terab Cairo letters to Colonel Barrett first Australian general hospital Heliopolis.		
Macnabon		10. 25

NOTE.—The figures at bottom of form indicate time the Cablegram was received at this office.

Document - Cable to Lady Helen Munro Ferguson from Alexandria announcing the formation of the Red Cross Information Bureau for the Sick, Wounded, Killed and Missing, 28 July 1915, University of Melbourne Archives

Pictured here is a cablegram to Lady Helen Munro Ferguson from Egypt in July 1915 announcing the formation of a Red Cross Information Bureau for the Sick, Wounded, Killed and Missing.

The name would later be changed to the 'Information Bureau' or the 'Wounded and Missing Enquiry Bureau'.

Volunteer lawyers, searchers, and an army of clerical workers, men and women, worked for the Bureau to provide answers for families of the missing, a detective effort that has now come to be known as 'tracing'.



Photograph - Studio Portrait of
Vera Deakin, London, 1918,
Australian War Memorial

Central to the Bureau's operation was an office hub close to the fighting. The first Bureau was in Cairo, close to the Australians in Gallipoli and the Middle East, and it then moved to London when the Australians moved to the Western Front.

The operational head, known as the secretary, of the Cairo and then the London bureau was a remarkable young woman called Vera Deakin, who was the daughter of the ex-prime minister Alfred Deakin.



Photograph - Corner of Collins and Markets Streets, featuring the Union Hotel and Colonial Mutual Chambers, Melbourne, Sutcliffe and Akers, Photographers, 1926, State Library Victoria

Each Australian state had an Information Bureau division, hosted by law firms as a volunteer or pro-bono contribution to the war effort by the legal profession.

The Victorian Division of the Australian Red Cross Information Bureau was located at the Colonial Mutual Chambers at 60 Market Street Melbourne and was managed by the Honourable Secretary John Beacham Kiddle a well-respected Melbourne solicitor.

Pictured here is the Colonial Mutual Chambers building (the tall building to the right of the picture), which was a well-known edifice near the corner of Collins and Market Streets, in 1926, a few years after the Victorian division bureau closed due to the war ending.

Families looking for answers would write to or visit their state division bureau. This office would forward the request on to the central bureau in Cairo or London operated by Vera Deakin and

her colleague Winifred Johnson and a clerical team of mainly women. They would in turn pass assignments to a group of field detectives called searchers, a select group of men (some searchers were women but the majority were men) who would seek details from eyewitnesses about the last known location of the missing.



Document - Card of Joseph James Woodgate (front), Australian Red Cross Society, 1917, State Library of South Australia

No. 4309	Name J. J. Woodgate.	Reg. & Co. 50th Batt.	Rank Pte.
Address Mrs W. Smith, (Aunt), Estunga, S. A.	Next of Kin F. G. Hams (1st relative). Bandish Rd East, North Kensington.	File No.	
8. 5. 17	J/P (Mr Hams) "Missing 2. 4. 17."		
9. 5. 17	P/Cable forwarded Commis. London.		
9. 8. 17	J/P (Mrs W. Smith) "Killed in Action 2. 4. 17."		
15. 1. 18	"Gladys", re death & burial, from Grandma. Copy sent Original (Mrs Smith)		
26. 5. 19	Letter received from Mr Smith. Acknowledged		

Document - Card of Joseph James Woodgate (back), Australian Red Cross Society, 1917, State Library of South Australia

Packet Number 2345, SRG 76/1/2345, South Australian Red Cross

Pictured here is the South Australian Division Red Cross Missing and Wounded Bureau card for Private Joseph James Woodgate of the 50th Infantry Battalion.

He was announced as missing in action in France on the 2 April 1917. He had two enquiries as to his status initiated in 1917, one from a friend of the relatives and one from his aunt. The Bureau sent out searchers for eyewitness reports and confirmed that Private Woodgate was killed on the attack on Noreuil, France, 2 April 1917.

This card is one of many thousands of cards created by the state and international divisions of the Australian Red Cross Missing and Wounded Enquiry Bureau during WW1.



Photograph - Red Cross Searchers and Cars, Le Touquet, France, c. 1917,
Private collection of the family of Stanley Addison

Searchers would move about the ‘hospitals, convalescent camps, bases, and detail camps’ carrying the details of missing men and trying to locate them, or eyewitnesses who could provide testimony to the whereabouts of the missing person.

The reports of the searchers and eyewitnesses would be compiled and assessed by the central bureau, and then sent

back to the state bureaus to be forwarded to the families requesting information.

Pictured here are Red Cross searchers and their cars at Le Touquet, France. During WW1 Le Touquet was home of the Red Cross hospital for British wounded troops.

To the right of the picture is Australian searcher Stanley Addison seated behind the wheel of his car 'Gladys', which he brought to Europe at his own expense.



Photograph - British Red Cross Society, One of the Tracing Bureau's Rooms, 36 Grosvenor Place, London, 1918, Australian

Pictured here is one of the London Bureau's rooms at the Red Cross headquarters at 36 Grosvenor Place London, in 1918. Vera Deakin is on the telephone in the rear far left of the photograph.

The organisation documented enquiries systematically, and dispatched tens of thousands of answers per year. The volume of work was incredible, the letters from families filled with anguish, and dealing with the rush of queries after such devastating engagements at Passchendaele, Ypres and

Messines on the Western Front, was emotionally draining, particularly when those in the offices and on the ground knew that those reported as 'missing' would in most cases be found to be dead.

Yet every enquiry deserved investigation and a letter home.



Photograph - Enquiry Bureau for Wounded & Missing, Australian Red Cross Society, 36 Grosvenor Place, London, 1919, Australian Red

The work continued after the declaration of Armistice in 1918, as many soldiers still remained classified as 'missing in action' when the war ended. Pictured here is Vera Deakin, far right, in the London Bureau in 1919.

The Wounded and Missing Enquiry Bureau would reopen at the outbreak of World War 2, helmed again by Vera Deakin, now using her married title Lady White.

Throughout the 20th century the Red Cross Tracing Service, as it became known, would be activated in times of natural disaster and humanitarian crisis, migration and conflict around the world, helping families trace the whereabouts of missing loved ones.

Source: <https://victoriancollections.net.au/stories/the-missing/the-red-cross-information-bureau>

Old Occupations Glossary

So your ancestor was an axle tree maker - what does that Mean? Use this glossary to translate your kin's archaic occupations.

Accomptant: accountant

Amanuensis: secretary or stenographer

Axle tree maker: maker of axles for coaches and wagons

Baxter: baker

Bluestocking: female writer

Brewster: beer manufacturer

Cohen: priest

Collier: coal miner

Costermonger: fruit seller

Goaler: jailer

Hind: farm labourer

Joyner/Joiner: skilled Leech/sawbones: physician

Peruker: wigmaker

Slopseller: seller of ready-make clothes

Snobscat: shoe repairer

Tide waiter: customs official

Tipstaff: policeman

Vulcan: blacksmith

Webster: weaver

Whitewing: street sweeper

Alexandra Land

Ever heard the name “Alexandra Land” No? Well, Alexandra Land is the name given to the Northern Territory of Australia between the 16th and 26th parallel southern latitudes in 1865. The 26th parallel also represents the border of the Northern Territory to South Australia . The area covers an area of almost exactly 1,000,000 square kilometers.

The first exploration of the area goes back to John McDouall Stuart , who in 1862 succeeded in the first crossing of Australia from Adelaide in the south to Adam Bay on the Van Diemen Gulf . As a result, the interest of the colony of South Australia in getting the northern territory of New South Wales transferred, which then happened in 1863, although the monarch reserved the right of revocation at any time.

John McDouall Stuart declared in 1864 at the Royal Geographic Society of London that he would exercise his right as an explorer to name Central Australia and gave it in homage to the rare graceful Princess of Wales and later Queen of England and Empress of India Alexandra of Denmark called Alexandra Land . Accordingly, the South Australian Government Gazette announced on April 27, 1865 that the Governor-in-Chief, the Governor of South Australia Sir Dominick Daly , had proclaimed that the area between the 16th and 26th parallel south would be called Alexandra Land . The north remained as the Northern Territory or also known as Arnhem Land (sic).



John McDouall Stuart

As early as 1863, a small parrot, the *Polytelis alexandrae*, in German Alexandras parakeet, was named after the princess by the Zoological Society of London. This was first described in 1862 by Stuart's expedition member Frederick G. Waterhouse.

South Australia had high hopes for the economic development of the area to grow sugar cane, tobacco, cotton and coffee. Barren soils, little water and inexorable sunshine let none of this come of anything. By 1879, only a thousand

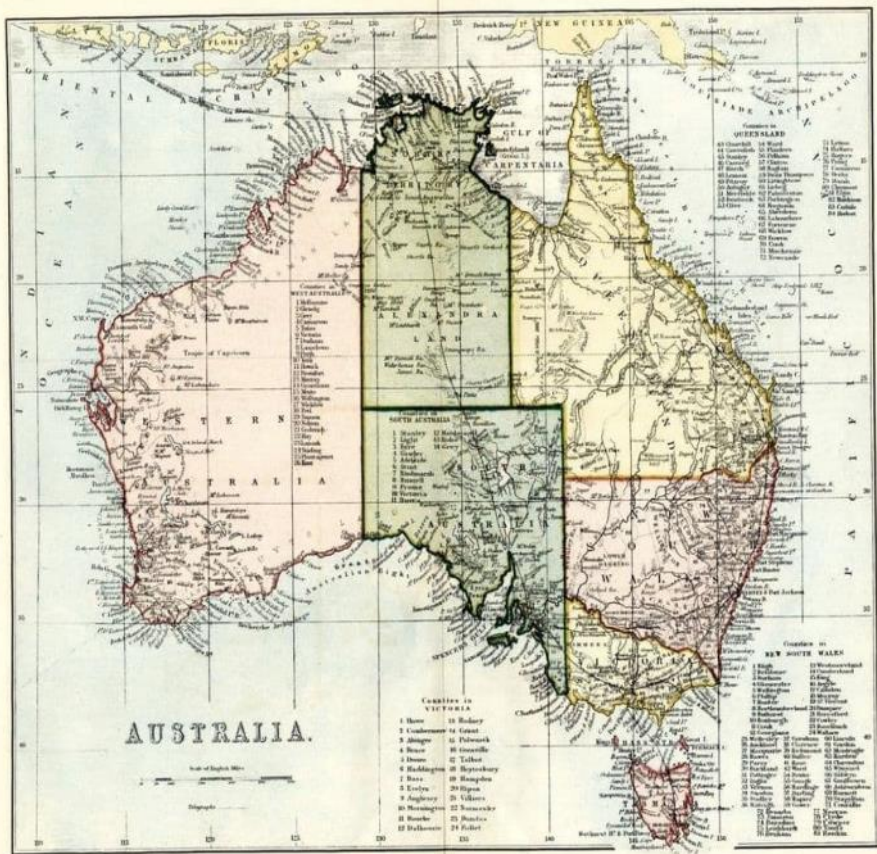
Europeans had settled in Alexandra Land, and they did not contribute to the tax revenue of South Australia.



Princess Alexandra 1864

Overall, the Northern Territory remained a grant deal to South Australia. Shortly after the Australian colonies had united in 1901 to form the Commonwealth of Australia, the government of what was now the state of South Australia asked to hand over the entire North Terrotorium to the Australian Confederation. In 1911 the federal government finally took over the administration of the territory.

The name Alexandra Land, which was often used for the entire northern territory, has since been more and more forgotten. Today it no longer has official significance.



<https://www.sleekburnprints.com/1868-antique-map-australia-counties-states-alexandra-land-nsw-victorian-print-2285-p.asp>



***Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904), Saturday
29 April 1865, page 4***

ALEXANDRA LAND.

The Governor-in-Chief has directed that all that portion of the South Australian territory, forming the central portion of the continent, and lying to the south of the 16th and north of the 26th degrees of south latitude, shall henceforth bear the name of "Alexandra Land."

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/rendition/nla.news-article159495111.txt>

Sources:

https://second.wiki/wiki/alexandra_land

<https://www.sleekburnprints.com/1868-antique-map-australia-counties-states-alexandra-land-nsw-victorian-print-2285-p.asp>

