

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: E S & A Bank Darwin 1942

"As we were about to open the doors, the air raid sirens began to wail, and the bombs began to drop simultaneously."

So wrote John Coverdale, a young employee of the Darwin branch of the Bank of New South Wales (now Westpac), recalling the day the Northern Territory's capital was blasted by the first of an astounding 64 air raids during World War Two.

Coverdale was one of four bank personnel stationed at the time in Darwin – which had a pre-war population of 5,800 – based in the branch that was to take a direct hit from two anti-personnel incendiary bombs.

REPUTABLE SOURCES?

During the course of my family history research, I have been disappointed that supposedly reputable published sources that have been through an editing process continue to perpetuate incorrect information. In my opinion these sources are only as reliable as the primary sources they used to compile their books.

A case in point is *The Australian Dictionary of Biography's* entry about Clare Deacon, a nurse who was awarded a military medal for action protecting her patients during a bombardment while she was off duty near Armentieres during World War 1. I have no complaints about the entry's outline of events, however, the information that her mother was Ruby Ellen Dixon, is incorrect. It should read Ellen Deacon (nee Gordon). The error is repeated by other writers who use *The Australian Dictionary of Biography* as their source.

According to the main researcher of this side of my family, 'As far as I can recall the information was given by Bill Deacon [Clare's nephew]. I have always thought that "Dixon" was simply a wrong transcription of Deacon as the information was most likely handwritten. I have the record of Ellen's birth that clearly states that she was born Ellen Gordon. At the time of marriage, she is named as Ellen Gordon and the death record states that she was Ellen Deacon. So, no mention of Ruby anywhere.' ... 'Ellen named her twin daughter Ruby. Every birth record for the siblings names the mother as Ellen. Unless Ruby Ellen was listed as her name in a Deacon family bible, I have no other explanation as to where "Ruby" came from.'

When I look for the sources used by the author of this entry, I am presented with a select bibliography which mostly refer to Clare's heroic actions and life after the war. The absence of official birth registration means the writer had to rely on family memory, which is often unreliable.

Given my cousin's explanation above, I can understand why this error occurred. The lesson I have learned is that one should always verify information with several other sources before accepting it.

Ruth Sheridan

FOUND ON FACEBOOK DARWIN HISTORY.

I don't know if this is too far out of Darwin for this site but I'm hoping it might get the attention of someone who can one day change a slight discrepancy on the notice at this cemetery.

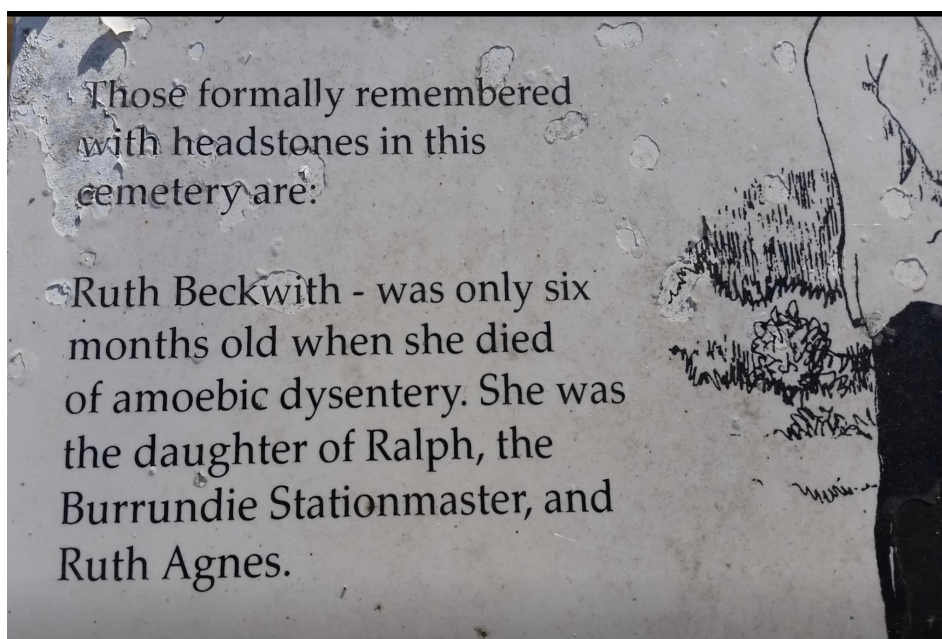
I grew up not far from this little girls resting place. Burrundie was our rail station where we caught the train or quad to Pine Creek, Katherine, or Darwin. This cemetery is tiny and off the road.

A few years ago I got to revisit the area and up until today I did not realise there was an error on the notice at the cemetery about her actual age. I'm hoping I can track someone in Darwin to correct it. Ruth once lived. breathed, laughed, and was loved by her parents and siblings.



The headstone for Ruth Beckwith at Burrundie Cemetery

Ruth Beckwith information on the plaque at Burrundie NT.



COTTON GROWING PROPOSAL IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Barrier Miner Broken Hill NSW Saturday 25 February 1922 Pg 1

Application has been made to the Commonwealth Government by the Rev J C Jenison, of the Methodist Aboriginal Mission to the Northern Territory, for an extended lease of the Island of Elcho, situated off the north east coast of the Northern Territory. Mr Jenison intends to make extensive experiments there in cotton growing and in the cultivation of other tropical products. Seed for cotton growing has been obtained from the Australian Cotton Growers' Association.

The island has an area of 2000 square miles and it has never yet been surveyed. A fair supply of aboriginal labour is obtainable on the island. It is understood that the lease applied for will be granted as a matter of course.

Cotton Bales, the Ginnery, Botanical Gardens, Darwin 1927



Territory Stories From Waler Database

Monty was a well known drover. He took 1,000 cattle from Mataranka 1,000 miles to Dalhousie Springs in 1932 which was his worst trip - it was very dry and most wells on the North Central stock route were dry, some brackish, and one of his men died of malaria, another blinded by cattle blight. Quite a few cattle perished and several had to be shot.

On one stretch, Barrow Creek to Connor's Well, they did 64 miles without water. Interviewed after the trip he said he wasn't sure whether to go on and visit Adelaide, as he hadn't been to a city in 21 years, or go back for another 1,000 cattle.

He'd also been head stockman on Elsey Station. In later life he went mining, and built a house at Maranboy and in his spare time liked to go to the races. Good tough man.

'Monty O'Sullivan, married to Grace O'Sullivan (nee Sing) who lived in Richmond, Queensland. O'Sullivan served with distinction in World War I, was a rodeo rider, horse-breaker and drover. He had a pin through one knee after being shot in the war. He was also a prospector and one time head stockman at Mataranka Station. 1931.'



Agnes Buntine - born Agnes Davidson - pioneer, bullock driver, rider, pack horse owner, dairy hand, shop keeper, farmer, publican, horse breeder and much more.

Thanks to Norman enquiring under a recent photo about Walhalla about a female teamster, for the lead to finding her. Many in Gippsland would know about her.

Agnes, also known as Mother Buntine and Ma Buntine didn't drive horse teams but she was the first person to take a team through to the miners at Walhalla in 1862 - a team of pack horses, picking their way up steep mountain ridges like mountain goats. She also shot and butchered a bullock for the miners the next day; they were in dire need of stores.

She'd had plenty of bush experience with horses and bullock teams by then. Soon she was able to get a bullock team through to Walhalla, returning regularly.

As well as running her bullock teams Agnes was an expert rider. She took supplies to miners in remote places where no-one else would go, by pack-horse. She wrapped up in a blanket on the ground at night, and shot birds for food on the way. At home, she ploughed with horses on the family farm and helped with all the farm work.

In her homeland of Scotland she'd been a dairy maid in Robert Burns' byre (the famous poet). He made superlative cheeses from his Ayrshires.

In 1838 she migrated to Australia with her family - and aged seventeen, Agnes met widower Hugh Buntine, aged 36. They married in 1840. Hugh, also Scottish, had five surviving children which she raised - along with the five she subsequently had with him. Immediately after marriage she helped him set up a dairy in Gippsland, near her father's market garden at Merri Creek.

Soon she was delivering goods to those in remote areas - it was lucrative and almost no-one else was doing it. In 1851 she took a bullock team loaded with butter, cheese and other goods from Port Albert across the Great Dividing Range to miners desperately needing food at Bendigo. Some places she took bullocks were exceedingly dangerous, wheels balancing along a single beam in places. She was instrumental in several good bridges being built including the Merri bridge.

By 1855 Agnes had five children of her own. She and Hugh had started a store in Gippsland in 1845, as one was direly needed, and a pub, The Bush Inn. At one stage a pirate on the run was the pub cook, until the law caught him. She eventually opened at least three stores in mining communities, taking supplies to them by bullock team. She was often paid with lumps of gold.

They also farmed. Hugh minded the children and ran the farm, store and pubs when Agnes went up country with bullock teams and pack horses, working, usually away 8 days at a time.

Long skirts being impossible in heavy bush country where she ran teams, Agnes wore long leather leggings and heavy boots, long shirts - in fact shorn off long skirts - and jumpers. She was ace with a stock whip and like most bullockies, also with her tongue. She smoked plug tobacco in a black pipe and got along very well with other teamsters of horses and bullocks. She had dinner with bushrangers at times while camped in the Black Forest. Once when one of her bullock drivers was injured, Agnes sent him to hospital by horse and drove two bullock teams alone to their remote destination.

She took up the contract to clear Whitelaw's Track as no man would touch it - hard country, across mountains and steep creeks. She felled trees, cleared scrub, moved rocks and earth and made an excellent track. Agnes could also split posts and fence as well as any man, probably better than most

Husband Hugh, ill for some time, died in 1867. Agnes had ten children to care for - she had to give up the bullocks and pack horses. Her bullocks had taken a lot of very heavy mining equipment to Walhalla.

Agnes farmed at Flynn's Creek which she'd bought with Hugh. She was known to be kind and generous. In 1873, aged 51, she married again, to Michael Hallet, a farmer newly arrived from England. He was 29. It was a happy marriage.

Her sons became great riders, many showing with success. One, William Buntine, became a drover and horse trader to India. Another son became a miner, moving to NZ, others variously became farmers, teachers and one a Presbyterian minister - he was said to be able to move cattle by the power of prayer and once dropped to his knees to pray the devil out of a gateway some heifers wouldn't go through - next minute, they went through.

There were at least three other women bullockies in Australia in those times, all Scottish born.

In 1895 Agnes passed away in Sale hospital in Gippsland aged 73; she was buried at Rosedale beside Hugh. One son and three daughters survived her.

Waler Database on Facebook

Unmaking Angas Downs: Myth and History on a Central Australian Pastoral Station by **Shannyn Palmer** is an in-depth investigation into the life of the Anangu people of the Northern Territory based on oral histories, documentary evidence and writings from a range of historians and anthropologists. It grew out of the author's PhD History thesis.

According to Palmer it [traces] "the way in which Anangu relationships to place were reorganised through the act of migration, and the encounter with white settlers, rations, work, tourists and camels."

Palmer begins by debunking the idea that the peoples of the western desert 'came in' to the missions and pastoral stations to escape drought and starvation. According to Palmer's two Anangu sources, Tjuki Pumpjack and Sandra Armstrong, the Anangu thought of the Ernabella Mission as a 'new and curious resource, to be explored and then exploited, much like any spring, rock hole or soak in existing patterns of travel.' Palmer claims that the Anangu weren't 'coming in' ... but following existing patterns of travel to water at Ernabella.' They also moved to meet up with kin who had gone there.

Bill Liddle established Angas Downs Station in the late 1920s at the place known by the Anangu as Walara. The second homestead was built at Bloodwood Bore where the Anangu came for rations and stayed to become part of Liddle's labour force. They learnt about the cash economy and made wooden artifacts to sell to tourists passing on their way to Ayer's Rock (Uluru). When motorised transport arrived, camels were no longer used by the pastoralists, so the Anangu were able to use them to move about: essential in their trading of dingo scalps and for 'holidays' on Country. Increased mobility helped them return to Country.

In the late 1960s and '70s Aboriginals migrated in large numbers off pastoral stations. Palmer offers a number of reasons for these actions. As part of the 'homeland movements' Anangu moved back to Country for cultural reasons. New settlements were made at Fregon, Amata, and Docker River to relieve pressure on Ernabella and Areyonga Missions. In Tjuki Pumpjack's memory the Anangu left Angas Downs after Bill Liddle's death (1959) but Palmer says the movement pre-dated that event. The 'Unmaking' in the title refers to the departure of the Anangu from Angas Downs and the subsequent demise of the station.

In the course of her research Palmer was drawn to the work of anthropologist Fred Rose who had spent some months recording the lives of the Anangu. His book *The Wind of Change in Central Australia: The*

Aborigines at Angas Downs published in 1962 includes photographs of the people which excited all Anangu who saw it, enabling them to identify kin.

This book provides an alternative view about the history of pastoralism in Central Australia where the Aboriginal view is presented which has largely been silenced in the past. This reviewer was most interested in the Aboriginal concept of history being about place whereas the Western concept is about time.

Black and white and coloured images show the young and older Tjuki Pumpjack and Sandra Armstrong, Bill Liddle and Fred Rose as well as the station before and after.

I recommend *Unmaking Angas Downs: Myth and History on a Central Australian Pastoral Station* to family historians for its depiction of the Anangu lifestyle and the changes that were wrought over time.

REVIEW

An Aussie Character and Patriotic Latvian: A story of Mateship, Community and Survival by Jennifer M. Reilly sets out to tell the story of Gunar Bekeris, a displaced Latvian, who spent 20 years of his life in Tennant Creek and 32 years living on Vanderlin Island in the Sir Edward Pellew Group.

The book covers details of Bekeris' life prior to coming to Australia after World War II and his time in the Northern Territory and entertains with stories of his lifestyle and how he extricates himself from many predicaments.

But this book is not only about his life. There is a large chunk of the author's life, growing up in Tennant Creek and people's memories of Tennant Creek and Bekeris. The mateship theme shines through in this entertaining read.

At times it was spoilt for me by the errors in the text which could have been avoided with the use of a competent proofreader. However, I learnt much about the town, the mines, and the people, in an era when no-one locked their doors, and everyone helped one another, regardless of origins.

Ruth Sheridan

LONELY GRAVES NORTHERN TERRITORY.

Thomas Price was born circa 1871 in Wales. He drowned on 10 March 1913 with two others after the punt on which they were travelling capsized on the McArthur River.

He was described as 'about 42 years, about 5' 4", of slight build with brown hair and a dark complexion'. At the time of his death, he was an employee of the Goldfield Diamond Drilling Co. of Melbourne.

He had a wife and child at Nelson St, Cooktown.

References:

NT Times & Gazette Thursday 19 June 1913; 8 May 1913; 5 March 1914

BDM NT Inquests NT

James Duff Kennedy was a native of Scotland born circa 1848. He was one of three who drowned in the McArthur River on 10 March 1913.

He was described as “about 65 years, 5’ 9” with a dark weather-worn complexion, brown hair and a grey moustache. He was an employee of the Goldfield Diamond Drilling Co. of Melbourne at the time of his death.

Kennedy had a wife who was a licensed victualler in Normanton, Queensland.

References:

NT Times & Gazette Thursday 19 June 1913; 8 May 1913; 5 March 1914

BDM NT Inquests NT

Harry Charles, also known as **Henry Charles Charles**, was born in Queensland on 13 March 1881. He drowned in the McArthur River on 10 March 1913 following the capsizing of a punt on which he was travelling to the shore with five others.

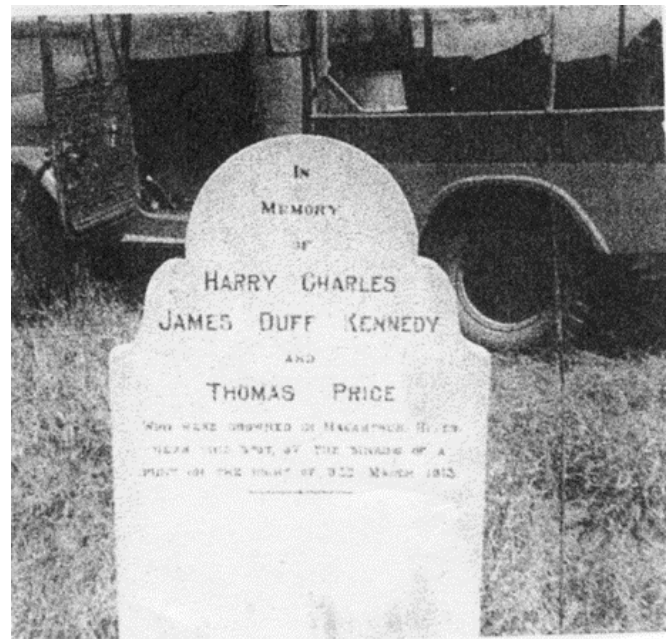
He was described as about 32 years, 5’ 9”, of medium build with a fair reddish complexion, brown hair and a sandy moustache.’ At the time of his death, he was a drill runner employed by the Goldfield Diamond Drilling Co.

He had a wife and daughter in Mungana, Queensland.

References:

NT Times & Gazette Thursday 19 June 1913; 8 May 1913; 5 March 1914

BDM NT Inquests NT



Harry Warrington Rogers, one of nine children of John Warrington Rogers and Eliza Carter, was born circa 1860 at South Yarra, Victoria. His father became a judge in the Victorian Supreme Court. Harry’s brother, John, was a one-time manager at Hodgson Downs, NT.

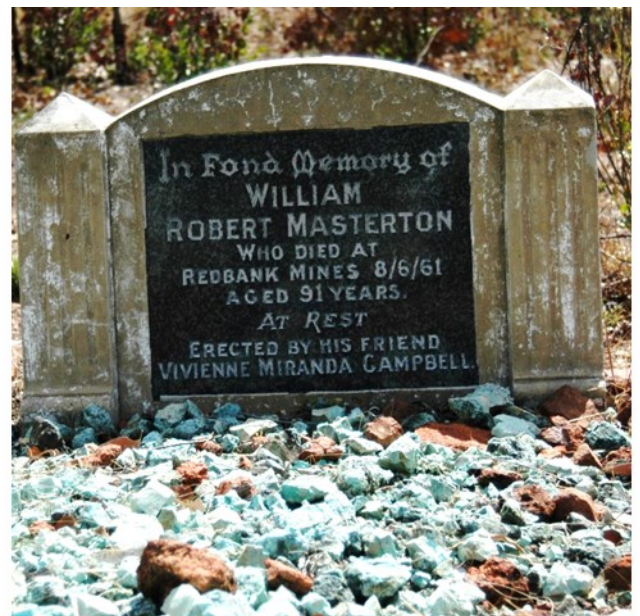
H W Rogers died on 2 February 1911 at Paddy’s Lagoon after contracting typhoid. His occupation at time of death was agent. His headstone was erected at Urapunga Station.

References:



William Robert (aka Bill) Masterson was born circa 1870 in Christchurch, NZ to parents, William Masterson, and Christina Forbes. Bill died aged 91 at Red Bank copper mine near Wolloragang Station on the NT/Qld border June 8, 1961, after falling and hitting his head on a rock.

Bill was a commercial traveller in Sydney but severed connection with his firm at Burketown and decided to change occupation to that of camp cook, working at Turn Off Lagoon and Westmoreland Stations. Then he went to live in a cave at Red Bank mine. He worked the mine using local aboriginal (Garawa) labour. He was known as 'the Red Bank hermit'. He returned south to Sydney in 1919 when his wife died. They had seven children.



Masterson also had children by an aboriginal spouse believed to have been called Margaret.

In 1963 the son of Masterson's sister sought access to his estate as Bill had died intestate. There were 3 mining leases and numerous debts.

In 2009 an application was made for Masterson's Cave to be part of a Heritage Complex.

References:

NT News 10 August 1961; 16 September 1961; 13 January 1972

Northern Territory Newsletter December 1976

NT BUR. NT Probates E1042352

Borroloola: Isolated and interesting 1885 - 1985

Roper Tommy aka **Roper Bar Tommy**, born in 1876 was a police tracker. He died at the old police station Roper Bar 27 January 1948 and is buried at Gardens Cemetery, Darwin, NT. He is commemorated in a plaque at Borroloola. His name is mentioned in *Hell West and Crooked* by Tom Cole when Constable McColl tracked down Tuckiar.

References:

PR File

Stanley Norgen aka Norgren was born at Parkside, South Australia, 6 May 1908 to parents John Edward Norgren and Elizabeth Hammond.

From 1937 to 1939 Norgren was a stockman on Alroy Downs Station via Camooweal, Queensland. On his enlistment at Prahran, Victoria 23 October 1939 his occupation was stated as stockman, drover, and saddler. He saw action in North Africa and New Guinea as a private in the 2/6 battalion.

He married Lydia Mary Levinson 13 March 1945. They had two children. He died 15 October 1982 at Urupunga Station. Cause of death was suicide by gunshot. But he also had a brain tumour.

Norgren's headstone reads: VX3844 Corporal S. Norgren.

References:

BDM SA / BUR. NT

John William Mara was born 9 August 1910 at Tanumbirini Downs, NT to parents Daniel Mara and Harriet Beaumont. He died 19 November 1910 at the place of his birth. Cause of death is unknown.

Aged 19, Harriet had gone with her husband who had managed Avon Downs to the management of Tanumbirini. She lived there in isolation for 6 years before she saw another white woman. On a trip to Tanumbirini, Dan nearly lost his life through drinking contaminated water.

References:

BDM NT / BUR. NT

Reginald Ernest Hartig was born at Dajarra, Queensland 23 September 1927 to parents George Hartig and Florence Letts. Electoral rolls indicate that he worked as a stockman at Dajarra in 1954; at Urangandie, also as a stockman in 1963 and at Mt Isa as a groundsman in 1972.

Hartig married Mollie Gail Middlemas and they had five children.

He died 21 October 1981 at Amungee Mungee Station where he was station manager. He was buried at the station.

References:

Electoral Rolls 1954, 1963, 1972.

PR File

Ancestry.com

Lindsay Crawford was born to parents Edward James Frederick Crawford and Frances Mitchell 9 April 1852 at North Adelaide, South Australia. After leaving school he trained as a telegraph operator then joined his father's brewery as an apprentice in 1869.

In 1874 he joined the South Australian Telegraph Service as an operator on the Port Darwin NT Line. Then he spent 3 years as Station Master at Powell's Creek. He resigned in 1877 to manage a store at Southport for V.B.L. Solomon. He rejoined the South Australian Telegraph department in 1878 as section supervisor but resigned in 1882.

It is believed that he went to visit a sister in NZ, later returning to the NT to accompany Ernest Favenc on an expedition. 1884 saw Lindsay appointed full time manager of Victoria River Downs Station.

Crawford died of exposure brought on by an attack of dysentery 20 March 1901 near Newcastle Waters, NT. His body was buried by Mr W. Holtze. It was reported that the burial party had only tomahawks to dig so only went 3 feet deep. His death notice reported that he died at Ross Creek, Newcastle Waters.

Crawford had two daughters by Maggie, a Woolwonga woman – Nellie and May. Nellie who was born in 1881 at Powell's Creek Station married Tom Flynn and lived until 1982. May Crawford married Calma.

Nellie's mother Maggie and aunt, Jennie are believed to be the only two Woolwonga people to escape the Coppermine Massacre in 1884 as revenge for four miners speared in Daly River.

References:

BDM SA / BDM NT

The Advertiser 21 March 1901

NT Times & Gazette 22 March 1901, p.3

John Brady known as **Boomerang Jack**, (presumably a reference to his body shape), is believed to have been born in Ireland. He was known as an expert horseman and was well-known as a drover in WA and on Wave Hill Station NT. Before that he worked at Fort Constantine Station where he fell and fractured his leg. He was shearing at Cordillo Downs in 1890. Later he was at Coongy Lakes breaking horses. He also worked at Austral Downs in 1901 and Lake Nash in 1904. In 1912-13 he took a mob of cattle west and then became head stockman and breaker at Wave Hill Station.

He was arrested at Wave Hill for attempted murder (shooting) of Hunter Loder, the manager of the station, 24 September 1918. His first trial lasted 5 days but as the jury disagreed a second trial was ordered. Brady was found not guilty.

Brady died on the Barkly Stock Route 25 December 1926. One account published in the *Townsville Daily Bulletin* 19 December 1941 claims that according to the constable who buried him it appears 'the de-

ceased left Newcastle Waters accompanied by a black boy. The deceased was not well at the time and was said to be suffering from beri-beri. After he had been out about four days from Newcastle Waters, he went totally blind, and the black boy had to lead his horse along. On or about December 25, 1926 they reached a place about 65 miles from here (probably Anthony's Lagoon) and the deceased asked the boy to help him down from his horse. The boy did so, and the deceased collapsed and died as soon as he reached the ground.'

Another account published in the *Centralian Advocate* claims he died of malaria. A third account published in the *North Australian Monthly* January 1957 claims that Brady was thrown from his horse, dragged by the leg, and kicked by the horse resulting in his death.

Boomerang Jack's grave is an area fenced off from stock intrusion on the south side of the main Barkly Stock Route, 25 km past the turnoff to Eva Downs Station.

In Brady's will he left his estate to his sister Mrs Dellar Whittaker known as Della Ross c/- Ruth Thorman, San Francisco, USA. Mrs Whittaker had a headstone erected.

References:

North Australia Monthly

Australian Archives Item 19/1963

Northern Territory Times & Gazette 19 October 1918; 22 March 1919

NT Times January 11, 1926

Bow Hill Police Journal NT Archives F292

John Brady's Will



The Fizzer, Harry Peckham - mailman who with four packhorses, carried the mail to several Territory stations. Henry Ventlia Peckham - known as Harry - was born in New Zealand in 1872.

His family moved to Adelaide.

A good horseman, he'd worked as a stockman at Renner Springs. While there, he noticed some weathered pebbles which indicated opal, which resulted in the government geologist travelling there to see if mining was worthwhile.

When mailman Fred Stribe with Jack Hehir perished at Lake Brunette in the 1902 drought, Harry applied for and got the mail contract.

He was very conscientious and always got the mail through, taking it by pack-horse to remote stations. A welcome sight and a good man, he was very popular. He took the mails from Katherine to Powell's Creek, Katherine to Anthony's Lagoon, Katherine to Victoria River Police Station via Delamere, Willeroo and Vic-

toria River Station, doing a big mail run of over 500 kilometres every six weeks. Pine Creek, Renner Springs, Eva Downs,. Elsie Station, Newcastle Waters and other stations were on his run. The contract paid 300 pounds a year. He applied for and was granted a contract annually; although at times a lower offer cut him out of one he always got another.

He saved the life of Mr Owston ,a cyclist who was dying of thirst. Harry found him and revived him. Another time Harry himself passed out from thirst on Stuart Plain, doing a mail trip alone, and luckily was found by a drover and saved. Some of his stages were 90 miles without water,

On April the 17th 1911, tragedy struck when Harry attempted to cross a flooded river. Included in the mail was a letter to the doctor from a sick woman at Mataranka, he felt it was urgent he got through. But he and his riding horse were swept off the ford at Winyard Crossing on Victoria River, VRD, and were drowned. With him was an Aboriginal youth named Raven, to whom Harry gave the leading rope of the four strong pack-horses. The lad and the four laden pack-horses made it to the other side. As Harry was swept away he shouted to the boy "Never mind about me. If I drown look for the mail bags." His body and the horse's body were found next day downstream by Mounted Constable White of Victoria River; the Aboriginal boy had managed to get all the pack-horses and their mail through to Katherine. Unknown to Harry, the wife of the manager of the station for whom he'd rushed to get a letter through, had died.

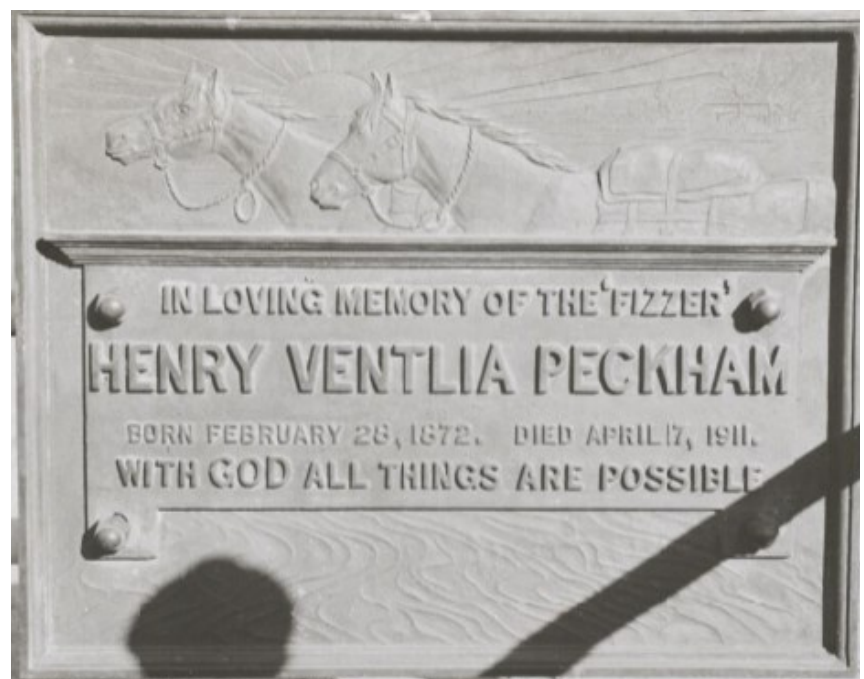
Harry was unmarried; however he left a child named Harry of Aboriginal heritage; the subsequent family included noted drovers and a footballer. The Fizzer had a sister living in Adelaide, and a cousin also named Henry but who was born in Adelaide.

Aneas Gunn, known as Jeannie, who lived for a year on Elsey Station put a character called The Fizzer in her book "We of the Never Never" - the Fizzer was based on Peckham - a wiry, dauntless mailman. Harry called travelling through arid country with no water, fizzing. Jeannie was devastated when the Fizzer lost the contract to Anthony's Lagoon thus to her station, when a lower bidder got it. Instead he was granted the Katherine to VRD contract.

A grave was made for Harry with a plaque, on Victoria River Downs, seven miles from the homestead area. In 1945 the grave was moved to Elsey Cemetery at Mataranka by the army, to be with other characters - real people - from Mrs Gunn's book. In 1925 the government had granted 10 acres to be a sanctuary where cattle could not go, for this cemetery area.

A good man gone too soon, he was only 39 when he died.

Waler database



FASHIONABLE DROOP

Chronicle Adelaide Sa Saturday 13 March 1926

Round-Shouldered Girls.

The 'droop' in the figure of the modern girl has become so pronounced that the latest tailors' dummies are being made with round shoulders.

This is the drastic solution arrived at by the tailors of what threatened to become a delicate problem of the fitting room.

Tailors work on a dummy – a padded replica of the feminine form. Expert cutters found that the coat moulded on the old erect-shouldered type of dummy looked like the work of some amateur when it was fitted on the fashionable client. Her shoulders threw it hopelessly out of line.,

The autocrat of the tailoring art might venture to tell the cold truth – "Madame, your shoulders are round" – but the ordinary dressmaker has no wish to lose a customer!

That is why the new dummies are being made with the characteristic round shouldered stoop of the present day figure.

Why the girls of an age so devoted to athletics and physical training should have cultivated anything so effeminate as this 1926 version of the Grecian bend of the aesthetic period might puzzle the professors of anatomy, but the discerning tailors and dressmakers have their own practical theories.

Explanations:

Three explanations of the round shouldered were given to a London "Daily Express" representative. They are :-

1. The wearing of high heels throws the figure out.
2. Small, close hats that fit the shingled head do not need to be balanced as did large hats, poised on elaborate coiffures.
3. The fashion of the wrap over coat which induced a stooping attitude.

So the responsibility for the present distortion must be placed on the shoulders of fashion.

The Local Heritages of Athenry, Esker and Tiaquin

From Facebook

The Royal Irish Constabulary by Ronan Killeen

In the early nineteenth century Sir Robert Peel MP successfully introduced a Peace Preservation Force (1814-22), A permanent national constabulary had finally been established, which in turn became the Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC) - the 'Royal' element being added 150 years ago.

Athenry (the RIC were based at Abbey Row, before moving to where the Old Barracks Restaurant is now).

Recruitment and Training

From the 1840s the Constabulary in Ireland were trained in a similar manner to the military. New recruits were drilled as soldiers, for six months or more, and were even trained in the use of arms and in military movement. The 'day room' or 'orderly room' in every station differed little from a squad room in a military barracks.

In the force, Constables were to be of: 'Sound constitution; able-bodied; and under the age of 40 years; be able to read and write; and of good character for honesty, fidelity, and activity'.

The new officers would take the following oath 'I _____ do swear that I will well and truly serve our sovereign lord, in the office of (rank) without favour or affection, malice or ill will, that I will see and cause his majesty's peace to be kept and preserved, and that I will prevent, to the best of my power, all offences against the same, and that whilst I shall hold said office, I will not, while I shall hold the said office, join, subscribe, or belong to any political society, whatsoever, unless the society of Freemasonry'.

The age of new recruits ranged between 18-27 years, and candidates were ideally to be at least 5ft 9in, with a chest measure of 37 inches. After training, recruits were allocated a uniform and a modest allowance for boots and other necessities. They were then appointed to counties, as prescribed. Constables would reach a maximum rate of £70 per annum after twenty years of service, sergeants a maximum of £86. Men in the constabulary were to have seven years service before permission to marry was granted.

Inspection & Promotion

There were monthly inspections by the District Inspector, periodical other inspections, and a quarterly visit from HQ. During inspections, Constables were expected to be found proficient in drill, have a good knowledge of the police duties, and demonstrate the efficient discharge of their duty. County Inspections were responsible for the efficiency of their county; District Inspectors for their district; and Head Constables/Sergeants for their stations.

Alcohol ('intoxicating drink') was a source of much trouble for the men and strict rules were applied. 'Drunkenness' was defined as the 'slightest departure of sobriety'; tippling, or having an appearance of recent tippling was regarded as an offence. Up to the 1880s it was an offense to enter a public house whether on or off duty for the purpose of drinking; but this rule was modified to allow for reasonable refreshments.

The entire system of promotion was the cause of sourness and resentment. Religion was evidently an issue in the background of many promotions, and Catholics felt that Protestants relied more on religion and Freemasonry than on merit. It is unclear how much matters like this within the force played in the antipathy some of the public held toward the force, and how large an element that was in its demise in the twentieth century.

Rigidity:

The rigidity of rules, the military-style training, and other issues in the force would contribute to its downfall. Using Athenry as a typical barrack-area, the following are some of the issues faced, and some of the failures.

Culture:

The inevitable 'protect our own' culture within the force (something we have heard a great deal of lately) would play no small part in its downfall by 1922.

Morale:

Fatigue, frustration and issues with regard to unreimbursed expenses were among the regular issues that ordinary RIC members faced in Athenry.

Inflexibility:

There was often little room for constables to use their discretion with regard to some minor crimes. Violence:

The shooting of Colonel Lopdell in 1906, wherein a Constable O'Halloran was shot when protecting him, was increasingly typical. O'Halloran had been on the list for early promotion to the rank of sergeant.

Corruption:

The following year, a charge of embezzlement against Sergeant Kearney was dismissed as there was insufficient evidence that he was wilfully and corrupt of perjury.

Estrangement:

During this period, delegates from the GAA were said to be 'shadowed' and photographed by the RIC as division and suspicion grew around Athenry.

Mistrust:

Increasing in popularity, in 1897 the GAA instituted 'Rule 21' after it became apparent that some RIC members were joining GAA clubs to spy on members' political activities.

Poor Public Relations:

A grievance highlighted in the Connacht Tribune, 17 August 1912, wherein mass goers were obliged 'to go deep in the mud while the footpath was occupied by [those] idle fellows.

Poor Management: Neglect on behalf of the government was arguably as destructive as the later IRA guerrilla campaign. The importance of central barracks like Athenry or rural policing was never appreciated.

Collapse of Intelligence Network:

Long a strength of the force, over time fear of being branded an 'informant, or worse, began to outweigh any financial reward.

Discrimination:

As indicated, despite three quarters of the force being Catholic, the majority of the senior officers were Protestant. In Athenry, a Church of Ireland officer led a force of 8 'RC' the night of the 1901 census.

Misplaced Loyalty: Unlike to their subsequent approach in Dublin, the Belfast Newsletter of 2 Aug 1907 (right) confirms the force sided with their Belfast counterparts who mutinied rather than take action against striking Protestant dock workers.

Evictions: Enforcement of eviction orders caused the force to be despised by the poorest of the population. Evictions in Athenry are evident in the EPPI and referenced in the various newspapers during this period.

The RIC faced considerable challenges in the early twentieth century and proved incapable of adapting to the evolution of those they were seeking to police. Listed were just some of the challenges that the force failed to meet, though there are many more reasons for that failure (macro and micro). It is a case however that the issues of 'estrangement' long before the war of independence were not capable of being managed by their existing rules or training.

References: House of Commons debates 1907-1912; Connacht Tribune; and The Royal Irish Constabulary by Thomas Fennell.

NAMING CONVENTIONS

SCOTTISH:

- The first son was named after the father's father
- The second son after the mother's father
- The third son after the father
- The first daughter after the mother's mother
- The second daughter after the father's mother
- The third daughter after the mother.

IRISH (until the later 19th century)

- First son usually named for the father's father
- Second son usually named for the mother's father
- Third son usually named for the father
- Fourth son usually named for the father's eldest brother
- Fifth son usually named for the mother's eldest brother
- First daughter usually named for the mother's mother
- Second daughter usually named for the father's mother
- Third daughter usually named for the mother
- Fourth daughter usually named for the mother's eldest sister
- Fifth daughter usually named for the father's eldest sister.

ENGLISH AND WELSH:

- The first male child was named after his father's father
- The second male child was named after his mother's father
- The third male child was named after his own father
- Any subsequent male children could be named whatever the parents wished, but usually were named for a favourite brother or uncle of the father.

THE CORNISH used to give all children the mother's Maiden name as a second Christian name.