

# progenitor



***Genealogical Society of the Northern Territory Inc.***

*The Family History Place*



# GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY INC

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**FRONT COVER:** Borroloola Library and Police Station

### **Borroloola Library From Waler Data Base**

The Borroloola library in the Territory was famous once. The biggest library in the north at one stage, it contained 3,000 volumes. Borroloola on the McArthur River, is 500 miles from Darwin in the Gulf Country.

Best of all, it was a public subscription library. Scarily for some lawless types it was situated in the building that also housed the Court House and jail - next door to the police station.

The policeman was the librarian.

Subscriptions were taken up far and wide, some station people riding in 200 miles to borrow and return books.

One well known person held in the jail was Bill Harney. Harney and a mate set up Seven Emus station, they were accused of stealing cattle. Harney was locked up in Borroloola awaiting trial. Bored, he read the entire library. It took almost six months for the circuit judge to arrive - he was found Not Guilty - but the reading led him to becoming an author!

The library was set up by Corporal Cornelius Power, a police officer stationed there when the town was very busy. Very young, he was sent to Borroloola in 1885 when it was a wild place with regular murders. Busy for many reasons, the OT line, mine scratchings, river port for station supplies, and was a stopover on a busy stock route too. It was a known centre for horse thieves, the horses taken there for branding or re-branding and moved on. An old saying was "brand your

boots as Borroloola” as anything not tied down was stolen before a policeman was stationed there.

Power grew bored waiting three months for reading - newspapers to arrive from down south - and decided a public library would be the go. He could only afford a few books but was surprised and touched at how popular they were. It also made good PR - people had to see the policeman to borrow some reading. Needless to say, no books were kept over time or went missing! Being a subscription library, meant annual fees paid for books. In 1890, 94 books arrived on pack horses from the port at the mouth of the river, and another 60 were on their way from England.

Power allegedly wrote to the Carnegie Foundation - an American charitable organisation to assist learning - which housed a public library in Melbourne, so they sent him 1,000 books. Another account says it was Lord Hopetoun who sent these books but it's unlikely either happened (nothing in news of the times). Anyway in the end 3,000 books formed the library. All had come in by packhorse, the town being 50 miles inland from a sea port.

Power was promoted to Corporal in 1901. In 1904 he sadly died of consumption, a popular man, gentle and unassuming. His library however continued.

The library was very popular and many in the town read the entire library several times including drovers, stockmen and swagmen who all borrowed books and returned them.

In 1894 and 1895 the House of Assembly paid annual subscriptions of 15 pounds to the Palmerston (Darwin) and Borroloola libraries.

In 1918 the government granted them a lot of money, in 1920 it was over 1,500 pounds to be shared with Darwin and Pine Creek Library.

A local was paid to keep the library dusted and sprayed for termite and white ants when needed. Nonetheless the temperature/humidity was hard on the books, combined with many borrowings. They were put into canvas jackets to help protect them, done by local women volunteers. Mrs Jack Kelly re-covered all 3,000 books herself in the 1920's, she was the wife of a policeman stationed there (Qld Times 14th July 1933).

The library contained many classics of history, poetry, medical books and many novels including a beautiful edition of Shakespeare illustrated by Sir John Gilbert (Qld Times, July 1933 says it was an 1860 edition). Gibbon's "Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire," Plutarch, Aristotle, Henry James, volumes by W.W. Jacobs, Thomas Gray, a bound copy of the 1890 S.A. Parliamentary Papers etc.

In 1961 the unofficial mayor of the town, Roger Jose, said the main activity of "The Loo" now officialdom and much of the population had departed, was reading (Bulletin 2nd Dec 1961). A 1963 article said the library had been eaten by white ants. By the mid 1960's the unofficial mayor was crocodile hunter Harry Blumenthal.

## **From NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY.**

Mounted Constable Cornelius Power was born in Cork, Ireland, in 1851. He migrated to Australia as a young man and joined the South Australian Police in April 1873. He transferred to the Mounted Police later that year and served at Port Augusta, Beltana and Innamincka.

Constable Power arrived in the Northern Territory in January 1885 and was initially stationed at Darwin. He assumed command of the first contingent of native police stationed in the northern portion of the Northern Territory from Mounted Constable William Willshire and moved with them to Pine Creek. He later travelled with the native police to Elosey and then, after the native police had been dispersed, to Burrundie.

He served at Borroloola from 1888 to 1903 where he became well known and respected. He was always considered a good police officer whose conduct and efficiency were reported on by the Government Resident in 1894 as being 'good' and 'very good' respectively. During his service at Borroloola, Power was instrumental in having the famous Borroloola Library established. Although the origins of this library are not well recorded, at least one version is that the library was established after Power wrote to or visited Lord Hopetoun, then Governor of Victoria, later Governor General of Australia, seeking a donation of books. He later held the honorary position of Librarian of the Borroloola Library.

Corporal Power developed an acute affliction of the lungs, which appears to have been tuberculosis, because he was later admitted to the Kalyra Sanatorium in the Adelaide Hills. This illness not only caused him to seek a transfer from Borroloola in 1903 it also hastened his death at age 53. Power died whilst in Adelaide on sick leave in March 1904.

## **ANOTHER UNUSUAL SOURCE**

The VETAFFAIRS free newspaper for Australia's Veteran Community publishes a Noticeboard section, which includes Reunion Notices and a Medals Lost and Found section. It also outlines new books of interest to veterans and general news. In the Noticeboard of the August 2023 edition is this example. 'Seeking nurse, Vietnam 1968. I met this Army nurse somewhere between Berea and Nui Dat at a bar opposite an orphanage. As my mates and I left the bar, she ran after me holding my M16 yelling I'd left my gun. I'd love to be able to thank her after all these years.'

Found Medals: B H Stedman 2723749 National Service Medal in case. Found in op shop in Port Macquarie. Would like to return to family.'

A name, phone number and email address is usually provided. Perhaps readers will find a gem about family here.

Ruth Sheridan

## **ILKLEY CEMETERY, ENGLAND**

June Tomlinson

The Ilkley Cemetery has a Friends Group, they meet weekly, weather dependant. They undertake improvement work in the cemetery, including litter picking and simple gardening jobs, re-searching of tombstones and natural history. Their main activities involve tidying graves, cutting back weeds and undergrowth as well as bulb planting, leaf clearing. They report any interesting wildlife sightings such as rare plants, bats and unusual birds to the local wildlife groups. The Cemetery paths are a popular cycling, walking and running trail. Mothers walk through this Cemetery with younger children in strollers.

### **Copied from the book ILKLEY The Victorian Era – David Carpenter**

#### The Cemetery

In the early 1870s concern began to be expressed about the overcrowded state of the Parish graveyard and it became clear that a new burial ground was urgently needed. Responsibility for the provision of the new cemetery and the closure of the old fell naturally upon the Local Board, and accordingly on 13 February 1875 a resolution was passed instructing the clerk to the Board to write to the Secretary of State asking him to take the necessary steps for the closure of the churchyard at the end of 1876.

After much discussion a piece of land of about 13 acres formerly two fields known as Great and Little Pybus, was chosen for the new cemetery and purchased from its three owners William Middleton, Miss Lister and the Trustees of Sedbergh School for the sum of two thousand pounds. The government Medical Inspector approved the site in June 1876 and building operations were commenced by the contractors Messrs Hogg, mason; Atkinson, slater; Crabtree, ironmaker; Woodhead, joiner; Oates, plumber and Lister, plasterer, whose fees were to total two thousand six hundred and eighty pounds.

.....In November 1877 the first interment took place in the new cemetery even though it had not yet been consecrated and in the words of the Gazette, "the several works in connection therewith are still in a crude and unfinished state, neither of the chapels being completed and the grounds themselves present a very unsightly appearance". The building work was not finished until March 1878 and on 20th March the Bishop of Ripon was able at last to consecrate the cemetery. The Gazette's account of the opening ceremony contains a detailed description of the grounds and the buildings therein, which were built to designs by Mr John Shaw.



The plot is about equally subdivided between the Established Church and the Nonconformists, leaving about half-an-acre at the north-east corner for the Roman Catholics. The chapels are situated nearly in the centre of the grounds, having the main central road running between them.

*Plaque on a seat in the Ilkley Cemetery, England and Ilkley Cemetery Flowers.*



*This man was obviously a cricket lover like most in Ilkley.*

John Paul Wyn Griffith  
22 March 1952 - 30 April 2001  
Your spirt lives on in all of us  
And always will never forgotten always cherished



**THE JOYFUL DELI**  
**ADDINGHAM WEST YORKSHIRE UK**

June Tomlinson

Whilst in England during April I passed a van on the A65 highway many times with advertising on the back of the van which looked like it spent a long-time parking in an off-road parking area.

It got the better of me, so I decided to check it out. I went to a little town further up from Ilkley off the A65 named Addingham. Amazing little old stone houses, narrow streets that you couldn't swing a cat around, lots of farmland, sheep and lambs being born by the dozen. They are very playful.

This is the way you can go to Bolton Abbey and all the tea houses along the road. The little café was called the Joyful Deli. I have never been in one like it. They had converted a barn shed, in fact I would not be surprised to find that it had horses, sheep and cattle in it at one stage for the winter months when it snows - it was a massive barn. Inside stone walls, and you could see where repairs had been made by putting a piece of wood in the brickwork to stop the big stones falling out. No ceiling, but the roof was very high.

The cafe itself was freezing cold; they offered me two hot water bottles and then said if you need more let us know. I was told not to sit too close to the wood heater as one of the guests had just burnt her coat. At the back of each chair was a woollen wrap you could put around you whilst you had, breakfast, morning tea, lunch, or afternoon tea. At the time I was there (over about an hour) a total of five dogs were all very happy sitting under their owner's chair or table and when told they were going, happily jumped up and off they would go with no fuss. There were also two little fans on top of the wood heater blowing out a not so big lot of hot air. There was an electric heater in another part of the barn of a room.

There was local produce to purchase everywhere, inside, and out - vegetables, eggs, potatoes, in fact any kind of vegetable. You could also purchase home baked stuff to take home for your dinner. Plants of all kinds.

Everyone obviously knew one another; I was just taking it all in, sitting by myself. I nearly didn't find the door to get in because it looked like someone's barn, but I followed the produce for sale, came to a door half open to keep some cold out and then I stopped because I could not see where the café was. To the right was a messy looking storeroom, all stone, even the floor and by the smell beyond that the next room was the kitchen. A lady came out of a wooden door on my left just up from where I was standing and then shut the door. She was one of the waitresses apparently. I said I am looking for the café. She said oh, go through the door that I just closed and make sure you close it after yourself. I couldn't get it opened so she helped me and said again



don't forget to close it. I got the message that this was very important. I walked into the café and couldn't at first take in what I was looking at. Very cold inside no wonder the door had to be closed.

Everyone was very friendly. I did feel like the only tourist in the room. There were black boards telling you the menu and a daily specials board that was like a child's blackboard on an easel. Up the back of the room was a counter for drinks and coffee - it wasn't expected that you go to the counter, nothing was a problem to them. There was also a dish on a chair that said, "we prefer cash." I had scrambled eggs and bacon on toast. It tasted amazing. They give a plug for all their suppliers, like XYZ's eggs. If I go again depending on the season, I will be sure to add more clothes.

## **BOOK REVIEWS**

Two new books to join the GSNT Library's collection recently are *Mature voices of Central Australia: Sounding off to its places and times* by Richard Michael Head and *Connecting the North: From the diaries of the Overland Telegraph Expeditioners* by Andrew Crouch.

According to the book's blurb, *Mature voices of Central Australia: Sounding off to its places and times*, is a personal collection of living in Alice Springs from twenty or so mature individuals, who have lived in the Alice for decades. The memories date back to the 1930s up to the present. It is published by the Historical Society of the Northern Territory Inc.

Readers who have lived for any time in Alice Springs will find much to jog their memories. We learn of the location of many residences and businesses in the Alice over the years. Relying on memory can be unreliable so researchers need corroborating evidence.

Many names are mentioned but unfortunately, there is no index so the reader needs to read the whole text to find any mention of the person they are seeking. The names of the authors are only given as first names, which grated on this reviewer but can be explained as the authors not wanting their identity exposed.

Despite these shortcomings, this reviewer found the book entertaining and valuable for her research into early NT teachers.

*Connecting the North: From the diaries of the Overland Telegraph Expeditioners* by Andrew Crouch is a well-produced piece of historical research, which uses the diaries of the expeditioners to tell the story of the construction of the Northern Section of the Line. Maps and photographs enliven the text. The Appendices are a useful reference point: Appendix 1 outlines biographies of the main people and Appendix 2 lists expedition members. The End Notes are very thorough and valuable to other researchers.

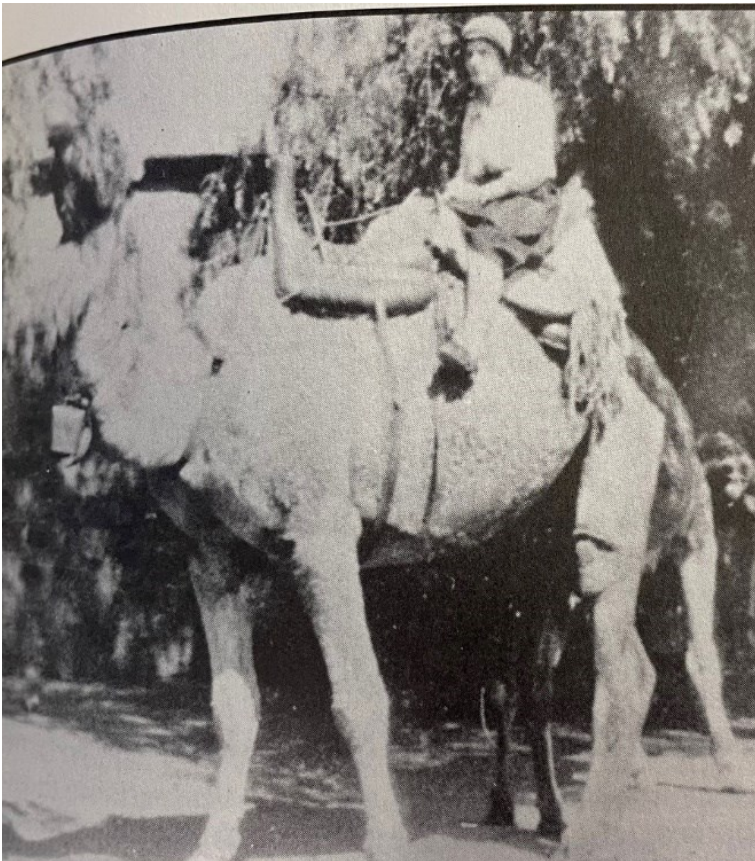
Overall, this book was a good read, covering an area of OT Line construction in great detail.

Ruth Sheridan

## Early Teachers in the Northern Territory

A list entitled "Early NT Teachers" appeared on my desk with instructions to add the names to our Pioneer Register. I did so, and then searched further for other names and their stories, using Trove and the National Archives of Australia as well as books from our library and Electoral Rolls. I found a few long-serving teachers and some on loan for three years from the Queensland and South Australian Education Departments. In addition to public school teachers were those serving at convents and governesses on stations. My list is by no means complete but the stories below should give an outline of who served, where they served and when, as well as the conditions they faced.

**Pearl Burton** was born on 21 July 1900 at The Stockade Adelaide to parents Henry James Burton and Sarah Jane nee Philby. She was a schoolteacher who arrived in the NT circa 2 May 1929 on loan to the Commonwealth from the Education Department of South Australia. In May 1929, she was the first teacher at Hartley St School in Alice Springs. Copious correspondence relating to Miss Burton is available for reading on the National Archives of Australia site, item ID 45472. *The Mail* of 21 March 1931 shows her astride a camel along with the story of her NT experience.



Here is part of that article: 'On holiday in Adelaide recently was Miss Pearl Burton, the first qualified schoolteacher to be appointed to Alice Springs. She took up her work two years ago when it was considered desirable to establish a special settlement for half-caste children outside the town. The aborigines were sent to the Hermannsburg Mission. Miss Burton started with 11 pupils

and a tin shed for her school. At the end of last year, she had 33 pupils, who were housed in a modern building of concrete bricks, and she now has a little cottage of her own, where she "batches." This year she has 42 children. Her pupils are all Europeans with the exception of one half-caste and a few Afghans, who come under her care because they are British subjects. The half-caste is employed at the Methodist mission. Asked whether the presence of the Afghan children created any difficulty. Miss Burton said that at first the white children were inclined to be offensive toward them, but it took very little training in Christian principles to overcome that problem. Now the colour question is disregarded. The Afghans, she says, are exceptionally smart and quick witted. ...

Miss Burton went to Alice Springs from the Currie Street Practising School, where she trained students to teach. She applied for her present post because her health necessitated a sojourn in a warmer climate. And what a contrast in work she found. In her first school the heat at certain times of the year was so intense that she used to start school at half-past 7 in the morning and close at half-past 12. However, she says now that the Government can be proud of the school building with its modern equipment. The provision of a new school has also provided a social centre. Last year Miss Burton arranged the first concert ever given at 'the Alice.'" The programme was provided by her pupils in the school hall. The audience came, not only from the township, but from long distances, and it was a wonderful success. She realised soon after she went there what an asset a piano would be, and she organised an 'ugly man' Competition. This ran for 12 weeks, and in addition to creating much fun returned £77 with which she purchased a piano. She hopes this year to establish a glee club and encourage local talent. Miss Burton is keenly interested in the wider education of the girls and boys under her care and is anxious to teach the domestic arts. She tried to do some of this work in the kitchen of her own cottage, but it proved too small. However, she has not given up hope of developing this phase of education. Plain sewing and fancy needlework are being taught to the girls. The boys she interests in gardening, and she speaks with pride of their vegetables, which are divided around them. Altogether Miss Burton seems to regard her life at Alice Springs as very much worthwhile, and not in any sense one of isolation.'

**Source:**

National Archives of Australia, Trove



**ENA DALTON.**

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. Dalton, of Ennogeru, Qld. This young scholar of 14 has won the North Australia Scholarship

**Evelyn Winifred Dalton**, known as **Ena Dalton**, was born at Woonona NSW in 1913. The *Northern Territory Times* dated 28 June 1929 reports that "The competitive examination for the North Australia Scholarship, held recently at the Darwin State School, under strict independent supervision, resulted in a win for Ena Dalton." This enabled her to complete her education at Brisbane Girls Grammar.

Under the title School Teacher's Success reported in *The Age* dated 23 April 1937 she received more press notice:

DARWIN, Thursday. — Miss Ena Dalton, schoolteacher, has passed the Queensland school teachers' qualifying examination, being the first schoolteacher in Northern Territory to do so. Miss Dalton was the first girl to win the Queensland scholarship in the Territory and is now head mistress of the Katherine school.



Prior to her appointment at Katherine, she taught at Parap School in 1932, replacing Miss Elliott who went to Pine Creek School. In 1936 she married Arthur Bernard Langston at Bulli NSW.

Whilst in Katherine she was heavily involved in Junior Red Cross, the CWA, and Tennis Club. She also established a free public library. In 1939, she transferred from Katherine to one of the Darwin schools. Evelyn Winifred Langston died on 12 August 1994 in New South Wales.

**Henry Fairfax Lovell (aka Sam) Finniss** was born on 13 November 1887 at Palmerston NT. He was the nephew of Boyle Travers Finniss, the first Government Resident at Escape Cliffs. He married Eva Thomasine Rogers on 9 August 1911 in Broome WA. In correspondence recorded in National Archives of Australia he claimed to have passed an exam in WA as a schoolteacher in 1911. He took charge of Marble Bar School, resigning in 1913.

In correspondence Finniss claimed to have arrived at Port Darwin in 1914. He joined the staff of P.R. Allen until they closed in 1921. He was a tally clerk in Darwin in 1922 according to the electoral roll. In 1922, he secured a position on the goal staff and was transferred from there to the Education Department. He was appointed head teacher on 14 October 1922 at a salary of 318 pounds. In 1922, he was a member of the Darwin Town Band (see photo in Territory Stories)

From 1928 to 1931 he was a teacher at Emungalan / Katherine. He taught at Pine Creek where he was also appointed a JP. He did not go south for leave, staying in Pine Creek to study for his examinations. About one month before his leave expired, he received notification of the termination of his employment (24 June 1932) for allegedly carrying out work at the Club Hotel, Pine Creek. He sought to appeal against the decision but was unsuccessful.



The National Archives site records copious correspondence during which it becomes clear that Finniss had been given several warnings, which he had ignored. Witnesses claimed that while he was a teacher and JP, he worked behind the bar at the hotel and his writing was on some of the hotel's invoices. In 1932, he failed his exams, and the district inspector gave a poor report on him and the school.

From 1934 to 1940, Finniss was a tally clerk of Peel St Darwin. He enlisted in the army on 11 March 1940 and was appointed a Censor Grade V.

The GSNT Pioneer Register records that his children were Henry Major Ingelram (1912-1918), Charles Colville Barclay (1913-1989), Thelma Muriel (1915-1988), Arthur Leslie Herbert (1916-1918) and Leslie Fairfax (1918-1997).

Finniss died at Royal Hobart Hospital on 2 June 1957.

**Source:**

NAA ID: 1170676

**Pearl Annesley Heaney** was born on 1 November 1889 at Quorn, South Australia to parents Cordelia Hull and George Harris Heaney. The electoral roll records her occupation as home duties at Red Hill Queensland in 1917 and 1921. She was a schoolteacher at Brisbane South in 1925. She taught at Pine Creek in 1937, living in the Hospital Building.

After moving from the NT and then teaching in Adelaide she moved to teach in Hobart. The *Mercury* newspaper announced on 6 May 1949: Miss Pearl Heaney, who has been attached to the teaching staff of the Campbell St. School, Hobart, has been appointed an education officer in New Guinea. She will leave Hobart on May 18 and Sydney on May 20 to take up her new appointment. Miss Heaney was at Darwin and Adelaide for 11 years before transferring to Tasmania in 1946. *Mercury* (Hobart, Tas.), Friday 6 May 1949, page 3. In 1951 she was reported as teaching European children at Lae.

Pearl Heaney died in Brisbane on 21 March 1975.



**Herman Adolph Heinrich** was born on 17 April 1895. He taught at Hermannsburg Mission from 1917 to 1932. He was made a JP in 1929. He and his family left NT in 1933. The State Library of South Australia holds a collection of his photographs entitled Heinrich Family Album, which can be viewed online at [collections.slsa.sa.gov.au](http://collections.slsa.sa.gov.au) › resource › PRG+1559/8/1-295 . More information can be gleaned through a reading of *Dear Mr Heinrich Ntaria Letters 1933-1935* available at the GSNT Library.

**Mrs Mary Niemann** nee Nicolson was born at Kyneton Victoria in 1887. Her husband was John Henry Niemann. They lived at Daly River where her husband tried to establish meat canning (1899) prior to moving to Pine Creek. At Pine Creek, her husband, a chemist, dispensed medicines when no doctor was in town. He also did research on assaying and treatment of refractory ores. Mrs Niemann treated fever cases from Umbrawarra. She taught at Pine Creek School from 1907 to 1911 when the family left NT.

Her second career was as an authoress, using the experiences of her family moving from Victoria to live in the Northern Territory to write "The adventures of Alice and Kitty." It was serialised in *The Melbourne Leader* in 1913 according to the Aust Lit site. The true account of their adventures can be found in the *Northern Territory Times & Gazette* article published on 4 August 1899.

**Source:**

Trove

**Laurie Jean Osborne** was born in Darwin on 18 July 1911 to Charles William Osborne and Minnie Smith. She taught as a Pupil Teacher at Darwin School in 1926. On 13 October 1931, she married Tasman Charles Vivian Fitzer, of the Northern Territory Police Force. They were living at Timber Creek in 1933.

She married John William Clancy in 1945. The 1949 electoral roll shows them living at Darling Harbour NSW where he was a marine cook, and she did home duties. A further marriage was to Thomas Reginald Fitzpatrick. The 1980 electoral roll shows them living at Dulwich Hill NSW where he is a driver, and she is a clerk.

Laurie Jean Fitzpatrick died on 21 April 1997 at Mollymook NSW and was buried at Ulladulla NSW.

**Source:**

Electoral Rolls

**Bridget (Bid) O'Sullivan** was born on 6 June 1893 at Taroom, Queensland to parents Florence O'Sullivan and Margaret Markham. She taught in Queensland country schools until she accepted a three-year position in the Northern Territory. The *Northern Standard* records on 18 September 1928 'We regret to learn of the resignation from the Education Department of two very capable teachers in the persons of Miss W. Thrupp and Miss O'Sullivan, both of whom came to the North from Queensland. ...Miss O'Sullivan leaves Darwin by the "Malabar" next month.'



Her name is included in a list of officers of the Public Service of North Australia as at 1st July, 1928 in the Commonwealth Government Gazette of January 10, 1929. The salaries mentioned include allowances: ... Miss B. O'Sullivan, assistant teacher £280 ...

The Findagrave Site outlines her life thus: 'Bridget 'Bid' O'Sullivan was the first teacher at the School of the Air in Queensland. Bid O'Sullivan was born in Taroom and had attended primary school there. She had extensive experience in bush schools, having taught in Winton, Charleville, and Chinchilla before the Second World War.

In 1942, she began work in the Correspondence School in Brisbane where she remained for 17 years. Miss O'Sullivan's voice became very well-known as she conducted many school broadcasts for the Australian Broadcasting Commission.

School of the Air lessons began in Queensland on 25 January 1959, in a converted house which also housed the Flying Doctor Service in Cloncurry. Bid O'Sullivan was 63, a tall, white-haired lady, at this challenging time in her long teaching career.

Bid O'Sullivan became a Member of the British Empire (MBE) in the 1963 New Year's honours list 'For her outstanding services and devotion to the children of Queensland in the field of education'.

In May 1963, Bid retired when she was sixty-seven years old. Her retirement was a very emotional day for her many devotees. A big testimonial function was held in Cloncurry. She was presented with the Cobra microphone which she used for so long. It had been dipped in gold, mounted, and inscribed: Service above Self. She was delighted.

Bid O'Sullivan died on 21 December 1976.

**Catherine Pett nee Cooper** was born on 17 November 1864 at Moonta South Australia to parents James Cooper and Eliza nee Carty. She married William Pett on 14 May 1887 at the Bible Christian Manse, Moonta, South Australia. She arrived at Port Darwin per the *Catterthun* on 5 January 1889. They had two children, one dying at an early age in the NT.

Her husband left the NT in 1901 to take up work as a gardener, appearing to sever all contact with Catherine although they remained married. Catherine was a schoolteacher at Palmerston and Head Teacher at Pine Creek. She was one of 82 women on the 1895 NT electoral roll and one of thirty NT women who voted in 1895. She left the NT in 1910 after 21 years of service in the NT school system to take an appointment in Gawler South Australia.



Catherine died on 22 January 1926. She was buried on 24 January 1926 at Willaston Cemetery, Gawler, South Australia.

Local newspapers of the day recorded her death thus: 'Much regret will be felt by the older residents of the Territory on hearing last Saturday of the death in Adelaide of Mrs Catherine Pett, who was for many years the only teacher in the Darwin State School. The deceased lady was about 65 years of age and leaves a husband and one son, both of South Australia.

My first trip to Darwin (writes a correspondent) found her in charge of the school with ninety pupils, all well under control and without any assistance. Many of the former scholars of the deceased lady are the successful businessmen of the Territory to-day. 'Northern Territory Times and Gazette (Darwin, NT: 1873 - 1927), Tuesday 26 January 1926, page 2.

*The News of Adelaide* Tuesday 26 January 1926, page 7:

'LOVED SCHOOL TEACHER Death of Mrs. Catherine Pett. Mrs. Catherine Pett, who died at the Hutchinson Hospital, Gawler, on Friday, aged 61 years, was for 15 years in charge of the primary school at Sandy Creek. She also occupied the position of postmistress at Sandy Creek for the same period. Mrs. Pett taught for 22 years at Darwin. She was respected and loved, not only on account of her ability as a teacher, but also for her goodness of character and happy disposition. Although a member of the Anglican Church, Mrs. Pett was closely connected with the Sandy Creek Congregational Church, of which she was an associate member. She joined heartily in the social life of the district, and by her friendly sympathy and kindness had won the friendship and regard of all who knew her. Under her teaching the children of Sandy Creek received excellent training, and always gained a high percentage of successes in the public examinations. During the past 12 months Mrs. Pett had been in indifferent health.'

*The Bunyip* (Gawler) indicated that Catherine was known as Kittie.

Sources:

GSNT PR 1034. Image from Peter Spillett Collection.

**Nance Letchford Taylor** was born on 18 November 1905 to parents Albertus Martin Taylor and Mary Alice nee Tregonning.

She arrived in the Northern Territory by train circa 1933. *The Mail* dated 22 April 1933 records: Miss Nance Letchford Taylor of the Pennington School was appointed by the Federal Minister of the Interior today to teach white and half-caste children of Alice Springs. She will have to stay at Alice Springs for three years before [being eligible for] three months furlough.

She taught at Alice Springs until 1936. She married Clarence Tom Raymond Barrett on 29 December 1936 at St Agnes Church Grange South Australia. She was a housewife and mother between 1936 and 1949. Then she taught at School of the Air from 1949 to 1965.



She died in Adelaide on 18 May 1985. She was buried in Alice Springs Memorial Cemetery.

**Source:** Trove GSNT PR385

### **Evelyn Mary Tombs**

The *Northern Territory Times* dated 15 August 1924 records that Miss Evelyn Tombs, who arrived in the Bambra and is to take charge of the Parap School is a young lady of exceptional abilities. Miss Tombs is only 21 years old but as far back as 1917 gained a first-class diploma for Alliance Francaise of Perth. She repeated this in 1918 and 1919. She has also gained the following honours: University of Western Australia Junior Certificate, 1917, six subjects; Teachers Examination passes in Needlework, Education, History, Geography and English; C Certificate at Teachers College WA passed with credit in 10 subjects; WA University Matriculation Certificate in 1920. Miss Tombs is at present staying with her uncle (Mr Charles Stockton) of the Wireless Station at the Club Hotel.

'The engagement is announced of Mr. John W Stackhouse, of Singapore, and Miss Evelyn Mary Tombs, of Perth, Western Australia.' *West Australian* Friday 9 September 1927, page 9

'Mrs. Stackhouse, the wife of Mr. J. W. Stackhouse, manager of the New Zealand Insurance Co., Yokohama, who, before his transfer, to Japan, was in charge of the Singapore office of the company, figured in a remarkable incident near Yokohama at the end of last month, when she and two friends who were bathing with her were attacked by a Japanese on the beach at Kamakura, a pleasant sea-side resort about three-quarters-of an hour's journey from Yokohama. *Northern Standard* (Darwin), Friday 21 September 1928, page 6

It was reported that Mary Stackhouse of Shanghai had given birth to a son in 1929. In 1934 her husband was reported to have returned to Adelaide as manager of the NZ Insurance Company after 20 years in the Far East. Mr and Mrs J W Stackhouse and two children arrived in Australia in 1934 on the *Tanda* from Yokohama.

In 1944 J W Stackhouse left his position in Adelaide for a position in Auckland NZ. The *Bulletin* Vol 65, No. 3360 dated 5 July 1944 recorded that he had spent 10 years in South Australia and before that was manager in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Tokyo. It also mentioned that firefighting was a strong sideline for Stackhouse.

**Sister Magdalen Mc Namara** was born in Sydney NSW on 28 September 1909. She was educated at Henty NSW. She came to the Northern Territory on the MV *Merkur* in August 1935 to teach at St Joseph's Convent. She was transferred to Bathurst Island in 1937 to work among the Tiwi people and then again in 1941 to take up an appointment in Port Keats.

**Source:**

Northern Territory Women's Register 1948 – 1988 second edition 1991

**Amy Doris Adams** was born on 19 January 1897 in Gladstone Queensland. In 1915 she was appointed head teacher at the Wallan Creek Upper State School (*Darling Downs Gazette* 16 July 1915.) She resigned from the Education Department on 23 May 1924.

She married Gordon Hooper Mundell in 1924. He was killed in an aircraft accident near Miles Queensland on 28 January 1930. One newspaper stated that he was a married man and a member of the firm Mundell & Adams, motor garage proprietors, Miles. Amy Mundell worked as a governess on Alexandria Station in 1937.

She remarried on 11 January 1940 to John George Hoare.

**Source:** Trove

### **A POEM ABOUT OUR FLAG**

OUR flag bears the stars that blaze at night  
In our southern skies of blue,  
And that little old flag in the corner  
That's part of our heritage too,  
It's for the English, the Scots and the Irish  
Whoever sent to the ends of the earth.  
The rogues and the schemers, the dons and the dreamers  
Who gave modern Australia birth.  
And you who are seeking to change it,  
You don't seem to understand.  
It's the flag of our law and our language,  
Not the flag of a far away land.  
There are plenty of people who'll tell you,  
That when Europe was plunged into night  
That little old flag in the corner  
Was their symbol and their sight.  
It doesn't mean we owe allegiance  
To a forgotten Imperial dream,  
We've the stars to show where we're going  
And the old flag to show where we've been.  
(Author unknown).

