



Hill End & Tambaroora Gathering Group Newsletter

Issue 19, September 2016



Dear Hill Endites and Tambaroorians,

Well, what a year it has been! We started off with the annual reunion in Rhodes Park on March 5th where more than 80 people signed our visitors' book, representing all these family names who were in Hill End or Tambaroora at some stage.

Ackermann	Galloway	Petrie
Alder	Gardiner	Phillips
Anderson, Selina	Garner	Porter
Auld	Gaynon	Pulley(Ullamalla)
Baskerville	Goodwin	Pymont
Beard	Hen(d)	Rapp
Brice	Hocking	Roberts
Bryant	Hodge	Rowe
Burnett	Hogan	Rusten
Charters	Howley	Salkeld
Christie	Hutton	Smith
Clarke	Inch	Starr
Clemons	Jarman	Swannell
Cooper	Jeffree	Thomas
Cullen	Jenkyns	Tilson
Dagger	Knight	Totolas
Dalley	Lanes	Trefone
De La Torre	Lawler	Trevena
Denman	Lawson	Turner
Dewdney	Longmore	Vane
Drakeford	MacFarlane	Wainwright
Eldridge	Macyannis	Walpole
Elliott	Manolato	Wardman
Ellis	Maris	Warry
English	McCarthy	Wells
Ettinger	Murray	Willard
Everett	Northey	Woodhead
Faraday	Parsonage	Woolard
Fitzgerald	Pascoe	Yates

It was great so catch up with those who have been coming to our Reunions for many years now and it was also wonderful to meet all those new members who have more recently discovered their links to the district and who had heard about our Reunion through the website or other associated publicity.

We hope that you will not be strangers and that you will return, in 2017 with your family, on the first Saturday in March, i.e. the 4th March... same place, same time!

Not content with one get together it was decided to hold another day in Hill End and this we promoted as an Open Day...

Hill End Family History Open Day....

(view all the photos [here](#))

All it takes is the alignment of the constellations, the mention of National Family History Month being in August, the offer of a guest speaker and the launch of an updated website and suddenly you have a Family History Open Day.



When Daphne & I were sipping coffee at the Hill End General Store a few months ago she mentioned that she had been speaking to Virginia Hollister, from Rylstone and she had

offered to present her research on Augustus Baker Peirce (of the Varieties Theatre in Hill End) in a talk. The Gathering Group had their updated website to launch and it was coming up to National Family History Month... So, why not combine the lot and show the people of Hill End as well as interested visitors, just what was available for them when researching their family in this area. The idea of a Family History Open Day was born.

Our aim was to show the people of Hill End, those newcomers as well as those with long standing connections, just what resources are available to us when chasing up family history. This material comes to us through the generosity of those who have made their private collections accessible to us. Then the hard work by the small but enthusiastic band of volunteers started and they have copied, transcribed and indexed it. Because not everyone has access to the internet or our website, we have also printed out most of it and this was what was on show at the Open Day.

As the Royal Hall was the most appropriate venue for the event we were happy to be able to showcase the portraits hanging on the Hall walls. Seeing all those faces surrounding us reminded us that it because of them that we were there. Hopefully our research helped to bring them more to life and by providing some of the more obscure biographical background to the families we have made them live again.



Daphne had her collection, housed at the rear of the Royal Hall, open and was able to guide researchers in its use and the Gathering Group material was spread out around the Hall, with each table holding various categories of records, such as mining records, land records, BDMs, School records, photographic records, maps etc.

An important part of the day was the relaunch of the Gathering Group website which was ably carried out by Counsellor Gary Rush, the Mayor of Bathurst Regional Council. As Bathurst Council had provided significant grant funding towards the expenses involved in we felt that it was most appropriate that they play a part in the relaunch. Amongst other topics mentioned by Mayor Rush in his speech was his enthusiasm and continued support for the ongoing legacies established during the Bathurst 200 Celebrations. Mayor Rush was most supportive of the work that we are doing in assisting people establish their connections with the town and also

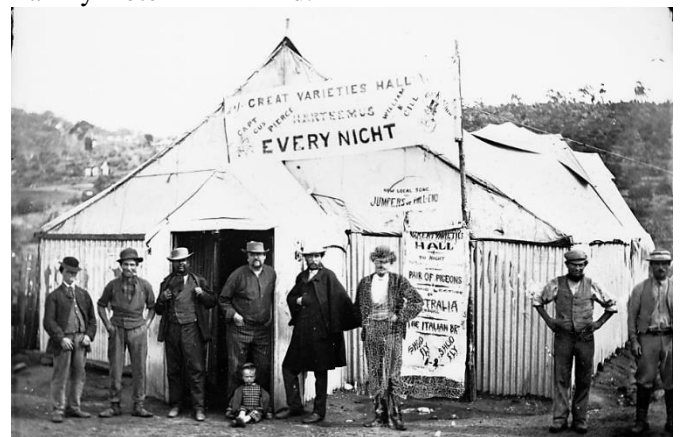


in bringing people into the area to experience the environment in which their ancestors lived and worked. Through our involvement in this event we were able to meet up with other passionate local and family historians, all of whom have a close connection to the region and its mining and pioneering past. By sharing our information through such mediums as the website and

newsletter we are able to ensure that this past is preserved.

A very tasty afternoon tea was served, with scones, jam & cream and scrumptious slices fortifying the participants for the following talk provided by Virginia Hollister.

Virginia had carried out extensive research on one of the goldfield's more interesting, but lesser known characters, Captain Augustus Baker Peirce. She project-managed the conservation of a mural painted over the fireplace in the bar parlour of the 1871 sandstone Bridge Hotel in Rylstone. In attempting to identify the artist she was introduced to the multi-talented Captain Augustus "Gus" Baker Peirce, who brought his Varieties Tent theatre to Hill End in 1872. While he was there, Gus turned his hand to many undertakings, acting, mining, surveying and often paid his bills with his artwork. He was even known to have painted murals in the Dodd's Family Hotel in Hill End.



Gus Peirce & his Varieties Hall (tent)

It was a most successful day as over 100 people visited the Hall to use the material and listen to the speakers. We have been able to add a number of new members to our database and representatives of the following families attended.

A number of our volunteers were able to join us on the day and their presence there made it all the more special. Once again they helped out with meeting & greeting the visitors, preparing afternoon tea, selling our publications and generally helping visitors find information about their families. A big "THANK YOU" to all of them.

Our BIG news! **Yes, our updated website is now LIVE!**

The screenshot shows the website's header with navigation links: Home, About Us, Resources, Newsletters, Members, Forum, Gallery, Bookshop, What's on, Contact. Below the header is a large banner image of a town with a text box that reads "Hill End & Tambaroora Gathering Group". The main content area features a paragraph about the town's history, followed by a section titled "Are you looking for ancestors?" with three columns: "Check out our resources" (with a "Browse our resources" button), "Check our databases" (with a "Check our databases" button), and "Contribute to our forum" (with a "Join & view our forum" button). Below this is another section titled "Are you visiting Hill End & Tambaroora?" with a large image of a tree-lined path and a "Read more..." button.

Check it out at www.heatgg.org.au

Over the past 3 years our volunteers have been working very hard. They have been transcribing and indexing a stack of primary material for the website. Once the initial work was done we then had to find a way to make this accessible to all our members Australia wide. Those who attend our annual Gathering have been able to browse through the hardcopies of this material but we realize that not everyone can come along so it is now available in our [Resources](#) and [Databases](#) section on the site.

Many of the documents are complete transcription of old registers and give the full details of mine claims, including the names, the sizes, locations and who worked on them. Others are just indexes of names mentioned in the books and registers and there may not be much further information available. We have endeavoured to include as much information as possible to help people establish the presence of their ancestor in the district at a particular time.

The “[petitions](#)” are particularly interesting in that they often provide an address or occupation and are usually the written in the original handwriting of the name of the signatory. This can sometimes demonstrate the level of education of the signer as well and can range from beautiful calligraphy to the veritable “thumbnail dipped in tar”. Other registers have been kept by an official of the Court or public office and once the volunteers became used to the handwriting the transcriptions were easier.

Dotted throughout the website are some beautiful and relevant contemporary photographs taken by our volunteer, Di Greenhaw. The whole site has taken on a new contemporary look, thanks to the work of our web designer, Sander de Wijs and our virtual personal assistant Ilana van Geijn of Personal Secretary Services.

The [school records](#) were particularly interesting in that the Admissions registers give us the child’s name, age, religion as well as the name of the parent or guardian, their occupation and address. Sometimes it also gives the reason for leaving school and where the family may have moved on to.

We have also been given copies of all the Crown Land plans for Hill End. These are a recent acquisition and go a long way in showing where people lived and what buildings may have been on the site at a particular time. They often show the names of the neighbours as well. Along with these records came an [index to each Section and Allotment or Portion](#). For use in conjunction with these records we have also obtained permission to include a high resolution [map of the townships of Hill End and Tambaroora](#).

To give you just a hint of what is now available you can now click on any of the links below to see what might be available to help you find a mention of your Hill End or Tambaroora ancestors:

- [Resources](#) (These headings cover particular aspects of Hill End & Tambaroora life and research)
 - [Family History Research \(for the beginner\)](#)
 - [Researching your Hill End Ancestors](#)
 - [Researching Hill End & Tambaroora – Books & Newsletters etc.](#)
 - [Researching Hill End – Online](#)
 - [Links to other websites and blogs](#)
 - [Art in Hill End](#)
 - [Music](#)
 - [Literature](#)
 - [Film](#)
 - [Newspapers](#)
 - [Our Publications](#)
 - [Maps](#)
 - [Databases](#) (all headings include lists of names)
 - [Petitions](#)
 - [Education in Hill End & Tambaroora](#)
 - [Census Records](#)
 - [1901 NSW Census](#)
 - [1891 NSW Census](#)
 - [Electoral Rolls](#)
 - [Land Records](#)
 - [Mining Records](#)
 - [Book Indexes](#)
 - [Births Deaths & Marriages](#)
 - [Diaries & Memoirs](#)
 - [Post Office Directories](#)
 - [Hill End War Memorial](#)
 - [Multiculturalism](#)
 - [Recreation](#)
 - [Occupations](#)
 - [Local Government](#)

We hold copies of every document on the webpage and while some are very hard to read (just ask our transcribers!) others are quite clear.

We now also have a [Forum](#) where you can post your queries and hopefully others may be able to contribute information to help you on your research journey.

Catch up with all the photos from our past activities on our [gallery page](#). You never know, you may find a modern day relative there! For those who have never visited then just check out the beautiful photography of our volunteer, Di Greenhaw, as she records the scenery, our visits and activities.

For those without access to the internet this may be a great time to interest your younger generations in their family history. Ask the grandkids to show you the website then explore it together. See if you can find a reference to an ancestor somewhere using the “Search” function which appears on each page.

Some of this information may be found elsewhere but our aim was to bring it all together on one site, thus making it easier to start putting your family story together. Naturally, if you are able to put together a story about your ancestor from this information we would love to be able to share that through our forum or the newsletter.

For those just starting out we have included a significant section covering [the “How to” of family history research](#). There are lots of links to help you get started.

Here you will also find copies of [back issues of all our newsletters as well as copies of The Stamper Battery](#), a newsletter of the Hill End & Tambaroora Progress Association. Here you will find a lot more contemporary snippets of local history.

We have tried to make it a website for all, even those who just come across it when looking for general [visitor information](#) about Hill End. So, we have included sections on various aspects of Hill End life, including art, music and literature.

Having said all these good things about our site, it also comes with a “disclaimer”. Every attempt has been made to ensure accuracy however, with the transcription of old handwriting and sometimes dealing with “copies of copies” errors may occur. We are but human! We cannot certify that the information contained on the site is totally accurate so encourage people to check out original certificates etc. to confirm any facts. If you feel that you are able to correct the spellings of names we are only too happy to hear about it.

The best part about a website is that it is not static. We can add to it, update it and correct it as we go along.



Let us know what you think via the [“Contact Us”](#) page., especially if we can improve it in any way.



Our Condolences



Betty Maris

It is with a sad heart that we record the passing of Betty Maris (93), on 16 April 2016. Betty had not been well for a few weeks prior and passed away peacefully in her sleep.

Many of the longstanding members of the Gathering Group will remember her with great affection as a beautiful lady who had a great love of Hill End, a place she was introduced to many years ago by her husband Bill.

Over the years, during their regular trips to the area, they collected family history information and memorabilia and Bill & Betty Maris became the unofficial experts on all matters relating to life in the village. Betty helped many early researchers find their ancestors. She had a wonderful accumulation of family stories and local history and compiled an extensive volume on the Maris family. An accomplished artist, Betty also produced many paintings of the old buildings and local scenes.

Bill & Betty sent out a newsletter to remind people of the forthcoming annual reunion in the Sydney Royal Botanic Gardens for more than 32 years, giving news of the village, and often including copies of old photographs. She is sadly missed by Bill, who lost a soulmate after 74 years of marriage, as well as by her son, Ian, daughter-in-law, Liz, and all her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

A lovely lady who accomplished so much, she has left us a wonderful legacy. It is due to Bill & Betty’s untiring interest and dedication that the Gathering Group has such solid foundations which we have been able to build on and why the Group continues to flourish.



We have also received notification of the passing of the following Gathering Group members since our last newsletter:

William Heap (Wavell Heights) 30 November 2015 aged 82

Liz O’Neil – (nee Goodwin) May 2016

Alice Joyner - (nee Ross) 9 August 2016 aged 98

Les Campbell (Evesham, Ullamalla & Day Spring Tambaroora) 3 August 2016 aged 85

Jean Warry (from the Royal Hotel in the 60s) 10 Sept 2016

Our sincere sympathies are extended to their families.



Beyers Avenue Memorial trees



Beyers Avenue in Autumn – Photo by Di Greenhaw.

In August 1877 the Mayor, Louis Beyers, offered to provide at his own cost any trees, and any number of them, for planting along the streets of the town on condition that the municipality plants and fences them. As an experiment, the council accepted the donation of 5 trees to be planted at the junction of Tambaroora and Bathurst roads, at junction of Tambaroora and Clarke streets, at south end of Tambaroora-street, by the culvert in Reef-street, and one other place.

The experiment was a success and in July 1885 Beyers (still the Mayor) presented the Municipality with all the trees necessary to form an avenue from the Royal Hotel northward to the Borough boundary. The aim was to add greatly to the appearance of the town, taking off its bare, monotonous aspect, and hiding a great deal of the anything but rural-looking abandoned alluvial workings.

This avenue has become synonymous with Hill End and has been proudly maintained by the residents ever since. In 1936 the Hill End Progress Association asked the Turon Council to supply 50 trees to fill in the gaps with relief workers to do the plantings.

In December 1951 funds (£150, enough for 100 trees) were raised by the Jubilee Committee for further replanting of these trees. So, in January, 1953 a selection of willows, poplars, chestnuts, pines and birches were added to the school grounds and streets.

Previously known on maps as just the “Main Road” or Tambaroora Road, it was known as Beyer’s Avenue at least as far back as 1901 when it was mentioned in an article in *The Newsletter: an Australian Paper for Australian People* on 22 June of that year. On 2 May, 1981 the then Minister for Planning and Environment, the Hon. Eric Bedford officially opened this stretch of

Hill End as “Beyers Avenue” in memory of Hugo Louis Beyers and the pioneers of Hill End. A plaque recording this event was placed on a stone pedestal at the junction of the Bathurst Road and the Mudgee Road.

Over the continuing years trees have continued to be planted along the Avenue, some in new locations and others replacing those older ones which have reached the end of their viable life. This has been the responsibility of volunteers from the Hill End & Tambaroora Progress Association, most recently Ross Brown and Peter Mitchell.

HILL END MEMORIAL TREES			
BEYERS AVENUE			
DONATED BY	IN MEMORY OF	DONATED BY	IN MEMORY OF
Otto Horst	W. Frenzel	Mrs. Judith Little	Dr. J. M. Little
K. E. Blackett	A. R. Jock MacFarlane	Fred Thompson	Thompson Family
A. & N. R. McLelland	E. S. G. Oliver	Keith McKenzie	Ken McKenzie
Colin Simpson	self	R. E. Hodge	Sarah McKenzie
Phyllis MacFarlane	A. R. Jock MacFarlane	Cec Bartlett	Harry Hodge
Keast Burke	self	Mrs. H. Hodge	R. P. A. & M. B. Penhall
Mrs. Keast Burke	S. Trenhard Smith	R. M. Arndell	Harry Hodge
Mrs. Grace Evvenett	Adelaide Dove	Alex Black	Black Family
D. A. Dove	Algernon Smith Marr	Mrs. N. A. Kohan	Florence M. Bartle
L. R. Henley	Carla Henley	Miss Clare K. Gill	Sylvia M. Gill
Mrs. Blanche Dale	Le Mesurier Family	W. Lyle	Miss Clare K. Gill
Edgar Natrass	R. & S. Natrass	J. A. Carr	Ernie Lyle
Brian Hodge	Russell Hodge	Mrs. H. N. Gilbert	Graham Family
David Wythes	Wythes Family	Bryana S. Smith	Rev. W. Wilson
Rev. F. T. Walker	Rev. W. A. Walker	Miss Clare K. Gill	Sylvia Helena Beyers
Gwen Eyre	Oswald Eyre		Gertrude Harriett
Mrs. M. E. MacFarlane	Gertrude Eyre		Oswald Arthur
Erst Howard	Howard A. MacFarlane		Letitia Mary
	Albert F. Howard		Theodore Greville
	Nancy J. Howard		Bilvannah Clarendu
Alex W. Marshall	self		Clara Victoria
Mrs. Ida C. Armstrong	Ida C. Eastdown	Hill End	Bill Lyle
Mrs. J. M. Robb	T. & A. Yates	Citizens Assoc.	Norman Cross
J. M. Hammond	Mark J. Hammond	Hodder Family	Mary Anne Crough and
Charles Marshall	James I. Adams		Ell Hodder
	Hannah L. Adams	Miss Clare K. Gill	Lucretia Hugo Louis Beyers
	James W. Marshall		Mary Beyers
	Sarah L. Marshall	R. Solman	self
	Hannah Marshall	Mrs. C.W. Herron	Lavinia Ann Roberts
Norman Jeffrey	Ernest Jeffrey		

Tucked away in the Royal Hall is a Board with a listing of names of pioneer families in the district, now a little out of date. In the interest of “record keeping” we have been able to transcribe this list and then add more recent acquisitions to it here. Alongside these names are the names of the people who have arranged to have a tree planted in honour of their ancestors.

These records show that the following people have recorded the presence of their families in Hill End & Tambaroora:

Donated by	In memory of
Otto Herbst	W. Frenzel
K.E. Blackett	A.R. Jock MacFarlane
A & N.R. <cLelland	E.S.G Oliver
Colin Simpson	Self
Mrs Keast Burke	Self
Mrs Grace Evennett	S..Trenchard Smith
D.A. Dove	Adelaide Dove
D.A. Dove	Algernon Smith Marr
L. R Henley	Carla Henley
Mrs Blanche Dale	Le Messurier Family
Edgar Natrass	R & S Natrass
Brian Hodge	Russell Hodge
David Wythes	Wythes Family
Rev. F.T. Walker	Rev. W.A. Walker
Gwen Eyre	Oswald Eyre
Gwen Eyre	Gertrude Eyre
Mrs M.E. Macfarlane	Howard A. MacFarlane
Bert Howard	Albert P. Howard
Bert Howard	Nancy J. Howard
Alex W. Marshall	Self
Mrs Ida C. Armstrong	Ida C. Easdown
Mrs J.M. Robb	T. & A. Yates
J.M. Hammond	Mark J. Hammond
Charles Marshall	James L. Adams
Charles Marshall	Hannah L. Adams
Charles Marshall	James W. Marshall
Charles Marshall	Sarah L. Marshall
Charles Marshall	Hannah Marshall
Norman Jeffree	Ernest Jeffree
Mrs Judith Little	Dr J. M. Little
Fred Thompson	Thompson Family
Keith McKenzie	Ken McKenzie
R. E. Hodge	Harold Hodge
Cec Bartlett	R.P.A. & M. B. Penhall
Mrs H. Hodge	Harry Hodge
R. M. Arndell	A. B. Burne
Alex Black	Black Family
Miss Clare K. Gill	Sylvia M. Gill
Miss Clare K. Gill	Miss Clare K. Gill
W. Lyle	Effie Lyle
J. A. Carr	Graham Family
Mrs H. N. Gilbert	
Bryan S. Smith	Rev. W. Wilson
Mrs Clare K. Gill	Sylvia Helena Beyers
Mrs Clare K. Gill	Gertrude Harriett Beyers
Mrs Clare K. Gill	Oswald Arthur Beyers
Mrs Clare K. Gill	Letitia Mary Beyers
Mrs Clare K. Gill	Theodore Greville Beyers
Mrs Clare K. Gill	Billvenah Clarenda Beyers
Mrs Clare K. Gill	Clara Victoria Beyers
Hill End Citizens Assoc.	Norman Cross
Hodder Family	Mary Anne Crough & Eli Hodder
Mrs Clare K. Gill	Ludwig H L Beyers
Mrs Clare K. Gill	Mary Beyers
R. Solman	Self

Donated by	In memory of
Mrs C.W. Herron	Lavinia Ann Roberts
Fae Warry	Reginald A Warry
Carol McCance	Lorraine & Robert Lincoln
Jill & Max Hamilton	Max & Annie Florence Hamilton
Clarence Cowling	Louis Beyers
Anne Marshall	Alexander Marshall & his son Alexander Marshall
Heather J De Sain	Dr Charles H Degner
Helen Heath	Louis Beyers
Dave Blim	Beryl Blim
M Kennedy & V Derwin	Dalley Family (1875-1953)
Ray & Jeanette Paten	Thomas Paten & family
Kenneth C W Miles	Daniel Miles
Sheena Goodwin	Goodwin Family
Coral & Neil Glossop	Louis Beyers
Barry, Graham, Beverley, Amanda & Ross Ellis	J L & F A Ellis (Denman)
Jack, Bruce, Laurie & Moire Stuart	J W & S A Stuart (Black)
Vicki Coles & the Evans descendants	James Benton Evans & Elizabeth Evans
Margaret Hatfield & Les Hughes	Benjamin & Martha Hale
Ruth McEwen (Cantrill)	William Pulley
Gaye Gleeson on behalf of descendants	Gordon Stanley Marshall (Craigmoor)
Gwen Colvin (Davies)	Amelia Davies (nee Heap)
Tony & Sue Roberts	Sydney & Emily Marshall
R & R Auld	Auld Family
Barbara Perry	Dagger & Bender Families
Betty Jeffree	Ian Peter Jeffree
Betty Jeffree	Jeffree Family
J & G Shanahan and R & M Anderson	William (Rex) Price
Their children	Roy & Monica Hubbard
Doug & Ann Graham	Henry & Emma Graham

Road Rage, Hill End style

As reported in the *Mudgee Guardian* of 9 September 1915



Accident: - While old Mr. Henry Burns was coming down the Avenue on Thursday morning, a horse attached to a spring cart that was being driven by Mr Laurance Weir, ran over the old man, knocking him down and seriously injuring him. He was carried to the hospital, where he still remains, but is so much better. As the old man is over 90 years of age, it is really marvellous he was not killed. There are times at Hill End when a person would be safer crossing some of the principal streets of Sydney, seeing the way horses are driven around corners, and about the streets...

We ran out of room in the last newsletter to do a bit of boasting... so we are catching up now.

As part of the Bathurst 200 celebration in 2015 local heritage projects were encouraged to present their recent projects for consideration and inclusion in the National Trust Heritage Awards.



Our entry consisted of a “package deal” of our publications over the past 5 years which included 10 issues of our newsletter, our website and 4 books. We were thrilled to receive a “Highly Commended” Award as the competition was pretty stiff. The Awards were presented by Mayor, Gary Rush at a ceremony in Bathurst last September. Certificates were then presented to each of our “authors” at our September Reunion in Hill End.



An English Matron and her Aussie Poms



Volunteer researcher, Karen Bates has a tale to tell about a mysterious Matron and her gang of small dogs.

Karen writes: ‘I came across an article about Matron Blanche Lee that prompted me to find out more about her life. Blanche Lee came out from London in 1889 as a 30-year-old single woman and commenced her career as a Matron in Goulburn. She was employed in many hospitals around NSW, Queensland and Victoria and her credentials were very highly praised with every job interview. Blanche became very well known as a Pomeranian breeder and judge of these dogs. She had at least 14 of her own, which travelled with her wherever she went. These dogs were the cause of Blanche being fired from one hospital. She commenced work at Hill End hospital in 1921 where she was commended for her work as a Matron and numerous charity acts. But one act toward her dogs may have been the cause of the decline in her health and the sad state she was found in towards the end of her life.

Hill End Hospital and Morgue is now a museum and art gallery. The Hospital has become the National Parks and Wildlife Service Visitors Centre, with a room displaying an original birthing table and other surgical artefacts.’

Here is Blanche’s story, told by Karen:

Christmas Eve 1889, 30-year-old Blanche Lee disembarked from the RMS *Orient*, setting her white leather shoes firmly onto the Sydney docks. For the next 46 years those shoes carried her to every state around Australia. Why an English-trained Matron would work in as many district hospitals as she had dogs remains a mystery. But one can’t help humming along to Geoff Mack’s Aussie classic, ‘I’ve been everywhere man’, when browsing the online National Archives of Australia in search of an answer.

I’ve nursed everywhere man;
I’ve nursed everywhere
Saved lives at every chance man, across the desert with these dogs, man,
I’ve nursed everywhere.
I’ve nursed Sydney, Goulburn, Wagga, Gympie, Wallsend, Coolgardie, Government House and Bendigo, Kilmore, Dunning, Zeehan, Bourke, Mount Morgan, Inverell, Queanbeyan and Narrandera,
I’ve nursed everywhere man. I’ve nursed everywhere.

I’ve nursed at
Hastings, Temora, Vegetable Creek and Mudgee, Cootamundra, Merriwa, Dunolly and Mansfield, Daylesford, Peak Hill, Walhalla, Mount Wycheproof and Heathcote, Pambula, Tingha, Nyngan and Gundagai, Jetty Private, Balranald, Urana and Manilla, Walcha, Tumbarumba, Hill End and Goodooga.
I’ve nursed everywhere man; I’ve nursed everywhere...



Wallsend Hospital

Blanche took up her first assignment the day she moved into Sydney's Philpot Street Nurses' Home. Starting as Head Nurse of the Children's Hospital in 1890, it wasn't long before she began to advance her career. In fact, just about every job Blanche applied for, she got. Her testimonials were faultless, which made hospital committees overlook her transient history.

Picture this Kilmore Hospital 1899. Committee hiring for the position of Matron. Twenty applicants and the long process of elimination begins. Finally, it comes down to just two. Miss Blanche Lee and Miss McLeod. After much deliberation on whether there should be a toss-up to decide, the president makes this statement. "This matter is too important to be decided by a toss-up! Miss Lee would make the better Matron even though she hasn't been able to show us any evidence of being certified."

Blanche, however, was certified. She had trained for four years at the General Hospital in Nottingham England, was certified at St Saviour's Hospital in London and then spent 18 months as a Sister at the East Dulwich Infirmary. In May 1889 Blanche, appointed Sister of the Monsall Fever Hospital, decided (for reasons we can only speculate about) to board the *Orient* for Australia.



The *Orient*

So on went the deliberations at Kilmore. Mr McBurney tried one last time to discredit Blanche, declaring "She doesn't stay in one place very long". Nevertheless, Mr Watson had the final say. "Her testimonials are outstanding!" Meeting closed.

There was no doubt Matron Lee was a wanted woman. In the 1910 issue of *The Brisbane Courier*, May 12, page 3, in the MISSING HEIRS AND KINDREDS column,

an advertisement posted by Sidney H Preston of 26 Chancery Lane London revealed that name 51 on the list was Blanche Lee.

Who was this Matron who travelled Australia with the collection of Pomeranian dogs she called Leeholme Kennels? Not to be confused with Leeholme horse stud at Bathurst owned by the Lee family dynasty ... or was it?

Whoever she was, she always seemed to make an impression on others. In taking up her new position at Temora Hospital, Matron Lee was seen driving her three beautiful show-winning horses and buggy into town, having come all the way from Port Macquarie.

As Matron of numerous hospitals, Blanche saw her fair share of coronial inquiries, wrongful dismissals and maybe some rightful ones. But whatever the issue, Matron Lee managed to get herself out of trouble. Like the time a passing bike spooked two of her horses as she rode high in her buggy down the Ginninderra road near Queanbeyan. Off they bolted! The rattling sound of failing brakes increased the speed of the horses. Once again her driving skills were noted. "Miss Lee is evidently possessed of splendid nerve," stated the Queanbeyan Leader, "for she never once lost her presence of mind, sitting firmly behind the galloping pair, guiding them safely past all obstacles." Down hills and over bridges at phenomenal speeds raced the horses. Past the notorious turn at Union Club Corner, up the hill toward the railway station, coming to a stop near the goods yard.

On many occasions Blanche wished she could apply the same level of control over her Pomeranians as with her horses. Not only did the temperamental show winners cost more to buy than her monthly wage of £4, they also cost the Matron her job, 1918 being a particular bad year. The *Glen Innes Examiner* reported that a member of the Nyngan District Hospital Committee went to confirm complaints made about Matron Lee by a probationary nurse. These complaints included "dogs being kept in the matron's room, the feeding of dogs from hospital crockery and then there was the issue of a corpse being left in the morgue undressed for a couple of days..." On examining the matron's room, the member noted "the dogs were like bees and the undertaker simply did not know how he was going to put the corpse, whose arms laid straight and stiff, into a coffin."



Gundagai Hospital 1918

Blanche resigned of course and it wasn't long before Tingha District Hospital and Gundagai Hospital experienced the English Matron and her Aussie Poms. It only took one day for the Gundagai Hospital Committee to receive a complaint. "There seems to be more dogs at the hospital than humans", reported an unknown source.

Two members of the committee investigated by visiting the Matron's room. Blanche did what she could to keep her dogs quiet. Sure enough the committee found 14 little Pomeranians being treated like babies. The dogs were immediately removed, along with Blanche's furniture. When fumigating the room, a sentry on duty heard growls coming from the wardrobe. On opening the door three more pixie faces, who would not be silenced, came out yapping. Nobody puts Wee Laddie, Wee Lassie and Chocolate Cream in the closet! Matron Lee collected the little rebels and left.



Hill End Hospital

In October 1922 Blanche Lee and her partners in crime arrived at Hill End near Bathurst. She was in her sixties, with failing health, when she commenced duties at the local hospital. Establishing Leeholme Kennels on an isolated property at Hill End, it wasn't long before the icy mountain winter took the life of a couple of her poms. Despite the extreme temperatures, Blanche was gripped with the charm of the former gold rush town and made it her home for the next 10 years. A strong member of the community, she was noted for her caring nature as a nurse and charity fundraiser.

Sadly, tragedy of a sinister kind was to strike Blanche and her poms in 1924. Returning home from a holiday spent with Mrs Smith-Marr at Dee Why, Blanche discovered all of her Pomeranians had died. Poisoned. A cruel and fiendish act of placing powdered glass in their food was committed by person(s) unknown.

The *Mudgee Guardian and North-Western Representative* described her great loss. "Matron Lee, of the Hill End Hospital [right], took a pride in her pets and spared no expense to make them happy and comfortable. Off duty, she devoted her time to them and found in her hobby relaxation and pleasure. Little pairs of sharp eyes were always on the lookout for her. Little ears were pricked when her footsteps approached and staccato

barks expressed the doggies' delight when playtime arrived. They will play no more."

The Hospital Committee posted a reward and the local Sergeant hired a tracker to find the culprit, but it wasn't enough. The devastated Matron left Hill End to take up duties at Goodooga Hospital. It is not known when Blanche returned to Hill End, but return she did to her secluded cottage on Hawkins Hill to rebuild her family of Poms.

In 1929 Blanche was hospitalised with acute hepatitis and heart failure. She bounced back and came out of retirement in 1930 for a short period following the death of the only doctor, her friend Dr Smith-Marr. When a matron was appointed, Blanche returned to spending her days with her Poms.

Friends and neighbours must have been very few for Blanche in 1932 as she was discovered by the local

doctor at home in an appalling state of health. Having suffered a paralytic stroke, Matron Lee lay helpless in bed surrounded by her furry friends. She was there long enough for the prize-winning poms to become mangy. Blanche's body was covered with eczema.

Transported to Bathurst District Hospital by ambulance, then off to Lidcombe Asylum – where

she died. Her little friends came under the radar of the council and 11 out of 15 were destroyed by the Mudgee Stock Inspector.

Regardless of the circumstances surrounding Matron Lee's many departures, she always left hospitals and patients in a better condition than when she started. Testimonials are numerous:

"The nursing staff, with Miss Lee as the Matron, is an efficient one." – Government Hospital Coolgardie Western Australia.

"Miss Lee would prove an efficient officer, as the testimonials which had been received with her application were in every way excellent." – Wagga District Hospital.

"The hospital in general under Matron Lee's care has never presented a cleaner and better appearance." – Hill End Hospital.

A letter from a patient's mother to Wallsend Hospital thanked Matron Lee for her unremitting attention to her child. "The Gaynon family of Hill End wished to especially mention Matron Lee in their time of bereavement."

Blanche Lee died on 11 September 1935, aged 75. She was interred at Rookwood cemetery in an unmarked grave. Area Zone D, Section 14, GN:1458.

Just one small advertisement...

Sometimes just a small item in a newspaper captures the imagination. When the following advertisement appeared during one of my Trove searches it piqued my interest. I thought there may be simple story behind it so decided to follow it up.

N O T I C E .
I, KATE O'DONNELL hereby give Notice, to whom it may concern, but particularly to my husband JOHN O'DONNELL, native of "Templemore," Ireland, that I intend marrying again, should I not hear from him in one month from this date.
KATE O'DONNELL.
Hill-End, December 27, 1871.

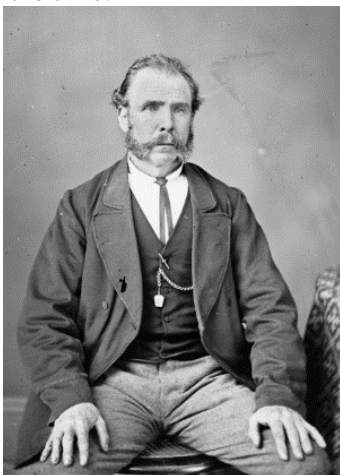
By 1871 gold fever had well and truly taken hold. In some circumstances it split families, with the husband heading off to seek his fortune, but subsequently disappearing from the face of the earth. So, it seems, was the fate of John O'Donnell whose wife, Kate, appears to have made up her mind to move on and remarry. She placed the above advertisement in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 1 January 1872.

It appears that she received no response so, true to her word, she married miner, James Giles in Tambaroora on 1 February 1872, recording herself as a "widow" and daughter of William Halpin, a storekeeper, on the marriage certificate.

James, born around 1835 and a native of Truro, Cornwall, was the son of William and Margaret Giles. He had been working in the district since January 1869 at least and he lived at Bald Hills, his miner's right qualifying him to be on the electoral roll. In January 1869 there is a record that he was working with James Salkeld with one full share in four men's ground on the Scandinavian Reef on Red Hill. He also appeared on the electoral roll for 1873-4.

On 16 April 1873 Kate, who was from Ireland, gave birth to a son, James Halpin Giles, whose birth was registered at Hill End. She was 28 and his father, James, was 38.

The Holtermann Collection of photographs include a number of photos relating to the Giles families who were in Hill End at the time.



Labelled "John (or James) Giles" it is difficult to know if this is possibly James Giles (aged about 38) or another

Giles, John Giles, who was in Hill End at the same time, and would have been about 43 years old or so. This same gentleman in the portrait appears in a family group photo outside a neat whitewashed home with a bark roof.

However, John Giles had a large family, at least 8 children so it is more likely that they lived in this large home, rather than just a newly married couple with one baby.



As this John and his wife Sarah (nee Noble) had a baby daughter in January 1871 it is possibly them as they also had an older daughter who may have been needed at home to help out with the younger children.

However, data on the back of the Holtermann print in the State Library suggests that it is James Giles and his wife. It also provides information that Kate was a widow and that her father was William Halpin, a storekeeper.

So, this could be James and Kate with their child in arms, James, aged about 6 months. By 1875 James had disappeared from the electoral rolls for Hill End and it is possible that he had made enough money from his gold mining activities to set himself and his family up in the Camden area, (specifically Elderslie) where he took up grazing pursuits.

Sadly, marital bliss was not to be part of Kate's life once again. On 25 February 1876 her husband James passed away, aged just 41 and on 16 June, just four months later, their "only and much beloved child" James also passed away.

James' estate was swiftly wound up and all his "goods, chattels, credits and effects were granted to Kate (Catherine) Giles, the widow of the said deceased" by 4 October of the same year.

Kate, now aged 31, and appearing not to be one who let the grass grow under her feet, was now possibly a woman of means and it was not too long before she was walking down the aisle again, this time on the arm of Leonard Smith (aged 24), of Camden, on 30 November 1876.

Leonard was also a farmer, "late of Elderslie" but by 5 February 1880 he was at 118 Elizabeth St Sydney where he passed away. This was the premises of Kate's solicitor as well as the home of John Giles and his family who had quit the Tambaroora goldfields and moved his family back to Sydney to work as a carpenter.

It is not known just what the connection existed between this Giles family and that of Kate's previous husband as John was from Armagh in Ireland and James was from near Truro in Cornwall, as recorded in his death notice. Small world...

Once again, Kate was without a spouse... and unfortunately, this is where we possibly lose track of her.

One can only wonder as to what happened to her after this series of unfortunate events - no husband, no children, and so no close family member to contribute information to her death certificate. We have no idea what happened to her after this.

One possibility is that she took up the trade of tailoress as a Mrs. Kate Smith was listed in the 1880 Sand's Directory at 362 Elizabeth Street, near Goulburn Street in Sydney, not too far from the Giles home. Did she eventually marry once more? In 1880 she was still a relatively young 45 so it is quite a possibility. She had disappeared from the Postal Directory by 1882 and with a surname like "Smith" she now totally eludes us and so disappears into oblivion....

Did John O'Donnell from Templemore in Ireland ever wonder what had happened to his wife? Did he ever search for her? Who knows...?

If anyone reading this is connected to any of these families, we would love to know if there is a continuing story...

While researching this Giles family I came across the following poem in our records, written by the son of John Giles, Arthur Lewis Giles, who was born at Louisa Creek (now Hargraves) on 3 October 1856. He was sent to



Sydney as an apprentice engineer in 1872, while the rest of the family remained behind in Hill End. The family subsequently moved to Sydney in 1874/5.

I am looking at those dear old letters
Which have come to me from home
And I'm thinking, Yes, I'm thinking
About those from whom they've come

And whenever I see those dear old letters
I upwards many a petition send
That the day may not be long in coming
When I shall once more see Hill End

It is true I'm always hearing
Tidings from those who I love so dear
And besides that I am learning
What it is to be an Engineer.

Yet what is that to being with them
Although whereer my steps may bend
Even tho it may be in Old England
I shall never think it like Hill End.

Three miles from there is Tambaroora
Where both of my Grandparents lie
And if it could be I should like
To be laid near them when I die.

There I also have a brother buried
If westward you your steps will send
So you see there are many reasons
That I should like to see Hill End.

It was at that old church standing there
Mother, her bridal dress first wore
There she promised that whatever
Father said it should be law.

So you see whereer I travel
Or whereer my steps I bend
Though I may claim Hargraves as my birthplace
I shall always wish it was Hill End.

Arthur passed away in February 1914 and sadly, never made it back to Hill End to be buried. He was interred instead in Waverley Cemetery.

The original version of this poem is in the possession of Anne Cropley who lived in Kyle Bay. She left this information with NPWS in Hill End in 1988 however she has since moved on so if anyone knows her whereabouts then we would love to catch up on the Giles family.

Oral History: We can always learn from others.



I regularly receive the Armidale Family History Magazine "Dust of Ages" and I am indebted to them for the following article which was printed in Issue 156. (Feb 2016)

It was written by Wayne Hoppe the president of AFHG and gives some hints about conducting an oral history

interview. In this day where voice recording devices are a natural function of the smart phone we really have no excuse for not capturing those moments aurally as well as visually.

Have you ever been talking to a relative and wanted to find out more about their life, but didn't know how to go about this? Oral history is one of the most important genealogical tools that you can use. It can give you hints on how to then search further. But most importantly it can give you the story behind the facts. This story may be lost forever if the right questions aren't asked.

Before you go to the interview get yourself prepared. The best results are achieved when you are properly prepared. Do your research on the person and family you are interviewing. Have a notebook and a couple of pens or pencils to jot down notes as you go along. Take a voice recorder so that you can record the interview, if the interviewee agrees. Then you can listen back after you get home to make sure you have the story right.

Below is a list of points that might help you the next time you want to talk to those who may know more about your family history.

Have a list of topics in mind, not specific questions. You may, however, want to have a start-up list of questions. It is best to start with general conversation before getting into the 'interview' part of the meeting.

1. Plan the topic of your first substantial question after the 'settling down' phase. Ask a question that will prompt a long answer and 'get the subject going'.
2. Ask easy questions first. Ask personal or emotional questions after a rapport has developed. (This may even need to be at a follow up interview.) End as you began with lighter questions.
3. Ask questions one at a time. Allow silence to work for you. Wait.
4. Be a good listener, using body language such as looking at the interviewee, nodding, and smiling to encourage and give the message 'I am interested.'
5. If necessary, use verbal encouragement such as 'This is wonderful information!' or 'How interesting!' Be careful, however, not to interrupt when the interviewee is speaking.
6. Ask for specific examples if the interviewee makes a general statement and you need to know more. Or you might say, 'I don't understand. Please could you explain that in more detail?'
7. Ask for definitions and explanations of words that the interviewee uses and that have critical meaning for the interview.
8. Rephrase and re-ask an important question if you don't get the full information you were after.
9. Don't phrase your questions so that they are answered with a 'yes' or 'no'. Don't ask, 'Were you a farmer at Armidale during the 1930s?' Ask, 'What was it like farming up at Armidale during the 1930s?' Don't interrupt if they are telling a story. Let them keep on going as you never know what they may bring up.
10. Be flexible. Watch for and pick up on promising topics introduced by the interviewee, even if the topics are not on your interview guide.
11. Don't ask about dates. Very few people remember the date or even the exact year. However, they may remember it in context with other events, e.g. before the war, when they were living at a certain place, etc.
12. Above all be sensitive. Be prepared to stop asking questions if the interviewee isn't responding or is getting tired. If necessary, plan another visit. It is amazing the extra information you get on the second interview.

Recent acquisitions

We were recently the grateful recipient of some copies of Land Records relating to Hill End. These are Crown Plans and the information they contain is invaluable for those checking out their ancestors' land sites, especially if they were the first leaseholders and they had buildings on them. Along with these records came an index, compiled from publicly available sources, listing people associated with these properties, covering the period 1861 – 1988.

This document arrived in time for us to include it on our updated website so you can check the index here to see if there is any mention of your ancestor.

More Maps



On the subject of land records, we also came across a collection of Heritage Maps on the NSW Dept of Industry, Resources and Development website relating to Hill End & Tambaroora. Actually locating a decent size version which can be read proved a bit of a challenge so I contacted their Geoscience Products Officer, Gavin Ayre. Apparently their website is also undergoing an upgrade as well, and he kindly sent through the following instructions, using the new DIGS database to find the maps.

As an example, if you were interested in the Geological Map of Hill End and Tambaroora, NSW, 1879 map,

Step 1 - Open [New DIGS](#)

Step 2 - Copy and paste the exact title of the map – e.g. **Geological Map of Hill End and Tambaroora 1879** into the search box.

Step 3 - Ensure to tick the box **"Search for exact phrase"**

Step 4. - Ensure the Tab directly over the search box **"Publications"** is selected - this ensures you are searching maps and vector data sets only - avoiding unwanted results (ie drilling reports, explanatory notes, etc that may be associated with the map).

Step 5. Click "Search"

This is not as straightforward as accessing straight off the [Distinguished heritage maps](#) webpage; there are a couple of extra steps involved, but typically the map you are seeking is the first result. You will be able to view and download the highest quality version of the map that is freely available from this page.

No death notice? then check out the Funerals!

Ann Manley, another of our avid researchers and Trove addicts recently sent in the following hints when looking for Death Notices online, especially on [Trove](#) and the [Ryerson Index](#).

Up to 50% of people in Sydney up to WW2 may have had only a funeral notice and no death notice in the *Sydney Morning Herald*. So if the date of death is known it is worth checking the Funeral Notices in the *SMH* (in Trove) for several days after death. It is also worthwhile checking "In Memoriam" notices for the following year or two.

When browsing Trove items, for country newspapers in particular, researchers shouldn't forget to check the Obituaries (which are usually classified as articles). Otherwise smaller paragraphs may appear in a column related to local or personal information.



While we are on the subject...

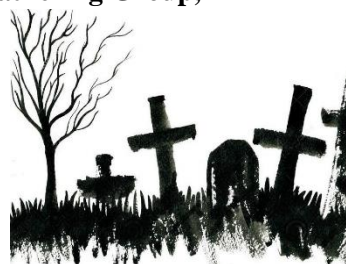
Death Certificates needed.

We are doing some background research into the various cemeteries around Hill End & Tambaroora district, especially the very earlier ones, 1850 to 1870 or so. Any documentary evidence, including newspaper clippings or memorial cards as to where their ancestor may have been buried and the religion of the deceased will help us ascertain just when the particular cemeteries were established.

We would be grateful if you can share this information with us so we can set the records straight.

We are happy to receive photocopies posted to **Hill End & Tambaroora Gathering Group,**
12 Grantham St,
Carlton NSW 2218

Or scanned copies can be emailed to heatgg@yahoo.com.au and we will pass them on.



Sound familiar?

THE RICH MARKETS OF CHINA

THE teeming millions of China represent the nearest and most profitable market for your primary products. They want your raw goods. Our comprehensive selling organisation has branches in the main cities of China. We are splendidly equipped to investigate and supply the most accurate information concerning trade conditions. If you wish to exploit this rich market, we can sell your goods on consignment or buy outright, guaranteeing all accounts.

We invite enquiries only from substantial persons or firms regarding raw or partly manufactured products wholly of **Australian origin** that can compete in China with world parity prices. Enquirers must be prepared to advertise in the leading Chinese newspapers and to display their goods on exhibit in that country.

EXPORTERS OF:
Wool, Wheat, Flour, Leather, Tallow, Hides, Skin, Meat, Fruit, Dried Fruit, Bone Dust, Fertilisers, Sandal Wood, Railway Sleepers and other Australian primary products.

IMPORTERS OF:
Tung Oil, Tea, Sea Grass, Silks, Embroidery, Linen, Napery, Linen, Lawn, Gingers, Spices, Cane, Rice, Matting, Lacquer Ware, Brass Ware, Soy, and all Eastern Merchandise.

SIMPSON LEE & CO. LTD.
414, 416, 418 Pitt Street
SYDNEY.

Well this advertisement was written and published in *The Sun* on 5 April 1931: page 8. Seems like nothing changes...

The Hill End Family History research room

is located at the rear of the Royal Hall
Next to the Royal Hotel
and is open every Saturday
10am to 4pm.

For enquiries contact Daphne

Email: daph@hillendfamilyhistory.com

Phone - 02-63378218 after 6:30pm

or try your luck on 0429335627

For further information check out Daphne's website at

<http://hillendfamilyhistory.com/>

Contact Daphne if you would like to be placed on the email mailing list to receive a copy of her newsletter

It didn't take long....

...for the comforts and entertainment of the city to reach the goldfields.

Whilst many thought the first gold seekers on the Turon were a sensible law-abiding lot, it appears that not everyone found them so. The following report from the *Bathurst Free Press and Mining Journal* of 3 December 1851 page 2 testifies to this:



THE LOWER TURON.

'The intelligence from the diggings about the lower portion of the Turon, which appeared in last Saturday's publication is to a certain extent corroborated by the contents of the following letter which has since come to hand. From the respect-ability of the writer, we do not hesitate to confide in the statements it contains.

Dirt Hole Creek, November. [1851]

My dear Sir —By a person who leaves this place direct for Bathurst, I write to acquaint you of the progress of matters at Dirt Hole Creek. As nearly as I can estimate the number, I should say there are about 300 diggers at work hereabouts, by far the greater portion of whom are doing exceedingly well, many of them proceeding rapidly in the direction of independence. Williams' party of five are making daily about 7 ounces, and although there is nothing very extraordinary in this, such earnings are far more common in this quarter than any other portion of the diggings upon which I have been located. Not far from my residence there are two Sydney boys at work, one of them named George Wilkins, who have netted 45ozs. after a stay of three weeks, and many are doing equally well—some few very much better.

Notwithstanding the strong temptations with which the most shameless sly or rather public grog selling is carried on, the conduct of the miners continues upon the whole to be orderly. There are, nevertheless, a few brutalizing scenes, at times, from the prevalence of dissipation. On Sunday the 26th inst., one of the miners became so intoxicated that in attempting to return to his gunyah, he fell near a log fire, and lay there in a state of insensibility until his shoulder and arm were literally roasted. Another, whilst in a similar condition, toppled into a hole and dislocated his knee. We are rather fortunate at our diggings in the residence amongst us of a cold water doctor, one particular feature in whose character is an Abernethian dislike for his own medicine. There are likewise (I almost blush to state it) three or four females

here, who, to a warm attachment for ardent spirits and a decided taste for gambling, superadd a few other accomplishments of kindred character. In fact, gambling is carried on to an alarming extent, and the more so, from the impunity with which distance shelters the devotees to this hateful vice. The savings of weeks and months are frequently hazarded on the turn of a card or one throw of the dice.

Much rain has fallen during the last three weeks, and considering the advanced period of the season, the weather is cold and chilly. Amongst us there are a few unfortunates to whom the place looks gloomy and cheerless enough, and with some of the very lucky, there exists a lurking desire to return to their families and firesides. But generally speaking, the miners are well satisfied with their rude and nomadic existence, and the occupation of gold-seeking; is become as much a settled employment as any other.



After all the hard work in getting material ready for the website most of our volunteers have been taking a well-earned rest for the past few months. Some have continued to work on their own projects and we hope to have the results of these available on the website over the next few months. We look forward to regrouping in the new year and finalizing some of these ventures.

On the 'net

More and more material is beginning to appear on the internet. Academic institutions are making their newsletters and journals available to the general researcher and some real gems are immersing. A recent search revealed a fascinating article written back in 1976 in the *Australian Society for Historical Archaeology Newsletter* Vol. 6, No 2 Sept 1976, on page 8.

Titled *The use of machinery on the goldfields of Louisa Creek and Tambaroora, NSW 1851-1855* by Aeeden Madden. It examines the mining techniques employed in the very early years on the goldfields and includes a good description of the Cornish Roasting Pits as well. Maybe your ancestor was working with this equipment?

[Click here](#) for the full text of the article. Or contact Lorraine on 0408117784 for more details.

Where was your ancestor in 1867?

Check out Bailliere's Post Office Directory of NSW for 1867. Thanks to Google Books you can now access a free download the entire issue of Bailliere's Post Office Directory for this year [here](#).

Hill End Happenings

Saturday 1 October 2016 – Hill End Community Market – Royal Hall, Hill End

Since it was built as a community hall in 1900 the Royal Hall in Hill End has been the home of local Bazaars to raise funds for many causes. Built by a local publican it was made available for community activities and still continues this tradition today.



Mrs Weir's Stall for the Hospital Bazaar, c 1872

There are no other retail outlets in the town for this type of trade so we want to encourage these traditional skills. So the Long Weekend Market in Hill End is on again!

Situated in the historic Royal Hall, right next to the Royal Hotel, in the centre of town, a variety of stalls will offer a range of goods for sale between 9.30 am and 4 pm on Saturday 1st October.

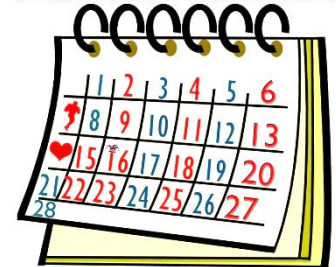
There will be a mixture of beautiful hand craft items, bric-a-brac, books, preloved clothing, household items, plants, seeds and collectibles for sale as well as the ever popular Sausage Sizzle.

The twice yearly Market has become a regular fixture on the Hill End calendar over the past 8 years or so. It adds an extra dimension to the friendly and historic atmosphere of the town and we are hoping for a great turnout. You never know what you will find at one of our stalls – there is something for everyone....it is the element of the surprise that makes it all the more interesting.

Hill End Public School children will be demonstrating their newly acquired business skills and selling their seedlings and running a raffle to raise money for their forthcoming excursion to Canberra.

The Market also supports Hill End Family History, and the Hill End & Tambaroora Gathering Group, as we rely on donations to continue our work in assisting people trace their family history in the area, thus preserving their stories for future generations. Come along and join in the fun! Better still, have a stall, Contact Lorraine for details. 0408117784

Mark Your Calendar!



Sunday 16 October 2016 – Spring is in the air.... Historic Houses Open Day in Hill End.

The popular Hill End Open Day enables visitors to access a number of unique gold rush buildings, not normally open to the public. The combination of buildings available to view gives a fascinating glimpse into the past life in a bustling, frenzied mining town.

In the boom year of 1872 Hill End claimed the second biggest population in the state, yet today it is but a sleepy remnant of its illustrious past.

Register at the Royal Hall, where the pioneering ancestors will gaze upon you, before heading out to the visit St Paul's Church, miners' cottages, (some now residencies and studios for visiting artists), including the home of renowned artist Donald Friend, the Court House, the School and La Paloma pottery. There is almost too much to see properly in one day, so come early!

Experience the ambiance of these incredible gold rush buildings set in the isolated landscape of the Central Tablelands. Arrive by sealed roads from Mudgee or Bathurst. Always bring a jumper or jacket to Hill End as weather can cool down in mornings and afternoons.

Adult \$25.00 Concession \$18.00 – Bookings essential. For further details and bookings Phone: (02) 6337 8306 or Email: HillEndOpenDay@yahoo.com.au



Visit Hill End Public School 1872 & 2016 – just one of the venues open on 16 October.



Contact details for the Gathering Group

Lorraine Purcell
Hill End & Tambaroora Gathering Group
12 Grantham St, Carlton NSW 2218
Ph: 02 95870352
Mobile: 0408117784
Email: heatgg@yahoo.com.au
Website: www.heatgg.org.au

Our bookshop
Brian Hodge's publications

SPECIAL
BUY

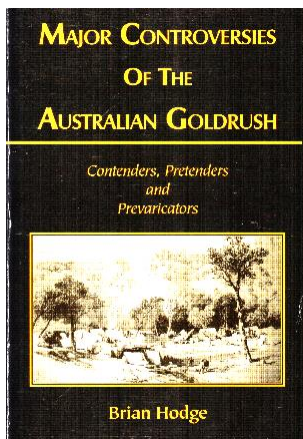
Local historian and Tambaroora identity, Brian Hodge has been researching the story of gold for about 40 years and has an impressive resume of publications behind him. Using his experience as a history teacher and lecturer in both the Secondary and Tertiary Education field, his last two books contribute a collection of documentary evidence regarding the early days of the goldfields of Hill End & Tambaroora.

Both these books have had limited distribution in the past but we are pleased to announce that we now have copies of both publications available for sale through the Gathering Group website and newsletter.

Major controversies of the Australian Goldrush – Contenders, Pretenders and Prevaricators. \$15 & \$4 postage

Golden Hill End \$20 & \$4 postage

If both books are purchased, we can combine postage and **offer a package of \$40 for both including postage** to the same address anywhere in Australia.



Major controversies of the Australian Goldrush – Contenders, Pretenders and Prevaricators.

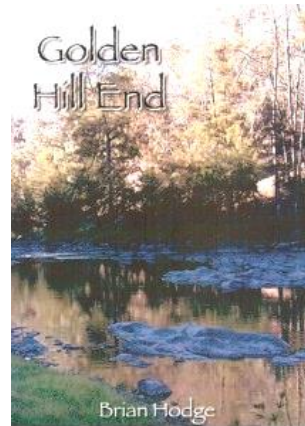
It was the row that never ended. Before the rush to Australia's first payable goldfield (Ophir) had commences, ill-tempered protagonists were competing for primacy as the important discoverer of gold. More

contenders were to follow...

Thus writes local goldfields historian, Brian Hodge, in the introduction to his publication, *Major controversies of the Australian Goldrush – Contenders, Pretenders and Prevaricators.*

This work, self-published in 2003, appears to have slipped under the radar of reviewers and so possibly didn't receive the recognition it deserved. In it, Brian presents the cast of pretenders who claimed to have influenced the discovery of gold in Australia. He looks at the evidence presented by each of those who felt they Edward Hargraves, John Lister and James & William Tom, the Rev. B Clarke, William Tipple Smith, Sir Roderick Impey Murchison, Enoch Rudder and Simpson Davison.

In Brian's well researched style he offers each case and substantiates his examination of the primary material with extensive footnotes. It makes for interesting reading and demonstrates this aspect of goldfield history in an easy to read manner.



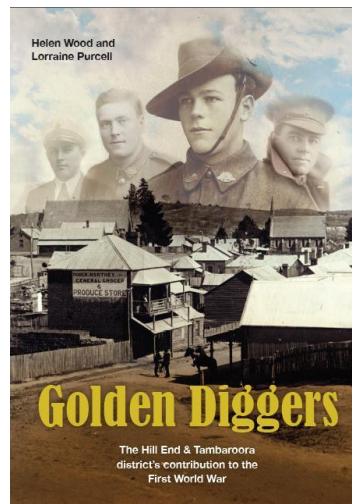
Golden Hill End

In this work Brian allows the pioneer settlers, and those who followed them, to tell their own story. He presents a range of views, from officialdom and the Gold Commissioners, to letter writers, personal memoirs. and newspaper correspondents.

After many years of research Brian published his final work in 2009, encompassing the history of the Hill End region from aboriginal times to the current day. Arranged chronologically, the book incorporates a number of issues of interest to the local and family historian, which have not previously been addressed. It places these events in a logical sequence and the reader can see how one situation often influenced the next.

Brian has recently moved into a Retirement Home in Kelso and we are fortunate that his family is allowing us to continue to make copies of both these works available.

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