



Hill End & Tambaroora Gathering Group Newsletter

Issue 23 September 2018

STOP PRESS: See page 5 for details of our next Hill End outing! Saturday 20 October.

Dear Hill Endians & Tambaroorites

Welcome to the “new look” newsletter. At a recent family history conference which I attended suggestions were made that the formats of “online” newsletters should be in one continuous column to make it easier to read and scroll through....so we are trying it out.

I would certainly be happy to hear your opinion of the new format. Feel free to let me know. To keep up to date with what we have been doing or coming events, don't forget to “like” and follow us on [our Facebook page](#).

Well, what a busy year it has been so far and still more to come. We started off with the Annual Gathering at Rhodes on 3 March, where more than 60 members spent the day catching up with family & friends.

Representatives of the following families joined us for the day. A great turnout and once again a meeting place for old friends to catch up and new friends to be made, with the chance of finding a lost relative or two along the way.

Some of the families represented at the March 2018 Gathering:

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Longmore, Goodwin, Alder, Starr | Millett, Trefone, Brice, Clemens, Totolas, Marshall | Black, English, Stuart, Steadman | John Bawn/Baurn/Borne Connolly |
| Griffiths, Harvey, Hinton, Gustafson | Dagger, Thurling | Willard, Porter, Cullen | De La Torre, Walpole |
| Ettinger, Ruppel | Warry, Auld Eldridge | Gaynon, Fitzgerald | Anderson, Bolton |
| Jenkyns, Wenham | Roberts, Clarke | Bender, Dagger | Trevithick, Kable, Starr |
| Pascoe, Dagger | Lawson | Beard | Foreman |
| Pullen, Bake | Trevena | Rushton | Yates |
| Woolard | Ellis | Wythes | Hodge |
| Risby, Dorin | Pymont | Northey | Evans |
| Wardman | | | |

Many thanks to the volunteers who gallantly took over the running of the day when I had to leave early. My mother Eileen Purcell was not well and she sadly passed away the following day. Whilst she wasn't from Hill End she enjoyed a good family get together and it was always a great opportunity for her to catch up with my father's family. In the last few years she had been a regular visitor to our Hill End activities, taking up residence at the Lodge, where John & Bernie looked after her like a queen! Thank you all for your expressions of sympathy & care on her passing.

Put the date aside for 2019 – See you there again on Saturday 2 March



Check out all the photos from the day [here](#).

“Bridging the Past & Future” Congress Darling Harbour 9 March 2018



Helen Wood & I attended this Congress on Genealogy & Heraldry at Darling Harbour and set up a display showcasing our Group's work.

A good opportunity to network with colleagues and spread the word about Hill End & Tambaroora.

Welcome to the new members who signed up on the day! We look forward to seeing you at the [NSW ACT Association of Family History Societies Conference in Batemans Bay 14-16 September](#).

Easter Market in Hill End

A good number of stallholders set up once again in the Royal Hall on Easter Saturday and managed to sell a fair amount of their stock. The weather was lovely and the usual crowds of campers and day trippers kept us busy most of the day.

Come and visit us on the October Long Weekend when the Market will be on Saturday 29 September, from 9.30am-4pm.

Thanks once again to the generous sponsorship of Discover Central NSW Magazine for supporting our market by helping out with the Hall rental costs. Discover Magazine is published every 2 months and is a great source of information as to what is on around the region. Pick up your free copy from any local visitor or tourist centre.



As the drought continues think about taking a short break in the area and support some of the many activities and tourism outlets mentioned in the magazine. There is so much happening in the bush, you could spend a month out there and still not see or do a fraction of what is available!

Anzac Day – Hill End



This year I was privileged to present the commemorative address at the Anzac Day Service at Hill End. I felt it was appropriate to read a letter from the Western Front written by Private Russell Hodge to his parents in Hill End giving his first-hand account of the situation. He dealt, in a dignified way, with the



severe training which the men had to undergo, and in a somewhat frustrated way, with the adverse reports concerning the conduct of the Australians which had previously appeared in the press.

Michelle Brooks (Walpole) laid the wreath on behalf of the Gathering Group.



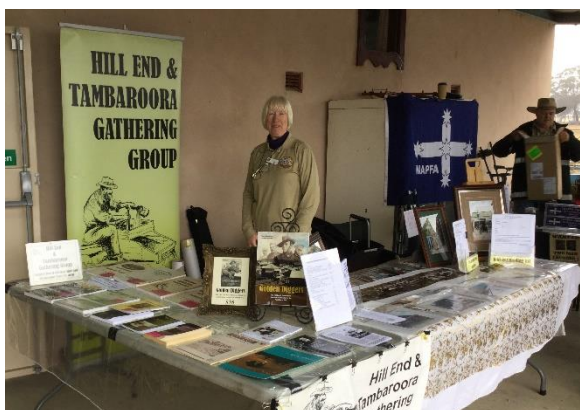
The End Festival



Once again, we were invited to participate in the “End Festival” held on 21-22 April and run by National Parks. The weekend was a great success and possibly not since the 1870s at the height of the goldrushes has Hill End seen so many people pouring into the village and strolling along Clarke Street.

This year we dressed up the old store in Tambaroora Street with the theme of the American & Australasian Photographic Studio and invited our visitors to take advantage of our Holtermann stage to take a “selfie”. Chris Dingle displayed some of his work with the Holtermann photographs and they proved very popular with the visitors. Hundreds of people dropped in over the weekend and really appreciated that we were showcasing the heritage aspect of the village.

Cooyal Gold Rush Festival June Long Weekend



We were invited to set up a display table to promote Hill End & Tambaroora at the Festival at Cooyal, just north of Mudgee. Despite the inclement weather there was a solid turnout and we did our bit to head the fossickers towards Hill End once they had cleaned out Cooyal!

The weekend was also a fundraiser for the McGrath Foundation and it was good to see so much support for such a good cause.

A Northern Gathering – Brisbane, July 2018

A quick trip to Brisbane eventuated in July so it was great to catch up with a small but enthusiastic number of our members at the Carindale Library. We spent a couple of hours swapping stories and our family history experiences and we hope to meet up again, maybe in Hill End this time!

The short notice meant that there were quite a few of our northern members who were unable to attend due to prior commitments so next time I hope to be able to plan a little more in advance!

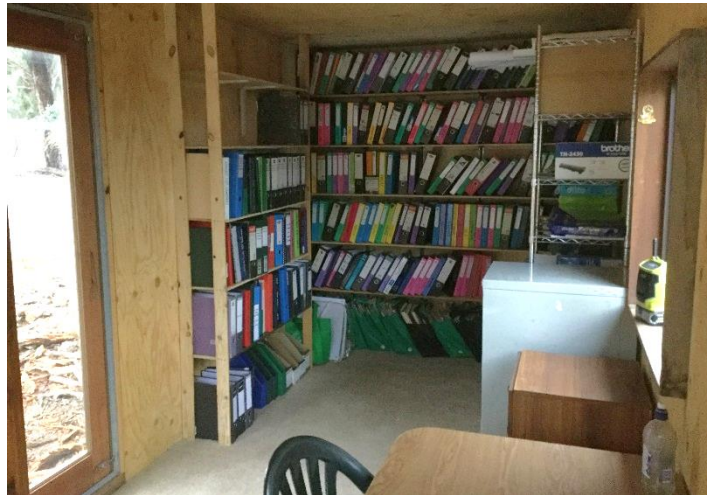


Standing: Mary Linning (Gard family) Cath Maris (Maris & O’Meally families)
Sandra Sutton (Garner, Docas & Cassell families)
Seated: Chris Yule & Margaret Nimmo (Krohmann & Ackermann families)
Lorraine Purcell (Convener)

Hill End Family History – a new home

Earlier this year (thanks to a couple of very generous donations) we had the opportunity to purchase a 20ft container which had been partially “renovated” with the inclusion of doors, window and insulated lining. This has been skilfully refurbished by Daphne’s partner Steve Hobbs and has been set up on her block as the home of her reference collection and family history files which were previously housed at the rear of the Royal Hall.

The Hall office will still be used as a meeting place in town but to ensure that she has the appropriate files available if you are planning a visit please contact her a few days beforehand.



The Hill End Family History Research Room Now by appointment only

For enquiries and to make an appointment please contact Daphne a few days beforehand

Email: hilledfh@y7mail.com

Phone 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

Bathurst Regional Council support

Bathurst Council has been most financially supportive this year and we really appreciate the interest that they have taken in our activities in Hill End & Tambaroora.

Through their regular Section 356 Donations to community groups they have helped us out with expenses for producing and distributing 250 copies of our newsletter by mail. The cheques were presented at Bathurst Council Chambers in early August and were handed out by Mayor, Clr Graeme Hanger and Clr Jacque Rudge.



Clr Jacqui Rudge, Lorraine & Mayor, Clr. Graeme Hanger

We also applied for grant subsidies under their Interpretation Fund and were successful in obtaining backing to produce an audio-visual presentation of our Cemeteries Project for use on our website etc and also for preparation work on our forthcoming publication on the Hotels and Publicans on the district – sure to be a best seller! Both these projects will be completed early 2019.

Our next Gathering is in Hill End – “Taste the Past Picnic”

**10am – 5pm, Saturday 20th October,
in the grounds of Hill End Lodge. ([Book your accommodation NOW!](#))**



We are planning a picnic in Hill End to celebrate the ingenuity used by our ancestors in providing a good wholesome meal to their families.

Given the challenging circumstances in which many of these early settlers found themselves they still must have found a way to provide sustenance for their children, otherwise we wouldn't be here!

Think of these tasks...

- find the food, (kill it, skin it, butcher it, cook it, preserve it) – No Woolies or Coles around the corner.
- prepare it with very limited kitchen utensils (knives, spoons, camp oven, fire tools) – no Thermomix here!
- make it taste good, (a few herbs and spices, possibly locally grown or lovingly collected before heading to the antipodes)
- add some veggies... (all from seeds & cuttings possibly even brought from the “olde” country) or investigate the local vegetations to see if something can be adapted.
- utilize grains and dried lentils etc, (rice seeds apparently only arrived with the Chinese prospectors so it had to be established, grown and harvested)

....all of the above were just to provide a main course.... Then think about the accompaniments – bread, butter, jam, honey, cheese, fruit, pies, and the list goes on

What did the miners have for lunch? No Maccas around here, the only Golden Arch was in the Gully at Tambaroora. Certainly, there were no plastic wrapped sandwiches, or prepacked microwave meals. Maybe Cornish pasties, or a ploughman's lunch, or cold chops, washed down with a billy of tea?



Some made a simple living through selling their excess supplies of fruit or vegetables from their garden. By the 1870s there were a number of butchers in town that made that part of the meal a little easier to prepare.



Surprisingly, for those that could afford it, there were actually delicacies, such as oysters washed down with champagne. Joel Phillips had an Oyster Bar in his newsagency in Short Street. According to author, Harry Hodge, the oysters arrived from Sydney in lead lined boxes.... And they had their own version of “fast food” where you could enjoy a pie and coffee.

There were a number of eating establishments such as Austin's café and the Norfolk Dining Rooms in Short St (destroyed in a major fire, which started in an adjoining shop, in 1874).



It really challenges the imagination doesn't it! So now is the time to think back to those days. Perhaps your ancestor passed down a carefully preserved recipe book, or maybe it was a verbal procedure which has been religiously followed thru the centuries for special family celebrations.



Maybe there was a traditional cultural delicacy or recipe that was representative of their old way of life – Irish stew,

Cornish pasties, Greek moussaka, German sausage, or Chinese stir-fry that you would like to embrace in order to remember their contribution to our gastronomic history today.

Here is your chance to be inventive on their behalf.

We are organizing a picnic day in Hill End, in the grounds of the Hill End Lodge Motel, on Saturday 20th October from 10am to 5pm, to commemorate the culinary skills of these ancestors.

This will be very much a casual BYO family picnic day. Bring along the picnic blanket or your camp chairs. **We would like you to bring along a cooked or prepared meal from your family archives.** Bring enough for yourself and maybe a bit more to share. We will put it on the communal picnic table so that others can taste your offerings as well. This will be seen as a “grazing” menu. Bring a dish and share in other’s dishes. We also ask you to bring along a printed version of your recipe and perhaps a photo of the appropriate ancestor or family that may have used it. If we get enough, there may be a recipe book in it!

Depending on the contributions, food can be prepared beforehand or onsite. As we are not sure just how many people will attend, we ask that you bring along your own cooking equipment if you can. We will have a couple of gas BBQs, a few spare camp ovens and can use the open campfire pit at the Lodge as well. We are hoping that there may be one or 2 food stalls as well to supplement the menu.

But wait....there’s MORE!

“The Betty Jeffree Camp Oven Scone Bake-off”



This picnic day will also see the Inaugural “Betty Jeffree Camp Oven Scone Bake-off” commencing at 2pm with judging at 3.30pm. This is in memory of local cook and renown Devonshire Tea aficionado, Betty Jeffree. Many of you will recall Betty’s wonderful scones and afternoon teas in the grounds of Rose Cottage. When she passed away last year Hill End lost one of their iconic residents and we felt this would be a great way of remembering her legacy.

The rules are simple: There are 2 Categories – Plain Scones and Fancy Scones.

- Scones must be completely prepared onsite from scratch however additives for the Fancy category may be prepared beforehand.
- You can make as many as your camp oven will cope with however a minimum of 6 scones must be presented for judging.
- Judges yet to be confirmed.
- All entries to be cooked over the coals in the open campfire pit.

After judging the scones will be available for those attending for afternoon tea and will be served with a cuppa and jam and cream for a small donation for a plate.

So, put the date in the diary and come along to Hill End and join us in a gastronomic gathering. Come for a day but stay for the weekend. As more details are confirmed they will be uploaded to our Facebook page so make sure you “like us” and “follow us” to keep abreast of our activities.

Check out all the details on our [“What’s on” page on the website](#) and have a look at our PowerPoint invitation.



The computer swallowed Grandma

Yes, honestly, it’s true!
She pressed ‘control and ‘enter’
And disappeared from view.
It devoured her completely,
The thought just makes me squirm.
She must have caught a virus
Or been eaten by a worm.
I’ve searched through the recycle bin
And files of every kind;
I’ve even used the Internet



But nothing did I find
In desperation, I asked Mr. Google
My searches to refine.
The reply from him was negative,
Not a thing was found ‘online.’
So, if inside your ‘Inbox,’
My Grandma you should see,
Please ‘Copy, Scan’ and ‘Paste’ her,
And send her back to me

This is a tribute doing the rounds on Facebook, to all the Grandmas & Grandpas, Nannas & Pops, who have been fearless and learned to use the Computer.....They are the greatest!!!



Condolences

We have been notified of the passing of the following members and friends of the Group and wish to extend our sympathies to their families.

Mrs **Joan Hood** of Castle Hill passed away October 2016

Dorothy McDonald of Thirlmere 2017

Sandra Knott (Woolard) passed away, May 2018 Sandra was only sister of Terry Woolard, and the sister in law of June Woolard, regular visitors back to Hill End.

Ian Hodgson -

Those members who have stayed at the Hill End Ranch with Kerri Burns will be saddened to hear of the passing of her partner, Ian Hodgson in June. Ian was a quiet and extremely generous supporter of most causes in Hill End including the Gathering Group and he will be sorely missed.

Monique Erismann, another Hill End local of 15 years or so, passed away on 18 August 2018. Monique had lived at Canoblas View and was responsible for many of the beautiful illustrations in our "Hill End Heroines and Tambaroora Treasures" book.

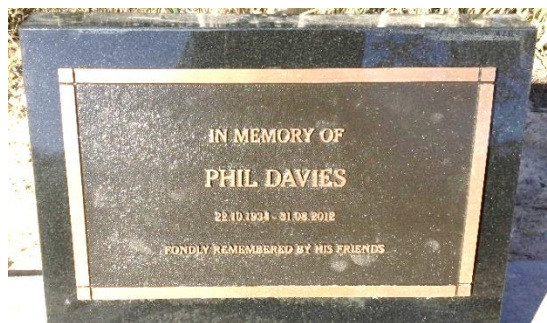


Phil Davies 1934 – 2012

Community spirit is alive and well...



When local identity, Phil Davies (affectionately known as Taffy, because of his Welsh heritage, or Grumbles because of his other habits) passed away in August 2012 he was sadly missed by the many friends he had made in the district.



He originally came to the area in the 1990s from Berrima and having a background in engineering, it was soon evident that he had a great interest in mining as well. Whilst not generally known, he apparently had a beautiful tenor voice and took great delight in listening to music. He was also a great reader and stories are told of his quiet & unassuming thoughtfulness.

On his passing, Phil was buried in the General Cemetery at Tambaroora and some months ago his friends, including Robert

Anderson, decided it was time that he was given a more permanent memorial at his final resting place.

The word was passed around and, thanks to the community members and his friends who generously contributed, \$1370 was raised and with this financial assistance Bob Hall, Robert Anderson and Digger Howard gave freely of their time and expertise to provide a fitting grave for their friend. This was completed in April 2018.



Phil would be quietly pleased that he had such staunch friends and would no doubt be most grateful for their generosity of spirit.

Bathurst Carillon Bells Appeal.

Your financial support is needed

One of the more prominent reminders of the Bathurst district's contribution to the First World War is the Carillon situated in Kings Parade parkland bounded by William, George, Church and Russell streets in Bathurst. It was constructed in 1933 as a memorial to those from Bathurst and District who served in this conflict.



Bathurst War Memorial Carillon Group was formed in 2017 to expand the Carillon to bring it closer to what was originally planned. They aim to install a clavier, replace the defective top octave of bells, purchase a new set of higher bells and upgrade the Eternal Flame. The new bells have already been ordered with the names Hill End and Tambaroora, Black Springs and Bathurst being added to the three bells which have had no names up until now. The Hill End War Memorial Committee aims to raise \$2000 in support of this project and so far, \$871.50 has been raised at the Anzac Day 2-Up at the Royal Hotel.

As we found when researching our [Golden Diggers book](#), many of our ancestors were involved in the war effort back in 1914-19, either by joining up or by supporting their efforts on the home front. [Click here](#) for a list of these servicemen & women on our website. Maybe one of your ancestors is commemorated in our book.

Now there is a chance for you to contribute on their behalf and add to the Appeal. You can donate by contacting the Secretary of the Hill End War Memorial Committee, Gaye Shanahan, on 0407187275 or by email to memorial@hillend.net. Donations can also be made through the secure [Donations button in our Bookshop page](#) on our website. Scroll to the bottom of the page to the special link, where you can donate through your PayPal account or by using a Credit Card. Just note on the Special Instructions line that it is for the Bathurst Carillon. We will ensure that it goes to the Committee.

The following material was provided to us by the Bathurst War Memorial Carillon Group Committee:

THE BATHURST WAR MEMORIAL CARILLON STORY

The Bathurst Soldiers' War Memorial Carillon was dedicated in November 1933 as a memorial to the men and women of the district who fell and to those who served in World War 1. It continues to commemorate all the wars and conflicts in which the citizens of the Bathurst area have been involved.

The people of Bathurst chose a carillon, a musical instrument, as the means of expressing their respect for the sacrifices made and the whole community raised funds for the 35 bells and the tower in which the bells were housed. Over £8,189 was raised for the memorial.

The largest bell is inscribed with "Thus Bathurst and her surrounding villages honour their men of 1914-1918. Lest We Forget." The second largest bell is inscribed with "To the ever-glorious memory of our fallen comrades. Greater love has no man than this that he laid down his life for his friends." The third largest bell carries the Red Cross Emblem in honour of the War Nurses.

The smaller bells are inscribed with the names of villages: Caloola, Sunny Corner, Wattle Flat, Wimbledon, White Rock, Sofala, Yetholme, Cow Flat, Locksley, Turondale, Vittoria, Evans Plains, Burruga, Limekilns, Tarana, Duramana, Lagoon, Perthville, Glanmire, Eglinton, Raglan, Peel, O'Connell, Georges Plains, Orton Park, Dunkeld, Kelso, Rockley and Brewongle. Three of the small bells have no inscriptions. For some unknown reason Hill End & Tambaroora were not included in this first dedication, possibly because they were part of the Shire of Turon at the time and not so closely associated with Bathurst.

At the time of the dedication there were insufficient funds to install a clavier, a keyboard with rods called 'batons' which are struck with the closed fist. Until the Carillon is played by a clavier, it will never be heard as an instrument capable of great expression as was intended. In short it is not a carillon. At present it is an elaborate chime and sadly, a defective one at that.



[Taylor's Bell Foundry of Loughborough, England](#), cast the original bells in 1928 and has been commissioned to cast the new bells and to build a clavier. The new bells will be rung on 11 November 2018 to mark the centenary of the end of World War 1, the Armistice on 11 November 1918.

It is hoped that the clavier will be installed by June 2019, making the Bathurst War Memorial Carillon only the second War Memorial Carillon in Australia and one of the few in the world. The Carillon Society of Australia will assist with training a team of carillonneurs to play the Carillon and give recitals on the instrument in Bathurst in the way it was intended nearly 85 years ago.

James Wiseman Marshall and the Wreck of the *Ceres*



Margaret Lanagan (great-great-granddaughter of JWM, through Alexander William Marshall, Dorothy Marshall and John Alexander Lanagan) has sent us a brief outline of James Wiseman Marshall's arrival in Australia.

This story was put together from several accounts of the shipwreck published in the New Zealand, Australian and London papers and in an adventure story, *Lost Lenore*, published by Captain Mayne Reid. You can read the original accounts [by clicking here](#). She can be contacted at em.lanagan@gmail.com

The Dutch brig *Ceres* sailed from San Francisco for Sydney and Port Phillip on 14 July 1852. Among the gold-seekers on board (both new and returning Australians) was Scottish surveyor and millwright James Wiseman Marshall, aged twenty-four.

The ship passed by Owhyhee (Hawaii) and landed some passengers in Tonga. And then, in the middle of the night on 22 July, just as the watch was changing, the *Ceres* struck a reef at the north-eastern edge of the Fiji group (latitude 16°13' S and longitude 179° 23' W).

When morning came, all hands started ferrying passengers and supplies from the broken-backed ship to an uninhabited island nearby, using the ship's longboat and a raft made from spars. Some of the provisions had been spoiled by seawater, but some flour and salted pork and tea was still good, and a large number of live pigs were also brought across. Although the island was waterless, it was well supplied with coconut palms, as well as a kind of yam that most people could stomach. And of course, the resourceful James Marshall was to shoot many seabirds. According to family stories, he used stones for bullets, which he sized with a sieve constructed by the ship's carpenter.

The *Ceres* survivors were stuck on the island for a little over a month. They were very well organised. They had among them a butcher, some bakers, several carpenters, a blacksmith, a tailor, a cobbler and a couple of doctors "to physic us and draw our teeth occasionally". They rationed the coconuts with their precious fluid, floated the water tank across from the ship, and set up sailcloth funnels so that when rain finally did come they could fill every available vessel.

They sent off the captain, some crew and a couple of passengers in the longboat, heading for Moreton Bay. After a week's sailing, this party encountered an American whaler, the *Daniel Watson*. Its captain, Phelps, agreed to take the survivors to Auckland. Onto his ship, which was never designed for passengers, he loaded all the people, all the remaining pigs, and as many of the stores as he could fit.

They sailed on 29 August. The trip was an ordeal for everyone. The wind was against them, and the rations had to be eked out over a full month. Everyone was seasick, some ruffians among the *Ceres* passengers made mischief, and the pigs were loose on the deck, where many of the passengers were forced to sleep for lack of space below.

Then, having paid their passage twice—once for the *Ceres* trip and again to Captain Phelps, the passengers had to pay again to get to Australia. Three ships at least carried *Ceres* passengers across the Tasman: the *Raven*, the *Julia* and the *William Hyde*. "J. W. Marshall" is listed as travelling on this last ship.

The *William Hyde* was bound for Port Phillip, but was blown so far off course that the captain, John Applewhaite, decided to put in at Sydney for supplies. So we've got a strong southerly wind to thank for James Marshall coming to Hill End to make his fortune and start his family.

This story was put together from several accounts of the shipwreck published in the New Zealand, Australian and London papers and in an adventure story, *Lost Lenore*, published by Captain Mayne Reid. You can read the original accounts [by clicking here](#)

Note from Lorraine: If ever visiting Craigmoor in Hill End then look out for the small crafted bird, hanging from one of the light fittings in the front room of Craigmoor. It was placed there as a constant reminder of the birds that the shipwrecked passengers were forced to eat.



The Kent family in Hill End

One of our more interesting enquiries this year was from Albert Jewell in Leeds in the UK. He had located early letters written back to his family in the UK from Amelia Kent (nee Jewell) about their experiences on the goldfields. He wanted to find out what happened to the Australian branch of this family after they lost touch with Amelia in 1872.

If anyone has connections to this family then Albert would love to hear from you. ajj633@btinternet.com

See.iii.]

Paternal Side.

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Ophir, September, 1867.

Dear Mother and Brothers,

I write you once more hoping you are well. Glad to tell I am in good health. Received Brother William's letter with the good news that he is well and able to work again. Sorry to tell you that we have buried another child, - a boy, of 2 years, called William Jewell. This is the second I have had called after poor Father, and they are both dead. I have had "seven" children, but only "four" are now living.

If you would like to come here, send by return of Post, and we will at once pay your passage money. You must make up your minds before send, because once the money paid it cannot be withdrawn. Send a decided answer. I will send dear mother some money next letter. The reason why we did not send according to promise, was, We left the mine, where Kent done very bad, and are got to another place. We are now getting on a bit again. I will send my "likeness" as soon as I can, and hope you will send on yours next letter. If you think of coming send your respective

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Table I.

[Note

ages. Tell me where poor Elizabeth's children are, and give my love to them; and also to Honour Bowden & uncle Joe, & the family. Love to Mr. & Mrs. Moreshed; and to all enquiring friends. How is poor Aunt Mary. Tell Richard to write. - -

Expect another letter about a fortnight after this; I will post one "next mail. I send you a "look" of my little boy's hair - the one that is dead. Yours affect. - W. Amelia Ann Kent.

Direct your letter, to John Kent, Icely Copper Mines
W. Bathurst,
New South Wales.

Collia, No Date.

Dear Mother,

I cannot write much for the mail leaves in ten minutes. I thank you for your "likeness." We would have sent ours, but they did not please me, & I would not send them. We will send them the first chance. You shall have some money next time. Good bye for the present
Amelia Kent.

He writes:

It has recently been my pleasure to send a digitised copy of the book 'In Recollection of My Father' to Lorraine for inclusion in the Hill End/Tambaroora records, as part of it relates to the family's presence on the Western Goldfields during the mid-19th Century. The 411-page book was hand-written by Richard Jewell (1823-1894) about William Jewell (1799-1859) who was a tin-miner and staunch Methodist who lived in Ponsanooth and later Tuckingmill in Cornwall. Richard was his oldest child and my great-grandfather was his youngest. Five of the other children died in infancy, two daughters surviving, the last of whom. **Amelia Ann Jewell** (1834-1902) accompanied her husband, **John Kent** (1834-1892) to New South Wales in 1854.

Amelia's correspondence with William and Richard, recorded in the book, expresses a sense of longing for her family and a belief that their life in the mining areas is much better than back in Cornwall. However, letters ceased without explanation in 1872. Since then it has been my expressed desire to find out more about this 'lost branch' of my family. My search has been facilitated by membership of Ancestry UK and latterly by Lorraine Purcell, convenor of the Hill End & Tambaroora Gathering Group, whom I discovered only a few months ago through idly googling 'Hill End, New South Wales' on my computer. The outcome has been an avalanche of invaluable information. As Amelia's story unfolded it became obvious that life was not quite what she had hoped it would be...

After arrival in Sydney John went to work in mining: coal (at Minmi near Newcastle in 1860, said to be earning £20 per month in 1855), copper (at Icely Mines at Ophir in 1867), and settling in the Hill End/Tambaroora area during the latter part of the Gold Rush. The couple had a number of children, all born in Australia, of whom six survived into adulthood although James died aged 22 in Bathurst on 7th September 1891 aged 22. School records confirm that the family were in Hill End in the early 1870s, living first on a half-acre block owned by a George Hodgson in August 1873, then moving around to Hawkins Hill, Church Street and Tambaroora Street. However, the marriage encountered problems, resulting in John being taken to court at least twice for desertion and non-payment of support. John died in a mine explosion near Dubbo in November 1892. Meanwhile Amelia worked as a nurse and midwife in Hill End.

In the 1891 census she was head of household at 179 Keppel Street in Bathurst (with one other female and two males, presumably children) and in 1901 with two females along with two other families at 138 Dennison Street,

Camperdown aka Newtown in Sydney. Amelia died on 10th July 1902 and was buried as a Methodist in the vast Rookwood Cemetery in Sydney.

The surviving children were as follows:

Thomas (b.1864)

There are several records of his not very admirable activities but I await final verification that this is the right Thomas Kent to establish the truth of the following:

He with his wife Ellen (nee Tilson) and daughter Mary were living with others in a six-room house in Woolloomooloo where two people fell ill during a smallpox epidemic. They themselves appear not to have been affected though the house had to be disinfected and placed in quarantine. (*Sydney Evening News*, 23/9/1881).

Various reports follow of convictions for drunkenness, wife-beating and desertion between 1883 and 1890.

The birth of a further daughter, Elizabeth, is recorded on 8th March 1883.

Mary (b.1860)

She is listed as admitted aged 13, religion Wesleyan, residence Hawkins Hill, in *Hill End Public School register* on 13th January, 1873 but may have left school a week later (apparently not unusual if the child was old enough to help at home or get employment elsewhere).

Subsequent references to Mary are not clear as there was another Mary Kent of similar age in the same Bathurst area at the same time.

Elizabeth (1862-1943).

She married Henry Green (b. 1849), a labourer & later grazier, on 13 October 1887, when she was a domestic worker at 'Narranba Run' near Coonamble. They prospered as he was a diligent worker who farmed over 2,560 acres with a full stock of sheep. In his obituary in *Coonamble Times*, 9th July 1925, Elizabeth is described as 'his faithful partner all the rest of his life'. They had eight surviving children: Ormond Green (residing on south coast), Mrs Kent (Sydney), Mrs Palmer (Coonamble), Mrs J S Murray (Coonamble), Mrs Nalder (Darriley Chase), Mrs Nalder (Curban), Misses Alice and Nellie Green of Raylands, the family home. In her own obituary in the same newspaper on 10th June 1943 Elizabeth was reported as having been 'a noted midwife' (like her mother), very caring and hospitable and an obliging neighbour of unfailing hospitality. By that time none of her sisters were said to have been alive and her only surviving brother, John Kent, to be living in West Australia (see below). She was buried in the Church of England section of Coonamble cemetery.

Catherine (b.1866).

She appears to have married James Thoms at Bathurst in 1884, when she would have been 17 or 18. He died aged 31 in June 1884 when she was only 23 and left with three surviving children: Annie born in Bathurst 4th October 1884; Blanche born in 1885 in Newtown/Sydney, died in Petersham 1886; Helena born in Petersham in 1887; Emily born in Ashfield in 1889. It appears Catherine never remarried.

John (b. 1872-1966)

The earliest possible reference is a Report in *Sydney Evening News* and *Sydney Daily Telegraph* on 23rd April 1883 that an 11-year-old boy surnamed Kent was badly injured by bolting horses in Bathurst, sustaining compound fracture of the leg. Taken to Saville's Hotel and attended by Dr Bassett, it was at first thought that amputation of the foot might be necessary but good progress made though he suffered a bad shock.

John has been traced by Lorraine to Perth in West Australia (see Elizabeth's obituary) where gold was found in the Kalgoorlie area in the mid-1890s. This event attracted many young men from the eastern states. He seems to have married Ellen Godfrey in 1897, whose death was announced in *The Western Australian* on 6th December 1949.

John & Ellen's family included a son, John (Jack) Clifford Kent, who was born in 1898 in Perth. Another son, Rev Brother Kevin P Kent and Ellen were buried in the RC cemetery, Karrakatta in Perth, after a requiem mass. As John's name is given as John Patrick, and the family had been devout Wesleyans, I was at first doubtful but I presume that John was a convert from his earlier Wesleyan origins and consequently was given the added Christian name of Patrick which appears in this notice and also in that of his burial aged 95 in the same RC cemetery in 1966 (here with the correctly identified parents John and Amelia Kent).

Australian Imperial Force records shown that the second son of John and 'Nellie' Kent of 37 Prospect Place, West Perth, Godfrey James Ignatius Kent, enlisted for service abroad. His records are in the National Archives of Australia. He was 18 at the time and so presumably born circa 1899. A further child was Carmel (who became Mrs Peter Giles).

Sophia Jane (b. 1875).

She seems to have had an unfortunate life. Sophia was a witness in Bathurst Circuit Court in which she said that she had never seen one Emily Musgrove, whom she knew slightly, late out at night – this was contradicted by Bert Connors currently in gaol (*National Advocate* 12/10/1893).

In April 1902 Judgment was made in favour of one Mrs C. Chapman against Sophia at Parramatta Small Debts court 'for support of a child'. Verdict £3. 5s with costs.

Research shows that it is possible Sophia had three children in Sydney, none of whom appear to have fathers' names on registration, according to Sydney Benevolent Society records of asylum admissions: James Kent, born 24/3/1895, when she was 20 & single; she was readmitted pregnant, again single, aged 23 on 24/1/99; and Richard Kent was to Sophia in 1901.

It is possible that she married one George Scarlett in 1901 in Sydney and a birth was recorded of a Leonard Scarlett in 15 May 1902 in Newtown, suburb of Sydney. No further record of this family has been located to date.

As has been noted this commentary is a work in progress. I hope that further information may be forthcoming from those who access it and I shall be delighted to hear from anyone via Lorraine. And of course, the social conditions both in Cornwall and New South Wales are of considerable interest.

Albert Jewell
June 2018

You just can't get good help these days!

An item from the Bathurst Free Press and Mining Journal 9 June 1852

DOMESTIC SERVANTS. — Female servants in Bathurst are every day becoming scarcer, and the few that are left are fast getting married. Complaints amongst gentlemen about half-washed linen are of daily occurrence, and a few of them speak of their growing familiarity with the well-bucket and the wood-axe. Without a speedy supply from some quarter, we shall soon become the most thoroughly domesticated animals imaginable.

A professional gentleman whose maid servant has given him warning that she is about to enter into a life agreement with one of her next-door neighbours of the opposite sex, is horribly alarmed lest he will be compelled to tackle the washing tub and clean his own Wellingtons, both which occupations are far from consonant with his habits or tastes. Our advice to him, as to all, is to go at it with a will, and laugh his cares away. One consolation he will gather from the fact, that his lot is fast becoming a common one.



Brothers in Arms - A German Prisoner of War Experience

In 1916 two Aboriginal brothers from Hill End found themselves on the other side of the world in the fight of their lives. Robert George Garner and Elias Edward McAllister formed part of a small but powerful group of over 1000 Aboriginal men who served in the First World War.

In 2015, just after the publication of our book "[Golden Diggers](#)" the discovery of a photograph of Robert George Garner taken in a German P.O.W Camp emerged online, prompting historians to trace his remarkable and inspiring story. For the full story of this unearthing see the article in the [Issue 17, August 2015 issue](#) of our newsletter.



In April 2018 ABC producer, Jai McAllister spoke to Robert's daughter Fae Warry, and Michael Bell from the Australian War Memorial for this commemorative ANZAC feature. This interview was broadcast on the ABC and is now available online. [Click here to listen.](#)

Common knowledge – Edward (Teddy) Wright

As part of their responsibilities the Hill End Tambaroora Common Trust are accountable for the environmental management of the land in their reserves and this includes heritage. Recently, Robert Anderson and his colleagues undertook to mark a couple of significant sites on the Common with plaques



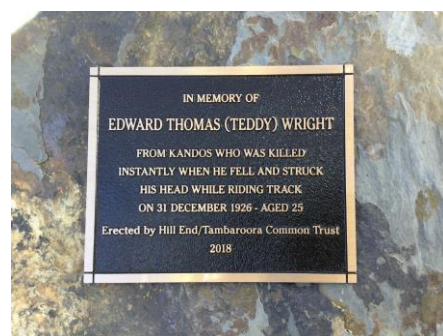
for the information of visitors to the area. These included 2 plaques on the site of the old Racecourse in Andersons Rd.

The first one marks the site of the old grandstand to the east of the course and nearby the second one memorializes the death of Edward Wright during a race meeting on New Year's Day, 1927.



A sad ending to a New Year's Day Race meeting.

The Hill End Racing Club, which is one of the oldest sporting organizations in the west, conducted a most successful meeting on New Year's Day, when visitors were present from Mudgee, Hargraves, and all surrounding centres. The racing throughout was keen and exciting, and the various officials carried out their duties to the satisfaction of all concerned....so started off the article in the Mudgee Guardian of 6 January 1927.



Nevertheless, further reading revealed that the day ended in the tragic death of Kandos jockey, Edward (Teddy) Wright. Aged just 25 he was apparently a well-known and highly respected jockey in the Kandos and Mudgee districts and his untimely death had the effect of casting a pall like spell over the course for the remainder of the afternoon.

The fatality occurred during the running of the local hack race. Wright was riding Mr. A. Mackie's Triacre and his mount, which was favourite at 2 to 1 on, had turned into the straight with a good lead. Suddenly the horse swerved, despite the efforts of the rider, and ran off course, which at that point is surrounded by thick scrub.

A moment later the spectators were horrified to see Wright either fall or he threw himself off the horse and his head struck a log. When picked up a few minutes later Wright was found to have a fractured skull, and his collarbone and two wrists were broken. Death had been almost instantaneous.



Chatting with a 'Mudgee Guardian' representative before the race, Wright apparently stated that he expected to have a winning day, as he had several good mounts. It would appear as if he had a presentiment of his coming death. Prior to the first race, while talking with a couple of friends, he is said to have remarked "I don't like the course, but if the other boys ride, then I will. Anyhow, if a chap is killed, somebody will get £500 out of the insurance."

But it was not to be....



Teddy

The newspapers recorded that Wright left a widow and three children at Kandos and a claim on their behalf was made before Judge Perdrian at the Workers' Compensation Court in Mudgee on 1 August 1927.

Mr Moore (Sydney) who was instructed by Mr Bawden, Mudgee, appeared for members of the Club, and he contended that his clients had no case to answer, inasmuch as it had not been proved that the deceased had been engaged to ride for a fee or remuneration, which was necessary according to the Act. The Commissioner upheld the point and found in favour of the Race Club.

Recently descendants of the family visited Hill End and were happy to give permission for this memorial to be erected.

Can you help us?

The Catholic Church at Tambaroora



As part of our Cemetery project we are collecting death certificates for people who died and were buried in the Tambaroora area especially between 1850 and 1860. If you have a copy of an ancestor's certificate and would be willing to share it with us we would be most appreciative.

Not much is known about the early Catholic church (or indeed the later one) but we know it was slabbed & plastered with shingled roof. Interior portions set off with white calico.

This church faithfully served the congregation in the district but by November 1874 the church was described as a "very old and dilapidated wooden church". The newspaper correspondent of the time also noted that a "new and pretty brick church is being built".

Merlin photographed many of the churches in Hill End & Tambaroora but so far, we have been unable to locate an individual photograph of either the old or new churches at Tambaroora. Thanks to Warwick Taylor and the Tambaroora.com website we have an image of the First Roman Catholic Church, cropped from a panorama of Tambaroora in the Holtermann Collection (Courtesy of the State Library of NSW)

One query that has arisen is "Did the Catholic Church at Tambaroora have a saint's name associated with it?" We are hoping that these early certificates may mention this. Alternately, if you know of the name of the church please let us know. So far, we have only found mention of it as the "Roman Catholic Church". We have come across one obscure reference that it may have been called "St Agatha's" but have no documentary evidence on which to base this.

A brief description of the church (but no name), along with a list of church property appears in the front of the Church Register held by the Catholic Diocese in Bathurst along with a listing of heads of Catholic families in the district. Even though it was a very primitive structure it held a complete set of liturgical garments and church articles:

Church Property:

1 Cedar altar, 1 large lamp, 2 side small lamps, 4 brass candlesticks, 1 cruet, 2 small bell, 2 vases, a waterfont, 2 crucifixes, 9 statues, 1 stand, 7 pictures, 1 kneeling cushion, carpet for altar, 1 set of altar charts(?), 1 piece of Chinese matting, 15 benches.

In the sacristy: carpet and table with cover, 2 cushions, 1 jug with basin, 1 drawing room lamp, 2 sets of window hangings, 2 Amices, 1 Alb, 1 cincture, 1 Maniple, 1 stole, Chasubles, 1 Paul (?), 1 small vial, 1 Communion cloth, 1 corporal purificator, 1 missal, 2 prayer books, 3 hymn books.

Church: slabbed & plastered with shingled roof. Interior portions set off with white calico. Length=? Breadth=? Height=? Church lands 1/23 acre, not fenced.

Church Property.
1 Cedar Altar - 1 large Lamp - 2 S. side
Small Lamps - 4 Brass Candlesticks, 1
Cruet - 2 small Bell - 2 Vases - 1 Waterfont
2 Crucifixes - 9 Statues - 1 Stand - 7 Pictures
1 kneeling Cushion - Carpet for Altar -
1 set Altar Charts - 1 piece Chinese
Matting - 15 Benches.
In Sacristy. Carpet - 1 Table with
Cover - 2 Cushions - 1 Jug with basin
1 Drawing Room Lamp - 2 sets Window
Hangings - 2 Amices - 1 Alb - 1 cincture
1 Maniple - 1 Stole - Chasuble - 1 Paul
Small vial - 1 Communion Cloth - 1
Corporal - Purificator - 1 Missal -
2 Prayer Books - 3 Hymn Books.
Church slabbed & plastered
with shingled roof. Interior
portions set off with white calico.
Length=? Breadth=? Height=?
Church Lands 1/23 acre - not
fenced.

As part of our research we also located the following list of Roman Catholic Heads of families in and about Tambaroora. While no date is given a check of the names appears to refer to inhabitants between approximately 1854 and 1860. (Names spelt as they were written in the Register)

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Monsieur Jean Gustave Renateau | 19. Mr David Dignan | <i>The Bald Hills</i> |
| 2. Mr James Cullen | 20. Mr James Tierney | 36. Mr Crowman (Krohmann?) |
| 3. Mr John McElvogue | 21. Mr Phil. Nolan | 37. Mr Ettinger |
| 4. Mr John Golding | 22. Mrs James Willard | 38. Mr Rappe |
| 5. Mr Joseph Golding | 23. Mr J. Burgess | 39. Mr John Stevens |
| 6. Mr Thomas Kelly | 24. Mr J. Toowhey | 40. Mr John Baker (?) |
| 7. Mr Matthew McNamara | 25. Mr Charles Smith | 41. Mr Peter Randolfe |
| 8. Mr Francis Werner | 26. Mr George Knight | 42. Mrs P Withes (Wythes) |
| 9. Mr John Gudgeon | 27. Mr R. Robberts | 43. Mrs Thomas Withes (Wythes) |
| 10. Mr John Rhenshall | 28. Mr P. Gaynon | 44. Mrs B(?) Evans |
| 11. Mr Redmond Farrington | 29. Mr James Armstrong | 45. Mr Thomas Clines |
| 12. Mr Thomas Brown | 30. Mr Thomas Lamb | 46. Mr John Lynch Jnr. |
| 13. Mr Edward Maloney | 31. Rose Anne (Rosanna) Murray | 47. Mr John Lynch Sen. |
| 14. Mr John Fitzgerald | 32. Mr George Doakes (Dorcas?) | 48. Mr Peter Lynch |
| 15. Mr John Johnson | 33. Mr George Constantine | 49. Mr John Coleman |
| 16. Mr Thomas Brown | 34. Mr William Mulcevey (?) | 50. Mr McMamany |
| 17. Mr Charles Campbell | 35. Mr Edward Flynn | 51. Mr McCoppen |
| 18. Mr Maurice A'Herne | | |

Snippets...

Index to our newsletters and our Forum

Thanks to some hard work on behalf of our volunteer Alison Briggs we now have an up to date Index of all our newsletters covering 11 years from Issue 1, January 2007 to Issue 22, January 2018. This, and all the back issues of the newsletter can be found on our website [here](#).

These newsletters are full of interesting article, memories of the area and local families, and current news. Keep up with what is happening in the district and our Gathering Group activities.

Our Forum page also has some interesting queries posted by members. [Check it out](#) in case you may be able to assist in their research, or pose a question of your own.

Our new members

We added around 150 new names to our email mailing list in the past 12 months. This helps to take up the decrease we noticed after sending out the last newsletter, which we attributed to so many people changing over to the NBN and having to change their email address. **Please remember to update our records with a quick email if you need to change your contact details when moving to the NBN or moving house.**

In the past 6 months or so we have received enquiries regarding the following families:

Veil, Cormack/h, Jacob Inder, Armstrong – butcher, Patrick Coyle, Margoschis & Weir, De La Torre, Risby, Kent, Demas, Lister & Woolard, Bryson, Owens & Murphy, and Bow.

Diamond Wedding Anniversary



Long-time Gathering Group members and staunch supporters of our Hill End activities, Margaret & Alan Nimmo (Krohmann & Ackermann descendants) recently celebrated 60 years of marriage surrounded by a large group of family and friends at their home in Loganholme (Brisbane).

Margaret & Alan are the ultimate “grey nomads” and love travelling to Hill End with their caravan to join in our activities. We are looking forward to catching up with them again at our Picnic in October.

Congratulations!

Clancy of the overflow – follow up.



When I reprinted the *Clancy of the overflow 2017 style* poem in the last issue of this newsletter I had been unable to track down the poet. I have since found him and he happily provided retro permission for its printing. In his day job, Professor Joe Wolfe works in the Physics department at the University of New South Wales, leading research on the physics of music and speech, and cellular biophysics. So perhaps it's not surprising that he enjoys dabbling with writing poetry in his spare time. His version of *The Man from Snowy River* is on their [website](#) and is well worth checking out too.

School news (thanks to the Golden Quill newsletter)

Hill End Public School just keeps going from strength to strength these days. Many of you may have sent along Woolworths or Coles vouchers in the past. In their latest newsletter the children were happy to show off some of the new equipment that they were able to purchase as a result.



In turn they are also working hard and have become great recyclers. The school newsletter has reported that, with the help of the local community and the Rural Fire Service, the students have raised over \$500 from the Return & Earn program with all proceeds supporting local farmers during the drought.

Hill End Snake Yarn.

The following yarn appeared in the *Mudgee Guardian* on 9 December 1920.

Many years ago, when the old race course near the rifle range was in action, great crowds of people came from all parts to see and take part in the day's racing. All kinds of side-shows also came along, and amongst them on this particular occasion was a snake charmer. The day was very hot, and as a result a large carpet-snake died.

A man who had been having too much tanglefoot lay down in the scrub close by the course to sleep off the ill-effects, and it was while he was in a dead sleep that some person wound the big dead carpet-snake around his neck. The moon and stars were shining in the sky when the 'drunk' awoke, and it is said that there was never an acrobat in any circus who did more acrobatic tricks in the short time the snake was around his neck. He offered a reward of £5 for the wretch who played the diabolical trick on him. and it is said the experience made a total abstainer of him.



"TALES OF THE BRIDLE TRACK: Bathurst to Hill End"



Sharon Shelton lives on the Bridle Track and is compiling photos with stories of The Bridle Track for her forthcoming book "Tales of the Bridle Track". If you have lived, worked or visited this area, then she would love to hear from you with your stories or photos. Leave her a message and/or photo so she can include them in her full colour book to be published later this year.

She can be contacted by email at sharon.shelton55@outlook.com

Research tips

Have you lost track of your Hill End ancestors?

If you know they were in the Hill End district then maybe they moved on to other fields... check out the Queensland papers, especially around Charters Towers. By 1872 the mining bubble was beginning to burst in NSW. There was always a chance that there was gold just that little bit further on so they packed up the family and headed north to the new fields. The *Freeman's Journal* of 14 September 1872 noted a warning:

EXODUS OF MINERS.—Large numbers of miners have left Hill End, Tambaroora, and Gulgong, for Charters Towers.

Interesting that this item was reported just a month before the Holtermann Specimen was unearthed on Hawkins Hill.

The *Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette* of 18 September 1872 describes the exodus as follows:

THE RUSH TO THE NORTH

Detachments of miners have, during the past week left Gulgong daily (says the *Guardian*) for Sydney, on route for Charter's Towers and Port Darwin. The coaches from Mudgee to Wallerawang have been crowded, and seats are booked days in advance. About 500 have left during the past fortnight, but an equal number have left to try their luck in other parts of the colony. The departures have been principally from the Home Rule, which was considerably over-populated from its very beginning.



The *Hill End Observer* states that upwards of 150 people have left Hill End within the last week, bound for the Queensland diggings. — Warnings appear in the Melbourne papers of the 9th instant against going to the rushes at Port Darwin and Townsville. — The *Adelaide Advisor*, of September 8th, publishes a Port Darwin telegram received the previous evening: - The prospects of the diggings are highly encouraging. All discoveries yet made are lasting and there is a great extent of fresh reefs discovered. A new reef has just been discovered covered with gold plainly visible in the stone. No alluvial finds. Water is scarce. The health of the diggings settlement is good, and the natives friendly. Intending diggers are advised

to bring stores and means of transport. Private telegrams state that the reefs look valuable underground. —

A telegram to the *Sydney Morning Herald* says: - Large numbers are leaving the diggings towns, especially Bendigo and Ballarat, for the new rush at Charter's Towers and Port Darwin. The City of Adelaide to-day is full of diggers on route.

For further reading

In 1987 Evans Shire (which previously covered the Hill End-Tambaroora area) published a comprehensive study of the environmental heritage of the shire. This study is now available online and covers a variety of aspects of the early history of the general area. Hill End was excluded as NPWS were undertaking their own Conservation Management Plan. However, there are numerous references to the general history of the area and it also provides an excellent section on pre-European settlement in the area as well as background readings on the early mining ventures.

Thanks to NSW Archaeology online this full report can be found online by [clicking here](#).

Another set of papers worth browsing are the 1976 reports prepared by Archaeology students on a number of significant sites in the area. Considering that these reports were done 40+ years ago they are a great snapshot in time as possibly much of what they observed then may now no longer be obvious.

They cover:

Brewery site
Chappell's Battery
Cornish lift – Tambaroora
Nuggety Gully (Flying Fox etc) Hawkins Hill
Consolidated Mines Hawkins Hill

Red Hill Battery (Tambaroora)
Tambaroora Post Office
Valentine Mine
Warry's House (including an interview with Nell Anderson about the place.

These full reports can be found by [clicking here](#)

Looking for help with your family research?



Family Tree Forum

Then check out The Family Tree Forum [here](#) .

Family Tree Forum aims to provide a site where the members can research and socialise in a safe, friendly and helpful environment. Registration is free, and members are dedicated to assisting all genealogists, whether they are beginners or experienced researchers.

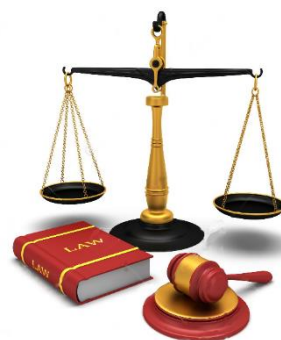
On the genealogy forums members can ask for advice or offer helpful tips to other researchers. To post on these forums you have to be a registered member, although they can be read by non-members.

Registering as a member at Family Tree Forum will give you access to their names database. Searches are possible using any combination of First Name, Surname, Place of Birth and Year of Birth.

There is also a very active community forums where members can take a break from research to socialise, arrange meets, show off family photographs or discuss issues of the day. Community forums are only open to registered members.

The Prosecution Project.

Do you have an ancestor who may have stepped to the wrong side of the law? If so then the Prosecution project may add that extra dimension to your family story. Supported by the Australian Research Council and Griffith University the following is extracted from their [website](#):



Criminal trials have been taking place in Australia since the first days of settlement. The archives of the Australian states are custodians of their records, which are among the most complete in the world. The potential of these records for use by family historians as well as researchers has been recognised already by the increasing availability of digitised indexes, such as those developed at NSW State Records (eg the Prison photo books) and the Founders and Survivors database of Tasmanian convict and other records.

The Prosecution Project is investigating the history of the criminal trial in Australia. They are digitising the registers of Supreme Court cases that are available in most jurisdictions. They are digitizing and making publicly accessible the records of the criminal courts, documenting not only the names of the accused as well as their offences and the outcomes of the trials. Names of magistrates, judges, lawyers, police and victims and other witnesses are also included.

This project will produce a rich understanding of how crime has been prosecuted in Australia. It will also tell us much about Australian history – how people lived, how they behaved, how they dealt with conflict and tragedy, how legal and political institutions responded to crime and its consequences.

Family and local community historians have always made use of criminal justice records. Increasingly available as digital files, these documents are accessible to anyone with access to an internet linked computer or even smart phone. The Prosecution Project links these records as a large-scale Australian exercise in unlocking the criminal justice records of all the states. The project is a significant collaboration between university researchers and a large and growing community of volunteers (similar to Trove). Further information, outlining what the project is doing and illustrating its potential use for family and local historians interested in Australia's past can be found [here](#) .

Contact details for the Gathering Group

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Our new Logo

Thanks to
Chris Dingle

See it soon on
our T Shirts!

