

The Oaks Historical Society Inc

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Wollondilly Heritage Centre & Museum

Newsletter

APRIL 2020

Medical Officer Captain R/O Gordon Brodie

Gordon Brodie was born in Killara, Sydney on October 31st 1914. He studied medicine at Sydney University, worked at the Royal North Shore Hospital and enlisted when WW2 broke out. He joined the 2/12 Field Ambulance but was transferred between units as the needs for a medic arose.

Seconded to the 14th anti-aircraft battery quartered on Darwin Oval, he claimed that army service oscillated between sheer terror and utter boredom waiting for something to happen.

On 19th February 1942 he idly watched with others as groups of nine planes in "V" formations approached. With no suggestions of hostile aircraft, they were at first unconcerned until they saw the sun glinting off unusual objects falling from the planes.

Darwin was Bombed!!



Gordon and his mother Ellen, Sydney 1941

The Corvettes HMAS *Castlemaine* and HMAS *Armidale* were deployed on a mission to Betano Beach in Timor to supply commando forces and evacuate sick and injured personnel and Portuguese civilians. Brodie was seconded to the navy for this mission on board the *Castlemaine*. The *Castlemaine* returned but the *Armidale* was sunk. *Continued on page 3....*



Pandanus palm camouflage over 3.7 gun emplacement trench in Darwin, February 1942





President's Report

Trish Hill

Well, what different times we are currently living in. It gives me more of an insight into the post WW1 era of our history when the world was similarly affected. It was something that my father talked of because he was in his teens and recalled the affects of the Spanish Flu both locally and further afield.

Falling in line with the recommendations we are of course closed to the public however we are encouraging people to contact us via any of the available media options if you have enquiries or maybe looking for publications or researching and we are happy to follow up for you.

We are hoping to be able to continue producing the news-

letter each month. That comes with challenges as I convert the information and photographs into the required format and thanks Doreen, Pacita and Vivian for compiling, editing and supplying this months stories.

This month Debbie and I managed some gardening at the museum entrance in an attempt to keep on top of the growth surge after the rain and of course ensure our green bin was full.

Chubb came to do the bi-annual service on the fire extinguishers and we were able to assist them with directions for other service calls in Wollondilly and the proximity of the villages to each other ■



Family History & Local Archive Research Corner

Sue Davis

During our time when we are closed to the public, there are still numerous things we can do. I have been doing some cataloguing while working from home. In particular I have been working on a file of *The Oaks Hotel*. Hopefully, a story from these papers will be coming in a newsletter soon! We are so fortunate to have the internet so can continue research there as well. The team is also still researching for the exhibition on the history of Fire Fighting in the Wollondilly, *Hope Out of the Ashes*.

This week on our Facebook Messenger page we had an enquiry about *John Henry Haigh* who was a policeman in the valley during World War II. I managed to find some references, from our catalogue, for our researcher who now has some leads to follow up in his spare time.

In following up from last month here is a reminder that there are a variety of webinars available in the State Archive online library if you would like to learn more about what can be accessed for your research. Here are some more ideas I learned from the webinar, *Researching Your House and Property*, conducted by Emily Hanna and a workshop I attended with Terry Kass in 2015. Last month we looked at Deceased Estate Files and various early maps that are useful.

This month I thought you might be interested in Surveyor General and Lands Department records. Surveyors records

include sketch books and field books. The sketches found in these include the sites of buildings and measurements of land portions. Helpful to find boundaries when there are no fence lines! Finding information on Lands Department Records will also identify the locality description. Try finding The Oaks on the Geographical Names Board website as a practice in locating other places. If you are receiving this newsletter online then you can go straight there (Control + click on link)..

<https://proposals.gnb.nsw.gov.au/public/geonames/9121a4c7-8efe-475d-bc81-33483c288385>

You will have discovered that The Oaks is on the Parish map of **Weromba**. Navigate your way on the internet to the **NSW Land Registry Services** and use the HLRV (Historical Land Records Viewer) or click on <https://hlrv.nswlrs.com.au/>



When you are asked to 'search' make sure you put in Weromba and not The Oaks. You will get a choice of old maps to view. Select the one for the year range that should have the information you are looking for about The Oaks. Enjoy finding who lived in The Oaks area for example around 1923. Now try this procedure for other areas!

Happy researching ■



Acquisitions Report

Allen Seymour

We've had a few items in prior to our closure, and as part of our new WW2 display there are pay books and a demobilization book for Gordon Brodie and also for his wife, Daphne Jean Hilley. There are also a couple of WW2 medical dressings. We've also had more items on The Oaks Debutante balls, with dress description sheets, account books, and photo

albums for 1989 & 1990. A number of bottles have also been donated and these include one from the Camden Cordial Factory, a 1921 Condiment Co bottle, and from Dennis Ashton comes Marchants & Schweppes bottles, both recovered from Burragarang Valley ■

Medical Officer Captain R/O Gordon Brodie continued from page 1



↑ Dr.
**Brodie's Field
Hospital
1944**



← **Fractured
femurs in
traction**



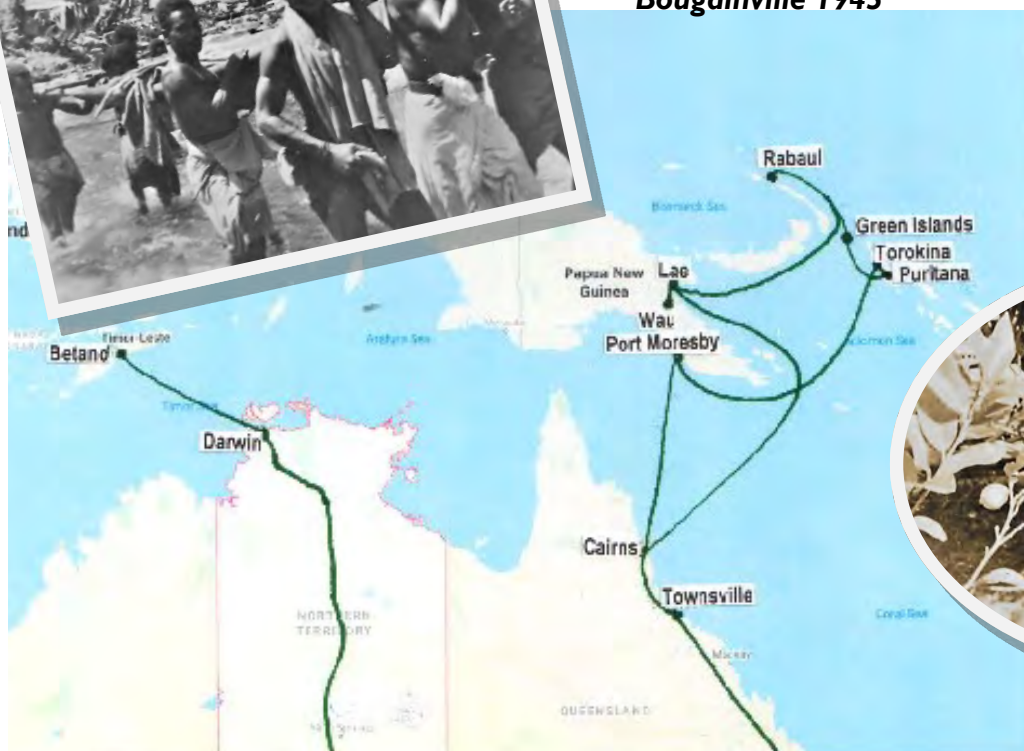
← **Evacuating wounded from
Bougainville 1945**

After a period of training on the mainland he returned north to the 27th Australian Infantry Battalion in May 1944 and was sent to Lae in Papua New Guinea where he temporarily ran a native hospital and training school.

His operating theatre was constructed from pandanus logs covered with mosquito netting. Improvisation of equipment and resources was a necessity and he was the very happy recipient of penicillin "stolen" from the Lae AGH. Surgery was often disrupted by mangoes falling on the roof.

He then went to Wau, Green Island and other small communities on islands around Bougainville. Transport varied from squatting on bamboo rafts being pushed by local people swimming alongside, to USA Catalina flying boats to wading across the swift flowing Puriata River to reach the 11th Australian Field Ambulance at Toga. With the end of the Pacific War Brodie was shuffled around on the mainland.

While in Herne Bay he met Lieutenant Daphne Hiley. She had joined up as a VAD. This group became incorporated into the Army as the Australian Army Medical Services. After their discharge Daphne and Gordon married and settled in Picton where he ran a solo country practice for 40 years. Daphne died in 2017 aged 99 and Gordon died on 22nd December, 2019, aged 105.



THE MOORES OF GLENMORE



Extract from a presentation given by Pacita Alexander to The Oaks Historical Society meeting 6 October 2003

You probably think there is nothing much more to say about the Moores of Glenmore. You've heard it all before. I hope I can surprise you.

To begin with, you may have heard that the original Crown land grant of 2000 acres, the Glendiver Estate, where Glenmore is today, about ten kilometres west of Camden, between Spring Creek and The Oaks, was to Robert Johnston. But did you know that he was a flute-playing Commander in the Navy, who explored the Warragamba and the Cox River? His father, Major George Johnston, came out in the First Fleet, and, with John Macarthur, deposed Governor Bligh in the Rum Rebellion in 1808. Robert Johnston was given the grant in 1833 and he then sold it to Edward Moore in 1851. Johnston was on good terms with Governor Macquarie, but it was Governor Bourke who gave him the grant.

Edward Moore, a convict weaver from Manchester, with seven children, divided this land into three portions. He gave 793 acres to his son James, who continued to call his part Glendiver, then 616 acres to Joseph, and 534 acres to Robert. It is assumed that the name Glenmore came from Robert's mother-in-law, Granny McKilligett, who came from Glenmore in Kilkenny, Ireland. It means Great Valley.

Having settled three of his sons, Edward was helped by them to give land to his two daughters. In 1854 his sons bought Hardwick from the Reverend Thomas Hassall, and sold a thousand acres to their father in 1862. The Hardwick estate had been a grant to Hannibal Hawkins Macarthur, John Macarthur's nephew, who lost his money in a bank crash in the 1840's, and had to sell some of his property. Apparently Edward and his wife Elizabeth established themselves in Buxton Cottage, on Hardwick, and their daughters Elizabeth and Ellen inherited the land. Elizabeth married Thomas Inglis, and among others produced my grandmother, another Elizabeth. Ellen inherited the land on which her nephew, my grandfather John E. Moore, later built the homestead Ellensville (pictured right, where I now live.) Edward's other two sons, Edward Lomas and William, were busy acquiring land elsewhere.

Hardwick and Glenmore were separated by Flaggy Creek (then called Stoney Creek), and according to my Aunt Grace, 'Edward and his three sons, with other local help, cut iron bark logs, and they threw them across the gorge. They cut planking and built a suspension bridge.' This last-



ed till 1947, when the people installing electricity said it was too dangerous, and knocked it down, according to George Moore. After the bridge was completed all workers and others had a picnic and called the bridge 'Union Bridge', a union of the families on either side.

The homes built by these pioneer Moores to house their large families are still at Glenmore. However Buxton Cottage, on Hardwick, has been 'made-over', and has vanished from its original site. Although built of stone, it became derelict, until in the early nineteen seventies an arrangement was made with the Eagles family and David Southwell. The Eagles then – and now – own about a thousand acres of Hardwick. This arrangement enabled Mr Southwell to use the stone and build his own house at Mount Hunter near Camden. The heritage architect Clive Lucas wrote about the process in 'Architecture in Australia'. I remember going for walks as a child, from Ellensville, and exploring the empty rooms and wondering who planted the red camellia by the side of the house.

James Moore's house at Glendiver, east of The Oaks, on Glendiver Road, was also built of stone. Although it seems remote from what we call the village of Glenmore, it was of course part of the original grant. I visited Alice Scott, the present owner, recently. It has had modern additions made with sensitivity, but you can still see the original structure, and the bare stone walls inside, where no plaster was used. It is a beautiful house now, with a swimming pool, and overlooks those familiar Glenmore hills. It has not been in the Moore family for many years.

Joseph Moore's house started off as a slab hut, used by settlers, possibly in the late 1820s. Joseph built a sandstone cottage with an attic in the 1850s, and connected it to the hut with a covered way. There are beautiful views from its hilltop setting across the paddocks and creek to the hills. After 1960 it changed hands, although still belonging to the Moore family, and was rented out in the seventies and eighties to the Gammage family. Marie Gammage had a hairdressing salon there. Before that the post office was run there, until it closed in 1957.

Then in 1989 Larry and Mickey Robertson bought it, and transformed it into 'Glenmore House', adding wings, and a modern kitchen and bathrooms, but keeping the original feel of the house as much as possible.

They retained the main building, and have created an enviable garden! Mickey uses the barn for her interior design business, and the hayshed, dairy and stables are used as a function centre.

Robert Moore's house, on the opposite side of Moore's Way, is down the hill from Glenmore House, and also built of local sandstone, and bricks made on the property. It started off with twelve rooms and a shingled roof, and Robert used the two large front rooms as a store. Settlers from Burraborang brought their butter in kegs, eggs, bacon, live poultry, turkeys and geese. As Mr Val Moore, Robert's grandson, said in a broadcast in the fifties 'The pack saddle was the usual method of transportation then. The produce was exchanged at the store for all kinds of household and farm necessities. From Glenmore the produce travelled to Sydney by bullock wagon, then on the return journey hauled back the needed goods.'

The house now has eight rooms, as the old detached kitchen, meat-room and store room have been demolished. It is unique among Moore dwellings in that the seventh generation, Gavin and Karina Moore and their three young sons, now live there

The Moores were very religious, and early church services were held in Robert Moore's home from 1856. The church was built quite quickly after a meeting on 8th June 1859, when Joseph Moore gave the land, until it was opened 'for public worship' in March 1860. Of course it was built of sandstone. James Rogers of Picton was in charge, and Isaac Stokes, a stonemason who lived in Glenmore, worked on it. It became the Glenmore Uniting Church in 1978. Like most other buildings, the church has been frequently renovated. Joseph Moore also gave the land for the adjoining cemetery, from which the numerous Moores who have departed can still enjoy the view of the hills, through the cypress trees.

Soon after the church was built, the Council of Education rented it as a school. It was not until 1869 that the building of a combined school and teacher's residence was built, on two acres next to the church. Robert Moore, as Secretary of the local School Board, was heavily involved. The local families had to pay one-third of the cost of construction, and they collected eighty pounds. In 1894 a post office was set up, with Mrs Lewis, wife of Mr Joseph Lewis, the best-qualified teacher there, as post-mistress. The school continued until 1911, when it closed down, in spite of protests,



particularly by my grandfather, John E. Moore. However there were only twelve pupils, and the District Inspector said they could go to schools at The Oaks or Mount Hunter. James Moore bought the school, and it stayed in the Moore family till the eighties, but is privately owned today.

Now I have talked a little about the buildings at Glenmore created by the Moores, the visible records of their lives, let's hear something about the people, where sometimes the records are invisible, or plain wrong! The Education Department records show nine teachers at the school, but they forgot to mention William Caresso Wearne. Evidently he came to Glenmore in 1864, and boarded with Joseph Moore and taught the children in the church for a short while. He also had an affair with one of Joseph's daughters, Ellen. They had a daughter, Eva, born in 1865. This is documented, and the story is that he was sent packing, and as I said, certainly erased from the Department records. I imagine William Caresso Wearne, from his name, had Italian ancestry, was dark and handsome, and swept Ellen off her feet. You will be glad to know that when her daughter Eva was thirteen, Ellen married John Roberts, who owned Mill Farm, just up the road, at the foot of Loomes Hill. This was 'a most prosperous business', with a flour mill to grind the flour from the wheat the Moores and others were growing, till it was attacked by rust, in the 1860s. They had a family of six, and Ellen became a Sunday School teacher at Glenmore.

There were other connections with the teachers and the Moore families. Mr Samuel Kemish arrived in 1871 with his family. He incurred the wrath of the district inspector because he established a library on his own initiative. The library contained '56 unsectarian books, suited to the more advanced pupils' in his forty-seven pupil school. The local school board, Robert, Joseph and Edward Lomas Moore, and Thomas Inglis, supported him, and he stayed till 1878. He was an author himself, and wrote a book called 'The Japanese Empire'. His daughter Kate Kemish married Arthur Valentine Moore, one of Robert's sons. Their son was Val Moore, and his sons, Rowan and George Moore, still live at Glenmore with their families. Samuel Percival Ware, who was only eighteen, was the next teacher at Glenmore. Percy married Louisa Kate, Arthur Valentine's sister, in 1885. They went to Cobargo Public School the next year, where they stayed for fourteen years.

As any family historian knows, there are three sources of information, the three C's: correspondence, cemeteries and conversation. In researching, my father's correspondence was the major source, but with the Glenmore Moores, the Glenmore cemetery, and conversation, with some of the Moores now living at Glenmore have been invaluable.

The language of some of the obituaries of these earlier Moores is flowery, but often poignant.

Arthur Valentine Moore was 'one of nature's gentlemen'.

My grandmother, Elizabeth Moore, 'radiated sweetness and light' but sadly I never knew her, nor my grandfather John E. Moore, who died in 1931,

And so, 'another good man gone.' Wilfred Moore, of Glendiver, died in 1908, 'he was but 13 years of age.'

Mr Isaac Moore died at 84 in 1947, the same day as his younger brother Alfred, and they 'Were buried the same afternoon at the same hour, 3 o'clock on the 16 May. What all researchers also discover is that you can't always rely on the written word. Now let's look at the three 'founding brothers' Moore.

Joseph was the eldest of Edward and Elizabeth Moore's children. He came to Australia on the convict ship 'Lord Wellington' as a four-year-old, with his baby sister Ellen, and his mother Elizabeth Moore in 1820.

Their father Edward had arrived two years earlier on the 'General Stewart'.

Joseph married Matilda Drake, and presumably met her in Lower Minto, where the Drakes had a farm next to the Moores. They had sixteen children. Like his brothers, as well as growing wheat Joseph had a dairy.

Of course the first 'settlers' in the area, called by Governor Hunter 'Cowpasture Plains', were the cattle who had escaped from Sydney Cove in the 1790's. Joseph's wife Matilda died in 1872, in an accident. She was 51. Joseph must have been lonely, as in 1876 he married Rachel Thompson nee Ward in Bowral. He died four years later, aged sixty-two. This marriage is not mentioned in his obituary, which has a graphic description of his deathbed. 'His sorrowing children then went in one by one, to whom he bade, in clear tone of voice, his last farewell.' To all sixteen of them!

Robert Moore was born in October, 1820, after his mother was reunited with his father in Sydney in January 1820. He married Ellen McKilligett in 1853, and they had eight children. George Moore said that Robert had to take his wife to the Roman Catholic Church at The Oaks, and wait outside for her on Sundays while she was at the service. She died in 1875, whereupon Robert married 'spouse number two', Eliza Kinder, nee Pallier. Eliza died in 1895, and Robert then embarked on a third marriage, in 1899, with young eighteen-year-old Louisa Clarke, and they had three children, Robert being 87 when the last one, Mabel, was born in Croydon. He died in 1908. The story is that he comforted Louisa when she was crying on Central Station, when they had both missed the train home...She was the daughter of Phillip Clarke the bootmaker and seller of wine, living across the road in Glenmore. In Robert Moore's obituary there is no mention of this marriage, though it does say he 'took a great interest in the welfare of the district.'

Robert Moore was the last survivor of Edward and Elizabeth's children, and himself a part of Australian history. According to Val Moore 'when the Ovens gold-diggings were discovered, Robert Moore supplied the diggers with goods by bullock wagon'. As well as his store, there was a blacksmith shop and bakery. As the land was cleared, beef cattle were introduced and he went in for dairying in 1875, when the store was closed. There was a lot of land-clearing, and as there are mostly hills round Glenmore, this caused erosion later. Mr Arthur V. Moore introduced sheep briefly, but dairying was more profitable.

James Moore was born in 1825, and married Maria Green, according to the Register of Pioneer Families, but her name was Maria Reed, in another source. As one of the children, Charles, was called Charles Green, I put my money on Maria Green. They had seven children, and prospered at Glendiver, again with dairying. James died in 1889.

Among the present generation of Moores living at Glenmore, I have recorded interviews with George and Harold Moore, both in their eighties, and learnt a lot of family history from Rowan Moore – and of course from their wives, Zetta, Pat and Di. George is the son of Robert Valentine Moore and Evelyn. His mother died when he was born. He says the younger Moores were brought up to address the many Mr. Miss and Mrs Moores by their Christian name, so it was 'Mr and Mrs Reg, or Miss Grace and Miss Hilda'. He went to school at Oakdale, a bush school with one teacher, an exceptional one, Mr Dawson, who taught not only the three R's but also ethics. He lived in Mount Hunter, so used to give George and his brother, Aubrey and sister, Helen a lift to the school. When he was away they went by mail car, which went on to Burragorang and Yerranderie, and helped deliver the mail and papers to the houses on the way.

Some of the games they played at school were 'Sheep, sheep, come home', and hopscotch, vigaro and cricket. Also the teacher would take them into the bush to gather wild flowers.

The coal trucks were busy on the roads then, and the roads were very rough, so often coal got spilt. People would pick it up and take it home. During the holidays when there was a lot of traffic to the Burragorang Valley, and the road was then through Glenmore, a dust cloud hung over Glenmore.

George helped in the dairy, and as well as the family there would be always three or four people working on the farm. The milk was taken to the Milk Depot by the carrier, Mr Noakes. Sometimes there was an over-supply of milk, so there were 'stop days'.....

For leisure they used to play around Flaggy Creek with the children of Eagles, other Moore, and Loomes families. There was always a school holiday for the Camden Show.

George always had a horse to ride. She was called Princess, 'but we called her Susie. My grandfather took me to round up cattle in the back bush.'

Church attendance was very important. George said 'we attended the Methodist church at Glenmore which was regarded as the family church....We didn't have a Sunday



school, but we did have a Sunday school picnic! Mrs Reg Moore arranged this, and we gathered in the paddock below the church on the Saturday.

The mission deputations came every year with Lantern Lectures, and showed slides of the missionary activity, mainly in the Pacific Islands. This was our first glimpse of the world outside Australia. The service was at eleven o'clock every Sunday, then the preachers went on a circuit to Oakdale or Orangeville for the afternoon service.



Gavin Moore at the 'Gavana Dairy' at Glenmore today

The afternoon service would not fit Glenmore, because it was a dairying area, and the cows had to be milked, Sunday or not.'

George's father married a second time, and Rowan is George's half-brother, son of Lily and Robert Valentine Moore.

Rowan, like his father, and so many of the Moores, is very civic-minded, and is Chairman of the State Council of the Rural Lands Protection Board, Chairman of the Carrington Centennial Hospital, and Director of the Dairy Farmers.

He and his son run the dairy on Robert's original land grant.

Harold Moore is descended from Joseph Moore, and also grew up in Glenmore. He left school at 14, and although his father wanted him to become a bank clerk, he was determined to be a farmer, and has been one all his life. Both his parents did the milking, by hand, and they had about thirty cows. He used to go to school by pony, and to church by horse and sulky. He said 'We used to play tennis every Saturday afternoon at Eagles, we'd walk up there and play tennis and Stan (Eagles) would bring us home in the utility.'

Harold had a younger sister, and a brother, Neville, who was tragically killed coming home from Camden on the tractor, leaving his wife Zetta and five children. He was only forty. They were able to stay on the farm, and later George Moore married Zetta.

There are so many stories of growing up at Glenmore, and many of the descendants of the Moores, from all over Australia, are becoming interested in the history of their ancestors. Stephanie Chapman, in Canberra, is one. She is a descendant of Eva, Ellen's daughter, who herself married Charles Rae, and had fourteen children. Stephanie is hoping to organise a Moore reunion next year – in fact in the October long weekend – so we will probably discover many new stories of the Moores of Glenmore

MONTHLY MEETINGS: The Oaks Historical Society Inc. holds its meetings on the first Monday of each month (except January) at the Wollondilly Heritage Centre & Museum, 43 Edward St. The Oaks starting at 7.00pm. Meetings are currently suspended until further notice. Our patrons are Judith Hannan and Richard Booth. The Oaks Historical Society Inc. takes no responsibility for the accuracy of the articles, papers or reviews that appear in this newsletter. The statements made or opinions expressed are not necessarily those of The Oaks Historical Society Inc. Copies of the minutes are available.



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