

The Oaks Historical Society Inc

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Newsletter

May 2020

Wollondilly Heritage Centre & Museum

A Family Connection

While reading the latest newsletter from The Oaks Historical Society, I was intrigued to come across a particular name in the story on the Moore Family, submitted by Pacita Alexander.

The name in Pacita's story, that caught my attention, was **William Carvosso Wearne**. I realised I had seen this name before, while doing family history research. William Carvosso Wearne is connected to the Stevenson family of Black Springs, near Oberon.

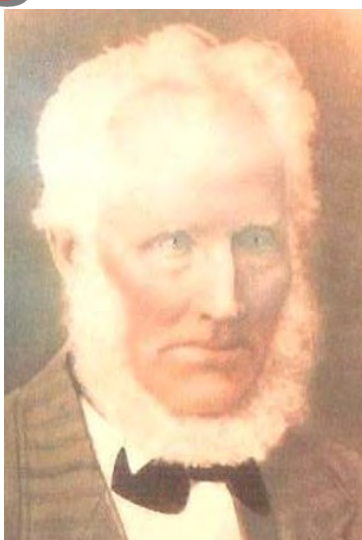
Briefly, I need to explain the connection.

My late husband, Rodney Larnach, his father's name was Kenneth Stevenson Larnach. According to Scottish naming customs, the child's middle name can be the maiden name of a maternal family ancestor. Stevenson, was the maiden name of Kenneth's grandmother, Jane Larnach [nee Stevenson]. Jane Stevenson married George Larnach from "Ettlesdale", Caloola, near Bathurst. The Stevenson family were large landholders in the Oberon area.

The naming tradition has continued in my family as when our eldest son, James was born, we gave him the middle name of Stevenson, as I had been told this was a family name, but did not know anything about the Stevenson family at that time.

The Stevenson family in Australia begins with James Stevenson, born in Cathcart, Renfrew, Scotland in 1796, and his second wife, Jane [nee Couper]. James and Jane Stevenson arrived in Australia with their first-born child, also named Jane, in 1832 on the "Lavinia". This young girl, Jane Stevenson, was Kenneth's grandmother and Rod's great grandmother.

A year after their arrival, another daughter was born to James and Jane, Helen Stevenson. Helen was born in 1832, shortly after her parents arrived in NSW, with her birth registered at Cabramatta. Helen would later marry George Larnach's brother, Donald



Larnach. So, two Stevenson sisters, married two Larnach brothers.

James Stevenson, Senior (pictured left)

Shortly after the Stevenson family's arrival, James Stevenson was working as a superintendent for Mr. Richard Jones on a property known as "Fleurs" which was situated on Mamre Road, Kemps Creek.

"Fleurs" was originally a grant of 550 acres to Nicholas Bayley. The University of Sydney now operates a radio telescope on the "Fleurs" property. The old homestead is now but a shadow of its former structure. Bayley Park as it was originally known, must have been constructed in the early 1800s as

it had a house of sorts on it as early as 1811.

Bayley was an Ensign in the NSW Corps and had been one of the soldiers responsible for the arrest of Governor Bligh, and seems to have profited by it. He built a substantial farm and at one time he had 19 male convicts assigned to him for a five-year period. Bayley later had financial difficulties and after his death in 1823, the property was sold to Richard Jones, a successful sheep farmer, pioneering purebred Saxon sheep as well as having dairy herds, pigs and poultry.

Richard Jones was a member of the Legislative Council from 1829 to 1843. Richard Jones prospered until the depression of the 1840s.

Jane Stevenson, wife of James Stevenson Senior (pictured left)

Continued on page 3....



1 Early colonial Homes of the Sydney Region,
1788-1838

2 Penrith City Library



President's Report

Trish Hill

This past month whilst we are closed has been a perfect opportunity to complete a couple of smaller construction projects that we had earmarked previously. Council have completed the reseal of our carpark and are now awaiting the line marking of car parking spaces.

As Covid-19 restrictions will take some time to ease and like many other organisations we have postponed our AGM. It is time however to renew memberships and we would very much appreciate your support in renewing your membership and the details can be found on the back page.

I would like to thank the family of Doctor Gordon Brodie for compiling the information and photographs for our exhibition and feature in last months newsletter ■



Photos of recent projects at the Centre



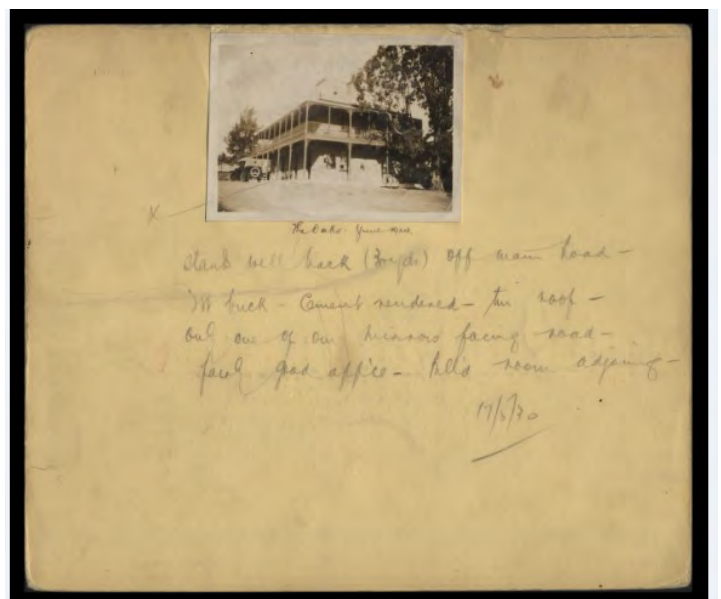
Family History & Local Archive Research Corner

Sue Davis

This month I would like to remind you of things you can do during our time when we are closed to the public. The State Records webinars, I have spoken about previously, are all available on the NSW State Archives website at the address of <https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/webinars> (Just press control+link to access this from the digital version of the newsletter). The page gives you what webinars are to be conducted over the next few months. You need to register by clicking the 'register' button and leaving your name and email address. You may be interested in these that are all on Fridays in May from 10am to 11am: 1 May- Surveyor General Sketch Books. 8 May- Early Convict indents. 15 May- How to read a parish map. 22 May- What happened to Key-name Search. 29 May- The 1828 Census. Past webinars can be found in the Webinar library at the same address. On the 8 April I participated in the webinar for School Records. I was delighted to see that the archivist used my old school of Kingsvale Primary School as an example for looking at letters and teacher records. I had accessed the file myself when I researched and wrote the book, "Chapters of Kingsvale- A Patchwork of stories that shaped the community of Kingsvale". From the webinar I learned so much more and could easily go back and enhance the chapter about the school!

knowledge of this aspect of The Oaks history. Who knew how useful working in isolation could be? Work is continuing on the file for The Oaks Hotel. Recently I was pleased to receive the probate papers for Michael Hennessy. He was the original owner of the hotel from the late 1800s. His estate remained the owners well after his death in 1937. I had ordered the papers through the State Archives and they came in the post in about 3 weeks from when they were ordered. When researching it is important to be patient! There is always something else you might find while waiting! Below is a copy of a Tooth & Company Limited yellow card from 1930 that shows The Oaks Hotel at that time (obtained from the Archives of the ANU) ■

Happy researching!



Over the last few weeks, I have been helping a researcher, online, with information about The Oaks Aerodrome. It has been an ideal time to digitise this file and also update my

While working for Richard Jones, three more children were born at "Fleurs" to James and Jane Stevenson.

The next child to arrive in 1836 was Edward Jones Stevenson [the middle name of Jones possibly given in honour of Mr. Richard Jones]. Then in 1839, James Stevenson Junior was born and in 1841, another daughter, Louisa Stevenson.

By 1843, James has left the employ of Richard Jones, possibly due to the economic depression at that time, and is working as a tenant farmer to Mrs. Brooks at Littleham. Littleham is an area between Luddenham and Penrith. The exact position is not known. Also, in 1843, at Littleham another son was born, John Stevenson and in 1845, James and Jane's last child, Archibald Stevenson is born.

It is through the line of their third child, Edward Jones Stevenson, that there is a connection to William Carvosso Wearne.

It would appear that the Stevenson family then travelled over the Blue Mountains to the Oberon district. Family history has it that they travelled by bullock dray. Mt Victoria was so steep that a huge tree was tied by chain to the axle to ease the dray to the bottom.

In 1857, James purchased the property "Swatchfield" at Black Springs, near Oberon. The property consisted of 1,000 acres.

Before this, James was already living in the area and in December, 1856 he purchased two, thirty-acre blocks near Swatchfield from the Crown. James paid one-pound sterling per acre for this land. [Lots 36 and 37]. Then in 1857 James purchased two more parcels of land - thirty acres in each, from the Crown. [Lots 27 and 28], at one pound per acre. Lot 27 was purchased in the name of Edward Jones Stevenson, eldest of James and Jane's four sons and Edward was only 21 years of age at this time.

James Stevenson Senior died at "Swatchfield", Oberon on 26th November, 1870. Cause of death was an abscess of the liver. He was 70 years old and his occupation was a farmer and grazier. James was buried at Oberon on 29th November, 1870. George Larnach was the acting undertaker [this would have been James' son in law, married to James' daughter, Jane Stevenson]. Religion was Church of England.

After James' death, his wife Jane, continued to live in the family home, "Swatchfield" until her death. Jane Stevenson died on 29th April, 1875 in Oberon. Cause of death was apoplexy and paralysis.

Now, the connection to William Carvosso Wearne

James and Jane Stevenson's third child, Edward Jones Stevenson, was a farmer at "Swatchfield" when he married Mary Ann Taylor Harvey, on 8th July, 1862. They were married at the home of the bride's parents, Edmund and Margery Harvey, at Fish River Creek [Oberon]. Mary Ann was the eldest child in a large family and she was born in 1839.

Edward Jones Stevenson died aged 28, on 22nd October, 1864 at "Swatchfield", Oberon after contracting typhoid fever.

Edward and Mary Ann Stevenson had two children, James Stevenson born in 1863 and Edward Stevenson Junior born in 1865 [eight months after his father's death].

Edward Junior died at age four years, after he was badly scalded by a bucket of hot water. Therefore, James was the only surviving child of Edward and Mary Ann. James Stevenson married in 1886 to Sarah Webster. James and Sarah Stevenson went on to have ten children, one of them being their daughter, Margery Maude Stevenson. Margery Maude Stevenson, was born on 14th March, 1892 at Timbregongie, near Dubbo.

Margery married Albert Ernest Wearne, known as Bert, on 4th April, 1914 in Liverpool.

Albert was born on 5th August, 1871 to parents William Carvosso Wearne and Martha Caldwell.



Margery Maude Stevenson at a young age.

The following story on Albert Wearne has been taken from the book "Emily Denmead & Ted Wearne of Campbelltown and Liverpool" by Manoa Renwick.

With his three brothers, Stewart and Ted, Bert [Albert] acted as a collector for the 1891 census in the Minto Ward of Liverpool. Not only did these three Wearne men have beautiful handwriting, [as their census records attest] they were doubtless highly skilled in bushcraft, on horseback and with a rifle.

It is not surprising then, that soon after hostilities erupted between Britain and the Boers in 1899, Bert still a bachelor, enlisted as a private in the NSW Mounted Rifles.

He was promoted to NCO before being invalided out and repatriated in August, 1900. After promotion to lieutenant, he transferred to the Second and later the Third NSW Imperial Bushmen early the next year and returned to fight in the Cape till the war ended.

He became a correspondent for Reuter's Newsagency in China and in 1914; at the age of 42 he married Margery Stevenson. They had their first child in Peking before Albert returned to Australia to enlist as a Major in the 8th Light Horse in World War 1, serving until November, 1917.

Albert and Margery Wearne had five more children during the next ten years while he travelled extensively, before Margery died prematurely in 1930. Albert Wearne remarried and lived an eventful and distinguished life until his death in Sydney in 1954. Continued on page 4.....

Pictured are Margery Maude Stevenson and Albert Ernest Wearne on their wedding day.

Margery Wearne died 17th February, 1930 at Liverpool, aged 37 years. Margery was buried at Liverpool General Cemetery, Anglican section. Cause of death was cardiac failure.

Margery and Albert had six children at the time of her death, aged from 15 to 2 years.

After the death of Margery, Albert Wearne remarried in 1931 at Drummoyne to Evelyn Bessie Fee, and Albert Wearne died on 10th April, 1954, Liverpool. Evelyn Wearne died in 1977 and there were no children from this second marriage.

The story of William Carvosso Wearne and Martha Caldwell

William Carvosso Wearne, the father of Albert Ernest Wearne, was the fourth son of Joseph Wearne and his wife Susanna

Rogers, of Cornwall, England. William was born in Cornwall in 1836 and named after the great Cornish Wesleyan Evangelist, William Carvosso, who was a friend of the Wearne family. *William Carvosso (1750–1834) was an early Wesleyan leader in Cornwall, England. He was converted to Christianity at age 21 and went on to become a Class Leader in the Wesleyan Connexion and a prominent figure of the church. Towards the end of his life he roamed all over Cornwall preaching. He learned to write after he was 65 and wrote a famous memoir, edited by his son, Benjamin Carvosso, filled with his journal and letters.* [Internet search]

William Carvosso Wearne married Martha Caldwell on 26th March, 1856 at the Wesleyan Chapel, Liverpool, NSW.

Joseph and Susanna Wearne, early pioneers in the Liverpool area of NSW, arrived in Sydney aboard the "Harbinger" on 12th February, 1849. They had a large family of eleven children, all born in Cornwall and the children travelled to Australia with their parents.

According to the shipping records for the "Harbinger", Joseph Wearne was aged 45 and his occupation was a miller. He was a native of Phillack, Cornwall, England,



Margery Maude Stevenson and Albert Ernest Wearne

the son of John and Jane Wearne [both deceased]. His religion was Wesleyan and he could read and write.

Susanna, Joseph's wife was aged 45. Also travelling with Joseph and Susanna were their children:- Ann Wearne aged 18 a dressmaker, Jane Wearne aged 17 a draper's assistant, Joseph Wearne Junior aged 16 a clerk, John Wearne aged 15 a blacksmith, Thomas Wearne aged 13, William Wearne aged 12, Elizabeth Wearne aged 10, James Wearne aged 8, Susan Wearne aged 7, Emma Wearne aged 5 and Charles Wearne aged one.

In about 1873 a paper mill was set up in the Liverpool area, by the sons of Joseph and Susanna. Joseph Junior and William Carvosso Wearne, set up the mill according to the process patented by their brother, Thomas

Wearne.

The paper manufacturing plant, used rushes from William Creek at Liverpool. The mill was located on the old Heathcote Road, next to William Creek, close to where it enters the Georges River.

By the early 1880s, the mill was run by Messrs. Wearne and Hack, who had an office at 374 George Street, Sydney. The mill was completely destroyed by fire on 3rd December, 1884 when owned by John Sands and being run by William Carvosso Wearne.

William Carvosso Wearne died at Newtown in 1904, aged 68 years ■

Story written and submitted by Marie Larnach.

Marie is a member and a previous editor of our newsletter.

Footnote: As mentioned in Pacita's story last month William Carvosso Wearne evidently came to Glenmore in 1864, boarded with Joseph Moore. He was the first teacher appointed at Glenmore School and was succeeded by Mr W. Marrack.

Editor.

Treasures from the Garbage Bin at Government House

Item 13/24 in our collection consists of three photo albums, donated to us in 2013 by Dennis and Lee Cummins. The albums were found in garbage bins in the 1940's at Government house in Sydney and recovered by Dennis' father, a duty policeman who took them home. Apart from this their history is unknown, who prepared them or why. It is possible they may have been created as a memento for the Governor of an all States visit by a Scottish Agricultural Commission in 1910 with the aim of resourcing conditions for potential Scottish migrants. Most of the photos have a hand written description on the page. Pages are around A3 in size, and photos vary in size from full page to six or eight photos on a page. Some photos of the Royal Easter Show and Wagga Wagga Show are identified as being from the 1910-1912 period, and it is believed most of the photos are from this period, although photos of a soldier settlement are obviously post World War One.

The albums have suffered damage over the years, with covers and pages missing, some photos sustained damage. There are no numbers on the albums, but I've allocated numbers to them just for identification purposes, and I'll give a brief description of what is in each one.

ALBUM 1: This deals with orcharding, viticulture, chickens and wheat. A lot of the orchard shots are taken at Yanco experimental farm. Established in 1908 with a purchase of 323 acres, it is now known as Yanco Agricultural Institute and covers some 813 acres. It later became a home for delinquent boys, then during World War two was home to 700 Italian POW's. After the war it was used to train returned soldiers. Ostriches were also raised there. Photos show fruit trees, fruit, buildings and the ostriches. Exhibits at the 1911 Wagga Wagga show are shown. The Wagga Wagga Experimental farm was photographed, having been established in 1892. The Bathurst Experimental farm, established in 1895, is another that was visited. These days it is the Bathurst Teachers College. Raymond Terrace Viticultural Station is visited, as is Hawkesbury Agricultural College. Most of the photos of these places are of the agricultural side of things, not the buildings. Album 1 deals with wheat and there are some great photos here. One photo shows about a dozen harvesters in a field near Wellington, each one pulled by a four horse team. Another one shows an Emerson Brantingham Big Four tractor pulling a 24 foot harvester. In another a portable steam engine is being used to drive a wheat thresher, with a number of large haystacks being built. There are over 20 men visible in the scene, and one thing you appreciate looking at these photos is how labour intensive it was in those days. There some wonderful shots of the railway yards

at Coolamon and Ganmain (pictured). No silos in those days and the wheat was all bagged and carried on horse teams. It is then unloaded into huge stacks at the rail yards, to await the arrival of trains, when it was then loaded into the rail trucks. Definitely hard yacka. Also notable is the location of some of the farms



with orchards at Seven Hills, Baulkham Hills, Parramatta North, Fairfield and poultry farms at Middle Head & Epping.

ALBUM 2: This album deals with livestock, mainly sheep and wool, but covers cattle, goats and horses. It has shots of some of the prize winners at the Royal Easter show and Wagga Wagga show. It covers the 1910 visit to NSW of the group of Scottish Agricultural Commissioners who appear to have toured around the state looking at farms. The Commissioners themselves are not shown much, mainly the things they were looking at. One of the places they visited was "Baroona" homestead near Singleton. This was built in 1829 with the original owners being the Larnach family. It still exists and came on the market last year. If you've got time to spare whilst in isolation, google 'Baroona homestead Singleton' and go to the Knight-Frank site and click on the link which takes you to a video of the inside and outside of it. Well worth seeing, a magnificent place, hard to believe it is a private home. There are some classic Australian station names in this Album such as Booloocooroo, Walla Walla and Goombargoona with Saleyards and Abattoirs also shown.

ALBUM 3: -Deals exclusively with mining. Broken Hill is featured, both the mines and some of the public buildings, such as the Town Hall, Post Office and Tech College. There are gold mines at Hillgrove, Copper works at Cobar and Burrargo, tin dredging at Tingha, stannite mines near Inverell, coal mines around Newcastle area and the shelter sheds, Upper Reserve and wharves. Ironically, most of the ships are still



powered by sail with an amazing number of ships moored here. The Illawarra area was visited, with mines at Helens-

burgh, Coalcliff, Scarborough, Corrimal (pictured above), Mt Keira, Mt Kembla, South Bulli and coke works at Unanderra and Bulli. Continued next page.....

Treasures continued..

At Lithgow as well as the coal mines, the Commonwealth Oil Corporation shale mine and works at Hartley Vale were visited. Next is the Wolgan Valley and here the Shay railway is the main feature. So named because they used American Shay locomotives.

These differ from normal locos as they drive through gearing, allowing them to go up steeper grades, and this line featured a 1:25 grade (pity they didn't use these on Kenny Hill, where the grade was 1:19). Lithgow iron works and the Bowenfells pottery were photographed, along with the Commonwealth Portland Cement Company near Wallerawang. There is a Molybdenite mine near Kingsgate and the Kiama blue metal quarry also warranted some photos. There are less photos in this album as most of them are full page photos.

This is a terrific collection of photos, and we are fortunate to have them. Some are already in the Mitchell library and other



Centre's computer system and can be viewed when we reopen ■



Compiled by Allen Seymour.

places. All together there are around 640 photos, and I have photographed them all and they are in the File Management directory on the

CONGRATULATIONS

Dear Nina, sorry this birthday greeting is late,
Over the years I've forgotten the date,
Now I hear you have reached the special 'Big O'
Eighty years how the time does go

So I say Congratulations! that's a great number of years
You've known much happiness and a few tears.
But you've come through it all, your smile never fades
Whether up-hill or down, you'll make the grade.

My mind goes back to many years past
One couldn't expect our young days to last.
We were nurtured by loving parents good and true,
We children contented and happy all the days through

What fun we had when you visited "Silverdale Farm"
If we engaged in mischief we didn't mean any harm
Carefree days, so nice to recall,
Cricket, tennis or just catching a ball.

But the times I remember most were from 1928 on,
Childhood behind us and school days gone
When in Park Street we shared times together, living side by side
And happy memories of those days do abide

Your bedroom a haven if we'd secrets to share
How many times did we congregate there
Going to business together walking to and fro
You and I, sometimes Dulcie and Snow to

We didn't mind the walking, sometimes a long hike
To meetings, church, concert practice and the like
Or visiting across the river or accompanying someone home
In those days the streets were safe to roam.

What pretty things you had in "Furners" shop to sell
Particularly Royal Doulton china, Stewart crystal as well
Such an assortment, which will I take?
And you kindly helped the customer to make

But better things before you, Ces came your way
And you looked forward to the wedding day
A wonderful partner you were, an ideal farmers wife
Entering so readily into a country woman's life

You and Ces together helped others by word and by deed
And were a great blessing to many in need
Much thoughtfulness for others and in loving and giving
You found that is what makes life worth living

Talents you had plenty, homemaker to the fore
Cooking, cake decorating, floral art and more
A wonderful letter writer as was your "Mother Dear"
To keep in touch with family, friends and to cheer

Now you're living quietly with your family near
Familiar scents before you which you hold so dear
I pray for your good health and contentment always
Pleasantly enjoying interesting days.

Lovingly
Ida Whiteman

(The poem was written for Nina Hanger's 80th birthday by her friend Ida Whiteman—17.11.1991)



Contributed by Shirley Carlon

MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE NOW



SINGLE -\$10 FAMILY -\$18

Membership includes newsletters emailed free.

FOR HARD COPY POSTAGE OF NEWSLETTER PLEASE INCLUDE AN ADDITIONAL \$10. Our bank details are available on request for direct credit of funds.



HAPPY MOTHERS DAY TO ALL OF OUR MOTHERS

A SELECTION OF PHOTOS FROM OUR TREASURES, THE 'VICE REGAL ALBUMS' FROM GOVERNMENT HOUSE



Left—22' Seam of coal Stamford Uerthyr, Kurri Kurri

Right—Oil tanks Hartley Vale Commonwealth Oil Corp.

Below left—Torbane Shale Retorts, Comm Oil Corp.

Below right —Haystacks Glen Innes.

Below Centre— Header/thresher Quambi, Young

Bottom right—Camped for the night Ganmain Rail Yard.



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. Due to the Covid-19 restrictions are meetings are currently suspended. 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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