

The Bega Pioneer

Voice of the Bega Valley Historical Society Inc.

September 2023 Edition



Bega Valley Historical Society Inc.

Incorporating

Bega Pioneers' Museum

87 Bega Street, Bega NSW 2550

Please address all correspondence to:
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P O Box 1052 Bega, NSW 2550.
Phone: 02 6492 0470.
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Website: begavalleyhistoricalsociety.org.au*

COMMITTEE:

President: Helen Jauncey Secretary: Kaye Jauncey
Treasurer Helen Jauncey
Reg Huntington, Bill Fletcher, Shirley Sproats, Peter Rogers
Research Officer: Membership manager Sylvia Davey

MUSEUM OPENING HOURS:

*Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10am to 2pm
Saturday 10am to 2pm*

*Museum Entrance Fees:
Adults \$10, Seniors and Pensioners \$5, Children \$3
Annual Membership Fee: Ask at desk*

The Society's Newsletter is published quarterly and is free to all members and to kindred societies.

The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of the Bega Valley Historical Society Inc. The Society cannot accept any responsibility for any action taken as a result of the statements herein. Copyright: Bega Valley Historical Society Inc. If you are unable to visit us at the Museum please contact us, we will be only too happy to help with any queries that you may have. We have an extensive collection of family histories, photographs and memorabilia as well as a vast collection of files, books and journals relating to the Bega Valley and its inhabitants. Our research officer is only too willing to help you with your enquiry.

Front Page: Kangaroo Butter Churn - one of our many dairy artefacts



Museum News

NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER: 02 6492 0470

NEW EMAIL: museum@bvhs.org.au

MEMBERSHIP.

We welcome the following new members John Seckold, Michael Derrig, James Parker, Robert Keith Russell, Eric Cran,

RESEARCH QUERIES.

McGregor family

DEATHS.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Shirley Slater, late of Kameruka and Tathra.

ACQUISITIONS

Framed photograph of William Henry Plumb.

Museum Happenings.

From the AGM

- Resignation of B Bowyer from committee.
- Resignation of M Sly as Research Officer
- Resignation of H Jauncey as President - No nomination for President following her resignation.
- Liaison with the museums advisor as to the direction the museum is going to take in order to stay viable. This includes a virtual museum presence.

We are in the process of installing a disabled access toilet. To achieve this we have had to remove the pencil pine that has caused issues with drainage and sewer pipes.

A revamped display room is being setup. It will also serve as a meeting/lecture area.

Painting of the front of the museum is in progress.

The museum sign has also been replaced with a new one.

Bega Soldiers Memorial.

In May next year it is the 100th anniversary of the official opening of the Bega Soldiers Memorial. The Bega RSL Sub-branch are planning a commemoration of this occasion. Photographs and family members of the servicemen who died are being sought. Many of these are already available thanks to Pat Raymond. A soldier and what details we have are being posted on our Facebook page every Monday.

If you can help with any information about these soldiers please contact us on museum@bvhs.org.au



Howard S Filmer



Albert Herbert Bouquet
KIA 24 July 1916



Driver Joseph Britten
5th Div. Ammunition Col,
Australian Field Artillery
Died 6 Oct 1917 aged 25 years
son of John and Emma

Driver Joseph Britten
KIA 6.10.1917



L/Cpl Sydney Rupert Thatcher
Killed in Action
2/4/1917

Presidents Report

I would like to thank the members for your attendance today.

I would like to thank our Secretary, Kaye Jauncey, for her dedicated effort in keeping the Museum running and to Bill Fletcher for continuing to do front of house to keep the Museum open. I would also like to thank our volunteers – Christine, Sylvia, Yvonne, Kate and Leo who do much to digitise our collection, front of house duties and cleaning.

Thanks, also to Margaret Sly who recently resigned as Research Officer. Her efforts during the pandemic and after were very much appreciated. Thank you to Brett who is not rejoining the committee this year. His input and support during the last several years was also appreciated. Our best wishes to Kate who recently had an accident and wishing her a speedy recovery.

During the year we have attempted to promote the Museum through signage on the edges of Bega which has been unsuccessful. Discover Australia require more and greater opening days (including Sunday) and hours than we can staff. Bega Council require DA's and for land rated agriculture it is one sign per property. We also spoke to Discover NSW about signage but they require the Museum to be open 6 days a week, including Sunday, for six hours. We didn't have sufficient volunteers and committee members to meet this requirement.

We are investigating have a mural painted on the block wall on the western side of the Museum. Several people have expressed interest and I am following up. There remains the question of what the mural should depict and Council have said they will want to sign off on the design.

With the assistance of Peter Lacey we applied for two large grants during the year. The first grant was to extend and renovate the Museum. The second grant was to renovate the Museum. Neither grant was successful.

Shirley Sproats has sorted through and catalogued the Bega District News newspapers and researched the possibility of digitisation. The process was expensive and is unaffordable at this point in time.

The Society hosted the launch of Fascinating Bega by Peter Lacey. The book has been a hit and helped increase our membership and visitors.

Treasurers Report

At 30 June 2023 the Society had \$13,284.01 in the cheque account and \$30,458.66 on deposit.

Income

Interest income has increased due to the rise in interest rates.

Book sales are the sales of "Fascinating Bega" most of which is due to be paid to Peter Lacey for publishing.

Other income is up across the board thanks to a small amount of advertising and the launch of "Fascinating Bega" has increased foot traffic, membership income and other shop sales.

Expenses

Advertising cost was for advertising in the local business guide.

Books and publications was a reprint of the "Bailey Bega History" as book sales increased with "Fascinating Bega".

Repairs and Maintenance is high this year as we had to replace the kitchen hot water system, the post office desk was refurbished, lighting in the military room had to fixed and new carpet was place in the hallway and exhibition room on the left. We also continued to employ a gardening contractor. There was a small cost associated with the painting of the small verandah at the front.

All up on the raw data the Society made a loss of \$6,309.20, but adjusted for the book sales and the one off repairs then the loss was \$1,361.12.

Once again the Society has sustained a loss and continued losses cannot be sustained and the viability of keeping the Museum open will need to be addressed.

WOMEN OF BEGA

Mary Anne ROLFE nee Ryan

Of the women who built this community little is known about this lady - No date of birth, no parents or siblings or where she was born in Ireland.

She is on the passenger list of the 'Red Rover' which arrived in Sydney on August 10th, 1832. This was the first shipload of free women and girls - 202 in number. Most of them were from the Foundling Hospital and House of Industry in County Cork and most of them appear to have been orphans.

Mary was 19 on arrival making her date of birth c1813. She was assigned to Mrs. Norton in Castlereagh Street.

She did not stay long in that employ as on January 15 1834 at Sutton Forest she applied to marry Joseph Rolfe, a convict. They had their first child on October 29 1833. They married with consent of the Governor on September 29 1834. Their daughter Maria was baptised at the same time.

Joseph, known as Yankee Joe was allegedly born at Fort George, Florida, USA on August 11 1806 but no records have been found to support this. His death certificate states he was born in Norfolk, England on that date. Legend has it that he had an American accent. What is known is that he was tried at the Somerset Assizes in 1830 as Joseph Ruth. His death sentence was commuted to transportation for life and he arrived in Australia on the 'Burrell' on July 20 1830.

Mary and Joseph moved from the Southern Highlands to the district of Maneroo and settled on the property 'Greenland' near Nimmitabel.

Joseph obtained his ticket of leave in 1841 and received a full pardon in 1850 at which time they were on the property Warraguburra owned by the Walker Brothers.

Their eldest child, Maria, married in 1850 as well and had a child in Melbourne that same year.

Then came 1851.

On Tuesday May 12th, after a couple of days of inclement weather '*the gale from the southeast set in; it increased in violence during the night and on Wednesday morning it became a hurricane of wind and rain.*' The whole of the station at Warraguburra was swept away and a number of lives were lost.

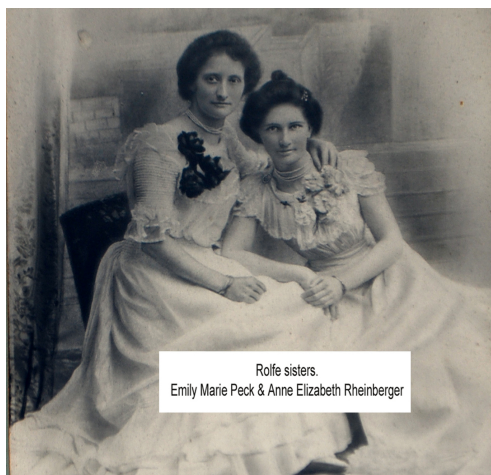
The total number of lives lost in the area ranged from 17 - 20 people.

'The remainder of the inhabitants sought refuge in the higher ranges excepting a man Yankee Joe, and whose real name is Joseph Roof, his wife and children who mounted a stack of hay, where they remained until the flood was so high as to float it, and it drifted down the current for about two miles. The rick in its progress came in contact with several trees, and on one of those occasions it struck with such force as to throw the infant from the mothers arms, and it was drowned. Soon after the floating mass was interrupted by tow trees, when the husband seized hold of a branch, to which he held. The rick then took a fresh start, and again was stayed by the same means, when the wife followed her husband, leaving the remainder of the family to continue their course and thus take their chance. For four days and three nights the mother was so situated, until nature, yielding to the joint effects of cold and hunger, she perished. With the aid of a blackfellow the man was then rescued by ropes, but too late to save his wife and child. The eldest daughter with three of her brothers and sisters still held to the floating stack and were landed on top of a fence some two miles distant from the starting point on the opposite side of the river and were saved. Here they were for five days and three nights until rescued by a blackfellow in his canoe.'

Mary's body and that of her baby were never found. Those that were found were buried in Corridgeree Cemetery.

Mary was about 38 years of age when she died. Had she lived she would have been grandmother to fifty one grandchildren.

NB: there are a number of anomalies in this story particularly around the baby who died. There is no birth registration for this infant and many believe that the baby who drowned may have been her grandson Henry. There is no mention of him in the newspaper articles however his mother Maria is mentioned as being there.



Rolfe sisters.
Emily Marie Peck & Anne Elizabeth Rheinberger

EXTRACT FROM KEVIN TETLEY'S NOTEBOOKS.

As part of the Kevin Tetley bequest we have his notebooks. This is a sample of the work

From OBIT. G. GUTHREY 'BDN' 18.3.19

GEORGE & HENRY GUTHREY came to Bega ca. 1875-85, They took clearing contracts for P.H. Wood, Brogo and Henry RITCHIE at 'Limegrove', Tanja.

They went in for pig buying and bacon curing at Tanja. Swam pig across river at Tarraganda & drove them to Tanja.

The Bros. later selected land at the Murah and shipped their bacon from Bermugui. George G began a Teamster service from there to Tathra via Bega, as there was no punt at Bega River. - end.

From BDN 14.6.1928 - When he sold, Wm Allen asked for an elm from 'Elmgrove' to have his coffin made,

John & Charlotte (Fegen) GUTHREY landed in Sydney 6 Jan. 1853. from England on the ship "RATTLER" George G. was the 5th child b. Sydney 1855 - 1st Guthrey born in Aust. About 1857 the family moved to Jembecumbene, south of Braidwood where the father became a gold miner & Charlotte acted as a mid-wife to many of the families there. They next moved to Newtown-Araluen, gold mining.

The road over Dr. George Mountain was a handicap being so steep and the Tarraganda Crossing was at times disastrous there being no bridge there until much later.

Geo. Married Elizabeth Sproates of Wapengo in 1886 (John Guthrey d. Araluen 1877)

They had a son & dau. were born & then they leased "Briandairy" from Emma Rogers in 1889.

they made butter first, then cheese until the cheese factory burned down in 1908. Later the same year he lost £100 worth of cheese when the SS. "Bega" sank off Bunga Head.

They took over "Elmgrove" 1st Aug. 1909, there being a cheese Factory there since the 1870's. It won many prizes and was closed in 1919. Geo Guthrey retired to 50 Parker St, Bega in 1923, handing "Elmgrove" over to his sons in 1927.

Elizabeth d. 1929 & George d. 1946, aged 90.

Since 1980 the herd had been Friesians but from the early 1930's to 1980 it was pure bred Jersey.

"70 new buildings were erected in Bega during 1883-4." 10 April 1915 "Ye Olden Days" - "Candelo & Eden Union" - No IX, 1884

Mrs G. Wheatley d. Aug 1916 65 yrs. A native of Durham, England. Had 18 kids. They worked for the Wren family for years at Kameruka & Tarraganda.

("Southern Record" 12 Aug. 1916

Dr. Shiels graduated FRCS at Edinburgh University in 1857. d. 44 yrs.

ISABELLA MARGARET CUNNINGHAM was b. Bega 22 Jan 1874. daughter of Dr. & Mrs. Shiel. Born at 'Viewforth' - now B & B place. Turned 100 at 'Viewforth' now Hartemink's on corner of Carp & Union Sts. Dr. Marshall took over Shiels' practise & former home.

Dr Shiels marr. Ann Isabella Murray of Eden.

Mrs Cunningham was educated at SGHS on site of David Jones' Elizabeth St Store. She married in the Shiels home to C.J. Cunningham a Solicitor from Maitland, a member of the firm Rawlinson & Bland, later to become Bland & Cunningham.

3 sons - Allan - Solicitor, Raymond Terrace

Frank - Manager Bank of NSW Waverley

Clive - Retired of Bega

Joe - deceased.

She was married by Rev. James Forbes, her uncle.

Daughters are

Isabelle (Mrs Butt of Bega & Mosman)

Photograph - Isabelle Cunningham's 100th birthday



BEGA CHRONICLE NOTES - July to December September 1865

Project commenced by Ruth Gowing - her notes recently electronically transcribed.

July

Court of Petty Sessions – Police v Quigley, Police v Rixon, Sharpe v Raver.

FIRE DESTROYED ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL.

Day school opened at St. John's Bega.

John Pruss and wife had a daughter.

Adam Engelman and wife had a daughter.

August.

William Britten and wife had a son.

J L Mangan and wife – a daughter.

W McGregor and wife – a son.

Mr. Braine to reopen the Bega National School.

James Maples – a court appearance for stealing.

Charles McGregor – a wagon accident.

Report of gold found along the Brogo River.

Annie White opens a billiard room.

Mr. C S Blacka's residence, 'Murranguang', for sale by auction.

Marriage of William Clarke Webb and Annie Reynolds.

Scottish Chief Inn at Wyndham destroyed by fire – see newspaper report in Wyndham file.

James Gee dies.

Lavinia Thompson dies aged 15 months.

September.

Mr. and Mrs. W H Hopkins – a daughter.

October.

Public meeting held to prospect Brogo River and its tributaries.

John Spence now supplying beef to Bega residents.

Thomas Howard and wife – a son.

Lewis Wilson charged with stealing.

Robert Burgess marries Harriet Read.



Adam Engelman and wife



Brogo River

November

Adams' Great American Circus was in town.

Horse team was operating Bega to Merimbula – left Bega Wednesday and back on the Friday. Small farms were being leased out.

Mr. Reuben Swain, photographer, was operating in the Bega Bombala area.

Court of Petty Sessions – Polack v Underhill, Hibburd v Gowing.

Application made to establish a public pound in Bega.

David Lockhart and wife had a daughter.

W G Thompson and wife had a daughter.

December

John Schuback opened a public house in Merimbula.

Henry Underhill marries Mary Charlotte Jagers.

John Thurston died aged 43 years.

Court of Petty Sessions – Hibburd v Gowing (fencing).

George Eltherington was taking orders for threshing grain.

Karl Ludwig Spindler died (17/12)

Ellen Jauncey died (daughter of John)

Small Debt Court – Moran v McGuinness, Sercombe v Ritchie, Pruss v Clarke, Sattler v Breen. Surveyor General visited district.

John Davis was appointed agent for sale of Crown Lands.

Cooma Mail was robbed.

Gowing and Sons were supplying threshing machines.

Bega Flour Mill commenced work on the 27th.

Thomas Smith resumed business as undertaker.

Clarke and Rayner's partnership was dissolved.

Small Debt Court – Tarlinton v Grant, Beck v Fitzpatrick, Beck v Barton, Beck v Hanson, Moran v McGuinness, Lockhart v Ritchie.

The landowners withdraw the land donated for erection of a new C/E Church at Merimbula.

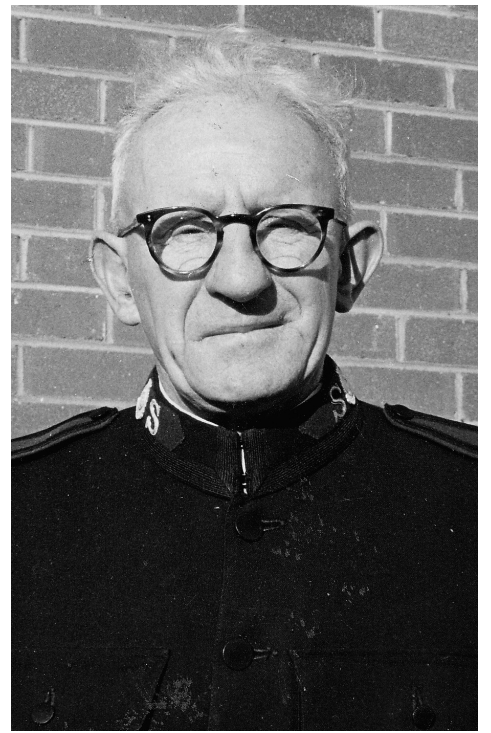
R T Kirby's tender for collection of an electoral roll was accepted.



Bega Flour Mill



A FEW OF THE MANY UNIDENTIFIED PHOTOGRAPHS HELD AT THE MUSEUM



Publications for Sale

Bega District Band \$10

Bega High - 50 years Free

Bega Primary 1860-2010 Free

They Made this Valley Home \$10

Illawarra Steam Ship Company \$25

The Bushfires of 52 \$20

Bayleys History of Bega \$20

A Walk Along Carp Street \$2

Fascinating Bega \$20

The left over military books from the centenary of ANZAC are free to a good home.

