

The Bega Pioneer

Voice of the Bega Valley Historical Society Inc.

December 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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 Phone: 02 6492 0470.
 Email: museum@bvhs.org.au
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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: Bega Soldiers Memorial



Museum News

MEMBERSHIP.

Annual membership is now due. Reminders were sent out prior to New Year.

NEW MEMBER

Gay Allan

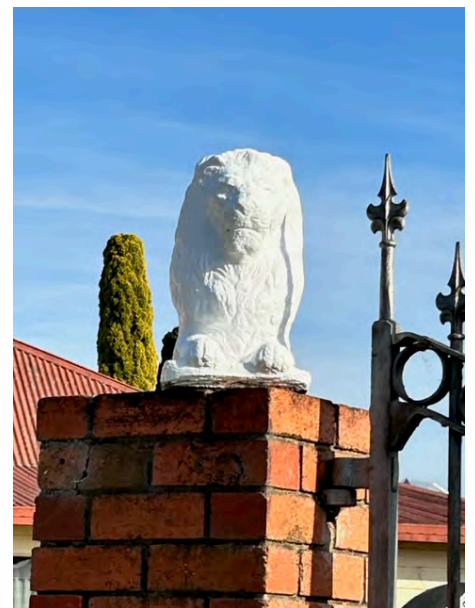
RESEARCH QUERIES.

Museum Happenings.

We have returned the buffer from the Merimbula Wharf to the Old School Museum at Merimbula. The lions have been returned to their place on top of the entrance gates.

We have a sign that is being placed at the northern end of the bypass on the days that we are open. The process of installing a disabled access toilet has commenced.

Preliminary work on having a mural on the blank wall in Auckland Street is underway.





Members Event.

As a thank you for your ongoing support we are going to host a BBQ for our members and and their families on Sunday the 28th of January. The event will commence at 11am but the museum will be open at 10am for anyone who wants to have a look around.

ACQUISITIONS

Kelly/Gowing paperwork and artefacts.

The Australian Red Cross Sign from Candelo.



Harry Norris

Harry Norris Bottle Collection.

The bottle collection amassed by the late Harry Norris was donated to the museum by his daughter Wendy Neville along with a portrait of Harry.

This is a belated acknowledgment of the donation which was in December 2022 and not included in the newsletter at the time.

The committee extends its thanks to Wendy for both this donation and also the reference books which she also donated.



Digitisation of the Bega District News (BDN) – 1923 to 1954

The BDN newspaper project was commenced in early 2021 – sorting, doing an inventory and introducing a new filing system for the BDN's held at the Museum. A visit followed to the State Library of NSW to ensure that all copies of the BDN held at the Museum were on microfilm at the Library. They were.

The next thought was digitisation of the BDN's so why not start from 1923 when a newspaper merger by Walter A Smith created the Bega District News. Contact was made with Trove (National Library of Australia) to understand the digitisation process and, more importantly, the costs. With that understood, the State Library gave their authority to release the microfilm masters to Trove when funding became available. The challenge was now about funding.

Why digitise the newspapers you might ask? It is the future. Firstly, about preservation and then discoverability – searching or browsing in the comfort of your home - for researchers and users alike versus trawling old newspapers on microfilm or thumbing through hard copies that will deteriorate over time.

Newspapers are an invaluable source to the researcher and to the curious placing articles in their time and place – be it local, community and beyond - family, social and political history. So, it is with our great appreciation to the donor, we announce this wonderful gift to the people of the Valley and beyond, as we report to our membership that the BDN's 1923 – 1954 will be available for viewing on Trove progressively over the next 6 to 8 months. As this cannot go unnoticed, we will have an event to celebrate upon completion.

Shirley Sproats

We extend a huge thank you to Shirley Sproats for the time and effort she put in to get this project off the ground.

Bega Soldiers Memorial Centenary.

Plans for this event are ongoing. We are continuing to put up on our Facebook page the names of those servicemen who were KIA/MIA/ or died of accident or disease and for whom we are missing photographs and/or family contacts. Part of the plans for the centenary are to try and have members, descendants or other family connections of these soldiers in attendance so we are asking for any help in tracing these people. Please check our Facebook posts and if you can help contact us at museum@bvhs.org.au



The Menin Gate Memorial

**WOMEN OF BEGA.
Mary Louisa Fensom nee YOUNG.**

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Mary was born in Gipps Street Bega in 1869. Her father William Young was a shoemaker from Perth in Scotland and her mother was Dorothea Elizabeth Sturah, known as Doris.

Mary married a London born baker James John Fensom on February 8th 1886 at the Bega Presbyterian Church - she was 16years old.

James and His brothers Thomas and William had worked in Bega from 1874 bought out an earlier baker, Suttle & Co of Carp Street, in 1890. Mary worked from this bakery delivering bread around the town.

Mary's grandmother, Anna Sturah, had started one of the first bakeries in Bega in her home in Gipps Street.

Mary and James had four children prior to them moving to Sydney. James died in March 1913 at Croydon, Sydney.

A woman resident of Bega celebrated her 100th at the weekend with 50 members of her family - including her two great grandchildren. Mrs. Mary Louisa Fensom nee Young was born in Bega on November 2, 1868. She was married at the age of 16 and had four children, all still living. They are Arthur William, Mrs. Florence Dent, Albert Edward, and Mrs. Elsie Greenacre, and there are 9 grandchildren, and her great grandchildren ar Peta Barnaby aged 3 and Paul Blankenstein aged one year eight months. Mrs. Fensom has been a widow for 50 years and has lived in Bega most of her life.

Mary died on 30th June 1970 aged 101. She was a resident of Bodington Red Cross Hospital.



These ornamental dogs in our collection were owned by Mary.

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EXTRACT FROM KEVIN TETLEY'S NOTEBOOKS.

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

HILL ST early 1930's

Bart Haigh (Doug & Ken's father) built house later Horace Hayes' - built just prior to Grand Hotel.

Ina Haigh lived S/E cnr. Peden & Hill St.

Carl Byrnes - there, later Mrs Sam Sirl

Peden St

Lovelocks on corner & next door in Peden St.

Clearies - Eugene

Dudley Goldberg

Billy Mitchell

Olivers then Hill St

HILL ST.

Mrs Teasdale

A. Uptin

Thatchers

Sid Snowden

Joe Plowright

Ida Haigh

Opp side

Vacant block

Little Brick House - Bill Johnston - BL/SMITH

Nana Constance - later Les & Grace Plumb

Bert Constance around corner in Peden St

Nana C. built corner house.

Cnr Carp & P. Streets.

Annie McNamara on corner

Rutters lived next to Balmain

2 Blocks Victoria Homes

Mrs Teasdale & dau Shoma

Ask John Arkin about Peden St.

Marshall Sturah shot through with a Walters girl to Wagga & had Café in Wagga.

Tues 13 APRIL 2004

Joy HISSEY died in Nursing Home 87 yrs. At B/Bay. Had a broken hip for 2 yrs. She was the last of the JE Blacker 'Woodstock' Family.

Gordon Hissey is in a Retirement Home in Narooma.

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

1867.

June.

Henry Hammond, blacksmith, and farrier commenced business in Wolumla.

Steamer 'Hunter' now runs between Sydney and Merimbula.

An essay on disease in wheat was published.

R W Sharpe disposed of his stock and dispensary in Church Street to J G Towers.

Georgie Crocker was coachbuilder and wheelwright in Bega.

Inspector General of Police, Captain McLerie, visited Eden and dismissed the jailer.

Mrs. H Burns of Bega – a son.

Court of Petty Sessions – William Allen v Daniel McClean, William Tarlinton v William Blacka. **August**

Public meeting held in Bega re the recent floods. A proposal made for a bridge over the Bega River. Court of Petty Sessions – Police v Childs and Mead, Henry Argles v Frederick Schafer, Argles v Hackett, Police v Joseph Murphy.

James Linnegar, blacksmith at Candelo, commences business near Kameruka.

The inhabitants of Eden petition the postmaster to send mail by steamer instead of via the Clyde.

1868.

January

Mrs. Prescott carried on her late husband's business, The Beehive Store, in Bega.

W Ellis opens a general store in Bega.

Call for tenders for the rebuilding of the Wesleyan Church.

Henry and Bessie Otton had a daughter.

W H Hopkins and wife had a daughter.

District Court in Eden – Marby v Maples, Thompson v McDonald, Causland v Egan, Kelly v Leeman, Henwood v Wilson, Shiels v Rixon, Shiels v Love, McGuinness v Allen and Woods.

Advertisement – Herman Sondermann best shoemaker in Bega.

Daniel Gowing commences grinding at Jellat flour mill.

The steamship 'Hunter' entirely improved and refitted returns to Merimbula – Sydney run.

February

Charles Anderson, plumber, galvanized iron and tinplate worker, commences business in Bega.

Notice 22/2 – William Kesterton has taken the Bega Mill from P N Russell.

Henry Taylor and wife had a son.

Court of Petty Sessions – Allen v Sharpe, Ewing v Linnegar, police v Rolfe.

Mr. C Anderson's son had an accident – fell from horse.

March

Mr. Thomas Whyman – a son.

A Falkner's house at Towamba was destroyed by fire.

Mr. Perry's farm at Back Creek is for sale.

Hugh Carragher opened the Plough Inn at Wolumla.

R E Tooth and Co. made a cash purchase of malting barley.

The Archbishop of Sydney visited Bega.

'The Osborne' barque from Cardiff called at Eden for provisions before sailing on to Hong Kong.

The Archbishop of Goulburn was booked to preach at Bega, Kameruka, Pambula and Eden at the beginning of

April⁹

The Bega Public School held a third anniversary day at Gowing's at Jellat.

The partnership of Isabella Barclay and Joseph Teas of Eden was dissolved.

Wesleyan Church Tea Meeting was held to discuss the laying of the foundation stone.

A lecture by Francis G Smith on the State of NSW is to be held at the Commercial Hotel on 31/3.

A magisterial inquiry into the death of Richard Shaw was held at the Victoria Inn on the 30/3. Court of Petty Sessions – James Armstrong v Thomas Smith, Henry Tabor v Daniel Gowing, James Rixon v Charles Robinson.

Pambula Police Court – Thomas Wheeler was committed to Darlinghurst Jail for perjury and forgery. **April** Meeting held for raising funds for a Bega School of Arts.

Meeting called for Prince Alfred Hospital Fund.

May

Thomas Howard and wife had a daughter.

Robert Hunt married Anne Maria Sercombe.

Eliza Allen, wife of William Allen, died.

A cricket match was held between Bombala and Bega Clubs.

Notice for the calling of tenders for the erection of Presbyterian Church Bega.

John Otton and wife had a daughter.

Mrs. S W Bate had a daughter.

Richard Thomas's tender for the erection of the Presbyterian Church accepted.

Court of Petty Sessions – Hayes v Duncan, Wilson v Jess, Prescott v Jessop.

James Quigley – accident by burning.

Tenders called for erection of a school room at Wyndham.

Catherine Nolan and Patrick McGuinness were married.

Maurice Laycock and Frances Jane Falkner were married.

John L Mangan opens an evening school in Bega.

Ernest Zingel – advertises as carpenter, joiner and undertaker in Bega.

Electric telegraph line comes to Bega.

Benefit night held to raise funds for a Bega School of Arts.

Court of Petty Sessions Eden – Higgins v Rozensky.

John Dawson is appointed agent for the Liverpool, London and Globe Fire and Life Insurance.

Public meeting called to give consideration of erection of a Church of England Church.

Court of Petty Sessions – Edward Robinson v Ellis, John Stacey v C Coleman, Prescott v McFayden, Taylor v Sheehan.

Letter from W Straggles to Bob Chizzler of Bega.

John S Davidson and his wife had a daughter.

W I White and his wife – a daughter.

Charles Galli and his wife had a daughter.

Joseph Pearce and wife had a daughter.

Church of England meeting held.

A tea meeting held to commemorate the funding of the Presbyterian Church at Eden.

June

J M Black commences business as a saddler and boot maker.

George Whitely and his wife of Jellat Jellat had a daughter.

Hugh Carragher and his wife of Wolumla had a daughter.

Elizabeth Julia Bate died aged 6 weeks,

A hawker's license was granted to Thomas Smith of Wolumla.

Thomas Wheeler was charged with forgery at Pambula Police Court.

Charles Anderson opened a plumbing and tinsplate work business.

The Government Surveyor General and the Commissioner for Main Roads deferred construction of a bridge over Bega River due to costs

A FEW OF THE MANY PORTRAITS IN OUR COLLECTION



John and Letitia Abraham
(nee Neeves)



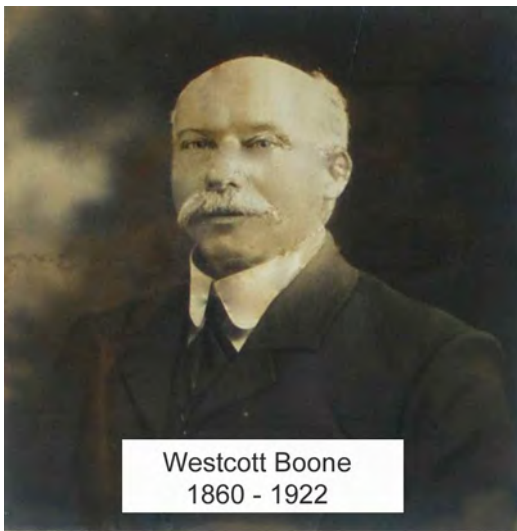
William Armon Alcock
1876 - 1905
son of Arthur and Elizabeth Alcock



William and Mary Jane Appleby
(nee Summerrell)



Herman Beck and his
brothers



Westcott Boone
1860 - 1922



Martha Braine
(nee Ogilvie)



Harold Victor Britten
1905 - 1924



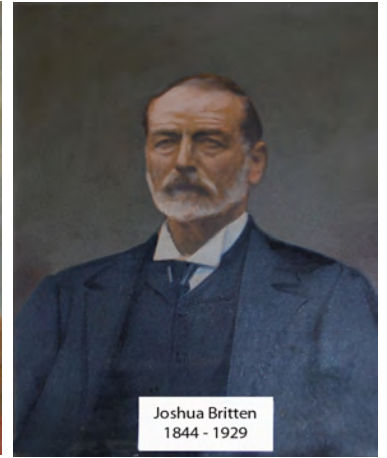
Stan Curtis
circa 1926



Mrs James Brunton



William and Elisabeth Britten
(nee Haigh)



Joshua Britten
1844 - 1929

Publications for Sale

<i>Bega District Band</i>	<i>\$10</i>
<i>Bega High - 50 years</i>	<i>Free</i>
<i>Bega Primary 1860-2010</i>	<i>Free</i>
<i>They Made this Valley Home</i>	<i>\$10</i>
<i>Illawarra Steam Ship Company</i>	<i>\$25</i>
<i>The Bushfires of 52</i>	<i>\$20</i>
<i>Bayleys History of Bega</i>	<i>\$20</i>
<i>A Walk Along Carp Street</i>	<i>\$2</i>
<i>Fascinating Bega</i>	<i>\$20</i>

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

