

# The Bega Pioneer

*Voice of the Bega Valley Historical Society Inc.*

March 2024 Edition



# Bega Valley Historical Society Inc.

*Incorporating*

## Bega Pioneers' Museum

*87 Bega Street, Bega NSW 2550*

Please address all correspondence to:  
*The Secretary, Bega Valley Historical Society Inc,  
 P O Box 1052 Bega, NSW 2550.  
 Phone: 02 6492 0470.  
 Email: [museum@bvhs.org.au](mailto:museum@bvhs.org.au)  
 Website: [begavalleyhistoricalsociety.org.au](http://begavalleyhistoricalsociety.org.au)*

### COMMITTEE:

President: Helen Jauncey                      Secretary: Kaye Jauncey  
 Treasurer: Helen Jauncey  
 Committee: Reg Huntington, Bill Fletcher, Shirley Sproats,  
 Peter Rogers                                      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:** Lest We Forget. Bega Soldiers Memorial Centenary May 25th.



# Museum News

## MEMBERSHIP.

A huge thank you to all who have renewed their membership.

## NEW MEMBERS

Stephen Parson  
Lyneeta Darmody and Rob Owen

## RESEARCH QUERIES.

## ACQUISITIONS

## MUSEUM HAPPENINGS.

Members BBQ held on January 28th.

Ongoing assistance to the Bega RSL subbranch re the Centenary of the opening of the Bega Soldiers memorial. See separate page for details of this event.

## VIRTUAL MUSEUM UPDATE.

BVHS committee are currently developing a virtual museum tour, to be available on the website. A virtual tour allows you to take a remote, self-guided tour of the museum on your phone or computer by navigating into and around each room, including the outdoor spaces. Certain items in the collection will also have popup information boxes attached to them if you click on them. The goals of the virtual tour are: to help educate the local community, especially school children; to entice potential visitors to then visit in person, or to review items of interest in more detail afterwards. It may also be useful for people who live too far away to visit to get a feel for the museum's collection, and to help spread awareness of the importance of local histories in general.

In a related project, we will be enhancing the in-house visitor experience via QR codes. A visitor can scan a QR code attached to a collection item on their phone to discover more about it and follow links to further information.

We are also working on some other improvements to the website, including a fresh look and feel and an improved on line shopping experience.

## **An item from the Bega District News.**

### **One of the many interesting items we come across while digitising the collection**

#### **Bus "Lost" In Blizzard Reaches Bega.**

BEGA Sunday. The Bega-Cooma bus which had been reported lost in a snowstorm between Nimmitabel and Brown Mountain arrived in Bega late yesterday afternoon. It carried passengers who had been snowbound at homesteads between Nimmitabel and Bega and at the Nimmitabel Hotel.

The bus ran into a snowstorm four miles from Nimmitabel on Wednesday and returned to Cooma. Because of a breakdown of communication with Cooma it was not known the bus had reached Cooma

The driver, Mr. Fred Piper, said it was the worst blizzard since 1880. It took him ten hours to drive the bus the eighteen miles back to Cooma. Snow was over the running boards of the bus. He said sheep had been bogged in the snow near the roadside for days unable to move and a serious loss was inevitable. Mr. Piper drove the bus via Bombala down Tantawangalo Mountain, a detour of almost one hundred miles.

Balmain Bros. mail car arrived shortly after the passenger bus. Bega had been without mail for three days, the longest period in the history of the town.

Telephone communication is now restored between Bega and Cooma.

When the bus was unable to get through to Nimmitabel six soldiers who were passengers decided to walk the remaining four miles.

## Bega Soldiers Memorial Centenary of the Opening.

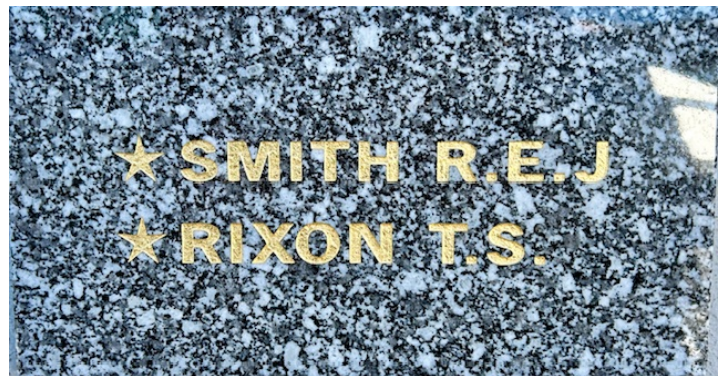
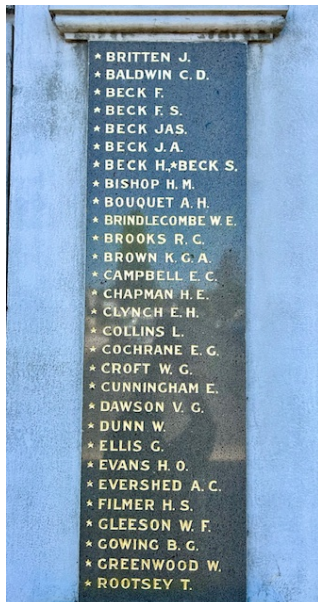


The picture is of the mural being done on the wall to the left of the memorial.

Re gilding of the names is in progress.

The names of the men who were not on the memorial have been added. The bushes have been removed and sixty six roses have been planted - one for each serviceman who died.

The search for descendants of those whose name is on the memorial continues. Details of the days program will be sent once they are finalised.



## WOMEN OF BEGA.

### Mrs. Maria Sturah nee Mewes.

Anna Maria Elizabeth Mewes was born in Mecklenburg, Germany, on May 17 1813. She married Joachim Heinrich Sturah, a master saddler, on October 30 1835 in Gronau, Germany. They had eight children, born in Germany, before Joachim decided to move to Australia where he felt their future lay.

Joachim came to Australia by himself in 1853 and set up a boarding house in Sydney. He then left the boarding house in the hands of a manager and returned to Germany to collect his family. On the way back to Australia, while the ship was still in Danish waters Joachim died suddenly of cholera. He was 46 years old. Maria continued on with her children Maria 14 years and Henry 16 years. On her arrival in Sydney she found the business was gone and her daughter Caroline who had come to Australia in 1857 had disappeared.

Caroline Sturah had come to Australia in 1857 and had found the boarding house had been sold and the manager was on his way to America. She met the newly arrived Anton Sattler and moved to the South Coast where they married in 1858.

Maria somehow found out where Caroline was about to get married. The family then lived at Merimbula for a year where Anton was the ferryman..

They then moved to Bega and Maria built a house in Gipps Street below the future Catholic Church from where she operated the first bakery. She never married again but did make a trip back to Germany to bring back other members of her extended family.

#### Her children:

Henry, her only son, became a master saddler like his father and this business was carried on by his son Ferdinand who had two shops in Carp Street. This business was then passed on to Anton, Ferdinand's son.

Caroline married Anton Sattler.

Louisa married Carl Woisin in Germany and she died there.

Maria married Ernst Zingel and their son became Mayor of Bega.

Johanna and Dorothea married the Young brothers, Fenwick and William, from Perth in Scotland and they farmed in the Tilba area.

Elizabeth married Herman Sondermann.

Maria passed away on 18 January 1901 aged 87.



Mariah Sturah nee Mewes



<sup>7</sup>  
**EXTRACT FROM KEVIN TETLEY'S NOTEBOOKS.**

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

ARTHUR BLYTON d. 7 MAY 1962 aged 88 yrs

Also ALICE LAVINIA BLYTON d. 15 AUG 1967 aged 87 yrs

OLIVE THELOY THISTLETON Wife, mother & grandmother died 22 OCT. 1981

HAROLD VIVIAN DIXON Husband & father, accidentally killed 7 MAY 1975 aged 40 years.

VIOLET MAY GOODWIN Died 23 OCT 1979, aged 75 years, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. W. Dansey;

Also CECIL GOODWIN, Died 21 MAY 1978, aged 73 years.

ERNEST A. MEYER B. 26 Feb. 1903, died 2 Feb. 1983

“SUPPLEMENT TO THE NSW GOVERNMENT GAZETTE” 1 June 1883

Proclamation of the Municipality of Bega,

Donated today by Mrs Beth Bateman

SOME NAMES THEREON -

THOMAS EASDOWN, HOUSEHOLDER BEGA

ON CHIN KOY, HOUSEHOLDER BEGA

B.G. BESSE, HOUSEHOLDER

THOS. JNO. SPOONER - FREE HOLDER

JOHN T. SPOONER - FREEHOLDER

GEORGE BLACKER - FREEHOLDER

FREDERICK SCHUBACK Jnr - FREE HOLDER

JAMES HUTTON - HOUSEHOLDER

FREDERICK SPINDLER - FREEHOLDER

JOHN KILLIEN HERGENHAN - FREEHOLDER

HENRY OTTON - FREEHOLDER

ANN WHITE - FREEHOLDER

DATED 19 FEB. 1883

BDN 24 Dec. 1954

Headline - Col. IRWIN made Life Member of Bega AP & H Society - Chas Guthrey, President.

BDN - 4 Mar. 1935

E.I. PELL adv.

Auction of Chas. Guthrey's portion of 'ELMGROVE'

220 acres fronting Brogo River, plus 200 ac fronting Angledale Read + 120 acres on Peak Hill Rd., Daisy Hill.

GARNER CALDWELL purchased the Angledale portions.

BDN 21 Feb. 1935

Arnold Hayes ad - Has taken over Family Hotel

Ad for Bega Bank 'Fortnightly Dance at the NEW Brogo Hall.

## BEGA CHRONICLE NOTES - July 1868 to December 1868

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

### July

C H Whitton purchased a new schooner, the 'Rosebud'.

John Sercombe married Ann Britten.

### August

Court of Petty Sessions – Joseph Fairman v Philip Behl.

Ellen Nickle of Wolumla had a riding accident.

Mr. Robert Ferguson of Jellat killed by a falling tree.

A road from T Allan's at Bemboka to Kennedy's Wharf on the Shoalhaven River opened to the public.

Mr. Thomson's tender accepted for erection of the library and committee room at the Bega School of Arts.

### September

John Kiss of Benbooka challenged Walter Alcock of Brown Mountain to a pugilistic ring for £10.

Eden Regatta held.

Henry Argles was apprehended for breaking and entering the house of David Sirl.

The Oddfellows Lodge in Bega was opened – Loyal Prince Alfred No. 67.

Henry Jagers arranges with Henry Wren to muster scrub cattle at Bemboka.

Mrs. George Prosser of 'Honeysuckle' had a daughter.

Mathew Munn offers a £20 reward for the killing of his sows.

Bega Picnic Races were held at Warraguburra.

Telegraph was extended from Bega to Eden sanctioned by the government.

Court of Petty Sessions – Martin v Fitzpatrick, Wren v Argles.

William Shea was appointed bailiff of the court of Requests at Pambula.

A milk cart was supplying Pambula with milk and butter.

Robert Ferguson of Jellat died while felling trees in the bush.

Mr. James Monaghan and his wife had a son at their residence in the Shoalhaven.

J M Black commenced business selling saddles, boots, clothing, etc.

William Ivill from Eden was charged with cattle stealing.

Mr. S Bailey and his wife of Bega had a daughter.

James Alfred of Bega married Sarah Holmes of Lochiel.

Mr. A Rixon's tender for the mail run between Bega and Merimbula was accepted.

? Lavington was thrown from his horse.

William Heath and his wife of Stony Creek had a daughter.

William Rixon married Agnes Malcolm.

Richard Hart of Pambula reduces his charges for shoeing horses.

Mr. B Carragher of Pambula and his wife had a daughter.

Mr. W G Thompson of Pambula and his wife had a daughter 26/9.

Mrs. W G Thompson died 26/9.

## **October**

Mr. Paton's tender accepted to build a cottage for the teacher at the C/E School.

Bushfires throughout the valley.

George Koellner of 'Alluvial Flat' died 2/10/1868.

Richard Howard lost the first joint of his finger whilst stripping wattle bark.

Mr. Walker is opening an Evening School at St. John's.

South Wolumla School opened in a temporary building. Mr. R McLean was appointed teacher.

Mr. George Sercombe of Kent Hill Farm and his wife had a son.

Lewis Henry Wilson of Frogs Hollow married Elizabeth? of Pambula.

Mr. Stiles of Kanoona had a hayshed destroyed by fire.

The land known as 'The Island' at Kameruka was divided into small farms for 40 – 50 people.

Bega Common – Monday, Wednesday and Friday have been appointed for mustering horses and cattle.

The schooner 'Ellen' unloaded at Eden Levy's quartz crushing machine.

William Carrington, saddler of Bega, has employed a new saddle and harness maker.

Tenders are called for the erection of a schoolhouse and teachers' residence at South Wolumla.

A & S Myers commence a saddlery business in Carp Street opposite the courthouse.

Bega Gazette changes its publishing day to Thursday.

James Naylor is appointed telegraph operator at Bega.

Mr. Munn to be the telegraph operator at Merimbula.

Bega and Merimbula telegraph lines are opened to the public.

## **November**

Patrick McGuiness of Meringlo Bega married Jane Thompson of Dapto.

Mr. Waters had a horse-riding accident.

The Rev. E Holland from Port Macquarie delivered a lecture at Bega Court.

An accident on board the 'Hunter' resulted in Andrew Hanley breaking his jaw.

Tenders are called for furnishing the Wesleyan Hall.

The Post Office authorities decide to continue the service between Kameruka and Nimitybelle. Mr.

Samuel Brown was appointed pound keeper at Bega following the resignation of H Read. Excess stock run on the Bega Common will be impounded.

Mr. Hugh Carragher's Plough Inn at Wolumla had a tea party.

William Robert Burgess aged 2 years from Bombala died at Bega.

Mr. W McGregor and wife of Brogo had a son 23/11/1868.

## **December**

An Annual Athletic Sport Day will be held on 26/12/1868.

Bega School of Arts held a half yearly reunion and grand concert.

Charles Anderson disposed of his coach and goodwill business 15/12/1868.

Candelo School held a meeting to discuss payment and the opening of the school.

Mr. Archibald Spence and wife of Stony Creek had a son.

Edward Spence died aged 8 days. He was the son of Archibald and Mary Spence.

George Isaac's, son of William Isaac and Jane White, died aged 6 months.

Bega School of Arts were laying a Foundation Stone.

Bushfires resulted in property destruction in the district.



A FEW OF THE MANY PORTRAITS AND ITEMS IN OUR MILITARY COLLECTION



Captain H.E. Chapman M.C.  
Killed in Action  
Gallipoli



Gallipoli Medal



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



Howard S Filmer



One of the Beck's



Souvenirs



## 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.*

