



Murray Clan Society of NSW Newsletter – July 2013

www.murray-clan-nsw.net

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Greetings

Welcome to our Clan Newsletter for July. Thank you to those who have contributed news. It was wonderful to see so many of you at our Annual Gathering and at the Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival. I hope you find something of interest in these pages.

Annual Gathering 2013

Members and friends gathered at the Wingham Services Club on Saturday 20th April for a very enjoyable evening. Numbers were down a bit this year, but those who were able to attend seemed to think that the activity was very worth while.

The dinner evening was a little less formal than previous dinners, giving members more time to chat, share stories and get to know each other. Rather than a single special speaker, we had four of our members give short speeches on their Murray heritage and what it meant to them. The speakers present were John Huggart, David Long and Bob Murray. Margaret Tuiqereqere was unwell and could not attend, but nevertheless emailed her speech which was read out by President Ross Murray.

All four speeches were well received and reflected different facets of the Murray Scottish heritage and what it means to present day Murrays.

It would scarcely be a Murray gathering without the piping in of the haggis, which was addressed by Warwick Murray. A local piper and drummer, Geoff and Cassie Kinchin, provided quality Scottish entertainment.

It was great to see new members at the dinner. We warmly welcome Rob and Jill Murray from Mona Vale. Rob is the son of Alban James Moore Murray, the grandson of David Lobban Murray, and great grandson of George and Margaret Murray of "Kelvin Grove" and "Pigeon Grove".

Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held on the river bank at Wingham on Sunday 21st April. This year marked the end of the three year period for the current committee. However, all committee members were re-appointed to their previous positions. Alma Murray and Darryl Murray have agreed to join the committee.

Next Year's Gathering – Note Change of Date!

In our last Newsletter we advised that the 2014 gathering would be on 21st June. However, the Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival Committee has recently changed the date of next year's festival, which means that we must change as well.

The Festival will now be held from Friday, 30th May to Sunday, 1st June 2014. This means that the *Murray Clan Society Annual Dinner will be held on Friday, 30th May.*

We hope no one is inconvenienced by this change of date. We were advised on the change only recently. We remind you that the 2014 Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival will be an exceptional event. The Scottish Australian Heritage Council will be transferring the celebration of Scottish Heritage Week from Sydney to Wingham, and the Earl and Countess of Dunmore, Malcolm and Joy Murray, have accepted an invitation to preside over the festivities.

As we have previously advised, the reason for the celebration is that 24th June, 2014 is the 700th anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn, where in 1314, Scottish forces led by King Robert Bruce imposed a crushing defeat on the English forces led by King Edward II. It was an important battle in the fight for Scottish independence from England.

There will be a Grand Scottish Ball on the Saturday night of the Festival (31st May), and we understand that there is to be a formal Bannockburn Dinner on the Sunday (to be confirmed).

We would like our members to make every effort to join in next year's gathering. On the Friday night we will have the Earl and Countess of Dunmore, Malcolm and Joy Murray, with us for the evening and Malcolm will be our guest speaker. It will be a very special event in the history of the Murray Clan Society. The weekend as a whole will offer a wide variety of Scottish activities and entertainment. Please set aside the date: **Friday, 30th May, 2014.**

500th Anniversary of the Battle of Flodden

This year is the 500th anniversary of the Battle of Flodden, when a huge Scottish army led by King James IV was massacred by the English on 9th September 1513. James IV was killed in the battle, as were many thousands of soldiers (estimates vary) and a significant proportion of the Scottish aristocracy. James had invaded England to support his French allies who were at war with Henry VIII of England.

To acknowledge the occasion, a *Flodden Commemoration Dinner* is being held at the Wingham RSL Club on **Saturday 7th September 2013 at 7.00pm.** A commemorative lecture will be delivered by Professor Sybil Jack MA, BLitt, DipEd, FRHistS, a retired Professor of History in the University of Sydney.

On **Sunday 8th September at 9.00am**, there will be a *Commemorative Church Service* at the Wingham Presbyterian Church.

Any members who are interested should contact the Manning Valley Historical Society. Contact details are:

Email: mvhsmuseum@internode.on.net

Post: 12 Farquhar St, Wingham NSW 2429



Professor Sybil Jack

Clans on the Coast

Clans on the Coast is organised by the Port Stephens Celtic Association. It will be held this year on **21st September** at the Tomaree No1 Sports Ground. It promises a full day of pipe bands, strong man events, Clans, parade, Scottish dancing and more.

Banking and Contact Details

Just a reminder that our Treasurer, Timalee Murray, has updated our bank account and we are now able to offer internet banking. Membership fees (\$15 individual and \$25 family) can be deposited by electronic transfer. The details are:

Account name: Murray Clan Society of NSW

Bank: Westpac

BSB: 032590

Account number: 651482

Use your name as the Reference so that we can identify who made the payment.

In addition, we now have a post office box for all our mail. The address for the Society in future will be **PO Box 407 Wingham NSW 2429**.

Paterson-Easton Gathering

Another reminder that the Paterson-Easton Family Dinner will be held this year on **Saturday 21st September**, and that all members of the Murray Clan Society have been invited to attend.

There has been a very long association between the Murrays and the Eastons, who were neighbours in Camptown, Scotland and who intermarried in Australia. One of the Murrays, Agnes, married

William Paterson and settled at Krambach, so the Manning Murrays have close links with the Patersons as well. We urge as many of our members as possible to support this joint activity.

Isabella Murray Book

Copies the book *Of Greater Worth than Gold: The History and Legacy of Isabella Murray* are still available at \$25. They are available from the **Wingham Museum** or **Manning Valley Books** in Manning Street Taree.

Alternatively, you can send me a cheque with your address details and I will post it to you (postage \$3 extra), or deposit the \$25 + \$3 for postage in my bank account (using your name as the reference), and email or ring me with your address. My account details are:

BSB: 812170

Account number: 6950322

Account name: RD & PM Murray.

Alexander Lobban

Those who have read the Isabella Murray book will be aware of the remarkable story of Alexander Lobban, the reformed convict whose daughter Margaret married Isabella's son George Murray.

I have written a slightly more detailed account of his life for the journal "The Presbyterian Banner". To find the article go to

http://www.pcea.org.au/option.com_docman/task_cat_view/gid,30/Itemid,99/ .

You will need to click on "2013", then scroll down to the March issue. The article begins on page 5.

Alternatively, just Google "Presbyterian Banner" and follow the links to the March 2013 issue and download it.

Unidentified Photo



One of our members, Judy Bourke, a descendant of Isabella Murray's eldest son John, wonders if anyone can identify the person in this old family photo. If you know this woman's identity, please let me know and I will pass on the information to Judy.

Photos are very important historical sources, and we all have a responsibility to record details of them. The best method with older photos is to write on the back of them in pencil and store them in acid-free envelopes or folders.

A Tale of Two Portraits

Enthusiastic clan member and family history researcher Julie Evans has sent us a story about two portraits that hang side by side at St Joseph's College at Hunters Hill. Julie works at the school and is therefore very familiar with the portraits.

Barb Farrell and Julie Evans with portraits of Sir William Deane and Murray Gleeson at St Joseph's College



Murray Gleeson, former Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia, is a Murray descendant, the son of Murray Clan joint founder and stalwart member Alice Gleeson, of Wingham. He was the guest speaker at our Annual Dinner in 1995. William Deane is a former High Court justice and Governor-General of Australia.

Both men are old boys of St Joseph's. The Oxford Companion to the High Court of Australia says of Gleeson that "from the age of 11, he was educated at St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill in Sydney, where he excelled at cricket (as a spin bowler) and at the more vocational debating and oratory."

There is a very readable and interesting summary of Gleeson's life and career by journalist Damien Murphy at <http://www.silverpins.com.au/silver-pins-articles/2008/6/26/final-verdict> . The article appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald on 26th June, 2008.

Murphy records that "in 1950, Gleeson went to board with the Marist Brothers at St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill. The brothers discovered in him that legal essential, the gift of the gab. Mentored by the chaplain Monseigneur Cornelius Duffy and the master in charge of debating, Brother Rupert Kelly, Gleeson won the 1952 Under 14 prepared speech at the City of Sydney Eisteddfod and the Lawrence Campbell Oratory Competition in 1953 and 1955. 'Brother Rupert ... was very opposed to a florid style of expression or writing and I think that was an important influence on me,' Gleeson says...

"...Gleeson roared through law school and then the Irish Catholic world re-asserted itself to lift him above the crowd. The firm Murphy and Moloney took him on as an articled clerk, then as a solicitor. In 1963 he went to the Bar. 'I had to borrow £1000 in order to get started at the Bar,' Gleeson says. 'I didn't have any security. But my debt to the bank was guaranteed by Bill Deane (the future Governor-General and High Court justice) who was an old boy of St Joseph's College whom I knew in that capacity.'"

So now the portraits of the former Chief Justice and the man who guaranteed his first bank loan hang side by side at their old school.

Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival, 1st – 2nd June 2013

As usual, the Murrays set up their tent on the Saturday of the Bonnie Wingham Festival. We take along our collection of Murray reference books to help the many people who stop to enquire about where they fit in or just to talk. We had a non-stop stream of visitors throughout the morning and were able to help nearly all of them. We also sold a few books and other merchandise.

It was a very pleasant day with lots of activities and displays to enjoy.



Vice President Ian Murray at the Murray tent at the Bonnie Wingham Festival

Patron Alex Murray, Secretary Dorothy Murray, and Vice President Ian Murray preparing for the Bonnie Wingham Festival Parade



Jim Murray 1938-2012

In October last year the clan society lost a great supporter with the passing of Jim Murray of Killawarra. The following contribution comes from his good friend, neighbour, and close relative Alex Murray:

Jim Murray was a keen member of the Clan, with his wife Judy, and they loved to dance. Jim was born on 8th January 1938. He was the third child of George and Edna Murray and a brother to Beth and Jennifer. In 1966 he married Judy Moore and they had three beautiful children Michelle, Glen and Leah. Jim died on 17th October 2012.

Jim's whole life was about dairying. He was always ready to embrace the latest ideas in meticulous fashion. Unfortunately, seven years ago, Jim faced the biggest challenge of all - the fight to overcome cancer. Bone cancer had developed in his right leg but despite the aggressive treatment the cancer spread throughout his body and lungs. The last twelve months were particularly difficult with the death of sister Jennifer and granddaughter Erin.

He showed strength to the very end.

Dunedin Celebration (from a report by Warwick Murray)

Clan Commissioner and his friend Kay Chapman have recently returned from the beautiful city of Dunedin, the "Edinburgh of the South", where they attended the 50th Anniversary celebrations of the Murray Clan Society of New Zealand.

Sixty-five Murrays sat down to the celebratory dinner in the classically historic Leviathan Hotel in the presence of the Hon the Earl and Countess of Dunmore, Malcolm and Joy Murray of Tasmania.

As a tribute from the NSW Murrays to the New Zealand Murrays, Warwick and Kay danced the Anniversary Waltz which was very well received, as was the Haggis Ceremony which was presented with much dash and humour.

The hallmark of the whole evening was its upmarket flavour, a real credit to the organisers. Wine was present on all tables as were personalised name tags for all attendees. A chocolate in a delicate box with the image of the fettered savage from the Murray crest printed on the top was placed at every setting, as were the Murray of Athol patterned placemats.

The Earl of Dunmore addressed the gathering in his usual personable style, outlining his pathway to the Earldom and his taking of his seat in the British House of Lords some years ago.

He mentioned, in particular, the role of an earlier Earl of Dunmore who was the Governor of Virginia at the time of the American War of Independence and later Governor of the Bahamas during the rollicking days of piracy around those beautiful islands.

Warwick, who had lived and worked in the Bahamas many years ago, was particularly interested in that fact, having been familiar with the place names Dunmore Town, Dunmore Harbour, Dunmore Street in Nassau and Fort Fincastle, Fincastle being one of several titles association with the Earldom of Dunmore.

Warwick was also invited to address the gathering. He outlined the nature and operation of the Murray Clan Society of NSW, giving credit to the nous evident in New Zealand by founding their Clan Society some ten years before we did.

The Earl and Countess proved very popular with the New Zealanders and we look forward to their presence next year at the tenth Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival where they will be the special guests, with the Earl in the role of Chieftain. As mentioned elsewhere in this Newsletter, they will also be our special guests at the Murray Clan Society Dinner to be held on the Friday night of the Festival (30th May, 2014).

Oliver George Murray (1874-1954)

According to his grandson, Warwick, the photograph below of Oliver George Murray has been hailed by many as “the finest photograph of a Scottish soldier ever taken”. Oliver was 22 years old at the time, and was a member of the Sydney based New South Wales Scottish Volunteer Rifles. A requirement for acceptance into this unit was direct and immediate Scottish descent. Oliver qualified on both counts, being the seventh child of George Murray who arrived from Scotland in 1851 as a young boy with his mother and four brothers.

Oliver was born in 1874 at “Kelvin Grove” at Killawarra in the upper Manning, and was five years of age when George sold the property and moved to “Pigeon Grove” at Pamoolah in the lower Manning. This move was probably made because George saw the area as more suitable for dairying and because “Kelvin Grove” was more subject to flooding. George was proved correct; within a few years cream boats were making daily pick-ups along the lower Manning, ensuring a regular income for the family.

At the age of twenty, Oliver decided that the teaching profession was for him. He later acknowledged the influence of his mother Margaret (nee Lobban), who was a teacher herself, and Margaret’s brothers and sisters including Alexander Jnr, who was not only a highly respected teacher but who was appointed the first school inspector in the Manning district. The early Scots had enormous regard for education.

Margaret’s father (Oliver’s grandfather), Alexander Lobban Snr, was an ex-convict, now a badge of pride amongst his descendants, but amongst previous generations an embarrassing secret to be kept hidden at all costs. Those who knew the secret went to considerable lengths to conceal it for fear of upsetting other family members. Alexander became a model Christian citizen and did many good works in the community. His daughter Margaret followed in his footsteps.

The waiting list for teacher training was a long one, so in the interim Oliver went to work as an apprentice with his older brother Jack, known as “Saddler Jack”, who had a saddlery business in Bent Street in Wingham. There Oliver learned the trade of saddlery. Warwick, now Commissioner of the Murray Clan Society of NSW, still regularly uses for leatherwork an awl that belonged to his grandfather. Oliver also operated a creamery on his father’s farm for a time.

Oliver was also the owner of one of the finest shotguns in the country, a Greener double-barrel hammered 12-gauge. Warwick, now the proud possessor of this fine piece of craftsmanship, recalls that it was well-known and much admired by many in the district. Oliver was also an excellent rifle shot, winning a fine medal at the Wingham Rifle Club in 1901 for the highest aggregate. His photograph remains on the wall of the clubhouse.

Oliver became a teacher in 1900. At the age of 40 he married Beatrice Wright whose father, Rev Edwin Wright, an immigrant from London, had been the Anglican minister in Wingham some years before (1899-1908) after appointments in Cowra, Wilcannia, Dubbo, Bourke and Marrickville. At the time of Oliver's marriage to Beatrice, Edwin Wright was Rector at St Augustine's Church in Merewether and was honorary Canon of Christchurch Cathedral in Newcastle.

Beatrice said once that Oliver was "a beautiful dancer". They had two children, Reginald Edwin George (known as "Ted"), and Beth Arlene. Ted was Warwick's father.

Oliver taught at a number of small schools including Pampoolah (12 years) where he had started school as a seven-year-old. He was then promoted to a larger school at Lawrence on the Clarence River, then returned to Cundletown where he was Headmaster until his retirement in 1934.

In 1952, at the centenary of Pampoolah Public School, the 78 year old Oliver gave an absorbing speech about life in the early days of Pampoolah and his own experience of it.

In 1919 he bought a property on Oxley Island from the estate of the original selector Jacob Wolff, and established it as a dairy. Various tenants worked the property until Ted took it over in 1937. The farm has since been subdivided, and part of it is still owned by Warwick.

Oliver was a proud member of the local Masonic Lodge. He died in 1954 in his eightieth year. Sadly, his son Ted died the following year in his forty-first year.

I thank Warwick for contributing much of the above information.



Family Search

A friend has passed on to me a clipping from the *Daily Telegraph*, in which a Shirley Brown asks for assistance with Murray family history. I have no information at all about this family, but I pass on the details in case anyone can help.

David Ogilvy Murray (d. 1915) and Catherine McIlvenue Murray (d. 1914) arrived from Scotland on 24th March, 1885 on the ship *Gulf of Mexico*. Their children were James, David (Shirley's grandfather), George, Sydney, Bruce, Gordon, Mary (Young) and Agnes (Easton), some of whom were born in Australia.

Although the Manning River Murrays intermarried with Eastons, I cannot see any connection between them and this family. If anyone does happen to have any information, Shirley can be contacted on 02 9878 2745 or at Shirley.Brown2@optusnet.com.au.

Next issue

In our Newsletter of October 2012 we told the story of Bridget Ryan, wife of James Murray, who was sent to Australia from a workhouse in Listowel, Ireland. Julie and Glyn Evans, together with Julie's third cousin, Jeanette Greenway from California and Jeanette's daughter, Peta travelled to Ireland where Julie participated in the making of the TV documentary which included the story of Bridget Ryan. Part of the documentary was filmed in Australia.

The exciting new news is that a follow-up program is being produced. Filming has been done at St Joseph's College where Julie works, as well as at Hyde Park Barracks and the Irish Famine Memorial in Sydney. The program will be shown in Ireland in September/October. In our next Newsletter we will have an update on the story of Bridget Ryan and how her story is being documented on Irish television.

Ross Murray

President