



Bowral



Mittagong



Berrima



Moss Vale

BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY Inc.

Founded 1960

Located in the Wingecarribee Shire,
Southern Highlands of NSW

ABN 29 362 616 937

NEWSLETTER

No 542 October 2021



From the President's Desk

Welcome to our October newsletter. This month we are featuring further information on Bowral War Memorial and the Commemoration Wall at the northern entrance to Bowral plus two

amazing photographs on page 2. Thanks to Dennis McManus for providing additional notes.

On page 3 you will find information on Chris Thompson our next Zoom speaker on 28 October. Chris will talk about *Mitchell's County town: Berrima 1831-1841* her new book. Thanks to Linda Emery for being our Zoom host and sending out the link, enabling many of us to enjoy the interesting presentations and gain valuable information.

The Great South Road is of interest to many people and on page 3 is a reference to Bob Raymount's work on the subject. He has donated a copy of his research to the Society, supplementing other works held in our library. An interesting story on Surgeon David Reid by Stuart Hume is on page 7. Reid was a former Royal Navy Surgeon and settled on a land grant at Bungonia, which became his property *Inverary Park*.

The roadmap to opening up our state has now been released and our Archive will be re-opening on

Monday 11 October to volunteers and members in accordance with the strict rules that will be in place.

Our Museum at Berrima will not be re-opening until the end of this month when visitors from metropolitan Sydney will be allowed into our district. As we emerge from our lockdown, we should be able to hold our Annual General Meeting in November and our postponed mid-year lunch in December.

The Family History Group plan to hold meetings in November and December. More definite details will be revealed in next month's newsletter.

Progress is being made on the Mittagong Memorial Hall upgrade where we are partial tenants. A timeline has now been established with Council approval expected early next year followed by the tendering process. Construction work will be staged to minimise disruption and the projected completion is by the end of 2022. At that time we will fully occupy the first floor with our monthly general meetings held on the ground floor in the proposed community meeting room.

Membership renewals have been very pleasing with some members renewing on the day they received their renewal notice. This is what happens when you are at home in lockdown looking for something to do!

Ian Mackey

GENERAL MONTHLY MEETINGS 2021

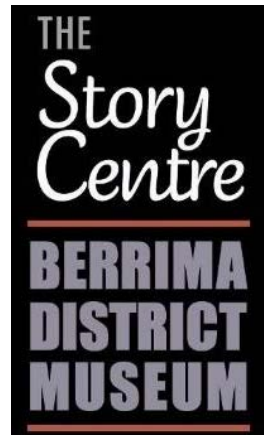
OCTOBER

Thursday 28 October – Zoom meeting starting at 2:00pm
Chris Thompson will speak on the history of early Berrima (see p. 3)

NOVEMBER

Thursday 25 November at 2:00pm – our AGM is scheduled to be held in the upstairs Meeting Room, in a covid compliant setup. Details in the next newsletter

NOTE: on the first Wednesday each month, at 1pm
the **Family History Interest Group** meets at the Mittagong Archives



Moore Memorable Musings

OUR NEW AGE POLITICAL CORRECTNESS POLICE

I've commented on this trend previously (viz. March 2018) around



Commonwealth Games time, when greeting volunteers were each handed an 88-page booklet on behaviour etiquette.

Since then, we've become far too sensitive, uber-careful not to offend or embarrass any individual living on this planet. Who are these PC police? Do they have a life?

Here are some examples:

The phrase "long time, no see" was reportedly declared "derogatory" toward Chinese.

Teachers are told not to touch fallen children in playgrounds, as it can be deemed "sexual harassment".

A British student union tried to ban clapping and cheering because it was not inclusive to deaf people.

Expecting people to be on time was declared "culturally insensitive." (Does this enable stores to open at any hour?)

Some US schools now have a 'holiday tree' every Christmas, rather than a Christmas tree.

In Britain a Manhole is far too sexist and is now termed a "Maintenance Entrance".

A sexuality expert says parents should ask their baby's permission before changing their nappies. Derr!

No more flippant terms such as 'blind Freddie', 'deaf as a post', 'mad as a cut snake', 'in like Flynn' etc.

Feel sorry for the seven dwarves (insensitive hurtful titles), Snow White (kissed without permission), Cinderella (non-equality for women).

So as not to be deemed sexist, a friend of mine called Guy Chapman has changed his name to Person Person-Person.

How about we restore more of the larrikinism in our language! Humour and joking is what Aussies are famous for. I would go so far as to praise our wit and jesting as an antidote for today's morose mood in society.

So out with the Prozac, depressed souls and mental illness and in with a good belly laugh.

*This column does not necessarily reflect the view of the BDHS, but purely the exclusive opinion of the author.

Bruce Moore

Misleading statement apology

The article on Bowral RSL Sub-Branch in last month's newsletter included references to Bowral War Memorial. In regard to a major reconstruction of the memorial in 2002, it stated that the final design was by local architect H Sheaffe. This is not correct and we apologise for the error.

It was Henry Sheaffe, an architect, community leader and mayor, who in 1919 designed the original memorial. His design is shown below (right), the top light fittings being removed by the 1930s as shown in photo at left.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Renewals were due on 1 October. A renewal form was enclosed with the September newsletter and we thank all those who have renewed. Payment can be by cash, cheque or money order, OR funds deposited to our bank account, details on the Renewal Form. **NOTE:** If depositing funds to our bank account, please ensure that your initial & surname are used as reference and **RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM & BANK RECEIPT BY MAIL OR EMAIL**, as this really helps the Membership Secretary keep track of payments.

Vale Judith Green (1920-2021)

Our member Judith Green has passed away peacefully at the grand age of almost 102 years.

She had a distinguished career as a social worker at Sydney's Children's Hospital and later at Bowral Hospital.

Judith joined the society in 1998 as a museum volunteer and served on the Museum Committee until 2015. She was elected to the Management Committee of the BDHS in 2002 and served as Vice President 2003-2008.

She was a member of both Bowral and Moss Vale Show Societies for many years. Judith was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in 2004.



Bowral War Memorial and Park in the 1930s, and on right the Memorial as designed by Henry Sheaffe in 1919

October Zoom: Berrima's first 10 years

A talk by CHRIS THOMPSON

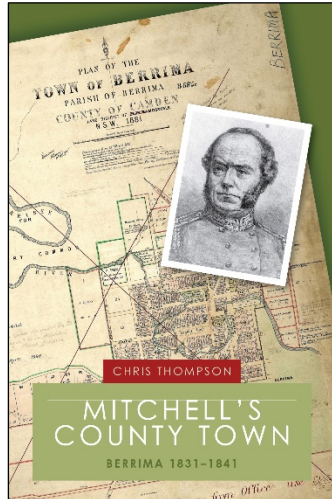
Our next Zoom meeting will be on Thursday 28 October at 2:00pm with member Chris Thompson as speaker. Chris has just published her book *Mitchell's County Town: Berrima 1831-1841*. This talk is an appropriate follow-up to our last month's Zoom speaker Ros Dale on the Gaol, the theme of early Berrima settlement being fundamental to our local history.



Chris's interest in history began when she retired from a career in science and became involved as a volunteer at Harper's Mansion in Berrima. She will focus her talk on the underlying research and how the book came about as much as on the book itself.

A brief resume of the book:

Berrima township was founded in May 1831, its site chosen by Major Thomas Mitchell when he laid out a new line of road to link Sydney with Port Phillip (Melbourne). It was to be the main administrative centre south of Sydney, complete with gaol and courthouse and service hub for travellers and local settlers.



This book tells the story of the township's first ten years. Early chapters explore the layout and sale of the town's allotments and later chapters focus on the people. Initially there were sometimes sixty to eighty convicts housed in a stockade to quarry and cart the stone for the new government buildings. Among the general population there were innkeepers, merchants and tradesmen. This is the story of the township and the ex-convicts, ex-military, first generation Australians and free immigrants who made it their home. For many, Berrima offered the opportunity of a better life than they had left behind.

The book (paperback, full colour, 192 pages) may be obtained at www.berrimahistory.com for \$38.00 plus shipping. It will soon also be available from our Society for purchase via the BDHS website, ordered by email, or in person at the Mittagong Archives or Museum at Berrima once restrictions have eased.

'The Great South Road': historical insights

Further on the theme of early Berrima and the Great South Road, the BDHS recently received an email from Bob Raymount who resides in Victoria, stating that back in 1995 he began researching the Great South Road. He visited our Society numerous times and was kindly assisted by member Geoffrey Squires.

Bob wrote up his research, extending from Sydney to around the Berrima area, but then had to put the project on the backburner when in 2001 he moved to Queensland. He recently found the computer files on a CD in a box. As a token of appreciation, he sent us a copy to use as we see fit, for "it is only right that it belongs in a Historical Society, even to save someone else from travelling down the same path again. I have copies of all the documents referenced."

What Bob provides is titled "The Great South Road" a Word document 50 pages in length with references. A copy will be held at the archives and a pdf version can be made available to any member on request.

When Bob began his research in 1995 the historical documentation available on the Great South Road was fairly limited, but that has now changed. In 2013 a self-guided tour book *The Old Hume Highway: History begins with a road: routes, tours and turnoffs on the Old Hume Highway* was published by the NSW Roads & Maritime Services and the Royal Australian Historical Society. The RAHS and affiliate societies, including our BDHS, provided historical information on towns and localities along the route. Bulk copies of the book were made available to the BDHS and it was a most popular item among members.

As well, *Once Upon a Hume*, a series of books taking the reader back in time on the 'Great South Road' / Old Hume Highway have been published by Stephen Gard, being an anecdotal, yet informative, four-volume series with vivid characters and occurrences.

For those interested, Bob Raymount's research work is still worth a read, as it provides numerous obscure details and accounts not found in these other works. He hopes it may be used as a reference to further studies on the subject of the Great South Road.

Bob notes that the first record of a road from Sydney to the south is the construction by William Roberts of a section between Sydney and Liverpool, opened in March 1814. Bob also provides details about the first South Road built through our local area in 1819/20 and of the lesser-known track from Sutton Forest to Barbers Creek/Bungonia (known today as Old Argyle Road). Read more about this track on pages 7 & 8.

Bowral RSL and the War Memorial

A history of the Bowral RSL Sub-Branch, provided in last month's issue, included details about the Bowral War Memorial and the Sub-Branch's various efforts to maintain and upgrade it. One of our members, Dennis McManus, who is also a member of the Wingecarribee Shire Heritage Advisory Committee, was very pleased to read our article as he had just compiled notes about the Bowral War Memorial Park to be included as an item in the current Heritage Review Project, an undertaking to collect details about major unlisted heritage items in the Shire.

An abridged version of Dennis's extensive notes is provided below. It expands upon some features, including the Commemoration Wall, that were only briefly mentioned in last month's article.

Dennis is co-ordinating the Heritage Review Project for the WSC Heritage Advisory Committee, devoting considerable effort and expertise to the undertaking. Information on more than 560 items has so far been compiled. Local researchers have assisted, including Linda Emery, Bud Townsing, Tim McCartney, David Baxter, Bernadette Mahony (BDHS), Helen Tranter and Andrew Kennard (Robertson), David Brennen and Caroline Cosgrove (Bundanoon History Group).

While listing does not solely rely on historical material, it can be critical to support the case, along with other factors that may have a bearing, such as a special association with the life or works of a person of importance in the local area or in NSW's cultural or natural history. An item may otherwise be important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics or have strong or special association with a particular cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.

War Memorial Park, 257 Bong Bong Street, Bowral

Compiled by
Dennis McManus

A relatively small park at the main entrance to Bowral on a triangular site bounded by Bong Bong (the main shopping street), Station and Merrigang Sts. It has a stone pillar entrance way with wrought iron arch and is surrounded by an attractive grey two rail fence traditional rural style fence but made out of steel. The area is level and grassed and contains an important Henry Sheaffe designed WWI memorial and to the north a 2005 Ted Springett Memorial and Bowral Commemoration Wall.



Bong Bong St at the intersection with Merrigang St, looking north towards Mt Gibraltar. Site of World War I Memorial on the left, Sly and Gough butchers on the right, adjacent to Charker's Imperial Hotel, c1919 and memorial appears to be under construction. BDHS Collection.

A detailed description of Bowral War Memorial is provided on the NSW Government's War Memorials Register website: "The 1920 memorial is a polished trachyte and marble column, supported by a two-tier pedestal base and surmounted by a cross. The memorial is surrounded by a box hedge. The base bears several plaques dedicated to different conflicts. The upper tier also contains names of those who fought in World War I and the lower tier lists those from World War II."

The memorial was re-dedicated on 11 November 2003. Nearby at the entry are two pillars joined by a green wrought iron arch bearing the words 'Lest we forget.' Each pillar bears a plaque.

The Bowral Soldiers Memorial was unveiled by the Governor Sir Walter Davidson in January 1920. Henry Sheaffe – architect, community leader and mayor – was the honorary architect and the memorial was constructed by Loveridge and Hudson, Mt Gibraltar.

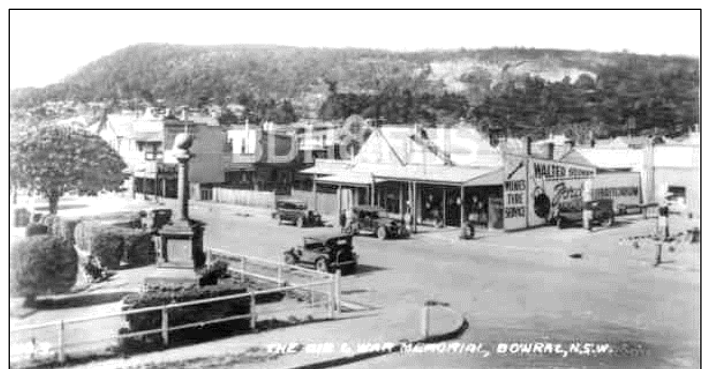


Photo above shows original park with war memorial and two painted rail fences, c1930s. BDHS Collection.

Right: Photo of memorial in park at Bowral, taken January 2021



TED SPRINGETT MEMORIAL (north end of the park)

The Monuments Australia website provides details about this memorial and the nearby Commemoration Wall, honouring Bowral businessman Ted Springett for his contribution to the Southern Highlands.

Ted was born in Mittagong on August 21, 1920. He moved to Bowral in 1926, completing his schooling to Intermediate Certificate level, graduating as dux of the year. He joined the Royal Australian Air Force in 1940, but three months later was discharged and sent home to take over the family business, an ice works and bakery, when his father died.

In 1933 his father had bought the front portion of the site where Springett's Arcade now stands. He bought several more surrounding properties as they became available and his business interests blossomed.

Ted's community interests were as extensive as his business interests. He was a member of Probus, Apex and Rotary clubs, Bowral Business Chamber and he supported the Tulip Time Festival since its inception, the Southern Highlands International Piano Competition and many other charitable projects.

His community generosity became especially clear when he sold a family holiday home on the coast and used the sale price of more than \$1 million to establish the Springett Foundation, which has gone on to support a host of local projects. The Foundation has contributed more than \$500,000 to projects such as the International Piano Competition, the Wingecarribee Foundation and Tangarra School.

In addition to the Foundation, Ted donated Springett House to the community to support disabled people with ongoing financial backing made available through the Springett family. The revitalisation of the Bowral Memorial Park in Bong Bong St and the installation of a new war memorial acknowledging local people lost in World War I and II was a project also driven by Ted, who died in 2012 at the age of 92.

BOWRAL COMMEMORATIVE WALL MONUMENT

Memorial Park, Bong Bong Street, Bowral. *Front Inscription: 'Bowral Welcomes You'*

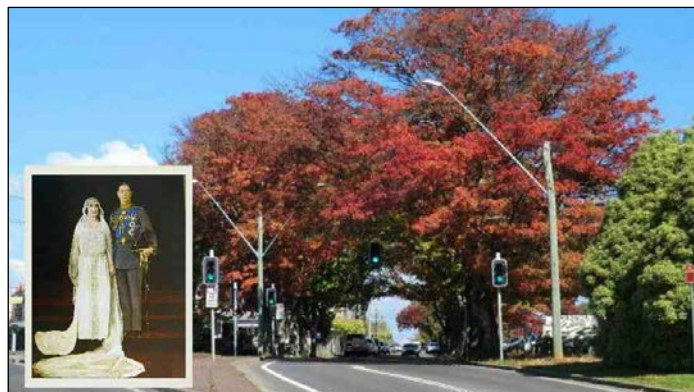
The commemorative wall marks the history of Bowral and recognises the contribution of outstanding local residents over the last 100 years. The wall features around 130 people who have made a lasting impact on the community of Bowral. Bronze plaques tell the tales of ordinary folk, heroes and sporting legends.

The wall also contains relief sculptures of cricketer Sir Donald Bradman and marathon runner Heather Turland, two of Bowral's sporting identities. The bronze relief sculptures were created by William

Eicholtz, who also sculptured the Bowral Coat of Arms which features on the wall. A relief sculpture of Ted Springett is also contained within the wall.

The wall was a gift from Ted and his brother Bob Springett to the Wingecarribee Shire. The Springett family have been contributors to the Bowral district for over a century. Not only did Ted contribute to the wall financially but also, leading up to the unveiling, he spent 12 months investigating the history of the area and researching the 130 people represented on the wall so far.

1937 RED PIN OAK PLANTING IN STATION ST ADJOINING THE MEMORIAL PARK



Picture above and story below from *Southern Highland News*, 12 June 2020. Inset: King George VI marries Queen Elizabeth Queen Mother in 1937.

"It was reported in *The Southern Mail* in May 1937 that the red oaks would one day make a fine showing particularly in the autumn when their bright red foliage is seen at its best. When it comes to royal occasions nothing could compare to the hysteria which met the Coronation of King George and Queen Elizabeth in May 1937, when the Southern Highlands was fiercely loyal to the King, the flag and the Empire. Celebrations across the Shire included Church of England Services, band processions, picnics, firecrackers and huge bonfires."

"In Bowral a large crowd gathered for a tree planting ceremony in which red oaks were planted in Station St between Merrigang and Bong Bong Sts by children selected from local schools. It was reported that the red oaks would one day make a fine showing particularly in the autumn when their bright red foliage is seen at its best."

Dennis McManus adds that King George VI and Queen Elizabeth had, 10 years earlier, in 1927, as the Duke and Duchess of York, visited Bowral prior to opening the new Parliament House on 9 May at Canberra. Bowral is not mentioned in the long official itinerary for their visit to all states.

- Thanks to Dennis for allowing the use of his notes

Settlement along Old Argyle Rd from 1820

On 28 July 2021 a proposal to close part of the public road reserve being Old Argyle Road, Penrose was notified by Wingecarribee Shire Council. Interest was stimulated locally, with several community groups making submissions supporting the natural habitat, recreational and heritage values of the road section.

Some history follows here. In his Great South Road research, described on page 3, Bob Raymount notes that in 1819/20 the South Road was built from Picton to Cookbundoon Range with Joseph Wild as overseer and Dr Charles Throsby in charge. Its earliest survey was begun at Camden by William Harper in 1821, and in 1824 he surveyed a minor branch road towards the Shoalhaven to give access to grants in the vicinity of what is now Bungonia. This survey began two miles from Sutton Forest at a turn-off from Wild's South Rd and headed southward along the traverse marked by James Meehan during the 1818 exploratory trip he led that included Dr Throsby and Hamilton Hume.

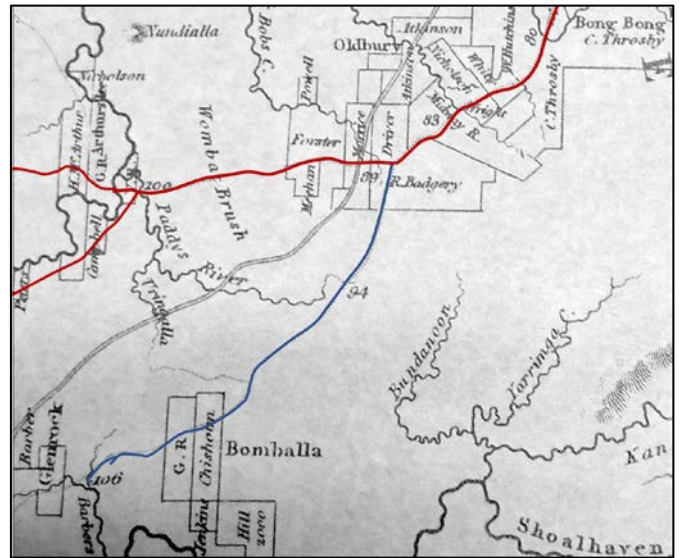
As Surveyor-General Major Mitchell's Great South Rd (the Hume Highway from 1928) was not completed to Goulburn until around 1839 and only then in parts, the Sutton Forest/Bungonia track served for several decades as the main route linking the settlers in the Barbers Creek, Bungonia area with Sydney.

Most of the track, now known as Old Argyle Road, is listed in the inventory of Heritage NSW as follows:

Significance - Route south from Sydney to Bungonia thence to either Goulburn or Braidwood; alternative to Wild's line of 1820. **Physical description** - Varies between sealed road, gravel road, forest access track, space in trees. South from Wild's line to Ferndale then southwest around Jumping Rock to Penrose, a fire trail and still trafficable. Bifurcated at Wingello, south line accessed Bumbala rejoined north line near Tallong thence to Marulan/Bungonia via Glenrock.

Today, in from the T-junction (see photo opposite) at the top of Ferndale Rd out of Bundanoon, Old Argyle Road is a barely trafficable fire trail that forks in two, rejoins and then passes through rough country to cross Paddy's River and then join up with the Penrose State Forest road to Penrose. Beyond that, the old track is an alternate way to Wingello and Tallong.

Closure to vehicles of the Ferndale Rd to Penrose section of Old Argyle Rd will allow Council to apply for NSW Rural Fire Service funding to upgrade and maintain to standard the fire trail currently located within the reserve and accessed along the left fork. The reserve would remain accessible to pedestrians for bushwalking, bicycle riding and horse riding.



Extract of 1837 NSW Map shows part of Throsby/Wild's South Rd of 1820 (top) and track to Bungonia (lower). The grey line through the middle is the Great South Rd.



In from Ferndale Rd, Old Argyle Road forks. Google map.

Some undocumented heritage is associated with the short right fork in from Ferndale Road, it being the original track and where may be seen drains on the high side, probably cut in the 1830s by convicts with picks, in rock to a width of 300mm with sloping sides and variable depth. These measures must have been inadequate to stop flooding as, at some later stage, a bypass (the left fork) was built around higher ground, meeting the original track at the base of the rise.

As already noted, this Argyle Road track would once have been in constant use by settlers and travellers. To illustrate the life of one such family at Bungonia, an historical article about Dr David Reid follows here. It was written by Stuart H Hume, a descendant of explorer Hamilton Hume, and appeared in Southern Portland Cement's February 1966 newsletter. The BDHS archives holds a copy in Dr Reid's biog file.

SPC's editor then was Barney Creswick, described by Stuart in the article as a "good friend and chronicler". No doubt the staff and workers at SPC's New Berrima cement works and associated sites enjoyed reading the article by Hume, and hopefully readers today will also find it interesting and historically enlightening.

DAVID REID, SURGEON by Stuart Hume

In the Anglican Cemetery at Marulan is the grave of David Reid, a surgeon in the Royal Navy. He died at his home, Inverary Park, Bungonia, on 7 July, 1840. Reid did a great deal to clean up conditions on the convict ships and came to Australia on the *Baring* in 1819. As a reward for his services, he was promised and eventually granted 1000 acres at Bungonia in 1822. This was later increased to 2000 acres.

Reid's wife and three children joined him, coming by the *Providence* in 1823. Other children were born in Australia. The Surgeon was comfortably established in a slab hut when Hume and Hovell came through on their way to Port Philip in 1824. A genial, generous individual, Reid welcomed them and gave Hamilton Hume 'some medicines', particularly (and in all good faith), a remedy for the bite of poisonous snakes. Fortunately, the travellers never had to try it out on a tiger snake bite!!

Reference to Reid's progress as a settler appears on and off in the early papers. In 1832: "Dr Reid is one of the best agriculturists in the Colony and his breed of cattle are second only to those of Dr Throsby." Again in 1835: "Dr Reid of Argyle has succeeded in getting a succession of peach trees, whereby he is enabled to have that fruit in perfection for 3 months together."

His eldest son, David II, had a good story or two to tell of his father. The old surgeon's only obsession were the parrots, which also discovered his orchard. Whenever Reid heard them snickering in his trees he'd boil over, rush around, grab his gun and blaze away till they cleared out. They always came back.

David Reid II, in an excellent set of reminiscences that I've lent to my good friend and chronicler, Barney Creswick, gives a clear picture of life at *Inverary* and some valuable historical data on the convict days. There were at times up to 40 convict-assigned servants at *Inverary* and Reid senior had no trouble with them. He augmented the meagre Government rations with an additional ½ lb. tea, 3 lbs. sugar and a "fig" of tobacco (Barretts Twist) a week.

They had one light suit of duck (frock and trousers) for the summer, and one warm (made of Parramatta cloth) for the winter, plus two pairs of boots a year. The Parramatta cloth was made at the "Female Factory" at Parramatta by women convicts. Here a convict or ticket-of-leaver could obtain a wife from a line-up (if the girl was willing and the groom could support her and his credentials were good enough).

One such "Jimmy the Bear", the servant of George Barber of *Glenrock*, arrived at the female factory with a damper under his arm and selected an agreeable

lass. They were married forthwith and he marched out with his wife on one arm and the damper under the other (to show he was capable of supporting her). Yes, they lived happily ever after.



In 1837 from freestone quarried on the property, David Reid built *Inverary*, which has been a Broadhead home for over a century (pictured above in 1958). The [then] present owners, Mr and Mrs David Broadhead, keep it in a wonderful state of preservation and historically minded visitors get a genuine welcome.

Unfortunately, there are no known portraits of Surgeon Reid, though one is in existence of Agnes his wife - it's held by a relative in Melbourne. If the old couple were pioneers of the Bungonia district, three at least of his children were outstanding even to a greater degree. These were David Reid II, Joanna, Mrs A B Balcombe, and another sister who became the wife of Sir Thomas Murphy, formerly Chief of the Bench of Magistrates in Argyle and later a prominent figure in Victorian politics. A descendant of Mrs A B Balcombe is Dame Mabel Brookes, wife of that great tennis player, Sir Norman Brookes.

David Reid II married Mary Barber of Glenrock, Marulan, she being a niece of Hamilton Hume. Theirs is a staggering story of pioneering in N.E. Victoria in the Gold Rush Days, of encounters with marauding blacks, and the establishment of the first flour mill across the Murray. Mary's portrait, literally of a beautiful girl in a beautiful dress in a huge gold frame, hangs in a descendant's room in Albury.

* * *

A recent search online for 'Stuart Hume' reveals that he is a collateral descendant of Hamilton Hume and is a former Australian Ambassador to Greece. In 1966 he wrote the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* entry on Hume, Hamilton (1797–1873) explorer.

After retiring in 2005, Stuart turned his attention to restoration work at an historic property he purchased on Braidwood Rd, Goulburn, and a newspaper article featured him there in 2015.

compiled by Philip Morton

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- ARCHIVES:** Cnr Old Hume Highway and Bowral Road, MITTAGONG.
OPEN: Mondays, Tuesdays 10am-4pm and Saturdays 10am-1pm. Closed Public Holidays.
Library collection contains reference books, journals and a general collection.
- MUSEUM:** Market Place, Berrima. Tel: 02 4877 1130. Email: bdmuseum@bigpond.com
OPEN: 10.00am to 4.00pm, Wednesdays to Sundays throughout the year. This includes during school and public holiday periods.
- MEMBERSHIP:** Any person wanting to join the Society may do so at any stage during the year by completing a form and paying the appropriate fee. Joining Fee \$10.00 – Single \$25.00 – Family \$35.00.
- AFFILIATIONS:** Royal Australian Historical Society, Museums Australia Inc and NSW Association of Family History Societies.

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