



Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc.

MUSEUM

Cnr Myokum & Stuart Streets MULLUMBIMBY 2482

OPEN: TUESDAYS & FRIDAYS 10 AM – 12 PM

MARKET DAYS (3RD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH) 9 AM-1 PM

NEWSLETTER

May 2017

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Lorrie Cruickshank



My grandfather John Hope Cruickshank.

Hope because he was thought to have died at birth until someone saw a flicker – or so he told me.

'Journey's End' was the name of the house where my grandparents lived. Grandfather was a drover and a great yarn spinner and the names of the towns along the stock routes up and down Eastern Australia still echo in my memory.

Naturally he and Grandma rode in a horse & cart into town for supplies and I can still remember waving to the 'cockies' as they passed us in their cars.

None of this was particularly remarkable to me until I was posted as a teacher to the Western Suburbs of Sydney in 1972. It was only when I told this captive audience stories of my own bush school days and read Henry Lawson stories, that I realised that history was a part of me.

Earlier in my final year at High School, a boy in my class at school was conscripted into the army. There was a war on in Vietnam. He was 18. We were not allowed to vote until we were 21. That simply wasn't fair. I protested. I demonstrated. I voted for Gough Whitlam to bring our troops home. That made me a part of history.

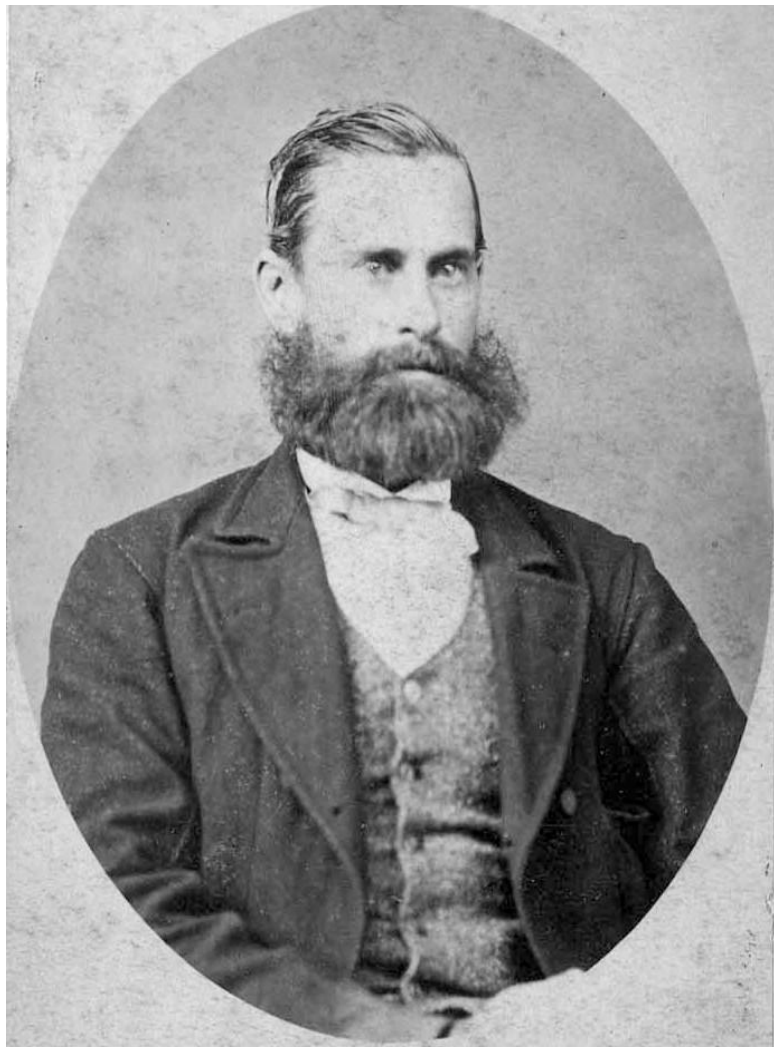
My quest for a fairer society and my love of a stage, led to me to the New Theatre in Sydney. For years I sat in the dressing room or on the Production Committee, listening to their stories. Like the times they had to hide their Stanislavsky (Russian) acting books under the floorboards because 'Pig Iron' Bob Menzies as Attorney General, ordered raids on the theatre. Or the time the theatre went to perform a play down the mines at Glen Davis for striking miners, only to find they had built a 'stage' for them and then sat and, as the show began, they turned on their miner's lamps to light the show! I had been too young to record grandfather's stories; I just had to capture some of these. With the help of the Australia Council I got funding to make an archival (oral history) film for its' 50th Anniversary, called simply 'The New'.

Eventually I fulfilled a longing to get back to my country roots and moved here. I was unable to believe my good fortune – such wonder, such beauty and only a short walk away! And such convenience – a park right outside where I need to go! And the people were so friendly! I took me a while get over pinching myself and to begin to connect with its' history. I met my partner David Kemp here. He was one of the second wave of settlers to this area. He was one of the many of them who fought to save Terania Creek. He was arrested for taking photographs. You may see some of them on display in the Back to the Garden (The Hippy) exhibit at the Museum.

So, for me, there was absolutely nothing new about the Museum when I first visited but what totally blew me away was what an incredible resource it was! As an educator I really wanted to share it. Guided by Susan Tsicalas and helped by a team of volunteers, I organise school visits. These are fascinating events and always different in nature - depending on the focus of the visit and the size of the school (the last visit had 100 students!) and always enjoyable. Just ask the volunteers! Please let us know if you would like to join us.



Me in the role of Dame Sybil Thorndike who opened the theatre in 1932



Henry French ~1880

(Courtesy Richmond River Historical Society - Hewitt Collection)

Henry and his parents arrived from the Macleay in Dec1842 to settle at Gundurimba. In Dec1899 Sam Cornwell became the Squire of Tyagarah by acquiring *Saville's, French's, and part of Anderson's farms...*, which, with the exception of Saville's, have been unoccupied for years.

Henry's sister Mary married William Saville 1865 Lismore.

Henry had become a storekeeper and timber merchant at Bruns in 1887, handing over the Tyagarah/Nubhoygum store to Saville, who seems to have retained his farming day job. The store is possibly the same one erected by Edmund Ross at Tyagarah in 1867.

The Saville store near the station expanded to become the Saville's home, from where he ran a large apiary as his new day job and a postal Receiving Office from 1900.

His wife died Jun1910, aged 68, and 6mths later the building went up in flames.

A new post office and telephone building was in operation by early 1913, but William resigned in 1915 to live with a son in Brisbane, where he died 1933 aged 92.

Henry died Nov1913, aged75, and sometime afterwards his wife Jane moved into the Mullum home of another of the Saville children, where she died 1926 aged 90.

Nubhoygum and Mullimbimbie Districts

Prior to leaving the Brunswick for a visit to the Tweed in early 1885 our intrepid journalist from *The Sydney Mail* ventured a few miles into the hinterland, commenting that the selectors who arrived post 1881, mainly from the Clarence, were finding it just as hard to earn a quid as the cedar-getters. *At the expiration of their compulsory 5yrs residence I feel convinced that many selectors will take a long holiday with a view to earning the wherewithal to enable them to still hold and improve their farms. The fear of forfeiture on account of non-residence has kept the majority of them pretty closely to their homes....*

*In going from the head (sic) to the Nubhoygum district, five miles off, I followed a cleared line for some distance, but eventually it became almost indistinct from the scrub which had grown up on every side. This track led me past Mr **Richard Webber's** farm, the owner of which was hard at work felling trees when I called on my way back. His cottage, situated on a hill (on Saddle Road), commands a fine view of the surrounding country. Riding up and down a steep hill, and with difficulty picking my way through the network of fallen timber and stones, **Mr Anderson's** house, situated on the slope of a rocky pinch, was reached. The owner, however, who is a surveyor, was not at home, so pushing on I reached the store and farm of **Henry French**. This gentleman is one of the few settlers who still deals in cedar, but he complains bitterly of the charges to which the timber is subject ere it is sold in Sydney.... He has been a good many years in the district, and holds 640 acres, partly rich undulating scrub, and partly flat forest land. Sixty or 70 acres have been partially cleared, and nearly 50 acres sown with grass-seed, which has not much of a chance, owing to the absence of rain. Nearly all the cedar has been cut, the most valuable woods now on the selection are beech, pine, rosewood, sassafras, tallow-wood, and several varieties of gums. Some cattle-fattening is done, a slaughtering license enabling Mr French to supply the district with beef; and on the south arm of the Brunswick or Tyagrah Creek, is the boat shed. On all these Northern streams the use of boats effects a large saving in horseflesh. Four or five men are employed in one way or another, and considerable additions and improvements are about to be made, both to the store and dwellinghouse. Mr French holds the proud position of being one of the four pioneering selectors of the Richmond River district in 1842, and he still retains possession of his original selection.*

*In the vicinity of Nubhoygum the land is occupied, and the system of clearing, viz., by chopping down the trees and scrub and burning off after the timber has become dry, is much the same everywhere. Some of the principal landowners of the (Tyagarah and Myocum) district and the acreage, as nearly as I could judge, that they possess are: Messrs **Hanna**, 80 acres; **John Dawson**, 80; **Robt. Cribble**, 120; **J.B. Restall**, 80; **W. M'Kinnon**, **T. Flitcroft**, 200; **D. Cameron**, **Edwd. Williams**, **A.F. Wallis**, and **J.B. Kelly**, 640 each; **Emil Erichs**, **Jas. Coleman**, **John M'Innes**, **Angus M'Swan**, 260 acres; **C. Hall**, 100 acres; **A. M'Gilloray**, 60; **M. M'Mahon**, 400; **M'Auley Bros**, 640; and **A. M'Kinnon**, who has about 600 acres of good land, some well-grassed paddocks, and an excellent crop of cane.*

*Towards the Main Arm Mr **H. Tyler** has 400 acres; Mr **Edward Grindley**, 100; Mr **Reddicliff**, 500; and Messrs **M'Gregor Bros.**, 400, all of whom have a fair extent of land cleared and in grass. Mr Reddicliff was not at home when I called, and I am sorry that bad roads and the near approach of darkness prevented me paying Mr Tyler's farm a visit. Mr Reddicliff's homestead (on McAuleys Lane) commands an extensive view of mountain and ocean, situated as it is on a hill which – once a mass of scrub – is now totally devoid of timber. Lower down on the slope is Mr **Torrens'** farm, and further on those of Messrs **T. Doran**, **W.G. Law**, **J. Tyrrell**, and some others, the area of which range from 100 to 200 acres.*

*The pride of place as regards picturesqueness of situation, extent of view, and grandeur of scenery undoubtedly belongs to the homestead of Mr **James Mills** (on Saddle Road, his property encompassing **Robert Marshall's** original 1872 selection fronting King's Creek). This gentleman selected 250 acres four years ago, the holding including, together with a good proportion of flat, a very lofty hill. The summit and slopes having been cleared, Mr Mills built a neat residence, and viewed from here the scene is perhaps one of the loveliest that can be obtained from any dwelling in the colony....*

*Improvements to the value of about £1400 have been effected by Mr Mills, these including a mile of post and two rail fencing, the partial clearing of 150 acres, and the cultivation of maize.... Fully £10 per acre represented the cost of the land already cleared – of all but a few stumps – the falling alone costing £2 per acre, but, of course, in partial clearing to fit the soil for artificial grasses, the expense is hardly half that amount. Altogether, Mr Mills has a very compact property, and although no return has yet been obtained for all this outlay this is confidently expected in the future, especially when the railway to the Tweed, which is surveyed, through the farm, will become an accomplished fact. Fronting the Government Wharf reserve, near the current Kings Creek bridge, and a mile or so from Mr Mill's residence, is Mr **Robert Webber's** selection of 80 acres, 10 or 12 of which is partially cleared.*

*The road from here runs alternately through swamps, which, in winter, are perfect quagmires, across nice open plains, and then through the everlasting scrub for miles. On one of these plains, I am given to understand, a township has been surveyed, and soon a Public school is to be erected. Beyond this the district is known as Mullimbimbie, and here I came to a well-improved farm, belonging to **Mr Law**. This consists of 100 acres, and Mr Law's experience of farming has been none of the brightest. Indeed, he makes no secret of the fact that "to keep the pot boiling" he has to go out and work his bullocks at timber-drawing during several months of the year.*

*For the past two years maize has been grown on his farm. Last season's crop on 20 acres amounted to between 600 and 700 bushells; but no sale could be obtained, except for a very small proportion of this. Nearly all went to feed the working bullocks and fowls, so that consequently corn-growing has had to be abandoned. Across the Mullimbimbie Creek is **Mr Tyrrell's** selection, while adjoining Mr Law's farm Mr **R. Bridger** owns 300 acres of scrub land. Mr Bridger left the Clarence three or four years ago, and has since tried to make a home for himself on the Brunswick. Some 40 or 50 acres are cleared, according to the usual definition of the word, and some artificial grass has been sown. Sugarcane was tried, and proved to grow well, and in a small but neatly kept garden I noticed vegetables of various descriptions flourishing.... **Mr Grindley** and others were quoted as being the most successful in... chook breeding and egg production.*

*Whilst riding through the scrub with Mr **Bridger** I was shown an ingenious invention used as a substitute for the scaffolding requisite in felling trees. The latter are invariably chopped down several feet from the ground, the butt being generally of enormous dimensions compared to the trunk at a height of 10 or 12 feet. Scaffolding is frequently dangerous, and besides takes time to put together; but this invention is both easily constructed and easily moved from tree to tree. It consists simply of a ladder, shaped not unlike those used in shops. Instead, however, of steps, a broad slab works on a bolt, pivot fashion, from the top rung of the ladder. The latter is leaned against a tree, the slab being extended in any desired direction, and supported at the outer end by a couple of forked poles, or perhaps by being rested on another tree. The axeman stands on the platform thus improvised, and after chopping the tree nearly through*

shifts his stand to another, and so on. Sometimes a considerable space is thus treated, and then one or two huge trees are chopped through, the axeman springs quickly from his perch, and down the giants go, bringing down at the same time those in the wake which had been partially chopped, until a space sometimes nearly equal to a quarter of an acre is simply a tangled mass of logs, scrub, creepers, and brush. This is left for several months and then set on fire.... The timber for export consists chiefly of beech, pine, cedar, and rosewood, and the logs, after being drawn to, and thrown into, the creeks, are floated down by the spring tides to the mouth of the Brunswick.

Here, before the ketch White Cloud commenced running, the timber had to be taken by means of surf-boats over the bar and out to the vessel, lying generally half a mile from the shore. The cost of the surf-boat and crew was equal to 2s per 100 feet, and the freight to Sydney 5s more for the same quantity, making a total of 7s per 100 feet. Then there were commission and other charges, which left but a very infinitesimal profit to the owner of the timber, and the man who worked hardest for the least share of the profits. Courtesy of Peter Tsicalas

MUSEUM REMINDERS

NEW OPENING TIME: From Tuesday 11th April, the museum will be open on Tuesdays from 10am to 12pm as well as Fridays and market Saturdays.

Next meeting Thursday 1st June

N.B. Memberships for 2017 is overdue. Thanks to those who have renewed. If you have not renewed by the end of May you will no longer receive the newsletter.

Next market: Saturday 20th May. On the day the museum will be open from 9am to 1pm.

A JAM-PACKED DAY AT LISMORE by Stephen Hall

On Saturday 6th May I was privileged to represent the BVHS at the Northern Rivers Historical Societies Zone Conference at the Richmond River Historical Society, Lismore.

The first half of the day began with a talk by Helen B. Smith who shared insights into molecular epidemiology and genealogy. She enlightened us on Spanish Flu and when it came to Australia. Surprisingly the disease affected primarily those aged between 15 and 35 in previously good health. In NSW masks were widespread and compulsory. Long distance train travel was restricted, houses and businesses were quarantined and soldiers returning from WW1 hastened the pandemic. Up to 100,000,000 people succumbed to the Flu.

Following Helen's dissertation on the Spanish Flu, she spoke to the subject of dating historical photographs and recent technical advances in this arena. Of particular interest was dating by clothing, hairstyles and photographic technology types.

After a scone-filled lunch, I awoke to the various regional historical societies providing reports, some of which elicited spirited discussion. I provided information on the new hippie doco, the solar panels, air conditioning and markets.

I look forward to attending next year's meeting on behalf of the BVHS.

Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc. Newsletter

This newsletter is written by and for the members of the BVHS Inc

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Assistant Treasurer:
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Committee Members:
Sadie Mudge
Jennifer Elward
Roland Sjoberg
Market Managers:
Sarah Newsome
Newsletter team:
John Davis & Work
Experience Participants
Public Officer: Susan Tsicalas

All members are invited to contribute to this newsletter

*Please leave material with Sarah or Liz
Wed Thur 10 am - 2 pm.
Or email to:
bvhs@tridentcommunications.com.au

NEXT MEETING
Thursday 1st June 2017
2.00pm
See you there!

*Deadline for agenda items
Wednesday 31st May 2017

MUSEUM HOURS
Tuesdays & Fridays
10am - 12pm
Market Saturdays 9am - 1pm

BVHS Newsletter is produced by NORTEC Work Experience Participants and BVHS Inc.



Community engagement events

Our Mullumbimby Masterplan Movement and Parking Review

Pop-up studio

Open to anyone and everyone

Thursday 18th May - 12.30 to 5pm
Friday 19th May - 9.30am to 4.30pm
Saturday 20th May - 9am to 12pm

You are invited to drop-in and share your ideas at our open air studio in a car parking spot on the corner of Burringbar and Stuart Streets between the following times:

Look for the white picket fence and marquee/umbrellas in a parking spot in Burringbar Street!

Open community workshop

Open to anyone and everyone

You are invited to join us on
Thursday 18th May from 5.30 to 7.30pm
at the Mullumbimby Civic Hall,
55 Dalley St

CBD Property Owners' Workshop

Do you own property in the CBD or town centre (Burringbar St, Stuart St, Dalley St) ?

You are invited to join us on
Friday 19th May - 10am to 12pm
at Mullumbimby Anglican Church Hall, 42 Stuart St, Mullumbimby

Please RSVP stating "Mullumbimby CBD Property Owners Workshop" and your name to
placeplanning@byron.nsw.gov.au
or phone 66267126

Community groups' workshop

Are you a member of a community group, club or organisation in Mullumbimby?

You are invited to join us on
Friday 19th May from 12.30 to 2pm
Mullumbimby Anglican Church Hall, 42 Stuart St, Mullumbimby

Please RSVP stating "Mullumbimby Community Groups Workshop", your community group/s and your name to
placeplanning@byron.nsw.gov.au
or phone 66267126

Mullumbimby Traders' Breakfast

Do you trade or run a business in Mullumbimby?

You are invited to join us on
Friday 19th May from 7.30am to 9am
Mullumbimby Anglican Church Hall, 42 Stuart St, Mullumbimby

Please RSVP stating "Mullumbimby Traders Breakfast", your business and your name to placeplanning@byron.nsw.gov.au or phone 66267126