

HISTORY OF THOMAS AND HARRIET FENWICK



AND THEIR FAMILIES

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July 2019

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FOREWARD

I have read with great interest what my brother, Neil, has researched and written (joining the dots together) of the lives of our great grandmother, Elizabeth (Sissy) McLean nee Fenwick.

Although Neil has stated that he has written this specifically for the descendants of Elizabeth McLean, I am including all the descendants of Robert and Hellen Fenwick with whom any of us have contact with. Please feel free to share this history with your families as I believe that many of us have the strong characteristics of the Fenwick family.

As you read this research especially on the Border Reivers, you will probably appreciate these two stories which I am taking the liberty here to relate to you, our family.

Daphne Cogill (nee Payne) remembers so clearly her grandmother, Elizabeth McLean replying to a man who was having a conversation with her at Munna Point. The scene is under a tree at Munna. It goes like this:

The visitor: Morning Mrs Mac, sand flies are bad today!

Grandma McLean: Well, what do you want me to do? Chain them up!!!!

My own recollections of Grandma's stalwart replies is from childhood visiting and she was probably sitting under that same seat!

My father: Sand flies are bad today, Grandma.

Grandma: No, Ronnie, no sand flies here!

Me, as a child standing beside my father, looked at my great grandmother who was sitting on the seat with a tin of sawdust or cow dung burning away merrily under her to keep the sand flies away!!! But no sand flies there that day.

So, this research document is dedicated to the family of our great grandmother, Elizabeth McLean (nee Fenwick) and her siblings.

Linda Sivyer OAM
July 2019

4. INTRODUCTION

This document is for those descendants of the union between Elizabeth Fenwick and Alexander Allan McLean and specifically outlining the ancestral heritage of Elizabeth Fenwick as a third generation Australian born descendant of the Assisted Bounty Immigrants, Thomas Fenwick and Harriet Down, who arrived in Sydney Australia in June of 1844.

The information recorded in the document has been sourced from the NSW Government Shipping Records, newspaper records, information provided by Fenwick family members and of note, Cyril Fenwick.

Family tree information has also been sourced but only used when verification of information has been able to be sourced.

The Shellharbour City Museum and online records have also been of invaluable assistance in documenting the early life of Thomas and Harriet Fenwick in the early days of the establishment of Shellharbour as a district.

Included in this document is information relating to Hellen Rankin, our ancestor who married Robert Thomas Fenwick, the first generation Australian born Fenwick. As you will see in the descendant chart provided, she was the mother of our Elizabeth Fenwick.

Also documented are other Fenwick family members directly related to Robert Fenwick who have had life information recorded in historical references as to their pioneering life.

Photos in this document have been handed down through the generations and in particular these are from Elizabeth Fenwick's family (McLean), Walter Fenwick's great granddaughter, Debbie Chalmers.

Of note, one very valuable series of photos were contained in a photo album of Elizabeth McLean (nee Fenwick) which have been loaned to the writer by Elizabeth's great granddaughter, Paula Gregory.

**5. FOUR GENERATIONS OF DESCENDANTS OF THOMAS AND HARRIET FENWICK AFTER
MIGRATION**

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Thomas Fenwick | Harriet Down |
|-----------------------|---------------------|

| | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Australian Born Generation One Fenwick | Robert Thomas Fenwick | Charlotte Ann Fenwick | Thomas Fenwick | William Fenwick |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|

| | | |
|---|---|--------------|
| Australian Born Generation Two Fenwick | Robert Thomas Fenwick Rankin | Helen |
|---|---|--------------|

| | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|---|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Australian Born Generation Three Fenwick | George Thomas Fenwick | William Davis (Bill) Fenwick | Ethel Maude Fenwick | Frederick Robert Fenwick | Elizabeth Fenwick | Charles Fenwick |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|---|------------------------------|----------------------------|

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Elizabeth Fenwick | Alexander Allan McLean |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|

| |
|--|
| Fourth Generation of the Australian Fenwick McLean Union |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Helen Jean McLean 2. Harriet Doris McLean 3. Ethel Grace McLean 4. Ella Irene McLean |

5. THE NAME FENWICK

The Fenwick name or Fennick as it is pronounced is native to the area between the far north of England (Northumbria and Carlisle) and the border of Scotland that was once inhabited by family groups who were known as the Border Reivers. The Border Reivers were raiders along the Anglo–Scottish border from the late 13th century to the beginning of the 17th century. During this time, England and Scotland were frequently at war and the area was lawless, godless and often decimated by opposing armies.

A tough area breeds tough people. The families who lived there – on both sides of the border – grouped together in clans for protection and survival. Loyalty to a feeble or distant monarch or reliance on the effectiveness of the law, were not good survival strategies for the people of the borders. Instead, they sought security through their own strength and cunning and set out in large mobs to raid other families.

‘Reiving’ - raiding for cattle and sheep (and whatever else which could be transported) was the only way to survive and it became an established way of life, a profession, which was regarded with no discredit amongst the Borderers. The Reivers moved only at night, taking advantage of their intimate knowledge of the remote and rugged terrain, to spirit away their ill-gotten plunder.

As George MacDonald Fraser says in the book “The Steel Bonnets”, *‘they lived by despoiling each other. It was a time when the great border tribes, both English and Scottish, feuded continuously amongst themselves, when robbery and blackmail, were everyday professions, when raiding, arson, kidnapping, murder and extortion were an important part of the social system.’*

Their heyday was perhaps in the last hundred years of their existence, during the time of the Stuart Kings in Scotland and the Tudor Dynasty in England.

The attitudes of the English and Scottish governments towards the border clans alternated between indulgence and encouragement. Secure in their rule in the majority of the two countries, the authorities in England and Scotland were happy to let the Reivers battle it out for supremacy in the narrow hill country between the two nations. These fierce families served as the first line of defence against invasion and it suited authorities to have gangs of outlaws harassing the enemy on the border. However, the royalty of both countries would only travel through the region with a large and heavily armed escort. Even they were afraid of the Reivers.

As soldiers, the Border Reivers were considered among the finest light cavalry in all of Europe; they were outstanding horsemen. Living on the frontier between two warring nations sharpened their soldiering skills. Many worked as mercenaries abroad.

Of course, the notion of Scottish Clans is now legendary around the world – mostly thanks to Sir Walter Scott and his ballads. What is not so well known, perhaps, is that on the English side of the border there were also large, unruly English clans like the Charltons, the Armstrongs, the Milburns, the Robsons, the Fenwicks and the Dodds.

Tribal loyalty was paramount but also complex. Intermarriage across the border and feuds with other clans of the same nationality complicated matters. The make- up of the family groups was

fluid, allegiances shifted and sometimes raiding parties were made up of Scottish and English from the same family. One harassed Border official wrote: *"They are people that will be Scottish when they will and English at their pleasure."*

In order to control the people of the English Scottish Border during the times of the Border Reivers, the area was divided into six administrative districts, three on each side of the Border Line. These areas were known as Marches.

On each side of the Border there was a West, Middle and East March. Each March was served by a government appointed March Warden. There were six Border Marches three on each side of the Scottish-English-Border. The Fenwick name is associated with the English Middle March.

The English Middle March

The English Middle March consisted primarily of Redesdale and Tynedale. The principal towns were Bellingham, Hexham, Haydon Bridge and Corbridge in Tynedale whilst Alnwick with its massive castle, Harbottle again with a castle strategically placed to defend against the Scots and Otterburn were prominent in Redesdale.

The main names of the Border Reivers in Tynedale were Charlton, Milburn, Fenwick, Hunter, Robson, Ridley, Heron and Ogle; in Redesdale prominent were Hall, Reed, Hedley and Potts.

The Historic District of Tynedale is located in the County of Northumberland in The Northern Counties of England, it covers an administrative area of 2,219Km² and in 2014 was home to a population of 59,800 persons, that represents 0.11% of that of England and 0.10% of the population of the entire United Kingdom.

Below is the text from an article on surnames printed in the **Brisbane Telegraph in 1931.**

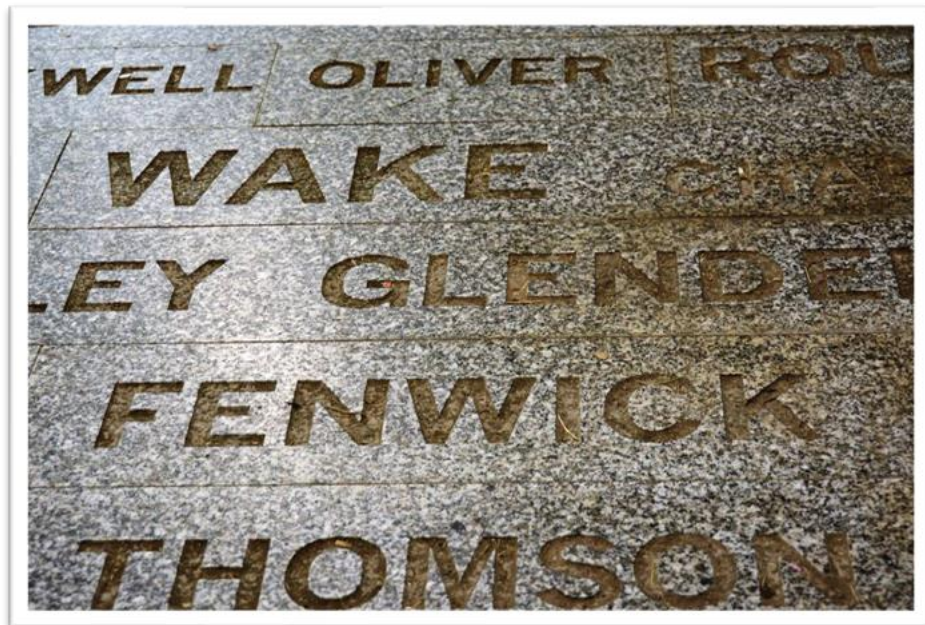
Telegraph (Brisbane, Qld. : 1872 - 1947), Thursday 2 July 1931, page 8

Is Your Name — FENWICK ?

Place names, such as Fenwick, near Ayr, may have given in some Fenwicks, but most bearers of the name must remind us of the Norsemen or the Anglo-Saxons. The name indicated the home, but according to the Anglo-Saxon it would mean an inland home -by the fens, and the Norse meaning would be a dwelling on a creek. Their connection with the Northumberland or Yorkshire parishes of the name, may have given some people the name, and possibly a few bailed from Fenwick, near Ayr, but although this town has a long history and has been the birthplace of some famous men, it does not appear to have made any marked contribution to this surname. we got very early Yorkshire records of the name, among them being that of Thomas a'Fenyk, and Johannes de Fenwyk.

Their families were of some standing, for Thomas is mentioned in the visitation of Heralds, and Johannes's name appears in the Yorkshire poll tax of the fourteenth century. One Fenwick held lands in London in the reign of Edward II and gave his name two thoroughfares. Another considerable landowner in London was Colonel Fenwick, an officer of Cromwell's Army to whom Hume Castle was surrendered. When Colonel Fenwick arrived in Berwickshire and called upon the governor of the castle to surrender, that fearless chief replied, "I know not Cromwell, and as for my castle it is built

upon a rock". But Fenwick bore down resistance with his guns. Sir John Fenwick, who had been member of Parliament for Northumberland, got into trouble for his part in a conspiracy against the Stuarts. He had to assume the same of Thomas Ward and flee the city, but he was found. He could not be tried because the principal witness against him had disappeared, but a Bill of Attainder was passed by a small majority in Parliament and he was beheaded. Charles Fenwick, who began his working career as a collier, represented the Wansbeck division of Northumberland in Parliament, and he was the first member to break the old tradition that the mover and seconder of the reply to the Speech from the Throne should wear uniform or court dress. He seconded the address in his simple Sunday clothes and made sartorial history.



These two photos were taken by the writer. Carlisle Castle, Cumbria, UK, where the names of the Border Reiver families are on the floor in the Castle



The Fenwick Arms, Claughton, Lancashire, UK

9. THOMAS AND HARRIET FENWICK MIGRATE TO AUSTRALIA

ASSISTED IMMIGRATION SCHEMES

The following is taken from a thesis by Robert J Schultz submitted on the 21st December 1971 titled **THE ASSISTED IMMIGRANTS, 1837-1850**, A Study of Some Aspects of the Characteristics and Origins of the Immigrants Assisted to New South Wales and the Port Phillip District, 1837-1850.

The Importance of Assisted Immigration has been one of the most important themes of Australian history. In recent years, immigrants have helped to change Australian life and society.

For example, immigrants have helped to construct the Snowy Mountains Scheme, the Ord River Scheme and provided much of the labour that enabled the development of vast mining projects. In the cities and country towns of Australia, immigrants have opened new specialty cafes, restaurants and shops. They have contributed their labour and money to help build and finance the unprecedented boom in construction and housing.

For example, in New South Wales the assisted immigrants accounted for approximately 31 per cent of the population in 1850 while in the newly independent colony of Victoria (the former Port Phillip District of New South Wales,) the assisted migrants comprised approximately 35 per cent of the population. The assisted migrants not only bulked large statistically in the two colonies, but also they contributed positively to the society.

First, in 1836, there were over two and one-half males to every female in New South Wales. By 1851, the ratio had declined to one and three-tenths males per female. Second, in 1841, the year after transportation of convicts to New South Wales was stopped, approximately one-third of the population were convicts, emancipists or expirees. By 1851, only one sixth of the population were convicts or former convicts. Both the lowering of the ratio between males and females and the reduction of the convict-tainted proportion of the population resulted in large measure from the arrival of more than 85,000 assisted immigrants.

The Bounty Scheme information from the same thesis as above.

However, the bounty system operated by the Colonial Government through private shipowners produced only marginally better results over the whole period, but between 1837-40, when both systems were operating, the bounty immigrants seem to have been superior to the government migrants in age, number of children and cost. The bounty system was introduced in New South Wales by Governor Darling in 1831.

It enabled settlers who brought out migrants to claim a bounty in redemption of their quit-rents. Revised regulations in 1835 required settlers to inform the Colonial Secretary in Sydney of the number, condition and calling of the persons they proposed to bring out, and instituted new rates of bounty, ranging from £30 for a man and 13 wife if both were under thirty, to £5 for each of their children. The colonists preferred this system because it gave them more control in selecting migrants and because costs were not only lower but also not paid to the importing agent until the migrants arrived and were passed by the Colonial Immigration Board. The system was also preferred because it allowed colonists some control over the spending of land revenues used to finance assisted immigration and furthered their demands for the control of all colonial revenues.

Thomas Fenwick is listed in the 1841 English Census as a blacksmith and farm servant. He and wife Harriet were both recorded as twenty years of age.

If this is correct it would make their date of birth around 1821. Information that has been found to have recorded the birth place of Thomas and Harriet varies from Preston and Kirkdale near Liverpool in Lancashire but his immigration record states that his native place is Hull in Yorkshire or Kingston Upon Hull.

As stated the census records their age in 1841 as both being twenty years but Thomas states his age as 22 but the immigration document also states that his certificate states 21. Thomas lists his parents as John and Anne Fenwick.

Other information recorded on the immigration record is also of interest. The physician or surgeon stating the medical condition is from Halesworth and the person or persons providing the reference of good character are from Westhall. These two places are close together on the east coast region of England in the county of Suffolk. This is south of Yorkshire and indicated that Thomas and Harriet were moving where work was available. Halesworth is historically a small market town only known for its brewery and Westhall only three miles away has a grade one listed Norman church. As to what they, Thomas and Harriet, were employed in doing is unknown.

Our Thomas and Harriet Fenwick (Down) were on the 1841 English Census

City or Borough of Kingston upon Hull 22
Parish or Township of Wotton Enumeration Schedule. 15

| PLACE | HOUSES | | NAMES of each Person who abode therein the preceding Night. | AGE and SEX | | PROFESSION, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT, or of INDEPENDENT MEANS. | Where Born | |
|----------------|----------------------------|-----------|---|-------------------|---------|--|--------------------------------|---|
| | Uninhabited or Building | Inhabited | | Males | Females | | Whether Born in same County | Whether Born in Scotland, Ireland, or Foreign Parts |
| Wotton | | 1 | Matthew Connolly | 40 | | Labourer | | L |
| | | | Hannah | 50 | 35 | | Y | |
| | | | Michael | 50 | 10 | | Y | |
| | | | John | 50 | 10 | | Y | |
| | | | William | 50 | 10 | | Y | |
| | | | Thomas | 50 | 1 | | Y | |
| | | | William Barkin | 45 | | Mariner | Y | |
| | | | Thomas Fenwick | 20 | | Blacksmith | Y | |
| | | | Harriet | 20 | | | Y | |
| | | | Mary Stanton | 70 | | Widow | Y | |
| D ^o | | | Ann Butler | 10 | | | Y | |
| | | | William Butler | 17 | | | Y | |
| | | | Norman Day | 20 | | Thresher | Y | |

The New South Wales Shipping List for the Royal Saxon in 1844 has the following information.

| SIGNATURES IN CERTIFICATE. | | MARRIED MALE IMMIGRANT. ¹⁵ 281 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|---|------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| <p>Person certifying Registry of Baptism ... <i>Rev John Rump</i> <i>Pakefield Suffolk</i></p> <p>Physician or Surgeon certifying Health ... <i>W. H. Pidgeon</i> <i>Surgeon</i> <i>Kilnworth</i></p> <p>Householder certifying Character and Calling ... <i>James Newson</i> <i>Westhale</i></p> <p>Employer</p> <p>Magistrate & Clergyman corroborating Certificate ... <i>Stindbrooke</i> <i>Weymouth</i></p> <p>Signature of selecting Agent ... <i>W. Edwards</i> <i>Woodbridge</i></p> <p>Signature of Contractor <i>None</i></p> | | <p>By the Ship <i>Royal Saxon</i></p> <p>Name <i>J. F. Fennell</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>According to his own statement.</th> <th>According to Certificate.</th> <th>According to Register.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Calling ...</td> <td><i>Blacksmith</i></td> <td><i>Blacksmith</i></td> <td><i>Blacksmith</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Age ...</td> <td><i>22</i></td> <td><i>21</i></td> <td><i>21</i></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Native Place and County <i>Sturt York H. Sh.</i></p> <p>Parents' Names ... <i>John & Anne</i></p> <p>State of bodily health, strength and probable usefulness ... <i>W. H. Good</i></p> <p>Religion ... <i>Episcop</i></p> <p>Read or Write ... <i>None</i></p> <p>Any Complaints ... <i>None</i></p> <p>Persons under protection ... <i>None</i></p> <p>Relations in the Colony ... <i>None</i></p> | | | | According to his own statement. | According to Certificate. | According to Register. | Calling ... | <i>Blacksmith</i> | <i>Blacksmith</i> | <i>Blacksmith</i> | Age ... | <i>22</i> | <i>21</i> | <i>21</i> |
| | According to his own statement. | According to Certificate. | According to Register. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Calling ... | <i>Blacksmith</i> | <i>Blacksmith</i> | <i>Blacksmith</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Age ... | <i>22</i> | <i>21</i> | <i>21</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

The contractual arrangement with Captain Addison as an assisted immigrant was for the wage of 16 pound per year plus a set ration of beef or mutton, sugar, flour and tea.

Memorandum of Agreement made this day between
Captain Addison of Peterborough, New South Wales.
 of the one part, and *Thomas Fenwick* a free Immigrant per Ship
Royal Saxon of the other part. The conditions are, that the
 said *Thomas Fenwick* engages to serve the said _____
Captain Addison as a *Blacksmith* _____
 and otherwise make himself generally useful, for the term of *Six* Calendar Months;
 and also to obey all his, or his overseers' or authorised agents' lawful and reasonable
 commands during that period; in consideration of which services the said _____
Captain Addison doth hereby agree to pay the said *Thomas Fenwick*
 wages, at the rate of £ = *16* = per annum, and to provide him with the following
 rations weekly :—

| | | | | | |
|----------------|---|---|---|---|---------------|
| Beef or Mutton | : | : | : | : | <i>12 lbs</i> |
| Flour | . | . | . | . | <i>20 lbs</i> |
| Sugar | . | . | . | . | <i>3 lbs</i> |
| Tea | . | . | . | . | <i>4 oz</i> |

The Royal Saxon was advertised to depart the Deptford Docks London on March 1 1844. In May 1844 the Shipping Gazette in Sydney states that the barque Royal Saxon with Captain Charlesworth left Cork, Ireland on March 14th, 1844. There are other newspaper reports that have her leaving Cork on February 26th. What is definitely known is the Royal Saxon arrived in Sydney on the 26th. June 1844 as she was carrying the mail and news from England as well as emigrants.



The Royal Saxon

Australian (Sydney, NSW : 1824 - 1848), Friday 28 June 1844, page 3

THE IMMIGRANTS PER " ROYAL SAXON" AND " BRITON."

The arrival of 520 Immigrants by the Royal Saxon and Briton, will be hailed with satisfaction by those who feel assured that the due supply of labour, as one of the great elements of Colonization,

is essential to the growing prosperity of the Colony. The selection of those people by the Emigration Agents at Cork and Liverpool, is distinguished by the same careful reference to the real wants of the settlers, and the probable demand for labour in this Colony, which we have had so much gratification in adverting to on several occasions since the recent removal of the Bounty System. The Immigrants of both vessels had been almost wholly selected from the agricultural districts at home, and their clean and healthy appearance is the surest guarantee of the admirable arrangements which have been carried out for their care and comfort during the voyage.

Captain Stephen Addison and the Peterborough Estate

Addison was a merchant seaman with family ties in Tasmania. He married into the Wentworth family and hence was in control of large tracts of land in the Illawarra District. Using the Bounty Scheme he was able to bring out emigrants to work the land. Thomas and Harriet Fenwick were contracted to Captain Addison for nine years.

The Shellharbour City Museum records the following information on the Peterborough Estate and the link to Captain Addison. After the death of Addison and the passing of the descendants of the Darcy Wentworth family, an act of Parliament was passed in 1877 dealing with how to manage the remaining large tracts of land linked to the Wentworth Estate. After 1877 this land became known as the Basset Darley Estates. It was not until 1900 that the remaining lease or original land granted to the early squatters was disposed of as freehold.

Shellharbour Village was part of a grant of over 13,000 acres to D'Arcy Wentworth, named Peterborough. The grant included all the land from the Minnamurra River in the south to Lake Illawarra in the north.

Five of Wentworth's children, Martha, Sophia, MaryAnn, Catherine, and Robert inherited the estate in 1827. Captains Towns, Addison and Darley married three of Wentworth's daughters, and the main streets in Peterborough (now Shellharbour Village) are named after them.

In 1843, Caroline Chisholm brought 23 families to settle at Peterborough on clearing leases. Captain Robert Towns allowed settlers to live on his part of the estate, rent-free for six to seven years, on the condition they clear the land of all trees and scrub. Each family was given a lease to clear the land, and set up a self-sufficient farm. The families were dropped off at the beach in the afternoon and spent the night under the roots of a large fig tree near the harbour. The next morning, they were picked up by bullock and dray, and transported to the site of their farm.

On 22 September 1851, the private town of Peterborough was laid out and registered. It was predicted that the town would become an important shipping port on the coast. In 1856, the "Illawarra Mercury" reported that Shellharbour was beginning to assume the appearance of a 'hamlet or little town'. Eleven families lived in eleven houses and farmers came and went with drays, horseback or on foot, carrying the produce of the Peterborough Estate, Macquarie River and Stoney Creek to be shipped to Sydney. By 1857, many of the families had secured or leased homes and properties. They turned mainly to dairying.

The following is taken from a Statement of Heritage Impact for Killarney, 21 Buckleys Road, Shell Cove by Louise Thom Heritage.

The Bassett-Darley Estates at Shellharbour

In 1877 a Private Act of Parliament, known under the shortened name of Bassett-Darley Estates Act, was passed as a key step in unlocking the lands in Darcy Wentworth's will. The Act was named after his daughter Katherine's two married names of Bassett and Darley and marks the re-naming of the Peterborough Estate to the Bassett-Darley Estate. The release of the estate lands in the Illawarra was further delayed as the majority of tenancies were held under long-term leases, apart from the railways commission who paid £1,265 to run the southern line through the estate. It wasn't until an auction on 27 January 1900 that most of the lots were sold, breaking up the last of the Illawarra land holdings.

THOMAS FENWICK and HARRIET FENWICK in Australia

By 1853 the end of the Addison contractual arrangements should have occurred.

From the obituary of Harriet Fenwick, it can be assumed that Thomas and Harriet moved to Wollongong not long after the Addison contract finished. There are newspaper reports of Thomas Fenwick with business interests in Wollongong from 1856 but he returns to Shellharbour by November of 1858. It is assumed that this is when Thomas Fenwick moved onto the land that was part of the Peterborough Estate. Captain Addison died in 1854 and by 1900 all of the Peterborough Estate had been sold off.

One of the social issues that challenged the next generation of immigrant descendants was the ability to purchase your own land as it was not until the turn of the twentieth century that the large land grant/leases from the "squatter" days had been removed. For a future in dairying the next generation moved to the Clarence and Richmond River areas. Hence our second generation of Fenwick descendants starting families in the rich dairy country around Casino and Lismore.

When Thomas moved to Wollongong, he joined the newly formed Illawarra Political Association, as well as establishing his blacksmith and forge shop. A Mr. Pollard was the person he had business interests with. Mr. Pollard had his household furniture and possessions up for auction in the October of 1858 which also coincides with when Thomas Fenwick returned to Shellharbour. Thomas appears to have had at least two years in Wollongong with various business interests always with a Mr. Pollard. Remember that when Thomas migrated, the shipping list has his occupation as blacksmith and the 1841 English Census has him as a blacksmith.

POLLARD AND FENWICK, CROWN-STREET, WOLLONGONG, begs leave to thank the inhabitants of Wollongong, and the surrounding district, for the very liberal support they have received since their commencement in business, and trust, by strict attention, coupled with low charges, to merit a continuance of the same.

Having plenty of good seasoned timber always on hand, they can supply their

First-rate Carts at £14,

Bullock Drays from £18,

Spring Carts of all prices and of every description.

Ploughs, Harrows and Farming implements of all descriptions made to order.

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The Illawarra Mercury Monday 31 1858 notice of the Illawarra Political Association and the new membership list includes Thomas Fenwick.

Illawarra Liberal Political Association.

President—THOMAS HALE, ESQ.

Treasurer—R. T. HAYLES.

Secretary—THOMAS GARRETT.

THE ABOVE ASSOCIATION having been regularly constituted, cards of membership are now ready for issue by the Secretary, by Messrs Biggar, R. T. Hayles, W. Hayles, John Brown, O. Poilard, Thomas Fenwick, Wollongong; Edward Jeykell, Charcoal; John Cawley, Bulli; or by any of the other members of the General Committee, on payment of 2s 6d, the yearly subscription. Cards of membership, with copy of rules, will be forwarded to any person at a distance on receipt of postage stamps to the amount of 2s 6d by the Secretary. Persons applying must state whether they are on the Electoral Roll or not; and, if not, whether they possess a qualification, where situated, and of what nature.

PRINCIPLES & OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

THE LAND.

No Sale by Auction, but every person wishing to become a bona fide Settler to have the power of selecting a block of Land not exceeding 320 acres, and to take possession on payment of 25 per cent. of the purchase money, the residue to be paid in yearly instalments not extending over more than seven years. The price not to exceed £1 per acre.

ELECTORAL REFORM.

An increase in the number of Representatives, to be elected by constituencies based on population, under an extended franchise, by vote by Ballot.

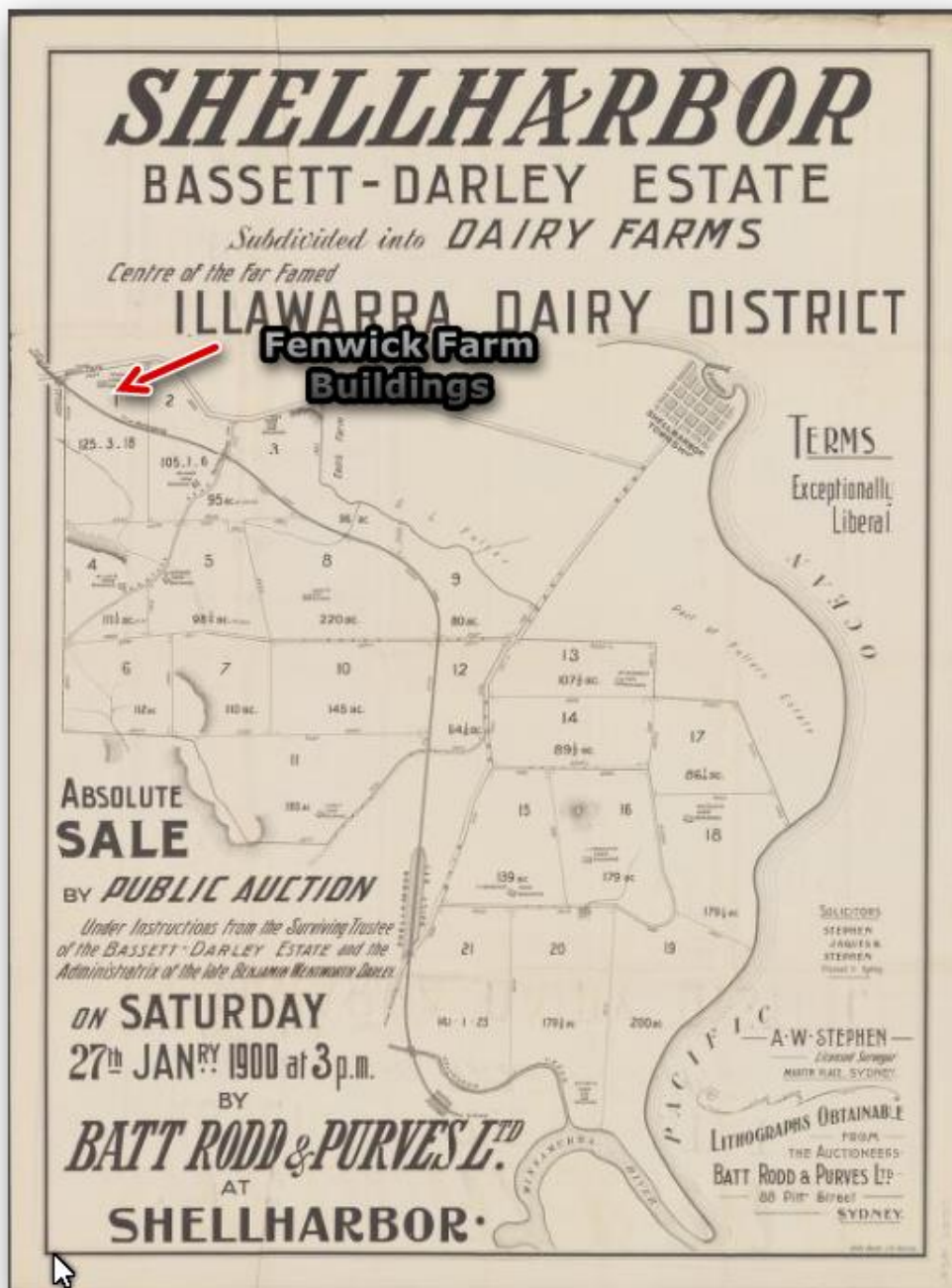
OTHER OBJECTS.

To secure the registration of every man entitled to be on the Electoral Roll.

To obtain for these Districts their fair share of the general revenue for local public works, and to effect the removal of local grievances.

THOS. GARRETT, Hon. Sec.

The Basset Darley Estate is where Thomas and Harriet Fenwick leased land and resided on when he returned to Shellharbour. In one of the final sales of the estate into private or selector purchase the Fenwick farm buildings are shown on the map of the land for sale.



18. THOMAS FENWICK, THE ALDERMAN AND MAYOR

Thomas Fenwick was elected an alderman of Shellharbour Council in 1863 after being defeated in 1862. He served until 1885 becoming Mayor in 1872, 1878 and in 1882 he stood for mayor but was defeated in the ballot by John Fraser. Thomas remained an Alderman. In 1884 he was appointed a Justice of the Peace and served as a magistrate.

In December of 1894 he requested to be removed from the list of magistrates as he was over 60 years of age. (Kiama Independent December 8)

Shellharbour Municipal Council Aldermen and Town Clerk, -C-1870



L-R: William James (Mayor), John Fraser, Thomas Fenwick, Thomas Coughrane, William Fryer, Edward Killalea, John Russell, Richard Hall (Clerk)

MAYORS OF SHELLHARBOUR

The following from the **Kiama Reporter and Illawarra Journal (NSW : 1899 - 1947)**, Wednesday 15 January 1947, page 2 lists the Mayors of Shellharbour and this shows that Thomas was the mayor twice.

A Special report of much historical interest was presented to Shell-harbour Council at its last meeting by the Town Clerk (Mr. F. D. Bolin) who had spent a considerable time going through the old minute books to compile a list of Mayors of the Municipality since its incorporation in 1859. Ald. C. F. O'Keefe has the honour of having had the longest term - 12 years-with Ald. J. R. East (8 years) the next longest. In the early days there was apparently a strong diversity of opinion as in 1860 and 1861 William James was elected Mayor only to be succeeded the following month by William Moles who was Mayor until the next election the following year. It would be of interest to know the reason for these short terms.

The Council decided at the meeting to have an honour roll prepared showing the list and allowing for the names of future Mayors to be in-scribed. The following is the list at Mayors and the dates on which they were elected to the position,

William Wilson, 22nd July 1859.

William James, 24th March, 1860.

William Moles, 3rd April, 1860.

William James, 5th February, 1861.
William Moles, 23rd March, 1861,
H. Reddall, 12th February, 1862.
Robert Wilson, 25th February, 1863
Edward Graham, 27th Feb., 1864.
William Fryer, 2nd December, 1865
Humphrey Dunster, 3rd Mar., 1866.
William Fryer, 16th February, 1867 William James, 12th Feb., 1870,
Thomas Fenwick, 17th Feb., 1872,
Robert Wilson, 7th Feb., 1873,
John Fraser, 27th Feb., 1875,
R. P. Ball, 17th Feb., 1877,
W. Fenwick, 12th Feb., 1878,
John Fraser, 10th Feb., 1879,
John Brownlee, 14th Feb., 1880.
Levi Raison, 14th Feb., 1881,
John Fraser, 11th Feb., 1882.
Thomas Armstrong, 16th Feb., 1884
Levi Raison, 16th Feb., 1885.
William Mathie, 8th Feb., 1886.
John Fraser, 18th Feb., 1888,
William Mathie, 14th Feb., 1891.
T. Armstrong, 18th Feb., 1895,
W. C. Dunster, 17th Feb., 1896.
L. R. Mood, 5th Feb., 1898.
W. Fryer, 4th Feb., 1902.
James East, 18th Feb., 1905.
Jas. Buckley, 12th Feb., 1908,
E. R. Bigg, 4th Feb., 1911,
T. Armstrong, 11th Feb., 1914.
W. C. Dunster, 11th Feb., 1918.
T. C. Bateman, 18th Feb., 1920,
C. F. O'Keefe, 20th April, 1921,
Jas. McNabb, 20th December, 1933
James Russell East, 15th Dec., 1937
Keith Gordon Grey, 19th Dec., 1945

THOMAS FENWICK J.P.

There are many references to the cases that Thomas presided over or the judicial courts or benches he was involved with.

Kiama Independent, and Shoalhaven Advertiser (NSW : 1863 - 1947), Friday 23 January 1885, page 2

SHELLHARBOUR COURT OF PETTY SESSIONS. JANUARY I, 1885. *Before H, Connell, P. M, John Conway, James McGill, and Thomas Fenwick, J.P. John Murphy, alias Donkey Jack, was charged with*

the use of obscene language at Albion Park, on the 13th December last. Defendant did not appear, but as it was stated by the police that defendant could not attend on account of having a sore foot, his case was postponed till Friday, the 10th February proximo.

THOMAS FENWICK AND THE ANGLICAN CHURCH

Kiama Independent, and Shoalhaven Advertiser (NSW : 1863 - 1947), Friday 1 August 1879, page 2

DISTRICT NEWS.

Albion Park. TESTIMONIAL AND P'RESENTATION.

For some time past efforts have been put forth by the members of the congregation of "All Saints' Church " of England at Albion Park, to present Mrs. Cawdell with a slight recognition of her services as organist and the great interest evinced by her to improve the singing of the congregation. A committee, presided over by Alderman Fenwick, brought their labours to a successful close last Wednesday evening, when the subscribers and friends met in the school room at Tullimbar. Though the night was not the most propitious one yet the attendance was such as to necessitate three sittings at the tea tables before the company were supplied with the good things provided. Tea being over and all seated again the business of the evening was proceeded with. In the absence of the Incumbent, the Rev. Mr. Stack, from whom a letter of apology was read regretting his inability to attend through having to go to Sydney, also one from J. McGill, J.P., Alderman Fenwick was moved to the chair. In a very feeling and appropriate speech he showed the great benefits and pleasure arising from doing good, more especially in connection with the service of praise to the Almighty in the hymn of prayer.

He then read the following address : "To MRS. CAWDELL, TULLIMBAR, "DEAR MADAM, -The congregation worshipping at 'All Saints' Church," Albion Park, desire to express their gratitude to you for the able manner in which you have for some years past performed the duties of harmonist at this church. "We recognize the value of your services as a vocalist and instrumentalist ; and we are sensible of the beneficial influence which your kindly exercise of ability as a musician has had in improving the psalmody at ' All Saints' Church I and it is with much pleasure that we bear testimony to your exemplary conduct as a member of the church, and to your ever ready disposition to aid in every good work which has for its end the welfare of the neighbourhood in which you reside. Sharing in these sentiments toward you we have much pleasure in asking you to accept this watch and chain as some recognition of the value of your services as choir mistress at All Saints' Church and we trust that the watch may mark time for you and your estimable partner during many happy years until you shall arrive in that happy land where it will not be necessary to keep note of time. Signed on behalf of the congregation worshipping at All Saints' Church, THOMAS FENWICK, WILLIAM FRYER, JUN., JAMES SWAN, LIONEL HURRY.

21. OBITUARY HARRIET FENWICK

The Illawarra Mercury, Tuesday 23 October, 1894. -- page 2

THE LATE MRS. THOMAS FENWICK

There passed away from this life, at Shellharbor, on Monday, the 8th instant, one who had been a worthy resident of Illawarra for upwards of fifty years. We allude to Mrs. Harriet Fenwick, wife of Mr. Thomas Fenwick, J.P., of Stoney Range Farm. As a wife, a mother, a neighbour, a member of the community in which she resided, the deceased was trustful and true, bearing to the grave, as she did in the full sense of the term,

The white rose of blameless life.

To her husband who now deplores her death, though not as those without hope in regard to even a happier reunion in a better world, she was, as it were, a second part of himself, having travelled through life together as they did, for more that 52 years with unruffled happiness in their conjugal relationship. And to her family of three sons and one daughter she was, in a sentence, all that a loving and devoted mother could be. She reached a good age, having passed her 76th year by a few months when summoned hence. Until about twelve years ago she enjoyed robust health, but since then weakness of the heart troubled her to a noticeable extent. Six weeks prior to her death she became ill with the then prevailing influenza, and suffered rather severely, but gradually recovered. An attack of bronchitis supervened, however, and prostrated her very much in her already weak state. She became better of that also in due course but, unexpectedly even to her medical attendant her heart suddenly gave way, and all was over in less time that it takes to state the sad fact. So sudden and unlooked for was the closing scene – on a Monday forenoon – that her husband only was beside her when the “vital spark” took its flight to Him who gave it. The funeral took place on the following day, the remains being interred in the Church of England burial-ground, Albion Park. A large number paid their respects to the memory of the deceased by following all that was mortal to her to the last resting place, where Rev. J. Stock, of Dapto, conducted the funeral service.

IN MEMORIAM.
FENWICK.—In loving memory of Mrs.
FENWICK, beloved wife of Mr. Thomas
Fenwick, J.P., of Shellharbor, who
died 8th October, 1894.
Our hearts are sad and weary,
The tears drop from our eyes,
Thinking of our darling mother,
In the cold grave where she lies.
She is gone, but not forgotten,
Nor is the good advice she gave;
Sweetest thoughts shall ever linger
Round our darling mother's grave.
All you who have a mother
Cherish her with tender care;
When she's gone you cannot get another;
You'll miss her everywhere.
Inserted by her loving children, Willie
and Mary.

22. DEATH OF THOMAS FENWICK

The Illawarra Mercury, Tuesday, 12 May, 1896. -- page 2

Mr. T. Fenwick, J.P., of Stoney Range, Shellharbor, a very old and highly respected resident, died on Friday and was buried on Saturday afternoon at Albion Park, the funeral being largely attended.

A SUMMARY OF THE LIFE OF THOMAS AND HARRIET FENWICK IN THE ILLAWARRA

The following was in **The Illawarra Mercury, Tuesday 23 October, 1894 page 2**. It is a very good summary of their journey and life in the Shellharbour District.

Mr. Thomas Fenwick and his wife, Harriet, both of whom were then strong and vigorous, arrived at Sydney in 1844. They left Detport, London, on the 1st March of that year in the immigrant ship, Royal Saxon, reaching Port Jackson on the 20th of June following. Immediately after arrival at Sydney, Mr. Fenwick and his wife went to Shellharbuor under engagement to the late Captain Addison and for nine years he had the management of that gentleman's estate (now Mr. T.A. Reddall's) In the course of his managerial position at "Lake House", as the homestead was then termed, Mr. Fenwick transacted all the business of the estate, including buying and selling. When the estate passed away from Captain Addison, Mr. Fenwick removed to Wollongong, where he remained but a few years, however, after which he returned to his first love locality – Shellharbour. And there he has been a constant and useful resident ever since. His present farm constitutes part of what is known as the Bassett-Darley Estate, and on that he has resided about twenty-five years. As already remarked, Mr. Fenwick has played a useful part in the neighbourhood in which he has been so long located. He was twenty-two years a member of the Shellharbour Borough Council, and was twice mayor thereof. He also has taken an active and forcible part in connection with all public movements in the place, including the Shellharbour breakwater and jetty works and the local steam navigation company, which was started and carried on for years by sailing vessels. Several years ago he was appointed a magistrate of the territory. He is now in his 72nd year, and in the course of his career as an intelligent, active and observant colonist, he has witnessed many great changes that have taken place in Illawarra and other parts of the country within the last half century.

THOMAS FENWICK JNR 1852 – 1937 AND BROTHER TO ROBERT THOMAS FENWICK

Thomas Fenwick Jnr was also a noted amateur musician and entertainer in the Stoney Range, Mount Marshall and Albion Park areas of the Shellharbour District. He had a son also named Thomas, but named Thomas Robert Fenwick who also tragically died in 1937 only a short time after his father. Thomas Robert Fenwick was born in 1897. In his early years Thomas Jnr and family lived at Albion Park and Mount Marshall but in later years the family lived at Thirroul. Thomas Fenwick Jnr married Fanny Sharpe at Albion Park in 1896. They had the following registered children:

Thomas Robert born 1897 at Albion Park - died 1937 Thirroul

Carl born 1898 at Albion Park. There is a record of Carl Fenwick's death at Bulli 1968.

Pretoria born 1900 at Albion Park

Winifred born 1903 at Albion Park

The electoral roll of 1930 shows the family of Thomas Fenwick Jnr living in Cochrane Road Thirroul.

974 Fenton, Harriett Ann, Moore street, Austinner, home duties, F
975 Fenwick, Frances Elizabeth, Cochrane road, Thirroul, home duties, F
976 Fenwick, Pretoria, Cochrane road, Thirroul, home duties, F
977 Fenwick, Thomas, Cochrane road, Thirroul, labourer, M
978 Fenwick, Thomas Robert, Cochrane road, Thirroul, mechanic, M
979 Fenwick, Winifred, Cochrane road, Thirroul, home duties, F
980 Ferguson, George, Garlick street, Coledale, miner, M
981

The Illawarra Mercury Thursday 25th November 1948 Legal Notices is the application of Winifred Fenwick for the estate of Frances Elizabeth.

LEGAL NOTICES
IN THE SUPREME COURT
OF NEW SOUTH WALES.—
Probate Jurisdiction. — In the
Will of **FRANCES ELIZABETH**
FENWICK late of Thirroul in
the State of New South Wales
Widow deceased. — Application
will be made after fourteen days
from the publication hereof that
probate of the last Will and
Testament dated 12th July 1943
of the abovenamed deceased
may be granted to **WINIFRED**
FENWICK the Executrix nam-
ed in the said Will and all no-
tices may be served at the
undermentioned address. All
Creditors in the Estate of the
deceased are hereby required to
send in particulars of their
claims to the undersigned.—**W.**
G. PAYNE, Solicitor, 176 Prince's
Highway, **BULLI**. By his Town
Agent: **G. C. MURDOCH**, Soli-
citor, 133 Pitt Street, **SYDNEY**.

Illawarra Mercury (Wollongong, NSW : 1856 - 1950), Saturday 23 June 1894, page 2

CONCERT AT SHELLHARBOR.

(From; a Correspondent.)

The second concert in aid of the Shellharbor Brass Band was held in the Temperance Hall on Monday night last, the attendance being most satisfactory. During the progress of the concert the audience displayed great enthusiasm, and the part and comic songs especially received greater and more continuous applause than has ever yet fallen to the lot of the Shellharbor Brass Band. We were pleased with this very marked feature, for the bandmaster Mr. Polly is most painstaking and careful.....

After a very laughable farce by Messrs. Fenwick, Norris, and Carmody the end of the programme was reached.

In conclusion I may state that we all enjoyed a most pleasant evening, and Mr. Polly and his pupils were heartily congratulated on their succes3. The stage and refreshment room were handsomely decorated by the Misses Allen, Falson, Inskip, and Beatly.

The photo below shows Thomas or Tom Fenwick in the Albion Park Band. Albion Park is an area of Shellharbour.

Albion Park Band early 1900



Back L-R: J.A. Raftery, J. Markham, ? Hill, V. Wallace, J. Dimmock, P. Fryer, Syl Condon
Front L-R: W. Jamieson, Alex Weston, J. Piper, Dan Condon (Bandmaster), C. Sharpe, Alf Wright, Tom Fenwick (son of Thomas Fenwick)

Illawarra Mercury (Wollongong, NSW: 1856 - 1950), Wednesday 31 December 1947, page 6

When 'H.P.P.' in his story of life on the South Coast 50 years and more ago made reference to a comedian from Stoney Range, near Shellharbour — Mr. Thomas Fenwick, who in those days entertained at Marshall Mount School concerts, he might have extended this to cover some allusion to another notable Albion Park institution its nigger minstrel company that in early days won justifiable fame and in which Fenwick had been a star performer. When at the age of 85 years, he died at Thirroul, no indication was given of any such past association, yet this was the same individual of whom the late Father Heyden, P.P., subsequently Bishop of Tasmania, commented, after witnessing a performance, 'The farm is no place for you, you should be at the Tivoli.' The most remarkable part of it was that Fenwick did not act he was merely himself. In everyday life he was that dry type of humorist who without the vestige of a smile would come one with the drollest sayings on the amateur stage. The same manner won him applause. A recitation from the minstrel days in which he became a female impersonator, "I'm a poor old woman selling apples and pears", was greeted as burlesque but was genuine Fenwick. On one occasion in later years, when a few surviving originals were brought together for a performance of the old time show this left no doubt as to the high entertainment value of the company, which apparently known as the Snowflake Minstrels.

25. ROBERT FENWICK

Marriage of Robert Thomas Fenwick to Helen Rankin

Kiama Independent, and Shoalhaven Advertiser (NSW : 1863 - 1947), Thursday 13 February 1873, page 2

MARRIAGE. ON the 5th February, at the residence of the bride's parents, Shellharbour, by the Rev. J. Kinross, **ROBERT**, eldest son of Thomas Fenwick, to **HELEN**, eldest daughter of George Rankin, Shellharbour

Robert and Helen Fenwick like many of the second generation of Illawarra farmers moved to the Richmond River area in 1874. The reason that this generation of young families moved was due to land issues and the control of dairying in the Illawarra.

Robert was in the Richmond River area of Lismore for at least 33 years. When he planned to move and follow his children north to the Noosa Hinterland or Cooroy his property was advertised for auction. Robert and Helen did not move directly to the Cooroy area but initially went to a dairy farm at Mt. Walker just south west of Ipswich.

Historically it is difficult to know who initiated the move of the Fenwick family away from the Alstonville and Lismore areas. The move of the carpenter and builder sons as well as the marriage of daughter Elizabeth to Alexander Allan McLean and their move to the Cooroy area all coincide.

Please Note: Throughout this document, Helen Fenwick's name is spelt with one (1) l eg, Helen, but in many documents it is with two (2) ls, eg, Hellen. Unless we have her Birth Certificate we have no proof, but it is understood that her name was spelt HELLEN.

Robert and Helen Fenwick and Family in the Richmond and Clarence Area including Alstonville, Wollongbar and Lismore

Fenwick Community Activity in Alstonville

Robert and Harriet were at Ulmarra in 1876 after leaving Shellharbour in 1874. It can be assumed they came straight to the Richmond and Clarence River area.

By August of 1879 Robert had his farm up for sale and was moving north to the Richmond. The following advertisement was in the Clarence and Richmond Examiner on August 18, 1879.

FRIDAY next, 22nd August.
Cattle, Pigs, Farming Implements,
HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE
ULMARRA.

T. BAWDEN has received instructions from
Mr. ROBERT FENWICK to sell by
 public auction, on his farm, Ulmarra,
On FRIDAY next, 22nd AUGUST,
at 11 o'clock,

The whole of his **CATTLE, FARMING IM-
 PLEMENTS, and HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE,** con-
 sisting of—

Several Prime **MILKING COWS.**
8 Fat PIGS.
1 Scarifier, 1 Scuffer, 1 Cornsheller, 1 Corncracker.
2 Chests Drawers, Tables and Chairs.
Double and Single Iron and Wood Bedsteads.
Quantity Bedding, Washstand and Set.
Sofa, Perambulator.
Kitchen Dresser, Safe, Cupboard, and Kitchen
Utensils.

TERMS AT SALE.

Robert had dairying interests but in 1889 he was leasing out two blocks of land for the growing of sugar cane. This appears to be only a brief encounter with this industry as a court case between Robert Fenwick and his tenant over the lease arrangement and the quality of the harvesting of the cane appeared in the Northern Star, Lismore on November 14 1891.

Robert and Hellen had a family of six children.

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| George Thomas | born 1873 at Shellharbour |
| William David (Bill) | born 1876 at Ulmarra |
| Ethel Maud | born 1878 at Ulmarra |
| Frederick Robert | born 1884 at Lismore |
| Elizabeth | born 1886 at Lismore |
| Charles Walter | born 1890 at Lismore |



Robert and Hellen Fenwick



George and Maud Fenwick's wedding photo



Bill and Mary Fenwick's wedding photo



Harry and Ethel (nee Fenwick) Johnston's wedding photo



Charles (Walter) and Ida Fenwick's wedding photo



Fred and Jessie Fenwick's wedding photo



Elizabeth Fenwick's wedding Photo



Alexander McLean on Wedding Day to Elizabeth Fenwick



From Elizabeth's photo album of one of her siblings





Possibly Ethel Fenwick from Elizabeth's Album



Ethel Johnstone's (nee Fenwick) daughter, Annie



Ethel's daughter, Nellie Johnstone

33. DETAILS OF SOME OF THE CHILDREN OF ROBERT FENWICK

GEORGE FENWICK

The following is taken from the web site The Australian Boer War Memorial – Ancestor's Database. The information on the page is supplied by Cyril Fenwick a grandson of George Fenwick

Trooper George Fenwick



TPR George Fenwick

Name of Ancestor: George Thomas Fenwick
Date of birth: 20/11/1873
Date of death: 24/06/1950
Cause of Death: Unknown
Service Number: 317
Colony or State of enlistment: NSW, Place of Enlistment: Lismore
Unit: NSW Lancers
Rank attained in Boer War: TPR, Date Effective: 1899
Highest Rank attained (if served after war): No evidence of post Boer War service
Murray Page: 11
Contingent: First New South Wales - First Lancer deployment from UK
Ship: SS Nineveh, Date of Sailing: 10/10/1899 (from UK)

Memorial details: Buried Cooroy Cemetery, Name and record noted at NSW Lancers Memorial Museum, Parramatta NSW.

Decorations: Queen's South Africa Medal with Belmont, Modder River, Relief of Kimberley, Paardeberg, Orange Free State, Transvaal, Johannesburg, Diamond Hill clasps.

Personal Characteristics: George Fenwick was one of those from Lismore who put up £20 (\$20,000 in 2011 terms) to go to the UK in April 1899 and train with British cavalry.

Reasons to go and fight: Was a serving Lancer.

Details of service in war: One of the Lancers' "Fighting 29", he was one of those who at Belmont on 23 November 1899 were the first Australian soldiers to take part in a combat engagement. He served with the squadron until it reached Pretoria. Major Lee, commanding Lancer squadron wrote of George Fenwick when he was to be invalided to Australia:

"I think Fenwick goes home at once; he is a good young fellow and any man may be proud of such a lad as a son." [The Northern Star 5 September 1900.] He was invalided back to Australia arriving 13 November 1900.

Service and life after the Boer War: Sawmiller then Dairy Farmer, Cooroy, Queensland. (buried Cooroy Cemetery)

NEWSPAPER REPORTS OF THE FENWICK FAMILY IN THE NORTHERN STAR, LISMORE

Whilst Robert Fenwick continued his dairying interests until leaving Bexhill in 1907, his sons are recorded in newspaper reports related to their carpentry and building interests. There is a

reference in September 1888 for a George Fenwick winning the tender to build a wharf at Boatharbour on the Wilson River at a cost of 298 pond. Now whilst this would make this George Fenwick 15 years of age if he is one of the Fenwick brothers the wharf mentioned coincidentally is in the correct geographical position where Robert the father lived.

Another reference to a George Fenwick (building and construction) appears when a tender is placed for the building of a bridge. Coincidentally another tenderer was David Rankin. David Rankin is the uncle of George Fenwick through David Rankin being the brother of George's mother, Helen.

Northern Star (Lismore, NSW : 1876 - 1954), Saturday 19 May 1894, page 2

Schroder's Creek Bridge.--The following tenders for the new bridged over Schroder's Creek, on the Lismore-Casino road were received by the Tender Board; Sydney: Erection of low-level timber beam bridge over Schroder's Creek, on the road between Casino to Lismore -George Fenwick, £469 10s David Rankin, £538 10s 3d.....

The following is a report from Alstonville in 1899 just as Trooper George Fenwick was leaving for the Boer War. The name of the people and the families represented provides an insight into the close relationships the people of Wollongbar, McLeans Ridges and Alstonville would have had.

Northern Star (Lismore, NSW : 1876 - 1954), Saturday 25 November 1899, page 8

DISTRICT NEWS

FROM CORRESPONDENTS AND EXCHANGES

ALSTONVILLE

On Friday night last the- cricketers held their annual concert. As usual, it was a great success There was a large audience, and the performers were all well received. There was a gratifying absence of noise on the part of the "gods," and it is to be hoped that all future entertainment will be as orderly. The concert opened with a pianoforte duet by Misses Fenwick and Kirton. Miss Ponton then sang "Come back to Erin" and was well received. Mr. B. Blanch sang "The Pilot" and this item was followed by Miss Janie Gibson's song, "The Summer Shower" which was loudly applauded. Mr McCoy gave "Let me like a Soldier fall." and in response to an encore sang another martial song Master Fred. Fenwick then recited the "Irish Christening," and had the audience in the bets of humor. Miss Mabel Campbell, an Alstonville favorite, who has not appeared in our concert: for some time, then sang "Marguerite," and was compelled to respond to an encore. Mr. F. Bartlett sang in lively fashion "The Skipper of St. Ives" and. being recalled, gave a motto song with success. The first part concluded with a song by Miss Rose Bulwinkel, "Ever of Thee," which was loudly applauded. After short interval the second part was opened by the Misses E. and M. Ponton playing a pianoforte duet. Then followed a dialogue, "Bashful John's Blunders," by the Misses Gibson and Messrs. Gibson and Batterham. This caused considerable amusement and was well received. Miss Campbell then sang admirably "lice where art thou" The duet, by the Misses E, and J. Gibson, "What are the wild Waves Baying?" was loudly applauded. Miss L. Bulwinkel sang "The Wishing Cap," and repeated the last verse on being recalled. "The Skipper and his Bow," sung by Mr. F. Bartlett was well given. Mr. J McNeil then varied the programme by dancing a hornpipe under rather difficult stage conditions. The Chairman, Mr. J. T. Daley, then made a few remarks, and referred to the fact that Trooper George Fenwick, of the Lance Contingent, now at the seat of war, was a member of the Alstonville

Cricket Club. He concluded a short, but spirited address by asking the audience to sing "God Save the Queen." This having been done enthusiastically, Mr A. J. McCoy moved and Mr Miller seconded, "That this meeting sends its greeting and best wishes to Trooper Fenwick and the other Alstonville representatives at the seat of war." This having been carried with three times three, Mr. McCoy sang "The Soldiers of the Queen," which was of course received with tumultuous applause. The war spirit having subsided for a time Miss Lizzie Fenwick amused the audience with an account of the struggles of an "Inventor's Wife," but it broke forth again when Miss Ponton came forward to sing "The Minstrel Boy." Mr. Hodgson then gave "True to the Last, and was encored. Mr. Kirton having recited well, "He wasn't a J.P." Mr. Blanch sang "Teaching McFadden to Waltz." Mr. I McCoy then moved the customary vote of thanks to the Chairman. This having been seconded by Mr. Duncan and carried, was responded to, and Mr. McCoy wound up a capital entertainment with a couple of humorous songs.



Northern Star (Lismore, NSW : 1876 - 1954), Wednesday 3 May 1905, page 4

DISTRICT NEWS.

Mr. VV, Davis, of Rous, has let the building of a new butcher's shop to Mr. Fenwick, of Alstonville. A new residence, containing five rooms will also be erected near the shop.

In the Northern Star Lismore January 13 1906, the Fenwick Brothers donated a prize at the Alstonville Show.

Of interest at this time is the exchange of news between the newspapers of the Wollongong and Lismore areas of New South Wales. Obviously to allow relatives to know of life being experienced by family members. The South Coast Times and Wollongong Argus of 1906 published the following.

South Coast Times and Wollongong Argus (NSW : 1900 - 1954), Saturday 20 October 1906, page 7

NORTH COAST NEWS

We regret to state that Mr. F. Fenwick; of Alstonville, had the misfortune to lose the index finger of his right hand, last week, as the result of a circular saw accident.

The obituary of William Fenwick published in the Northern Star Lismore on January 12, 1933 provides an insight into the Fenwick brothers involvement in the Alstonville – Lismore area. This obituary states that he and his brother, Fred Fenwick were in the joinery and furniture trade. His birth at Ulmarra in 1876 provides further evidence of the move of his parents, Robert and Hellen from Shellharbour in 1874.

Northern Star (Lismore, NSW : 1876 - 1954), Thursday 12 January 1933, page 8

OBITUARY

MR. W. D. FENWICK (William / Bill)

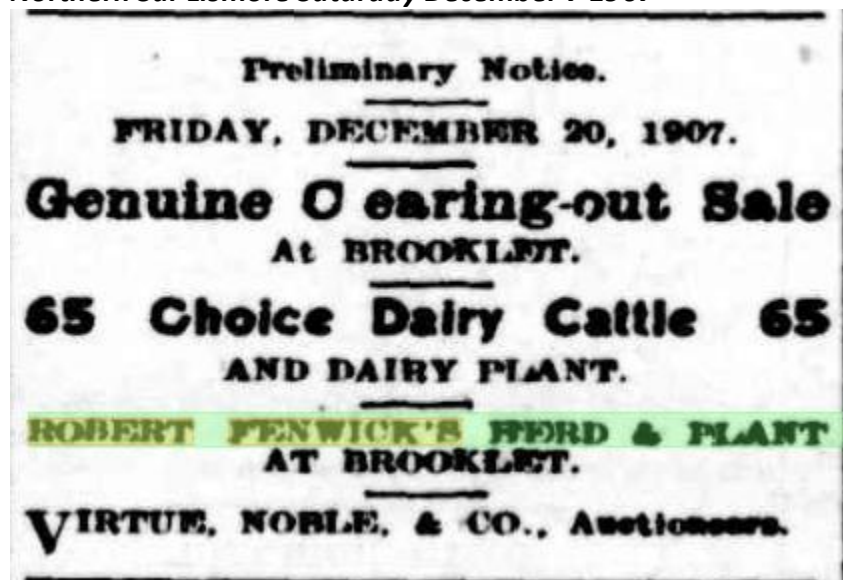
The sudden death of Mr. William David Fenwick occurred at the General Hospital Brisbane, at the age of 56 years. Deceased was the second son of Mrs. R. Fenwick, Cooroy (Q.), and the late Mr. R. Fenwick, who predeceased him two years ago. He was born at Ulmarra (N.S. Wales) in the year 1876.

In 1901 he entered into the joinery and furniture trade with his brother, Fred, and they built a large and up to date shop in Alstonville. In conjunction with this business he carried on house-building. His parents going to Cooroy in 1909, he sold the business at Alstonville and started sawmilling at Cooroy. In 1929 he sold to the present owners, Messrs. Blandford and Co., and went to Wynnum. The deceased was held in high estimation by the residents of Cooroy district. He was treasurer of the Cooroy Show Society for many years, and was eventually made a life member. He was the architect of the Memorial Hall, and supervised its erection. In his earlier days he was associated with the Presbyterian Church, and was a foundation member of the Caledonian Society in Cooroy. He is survived by his wife and adopted daughter, Violet, his aged mother, and three brothers, Messrs. George and Walter (Cooroy), Fred. (Brisbane), and two sisters, Mrs. H. Johnson (Bexhill) and Mrs. Alec McLean (Black Mtn.).

37. ROBERT AND HELEN FENWICK PLANNING TO LEAVE THE RICHMOND AREA

In December of 1907, Robert Fenwick plans to leave the Richmond and move to the Ipswich area of Queensland.

Northern Star Lismore Saturday December 7 1907



In the *Ipswich Times* February 20th 1909, H A Campbell Auctioneers listed the well known dairy property of Robert Fenwick at Willowbank for sale. The property consisted of 69 acres 1 rood and 2 perches.

ROBERT AND HELEN FENWICK IN COOROY

After moving from Mt. Walker in 1909 Robert and Helen Fenwick purchased land at Tinbeerwah on the Cooroy to Noosa Road in 1911.

The Gympie Times and Mary River Gazette on Saturday 8th April 1911 notice of the grant of lease of portion 95 Tewantin to Robert Fenwick. Robert farmed this property until 1915 where poor health caused him to sell. Robert now was now seventy years of age but still lived another 14 years at Cooroy.

Of the Fenwick family, only daughter Ethel did not move to the Cooroy district. She stayed in the Bexhill area and married William Henry Johnson in 1897.

The four sons, George, William (Bill), Fred and Walter (Charlie) as well as their other daughter Elizabeth (McLean) all moved to the Cooroy district.

Of interest is that all four sons had ongoing business interests and Elizabeth had married Alexander McLean of the McLean Brothers who were wheelrights in Alstonville.

Robert Fenwick put his farm at Tinbeerwah up for sale due to his declining health in 1915.

Sale of farm 3 mile from Cooroy in 1915 Clearing Out Sale of Farm and Stock due to failing health.

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| <p>V. C. MARKS, Auctioneer, Cooroy.</p> <p>PRELIMINARY NOTICE.</p> <p>CLEARING OUT SALE OF FARM and STOCK Friday, March 26th, AT 2 O'CLOCK.</p> <p>V. C. MARKS has received instructions from Mr. ROBERT FENWICK, to sell by Public Auction, on account of failing health, the whole of his DAIRY HERD, FARM, PIGS, SEPARATOR, DAIRY UTENSILS, FARM TOOLS, and Sundries. On the Farm 3 Miles from Cooroy. V. C. MARKS, Auctioneer, Cooroy.</p> | <p>to object to the application or to be heard upon it may file a Caveat in the Registry at any time before the grant is made. Dated this twelfth day of March, 1915.</p> <p>POWER & POWER, Solicitor for the said Patrick John Murphy, Mary street, Gympie. Town Agents: Power & Power, 80 Queen street, Brisbane.</p> |
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The Fenwick Home at Tinbeerwah

Nambour Chronicle and North Coast Advertiser (Qld. : 1922 - 1954), Friday 8 March 1929, page 9

Death of Cooroy Resident.

MR. R. FENWICK.

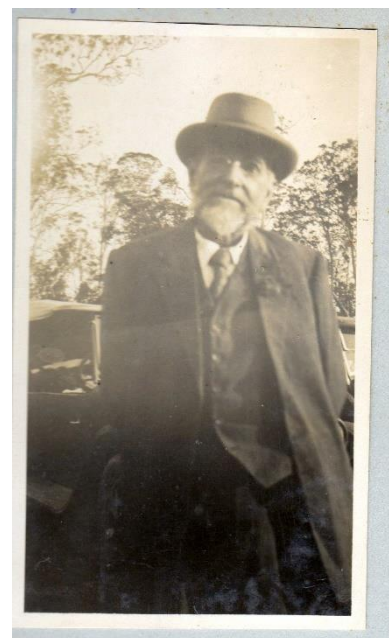
Another settler of the Cooroy district in the person of Mr. Robert Fenwick passed away on last Wednesday, his demise being brought about by an accident when using a scythe at his home. Mr. Fenwick was the eldest son of the late Mr. and Mrs. T. Fenwick, who arrived from the Old Country in

Australia in 1840 and he was born at Shell Harbour, Illawarra district, nearly 84 years ago. In his early manhood deceased removed to the Richmond River, and remained there for 45 years, following farming pursuits, before he sold out and came to Ipswich for a like object. Mr. Fenwick remained at the latter place for two years, and disposing of his interests there, moved again to Cooroy in about 1908, to select land on the re-purchased Dath Henderson Estate, the area being now occupied by Mr. W. Hooper. Nine years ago Mr. Fenwick retired, and has since lived in Cooroy township. Fifty-five years ago Mr. Fenwick married Miss Rankin, and in addition to his widow leaves four sons (Messrs. C. W. Fenwick, of Yarraman Creek, and F. R. Fenwick, or Auchenflower, Brisbane; also two daughters (Mesdames A. McLean, of Cooroy, and H. Johnston, of Binna-burra, N.S.W.) also 25 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. The funeral, which was largely attended, moved to the Cooroy cemetery on Thursday morning, the Rev. I. Nelson performing the obsequies.

Northern Star (Lismore, NSW : 1876 - 1954), Friday 15 March 1929, page 6

MR. ROBERT FENWICK

Mr. Robert Fenwick, who had re-sided with his sons in Cooroy for the past 20 years, died on March 6, after a brief illness. Deceased was working in his garden a few days previous, when he fell and sustained a bruise on the arm. The injury became septic and was the cause of his demise. He was born at Shell Harbour in the Illawarra district- 83 years and 8 months ago, where he engaged in farming, marrying Miss Helen Rankin, who survives him. Fifty-five years ago he went to the Richmond River district and remained there for about 33 years, when he removed to Ipswich, Queensland, and, a little later, to Cooroy. He leaves four sons, Messrs. George (Yarraman), William D. and C. W. (Cooroy) and P. R. (Brisbane), and two daughters, Mesdames H. Johnstone (Binna Burra, N.S.W.) and A. McLean, besides 22 grand-children and 11 great-grandchildren. All of the sons and daughters with the exception of Mr. Geo. Fenwick and Mrs. Johnston, were recalled to Cooroy before the end. A memorial service was held in the Cooroy Presbyterian Church.



Mrs. Helen Fenwick

Telegraph (Brisbane, Qld. : 1872 - 1947), Tuesday 15 October 1940, page 9

DEATH OF COOROY'S OLDEST RESIDENT

COOROY, October 15. — Mrs. Helen Fenwick, Cooroy's oldest resident, who recently celebrated her 90th birthday, died at the home of her son, Mr. Walter Fenwick, at Cooroy, late yesterday. She was a native of the Illawarra district of New South Wales, her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Rankin, hailing from Scotland. She was married in the district where she was born, at the age of 23 years, to Mr. Robert Fenwick. The couple resided on the Northern Rivera of New South Wales for a number of years before coming to Queensland in 1907. They lived in the Ipswich district for a couple of years and

then came to Cooroy. Her husband died 11 years ago, and a son, Mr. W. D. Fenwick, about seven years ago. She is survived by three sons, Frederick R. (Beaudesert), Walter and George (Cooroy). and two daughters, Mesdames H. Johnson (Bangalow), and A. McLean (Mary River Road, Cooroy). There are also 23 grandchildren and 30 great-grandchildren. The funeral will move from the Cooroy Presbyterian Church to the Cooroy Cemetery this afternoon.

Northern Star (Lismore), Saturday, 19 October, 1940 Page 4

The death took place on October 14 in Cooroy (Q), of Mrs. Helen Fenwick, aged 90 years, at the residence of her son, Mr. Walter Fenwick. The late Mrs. Fenwick resided in Cooroy for 30 years. She was born at Shell Harbour, Illawarra district, N.S.W., in 1850. In 1873 she married Robert Fenwick, also of Illawarra. In 1876 they went to the Richmond River, and settled at Wyrallah, later Gundurimba, and at Alstonville till 1908, when they removed to Queensland, and settled at Cooroy. The late Mrs. Fenwick had two brothers, David Rankin (Lismore) and Fred (Dapto), also two sisters, Mrs. Alex Thorburn (Lismore) and Mrs. W Powell (Tweed Heads), all of whom predeceased her. There were four sons, George and Walter (Cooroy), William, who died eight years ago and Frederick (Baudesert, Q); also two daughters, Mrs. H. Johnston (Bangalow) and Mrs. Alex MacLean (Ridgewood, Q). There were 23 grandchildren and 30 great-grandchildren. The remains were interred in the Cooroy cemetery, beside those of deceased's husband, who died 11 years ago.



41. ALEXANDER ALLAN MCLEAN AND ELIZABETH FENWICK

Alexander and Elizabeth were married on the 30th.January 1903 in Ballina or the district of Ballina. They both were children of the first generation Australian born migrants. They grew up in the Wollongbar, Alstonville area just outside of the town of Lismore in northern New South Wales.

Both the Fenwick and McLean families were well known to each other as their parents settled in the Richmond River district at the same time in the 1870s. The McLeans coming from farming at Redbank on the Manner River and the Fenwicks from the Shellharbour district in New South Wales. Both families moved to the Richmond River for the same reason. This was the ability to purchase land and start a family life of their own. In their formative year,s Alexander and Elizabeth attended the social functions of Wollongbar and Alstonville so their relationship was one that would have started at a very young age. On the 1901 census Robert Fenwick with Elizabeth his daughter were listed as living at Wollongbar.

Alexander or Alec McLean was part of the McLean Brothers wheelwright and blacksmith business in Alstonville until he and Elizabeth moved with their young family to the Black Mountain district west of Cooroy in 1907-1908. At the same time as the McLean brothers had their business in Alstonville, Elizabeth's brothers had a carpentry and building business in the same town.

The North Coast railway line had officially been connected to Cooroy from Gympie in 1891 and the train station of Cooroy created. It was but a stop for the Cooroy Estate owned by the sawmillers, Dath, Henderson & Co. The Queensland Government resumed the Cooroy Estate and the surrounding land.

On July 20th 1907, the township of Cooroy was then surveyed and the first allotments sold. The Government sold the surrounding land outside the surveyed township mainly to dairy farmers. Many of these dairy farmers had travelled from the Northern Rivers area of New South Wales. A large parcel of land had previously been opened up around Cooran and a number of Richmond River dairy farmers had purchased land there and had started farming.

Alec McLean was one of the group of Northern Rivers area settlers and farmers that came to select and farm. He selected a piece of land at Black Mountain as part of the newly released Cooroy Estate. Their arrival in the district coincides with the earliest establishment of the township of Cooroy and their names are prominent in fund raising activities for community organisations such as the Black Mountain School, the Cooroy Hospital, the Cooroy Ambulance and the Cooroy Show Association. Alec himself was very prominent in the Cooroy Show Association both as a judge of horses and on the committee.

This move to the Cooroy district and more specifically Black Mountain, also coincided with the move of Elizabeth's siblings, the Fenwick Brothers to Cooroy and the establishment by them of the first sawmill in the district followed by the parents of Elizabeth and her brothers, Robert and Hellen Fenwick.

The children of Alexander Allan McLean and Elizabeth Fenwick

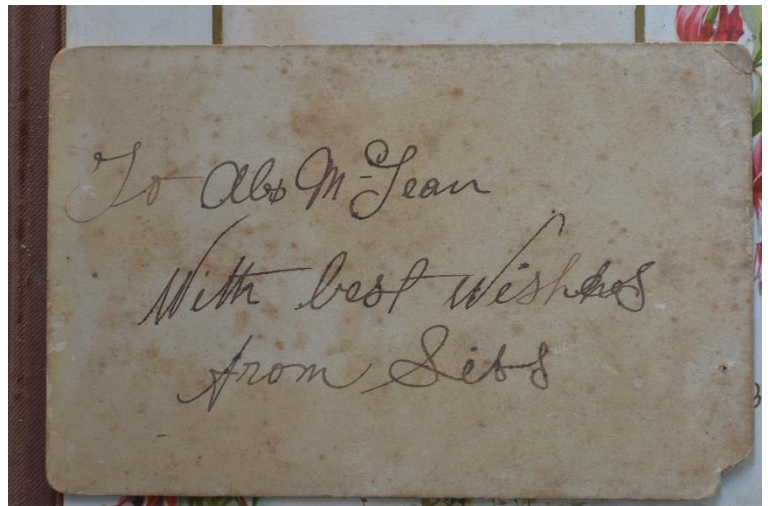
Helen Jean b:1903 d:1977

Harriet Doris b:1905 d: 1992

Ethel Grace b:1907 d:1980
 Ella Irene b:1918 d:2003



This photo of Elizabeth Fenwick (taken at 13 years of age) is from her photo album



On the Back of photo on left. Elizabeth wrote to Alexander (Alec) McLean at 13 years



Alex and Elizabeth (Sissy) McLean in later life at Munna Point, Tewantin

43. FENWICK FAMILY AND COOROY COMMUNITY

The four Fenwick sons, George, William (Bill), Fred and Charles (Walter) moved to Cooroy before their parents and one of their sisters, Elizabeth McLean. They purchased land and commenced the first sawmill in Cooroy township. The Fenwick brothers had timber hauled into their mill by bullock teams down the main street to the mill yard. The area where the logs were stacked is in front of the present library and this area is called Mill Place.

The Fenwick brothers were initially in partnership with Robert Morrish and traded as 'Canadian Sawmills. Morrish sold his interest after a few years. As well as the mill, the Fenwicks owned a large parcel of land on which two houses were built close to the mill and were tenanted by mill employees. The sawmill was steam driven for many years until the electricity was finally connected.

Robert Morrish sold his interest in the sawmill at Cooroy to the Fenwick's in August 1912 and moved to Brisbane.



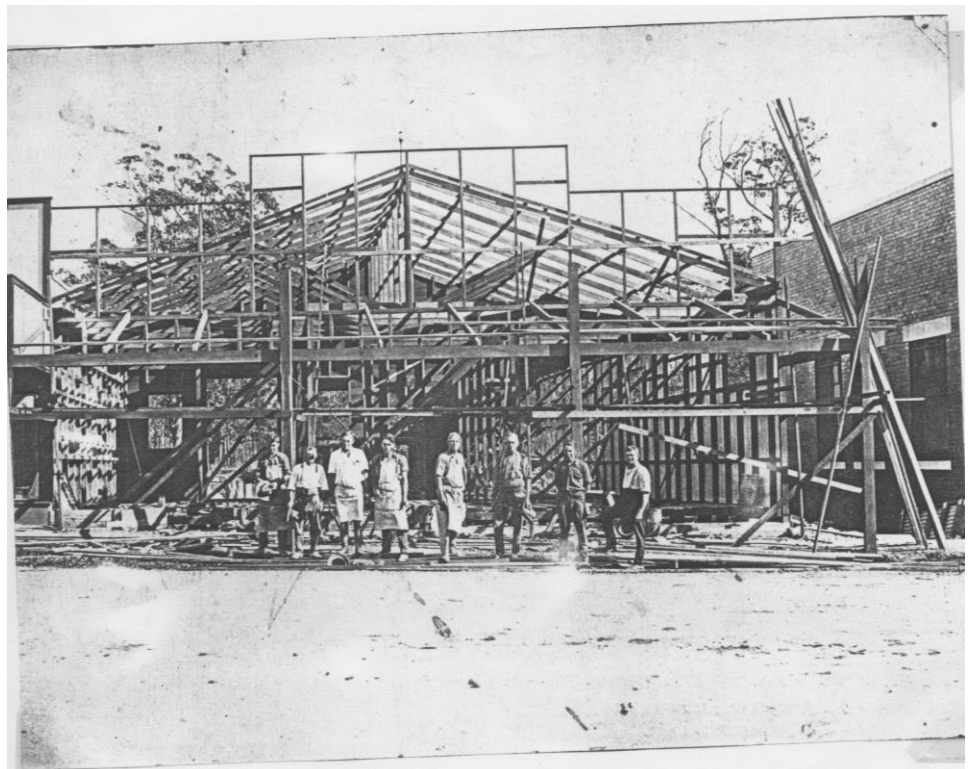
Fenwick Mill at Cooroy 1909

Elizabeth McLean (Fenwick) with her husband, Alec, and family settled in the Cooroy district with their three daughters in 1907 and they lived in a bark hut on the sawmill land where Elizabeth's brothers had established the sawmill. When the parents, Robert and Helen Fenwick moved to the Cooroy district to live all of their family were there with the exception of one daughter, Ethel, who stayed in the Lismore District of New South Wales.

After George Fenwick served in the Boer War and returned to Australia in 1900 he remained in the forces until 1903. George married and with his wife, Maud, moved to Cooroy where they lived in a house north of the sawmill but on the western side of the railway line. This area today is Marrara Drive. George's wife, Maud, lived in Cooroy in their house until she passed away 1976 at the age of 97 years of age. She and her husband, George, are buried in the Cooroy Cemetery.

George sold his interest in the sawmill after a number of years and he and his wife took up dairy farming. Fred Fenwick was a carpenter and built many of the early homes and shops in Cooroy. Fred Fenwick built the Cooroy Memorial Hall and a number of the shops opposite the hall in Maple Street including the pharmacy block.

The Cooroy Memorial Hall built by Fred Fenwick in 1926



Building Springs Pharmacy Cooroy 1930
Alec McLean 6th from left
Fred Fenwick 8th on end
Fred Fenwick built these shops

From documentation, **Nambour Chronicle Friday 11 December 1925**, states:

School of Arts

This institution of which Mr W R Archdall is president and Mr Grant, secretary, is at present located in the building which was originally built about 15 years ago by the residents as an office for the Noosa Shire Council when it was created. However, a vote of those interested decreed that the centre was to be Pomona, so the structure was used as a post office. It will shortly be replaced by a hall, which Mr F Fenwick has secured the contract to build, at a cost of 1,512 pounds.

Nambour Chronicle and North Coast Advertiser (Qld. : 1922 - 1954), Friday 12 February 1926, page 8

Cooroy.

Memorial Hall. At a meeting of the committee of the above, with Mr. W. R. Archdall (president) in the chair, held at Mr. E. A. Crokham's rooms on Thursday evening last, it was decided to accept the tender of Mr. Fred. Fenwick for the erection of the proposed hall, at a cost of £1565. Since the gathering, this gentleman has made a start with the work. Discussion arose in connection with the best methods to employ to collect the balance (about £200) required to pay for the construction of the building, and it was eventually decided a queen competition was the most suitable. The secretary was instructed to ask the Cooroy Women's Guild to co-operate in the matter.

The Cooroy Ambulance Brigade was established in 1911 and it is noted from documentation in 1925 that William (Bill) Fenwick was a member of the Ambulance Brigade Committee.

The Fenwick Brothers sold the mill to Blandford, Llewellyn, Smith and Carter in 1929 who in turn sold out to Straker and sons, Frederick, Frank and Arthur in 1941. The Straker's were saw millers of Cooran who traded as the Cooroy Saw Milling Company. The mill ceased operations in 1972. Even though sold by the Fenwick brothers, the mill was known locally for many years as "Fenwick's Mill".

Of the Fenwick family, the following are buried at Cooroy Cemetery and Tewantin Cemetery:

Cooroy Cemetery:

Robert and Helen Fenwick
George and Maud Fenwick
Charles (Walter) and Ida (nee Sivyer) Fenwick
William Fenwick

Tewantin Cemetery:

Elizabeth McLean (nee Fenwick) and Alex McLean

Photos are available other than those already given to Council and recorded at Sunshine Coast Library.



George and Maud Fenwick's grave and their son, George Carlyle



Charles Walter and Ida Fenwick's graves

OBITUARY OF WILLIAM (BILL) FENWICK AND HIS CONTRIBUTION TO COOROY

Northern Star (Lismore, NSW : 1876 - 1954), Thursday 12 January 1933, page 8

OBITUARY

MR. W. D. FENWICK

The sudden death of Mr. William David Fenwick occurred at the General Hospital Brisbane, at the age of 56 years. Deceased was the second son of Mrs. R. Fenwick, Cooroy (Q.), and the late Mr. R. Fenwick, who predeceased him two years ago. He was born at Ulmarra (N.S. Wales) in the year 1876. In 1901 he entered into the joinery and furniture trade with his brother, Fred, and they built a large and up to date shop in Alstonville. In conjunction with this business he carried on house-building. His parents going to Cooroy in 1909, he sold the business at Alstonville and started sawmilling at Cooroy. In 1929 he sold to the present owners, Messrs. Blandford and Co., and went to Wynnum. The deceased was held in high estimation by the residents of Cooroy district. He was treasurer of the Cooroy Show Society for many years, and was eventually made a life member. He was the architect of the Memorial Hall, and supervised its erection. In his earlier days he was associated with the Presbyterian Church, and was a foundation member of the Caledonian Society in Cooroy. He is survived by his wife and adopted daughter, Violet, his aged mother, and three brothers, Messrs. George and Walter (Cooroy), Fred. (Brisbane), and two sisters, Mrs. H. Johnson (Bexhill) and Mrs. Alec McLean (Black Mtn.).



COOROY SAWMILLS –

The following is taken from “**Geographical Overview of Sawmilling**” by John Kerr January 1998: Cooroy was a logging centre before it was a township, with the firm Dath Henderson having large tracts of land east of Cooroy until resumed from the government in 1907 for closer settlement. This precipitated large scale logging in the time allowed before it took possession. 36 Several sawmills were established to mill timber as the new selections were cleared.

Fenwick Brothers and Morish established a mill on the western side of the town near the creek in 1908 trading as Canadian Saw Mills. In 1910 Clugston and Ireland built a sawmill where the Bowling

Club now stands. It was burnt down in December 1914 but was rebuilt. A siding was provided to the mill in 1916 but it burnt down about 1928.

Other sawmillers included Sivyer and Dunbar from around 1921, W.H. Howard and E.N. Wheeldon 1923 and after the depression, E.H. Llewellyn, listed from 1934, which may be the same mill as Ford Brothers from 1941. Straker and Sons' Cooroy sawmill, trading as the Cooroy Sawmilling Company from around 1944 is the sole mill remaining in the town area. To counter shortages of log timber and safeguard their future, Wilkinsons of Yandina, Strakers of Cooroy and Cooran and Luttons of the Mary Valley joined together to form Northcoast Sawmills Pty Ltd at Cooroy in 1970.

Together they established a new mill at Nandroya in 1972, with logs coming from a wide radius and incorporating modern equipment for efficiency. North Coast Sawmills was acquired by Quintex in 1980 and subsequently Boral which continues to operate both the Cooroy and Nandroya plants.

A fire on 2 May 1997 threatened the Cooroy mill but was confined to a small area leased for experimental product development. The formation of Northcoast Sawmills was a natural development of the partial amalgamation in 1956 when the Cooroy Sawmilling Company of Cooran, Straker & Sons Cooran and J. Wilkinson & Sons of Yandina and Conondale jointly formed Kiln Dried Timbers Pty Ltd to erect four double kilns and new planing mills on an area of three acres at Cooroy. The kilns enable the companies to market timber in southern states and western Queensland where naturally coastal dried timbers are not acceptable. Arthur Straker and Peter Wilkinson supervised the project, the site adjacent to the Cooroy sawmill.



The Fenwick Mill with the log pile where today the Cooroy Library is situated

THE FENWICK AND MORRISH BROTHERS CONNECTION IN ALSTONVILLE AND COOROY

ROBERT MORRISH (Father) - After the death of their father Francis, one of the original selectors at Alstonville or Duck Creek Mountain, as Alstonville was then called. Henry, the eldest son, after the failure of the small sugar mills entered into partnership with his brother Robert for a number of years, trading as H. and R. Morrish, they engaged in the sawmilling business, utilising the old sugar

mill for this purpose. The saw mill was on the Billinudgel Road at Alstonville, New South Wales. Robert died on 9 November 1931 at Mossman, Queensland.

ALSTONVILLE 1908

In April 1908 the Morrish's old established saw mill was put up for auction, as the brothers intended going into other pursuits. Henry Morrish intends to go in for dairying, and his brother Robert has taken over Bewer's coachbuilding and wheelwrighting business in the town. Local people will have to get their timber from either Lismore or Ballina now. Northern Star (Lismore), 16 April 1908.

FAREWELLED - Mr. Robert Morrish, who is leaving Alstonville after a 30 years' residence, was farewelled last week and presented with several souvenirs.

The Richmond River Herald, 4 December 1908.

TRIP TO GYMPIE - Mr. Robert Morrish, of Alstonville, has just returned from a trip to Gympie and through a portion of Queensland. He expresses himself as highly pleased with all the country he saw, especially in the southern districts, where he spent most of his time. He intends to return to the Gympie district in the near future and engage in a sawmilling business. Mr. John Morrish, brother of Mr. R. Morrish, after spending 12 years in Western Australia, has returned to Alstonville for a trip, but after selling out his property will go back to Western Australia. Northern Star (Lismore), 22 July 1908.

Mr. R. MORRISH, of Kingaroy, is back on a visit to friends on the Richmond. He bears out the statements recently published in the R. R. Herald regarding the progress being made on the Brisbane-Gympie line. His mill is kept at full working pressure, and then cannot overtake the orders, so active is the building trade. Dairying is going ahead, and land advancing in value. Better prices, Mr. Morrish says, can be obtained for timber in Queensland than on the Richmond. The Richmond River Herald, 28 January 1910.

The Electoral Roll of 1913 records Robert and Hannah living at Commercial Road, Fortitude Valley, Brisbane, Queensland.



Fenwick Brothers and Mill workers 1909

1909

50. PHOTOGRAPHS OF ROBERT AND HELLEN'S FAMILY DURING THEIR LIFE TIME



Robert and Hellen Fenwick in front of their Cooroy home with Ida Fenwick and her twins, Una and Cliff. The house was in the Mill Grounds.



Bill and Mary Fenwick's home on Pomona Road, Cooroy



On left - Charles (Walter) and Ida Fenwick, on right, Ethel and Harry Johnston



Hellen Fenwick in later life



1911 Taken on top of Cooroy Mountain.
 Jessie Fenwick in black, Mary & Victor Fenwick in front
 Fred Fenwick with Isabel, Bill Fenwick on end right
 Charles & Ida Fenwick marked.



Bill and Mary Fenwick with adopted daughter, Vi



Alexander and Elizabeth (Fenwick) McLean



Hellen Fenwick with Ethel Johnston on right. Annie Dickman standing at rear (Ethel's daughter) and Annie's daughter, Sheila Dickman on left



The Photo Album of Elizabeth McLean (Fenwick) with the first photo in it of her at 13 years of age

55. THE RANKINS (FAMILY OF HELEN FENWICK)

Robert Thomas Fenwick married Helen Rankin on February 5th 1873 in Kiama. Helen was like Robert, first generation born Australian to the emigrant Scottish family of George Rankin and Elizabeth Penny-Cook Murray.

They had emigrated from Scotland and arrived on the ship "Herald" on January 10 of 1844. The "Herald" departed from Greenock, the port for Glasgow and does not appear to have picked up emigrants in other ports.

The Sydney Morning Herald of Thursday January 11 of 1844

It is assumed they were all Scottish emigrants.

From Greenock yesterday, having left on the 10th October, the ship Herald, 911 tons, Captain Coubro, with bounty emigrants.

Passengers - Dr. Sullivan, Mr, and Mrs. Benson and six children, Mrs Aird, and Mrs. Coubro.

The Parramatta Chronicle Saturday January 13 1844

ARRIVAL OF THE SHIP "HERALD " WITH EMIGRANTS.

This splendid vessel has brought three hundred and twenty bounty emigrants, under the superintendence of Dr. Sullivan, consisting of 106 male, and 103 female adults, 47 male, and 45 female children, above three years of age, together with 81 infants; the whole have arrived in a healthy condition, three infants died on the passage, and four births took place. The cleanly state of the vessel and emigrants reflect great credit on the surgeon-superintendent, captain, and officers ; . in fact, the fittings up are superior to any emigrant vessel that ever arrived in the colony. The berths are in two tiers round the ship, and as there are about nine feet 'tween decks there is a free ventilation; each single man or woman had a separate berth, and the married people, two ; the young men were placed in the fore part of the ship, the married, people amidships, and the single women, aft, with hulk-heads between to keep each party separate. The passage made by the Herald, ninety-one days, is the quickest that has been made for some years, and the passengers are about, to present a memorial to the Captain and Surgeon, for the kindness evinced towards them throughout the voyage. The principal part of the male adults are agricultural laborers, but there are also some mechanics— blacksmiths, masons, carpenters, &c.

George Rankin's immigration or shipping papers indicates he was a carpenter and was 26 years of age at the end of 1843. Elizabeth is recorded as 27 years of age on the shipping record. He listed his place of birth as Dundee and his parents were David and Ellen with his father being deceased. The householders certifying their character and physician stating their health condition are listed as living in Ballachulish which is near Glencoe in the Scottish Highlands. Their bounty is listed as 17 pound and 17 shillings but as to her, they contracted to it is not listed.

The earliest records found of George Rankin in the Illawarra District is 1857. In 1860 he had a small farm lease that was put up for sale. He had a considerable number of maintenance contracts with the Shellharbour Council after 1860 therefore he may have returned to his trade as a carpenter. He

would eventually move into the bridge building and construction business before moving and continuing same in the Clarence and Richmond River areas.

GEORGE RANKIN

Illawarra Mercury (Wollongong, NSW : 1856 - 1950), Tuesday 20 March 1860, page 2

District News.

KIAMA.

(From Saturday's Examiner.)

ASSAULT ON A WIFE. — At the Kiama Police Court, on Thursday last, before Messrs. Chapman, Robb, the Mayor and R. S Perrott, J.P.'s, Elizabeth Rankin charged George Rankin with an assault. Mr Waring appeared for the defendant. The plaintiff deposed on the day named therein my husband told our boy who is about fifteen years old, to go over to Broughton Creek across the mountain to Jamberoo, over a road he did not know for a mare. I said it was not right to send him so far by himself on a strange road my husband said he should go. I said if he did I would go with him, and Rankin then beat me. He hit me first in the eye and knocked me down into a chair, he then jumped on me with his knees and pulled me out of the chair by the hair, throwing me on the ground, he then jumped on to me again and kicked me in the back, and beat me till he was tired. A little girl of about six years old caught hold of his hair and told him not to kill me, and he knocked her down too. He is in the constant habit of beating me and calling me names. To Mr Waring: When Rankin struck me I had a saucer in my hand and I may have struck him with it. We have quarrelled more than one hundred times before, but I have always been a dutiful wife to him. He used to beat the children unmercifully and I would try to save them. I never struck Rankin. In defence Rankin said ; My wife had been jawing me a good deal and I give her a push, she then hit me on the head with a saucer and caught me by the hair, and I had to put her down to get away from her.

David Rankin stated: I remember on Monday morning before sunrise, my father wanted me to go to Jamberoo over Saddleback, but I did not know the road, and my mother would not let me go. They were talking about my going, and as my mother was at the fire my father caught hold of her by the hair and shoved her against the wall. My mother then went to the fire again, and as she reached to the fire he threw her on a chair and beat her with his hands about the head. She was not saying anything to him. He then knocked her on the ground and got on her with his knees and kicked her, and got up a big stool to hit her, but she stopped it. Mother then went away to Duncan's. To Mr Waring: I saw cuts on my father's face. He had no cuts before the row. My mother did not provoke my father. I saw the saucer on the floor after the row was over, but I did not see her hit him with it. She did not strike my father first after he pushed her. They often quarrel, but I never heard her speak cross to him. He very often beats her.

The Bench lectured Rankin on his gross behaviour to his wife, and sentenced him to one month's imprisonment in Wollongong gaol, and then to find sureties to keep the peace for six months, himself in 50/ and two sureties in 25/ each.

Illawarra Mercury (Wollongong, NSW : 1856 - 1950), Tuesday 18 February 1862, page 4

COLONIAL EXTRACTS.

Snake Awakening: — One night last, week, Mrs. George Rankin, residing near the township, was awoke in the middle of the night by a horse perambulating round the house, and leaving that the animal was at the wheat -stack, she awoke her husband who went to see if such was the case.

During his absence she was adjusting the bed clothes, and found a large black snake close to her little girl's feet. She drew the child from the bed and covered the snake up again. Mr. Rankin endeavoured to kill the monster, but it made its escape; it was, however, discovered the next evening making its way again into the house, looking, no doubt, for the warm quarters of the previous night. The snake was this time killed, and found to measure over 6 feet in length

Illawarra Mercury (Wollongong, NSW : 1856 - 1950), Tuesday 20 December 1870, page 2

We learn from the Government Gazette that the tender of Mr George Rankin, of Shellharbour, has been accepted for the erection of the bridge at Mullet Creek.

The Rankins Move North

The Rankins had moved to the Clarence as indicated by Helen's older brother Frederick's marriage at Dapto in 1878.

Illawarra Mercury (Wollongong, NSW : 1856 - 1950), Tuesday 24 December 1878, page 2

MARRIAGE. RANKIN— McPAUL. *By special license, at St. Luke's Church, Dapto, on the 18th December instant, by the Rev. J. Stack, Frederick M., second son of Mr. George Rankin, Clarence River, to Sarah Ann, third daughter of Mr. George McPaul.*

Death of George Rankin

Northern Star (Lismore, NSW : 1876 - 1954), Wednesday 6 April 1898, page 2

Deaths. *On Sunday last Mr. George Rankin, an old identity of the district, and father of Mr. David Rankin of South Lismore, died rather suddenly at his residence, Bexhill. Under the circumstances a magisterial inquiry was deemed advisable, and this was held on Monday, before Mr. James Barrie, J.P. John Scanlon, a labourer, who had been working the past four months for deceased on his farm (a special area near Bexhill) stated that deceased complained about 6 or 7 weeks ago of failing health. On the previous day, at breakfast time, he complained of weakness, and at intervals during the day said he thought he was going to die. About 4 o'clock he sat down on the doorstep in the draught and after a while a witness assisted him to his bed, but he came back and sat down again in the doorway. Witness was sitting in a room adjoining, and could see deceased. About 5.30pm he noticed deceased's head drop forward, and he went and carried him to the bed where he died without a struggle a few minutes afterwards. David Rankin, son of deceased, de-posed he last saw him alive over two weeks ago.*

Deceased lived on a special area selection, taken up by him about three years ago. He was a native of Dundee and was born on 12th July, 1815. His wife survives him. The result of the inquiry was a finding of death from senile decay. Deceased was for many years resident on the Clarence, where, in conjunction with his two sons, he assisted in the construction of many of the important bridges and wharves in that district.

George Rankin Business

Northern Star (Lismore, NSW : 1876 - 1954), Wednesday 14 May 1884, page 3

A ROCK BORING MACHINE, capable of boring fourteen inches diameter, also a File Driving Engine and Monkey, weighing twenty-one hundred weight; ditto, one twenty-two hundred weight. For particulars apply to GEORGE RANKIN,

Northern Star (Lismore, NSW : 1876 - 1954), Saturday 4 August 1894, page 3

George Rankin is the lowest tenderer for the bridge over Tuckombil Creek, at £3,440.

Death of Mrs George Rankin (Elizabeth Penny-Cook Murray)

Kiama Independent, and Shoalhaven Advertiser (NSW : 1863 - 1947), Tuesday 13 November 1900, page 2

MRS. G. RANKIN. (Elizabeth Penny-Cook Murray)

Mrs. RANKIN passed away at the residence of her son-in law, Mr. Robert Fenwick, Wollongbar, on the 30th Oct. Deceased was born in Dundee, Scotland, in 1816, and was married in 1840, and came to the colony in 1844 with her husband and settled in the Shellharbour district for some years. Many good tales she could tell of the pioneer days and their hardships, Leaving Shellharbour Mrs. Rankin settled on the Clarence for a number of years, and then went to the Richmond River. The cause of death was hastened by a fall from a buggy at Lismore some months ago; she had never had good health since. Deceased leaves behind a number of sons and daughters, 39 grand children, most of who reside on the Richmond River, Tweed River, and South Coast.

In referring to the death at Lismore of Mrs. G. Rankin, a correspondent writes: On Tuesday, October 30: one of the oldest and most interesting personalities that has been associated with Lismore, passed away, in the person of Mrs. George Rankin, relict of the late Mr. Geo. Rankin. The late Mrs. Rankin was a native of Dundee and was a splendid type of the vigorous indomitable Scottish race. Her arrival in this colony dated back to 1841, as that her life, in her adopted country, covers the most interesting epoch since the earliest days of settlement. Her first years were passed at Shellharbour and Illawarra. Deceased leaves three daughters and two sons, including Mr. F. Rankin, of Unanderra.



Elizabeth Rankin (seated on right), Hellen Fenwick (standing)
Ethel Johnstone (Hellen's daughter) seated with her daughter, Annie

David Rankin, brother of Helen Rankin

Northern Star (Lismore, NSW : 1876 - 1954), Saturday 13 May 1916, page 5

FROM EGYPT.

Mr. David Rankin, of Boatharbour, is in receipt of a letter from his son, Private D. P.1 Rankin, from "somewhere" in Egypt.

He states Lismore is well represented among the hoys in uniform. He says the heat is very trying, so also are the flies and mosquitoes. He adds-that life is well and mentions that his brother Ernest had arrived, although he had not been able to see him, as their camp had been shipped further out.

Northern Star (Lismore, NSW : 1876 - 1954), Friday 20 September 1918, page 2

PERSONAL.

Mr. David Rankin, Boatharbour, has been advised by Base Records that his son, Private David Price Rankin, was killed in action in France on 28th August. Private Rankin enlisted from Lismore 2 and a half years ago, and has seen service in Egypt and France. He had been previously wounded. Another brother, Corporal Ernest Rankin, was wounded on 29th August.

Northern Star (Lismore, NSW : 1876 - 1954), Monday 4 August 1919, page 2

Mr. David Rankin is in receipt of news by cable that his son, Corporal Ernest. Rankin, was to sail per Suevic via the Cape on 31st July, and expected to be home about 1st October. He has seen nearly four years' service.

Death of David Rankin Snr.

Northern Star (Lismore, NSW : 1876 - 1954), Monday 29 September 1919, page 4

OBITUARY. -

Mr. David Rankin

One by one the sturdy pioneers of this district are crossing the 'Great Divide' leaving behind them memories that will be revered by all who have only but a faint idea of the trials and hardships endured in the task which beset them in the work of opening up what is admittedly the garden of New South Wales.

The-subject of this notice, Mr. David Rankin, who passed away at the residence of Mr. Thorburn, South Lismore, on Thursday last at the age of 75 years, was" not one of those who settled on the land, but he was one who did great pioneering work in the construction of bridges, wharves, etc., which enabled the early settlers to reach their market free, from the, dangers which otherwise would have beset them. He was an excellent man at, his trade, (and many a bridge and wharf in the Clarence, Richmond and Tweed districts to-day stand as 'monuments' to the faithful manner which lie carried out the work entrusted to him. Like a large number of the sterling men of this district today"

Mr. Rankin hailed from the South Coast, being a native of Jamberoo.

His first connection with the North Coast was when he landed on the Clarence nearly 50 years ago. He immediately entered upon bridge building, his first work being the construction of a bridge over Alumny Creek in 1873. Then followed the bridge over Whiteman's Creek, while a bridge was also constructed on the Newton Boyd road. Numerous wharves were also constructed on the Clarence. Mr. Rankin then came on to the Richmond, his first work, in this district being the building of the bridge Over Emigrant Creek, near Ballina. From that time up to his demise he resided on the Richmond, but he faithfully constructed many wharves on the Tweed. In fact from the Clarence to the Tweed, in almost all directions, are to be found bridges and wharves constructed by "Davie" Rankin as he was familiarly called.

There was a (short break in his pioneering bridge work), and that was when he became landlord of the Mid Junction Hotel at North Lismore, which he conducted for some years. Shortly after retiring from hotelkeeping, Mr. Rankin lost his wife, which was a severe blow to him for he was left with a family of small children, most of whom are now settled down comfortably in life.

The deceased was of sterling spirit, a true friend, and a most excellent master, never expecting his men to do more, than a fair day of work. Many a man today can tell of the good turn done him by David Rankin in-the days when a true friend - was badly needed.

Mr. Rankin married Miss Jane Price, of Jamberoo, and there was a family of two sons and five daughters. The latter are Mrs. Butt (Boatharbour), Mrs. Turner (Gympie), Mrs. Fiddies, and Misses Mabel and Edith (Sydney), the two sons being Ernest and David. He leaves a brother Frederick (Sydney), and three sisters, Mrs. Fenwick (Cooroy, Q.), Mrs. Powell (Tweed Heads), and Mrs. Thorburn (South Lismore) and three grandchildren. The two sons answered the call to the flag,

David paying the supreme sacrifice while Ernest returned only a week prior to the death of his father. The death of David was a heavy blow to Mr. Rankin in his declining years, but he bore up bravely, and oft expressed the wish to see his son Ernest before he passed away. It is pleasing to note that his wish was gratified. For the past couple of years it could be noticed that the sturdy pioneer was failing, and his death was due to senile decay. The funeral took place on Friday last the remains being laid to rest in the Presbyterian, portion of the general cemetery, the Rev. A McKillop officiating at the graveside, while the Masonic service was conducted by the W.M., Bro. A. Caldwell.

CONCLUSION

As you can see from this research, we, the descendants of Thomas and Harriet Fenwick, have a heritage through them which goes back to the early days of colonial Australia shortly after the cessation of convicts arriving in this country.

Enjoy our heritage and share it with our families and be proud of the Fenwick name.