

# GRONO FAMILY ASSOCIATION

## Newsletter No.6

23 January 2009

We hope that your Christmas was a very happy one and that 2009 will be filled with good health and happiness for all our members and their families. 2009 is promising to be quite a busy and exciting year with our Family Reunion and River Cruise in May, and the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations for the Ebenezer Church in June.

## Hawkesbury River Cruise – Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2009



As mentioned in our previous newsletter we have booked the Hawkesbury Paddlewheeler for Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2009 as part of our Reunion festivities.

The cruise will give us an opportunity to see the river as John Grono experienced it. The 4 hour cruise will travel at a leisurely pace up the Hawkesbury River to around Ebenezer before returning to Windsor, and includes a two course meal.

Spaces are limited to the first 100 people – so please book early so as not to miss out. Please place all bookings no later than 13<sup>th</sup> April 2009.

**Please find enclosed with this newsletter a River Cruise booking form** to be completed and sent in with your payment for the cruise. We look forward to sharing a fun and relaxing day on the River with you.

**When:** 1:20 p.m. for a 1:30 p.m. departure  
Returning at approximately 5:30 p.m.

**Cost:** \$45 per adult  
\$22.50 per child (3 – 13 years)

**Menu:** BBQ lunch including

- Rump steak
- Grilled fish
- Sausages and onions
- Array of salads
- Choice of 2 desserts
- Tea and Coffee

**Note:** Drinks are not included and must be purchased separately.  
The Paddlewheeler has a fully licensed bar.

**Location:** Windsor Bridge Wharf, Windsor NSW 2756 (see map below) – ample parking is available at the wharf.



## Grono Family Reunion – Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2009

Please find enclosed with this newsletter a Reunion Registration form. We are encouraging those who know that they will be attending this year's reunion to register in advance. This will allow us to prepare name tags and speed up the registration process on the day of the reunion.

**When:** Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2009

**Where:** Ebenezer Uniting Church Grounds  
Coromandel Rd, Ebenezer

**Time:** 10:00 a.m.

- BYO Lunch
- Hot water will be available in the hall for tea/coffee.
- There are only a limited number of picnic tables, so it is advisable to bring your own chairs and/or picnic rugs.

On the Reunion Day we will have a container collecting gold coin donations for the Ebenezer Church. The Ebenezer Church kindly allows us to use their grounds at no cost, and this is our way of thanking them and contributing towards their upkeep.

**The reunion will be on RAIN, HAIL or SHINE!!!!!!**

*Note: Please do not sit at the tables near the School House.*

## Activities on the reunion day include:

- Official Welcome
- Family Reunion Photos
- Tours of the Ebenezer Church grounds, as well as a walk down to the quarry and landing beach (a short walk from the Church) – we are very grateful to Ted Brill who has offered to conduct these tours for us.
- Blessing Service (conducted by Rev. Grant Bilby, Minister for Ebenezer Uniting Church)
- Self-guided tours of Ebenezer Church and grounds
- Family information, including photos, will be on display in the hall
- Schoolmaster's house (next to the church) – contains small museum and souvenir shop

## HELPERS NEEDED FOR REUNION!!!!

We are looking for a few people to assist on the day of the reunion. (The main task will be to assist on the registration table). If you are able to spare some time please contact call Karen on 02 9898 1717 or email: [gronofamily@gmail.com](mailto:gronofamily@gmail.com). Thank you.

For those of you who may be staying in the area for a few days, some other places of interest are:

### Hawkesbury Regional Museum

Contains exhibits on local history, in particular has information on John Grono, and items owned by the Grono family on display.

Hours: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Wed - Fri)  
10 a.m. – 3 p.m. (Sat & Sun)  
Closed on Mon & Tues

Entry cost: Free

Where: 8 Baker St,  
Windsor NSW 2756  
Ph: (02) 4560 4655



*Image of the Hawkesbury Regional Museum, reproduced with permission.*

## **Hawkesbury Central Library**

Contains an excellent family and local history section.

Monday - Friday      9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
Saturday              9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Sunday                2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Where: 300 George Street  
Windsor NSW 2756  
Ph: (02) 4560 4460

## **Hawkesbury Visitor Information Centre**

The visitor centre is able to provide maps and information on the Hawkesbury area, including information on accommodation.

The Visitor Information Centre is open 7 days a week

Monday - Friday      9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Saturday - Sunday    9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Where:

Ham Common (opposite Richmond RAAF Base) Hawkesbury Valley Way  
Clarendon NSW 2756

[PO Box 146, Windsor]

Ph: 61 (02) 4578-0233 or 1300 362 874 (inside Australia)

Fax: 61 (02) 4578-0633

Email: [hawkesburytourism@pacific.net.au](mailto:hawkesburytourism@pacific.net.au)

## **Useful information on the Hawkesbury Region – Hawkesbury Tourism Website**

The link for this site is: <http://www.hawkesburytourism.com.au/>

It contains information about the Hawkesbury area, including the history and heritage of the area and accommodation and local attractions.

## **Ebenezer Church Bicentenary**

Celebrations for the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ebenezer Church are planned to extend over 3 days in June 2009, with the main day being 20<sup>th</sup> June 2009.

### **Friday 19 June:**

- Static displays open in the pavilion.
- Devonshire teas available during the day.

### **Saturday 20 June – MAIN DAY - from 10:00 a.m.:**

- displays open, including displays and information on the Grono Family
- BBQ & food stalls,
- souvenirs,
- re-enactments & entertainment,
- outdoor service

### **Sunday 21 June – From 10:30 a.m. – Family Picnic Day:**

- displays open,
- musical entertainment,
- BBQ,
- Devonshire teas,
- historical walk-and-talks in church grounds and to the nearby quarry and beach

## **Family Stories**

Thank you to Mrs Amanda Waller for sending in the following information about her great-great-grandmother, Esther Margaret Middleton (a descendant of Ann Grono and James Smallwood).

*If you have a family story you would like to share please fill in the “Family Story” form attached at the end of this newsletter and send it in to us (our contact details can be found on the last page of the newsletter).*

### ***Esther Margaret MIDDLETON***

My great-great-grandmother, Esther Margaret Middleton was the great-granddaughter of John Grono.

Esther was born on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 1852 in Pitt Town the youngest daughter of Elizabeth Smallwood and Peter Middleton. Elizabeth was the daughter of James Smallwood and Ann Grono (daughter of John and Elizabeth Grono). Esther was known to her family as Ettie. I have discovered through my research that Ettie had a rather sad life. She was born five months after the death of her father, Peter, who died in a tragic accident at Mudgee. Ettie’s mother Elizabeth was left with three small children to look after and a baby on the way. Elizabeth remarried and had six more children to her second husband Phillip Williams.

Little is known of Ettie’s early years. She next appears in Terrari NSW, in the Narrabri area at the age of twenty three and has a relationship with Ruben Gunter giving birth to a daughter Margaret Esther in 1875. Unfortunately Margaret Esther lived for only ten weeks dying of measles. It appears the relationship with Ruben Gunter does not survive either.

Ettie married Andrew Barber on the 14<sup>th</sup> February 1876, at the age of twenty four, at Narrabri. Ettie and Andrew had four children, Mary Ann (my great-grandmother) born on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 1877 at Boolcarol Station, Wee Waa; Frederick John born 1879 at Narrabri; Emma May born 1881 at Narrabri; and Florence Elizabeth born 1884 Pitt Town.

Family knowledge passed on from Mary Ann to her daughter Ada Brown was that Andrew and Ettie returned to Pitt Town with the three eldest children. Ettie gave birth to her youngest child Florence after arriving in Pitt Town. Andrew left Ettie and the children at Pitt Town and the family did not hear from him again. I have been unsuccessful in my efforts to trace Andrew after he left Pitt Town.

Esther passed away in Pitt Town on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 1884 at the age of thirty two and is buried in the Anglican Cemetery Pitt Town. Baby Florence passed away on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 1885, six months after her mother, she too is buried at the Anglican Cemetery Pitt Town, both graves are unmarked. Ettie's and Florence's deaths were reported by Ettie's brother-in-law Henry Williams.

The children, Mary Ann, Frederick and Emma were fostered by relatives in Pitt Town.

It would appear Ettie's eldest daughter Mary Ann was traumatised by the death of her mother and sister and the loss of her father at such a young age. She married William Arthur Clark at his residence at Maraylya in 1899. Mary Ann obviously didn't plan to go anywhere once she had a home of her own as she spent the next sixty two years of her life at the property, giving birth to ten children there, only leaving when she was required to vote. She too was blessed with the Grono gene for longevity dying at the age of 84 years.

*Amanda Waller  
15/1/2009*

## **Searching for Descendants of Hercules William Frost CURWOOD and Doris Jane Valentyne GRONO**

Les Curwood (in the U.K.) is seeking contact with descendants of Hercules William Frost CURWOOD and Doris Jane Valentyne GRONO.

### **Hercules William Frost CURWOOD**

born: 1898 Norsman, W.A.  
died: 1976 W.A.

### **Doris Jane Valentyne GRONO**

born: 1898 Bowral, N.S.W.  
died: 1989 W.A.

Hercules and Doris married in 1923 in Perth, W.A.

Les is interested in the CURWOOD family name in both the U.K. and Australia. He would like to find out more about Hercules William Frost CURWOOD and his family. Les has a lot of information about Hercules William Frost CURWOOD's ancestry on the CURWOOD side of the family, and is willing to share this with interested descendants.

*If you would like to contact Les Curwood then please email the Grono Family Association (gronofamily@gmail.com) or write to us and we will forward your message on to Les.*

## Membership Renewal

For most members their membership of the Grono Family Association will expire on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2009. We invite those members to renew their membership with us for a further two years – the cost remains the same - \$20 for two years. Membership renewal forms have either been included with this newsletter for those who receive a printed version or mailed out to those who receive an electronic version of the newsletter.

## Are Your Contact Details Up to Date?

Please remember to forward your new email address or mailing address details to us if you move. Thank you.

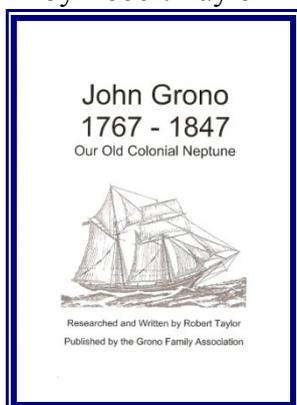
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### CONTACT INFORMATION:

<b>Coordinator:</b> Karen Mills	 <b>Email:</b> gronofamily@gmail.com
<b>Secretary:</b> Mandy Waller	 <b>Postal address:</b> 1 Johnston Street Pitt Town, NSW 2756
<b>Treasurer:</b> Nigel Mills	 <b>Phone:</b> (02) 9898 1717 (Nigel & Karen Mills)
<b>Webmaster:</b> Karen Mills	<b>Fax:</b> (02) 4572 3805
<b>Researcher:</b> Karen Mills	
<b>Photo Collection:</b> Marilyn Langler	
 <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~gronofamily/index.htm">http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~gronofamily/index.htm</a>	

# PUBLICATIONS

## John Grono 1767-1847: Our Old Colonial Neptune by Robert Taylor



**Cost:** \$35 per book + \$7 postage

**Contact the Association for an order form, or download one off our website.**

Funds raised from the sale of this book will be divided between Ebenezer Church, Hawkesbury Regional Museum, and restoration of Grono Family Graves.

## Reprint of "Two Hawkesbury Sailors"

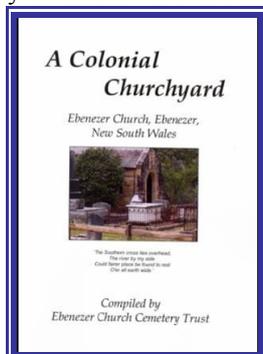
*Advance* orders continue to be taken for the second edition of  
"Two Hawkesbury Sailors"  
by the Grono-Books Association

To place an order (or for further information) please call **Ted Books** on either (02) 4577 3932 or 0415 901 159, **or send us an email** and we will forward your message on to Ted.

Book proceeds will go towards restoration of the Grono Family Vault in the church ground at Ebenezer Uniting Church.

**Cost:** approximately \$45 per book

## A Colonial Churchyard compiled by Ebenezer Church Cemetery Trust



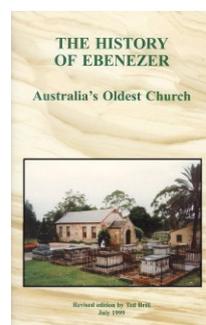
This publication was released in 2006. It provides complete transcriptions of all headstones/vaults and maps of grave locations for the cemetery within the Ebenezer Church grounds.

**Cost:** Book - \$38 (includes postage)  
CD - \$25 (includes postage)

**Orders** may be placed with:  
Ted Brill,  
59 Tizzana Rd,  
Ebenezer, NSW, 2756

Please make cheques payable to  
"Ebenezer Church Shop".

## THE HISTORY OF EBENEZER Australia's Oldest Church



This edition released in 1999 includes information on the fifteen church pioneer families and the building of the church and school.

**Cost:** \$6 per copy (includes postage)

**Orders** may be placed with:

Ted Brill,  
59 Tizzana Rd,  
Ebenezer, NSW, 2756

Please make cheques payable to  
"Ebenezer Church Shop".



# GRONO FAMILY ASSOCIATION

## Memories and Family Stories

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We all know how to trace our family tree, we search official records and usually we can trace where our ancestors were born, married, lived and died. The stories that made these people who they were and the challenges they faced are often passed down as “oral family history”.

It would be nice to have a record of some of these stories so that future generations could share them. Do you know any stories in your line of the Grono Family? The stories don't have to be about heroic deeds, it could be about the courtship of grandparents. Did anyone hold an important community service position, i.e. volunteer fire chief? Did a child get lost in the bush? There are so many descendents of John and Elizabeth Grono that there must be a wealth of stories to be recorded.

*Person remembering the story:*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

*Person the story is about:*

\_\_\_\_\_

*The Story:*

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