

Newsletter No.7

14 July 2009

Well it certainly has been a busy six months – with many opportunities for us to come together as the Grono family!

Hawkesbury River on the Hawkesbury Paddlewheeler. Thank you to Ted Books who kindly provided some commentary on the day, pointing out a number of places of interest. Below are a few photos....



Grono Family Reunion

Thank you to all those who managed to attend our family reunion on Sunday 3rd May at Ebenezer Church, especially those who travelled long distances to be there! Over 140 descendants gathered to celebrate the 210th anniversary of the arrival of John and Elizabeth Grono and family to Australia on the *HMS Buffalo*.



Grono Family Reunion 2009 Group Photo

OUR NEXT REUNION WILL BE on Sunday 1st May, <u>2011</u> at Ebenezer Church, Ebenezer, NSW

Ebenezer Church Bicentenary, Saturday 19th June

Despite the wet weather, a great day was had by all who attended. All the founding families were well represented, including our Grono family. The Grono Family Association shared a marquee with the Stubbs Family Association (to keep costs down) – where we had family information and photos on display. We had a steady stream of visitors throughout the day.

Visitation to the Grono family by Lady Jane Franklin in 1839

Earlier this year the GFA received a fascinating email from David Jolly which he has kindly allowed us to share with you all....

David wrote: "As a Tasmanian by birth, I have always been interested in the early history of that state and in following that interest, I recently read annotated extracts from the 1839 diary of Lady Jane FRANKLIN, the wife of the Lieutenant Governor of Van Diemen's Land. Those extracts were published in "The Errant Lady" by Penny RUSSEL in 2002 (994.02 FRAN).

What has this got to do with the GFA, I almost hear you thinking! Well, in 1839, Lady Jane made a famous overland journey with her maid and a small group of minders and soldiers from Melbourne to Sydney. It took about 2 months and when she arrived she spent another month as a guest of Sir George GIPPS, Governor of NSW, while she inspected settlements in the Port Stephens, Hunter River and Hawkesbury regions.

Whilst visiting the Hawkesbury, in company with William BROUGHTON, the Anglican Bishop of Sydney, Lady Jane met and interviewed residents and notable citizens over a period of about two weeks. All the while, whilst travelling by road and by river, she maintained her detailed diary.

On Wednesday, 26 June 1839, the touring party left "Ulinbawn", the property of Cyrus DOYLE near Windsor, and went downriver by boat. A little short of Cattai Creek, they stopped at the site of some boat building activity on the riverbank. Then appears the following diary entry that I felt might be of interest to GRONO researchers (or perhaps the convenor of a trivia evening!). I will quote it verbatim hereunder:

".....stop at boat building under cottage, Grono's - 7 miles from Windsor (*Note: Now Gronos Point*) - on landing found dinner going on of mutton chops & tea. A fine looking man is Grono, native of colony & she also native. 4 children & a brother or sister's child - are of Welsh origin & Presbyterians. Man & appearance plain and dark, are building a boat of 14 feet keel for Mr Marsden of Windsor - to cost 12 guineas with pair of sculls - built of Blue Gum from banks of Colo - talked of worm which perforates the trees here - was told that if boats lay at anchor 3 weeks, she would be eaten up with worms - are like small beetle. They roll themselves & eat their way thro', making perfectly circular hole under the ledge of the planking. These worms are chiefly found in parts of river where it is sweetish or brackish, not quite fresh - much better to use boat than lay it up on account of worm. Boat should be kept dry & turned keel upward in sun, when worms come out - then pitch the hole. Snachall (*her maid: DJ*) told the woman in our absence who we were, the Governor's lady of VDL & the Bishop of Sydney - indeed! On being asked by Bishop, she said she was fond of reading & her husband too, & they always read of an evening. He promised to send her some books - rooms neat & children dirty."

The next day, on their way back to Sydney by road, it was recommended that the party should stop to inspect the orange groves of William MOBBS at Parramatta. I was also interested in that reference, because MOBBS' daughter-in-law was Maria GRONO, daughter of John and Elizabeth GRONO. Maria GRONO was my 3 great grandmother."

Now by this stage I know that you are all wondering just which GRONO did Lady Jane visit?

Well as best I can work out, according to the information we have on the Grono family, it seems most likely that the family in question was that of John Joel GRONO and his wife Mary Ann HARRISON. At the time of Lady Franklin's diary he was living in that area and had 4 children at that time, he also was a ship's carpenter, and was native born as was Mary Ann. None of John and Elizabeth's other son's seem to fit the description, as they either had more children than described or not enough. William GRONO was also a ship builder but had 5 children by 1839; Thomas wasn't married yet; and John jnr and his wife were not natives of the colony and only had 3 living children.

KM

Family Stories

Thank you to Mr Philip Moore, Mr Les Tod and Mrs Joan Grono for sending family stories (below) to share with us.

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).

MOORE/LYONS Family Recollections

The only family story relating to the Grono family, came via my father Trevor Moore who as a boy, spent his school holidays boating to the Hawkesbury River in his uncle's cruiser named "Buffalo". I believe that "Uncle Ollie" (who I recall when I was 4 yrs) or Ollie Lyons was son of Charles Lyons from Lyons Boatshed at the Spit. My father also said that they would often cruise up the Colo River to pay a visit to a great aunt, Margaret Grono who lived on a riverside property.

The *Buffalo* was a approx. 40' timber vessel with a motor/sailer rig. According to Wendy Lyons, daughter of Jack Lyons, the vessel was used for evacuation drill, should the need be to escape from a Japanese attack during WWII.

The *Buffalo* was taken y the Aust. Navy for coastal patrol, however it is not known what happened to the cruiser after wartime.

Philip Moore (a descendant of Thomas GRONO and Catherine BYRNE) 25 February 2009

ELIZABETH McKENZIE Grand daughter of John and Elizabeth Grono Daughter of Jane Grono and Robert McKenzie

John and Elizabeth Grono's daughter Jane married Robert McKenzie on 13 April 1818 in Windsor. It is believed that Robert McKenzie was one of the sailors from the ship *Active* marooned on the New Zealand coast and rescued in 1813 by Captain John Grono and his crew on the *Governor Bligh*.

Jane had two children to Robert: Elizabeth, born 1821 and John Robert, born 1823. Robert McKenzie died in 1825 and is buried at Ebenezer Church. He would have only been around 33 years of age. Jane later married Michael Mitchell and had a further six children.

Elizabeth McKenzie married a former convict, Robert Beavis, at Scots Church, Windsor on 22 April 1840. Robert had been arrested in Dorset in 1830 for stealing a sheep. He was sentenced to Life Imprisonment at Dorset Assizes on 12 March 1830. He was fortunate he was not hanged! Instead he was transported to Australia in 1830 on the convict ship *Burrell*.

He was sent to Port Stephens where he was employed by the Australian Agricultural Company. This company had been given a huge land grant and comprised a village called Carrington, a church, lime kilns, tarring pits, school and a population of 500. Due to his good behaviour, Robert was granted a Ticket of Leave on 18 February 1839, but he was never allowed to return to England.

How he came to meet Elizabeth McKenzie is not known, but they were married only a year later, in 1840, at Windsor. The couple had nine children. The first two were born in Windsor and Ebenezer, so perhaps Robert worked for Elizabeth's grandfather, John Grono. After a few years, they moved to the Marsfield area, possibly on an orchard or farm; then later to Paddington. By then Robert's brother Jacob had arrived in the colony as a free man, and became an agent in the Belmore Markets in Campbell Street, Haymarket. It is likely Jacob employed Robert there.

In 1874 a great tragedy befell the family. One of their sons, Jacob, aged 21, died of Phthisis, a form of consumption/tuberculosis which wasted the body. He was tended by his mother, Elizabeth. He died March 18, 1874. Then a few months, later, Robert, aged 24, died of Brain Congestion. This could have been caused by meningitis or an accident – which is not known. Robert was ill for only 14 hours and died 18 October 1874. Within a space of a few months, Robert and Elizabeth lost two of their sons.

Elizabeth herself also died of Phthisis, only two years later, on 12 December 1876. Her death certificate states she had been ailing for two years, so it is likely she contracted the disease from nursing her son, Jacob.

Elizabeth, her husband Robert and sons Jacob and Robert, rest together in Rookwood Cemetery.

Robert Beavis and Elizabeth McKenzie are my great grandparents x2 Robert McKenzie and Jane Grono are my great grandparents x3 John Grono and Elizabeth Bristow are my great grandparents x4

> Les Tod Woodcroft, NSW 6 April 2009

DR LESLIE RAYMOND GRONO

Leslie Raymond GRONO was born at Concord on 19th January, 1925, the youngest of four boys. His father, Charles William Grono, was a butcher and Les was born in the residence above the butcher's shop. He contracted poliomyelitis as a young boy and was late starting school. He finished his schooling at Fort Street Boys' High and continued on to study Veterinary Science at Sydney University. He graduated in 1948 and spent 1949 working in the Veterinary Surgery Department at the University. In 1949 too, he married Joan Brady, a fellow student.

In January, 1950, they moved to Queensland. Les had a contract for T.B. testing dairy cattle which supplied milk: to Brisbane. His district covered a wide area and entailed driving long distances over dirt roads and unbridged creeks. 1950 was a wet year in Queensland and he was bogged many times. The T.B. testing scheme introduced young vets to the local farmers and enabled them to establish a practice with a reasonably secure income. Conditions were very primitive. Few of the farms had electricity and facilities for handling animals were very basic. Horse operations for instance meant putting the horse down in the paddock and administering the anaesthetic using cotton wool soaked in ether in a swimming bag held over the animal's muzzle. Operating on cats and dogs was not much better - kitchen table stuff. But somehow the patients survived and the practice grew. Les and Joan lived in the hotel in Woodford for 18 months. Being just after the war, rental accommodation was impossible to get and the publican and his family were helpful in every way. But now they were able to afford to buy a house. It was obvious that the small animal practice was growing faster than the large animal practice and so they decided to move to the seaside town of Redcliffe. Les built a surgery next to the house and continued in practice there for the next ten years. And that is where their children were born, Anne in 1953, Sylvia in 1954 and Lindsay in 1958. Les liked veterinary practice. He liked the animals, he liked the people he dealt with and he liked the countryside and luckily he liked driving and cars. Although he was now based in a suburban area he still retained his T.B. testing contracts and his country clients and that meant driving long distances and of course whenever possible they would race down to Sydney to see their parents. All this mileage required changing cars often, (so Les said.) Very often.

Eventually long working hours and lack of free time took their toll and so, after ten years in private practice, Les joined the University of Queensland as a lecturer in the department of Veterinary Clinical Studies in 1960. That necessitated moving to Brisbane and there they lived at Dutton Park across the river from the University for the next 25 years. During that time he completed his PH.D. on Otitis Externa in the dog, spent a year in England where he gained a M.Sc. in Biomechanics, and became a member of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists. His work included other interesting research projects such as anaesthesia in birds and renal transplants in sheep with the Medical Department who were then doing pioneer work for renal transplants in humans. He represented the AVA at a veterinary conference in Paris and did consultation work in the Solomon Islands and the New Hebrides. He became senior lecturer, then a Reader, and was Head of the Department of Veterinary Surgery when he retired in 1985.

During his time at the University Les maintained his interest in the country. He had a series of beef cattle properties, at Dayboro, Tamborine Mountain, Flaxton and Cooroy and he and Joan moved to their 500 acres at Cooroy when he retired. Lindsay has continued this interest in beef cattle production and now has properties at Gympie and Munduberra.

When Cooroy was sold Les and Joan returned to Brisbane, to Cleveland near the bay, and he died there in January, 2009. I think he may have been the last of his generation of Gronos.

Mrs Joan Grono Cleveland, QLD 24 May 2009

Seeking contact with descendants of Jane MOBBS and Richard Charles MARSHALL

Amanda Davis is seeking to share information and photos with descendants from the following or similar line of the MOBBS family:

Jane MOBBS (1833-1911) (daughter of William MOBBS and Maria GRONO) m. Richard Charles MARSHALL (1824-1878)

 \downarrow

Mary Ann MARSHALL m. George DUFFIELD

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Lucy Gertrude DUFFIELD m. Philip Charles FARMER

 \downarrow

Kenneth Harry FARMER m. Mavis Jean LITTLE

If you would like to contact Amanda Davis then please email her directly at dingosun3@bigpond.com or write to the Grono Family Association and we will forward your letter on to Amanda.

Location of Hartley's Paddock/Farm?

Geoff Bentley is attempting to identify the location of David HARTLEY's paddock/farm.

On p.123 of "Pioneers of Portland Head" the author states that "one of the farms on my property is still known as "Hartley's". He is still unable to work out where that might be.

David Hartley worked for Bligh on Blighton and then he may have been on "Percy Place" (which was within the boundaries of the original Bligh land). But then he moved. The best Geoff has been able to divine is that "Hartley's" or "Hartley's Paddock" might have been up on Sara Threlkeld's property, nowadays Threlkeld Rd. Presumably Elizabeth Grono lived there until David died in 1863. Any house they had was probably washed away in the 1865 flood.

If you are able to assist Geoff then please email him at grbentley@grapevine.net.au or write to the Grono Family Association and we will forward your letter on to Geoff.

Seeking contact with descendants of MOBBS/BELLAMY/WILLIAMSON

Below is a copy of an email received from Vanessa Marr:

I am linked to the Mobbs side, by marriage ...would love to share and receive information.

Here is how I am link to the Grono/Mobbs. My direct descendant is from the BELLAMY side [- see ** below for further information on the connection].

- My grandfather was George Bellamy b. 28.04.1906 d. 3.10.1977 he married Mary Young Burleigh Brown 25.11.1942. They had 2 children, one being my father.
- My great grandfather was George Bellamy b. 3.08.1857 Castle Hill d. 14.05.1938
 Hornsby he married twice (m1. Mary Ann Reed 14.05.1886 no children)

 (m2. Ada Louise Rootes 17.07.1905 3 children), one being my grandfather. This was
 - Ada Louise Rootes 17.07.1905 3 children), one being my grandfather. This was Ada Louise Rootes 2nd marriage. First marriage was to William Joseph Larter 8.01.1901 they had one child.
- My great great grandfather was James Bellamy b. 16.10.1836 d. 25.05.1914 married Esther Williamson** 31.03.1856 (m1.) they had 10 children. (m2.) Susannah Bowerman 1.04.1875 they had 11 children.
 - **(Esther was the daughter of Alexander Williamson and Elizabeth Mobbs. Elizabeth Mobbs was the daughter of William Mobbs and Maria Grono.)
- My great great grandfather was James Zadock Bellamy b. 9.05.1798 Pennant Hills d. 6.03.1875 he married twice (m1. Hannah Singleton 15.06.1818 they had 14 children). (m2. Martha Martin 18.07.1871 they had 5 children).
- My great great great great grandfather was William Bellamy (convict) b. 16.02.1772 St Andrew London ENG d. 14.11.1850 West Pennant Hills. He married Ann Faye (convict) 10.01.1797 St Johns Parramatta Church of England. Ann Faye was b. 1754 Dublin IRELAND d. 1843 Pennant Hills. They had 4 children.

Issac Mobbs b. 19.01.1829 Pennant Hills d. 16.08.1922 Carlingford (son of Isaac Mobbs and Ann Tomlinson). He married Ann Bellamy 23.08.1853 (daughter of James Zadock Bellamy and Hannah Singleton). Ann Bellamy b. 10.04.1829 Pennant Hills d. 1.10.1897.

Rachel Bellamy b. 2.10.1888 Pennant Hills d. 21.08.1963 Epping (daughter of James Bellamy b. 16.10.1836 d. 25.05.1914 and Susannah (nee Bowerman – wife no. 2) (wife no. 1 Esther Williamson). Rachel married 1910 Edward James Mobbs they had 12 children.

If there is anyone that has any information or photos do to with the Mobbs/Bellamy side could you please contact Vanessa via her email address: buck09@aapt.net.au or write to the Grono Family Association and we will forward your letter on to Vanessa.

Seeking information on Frank Parker CURTIS

Sue Roberts is searching for information about Frank Parker CURTIS. All that is known is that he was born in Chinese International waters. She would like to find out his parents and further details about him. Frank Parker CURTIS's connection with the GRONO family is as follows:

Maria GRONO m. William MOBBS

↓

James Samuel MOBBS m. Mary Ann BEVAN

↓

Blanche MOBBS m. Alfred John James KELLS

↓

Eileen Maisie KELLS m. Frank Parker CURTIS

Does anyone know anything further that they are willing to share? If so please email Sue directly at suevroberts@hotmail.com or write to the Grono Family Association and we will forward your letter on to Sue.

Seeking information on location of family bible of Thomas GRONO and Lucia Amelia WATLING

Marie Quealy is attempting to find the location of the family bible of Thomas GRONO (1857-1934, son of William GRONO and Mary Ann HOBBS, and grandson of John GRONO jnr and Mary BIRKETT) and his wife Lucia Amelia WATLING (1862-1944).

If you have any information regarding this bible's whereabouts please contact the Grono Family Association and we will pass your information on to Marie. Thank you.

Finances

On the next page you will find a summary of the income and expenditure of the Grono Family Association for the financial year 2008-09.

We have recently undertaken a fourth print run (75 copies) of "John Grono 1767-1847" and made donations to the Ebenezer Church and Hawkesbury Museum from the proceeds of the third print run of the book "John Grono 1767-1847".

Grono Family Association Statement of Income and Expenditure for the period 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009

2009 2008 Non-Non-<u>Income</u> **TOTAL** <u>Member</u> <u>Member</u> **TOTAL Member Member** Book Sales - John Grono 1767-1847 350.00 1,500.00 280.00 820.00 1,850.00 1,100.00 120.00 7.00 113.00 108.00 56.00 52.00 Postage - Books Membership Fees 1,480.00 1,480.00 390.00 390.00 Reunion - River Cruise 2,902.50 2,902.50 **Donations** 6.00 6.00 76.00 76.00 **Bank Interest** 2.79 2.79 9.69 9.69 **TOTAL INCOME** 6,361.29 4,745.50 1,615.79 1,683.69 802.00 881.69 **Expenditure** Book printing costs 1,567.50 292.90 1,274.60 1,045.00 261.25 783.75 Postage - Books 117.20 8.62 108.58 94.50 48.78 45.73 206.05 174.48 10.00 Postage - Other 31.57 4.50 5.50 Membership & Newsletter 98.88 98.88 Reunion 716.94 716.94 Reunion - River Cruise 2,802.50 2,802.50 100.00 100.00 **Ebenezer Church Bicentenary** 136.97 68.49 68.49 Other 15.76 7.88 7.88 120.00 120.00 0.21 **Bank Charges** 13.35 10.68 2.67 1.05 0.84 **TOTAL EXPENDITURE** 5,675.15 4,181.36 835.19 1,493.79 1,370.55 535.37 SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER **EXPENDITURE** 686.14 564.14 122.00 313.14 266.64 46.51 **Donations to Ebenezer Church** 124.00 221.00 Donations to Hawkesbury Museum 62.00 110.50 **SURPLUS/DEFICIT AFTER DONATIONS** 500.14 - 18.36

Grono Family Association

Balance Sheet

for the period 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009

<u>Assets</u>		<u>Liabilities</u>	
Cash in bank	1,886.76		0
		<u>Equity</u>	
		Retained Profits	1,886.76
	1,886.76		1,886.76

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.

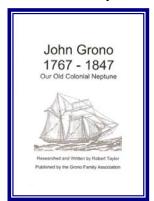
CONTACT INFORMATION:

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

PUBLICATIONS

John Grono 1767-1847: Our Old Colonial Neptune

by Robert Taylor



This book covers John Grono's life (as far is known), with particular focus on his association with the sea. It covers what is known of his Royal Navy career in England and then with the Colonial Vessels in Australia, his private sea voyages (which included many trips to the whaling

and sealing areas around the New Zealand coastline), as well as his ship-building enterprise on the Hawkesbury River. It is 153 pages, fully indexed, with photos.

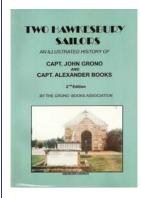
Cost: \$35 per book + \$7 postage

Contact the Grono Family 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. The second edition of

Two Hawkesbury Sailors

by the Grono-Books Association



It is 168 pages long and contains 60 colour photos.

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

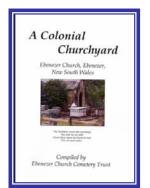
Cost: \$45 per book + \$10 postage

Orders may be placed with:

Ted Books 20 Church St South Windsor NSW 2756 Phone: (02) 4577 3932

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".

EBENEZER CHURCH Oldest Church (Bicentenary Edition)



This revised edition, released in 2009, includes information on the fifteen church pioneer families, the former ministers, and the building of the church and school.

Cost: \$30 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".



Memories and Family Stories

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:	

At some time family stories	in the future The Grono Family Association would like to publish some of these.
Do you give p	permission for the Grono Family Association to publish this story?
YES / NO (pl	ease circle) Signed:
Name:	Date:
Please post th	e completed form to:
-	Grono Family Association,
	1 Johnston Street, Pitt Town, NSW 2756
or	Email: gronofamily@gmail.com or Fax: 02 4572 3805

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