



# Braidwood & District Historical Society

PO Box 145 Braidwood NSW 2622



## Newsletter

Number 23 December 2021

### President's Report

The last few months have seen some normality return. The museum is open again albeit only on Fridays for the present.

Finally, we are in a position to hold our overdue AGM. Notices and voting papers have been sent out. Just in case you need a reminder, it is scheduled for Monday 13 December at 5.30pm at the Troopers Rest.

As we had to cancel some of our planned functions this year, starting with the Heritage Festival weekend, due to Covid, the dedication of the Stamper Battery in Ryrie Park, due to the wet weather and the Annual Dinner due to Covid, we decided as well as the AGM we needed a get-together, a time to talk about the good times ahead and of course a Christmas celebration.

The AGM will be followed by dinner at the Troopers Rest. Unfortunately, numbers are limited to a maximum 32. Book soon, direct with Ally at the Troopers Rest 0411107161 or [202wallacest@gmail.com](mailto:202wallacest@gmail.com).

Following the difficult year, 2022 promises much to look forward to. There has been a lot of progress with the development of the Heritage Centre. Liz Madew our project manager from Public

Works Advisory has been doing an excellent job liaising with Council and other regulatory bodies. Tenders went out for submissions for a Principal Design Consultant. Six submissions were received. All were strong and capable contenders. Upon review by a Tender Committee (as required by Public Works) consisting of Liz, Dereck Tooth QPRC, John Stahel and myself the successful tenderer is BTB Architecture.

BTB is a relatively small company from Sydney but have extensive experience in heritage and museum sites, including Australian Museum Hall of Fame at Hay and currently Port Macquarie Museum centered on the 'transformation' of the original 1840s structure and surrounding buildings.

Following our first session, via zoom, they have shown they will work collaboratively and listen to stake holders. They have a track record of working innovatively in adapting 'sheds' and they want to learn and understand the site. The first site visit is planned for 2 December and they plan to have a first design draft before Christmas.

John and I have also been working with Liz Kobold, a Business Facilitator for AusIndustry Entrepreneurs' Programme, putting together a business plan for the ongoing management and structure for the Heritage Centre. We are

encouraged and confident of that our vision is realistic and will deliver a great outcome not only for heritage but also financially for BDHS and the Braidwood Community.

As advised in our recent mail out we intend to bring members up to date with progress and plans for the Heritage Centre at the dinner following the AGM.

This last week of November, museum professional, Cash Brown from Melbourne has been undertaking a Preservation Needs Assessment under a Community Heritage Grant which we received earlier this year. You may recall Cash had to cancel her earlier planned visit owing to Covid restrictions. Her assessment will be most useful in the future as we re-group with a new committee, new volunteers and full-time professional staff.

Wishing all our members and friends a happy Christmas and happy days for 2022.

Peter Smith

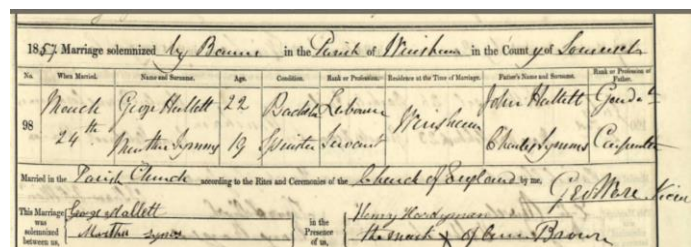
### Mary Hallett Who Are You?

It is not often that an object, so important, is found in a local Opportunity shop. But thankfully the right person recognised it's value and rescued it from oblivion.

Gai Henderson, from Bomaderry, wrote to me, saying "I found it in a bag of goods which had been donated to the Opportunity Shop for which I volunteer here in Nowra. I don't know who donated the goods so can't check with them about the sampler's provenance. Since the sampler was quite grubby, and deemed not saleable, it was going to be thrown out in the rubbish but the 'historian/conservator' part of me just couldn't let that happen

without at least trying to find out who Mary Hallett was and maybe find a good home for this cute bit of handiwork. So glad I was on duty at the Op shop that day and in the right room at the right time, or it would be gone. What stories that little piece of cloth could tell if only it could talk. Little treasures like this one turning up now and again really do make all the other mundane, hard, boring work really worthwhile."

So who was little Mary Hallett? Her parents were George Hallett and Martha Symmes from Winsham in Somerset England.



### Marriage record of George and Martha Hallett

They arrived in 1857 on board the ship "Tartar", which took 116 days to make the journey. Sadly, their 1yr old daughter Elizabeth died on the voyage. George was a farmer and both parents were literate.

The Hallett family moved to Goulburn where young Mary Ann Hallett was born in 1860. By 1862 they were living at Manar where they had 4 more children.

Mary Ann married John Zahn on 10 December 1878 in Braidwood. John was born in 1839 Kassel Hessen Germany. He was a shepherd, arriving on the "Sophia" in 1859. He bought 150 acres at Manar, where he and Mary Ann had 9 children, remaining in the Braidwood area until about 1892, when they moved to Glen Innes.

LIST of Immigrants per Ship				Arrived on the			
Tarbar				24 <sup>th</sup> day of July 1857			
AGES.							
x Hallett	George	x 22		apt Lab	do	"	ball
	Martha	19		flower	do	"	"
	Elizabeth		Romona Kopp	daughter	do	"	do

**Ship Manifest showing the Hallett family.**

It was very common for little girls to learn to sew by stitching samplers. And she would have been just the right age for that in 1873. Her drawn thread work, pin stitching, button holes and run and fell seams are beautiful. It is difficult to say if the crocheted edging was added later to turn the piece into a doily. It is precious!



The sampler can be viewed at the Braidwood museum in February or at the Braidwood Dinner being held on 13<sup>th</sup> December at the Troopers Rest Restaurant. We look forward to seeing you there.

### SELF RELIANT!

Life in this country in the early days taught the pioneers to be self-reliant, as witness the activities of many of our older residents on New England. An interesting sidelight on this phase comes from Glencoe. Mrs. John Zahn, who is in her seventy-first year, recently decided to visit her son, a member of the police force at Broken Hill. Without the remotest hesitation she undertook the long and tedious journey to Broken Hill, negotiating the various train changes and caring for her luggage without assistance other than that volunteered by railway employees. After an enjoyable stay in the "silver city" Mrs. Zahn embarked on the return journey and returned home enthusiastic in her regard for the joys of train travelling. The feat is the more remarkable by reason of the fact that old lady is almost blind.



A two-day community cultural event exploring our local history.

# Come — Together

## Braidwood 2022

Marking 200 years — Acknowledging 60,000 years

FEB 26 — 27

Artwork courtesy Studio Elke

## The Come - Together Event

*contributed by Julia Green*

This will be an opportunity for our community to come together, to learn and share stories and views of our history. And to imagine a shared future where *“all people and the land are respected and cared for”* (Dhurga Rock, Braidwood 2015).

### PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

#### Saturday 26th February 2022

**Morning:** 10.30am Fire Lighting and Welcome to Country, with Traditional Dancing and Singing - Ryrie Park by the Dhurga Rock. All welcome!

**Lunch:** Ryrie Park, food van options including bush tucker, or bring a picnic. Bring your family!

**Afternoon:** from 2pm Cultures Connecting Program of speakers sharing stories of early Braidwood from Indigenous and non-Indigenous perspectives. Interspersed with special presentations from local school children.

- Our first speaker will be Peter Smith, President of BDHS. Peter will present the British perspective of exploration explaining the background to the first recorded Europeans to set foot on the present Braidwood district in 1821. Using the journal of the explorers Kearnes, Marsh and Packer he will trace their route and interpret their observations and contacts with Aboriginal people.
- Franny Little (daughter of the late Jimmy Little) will speak about the role Black Trackers played in the protection of white settlers on

Yuin lands from Braidwood to Araluen and Captains Flat, from her family stories.

- Four more speakers will follow, some still to be confirmed.

#### 5pm Closing Smoking Ceremony

**Evening:** 7.30pm Concert in the National Theatre, cultures connecting for musical fun and entertainment!

#### Sunday 27th February 2022

**Morning:** 10am Authors' presentation of “On a Barbarous Coast”, a collaboration between Indigenous and non-Indigenous writers as they recount and re-imagine the story of Captain Cook and the Endeavour coming to grief at Cooktown, and the meeting of two very different cultures. Followed by morning tea - Old Anglican Hall

For more information, email [cometogetherbraidwood@gmail.com](mailto:cometogetherbraidwood@gmail.com) [facebook.com/cometogetherbraidwood](https://www.facebook.com/cometogetherbraidwood) or phone Julia 0402 605 945

### Our Photographic Collection Project

This enormous project commenced with a grant from Queanbeyan Palerang Council. The identification, scanning and detailed description work has been done by Paris Sylvester. The computer work to enter this information on Pallerang Council's library system was done by Leanne Houghton. We invite you to explore the database of these Braidwood photographs. It has been a huge project and we are so grateful for the long hours expended by our two members.

Please have a look. The link is:

<https://queanbeyan.libero.com.au/museum/WebOpac.cls>

## **Braidwood's Biggest Snowstorm. Old residents Memories.**

*From*

### ***The Braidwood Review: 29th July 1941***

**Do you remember any of these old characters?**

*"Last week's light fall of snow has started some of Braidwood's old hands delving into their store of memories and recalling incidents from the dim past, when Braidwood was a vastly different place from what it is today. Some of these reminiscences are highly interesting.*

*According to Mr. Thomas Feeney, who is over 81 years old. Braidwood's biggest snowstorm occurred on the 9th September 1876. That winter had been an exceptionally dry and hard one, pastures mostly being eaten clean out, and fodder dear and difficult to obtain. As a result stock were poor and weak, and losses throughout the district had been heavy.*



#### ***"Bellevue" near Jembaicumbene***

*At that time Mr. Feeney was in the employ of the late Mr. James O'Brien of Belle Vue. Three times weekly two large wagons were sent to Mr. O'Brien's Mt. Elrington station for hay for the cattle at Belle Vue, which he had rented from the*

*Maddrell Estate's then extensive holding. By the way, the rent charged, we believed was 1/6 per acre for grazing land and 2/6 for cultivation land.*

*At the time of which we write only portions of the big holdings were fenced. The Maddrell Estate extended past Reedy Creek, on the Reidsdale Road. Part of it in that locality is now owned by Messer. Hassall, Maher and Feehan. The big triangle piece in between the Araluen and Reidsdale Roads was not fenced, being shut off by a gate on top of what is now known as "Neylan's Hill". Mr. O'Brien had a store and hotel at Belle Vue, relics of which still stand near the bridges. He also conducted a butchers shop, and supplied a great part of the district with meat, including the famous Araluen Goldmining Township, where he made most of his money. He also went in extensively for grazing, running over 1000 head of cattle on Belle Vue, Mt. Elrington and Highgate. The cattle on Belle Vue were all poor in the tail end of the winter of 1876, and hopes were entertaining of an early spring, of which there was little sign as late as September. Hand-feeding had been necessary for two months previously.*

*The morning of September 9 broke fine, but a change developed later in the afternoon, a bitter wind coming from the south, and snow commenced to fall that evening about 7 O'clock. As the night wore on the fall became heavier. Most of the cattle had been grazing in the triangle between the two roads and drifted away with the gale and snow till they reached the boundary. Here the gate was unfortunately open, and the cattle kept going towards Braidwood. The snow continued all night. When day broke it was on a white world. Over four feet of snow covered that part of the country. Hardily a fence was visible, only the posts being out of the snow. Limbs of the trees were smashed everywhere by the weight of the snow. That*

afternoon, after the thaw, dead cattle could be seen scattered all over the paddock, over 70 being skinned by Mr. Finney and a Chinaman named, York, who was the butcher at Belle Vue. Later other cattle were skinned all along the road from there to as far as McInnes on the Bombay Road. In another paddock on the other side of Belle Vue homestead a further 25 were skinned. Most of the cattle which perished were picked heifers within a week or 10 days of calving.

Mr. O'Brien was not the only man who suffered losses as the winter had been very dry, hard one. The mortality, however, was not nearly so severe about Braidwood, where the snow was not as heavy and at Reidsdale, where the holdings were not so heavily stocked. At Neylan's who had the property where Mr. Tom Grigg is now, the losses were fairly heavy, but nothing like in the same proportion as at Belle Vue.



**Thomas Grigg**

Still losses were general right throughout the district At Mt. Elrington, where there were big reserves of fodder comparatively few cattle died.

Graziers in those days were very little different from those of to-day, inasmuch as they bothered very little about reserves of fodder. They mostly had small areas under cultivation, barely

sufficient to keep themselves going with flour for the year. Hay was worth about £20 a ton. The man who had 15 to 20 acres under crop was considered very well off. Farmers threshed their own wheat on the property and brought it into Braidwood to be ground at the mill in Duncan Street, run by Benisons. The charge was 9d a bushel for grinding, but the money seldom changed hands, the farmer taking home his flour and some of the bran and pollard, the miller keeping the remainder as payment for his work. Wheat at that time was worth 3/- per bushel. It was not an uncommon sight to see over 20 drays at the mill loading and unloading.

Mr Feeney, whose recollection of those times is most vivid, says that great havoc was caused by the snowstorm, other than to stock. Fences, trees and sheds were flattened to the ground by the weight of the snow. Strangely enough, there was another fall in the same month the following year, but not nearly as heavy. The narrator relates an interesting happening on this occasion.



**"Ned" Edward McCarron.**

*A man named Billy Minton, late of Major's Creek, had taken a load of flour from Braidwood to Araluen in a five-horse team, which was really a double –shafted dray. Coming back, after a warm day, there had been a big thaw and the Jembaicumbene Creek rose quickly. Though efforts were made to prevent Minton driving into the swirling torrent (there were no bridges then only a footbridge), he took no notice and drove in. The current swept the horses off their feet and away went the whole outfit downstream. Minton grabbed the foot bridge as he was carried down and dragged himself out. The horses however, were swept a considerable distance, four of them being drowned. The leader was saved, a man named, Ned McCarron wading out into the stream and cutting the horse out of the harness with a big knife strapped to the end of a long pole.”*

**The End.**

Our

**Society values the support of**

**Queanbeyan Palerang Council**



And

**Braidwood & Districts Community Bank**



**Merry Christmas to all**

