

## **The Shoalhaven Chronograph with Berry Newsletter**

### **January 2019**

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#### **Come and see us at the Show**

The Berry Show is on next month. As usual, The Berry & District Historical Society will be represented. Our volunteer will be there on Friday the 1<sup>st</sup> of February and Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> of February from 9am to 5pm each day. Come and say hello.

#### **Member Talks**

*Submitted by Annette Frohling*

In 2018 four very interesting Talks were arranged for our members:

- In March, local lady Lyn Clark gave a talk on the Berry School Propagation Unit.
- In June local historian June Robson gave a Talk on the Berry Cottage Hospital.
- Two local ladies, Edith Faulk and Karen Fowler ( nee Ison) provided stories in August about the One Teacher Schools in the area
- In November , a talk was given by June Robson, assisted by local Tom Darby, on the history of our very own CWA Building.

All of the Talks were well attended and enjoyed by all present.

More interesting and enjoyable Talks are planned for our members in 2019.



**Tom Darby tells us about the  
structure of the CWA hall.**

# The Station Master's Residence

*Submitted by Annette Frohling*

The Berry Station Master's Residence is part of a State and Local Heritage listed Precinct and is unique in that it is the only State Heritage listed example of its kind in RailCorp's ownership, still with its original group of buildings.



The Berry community and friends overwhelmingly supported the Petition put forward by the Conservation Committee for the Berry Railway Precinct to help save the Railway Station Master's Residence from demolition with 3,665 signatures and letters of support from a number of community groups. Local member Gareth Ward, who

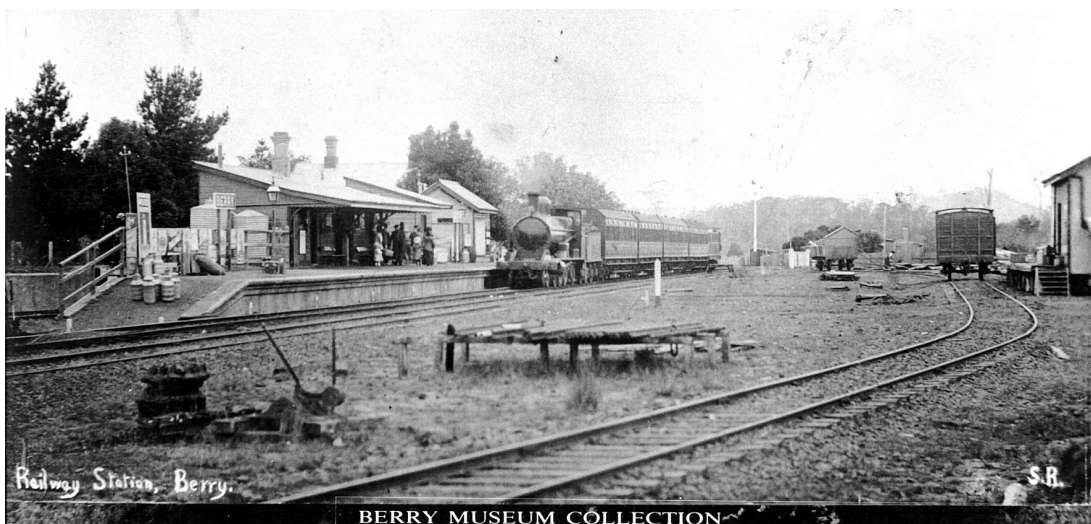
enthusiastically backs the call to preserve the Station Master's Residence undertook to personally hand the petition to the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure.

## Conservation of the Berry Railway Station Precinct

Following two very promising meetings with Sydney Trains representatives -Richard Wolfson, Station Precinct Development Manager, and Andrew Killingsworth, Heritage Manager- the Conservation Committee for the Berry Railway Precinct is very pleased to report Sydney Trains findings:

"Investigation has confirmed the unique nature of the Berry Station Master's Residence, and that it can be conserved. Sydney Trains is mindful of its obligations in this regard and steps are being taken to stabilize the building. Also, beyond the Station Master's Residence, the precinct has significance.

The current aim is to reinstate the Station Master's Residence and to find an appropriate adaptive reuse for the building and to enhance the station precinct for the community's benefit."



## Ernest Shackleton (1874-1922)

Shackleton was an Anglo-Irish Antarctic explorer. In all, he made four trips to Antarctica.

The first was with Robert Falcon Scott's expedition in 1901.

In 1908, he led his own expedition to Antarctica. During this expedition, his team climbed Mt Erebus and made many important discoveries.

He is best known for leading the 'Endurance' expedition of 1914-16, his third trip to the Antarctic, in which he planned to cross Antarctica via the South Pole. Not one member of the expedition died. This is the subject of our current display at the Museum.

Shackleton's fourth expedition aimed to circumnavigate the Antarctic continent, but on 5<sup>th</sup> January 1922, Shackleton died of a heart attack off South Georgia. He was buried on the island.

## Museum Display

### SHACKLETON - ESCAPE FROM ANTARCTICA

It's one of the greatest survival stories of all time, and now, over 100 years later, a new panel display on tour from the Australian National Maritime Museum invites visitors to walk in the footsteps of famous Antarctic explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton and discover for themselves his epic voyage of survival.

Shackleton set out in August 1914 with a bold plan to be the first to cross Antarctica's vast interior via the South Pole. His strategy was to have two parties working from opposite sides of the continent. He would lead the Weddell Sea crossing party while a second Ross Sea supply party would lay critical rations ahead of him.

Both ships were ultimately lost to their crews (one crushed and the other wrenched away by the ice), Shackleton's party would never even touch the continent they hoped to cross, and the other would be marooned on it, desperately sledging across hundreds of kilometres of ice to lay depots for the party which would never come.



*Shackleton: Escape from Antarctica*, brings together first-hand accounts and dramatic images by official expedition photographer Australian Frank Hurley to tell the compelling story of Shackleton's Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition of 1914-17 and his bid to stay alive.

Through the eyes of modern-day adventurer Tim Jarvis AM, who re-enacted parts of Shackleton's journey,

and biologist and Shackleton fellow Mel Mackenzie, the display follows the harrowing experiences of both parties.

The display is open at **Berry Museum**. But if you haven't come to see it yet, don't delay. The display will only be available until the end of the school holidays.

# The Berry Family

Alexander and David Berry are the two brothers most familiar to those of us interested in the history of the Shoalhaven, but they had four other brothers and three sisters. All but two of the Berry siblings emigrated to New South Wales, mostly at the urging of their eldest brother, Alexander.

## THE PARENTS

**James Berry** or Berrie was probably born before 1762. James was a tenant at Hilltarvit Mains farmhouse, near Cupar in Fife, Scotland. James married Isabel Tod at Leuchars, Fife, Scotland on the 24th of February, 1781. James died in 1827.

**Isabel Tod** was born about 1756. She was the daughter of Alexander Tod and Janet Armit. James and Isabel had 9 children together. Isabel died in 1830.

## THEIR CHILDREN

**Alexander** was born at Cupar in Fife, Scotland on the 30th November 1781. He was baptised on 6 December 1781 at Cupar, Fife, Scotland, the first of 9 children. The specific location of his birth is given as Hilltarvit Mains Farmhouse, Cupar, where James was a tenant. On 23 June 1822 partners Alexander Berry and Edward Wollstonecraft settled on the foothills of a mountain named Coolangatta on the South Coast of New South Wales. He died, aged 91, at Crow's Nest, St Leonards, on 17 September 1873.

**James** was born on the 8th of March, 1783 at Cupar, Fife, Scotland, and baptised on the 9th of March. James presumably died in infancy. Another James Berry was born to his parents on the 25<sup>th</sup> January 1794.

**Janet** (Jess) was born at Cupar, Fife, Scotland, on the 14th of July, 1784, and baptised on the 26th of July. She migrated to New South Wales with her siblings David, William, John, and Agnes to live on her brother's Coolangatta Estate in 1836 via the ship Midlothian. She led a reclusive life there with her siblings. Janet died at Coolangatta on the 23rd of October, 1860.

**John** was born on the 3rd of March, 1786, and baptised at Cupar, Fife, Scotland on the 5th of March. John migrated to New South Wales with his siblings David, William, Agnes and Janet to live at Coolangatta Estate in 1836 via the ship Midlothian. Also on board was his ward Thomas Hall. He managed the estate for 11 years with his brother David and was a noted breeder of horses and cattle. John died while riding when his horse fell, on the 19th of April, 1848.

**Barbara** was born at Cupar, Fife, Scotland on the 28th of August, 1788, and baptised on the 3rd of September. Barbara married David Armit of Polduff in about 1836. They had no children. She died in 1871 in the parish of St Andrews and St Leonards, Fife.

**Agnes** (Nancy) was born on the 27th of July, 1790, and baptised on the 11th of August, 1790, at Cupar, Fife, Scotland. Nancy migrated to New South Wales with her siblings David, William, John, and Janet to live at Coolangatta Estate in 1836 via the ship Midlothian. She led an unhappy reclusive life there with her siblings, and wished to return to Fife. Nancy died at Coolangatta, NSW, on the 3rd of March, 1873.

**James** was born on the 25th of January, 1794, and baptised on the 7th of February.



**David** was born in 1795 at Cupar, Fife, and baptised there on the 29th of December, 1795. David arrived in New South Wales in 1836 on board the ship Midlothian with some of his siblings and went to Coolangatta Estate where he lived for the rest of his life. David never married. He died at Coolangatta in 1889.

**William** was born about 1800 in Cupar, Fife, Scotland. He was the youngest son of James and Isabel. William migrated to New South Wales with his siblings David, John, Agnes, and Janet to live on his brother's Coolangatta Estate in 1836 via the ship Midlothian. William had little interest in the estate, and encouraged his brothers to sell it off. He died on the 20th of October, 1875, and was interred on the estate.

## Positions Vacant

The Berry & District Historical Society is run by volunteers who put in a very commendable effort to keep the Society and the Museum running.

But there are always lots of interesting opportunities for members who want to volunteer their time or skills.

If you would like to get involved, we can certainly offer a selection of different activities for you to choose from. Email or phone the museum if you would like to find out more.

## Telephone Based Scams:

In our second part about the kinds of scams that can prey on the unsuspecting, we will give you some things to watch out for on the phone.

There are many suspicious emails, phone calls and SMS messages that Australian residents may receive. Many of these involve parties impersonating Telstra (even if you are not a customer) or the Australian Tax Office, to name just a few.

Here is a list, taken from the [Telstra website](#), of the telephone-based scams that have been doing the rounds:

- Caller claims to be from the NBN and threatening disconnection from the Internet within 24-48 hours.
- Automated calls claiming to be from Telstra and threatening disconnection from the Internet due to suspicious activity seen on your line, or, hacking activity seen on your line.
- Calls from the "Telstra Integrity Unit" regarding a compromised email account.
- Automated calls threatening legal action, including arrest, if the call is not returned immediately. These calls are usually from a computerised voice, and they regularly leave voicemail with their threats.
- Calls claiming to be from the ATO and threatening legal action and/or arrest if action is not taken immediately. As above, these threats are in a computerised voice, and they will leave messages on voicemail.
- Scams which appear to come from phone numbers starting with "09" and make threats about Internet access.
- Calls which appear to come from overseas locations such as Latvia or other unexpected foreign locations.


If you are unsure about a call, do not use the phone numbers they give you in that call. Check the number in the telephone directory and call the organisation directly. And be very careful about the information you give to parties who call you asking you for your details or credit card number.

And remember. no legitimate organisation in Australia will accept iTunes, Netflix or other gift cards as payment for a bill. If a caller asks you to obtain these to pay a debt, it's definitely a scam!

## **Articles for the Next Issue**

If you have any interesting stories about the Berry region or its history that you would like to share, please forward them to the editor for inclusion in our next issue.

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