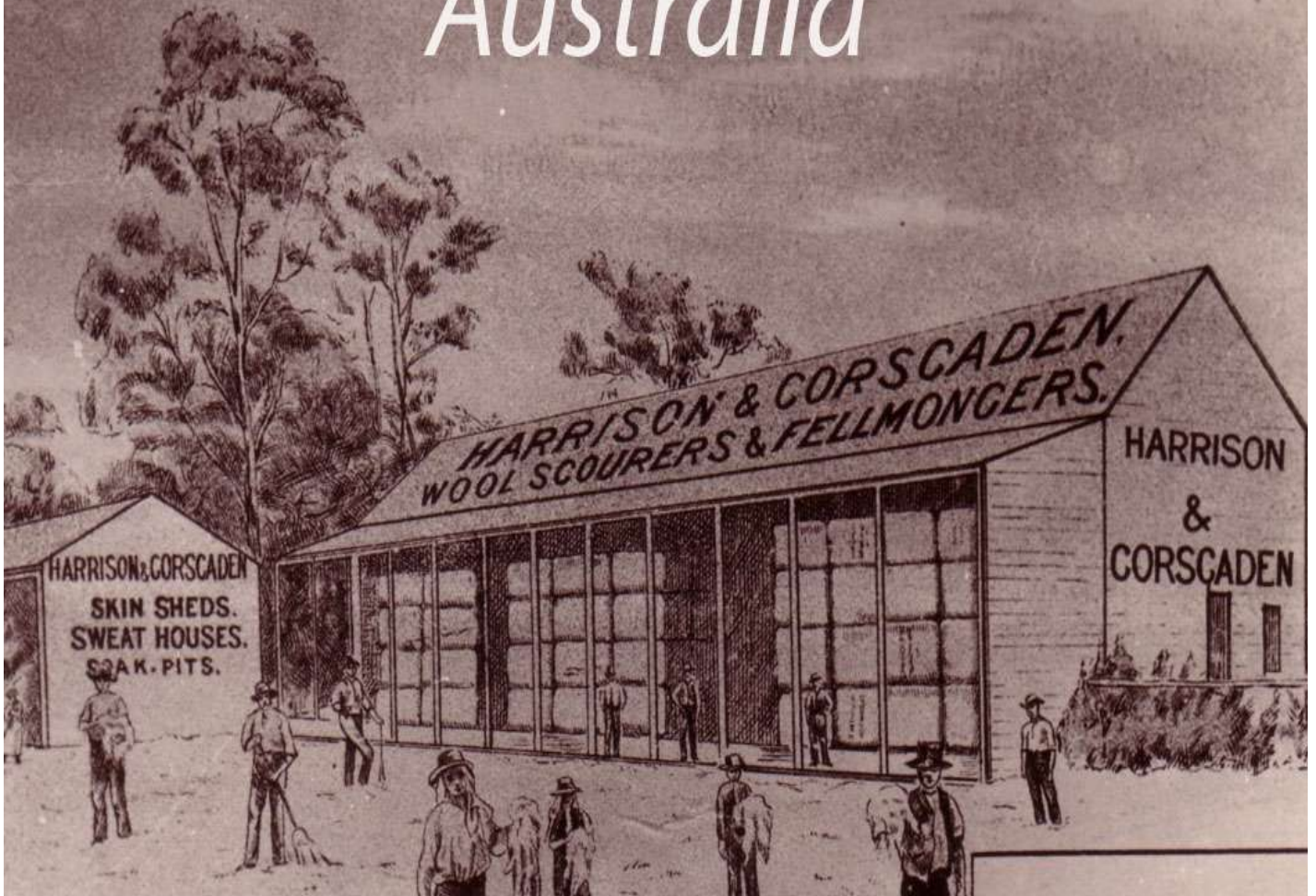


The Harrisons in Australia



In 1883 John Harrison set sail from London bound for a new life in Australia. He met Emily Wheare and they married in Forbes, NSW.

This story covers their life and that of their children and grandchildren. It also includes information about the Harrisons as far back as the late 17th century.

Prepared by Ross Harrison and Sandra Miller - February 2020

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INTRODUCTION

In November 2016 I produced a booklet about our Harrison ancestors who lived in and around the Parish of Kildwick in West Yorkshire, England for hundreds of years. That was until one of them, my great grandfather, John Harrison, journeyed half way across the world to make a new life in Australia.

The first edition of the Harrison story included a reasonable amount of information about my great grandparents and other ancestors. But I had very little knowledge about the siblings of my grandfather Norman Harrison.

My cousins, Greg and John Harrison, contributed to that booklet in a significant way via historic documents left to them by my uncle Allan.

Since that time, as a consequence of an Ancestry DNA test that I completed, I have been contacted by second cousins that I never knew existed. I could see that, with the help of these new 'cousins,' it may be possible to take the Australian history of our Harrison family to a new level.

It would be fair to say that the new information that has been forthcoming about John and Emily and their descendants was way beyond my expectations.

Although I have never met Sandra Miller, I have had irregular contact with her since 2002. Sandra is a great granddaughter of John Harrison (her grandmother was Dorothy Williams nee Harrison). There is no one in the world with more knowledge about our Harrisons than Sandra. She has detailed and meticulously kept records dating back to our 7th great grandparents who were born in the late 1600s. I was delighted when she agreed to co-author this booklet.



PHOTOS:

**Sandra Miller
(far left)**

**Ross Harrison
with Jean Little,
granddaughter
of our great
grandfather's
business
partner John
Corscaden.**

INTRODUCTION (continued)

During the course of writing the story I visited the town of Forbes, NSW in September 2019 with my wife, Helen, who was attending a church camp. I was just tagging along and spent the Saturday afternoon at the Forbes Family History Group. One of the volunteers asked what I was researching and when I mentioned my great grandfather John Harrison, and his business partner John Corscaden, she suggested I meet with Jean Little the granddaughter of John Canning Corscaden. Jean immediately informed me that I had pronounced her grandfather's name incorrectly - it should, she said, be pronounced Cors-kay -den - I apologized and we then got on very well!

That meeting, and subsequent email contact with Jean, triggered an avalanche of new information that is included in this booklet. Sandra and I would like to thank Jean very much for her wonderful help. She has gone to no end of trouble to assist us in what could be described as a tangled web of business relationships that didn't necessarily end all that well.

This booklet has been prepared principally for the information of family members. However, we are very happy to share any information/photos/documents collected during the research process with anyone interested in pursuing the history of our branch of the Harrison family.

Three other great grandchildren of John and Emily Harrison have provided photos and family information for this update. Christine Domigan is the granddaughter of Wilfred Henry Harrison. Christine lives in Maryland USA with her sister Leanne's family. Also, Julie Mill another granddaughter of Wilfred who lives in Victoria.

Rob Price is the grandson of Edna Price (nee Harrison). Rob lives on a large remote station in the far west of South Australia where they raise sheep and cattle and grow wheat. We greatly appreciate the contributions of Christine, Julie and Rob.

When creating family trees a 'home person' is nominated. This provides a clear idea of the relationship with ancestors. For example, in this document there is reference to 2nd great grandparents, 3rd great grandparents and so on. This relationship is with the home person - in this case the co-author Ross.

Contact details for Ross :(02) 4234 1764 Mobile: 0414 594 530

Email: rossallan.harrison@bigpond.com

Sandra and I hope you enjoy the story.

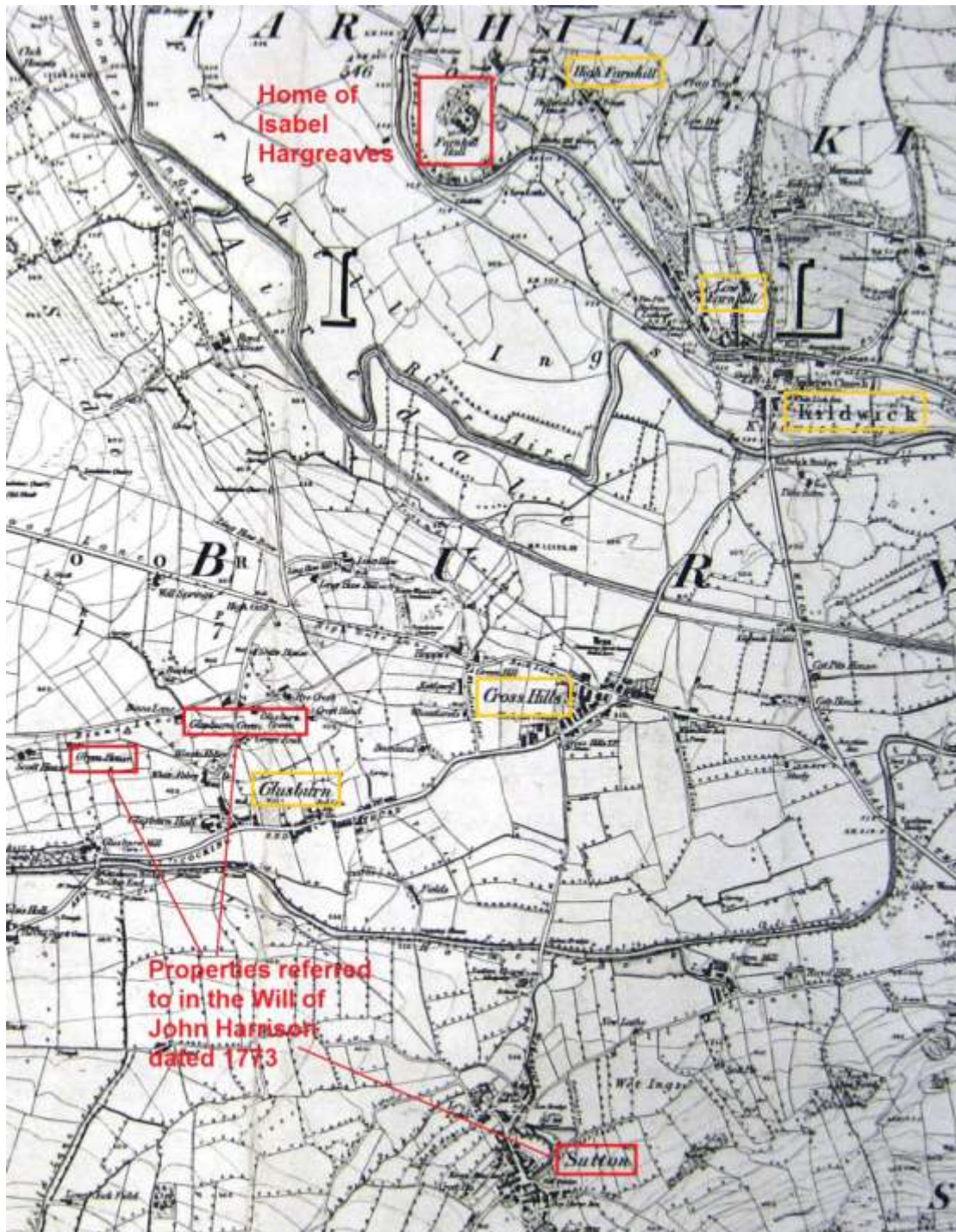
Ross Harrison

February 2020

WHERE IT BEGAN

Our branch of the Harrison family had its roots in the Parish of Kildwick, West Yorkshire up until the time of the Industrial Revolution. Then they moved 'down the road' to the town (now city) of Bradford.

Numerous small towns and villages make up the Kildwick Parish and generations of Harrisons farmed the land or worked in related agricultural pursuits such as blacksmithing. Sandra has prepared a map of the different villages where they lived.



WHERE IT BEGAN (continued)

The town of Kildwick is 22kms from Bradford.

To put these Yorkshire villages into perspective, London is a significant distance away (289kms) and Edinburgh in Scotland is only slightly further. The major centres in this part of northern England (apart from Bradford) are Leeds (25kms away) and Manchester (76kms). Liverpool is slightly further (116kms).

In the late 1700s, to facilitate the transport of goods between Leeds and Bradford and other parts of England, a plan was developed to build a canal from Leeds to Liverpool on the coast. The canal flows right through Kildwick...literally!

The first stage of the canal (about 1770-1790) involved the rather bold construction of an aqueduct through the village so that vehicular traffic (such as it was) could travel unimpeded through Kildwick. Note the road going under the canal.



Kildwick is thought to have been named by conquering Vikings and other place names nearby are said to be predominantly “Old Norse”. The name was made up as follows:

- Kild describes the floodplain of the River Aire when flooded. In old Danish *Kilde means “spring”* and
- Wick means a community settlement

The history books document a raid on the Yorkshire region by Scots following the battle of Bannockburn in 1314. They ransacked Bingley and Bradford churches but spared Keighley and Kildwick churches because they were dedicated to St. Andrew, patron saint of Scotland.

WHERE IT BEGAN (continued)

The enduring building in Kildwick is St Andrew Parish Church. St Andrew is historically significant and fragments of 9th century crosses have been excavated from its walls, evidence of the Anglo Saxon church built there before the Norman conquest. The church was replaced in the 12th century and again some two hundred years later.

But the present day church was last rebuilt in 1539 and restored in 1873.



(Photo kindly provided by The Reverend Robin Figg, Parish of St. Andrew, Kildwick, Diocese of Leeds)

In the next section there is a comprehensive listing of our distant ancestors. It illustrates just how important St. Andrew, Kildwick was to the Harrison families up until about 1820 when the focus switched to the church of St Peter in Bradford. There are some 40 references to St Andrew, Kildwick between 1670 and 1820 – baptisms, weddings, burials – then virtually none at all.

OUR DISTANT ANCESTORS

Unless stated otherwise, all events occurred in Yorkshire, England.

7th Great Grandparents - John & Ellen HARRISON (nee CHESTER)

I. John HARRISON was baptized on 21 May 1671 in St Andrew, Kildwick.

John HARRISON and Ellen CHESTER were married on 17 Jun 1691 in St Andrew. Ellen CHESTER was baptized on 2 May 1669 in Kirkby Malham.

John HARRISON and Ellen CHESTER had the following children:

A. Anne HARRISON was born in Sutton and baptized on 8 May 1692 in St Andrew, Kildwick. She died aged 70 in Glusburn and was buried on 9 Dec 1762 in St Andrew.

Anne HARRISON and Brian DALE were married on 30 Jun 1712 in St Andrew. Brian DALE, son of Thomas DALE and Elizabeth ROBINSON, was born in 1686 in Glusburn. He died aged 81 in Glusburn and was buried on 23 Feb 1767 in St Andrew.

B. Richard HARRISON - 6th Great Grandfather

6th Great Grandparents - Richard & Mary HARRISON (nee PARKINSON)

I. Richard HARRISON was born in Sutton and was baptized on 14 Jan 1694 in St Andrew, Kildwick. He died at the age of 71 in Glusburn and was buried on 5 Nov 1764 in St Andrew.

Richard HARRISON and Mary PARKINSON were married on 27 Dec 1720 in St Andrew, Kildwick. Mary PARKINSON was buried on 10 Feb 1766 in St Andrew.

Richard HARRISON and Mary PARKINSON had the following children:

A. Mary HARRISON was baptized on 8 Oct 1721 in St Andrew.

B. John HARRISON - 5th Great Grandfather

C. Sarah HARRISON was born in Glusburn and baptized on 8 Jun 1735 in St Andrew, Kildwick. She died aged 20 in Glusburn and was buried on 11 Aug 1755 in St Andrew.

D. Richard HARRISON was born in Glusburn and baptized on 1 May 1737 in St Andrew, Kildwick. He died at the age of 16 and was buried on 10 May 1751 in St Andrew.

5th Great Grandparents - John & Sarah HARRISON (nee BAWDWEN)

I. John HARRISON was born in Glusburn and baptized on 26 Jan 1724 in St Andrew, Kildwick. He died aged 59 and was buried on 23 Dec 1783 in St Andrew. He was a blacksmith & yeoman.

John HARRISON and Sarah BAWDWEN were married on 9 Jan 1759 in St Andrew, Kildwick. Sarah BAWDWEN, daughter of Peter BAWDWEN and Mary KNOWLES, was born in Steeton. She was baptized on 15 Apr 1739 in St Andrew. She died aged 30 and was buried on 7 Jul 1769 in St Andrew.

John HARRISON and Sarah BAWDWEN had the following children:

A. Sarah HARRISON was born in Glusburn and baptized on 17 Feb 1760 in St Andrew, Kildwick. She died aged 3 in Glusburn and was buried on 31 Oct 1763 in St Andrew.

5th Great Grandparents - John & Sarah HARRISON (nee BAWDWEN) - continued

B. **Richard HARRISON** was born in Glusburn and baptized on 19 Jul 1761 in St Andrew, Kildwick. He died aged 68 in Glusburn and was buried on 31 Jan 1829 in St Andrew.

Richard HARRISON and Mary REDMAN were married on 17 Apr 1781 in St Andrew, Kildwick. **Mary REDMAN**, daughter of William and Jane REDMAN, was born in 1757 in Farnhill. She was baptized on 20 Oct 1757 in St Andrew, Kildwick. She died aged 78 in Glusburn and was buried on 3 Jun 1835 in St Andrew.

C. **Peter HARRISON** - 4th Great Grandfather

D. **Sarah HARRISON** was born in Glusburn and baptized on 30 Mar 1766 in St Andrew, Kildwick. She died aged 37 in Cononley and was buried on 21 Sep 1803 in St Andrew, Kildwick.

Sarah HARRISON and William WATSON were married on 9 Apr 1787 in St Andrew, Kildwick. **William WATSON** was a cotton factor.

E. **John HARRISON** was born in Glusburn and baptized on 7 Jul 1769 in St Andrew, Kildwick. He died aged 24 in Glusburn and was buried on 7 Aug 1793 in St Andrew. He was a shoemaker.

John HARRISON and Mary (Polly) SUMMERSCALE were married on 10 Nov 1790 in Keighley. **Mary (Polly) SUMMERSCALE**, daughter of William SUMMERSCALE and Mary RUSHWORTH, was born in 1771. She was baptized on 31 Mar 1771 in Keighley. She died aged 22 in Glusburn and was buried on 12 Jun 1793 in St Andrew, Kildwick.

John HARRISON and **Margaret HOUGHTON** were married on 8 Aug 1771 in St Andrew, Kildwick.

John HARRISON and Margaret HOUGHTON had the following children:

F. **Thomas HARRISON** was baptized on 7 Jun 1772 in St Andrew, Kildwick.

Thomas HARRISON and Alice STEEL were married on 6 Apr 1797 in St Andrew, Kildwick.

G. **Henry HARRISON** was baptized on 15 May 1774 in St Andrew, Kildwick.

H. **Mary HARRISON** was baptized on 19 May 1776 in St Andrew, Kildwick.

I. **Eleanor HARRISON** was born on 15 Feb 1779 and baptized on 7 Mar 1779 in St Andrew, Kildwick.

4th Great Grandparents - Peter & Isabel HARRISON (nee Hargreaves)

I. **Peter HARRISON** was born in Glusburn and baptized on 15 Apr 1764 in St Andrew, Kildwick. He died aged 28 in Glusburn and was buried on 6 May 1792 in St Andrew, Kildwick.

Peter HARRISON and Isabel HARGREAVES were married on 8 May 1787 in St Andrew, Kildwick. **Isabel HARGREAVES**, daughter of James HARGREAVES and Elizabeth STIRK, was born in Farnhill and baptized on 1 Jan 1768 in St Andrew, Kildwick. She died of old age on 28 Dec 1841 at the age of 74 in Crosshills.

Peter HARRISON and Isabel HARGREAVES had the following children:

A. **John HARRISON** was born on 7 Mar 1788 in Glusburn and baptized in St Andrew, Kildwick. He died aged 49 in Glusburn and was buried on 19 Dec 1837 in St Andrew. He was a cordwainer (*shoemaker*).

John HARRISON and Elizabeth GREEN were married on 11 Oct 1816 in St Andrew, Kildwick. **Elizabeth GREEN**, daughter of Bernard and Sarah GREEN, was born on 21 Apr 1785 in Steeton. She died aged 81 in Bradford. Elizabeth was buried on 18 Apr 1866 in St Andrew, Kildwick. She was a laundress.

4th Great Grandparents - Peter & Isabel HARRISON (nee Hargreaves) - continued

B. James HARRISON - 3rd Great Grandfather

C. **Sarah HARRISON** was born on 30 Nov 1792 in Glusburn and baptized in St Andrew, Kildwick. She died aged 77 in Farnhill and was buried on 2 Aug 1870 in St Andrew.

Sarah HARRISON and Henry LAYCOCK were married on 31 Dec 1812 in St Andrew, Kildwick. **Henry LAYCOCK** was born on 19 Jan 1788 in Kildwick. He died aged 27 in Kildwick and was buried on 31 Aug 1815 in St Andrew. He was a woolcomber.

Sarah HARRISON and Joseph WILCOCK were married on 25 Apr 1822 in St Andrew, Kildwick. **Joseph WILCOCK**, son of Joseph and Anne WILCOCK, was born on 29 Jun 1784 in Farnhill. He died aged 62 in Skipton and was buried on 22 Nov 1846 in St Andrew, Kildwick. He was a woolcomber.

Isabel HARGREAVES and Edward SMITH (a widower and yeoman) were married on 11 May 1797 in St Andrew, Kildwick. **Edward SMITH** was born in 1743 and died on 20 Jul 1811 at the age of 68.

Isabel HARGREAVES and Edward SMITH had the following children:

D. **Margaret SMITH** was born on 3 Mar 1798.

Margaret SMITH and John REDMAN were married on 23 Apr 1818 in St Andrew, Kildwick. **John REDMAN** was born on 25 Oct 1794 in Yorkshire. He was a woolcomber & farmer of 67ac.

E. **Mary SMITH** was born on 4 Mar 1800. She died on 27 May 1809 at the age of 9 in Glusburn and was buried in St Andrew, Kildwick.

F. **Thomas SMITH** was born on 23 Aug 1802 in Glusburn. He died aged 65 and was buried on 24 Aug 1867. He was a wool comber.

G. **Samuel SMITH** was born on 24 May 1804 in Glusburn.

3rd Great Grandparents - James & Sarah HARRISON (nee THORNTON)

I. **James HARRISON** was born on 1 Apr 1790 in Glusburn. He was baptized on 9 May 1790 in St Andrew, Kildwick. He died from old age debility on 15 Nov 1872 at the age of 82 at 44 Houghton Place, Bradford. James was buried on 20 Nov 1872 in Undercliffe Cemetery, Bradford. He was a wool stapler, manufacturer & merchant.

James HARRISON and Sarah THORNTON were married on 25 Jun 1812 in St Andrew, Kildwick. **Sarah THORNTON**, daughter of William THORNTON, was born in 1791 in Leeds. She died from fits lasting 6 days on 12 Aug 1870 at the age of 79 at 44 Houghton Place, Bradford. Sarah was buried on 16 Aug 1870 in Undercliffe Cemetery.

James HARRISON and Sarah THORNTON had the following children:

A. **Elizabeth HARRISON** was born on 9 Jul 1813 in Farnhill and baptized in Wesleyan Methodist, Icornshaw. She died on 4 Feb 1913 at the age of 99 in Harrogate. Elizabeth was buried on 8 Feb 1913 in Holy Trinity, Dacre Banks. She was a dressmaker.

Elizabeth HARRISON and John DIBB were married in 1841 in Bradford. **John DIBB**, son of Joseph and Elizabeth DIBB, was born on 16 Oct 1816 in Menwith Hill. He died on 22 May 1890 at the age of 73 at The Hollies, Summer Bridge, Dacre Banks. John was buried on 24 May 1890 in Holy Trinity, Dacre Banks. He was a wool stapler and merchant.

3rd Great Grandparents - James & Sarah HARRISON (nee THORNTON) - continued

B. **Peter HARRISON** was born on 19 May 1815 in Farnhill and baptized in Wesleyan Methodist, Icornshaw. He died on 2 May 1884 at the age of 68 in Bradford. Peter was a wool-stapler.

Peter HARRISON and Sarah GOTT were married on 20 Feb 1839 in St Peter, Bradford. **Sarah GOTT**, daughter of John and Ann GOTT, was baptized on 20 May 1820 in St Peter. She died on 30 Nov 1883 in Bradford.

C. **Martha HARRISON** was born on 4 Apr 1817 in Farnhill and baptized in Wesleyan Methodist, Icornshaw. She died on 11 Feb 1881 at the age of 63 in Templenewsam, Leeds. Martha was buried in Grove Road Cemetery, Harrogate.

Martha HARRISON and Charles BROADBENT were married on 11 Jun 1851 in St Peter, Bradford. **Charles BROADBENT**, son of William BROADBENT and Mary Ann DYSON, was born in 1818 in Stainland. He was baptized on 31 May 1818 in St Mary, Elland. He died on 26 Apr 1912 at the age of 94 in Wetherby. Charles was buried in Grove Road Cemetery, Harrogate. He was a farmer.

D. **Joseph HARRISON** - 2nd Great Grandfather

E. **John HARRISON** was born on 16 Jan 1821 in Ingrow and baptized in Eden Wesleyan, Keighley. He died on 23 Jul 1845 at the age of 24 in Bradford.

F. **William HARRISON** was born on 21 Oct 1822 in Bingley and baptized in Wesleyan, Bingley. He died in Feb 1825 at the age of 2 in Bingley and was buried in All Saints, Bingley.

G. **William HARRISON** was born on 14 Apr 1825 in Bingley. He died on 1 May 1916 at the age of 91 in Bromsgrove, Worcestershire. William was a woolstapler & fellmonger.

William HARRISON and Sarah Ann BROADBENT were married on 18 Oct 1853 in St John the Baptist, Halifax. **Sarah Ann BROADBENT**, daughter of William BROADBENT and Mary Ann DYSON, was born on 18 Jan 1828 in Stainland and baptized in St Mary, Elland. She died on 23 Dec 1906 at the age of 78 in Bromsgrove, Worcestershire.

H. **James HARRISON** was born on 24 Jun 1827 in Bingley and baptized in Wesleyan, Bingley. He died on 19 May 1886 at the age of 58 in Bradford. James was a wool-stapler, buyer & merchant. He was buried in Undercliffe Cemetery, Bradford.

James HARRISON and Mary Ann BERRY were married on 23 Sep 1857 in St Peter, Bradford. **Mary Ann BERRY**, daughter of Thomas and Ann BERRY, was born on 3 Jul 1835 in Bradford. She was baptized in 1836 in Sion Chapel, Bradford. She died on 2 Apr 1910 at the age of 74 in Bradford.

I. **Jane HARRISON** was born on 29 Jun 1829 in Bingley and baptized in Wesleyan, Bingley. She died on 18 Jan 1899 at the age of 69 at Lakeview Villas, Bowness on Windemere, Westmorland.

Jane HARRISON and William BLAMIREs were married on 20 Nov 1860 in St Peter, Bradford. **William BLAMIREs**, son of John BLAMIREs and Sarah SUGDEN, was born in 1836 in Northowram. He was baptized in the Parish Church, Horton, Bradford. He died aged 49 at Aireville Terrace, Frizinghall and was buried on 22 Oct 1885 in Undercliffe Cemetery, Bradford. He was a woolstapler and soft soap manufacturer.

Jane HARRISON and John HOLLAND were married on 29 Feb 1888 in Holy Trinity, Poulton-le-Sands, Lancashire. **John HOLLAND**, son of George HOLLAND and Alice WELLS, was born in 1829 in Farnsfield, Nottinghamshire. He died on 11 Nov 1900 at the age of 71 in Lakeview Villas, Bowness on Windemere, Westmorland.

J. **Richard HARRISON** was born on 15 Jan 1832 in Bingley and baptized in Wesleyan, Bingley. He died on 19 Mar 1907 at the age of 75 in Eccles, Lancashire. Richard was a wool-stapler.

3rd Great Grandparents - James & Sarah HARRISON (nee THORNTON) - continued

Richard HARRISON and Eliza TOWNSEND were married on 31 Aug 1882 in the Parish Church, Eccles, Lancashire. **Eliza TOWNSEND**, daughter of John and Sarah TOWNSEND, was born in Manchester, Lancashire and baptized on 28 Jun 1824 in Manchester Cathedral. She died on 10 Nov 1902 at the age of 78 in Eccles. Eliza was a school principal.

Richard HARRISON and Annie Matilda GRANT were married in 1907 in Barton On Irwell, Lancashire. **Annie Matilda GRANT** was born in 1852 in Hackney, London. She died on 13 Apr 1917 at the age of 65 in Brighton, East Sussex. She was a governess and housekeeper.

2nd Great Grandparents - Joseph & Jane HARRISON (nee COWGILL)

I. **Joseph HARRISON** was born on 1 Mar 1819 in Ingrow. He was baptized on 30 Apr 1819 in Eden Wesleyan, Keighley. He died from congestion of the brain on 9 Mar 1873 at the age of 54 at 21 Hallfield St, Bradford. Joseph was buried on 12 Mar 1873 in Undercliffe Cemetery, Bradford. He was a wool stapler.

Joseph HARRISON and Jane COWGILL were married on 26 Apr 1856 in All Saints, Bingley. **Jane COWGILL**, daughter of John COWGILL and Sarah Ann BOOTH, was born on 19 Mar 1835 in Hill Top, Wilsden. She was baptized on 12 Jul 1835 in All Saints, Bingley. She died from acute bronchitis on 15 Dec 1903 at the age of 68 at 18 Clarendon Rd, Eccles, Lancashire, England. Jane was buried on 18 Dec 1903 in Undercliffe Cemetery, Bradford.

Joseph HARRISON and Jane COWGILL had the following children:

A. **Thornton HARRISON** was born on 3 Dec 1856 in Bradford and baptized in St Peter, Bradford. He died on 7 Jul 1934 at the age of 77 in Lidget Green, Bradford. Thornton was a woolstapler, bell founder and manager of Engineers Ltd in Bradford. He was buried in Undercliffe Cemetery.

Thornton HARRISON and Annie ELSWORTH were married on 13 Sep 1882 in St Peter, Bradford. **Annie ELSWORTH**, daughter of John ELSWORTH and Eliza JARRATT, was born on 10 May 1854 in Bowling, Bradford. She died on 22 Jan 1943 at the age of 88 in Bradford and was buried in Undercliffe Cemetery.

B. **Jessie HARRISON** was born on 7 Sep 1858 in Bradford and was baptized in St Peter, Bradford. She died on 21 Jul 1936 at the age of 77 in Newport, Monmouthshire, Wales.

Jessie HARRISON and Thomas Arthur FISHER were married on 7 Jul 1886 in St John the Evangelist, Baildon. **Thomas Arthur FISHER** was born in 1860 in Louth, Lincolnshire. He died on 14 Jul 1920 at the age of 60 in Newport, Monmouthshire, Wales. He was a grocer, commission agent and a sales rep for washing powder.

C. **John HARRISON - Great Grandfather**

D. **Janet HARRISON** was born on 17 Jun 1863 in Bradford and baptized in St Peter. She died from cardiac failure and senility on 22 Nov 1957 at the age of 94 in St Michael's Hospital, Lichfield, Staffordshire.

E. **Minnie HARRISON** was born on 18 May 1866 in Bradford and was baptized in St Peter. She died in December 1866 in Bradford.

F. **Minnie HARRISON** was born on 31 May 1868 in Bradford and baptized in St Peter, Bradford. She died on 20 Jan 1930 at the age of 61 in Worcester, Worcestershire.

Minnie HARRISON and Benjamin HOLLOWAY, a widower, were married in 1898 in Wharfedale. **Benjamin HOLLOWAY**, son of Benjamin HOLLOWAY and Elizabeth Ann MORRIS, was born in 1860 in Avenbury, Herefordshire. He died on 15 Dec 1940 at the age of 80 in Worcester. He was a bank manager.

BRADFORD

In 1801 Bradford was a rural market town of 6,393 people where wool spinning and cloth weaving was carried out in local cottages and farms. Bradford was thus not much bigger than Keighley (5,745).

The name Bradford is derived from the Old English *brad* and *ford*, the broad ford which referred to a river crossing of what is known as the Bradford Beck at Church Bank below the site of Bradford Cathedral, around which a settlement grew in Saxon times. It is recorded as 'Bradeford' in 1086.

Bradford rose to prominence during the 19th century as an international centre of textile manufacture, particularly wool. It was a boomtown of the Industrial Revolution and rapidly became the wool capital of the world.

Our branch of the family made their way to live in Bradford to pursue opportunities in the burgeoning wool trade as wool staplers (or wool brokers as the name is known in Australia).

The Wool Exchange Building in Bradford is a grade 1- listed building built between 1864 and 1867 as a wool-trading centre. The grandeur of its Gothic Revival architecture is symbolic of the wealth and importance that wool brought to Bradford. (Today the building mainly houses a bookshop with cafe)

The trading on the Exchange was by verbal contract only, each party keeping a separate note of price, quantity and delivery date. Members only were allowed on the trading floor. To be a member – 'to have a ticket' – was a social distinction in the old wool-trading town of Bradford.



Photos of the Wool Exchange Building in Bradford.

SPEAK AND HARRISON - WOOL INDUSTRY PIONEERS

The transition to Bradford happened during the life of my 3rd great grandfather, James Harrison. He was baptized in Kildwick and buried in Bradford.

James Harrison was the first Harrison to become involved in the wool industry and over the next 50 years or so about 10 Harrisons, or members of their extended family, (sons in law, brothers-in-law etc) earned their living from the wool industry. James, who was living at the town of Ingrow 17kms from Bradford started his working life as a woolcomber. In 1819, or thereabouts, James who was then age 29 or 30 went into business with one Joseph Speak. They became joint owners of 'Speak and Harrison' **Worsted** Spinners based in Ingrow. The difference between Woolen and Worsted is explained below.

The business only survived for three years. There is a suggestion that things happened that were outside of the control of Messrs. Speak and Harrison. (More about this on the next page). There is no question that this was a very painful experience for both proprietors.

As the advertisement below in relation to 'Speak and Harrison Affairs' explains (*Leeds Mercury* – 31st August 1822), the owners were required to assign the whole of their estate to their creditors.

Difference between Woolen and Worsted Yarn:

Woolen Processing	Worsted Processing
<p>Spun from wool fibres of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Length : spun from short fibres of 1-3" Diameter: medium or coarse <p>The fibres are washed, scoured and carded.</p>	<p>Spun from wool fibres of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Length : longer than 3" Diameter: fine diameter <p>Fibres are washed, scoured, carded, combed and drawn</p>
<p>Yarn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bulky Uneven Low to medium slack twist Tensile strength lower than worsted 	<p>Yarn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fine Smooth Even Tighter twist Higher tensile strength
<p>Fabric Appearance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soft Fuzzy Heavier weight 	<p>Fabric Appearance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crisp Smooth Lighter weight
<p>Characteristics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insulator due to trapped air Does not hold a crease well Less durable than worsted 	<p>Characteristics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Less insulator Holds creases and shape More durable than woollens
<p>Uses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sweater Carpets Tweeds 	<p>Uses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suits Dresses Gabardines Crepes

Speak and Harrison's Affairs.

WHEREAS JOSEPH SPEAK AND JAMES HARRISON, of Ingrow, near Keighley, in the County of York, Worsted Spinners, have by Indenture, dated the 27th of June last, assigned over all their Estate and Effects unto Trustees therein named, in trust for the equal Benefit of such of the Creditors of the said Joseph Speak and James Harrison as shall assent to and execute the same on or before the 16th Day of September next;

Therefore Notice is hereby given,

That the said Indenture of Assignment is lodged at the Office of Mr. Blake, Solicitor, in Keighley, for the Inspection and Signature of the Creditors of the said Joseph Speak and James Harrison; and such of them as shall neglect or refuse to execute the same, on or before the Day aforesaid, will be excluded the Benefit thereof. All Persons who stand indebted to the said Joseph Speak and James Harrison, are requested immediately to pay their Debts to Mr. Joshua Cowling, of Keighley, Woolstapler, one of the Assignees, otherwise Actions at Law will be commenced for the Recovery thereof.—By Order,

FRANCIS BLAKE.

Keighley, 26th August, 1822.

SPEAK AND HARRISON - WOOL INDUSTRY PIONEERS (continued)

The Post Napoleonic Depression

Just as Joseph Speak and James Harrison were starting their new business a major depression hit Europe and England. The figures in the table show the impact on the worth of £100 pound. In 1820 **deflation** was 9%; in 1821 - 12% and 1822 - 14%.

Consumer confidence was shattered and people didn't have money to spend on quality worsted products. Things remained that way for many years finally turning the corner in 1824.

RAPID DEFLATION IN ENGLAND

- £100 in 1818
- £100.25 in 1819
- £97.73 in 1820
- £88.72 in 1821
- £77.90 in 1822
- £67.60 in 1823
- £72.39 in 1824

Just to complete the Speak and Harrison business venture, for 24 years after it failed Joseph Speak harbored feelings of guilt about not fully paying his debts. The story below carried in the *Bradford Observer* in 31st October 1850 says volumes about the integrity of Joseph Speak and James Harrison.

Mr. Joseph Speak, who died in Bradford in the year 1846, had been for many years previously engaged in business at Ingrow, near Keighley. Both himself and partner, through a variety of circumstances, were obliged to suspend business in 1822, the whole of their effects being assigned to their creditors; and realizing 10s. 4d. in the pound. Joseph Speak, though released from all further legal responsibility, ever entertained the desire of paying his share of the balance morally due to the creditors, and in this feeling his wife heartily sympathised. He never re-entered business, but by dint of hard labour, and severe economy, had saved at the time of his death £260. This sum he made over in a deed to a friend, ordering him to appropriate what was really needful for the use of his wife, and to divide the rest amongst his creditors. His widow is since dead, and out of the £260 originally left, £258 4s. remained for distribution, which gives a further dividend of 3s. 3d. in the pound on Joseph Speak's liabilities.—Animated by this noble example, Mr. James Harrison (of Bradford), Mr. Speak's late partner, generously announced his readiness to pay the whole of the remaining balance due from him over and above the 5s. 2d. originally paid as his half of the first dividend. Mr. Harrison has accordingly paid 4s. 10d. in the pound more; and when it is remembered that the original failure was owing to circumstances over which the parties had no control, such instances of honourable conduct will be duly appreciated by the public.

JAMES HARRISON AND SONS

After the collapse of Speak and Harrison, James dusted himself off and when he was in his early 40s established James Harrison and Sons. This business being Woolstaplers which is defined as *'a person who buys wool from a producer, grades it, and sells it to a manufacturer.'*

The next 40 years were halcyon days for the wool industry and for James personally. In his early 50s he was living on Manor Row at Bradford and at age 82 he retired. When he left the business in February 1872 his son James took the opportunity to leave also.

James (senior) didn't have a very long retirement and some nine months later he was dead at the end of 1872.

His estate was valued at just under £7,000. In today's money in England the equivalent value would be in the order of £800,000.

Joseph, my second great grandfather passed away only four months after his father in March 1873 from 'congestion on the brain'. (According to one source *"The notion of 'cerebral congestion' fell into oblivion when an accurate method for bedside determination of blood pressure became available allowing for better understanding of the neurologic complications of arterial hypertension"*.) He was just 54.

By March 1873 both James (Senior) and Joseph were now deceased. And James Junior had already left to go into business on his own.

It was time to review James Harrison and Sons partnership agreement. The remaining partners were James' three sons Peter, William and Richard and their brother-in-law John Dibb who married Elizabeth Harrison. John Dibb, who was now in his late 50s decided to leave the business but the three Harrison brothers were for continuing.

In the meantime, James Junior's foray into business on his own wasn't a great success and the business was wound up in April 1874 just two years after starting. His financial position had deteriorated badly and he had assets of £4,500 against debts of £12,500.

History had repeated itself and James Junior was also experiencing events not of his own making. The economy had again turned toxic.

1873 was a period described as The Panic. A major economic reversal began in Europe and reached the United States in the fall of 1873. This led to the failure of Jay Cooke and Company, the country's pre-eminent investment banking concern based in Philadelphia. This one event then spiralled out of control; credit dried up, foreclosures were common and banks failed.

In England this initial Panic event morphed into what became known as the Long Depression which continued from 1873 to 1896 and some texts refer to this period as the Great Depression of 1873–1896.

JAMES HARRISON AND SONS (continued)

Maybe as a consequence of the longevity of the business, James Harrison and Sons, survived, but perhaps didn't prosper to the same extent, for another decade until 1882.

Not only did they have to contend with the ongoing depression but the Midland Railway compulsorily acquired land which impacted on their warehouses at Bermondsey, Bradford. Two years after this event they were still arguing with authorities about compensation.

The *Bradford Observer* carried an advertisement on 19 June 1882 indicating that James Harrison and Sons entire stock at their warehouse at 18 Bermondsey was being offered for sale.

Soon after the *Worcester Chronicle* recorded that the partnership of James Harrison and Sons, Bradford and Bromsgrove, Woolstaplers and Fellmongers, had been dissolved.

JOSEPH AND JANE HARRISON – 2nd GREAT GRANDPARENTS

Joseph married Jane Cowgill in April 1856 when he was 37 years old. Jane was born in Wilsden near Bingley on 19 March 1835.

Three years before marrying Joseph, Jane had an illegitimate child whom she named Fanny. She was born on 13 August 1853.

Jane's father was a butcher all his life – or at least that's the way he saw it. However, he became Licensee of the Tradesman's Arms Hotel in Cullingworth around the time that Fanny was born. It is thought that Fanny lived with her Grandmother Sarah until she was about 16. She then went to live with Jane until such stage as she herself was married.

University of the Registrar (General)

TD

CERTIFIED COPY of an ENTRY OF MARRIAGE Pursuant to the Marriage Act 1949

Registration District Keighley

Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church of Bingley in the County of York

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Married	Name and surname	Age	Condition	Rank or profession	Address at date of marriage	Father's name and surname	Rank or profession of father
<u>April 26th 1856</u>	<u>Joseph Harrison</u>	<u>of full age</u>	<u>Bachelor</u>	<u>Wool Stapler</u>	<u>Bradford</u>	<u>James Harrison</u>	<u>Wool Stapler</u>
	<u>Jane Cowgill</u>	<u>of full age</u>	<u>Spinster</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>Bingley</u>	<u>John Cowgill</u>	<u>Butcher</u>

and in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of His Majesty's Church of England by John by me

Witnessed by: Joseph Harrison in the presence of: James Harrison Junr. James Cheadle
Sarah Cowgill John Kibb Vicar

Certified to be a true copy of an entry in a register in my custody.

John C. Jackson Superintendent Registrar
22nd December 1957

It is an offence to supply a certificate or to make or knowingly use a false certificate or a copy of a certificate, or to be concerned in any such offence, or to be concerned in any such offence as to which the above provisions apply.

JOSEPH AND JANE HARRISON – 2nd GREAT GRANDPARENTS (continued)

Joseph and Jane had six children all born at Bradford.

- Thornton – 1856
- Jessie – 1858
- John – 1860 (**great grandfather**)
- Janet – 1863
- Minnie – 1866 (Died 1866)
- Minnie – 1868

All of Joseph and Jane's children were baptized at St Peter, Bradford. Today it is known as Bradford Cathedral.



Sandra Miller took this photo during one of her visits to Bradford

JOSEPH AND JANE HARRISON – 2nd GREAT GRANDPARENTS (continued)

Great grandfather John was born at the family home on Hallfield Street (also known as Hallfield Place), Bradford on 31 October 1860 as his birth certificate shows.

Certificate of Birth.

Parliament Act 6 and 7 Victoria IV., Cap. 86.

No.	When and Where Born.	Name (if any)	Sex	Name and Surname of Father.	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Rank or Profession of Father.	Signature, Description and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.
243	Thirty first October 1860 Hallfield Street	John	Male	Joseph Harrison	Jane Harrison formerly Carrall	Woolcomber	Joseph Harrison Father Hallfield Street Bradford	Thirty first October 1860

I, **GEORGE MAIN CROWTHER**, **Superintendent Registrar** for the District of BRADFORD, in the County of BRADFORD, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the entry in the Register Book of Births No. 25 for the Sub-District of Bradford West and that such Register Book is open to public inspection.

Witness my hand, this 21st day of September 1911.

George Main Crowther

By Statute in 1773, it was made a crime to suppress or destroy any public register or to be punishable by imprisonment for seven years, or less, or a fine not exceeding £100, or both, or to be liable to any civil or criminal proceedings in respect of any such offence. It is provided that any person who shall be guilty of any such offence shall be liable to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding two years, or to a fine not exceeding £100, or both, or to be liable to any civil or criminal proceedings in respect of any such offence.

By Statute in 1854, it was made a crime to suppress or destroy any public register or to be punishable by imprisonment for seven years, or less, or a fine not exceeding £100, or both, or to be liable to any civil or criminal proceedings in respect of any such offence. It is provided that any person who shall be guilty of any such offence shall be liable to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding two years, or to a fine not exceeding £100, or both, or to be liable to any civil or criminal proceedings in respect of any such offence.

John's life was proceeding well until his father died (9 March 1873) when he was a 12 year old. Jane was left to cope with five children between the ages of 5 and 16. Her daughter Fanny also joined the household after Joseph died. Joseph's estate was in the order of £4,000 which in today's English money would be slightly less than half a million pounds. So the problem wasn't so much money.

Six years later in October 1879 Jane, then aged 44, married Charles Henry Taylor at St Peter Bradford. Charles was born in 1840. The 1881 census has Charles' occupation as 'Insurance Broker' but he was by trade a 'master mariner' his father reportedly being a ship owner in Newcastle, England.

CLOSURE OF JAMES HARRISON AND SONS

At the time of the census in 1881 Thornton and John (aged 24 and 20 respectively) are now 'Wool staplers' working with their uncles in their grandfather's old firm James Harrison and Sons.

Charles H	Taylor	Head	Man	20		Industrious Worker
Jane		Wife	Woman	44		
Thornton	Harrison	Stepson	Man	24		Wool Stapler
Jessie	"	Step daughter	Woman	22		Assistant
John	✓	Stepson	Man	20		Wool Stapler
Janetta	"	Step daughter	Woman	19		Scholar
Minnie	"	SD	W	12		SD

But come 1882 the curtain was drawn down on the wool broking business – James Harrison and Sons was no more. Thornton and John were effectively out of work.

GREAT GRANDFATHER JOHN HARRISON

John's brother Thornton took his career in another direction at this point in time and in 1891 he was involved in an enterprise making church and musical bells. Records show that in 1911 he was manager and partner in a firm of engineers making steam engine governors.

But John must have been weighing up his future:

- The British economy was in an awful state
- His father was now dead and all five of his uncles involved in the wool trade had either retired or were pursuing other interests. The only family member still involved was his Auntie Elizabeth's son, and his cousin, John Dibb.
- John now had a stepfather who ruled the roost and the family home had been acquired by the Midland Railway and demolition was imminent.



Joseph and Jane's family home was in Hallfield Place. In 1876 it was compulsorily acquired by Midland Railway to expand its operations.

The company warehouse in Bermondsey, quite close to the name 'MID RAILWA' (see near top right) was similarly affected.

GREAT GRANDFATHER JOHN HARRISON (continued)

Jane died about 20 years later on 15 December 1903 at her brother-in-law Richard Harrison's home in Eccles, near Manchester, and was buried with Joseph. Their gravestone also remembers their baby daughter, Minnie, who died at seven months. Thornton (their eldest child) and his wife Annie are recorded as well.



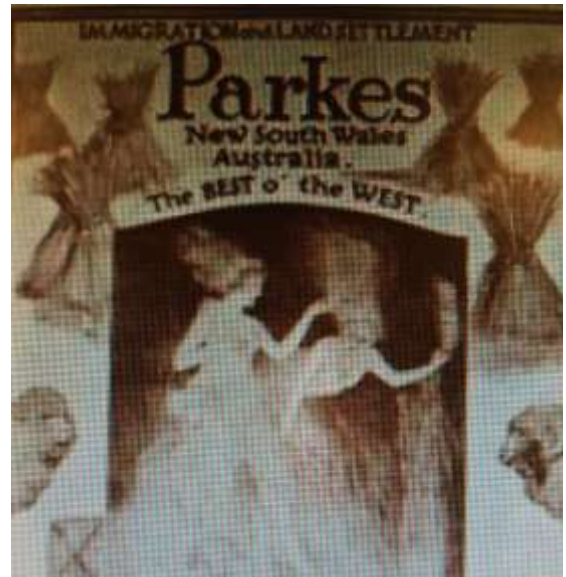
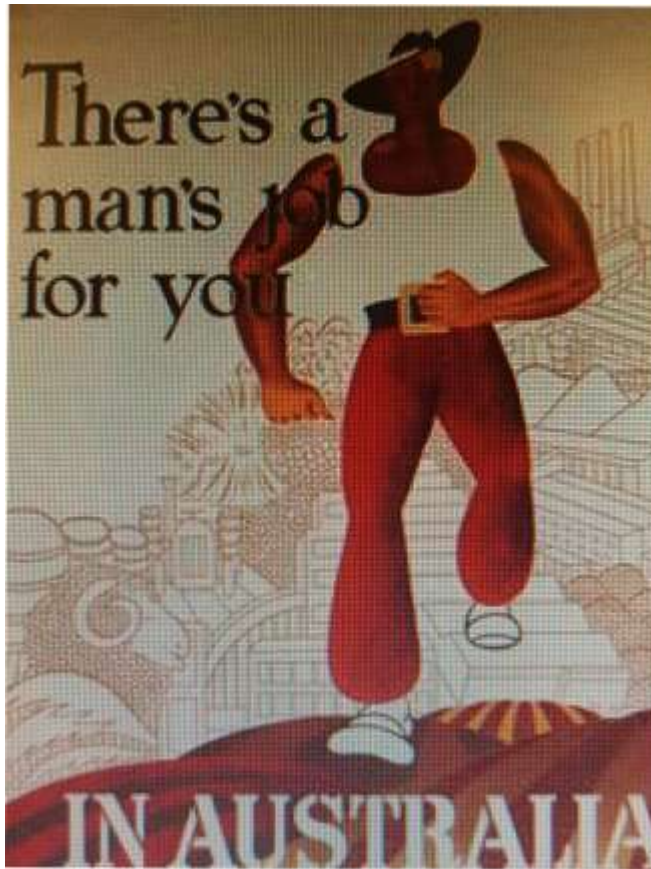
In 1856, the established colonies of Tasmania, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia became self-governing, followed by Queensland in 1859. Once that had happened the independent colonies started to compete fiercely for immigrants.

As Australia was a British colony, immigrants were very deliberately sourced from the British Isles in an apparent effort to keep the population as racially and culturally British as possible.

As far as immigration to Australia was concerned, the two game changers were the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 and the change from sailing ships to steam engines. Both of these developments had a significant impact on travel time from Britain to Australia.

If young John, age 22, was contemplating travel to another land, he was spoilt for choice. The United States, Canada, New Zealand and Australia were all touting for potential new settlers with ships leaving from a number of ports.

GREAT GRANDFATHER JOHN HARRISON (continued)



As distinct from Britain, Australia was booming in the 1880s and the population grew from 2.2 million in 1880 to 3.1 million in 1890. An increase of 40% in just a decade and John Harrison was one of that number.

I am not convinced that, at the time John made the booking to travel on the 'Orient', departing London in July 1883, he had in mind emigrating to Australia. He didn't come as an assisted migrant (but perhaps he didn't qualify given his significant wealth); or maybe he just preferred to have a touch of luxury by travelling 2nd Saloon Class. Or perhaps he thought this was an exploratory trip to see what Australia had to offer.

GREAT GRANDFATHER JOHN HARRISON (continued)

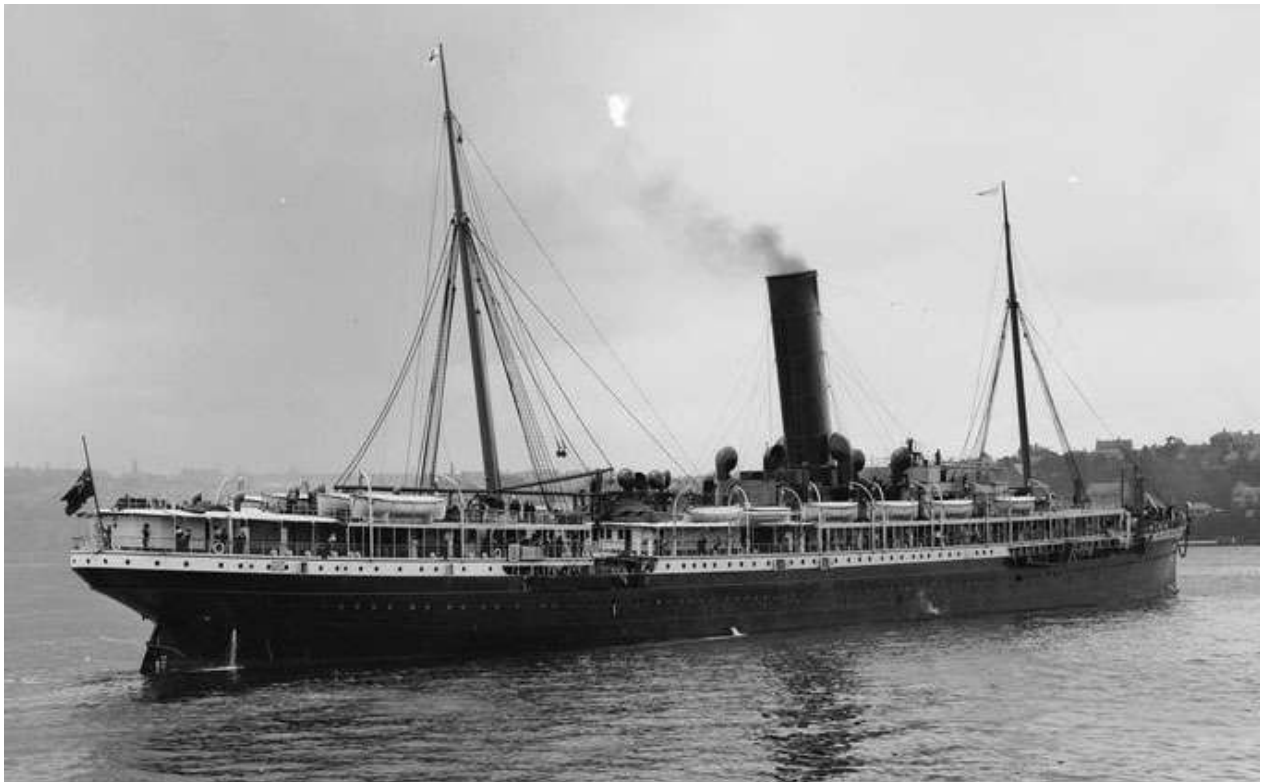
Before he left Bradford to board the ship in London, John went to the Bridges Photographic Studio (probably at his mother's suggestion!) so he could leave his photo with her as he travelled to the other side of the world.



GREAT GRANDFATHER JOHN HARRISON (continued)

John departed London on 6 July 1883 and arrived in Sydney on 1 September a journey time of 52 or 53 days. The combination of the Suez Canal opening in 1869 and the advent of steam engines certainly reduced travel time on this route.

ORIENT
OF LONDON, W. F. HEURSON, MASTER, BURTHEN 5386 TONS
FROM THE PORT OF LONDON TO SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES, 1ST SEPT. 1883



Above is a photo of the 'Orient' taken some time around the turn of the century. When John travelled to Sydney in 1883 it was relatively new having been built in 1879 and its overall appearance was quite different.

Initially it had two squat funnels and four masts, which allowed her to use sail to reduce coal consumption. It also provided security against machinery problems in the days before marine radio.

In 1898 the 'Orient' was reconstructed with two masts and one tall funnel. Her speed was increased from 14 knots to 16 and her appearance made more contemporary.

BURTHEN: *'The tonnage of a ship based on the number of tuns of wine that it could carry in its holds!!'*

GREAT GRANDFATHER JOHN HARRISON (continued)

SYDNEY TOWN – 1883

These are the scenes that would have greeted John when he stepped ashore in Sydney on Saturday 1 September 1883.



Both of these old photos were taken in the area known as Dawes Point – which extended from what is Circular Quay to the southern part of The Rocks as it is known today. In the bottom photo Fort Denison which opened in 1857 can be seen in the distance.

GREAT GRANDFATHER JOHN HARRISON (continued)

What did John do when he disembarked the ship? The answer is we don't know. There is a four year gap in our knowledge. What we do know is that he had the cheque (shown below) with him for £STG400. The equivalent value today would be in the order of A\$350,000.

The other unknown is where he met his future wife Emily Augusta Wheare. Did he meet her in Sydney, Forbes or elsewhere?



Presumably John was considering business opportunities in the Australian wool industry which “*shifted decisively from Britain to Australia between 1880 and the 1930s*”. (The Relocation of the Market for Australian Wool – 1880 by Simon Ville)

Over recent times we have come to learn more about John's connection with John Canning Corscaden, John Harrison's future business partner. Corscaden's granddaughter speculated that they may have met on the ship out from London which seems to be quite logical. Whether that's true or not it is evident that they would have known each other for quite some time before they opened a joint bank account on 14 April 1888 in Forbes.

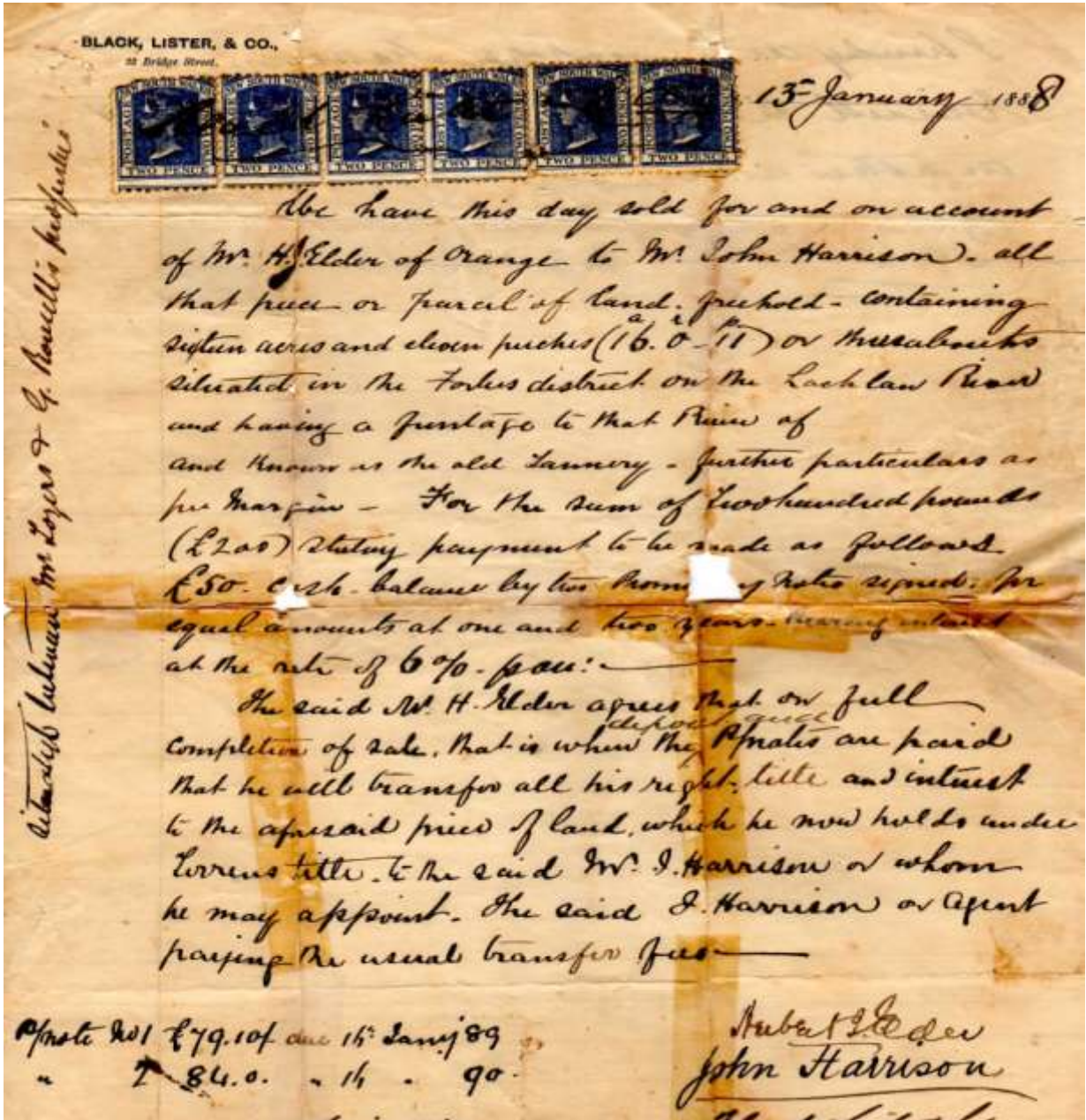
There is no record on the ship's passenger manifest of a Corscaden. But Corscaden's uncle was an owner of ships in Ireland and, apparently, was able to arrange carriage of family members on any number of shipping lines as 'supercargo' which meant they weren't recorded as passengers. It is understood that John Corscaden came to Australia in 1883 but he had visited earlier in 1879 to check out the opportunities.

It is also curious that when John Corscaden arrived in Australia he went to live on a property at Brolgan (or perhaps on the Brolgan Road) which is relatively close to Parkes and only 12 miles from Forbes.

FORBES NSW

On 13 January 1888 John Harrison met with the Forbes based solicitors Black, Lister and Co. to finalise the purchase agreement of 'sixteen acres or thereabouts situated in the Forbes district on the Lachlan River and having a frontage to that river and known as the Old Tannery'.

That land purchase was the first of a great many land purchases and sales over the next 15 years.



FORBES NSW (continued)

For a business setting up as a Wool Scour and Tannery, water was an essential input. The Lachlan River site in Forbes was a great find particularly as it had a former tannery existing.

The Lachlan River rises on the western slopes of the Great Dividing Range in the Southern Tablelands district formed by the confluence of two creeks – Hannans Creek and Mutmutbilly Creek – about 13 kilometres east of Gunning. From this point the river flows in a north westerly direction towards Cowra and then Forbes.

During its journey, 37 tributaries including the Crookwell, Abercrombie, Boorowa and Belubula rivers all add to the flow. By the time it reaches Cowra and Forbes it is near to peak level.



This is part of Lake Forbes. A stunning recreation area with wetlands abundant with wildlife.

FORBES NSW (continued)

When I visited Forbes in September 2019 my expectations were not exactly high. I thought Forbes would be just another small country town that is now in the death throes with a fairly ordinary main street and not much else. How wrong I was. Forbes is a delightful town now and it was delightful when John arrived in 1887 if not before.

Its recorded history starts with the gold rush of the 1860s when a number of towns along the Lachlan River were gripped by gold frenzy. Up until that time the area was known as Black Ridge.

The population of the area swelled to 40,000 and the town was re-named Forbes after Sir Frances Forbes the first Chief Justice of NSW.

By 1863 gold fever had moved to the New Zealand gold fields and the population dropped to 3,500!

Following the gold rush days the main economic activities were wool, wheat, lucerne production, fruit growing, dairying and meat.

Today there is a massive amount of irrigation taking place along the river and no doubt the presence of the Lachlan was the reason these diverse agricultural pursuits were enabled before the 20th century.



Victoria Square is a beautiful park in the centre of Forbes. On three sides there are National Trust properties. The Vanderberg Hotel is shown in the background. Parts of it date back to the 1870s.

FORBES NSW (continued)



All of these structures are classified by the National Trust of Australia. From the top:

Court House – built in 1880

Town Hall – opened in 1891 and St Andrew’s Presbyterian Church – completed 1877

Fountain donated by Mayor Wm. Thomas in 1891

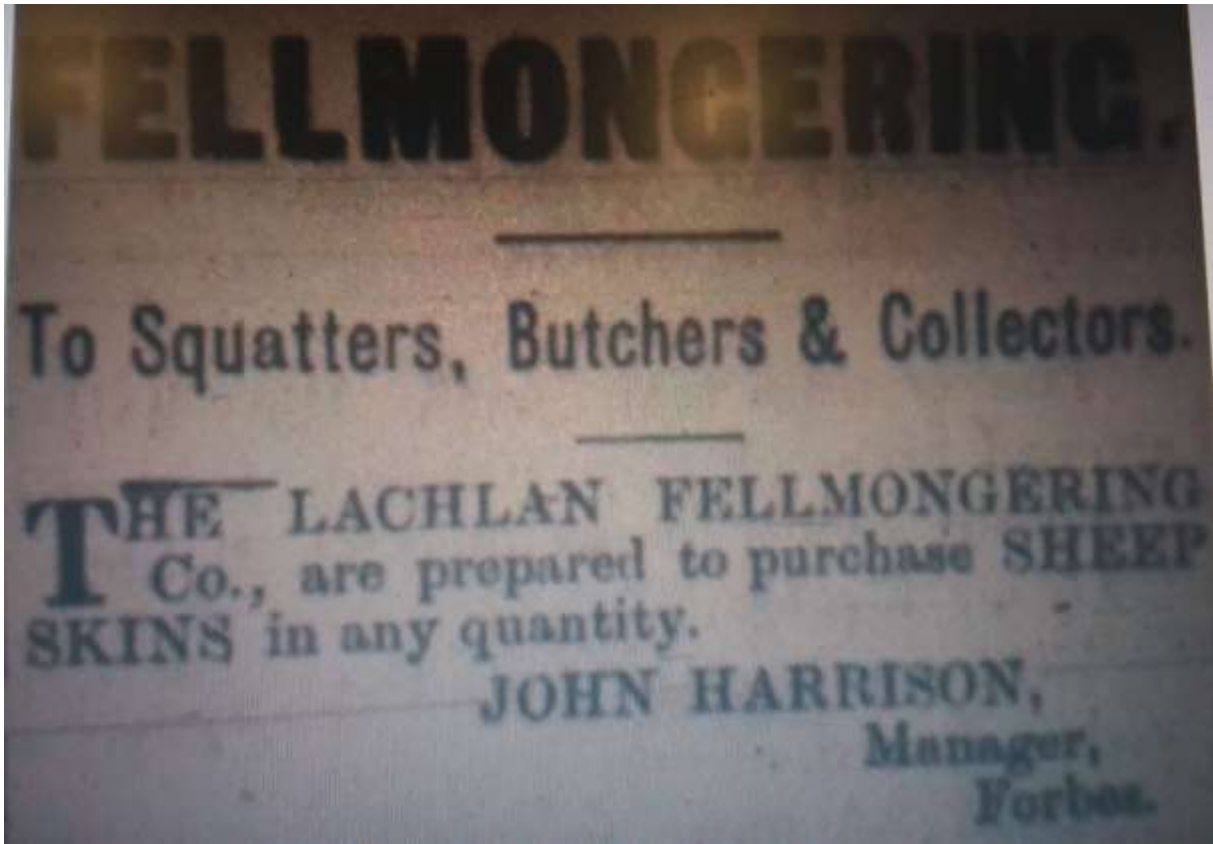
St John’s Anglican Church - completed 1877



LACHLAN FELLMONGERING Co.

When John Harrison signed the contract to purchase land on 15 January 1888 he put down £50 deposit with two further instalments required to be paid - £79.10 and £84 making a total outlay of £213.10. The Torrens titles to the various blocks of land were to be transferred on full payment.

The next thing John did was to advertise The Lachlan Fellmongering Co. in the 'Forbes Times' on 24 March 1888. He was the Manager and the company was keen to purchase sheep skins in any quantity.



On 14 April 1888 an account was opened at the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney Limited in the name of John C. Corscaden and on the same day an account was started at the Union Bank in the name of Lachlan Fellmongering Co. The signatories for the business account were John Harrison and John Corscaden.

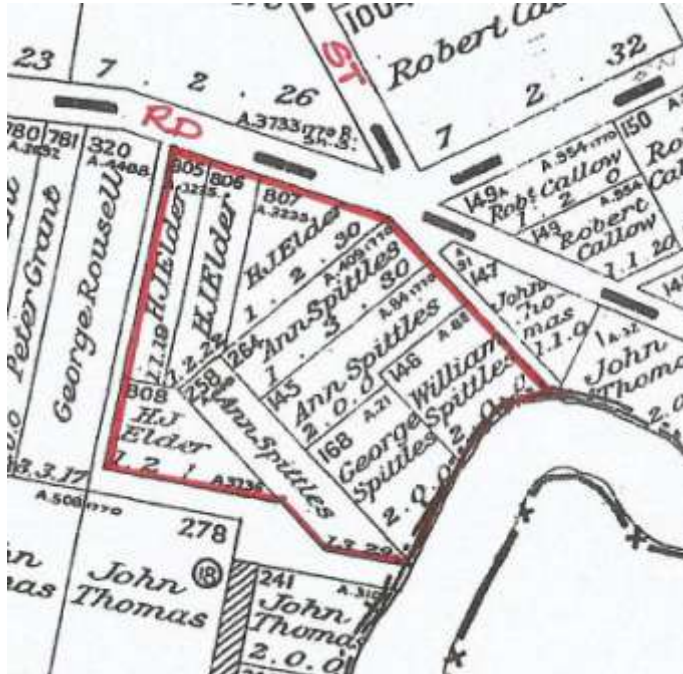
On 27 June 1888 John Corscaden opened an account at the Union Bank, Forbes with a deposit of £3,000 described by the bank as a 'legacy'. This money was part of the will of his uncle in Ireland who was an owner of a number of ships. In today's money, the legacy would have been in the order of two and a half million dollars.

Three months later (9 July 1888) the Lachlan Fellmongering account was changed to 'Harrison and Corscaden'. John Corscaden made two payments to the Harrison and Corscaden account during July and August – one for £500 and another for £1,000 (collectively equates to \$1.3 million today).

HARRISON AND CORSCADEN

Did John Harrison purchase or create the Lachlan Fellmongering Co? We simply don't know.

Nevertheless, on 30 August 1888 the land purchases were settled and the nine title deeds became the joint property of Harrison and Corscaden.



JOHN CANNING CORSCADEN 1849 -1911

John was a decade older than John Harrison and was single when he arrived in Australia. He was born in Londonderry, Ireland (now Northern Ireland) in November 1849.

In his obituary in the 'Forbes Times' it said '*left Ireland in 1883 on account of his health, having met with a serious accident that resulted in partial paralysis*'.

But the report added '*that on the trip out he recovered.*'

HARRISON AND CORSCADEN (continued)

With the partnership now in place, the land settled and the infrastructure ready to go it was time to ramp up the business promotion and planning for the grand official opening.

During the first couple of months of 1888 John Harrison had been out and about informing the press about his plans. The 'Sydney Mail' in its 31 March 1888 edition carried a brief story about 'a company of gentlemen establishing a fellmongering business in Forbes'.

that hearty welcome they were desirous of giving him.
A company of gentlemen are about to establish a fellmongering business at Forbes. They have already purchased 16 acres of ground on the bank of the river, and operations will commence shortly. If the business goes ahead, it is the intention of the company to erect a large wool-scouring plant.
The revenue of the Crown lands office here during the

WOOL SEASON 1888

HARRISON & CORSCADEN,
WOOLSCOURERS & FELLMONGERS,
Riverside, Forbes.

HAVING completed the Erection of one of the most extensive and perfect WOOLSCOURING PLANTS in the Western District, we beg to notify that we are now prepared to receive WOOL in any quantity, all consignments of which, whether large or small, shall have our best attention, and having a THOROUGHLY COMPETENT STAFF OF SORTERS AND SCOURERS, the WOOL will be treated so as to secure for it the

Highest Market Value.

Many owners of SMALL CLIPS having applied to us as to the best method of sorting and packing their WOOLS, we have much pleasure in informing them that we have set apart a portion of our premises where this can be done in the best possible manner (and at a mere nominal charge to the grower) thus enabling them to bring out their WOOLS in the most attractive form.

Mr. T. A. Crowe,
Is our town Agent, from whom any further information can be obtained.

HARRISON & CORSCADEN.

RIVERSIDE.
FORBES.

Harrison & Corscaden,
WOOLSCOURERS & FELLMONGERS

Town Agent—T. A. CROWE.

The advertisement above was placed in the 'Parkes and Forbes Gazette' on Friday 31 August 1888 and a week later (7 September) this larger advertisement (left) appeared in the same publication.

It mentions T.A.Crowe as being their town agent from whom further information could be obtained.

Apart from representing Harrison and Corscaden, Crowe was also the agent for JH Geddes & Co. of Sydney who were significant woolbrokers, scourers and fellmongers.

HARRISON AND CORSCADEN (continued)

The day of the big opening arrived – Saturday 15 September 1888

The following story was run in the 'Parkes and Forbes Gazette' on Friday 21 September 1888. It was typed out by Jean Little as the quality was too difficult to reproduce.



'RIVERSIDE WOOL SCOURING ESTABLISHMENT

On Saturday afternoon last about twenty five gentlemen representing the various interests of the district, attended by invitation at the formal opening of Messrs Harrison and Corscaden's wool scouring establishment, situated on the river about one mile from Forbes.

The plant, which is very complete, comprises a 12h.p. boiler driving a pair of Blake pumps with 5 inch plungers, which furnish a plentiful supply of water to four Geddes Patent tanks, and a soak.

The necessary hot water being supplied by a steam pipe from the boiler into the soak. A large woolshed has been erected with sorting tables and woolpress to allow ample storage for wool sent for scouring. Arrangements have been made for using waste water for irrigation.

After a general look round the visitors adjourned to the shed where a cold collation had been nicely laid out by Mr. G Chisholm.

*Mr. G F Hutchinson, Mayor of Forbes, occupied the Chair and Mr Brooke the Vice-Chair. After justice had been done to the good things provided, Mr Hutchinson in an appropriate speech proposed **Success to the Riverside Wool scouring establishment coupled with the names of Messrs Harrison and Corscaden.***

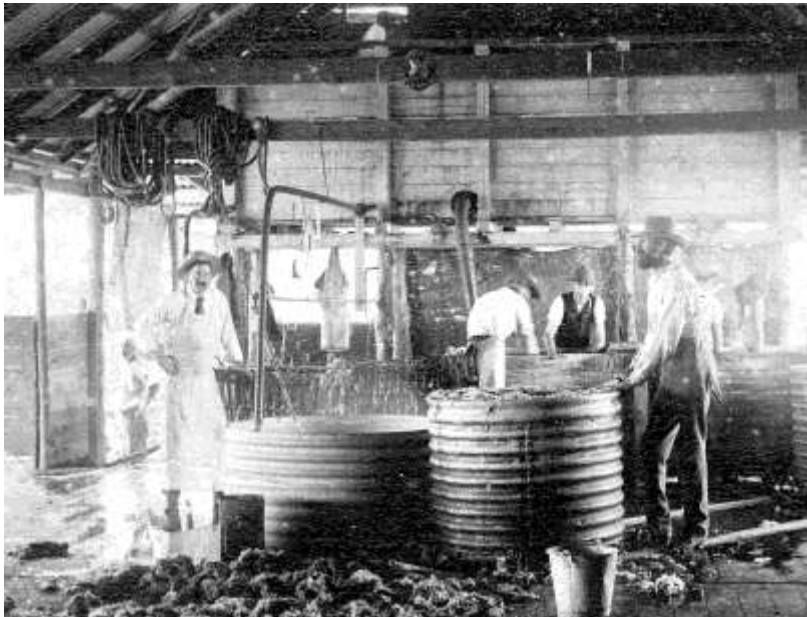
The toast was drunk with musical honours, Messrs Harrison and Corscaden responding.

Success to the town and District of Forbes; Our Pastoral, Agricultural, Commercial and Mining interests; The health of Mr C Cabot as pioneer wool scourer of Forbes; The Ladies; The Press; The engineer Mr J Johnson; The contractor for the building Mr Ferguson.



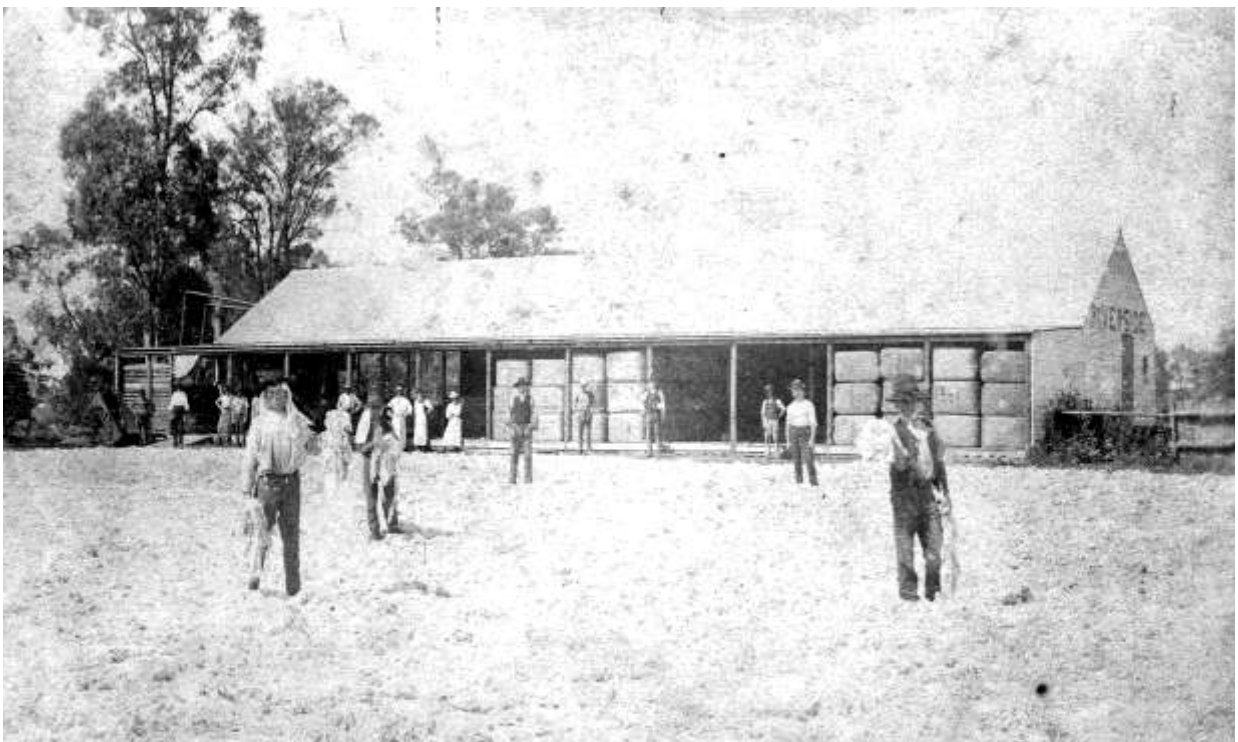
HARRISON AND CORSCADEN (continued)

The day of the big opening arrived (continued)



Other toasts were given and responded to after which the visitors, with interest, watched the scouring of some wool, those competent to judge expressing their approbation at the clean and speedy manner in which the wool was turned out; as far as we could judge, leaving nothing to be desired, the work being equal to that of the large establishments in and around Sydney, and at a cost so moderate that the extra carriage on the weight of dirt will almost meet the expense.

The establishment is capable of turning out from 25-30 bales of wool a day and being above the weir in the river, a bountiful and permanent supply of good soft water is assured. No expense has been spared to make this establishment complete, and as Mr Harrison is a gentleman of large experience in the trade, there is not the slightest doubt, that once the plan of having wool scoured in Forbes, on approved principles, is adopted, that Riverside will become one of our largest and most flourishing industries, and of permanent importance in the town.'



JOHN HARRISON AND EMILY AUGUSTA WHEARE MARRY

A few months after the 'hoopla' of the official opening, John and Emily were married on 2 February 1889 by the Rev. William Stewart. The ceremony took place at the Parsonage of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, Forbes. Why the Parsonage and not the Church? Emily was four or five months pregnant at the time and those 'in the family way' were not permitted a Church wedding.

The witnesses were John Canning Corscaden and Annie Wigglesworth.



When I visited Forbes one of my objectives was to see what I could learn about Annie Wigglesworth. As I was walking past the Town Hall I noticed the name of Alderman Wigglesworth, who was Annie's father.

She arrived in Australia as a three year old with her parents George and Elizabeth Wigglesworth.

Annie was born in Newcastle Upon Tyne in northern England in 1869. Emily's birth year was 1862. My best guess is they met at the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Forbes. There was some evidence in the Forbes Family History Centre to suggest that the Wigglesworths worshipped at the Church. My next best guess is that Emily met John in Forbes rather than elsewhere. Emily's occupation was a 'milliner' so what she was doing in Forbes is anything but clear but taking on a position as a Governess could well have been possible. Maybe even for the Wigglesworth family.

Just to complete the story about Emily's friend Annie – she married Thomas McDade in 1893 but died in April 1919 at the age of 50.

THE WHEARE FAMILY

Emily was born on 13 June 1862 at her parents' farm named "Bethany" at Hawkers Creek just outside Kapunda in South Australia. Her parents, Henry and Temperance Wheare (nee Bray) were both born in Cornwall, England in 1824 and 1825 respectively. They married in Plymouth, England in July 1847 and soon after set sail for Australia.

By the end of 1847 they were settled in the Kapunda region (though not always at Kapunda itself). Apart from some time spent in Bendigo, Victoria during the goldrush they remained in Kapunda for the rest of their lives. Henry was a miner in Cornwall and initially in Kapunda. At the time of his death he was working for the local Council.

Second great grandparents Henry and Temperance had 15 children over 21 years.

- Sarah Wheare - 1848
- Mary Jane Wheare – 1850
- Temperance Wheare – 1851
- Ellen Victoria Wheare – 1852
- John Henry Bray Wheare – 1854
- William George Fletcher Wheare – 1855
- Charles Thomas Pope Wheare – 1857
- Maria Wheare – 1858
- Alfred Edgecombe Wheare – 1859
- Harriette Wheare – 1860
- **Emily Augusta Wheare – 1862**
- Henrietta Wheare – 1863
- Alice Maud Maria Wheare - 1865
- Arthur Herbert Wheare - 1866
- Clara Florence Wheare - 1869

Emily's parents both died in 1881. Temperance on 10 June and Henry two months later on 9 August. Temperance was aged 56 and Henry 57. (Emily was 19 at the time)



A little trivia from Sandra Miller: We are related to former Prime Minister of Australia R.J.L. (Bob) Hawke by marriage. Henry Wheare's youngest sister, Susanna, married William Hawke in Kapunda. His brother James Renfrey Hawke was Bob's great grandfather.

JOHN AND EMILY'S CHILDREN

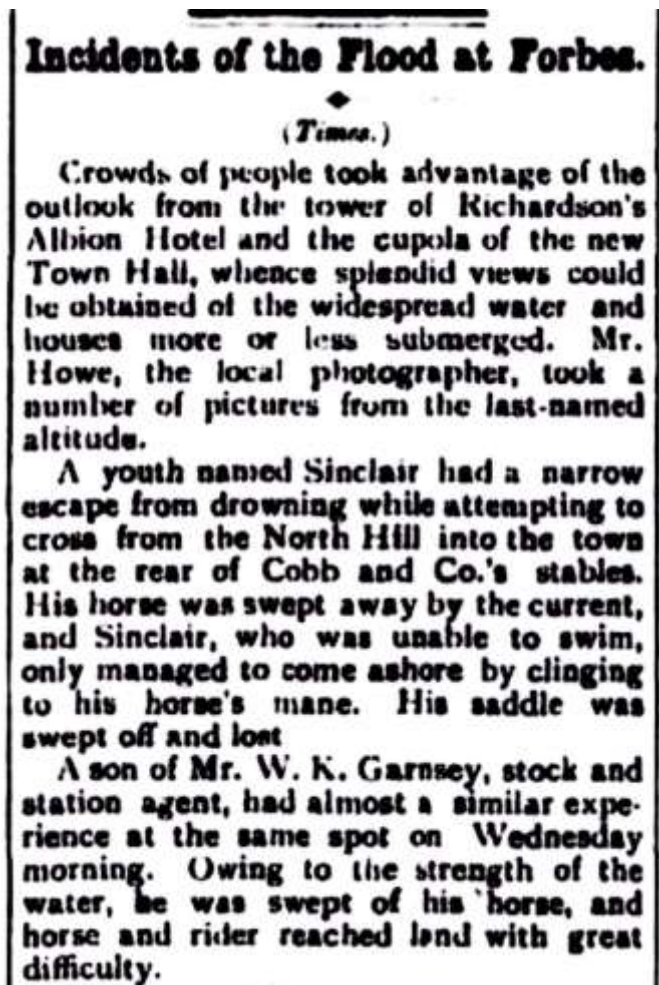
Emily gave birth to seven children over the decade before the turn of the 20th Century. Their first child, named simply 'Garnet' (which is a name that can be found in the Wheare family history) was born on 3 June 1889 but died of debility three weeks later on 23 June.

After the death of Garnet, Emily must have been feeling quite depressed as she had lost an illegitimate child named Olive Minetta Wheare just before Christmas of 1884 when the baby was five months old.

Nevertheless, the next six children were all relatively healthy.

- Norman John: 1890 – 1949
- Garnet Joseph: 1891 – 1977
- Dorothy Edith: 1894 – 1982
- Jessie Beatrice: 1896 – 1973
- Edna Janet: 1897 – 1980
- Wilfred Henry: 1899 – 1963

THE MASSIVE LACHLAN RIVER FLOOD - 1891



Historical records suggest that since the 1800s the Lachlan has flooded at regular intervals. Perhaps not a great surprise given that it flows through a flood plain. But the flood of 1891 was no ordinary flood.

The Times newspaper, published by Bathurst Free Press on 21 July 1891, included a very long story about the devastation in Forbes. A small portion is reproduced here.

The most recent flood in Forbes was in 2016 and at this point in time it is coping with a drought which shows no sign of ending.

The 1891 flood and the 1952 flood are singled out as being particularly bad.

HARRISON, CORSCADEN AND STOKES - 1892

The arrival on the scene of Alfred Stokes in 1892, recently retired from his Parliamentary career, and mega wealthy, saw an important change in the dynamics of the business.

Harrison and Corscaden sold him a one third share of the company. However, the trading name remained as 'Harrison and Corscaden'.

Mr Stokes seems to have been somewhat of a 'wheeler dealer'. It may be simply a coincidence but from this point on the company seemed to lose focus. Other potential money making ventures were pursued which didn't end well.

That's the negative assessment but on a positive note the company was delivering the goods as reflected in the story below.

Alfred Stokes (1835 – 15 June 1914) was an English-born Australian politician.

He was born in Somerset to publican John Stokes and Sarah Leonard.

He arrived in Victoria around 1856, mining at Ballarat and Bendigo before moving to New South Wales some time around 1860.

On 27 October 1857 he married Mary Ann Glancey; they had eight children.

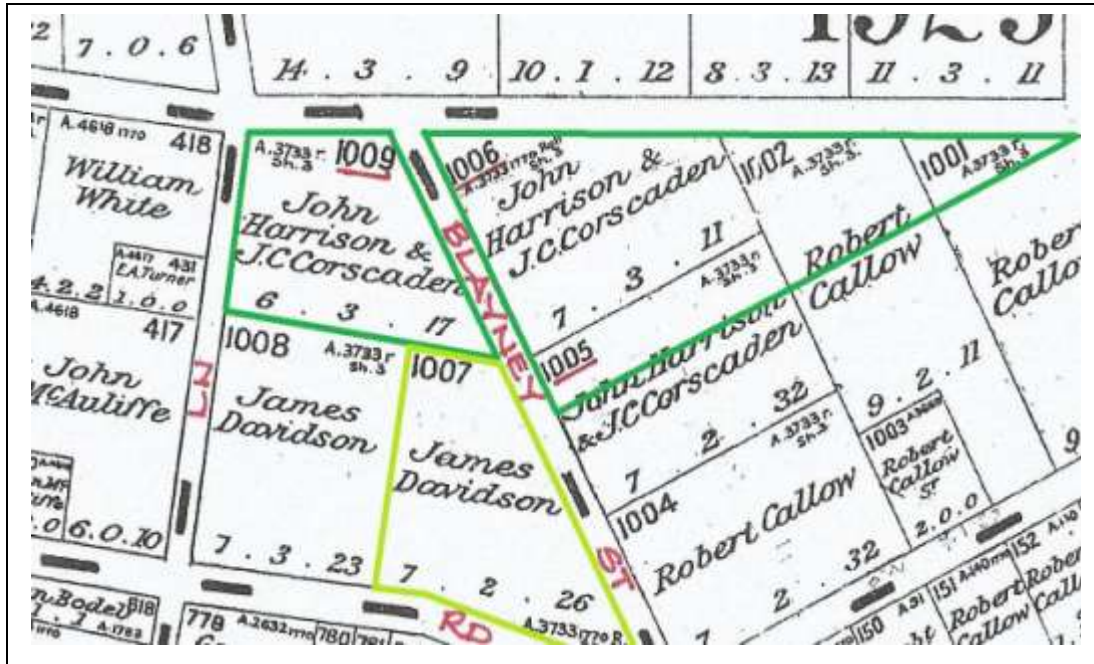
Having settled in Forbes, he became a successful hotel and property owner. In 1882 he was elected to the New South Wales Legislative Assembly as the member for Forbes. He served until 1891, when he retired. Stokes died at Orange in 1914.

Says the Forbes TIMES of August 6th, 1892 :—During this week we have been shown the sample of wool intended for exhibition at the Chicago Fair by Messrs. Harrison and Corscaden, of Riverside, Forbes. The wool is beautifully scoured and its general appearance cannot otherwise than attract the admiration of growers. It was picked from a parcel of lambs' wool, sent to the scour by Mr. C. S Macphillamy, of Warroo, and now that the scouring is complete competent judges affirm that they never handled a better specimen of work done by any scour. Both its appearance as to color, etc., and its quality in handling, denote treatment by a thorough expert, and it reflects considerable credit on the gentlemen under whose supervision the work was done.

The exhibit will probably be shown as noncompetitive at the Forbes Show, and Messrs. Harrison and Corscaden will be pleased to have it inspected by gentlemen interested in the wool trade at their scour, Riverside, any time before it is sent away in the beginning of September.

HARRISON, CORSCADEN AND STOKES (continued)

On 27 July 1892 three blocks of land in Blayney Street, Forbes (1005, 1006 and 1009) were granted to John Harrison and John C. Corscaden.



A schoolhouse was constructed on 1009 and our assumption is that John Harrison built his home on 1005. The schoolhouse is still standing but the old home on 1005 was demolished some 30 years ago.



The schoolhouse also provided for children other than the Harrisons; it may have been the case that the Harrison's Governess had this as part of her role.

1007 had been purchased by Harrison and Corscaden in February the previous year (1891) and was sold/given to long term employee Frederick Stansfield in 1895.

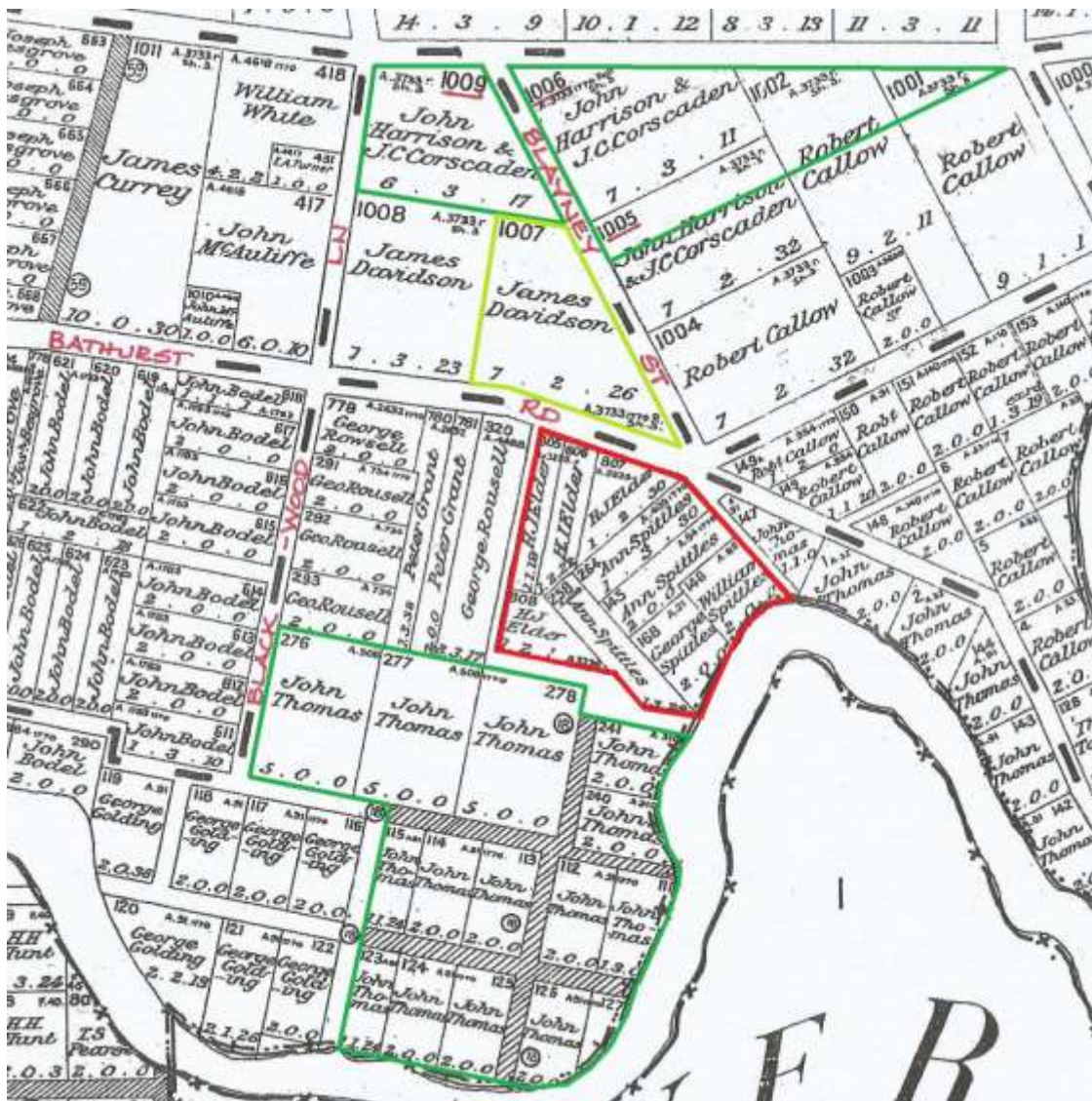
John Corscaden's family home is thought to have been constructed on part of the land acquired for the wool scour.

HARRISON, CORSCADEN AND STOKES (continued)

In May 1893 Alfred Stokes acquired a third share of each of the nine wool scour blocks. Part of the payment to Harrison and Corscaden involved providing each of them with a shareholding in a two and a half acre block, which presumably had some development potential, closer to town. Five years later a brewery was constructed on this site. Why Harrison and Corscaden proceeded with this proposal is not known. Stokes was, of course, an equal shareholder in the company by this time and that may have been part of the original agreement from a year before.

In January 1894 Harrison, Corscaden and Stokes purchased 15 blocks – involving some 40 acres – adjacent to the wool scour land. These blocks are shown below outlined in green adjacent to the river. The purchase also included the roads between the blocks (shown cross hatched). Harrison and Corscaden also swapped part of 1005 to acquire parts of 1001 and 1002 from Robert Callow.

So at the end of 1894 John Harrison and John Corscaden had an interest in 30 blocks of land (including the land closer to town referred to above).



HARRISON, CORSCADEN AND STOKES (continued)

1895 seemed to be a year without significant issues to address or mishaps. Most of the recorded 'history' was clustered around the very end of the year as both Harrison and Corscaden were preparing for their return to their mother countries. From November 1895 they made a number of visits to the Union Bank:

- 4 November: Frederick W. Stansfield, the wool scour manager was granted approval to operate on Harrison and Corscaden Branch account
- 23 November: James Clark was given the same authority. James had been engaged during 1895 as their travelling representative. Four years later he died at age 60.
- 31 December: Emily Augusta Harrison was added as a signatory on the account
- 17 January 1896: Frederick W. Stansfield was added as a signatory and provided with a Letter of Authority to operate on the account (presumably operating on all accounts not just the Branch account)

John Harrison and John Corscaden had their bags packed and presumably travelled by Cobb and Co.(by this time Forbes was the western headquarters of Cobb and Co.) to Sydney where they boarded the ship 'Australia' on 20 January 1896 bound for England.

Emily remained home with Norman (5), Garnet (4) and Dorothy (2) and she gave birth to Jessie Beatrice on 11 March in Forbes. By this time Emily's sister, Alice, had moved to Forbes from Kapunda and had married a John O'Connor in 1895. At least Emily had some family support!

John returned to Forbes in the June of 1896, some five months away from his family and business interests. There was no apparent business rationale behind the journey for either Harrison or Corscaden. Presumably, for John Harrison, it was mainly an opportunity to see his mother and siblings again.

July 1896 saw the partners devote some energy to developing a concept of pine resin extraction. This seems to have been short lived as there are no further reports or advertising that have been located.

Pine Resin Valuable.

Messrs. Harrison, Corscaden, & Co., of the Riverside Woollscour, Forbes, are just now seeking to open up an industry which should be of considerable benefit to this district (says the *Forbes Times*). It has been found that the cypress pine resin has a high commercial value, though the uses to which it is put by home manufacturers are not made public, and the firm mentioned are buying it in any quantity. The cypress pine is the ordinary pine-tree growing in this district, and the resin can best be obtained when the sap is coming down, the simplest course being to tap for it and allow the gum or resin to harden on the tree, but not to stay too long, as discoloration should be avoided.

1898: PURCHASE OF GOUDGE BROS. TANNERY, PARKES

1897 seems to have been a rather unremarkable year but 1898 compensated for that!

There is very little information about the purchase transaction involving Goudge Bros. Tannery in Parkes but it is assumed that Harrison and Corscaden actually purchased this tannery and then installed a manager who ran it as a branch office.

Very few details are available but one brief report indicates that it '*secured the services of Mr. S Leach late of the Pastoral Finance Association Sydney (and well known in the district) to conduct this branch*'.

Like the pine resin venture this development also seems to have been short lived and a year later Mr Leach had established S. Leach and Co. although the significance of that is not understood – it may have been purely for taxation purposes. But a year after the acquisition of Goudge Bros. there is the suggestion that they (Goudge Bros.) had re-opened and expanded their operations.

1898: JOHN AND EMILY HARRISON INVEST FURTHER IN REAL ESTATE

As mentioned previously, when Alfred Stokes acquired one third ownership of the nine wool scour blocks he offered Harrison and Corscaden the opportunity to acquire one third ownership, with him, of a two and a half acre block somewhat closer to town. The particular attraction of that land is not understood but it was, nevertheless, agreed.

In the intervening years a brewery had started to be built over two blocks – the original Stokes block, that Harrison and Corscaden were also part owners of, plus another block adjacent to it.

For whatever reason, Corscaden wanted out of the first block that he had owned since May 1893 and Stokes was keen to offload his one third share of this also. At the same time Stokes offered to sell his entire share in the second block to Harrison.

That all happened on 12 July 1898 John and Emily Harrison were now the proud owners of two more blocks of land in Forbes – they now had an interest in 31 blocks. Interestingly, this purchase was the first one where Emily's name was included on the title. Up until this stage it was a matter only for 'gentlemen'.

Now to the Brewery of which Mr and Mrs Harrison were to become the landlords.

1898: MARRIN AND VINCENTS BREWERY

Arthur Marrin arrived in Forbes in March 1896 and took possession of an old brewery and soon set about developing relationships with the many hotels in the region. Prior to this he had been living in Braidwood where he had been running a lemonade factory but this had burnt down. After a Police investigation an open verdict about the circumstances was returned.

Marrin was warmly received in the Forbes area and he was very buoyed by the opportunities that lay ahead. In 1897 a Victorian graduate in brewing, Thomas Vincent, came on the scene and, according to a newspaper report, *'threw his hat in with Marrin'*. Prior to journeying to Forbes, Vincent had been working at the Pymont Brewery in Sydney.

Soon after Marrin and Vincent got together they asked their landlord if he could make certain additions and alterations to the premises. The response was negative and Vincent prevailed upon Marrin *'to make every endeavour to get a new brewery erected'*. The newspaper report continues:

'Selecting a spot consisting of six acres about two miles from the township, an enterprising firm (Messrs Harrison and Corscaden) very soon commenced the required building, quite satisfied that the reputation gained by Mr Marrin, which was greatly added to by Mr Vincent, would result in such a monopoly of the trade of the district, that no edifice however elaborate would be too extensive or expensive for the prospective business.

The new brewery which to a casual observer would look at the first blush too elaborate, on closer inspection would prove more useful than ornamental, for Messrs Marrin and Vincent have introduced such improvements and requisites, that no ordinary building would have enabled them to carry out their intentions in regard to the brewing of such an ale as will supersede all others made in the country and will vie favourably with the production of the best firms in Sydney.

The main building 100ft by 30ft is constructed of the best timber procurable, well seasoned and shrunk and with its four storeys and tower looks quite imposing and is certainly an acquisition in the way of buildings to the town.'

Another grand opening, this time on Wednesday 14 September 1898. The four storey high brewery opened for business. It was the highest structure in Forbes then or now!

About 150 gentlemen attended the opening ceremony at Marrin and Vincent's new Forbes brewery last week. The buildings are very extensive, and are about a mile from the town, where all the most modern machinery has been put in. A full description of the brewery appears elsewhere this issue.

Friday, February 3, 1899.

Forbes.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

On Sunday evening, about 8 o'clock, a fire occurred at Messrs. Marrin and Vincent's brewery. A strong wind was blowing, and although the Fire Brigade turned out they arrived on the scene too late to be of much service. Only a few barrels of beer were saved. It is supposed that the cause of the outbreak was a spark from the brewery engine. The building was a new one, having only been finished a few months. It was insured in the Manchester Office and there was a policy in the Australian Mutual on the contents.

Four months after the grand opening the brewery burnt to the ground!

Although John and Emily were the land owners the construction was funded by Harrison, Corscaden and Stokes. It was insured but that doesn't always mean that one's monies are recovered. After the fire the brewery was recommenced elsewhere. What, if anything, the Harrisons did to remove a massive amount of debris from the site is not known.

Marrin, Vincent, and Co.'s brewery, at Forbes, was totally destroyed by fire on Sunday night. The building, plant, and stock were insured for a total of £300. Forbes is now without a beer-making place, the Red Lion Brewery having been destroyed some weeks ago.

It is interesting that the Red Lion Brewery was destroyed by fire also – one wonders whether there was some other agenda playing out in the background.

It is also curious that when Marrin and Vincent got back on their feet again, which reportedly happened just two weeks later, the property they leased this time was owned by none other than Alfred Stokes. A lease was signed on 31 May 1899 and expired on 23 January 1939. By 1939 Stokes was well and truly dead but his son William Henry Stokes was one of two registered proprietors.

THE FEDERATION DROUGHT – 1891 TO 1903

A Wool Scour in Forbes at the turn of the 20th Century wasn't exactly an ideal enterprise.

In 1892 Australia had 106 million sheep, two-thirds of which were in the eastern states. By 1903 the national flock had almost halved to 54 million.



Drought Time by JA Commins, 1897. National Library of Australia 4779119

Banks foreclosed on some sheep stations and many graziers walked off their land. Some five million acres of leasehold country in the NSW Western Division was reported to have been abandoned between 1891 and 1901.

Many pastoralists were overwhelmed by the debt they incurred buying feed, controlling rabbits and repairing infrastructure damaged by dust storms.

Rabbits had been introduced to Victoria in 1859, and by the time drought set in they were in plague proportions across most parts of South-Eastern Australia.

Rabbits dug up the roots of native bushes and ringbarked trees and shrubs, killing them. The combination of overstocking, drought and rabbits meant that pastoralists had nothing left to feed their livestock.

AB 'Banjo' Patterson, 'It's Grand' - 1902

*It's grand to be a rabbit
And breed till all is blue,
And then to die in heaps because
There's nothing left to chew.*

THE FEDERATION DROUGHT – 1891 TO 1903 (continued)



Carriages in the Murray River

The New South Wales government declared a public holiday on 26 February 1902 so that people could 'unite in humiliation and prayer' for the end of the drought. Banks, government offices and most businesses closed, and special religious services were held.



Dust storm over Broken Hill

CHRISTMAS 1901 WASN'T EXACTLY A HAPPY TIME!

On 23 December 1901 John Harrison assigned to Harrison, Jones Devlin (Woolbrokers and rural financiers) all 21 of his blocks of land with the exception of the nine wool Scour blocks (owned by the three partners) and John and Emily's home block. Like many others in the western part of the State, foreclosure was an inevitable fact of life.

In February 1901 Alfred Stokes left to visit the 'old country' and the business continued albeit at a much reduced pace given the dire affects of the continuing drought.

During this tumultuous time at the turn of the century John and Emily focused on family and these photographs below of their children is thought to have been taken around the end of 1901 with the one of the Harrison girls perhaps a year or so earlier.



**Back: Norman, Dorothy and Jessie
Front: Edna, Wilfred and Garnet**



The three Harrison girls: Dorothy, Jessie and Edna (sitting on the floor)

JULY 1902: THE FINAL STRAW – FIRE AT THE WOOL SCOUR – ARSON SUSPECTED

On 25 July 1902 it was widely reported across Australia that fire had struck the wool scour plant and infrastructure at Riverside. The news story below was carried in the 'Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser' and literally dozens of other newspapers. The widespread reporting of this event seems to suggest that Harrison and Corscaden had quite a profile in the wool industry despite the relative youth of the business.

'Harrison and Corscaden's wool scouring works and machinery, near Forbes, were totally destroyed by fire this morning. There is no clue as to how the fire originated. The place was unoccupied not having been in use since last year. Nothing was saved. The building and machinery were insured for £900.'

Due to the seasonal nature of wool scouring the machinery had been idle but was being prepared to re-commence the Monday after the fire occurred.

An enquiry was held at the Forbes Court House with Police and a representative of the Insurance companies in attendance. A very detailed report of the proceedings was covered in the 'Forbes Times' of 2 August 1902. It is an interesting read and a full transcript is included as an appendix to this story.

The key findings of the enquiry were:

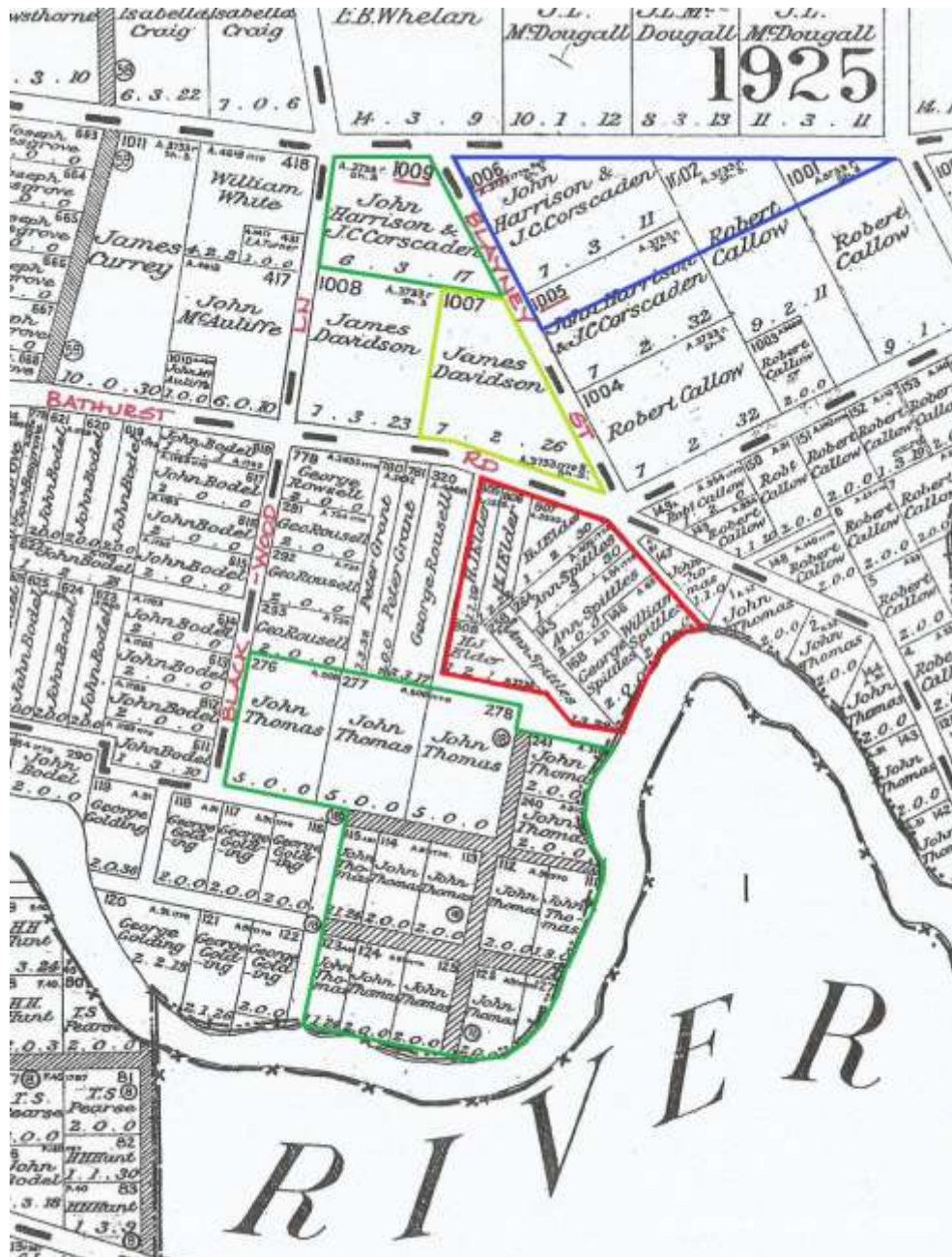
- A Jury empanelled for the enquiry returned a verdict to the effect that there was no evidence to show how or by what means the fire originated. In essence it was an open finding.
- John Harrison indicated that the building was insured for £400 and the machinery for £500. But he estimated the value of the machinery loss at £1,143 meaning a very real shortfall.

This seems to have been the final straw for John Harrison and the partnership was officially dissolved on 30 September 1902 following the return of Alfred Stokes from England. He was away when the fire occurred.

JANUARY 1903: JOHN HARRISON SELLS UP ALL HIS REMAINING PROPERTY IN FORBES

To complete the wind-up of the partnership, on 24 January 1903 Alfred Stokes purchased John Harrison's one third shareholding of the nine wool scour properties. John Corscaden maintained his one third share.

Alfred Stokes had a mortgage over John and Emily's land and home and on 22 January 1903 (two days before the sale of the wool scour blocks) John Harrison sold Stokes his property (edged in blue below). Just where John, Emily and the family went to live at this point is unknown. They may, of course, have continued to rent the property until they moved to Sydney in 1906.



1904: JOHN HARRISON – COMMISSION AGENT FOR WRIGHT AND ABBOTT

By 1904 John Harrison was back in business again, this time as a Commission Agent for Wright and Abbott Scourers and Fellmongers who were the largest wool scourers in the country. It is presumed that this relationship only lasted for a relatively short time and the Harrison family moved to Sydney in 1906.

J. HARRISON,
Commission Agent
Federal Buildings, Templar-St
FORBES.

SOLE DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE FOR
WRIGHT & ABBOTT,
Scourers and Fellmongers
Lakeside, Bots

Clearly trying to reinvent himself in Forbes was a hard act for John Harrison.

By this time his former manager Frederick Stansfield was now also a competitor.

They both advertised in the 'Forbes Gazette' on the same day – 12 February 1904.

Wanted : 10,000 Good Sound
Pelts.

F. W. Stansfield,

Wool, Hide, Skin, and Pro-
duce Merchant.

Lachlan-Street, Forbes.

Sydney Prices, less Carriage.

1904 - 1905: TO FINISH THE FORBES PART OF THE STORY

The 6 February 1904 issue of the 'Forbes Times' reported that the Bankruptcy Court had declared John Canning Corscaden bankrupt. Corscaden attributed this to the pressure of creditors and loss by fire.

'Harrison' was removed from the brand name which now traded as Corscaden and Co. By July the owners of the wool scour were John Corscaden's wife Margaret, whom he married in April 1901, together with Stansfield and Stokes. At this time John was 52 and Margaret 28. Their only child Margaret Fanny Corscaden was born in August 1906.



Margaret and Margaret Fanny with John Canning Corscaden

By 1905 Alfred Stokes was the sole owner and he converted it to a rabbit canning works. The Federal Meat Extract Co. leased the property from Stokes in July 1905 but their tenure was very short lived. They were processing some 5,000 rabbits daily until the end of August when they abruptly left.

John Harrison's good friend and colleague John Canning Corscaden passed away on 20 November 1911 at age 62.

Alfred Stokes died in Orange in 1914 at age 79 or 80. He was always referred to as a 'gentleman'. His estate was £225,807 which today would translate to approximately \$140 million.

Now to the new life of John, Emily and their six children in Sydney



THE HARRISONS IN SYDNEY

Waverley

In 1906 they moved to the Sydney suburb of Waverley and were living at 230 Cowper Street (now called Bronte Road). Not only was it their home but Emily is recorded in the Electoral Roll as 'Storekeeper'. An advertisement in the Sydney Morning Herald on 1 June 1906 announced that '**Lipton Tea available from Mrs E. A. Harrison, 230 Cowper Road, WAVERLEY**'.

In 1908 they re-located to Campbell Street, Little Coogee and named the home 'Chellow Dean'. When John was living with his mother and step-father before leaving for Australia they lived in the Bradford suburb of Manningham. Just behind the home was the picturesque and tranquil public space known as 'Chellow Dene'.

Two years later (1910), they were on the move again this time to Varna Street, Little Coogee (now known as Clovelly). They took the 'Chellow Dean' name plate with them. Their fourth and final move in the Eastern Suburbs was to 6 Alfred Street, Waverley which happened in 1911.



The photos above are thought to have been taken in 1911 or thereabouts with John and Emily aged 51 and 49. At the same photography session my grandfather Norman at age 21 and is shown with Sandra's grandmother Dorothy at age 17.

In 1912 they moved yet again, this time to Oatley which had recently been developed as '*a new garden suburb*'.

John took over the grocery store/post office from Thomas Carter in 1912 and presumably they/the family lived on the premises. Later they went to live in a large home named 'Riverview' but the evidence suggests it was leased not owned. The only property John owned after moving to Sydney was a small block in Pitt Street, Mortdale (this is referred to later).

THE HARRISONS IN SYDNEY (continued)

Oatley

John and Emily's children would have been aged approximately as follows in 1912 when the family moved from Waverley to Oatley.

- Norman – 23
- Garnet – 21
- Dorothy – 19
- Jessie – 17
- Edna – 16
- Wilfred – 14

There are gaps in our knowledge about John's business activities after arriving in Sydney. For the first few years while they were living in the more established Sydney suburbs it seems that John retained his connection with fellmongering. There is evidence that he was exporting fur skins from premises at 42 Margaret Street, Sydney. In the electoral roll of 1906, Emily is shown as 'store keeper'.

After the move to Oatley, at age 53 or 54, John finally said goodbye to his lifelong career and could see other opportunities.

Oatley, at the time the First World War started, was somewhat remote perhaps like Camden was as I was growing up. The following extract comes from 'Early Oatley' by DJ Hatton:

*'By 1903 the Postmaster General's Office decided to have both a telephone service and Post Office at Oatley Railway Station in 1903. But initially the telephone only connected to Penshurst Railway Station. By 1909 it was decided to move the telephone and post office to Mr Charles Hunter's store in Oatley. The site of this store is where the hotel now is. **Mr Harrison took over the Post Office Store in 1912 and he moved his store to the adjacent block in 1915.'***

John Harrison and Co. was formed and a general store opened in 1915. This was expanded to include a fuel business. Norman and Gar worked in the business with their father.

Come 1919 and the cessation of the Great War, John and Emily's daughter Jessie married Matthew O'Brien in 1920. But a year or so before the wedding, it was announced on 21 February 1919: *'Messrs Harrison and O'Brien having purchased the fuel business of Harrison and Co. and the carrying business of E Forrest, Oatley have commenced business as carriers and fuel merchants at Oatley Avenue, Oatley.'*

THE HARRISONS IN SYDNEY (continued)

Other newspaper stories and advertising from 1920 suggest that John Harrison's interest in pursuing business opportunities had not waned:

- Early in 1920 Harrison and O'Brien advertised as General Carriers, Wood, Coal and Coke Merchants.
- April 1920 - the business was formally registered. It had three partners – John Harrison, Gar Harrison and Matthew O'Brien.
- October 1920 – Harrison and O'Brien, produce merchants and removal contractors, announced that they had opened a branch business in Mortdale which was the adjacent suburb.
- December 1920 – the company was sued £70 for alleged negligence. Whilst removing a load of furniture from Oatley to Maroubra the cart overturned and the load smashed. Plaintiff was awarded £20.
- June 1923 – land was purchased at Pitt Street, Mortdale
- July 1923 – a brick shop was erected on the Pitt Street, Mortdale site
- June 1926 – Gar purchased the Mortdale shop outright
- May 1927 – A group of clergy formed an Anti Licence Campaign Committee to fight a hotel being constructed next to the Produce Store. But the campaign was unsuccessful.

From the Oatley Hotel website:

'A brewery built Oatley Hotel in 1928 and the pub originally attracted the nearby Oyster Farmers of Neverfail Bay. Back then Oatley Hotel was known as "the closest country pub to the city". The grounds of the pub were previously occupied by Harrison and O'Brien's produce store and a wood and coal yard.'

- March 1928 – Gar sold the Mortdale property and the following November received approval to erect two petrol bowsers outside the shop at 18 Letitia Street, Oatley. These premises had been purchased two months earlier by Norman (on 21 September 1928) as a home for Emily.

On 22 March 1928 John died aged 67. His cause of death was essentially heart failure but he also had 'gangrene of the leg'.

John's grandson, Mervyn Harrison then aged 10 always retained an image in his mind of John carving the Sunday roast dinners. And more particularly he remembered the absolute respect that John enjoyed as head of the household. He also never forgot that John was a firm believer in the maxim that *'children should be seen but not heard'*.

The Letitia Street property was two storey with accommodation upstairs and a general store with petrol bowsers out front. Initially it was run by Gar and later taken over by Jessie. According to Auntie Connie (Gar's wife), Jessie was run ragged attending to the service station whilst, at the same time, looking after the needs of her mother who would summons her upstairs by ringing a bell. Eventually it all became too much and Emily was moved to a nursing home at Arncliffe where she died in 7 July 1940 aged 78 also from heart problems.

THE HARRISONS IN SYDNEY (continued)

The last known photo of Emily



Profoundly deaf, Emily used an ear trumpet for communication. Allan and Mervyn Harrison both had fond memories of their grandmother as a 'gentle and good humoured lady who participated in domestic activities – cooking and sewing etc'.

Norman John Harrison



NORMAN HARRISON AND HIS FAMILY

Norman was from a generation that suffered during two world wars and a global depression the likes of which have never been seen again. After some years working with his father and brother in the General Store at Oatley, Norman then spent the remainder of his working life employed by the Illawarra and South Coast Steam Navigation Co. Ltd. He rose through the clerical ranks to become the Manager at exactly the wrong time in the company's history. Coastal shipping was under siege from road transport and this created enormous stress on a person who had committed his life to the organisation.

However, the company did provide an above average income for the family and they were able to enjoy annual holidays principally in the Blue Mountains.

Norman was a non-drinker (his wife, Violet, was strongly opposed to any consumption of alcohol) but he was a moderate smoker.

He played the piano relatively well and he also owned a banjo which he played infrequently. His son Mervyn recalled an occasion during the 1930s, during the height of the depression, that the ABC organised a concert in Forest Park, Epping to raise people's spirits. Norman volunteered his services as a pianist.

During the 1940s Norman developed heart trouble and suffered from chronic hearing problems. He died in 1949 aged 59.



Violet Harrison (nee Glanfield) was the seventh child of John George Glanfield and Mary Ann Fay. She was born in Northcote, Victoria on 25 June 1890 and died in February 1956 aged 66.

Although just under five foot tall (150 cms) and weighing in at about six stone (40 kg) Violet 'packed a punch'.....she could never be described as the shy and retiring type! Her son Mervyn said she was never dogmatic... just insistent and her views generally prevailed.

Violet was a devoted mother to Allan and Mervyn, a good cook, a competent dressmaker and, in Mervyn's words '*an efficient and economical housekeeper*'.

NORMAN HARRISON AND HIS FAMILY

Unfortunately Violet was dogged by ill-health all her life and she suffered frequent bouts of influenza, pleurisy, bronchitis and asthma. Towards the end of her life she was often admitted to hospital and required home nursing.

It was this ill health that motivated the family to move from the Maroubra area – where her parents lived – to Epping which, it was thought by her doctor, would be better suited for managing her chronic asthma. Later the family re-located to live at East Parade, Denistone just two doors from the railway station.



One of the questions that Mervyn often asked later in his life, but could never in his opinion get a logical answer, was how his parents met. His brother Allan said they met at Sunday School. But Mervyn couldn't believe that Norman, living at Oatley, would have been attending Sunday School at Maroubra where Violet lived. Had he known John and Emily moved to Waverley from Forbes, and later to various parts of the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney he would have had his answer!

NORMAN HARRISON AND HIS FAMILY

Norman was 16 when they moved to Waverley so they were more likely to have met at a church youth group than Sunday School. But it is probable they met at the Lugar Brae Methodist (now Uniting) Church, Waverley. And this is where they were married in 1914.



Norman and his siblings catch up



Left to right standing: Norman Harrison, Max O'Brien, Ollie Williams, Dorothy Williams, Connie Harrison, Gar Harrison

Seated: Violet Harrison, Edna Price, Jessie O'Brien (Absent: Wilfred and Annie Harrison)

NORMAN HARRISON AND HIS FAMILY

The arrival of their two boys, Allan and Mervyn:

Allan was born in October 1915 and Mervyn two years later in December 1917. Both reached the good old age of 92.

Photography did not feature prominently in the lives of these Harrison boys and the only photo we have seen of their early years is shown to the right. Allan is standing. They certainly seem to have been well fed!



Allan Norman Glanfield Harrison

Allan was born at the family home at Maroubra on 9 October 1915.

He attended both Maroubra and Epping Public Schools and then Randwick Boys' High.

After leaving school Allan worked for his Uncle Gar at his service station at Oatley. From this, his love of cars grew and he became a very keen car enthusiast and in time owned an early model Rugby (which he purchased from his Uncle Ernie – his mother's brother-in-law) and a A model Ford.



Photo right: Allan with his Prefect which he loved tinkering with.

Photo right below: Allan and Mervyn both A grade tennis champions.

Whilst working for his Uncle Gar Allan studied accountancy by correspondence. His first accountancy role was working for his father at the Illawarra and South Coast Steam Ship Navigation Co Ltd.

Allan was good at sport. Apart from tennis he was an accomplished ice skater. At one time he won a downhill skiing competition at Mt Kosciuszko.

Both Allan and Mervyn enlisted in the Australian Military Forces in 1942 and were sent to Western Australia for final training and then deployment. But Allan was medically discharged as a consequence of his hearing loss. Allan was to say later in life that his deafness was always a burden to him.



NORMAN HARRISON AND HIS FAMILY

Allan Norman Glanfield Harrison

After returning to Sydney he began work at the Permanent Trustee Company. It was here that he met and married Rita Joy Reilly on his birthday - 9 October 1952.



**Allan and Rita with
Violet, Allan's mother.**

Allan and Rita continued to work at the Permanent Trustee and after renting for a short time they bought a home in the Sydney suburb of Guilford. On 11 August 1955 Gregory Ross Harrison was born.

Two years later, having paid off the mortgage on their Guilford home, Allan and Rita decided on a 'tree change' and became dairy farmers at Yarramalong not all that far from the city of Wyong north of Sydney. They both worked very hard to make the new venture a success but being dairy farmers was very challenging. And that is still the case 60 years later! As a consequence they needed to diversify away from dairy cattle. They saw an opportunity to convert the operation to a poultry farm which was successful for a number of years. With the farm acreage available to them they also took the opportunity to plant fruit and vegetables.



**The homestead and
shedding on the
property at
Yarramalong.**

NORMAN HARRISON AND HIS FAMILY

Allan Norman Glanfield Harrison

Their second son, John Brett Harrison, was born during their time on the farm arriving on 24 June 1959.

But in 1965 they left the farm as the result of a significant drought.

Allan, Rita and the two boys then re-located to the Central Coast town of Narara and Allan took on the job of manager of the Lisarow Fruit Growers Co-Op which was experiencing a degree of financial distress. He was back in his element working with facts and figures and he turned the business around to become a thriving success.

Then in 1977 Allan helped establish an accountancy practice in Gosford in which he worked until retiring at the age 85. His eldest son Greg became a partner and now John's son Luke is a partner.

One of the benefits of working for an employer again was that Allan and Rita could take time off. They enjoyed a number of cruises to foreign lands.



'Captain' Allan Harrison at the wheel!

Allan passed away on 6 July 2008 at the age of 92. Rita continues to live at Narara.

NORMAN HARRISON AND HIS FAMILY

Mervyn Eric Glanfield Harrison

Mervyn or Merv as he was usually known, was born two years after his brother Allan on 1 December 1917. At this time the family were still living at Maroubra but, when he was of an age to go to school, the family had moved to Epping and he attended Epping Public School.

When it was time for high school, he travelled by train to Fort Street Boys' High located in the inner Sydney suburb of Petersham.

Like his father Norman, and brother Allan, Mervyn was very much at home with mathematics and figures. He too started his early working life employed by the steam ship company his father was managing. And during this time he obtained two accounting diplomas.

As mentioned previously, tennis was a sport that Mervyn excelled in and it was on the tennis court that he came to meet Maroubra girl Olga Jeffree Ross.

They married at St Stephen's Presbyterian Church, Macquarie Street, Sydney on 7 February 1942.



Left to right: Allan Harrison, Jean Chamberlayne (nee Ross), Mervyn and Olga, Tom Ross, Elva Graham (nee Ross) and Carlton Harris (Mervyn's lifelong friend)

NORMAN HARRISON AND HIS FAMILY

Mervyn Eric Glanfield Harrison

A few months later Mervyn was dispatched to Western Australia for final training. He was part of the Signals 2 Australian Division and Papua New Guinea became his home for the next three years.

Mervyn, who attained the rank of Sergeant, was based in the area around Milne Bay. The Battle of Milne Bay happened in August/September 1942 just before his arrival.

The battle is often described as the first major battle of the war in the Pacific in which Allied troops decisively defeated Japanese land forces. Although the Japanese had been beaten they were still in the country; hence the need to build up forces in the region.

However, as a result of the battle, Allied morale was boosted and Milne Bay was developed into a major Allied base, which was used to mount subsequent operations.



Mervyn was formally discharged from the Australian Imperial Forces late in 1945 and on 29 July 1946 their son Ross Allan Harrison was born. Three and a half years later, Beverley Jean Harrison (now Summerville) arrived on 14 December 1949

In 1946 Mervyn joined the NSW Department of Technical Education as a Teacher of Accountancy. This was the beginning of a 31 year career with the organisation.

His first appointment was at the Sydney Technical College and a couple of years later he was posted to Lismore in northern NSW for 12 months.

Returning to Sydney he had numerous appointments and gradually moved from teaching to administrative roles.

In 1963 he graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce Degree from the University of New South Wales.



NORMAN HARRISON AND HIS FAMILY

Mervyn Eric Glanfield Harrison

In 1965 he was seconded for two years by the Commonwealth Government to the role of Principal of the Derrick Technical Institute based in Suva, Fiji. At that time Fiji was a British colony.



One of the key objectives of his appointment was to develop new courses. Since that time the Derrick Technical Institute has changed its identity and developed even more courses. Today it is Fiji National University. Fiji always held special memories for Mervyn, Olga, Ross and Beverley.

After returning to Sydney, Mervyn managed the Distance Education Unit for a time and was Acting Principal at Sydney Technical College before being appointed as Principal of St. George Technical College in 1971. He retired at the end of 1977.

After retirement it was time to get serious about lawn bowls. He won numerous competitions and at different times was Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President and President of the Denistone East Bowling Club.



NORMAN HARRISON AND HIS FAMILY



1987:
Allan and
Mervyn
catch up
with their
cousins

John and Emily's grandchildren: Betty is the daughter of Dorothy, Mervyn and Allan were Norman's sons, Owen O'Brien was Jessie's son, Owen Williams was Dorothy's son.

Allan's 90th birthday party in 2005 was a great celebration as it was for Mervyn two years later.



From left: Rita, Olga and
Mervyn Harrison with
Allan sitting.

Family was always extremely important to Mervyn and Olga (similarly with Allan and Rita) and they were very caring parents and grandparents. When Olga passed away on 17 September 2007 they had been married for over 65 years. Mervyn passed two and a half years later on 1 April 2010.

Garnet Joseph Harrison



GARNET AND CONNIE HARRISON

Gar was born in Forbes on 4 July 1891, the second child to bear the name Garnet, but his full name included 'Joseph' the name of his Harrison grandfather.

Nothing is known of Gar's early life until the family moved to Oatley.

In 1913, he joined his father and brother Norman in the family grocery business, J Harrison and Co, where he classified his job as 'packer'. In 1919, Norman left the business and they diversified becoming carriers and produce merchants. At this time his future brother-in-law, Matthew O'Brien joined them.

In 1923, Gar married **Victoria Constance Jane Dunn** at St Matthew, Botany. Connie, as she was known, was born in 1902 in North Bondi, the youngest of nine children of Edward Colonsay Dunn & Jane Wright. Gar was 31, Connie 21.



Gar and Connie's wedding.

**With Norman Harrison,
Alice Dunn (Connie's older
sister) and Edward Dunn.**

The company, now Harrison, O'Brien & Co, having expanded into Mortdale, an adjoining suburb, purchased a block of land there and built another produce store at 48 Pitt Street. After three years Gar bought out his father and brother-in-law and ran the business himself.

In 1928, following the death of his father, Gar sold up and opened a service station at 18 Letitia Street the site of the former Oatley Dairy now owned by his brother Norman. The family home and business in Oatley Avenue had been demolished for the proposed Oatley Hotel, so mother Emily moved in with Connie and Gar.

GARNET AND CONNIE HARRISON

Gar ran the business for six years before Jessie O'Brien took over the service station and Gar and Connie moved to Marrickville, where he ran a similar enterprise. Connie's parents lived next door to them until her mother died in 1940 and her father in 1941.

In 1947, Gar returned to the grocery business, managing a store in Lewisham until 1951, when he retired. They then moved to Glenbrook in the lower Blue Mountains.

He and Connie finally settled in Prince Street, Glenbrook, to be joined by Ollie and Dorrie in Wascoe Street and later Jessie and Arthur in Lucasville Road. By 1964, the siblings had once again dispersed, Dorrie to a unit at Cronulla, Gar and Connie to Woy Woy and Jessie and Arthur to Oatley.

In 1971, now 80 and in poor health, Gar with Connie returned to Sydney and in September moved into the newly opened Macquarie Lodge, a Salvation Army facility in Arncliffe. Dorrie joined them, followed by Jessie in 1972.



Gar and Connie are pictured with Dorothy at their Golden Wedding celebrations in 1973 at Macquarie Lodge.

Gar died in hospital on 17 June 1977, aged 85. Connie continued to live at Macquarie Lodge until her death on 28 June 1987 also aged 85.

GARNET AND CONNIE HARRISON



18 Letitia Street Oatley.

The service station occupied the site of the present day coffee shop 'Dolcé Express' and 'Greg Walsh & Co. Lawyers' with two bowsers on the street. The living area was downstairs behind the shop and the bedrooms upstairs. While the family lived there, the Oatley Cellars site on the corner had a number of different tenants, including a ham and beef shop and a grocery.

Dorothy Edith Williams (nee Harrison)



DOROTHY WILLIAMS (NEE HARRISON) AND FAMILY

Dorothy was the eldest daughter of John and Emily, born at Riverside, Forbes on 17 February 1894. Little is known of her early life in Forbes and the eastern suburbs of Sydney that has not already been mentioned. She possibly met her future husband through church or social activities by the water. Tamarama Beach is the closest beach to where they both lived, Dorothy in Waverley and Ollie in Paddington. The families were certainly known to each other. An autograph book of Jessie's contains verses penned in January 1915 by Ollie's sisters, Gertie and Stella and brother Jack.



Dorothy (*Dorrie*) married **Oliver Lloyd Williams** on 13 July 1916 at the Methodist Parsonage at Hurstville.

Oliver (*Ollie*) was born in 1887 in Liverpool St, Sydney, the eldest of Owen Lloyd Williams and Mary Ann (*Annie*) Carthew's eleven children.

Owen's Irish mother and Welsh father were lured to the goldfields of Ballarat in the 1850's. Like many others, they stayed in the area and began farming at Cambrian Hill.

Annie's parents were both Cornish. Like Dorrie's Cornish grandfather, Ollie's grandfather was a tin/copper miner. After trying his luck on the goldfields, he settled his family in St Arnaud, Victoria, working as a stationary engine driver.

On leaving school, Ollie began his working life in the office of his father's business broking firm in King Street, Sydney.

In 1910, at the advanced age of 23, he started work as a temporary porter in the NSW Railways, remaining a porter until promotion to Night Officer in 1914.

During the next ten years, Ollie had a couple of stints as Relief Officer and performed the duties of Night Officer at South Waterfall, Wahroonga, Portland and Lidcombe.

In 1916 he took ten days leave and married Dorrie. His job took him all over Sydney and the South Coast as far as Wollongong, so he moved into "Riverview" with Dorrie and her family. She was nervous on her own, so spent a lot of the ensuing years living with the Harrisons.

Their first child, John Lloyd (*Jack*) was born there in the following year.

DOROTHY WILLIAMS (NEE HARRISON) AND FAMILY



Ollie was promoted to Station Master at Gerogery (33km north of Albury, NSW) in 1925.

Ollie's nephew, Mervyn Harrison commented: *'We visited Auntie Dorrie and Uncle Ollie at Gerogery, I think on a trip to Melbourne to see my mother's relatives. My memories are of catching yabbies on their property and of the Melbourne Express speeding through Gerogery Station at 60mph and picking up the safety device which the driver needed to guarantee a safe trip on the single line train service.'*



The Station Master's home at Gerogery with Ollie and Dorothy's first child, known as Jack, out front.

Their second son, Owen Lloyd, was born in Oatley during this posting in November 1926.

The local newspaper report following Dorothy's return to Gerogery after the birth of Owen was as follows:

Mrs. O. L. Williams, wife of our popular S.M., who had been away in Sydney for the past three months nursing her aged father, has returned home.

No mention of the addition to the family!

DOROTHY WILLIAMS (NEE HARRISON) AND FAMILY

In 1931, with the birth of their third child imminent, a wide-spread flood in the Riverina prevented Ollie from taking Dorrie to the hospital in Albury as planned. Driving through floodwaters, he headed north to the hospital at Walla Walla some 14 kms away where Betty was born.



Betty is sitting on her father's knee and Dorothy is behind. Owen is on the right. The other woman is Vera Williams, the wife of Ollie's brother Jack. Her daughter is Julianne.

Soon after the arrival of Betty, the young family were on the move again. Postings at Old Junee, Marrar, Lithgow and Condobolin followed until in June 1937, Ollie became a train controller in Lithgow. He transferred to Sydney Control in May 1944, promoted to Senior Controller, a position he held until his compulsory retirement at age 60 in November 1947.

DOROTHY WILLIAMS (NEE HARRISON) AND FAMILY



**Photo taken in 1946.
Ollie and Dorothy
with daughter Betty
and son Jack.**

With Ollie's transfer to Sydney, being wartime and accommodation at a premium, the family moved in with Jessie in Letitia Street, Oatley. The inevitable clash of siblings confined to small spaces occurred and the family shifted to Manly where they were living in a boarding house when the war ended.

Jack, who had been farming in Cambrian Hill, had joined the Air Force and saw action in Port Moresby and Morotai. Owen was conscripted into the CMF and was sent to Rabaul in 1946 after the war had ended.



**Photo from 1949
with Ollie and
Dorothy with Betty
and second son
Owen.**

DOROTHY WILLIAMS (NEE HARRISON) AND FAMILY

After his retirement Ollie couldn't settle. He moved his family to Ballarat, then back to Oatley, to Ballarat again where a new home was built, before selling up once again, making one of his frequent visits to West Wyalong, then moving to Springfield in Gosford, before settling in Glenbrook in 1957, which was home until Ollie died in 1961 aged 73.

Ollie was ill for a long time. Betty and the children spent two extended periods in Glenbrook in 1958 and 1960 where the children attended Glenbrook Primary School and Betty helped her mother out. He died in Penrith Hospital from a cerebral thrombosis. He'd suffered from arteriosclerosis for twenty years, and before his death, diabetes, chronic nephritis and myocarditis.

Following his death, Dorrie moved to a unit in Cronulla. Edna visited from Adelaide from time to time and Jessie and Dorrie reciprocated until the inevitable falling out, when the visitor went home in a huff. They all had short memories and the scenario was repeated numerous times.

Dorrie, having broken each wrist in succession after falls in her unit, joined Gar and Connie in the self-contained hostel section of Macquarie Lodge in Arncliffe in 1971. She lived there until her sudden death from a myocardial infarction on 24 February 1982. She was 88.

John Lloyd Williams (1917-1996) married Joyce Williams – nee Williams (1930-2011) in 1949 in Victoria. They had five boys.

Owen Lloyd Williams (1926-1993) married Elaine Butler in 1951 in Victoria. They had a son, Ian Lloyd (1954-1999) and a daughter. Owen & Elaine divorced. He married Margaret Barton, a science teacher from Kentucky USA in 1977.



Betty Williams married Norman Wells and they have three children, five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Betty and Norman photographed with Connie

Jessie Beatrice O'Brien & Goddard (nee Harrison)



JESSIE O'BRIEN (NEE HARRISON) AND FAMILY

Jessie was the middle daughter, born on 11 March 1896. She took over the grocery business of her father, in partnership with Kathleen Robb, the wife of a local surveyor, in 1920. The same year, she married her father's business partner, Matthew O'Brien and gave birth prematurely to a son, Selwyn, who lived only six hours.

Matthew O'Brien, the son of James O'Brien, a grazier and Frances Caroline Riley was born at Wollamba River, near Taree in 1885. Both parents died when he was a lad of nine, leaving a young family of two boys and five girls between the ages of three and 13. By 1917, Matthew and his brother Dillon were working as dairy hands at the Oatley Dairy, owned by his aunt by marriage, Annie Riley, who was also the mother of Kathleen Robb.

He joined Jessie's father and brother Gar in the family business in 1919. He was 35 when they married, Jessie was 24. The couple lived at the dairy in Letitia Street, before moving to 14 Oatley Avenue, next to Harrison and O'Brien's produce store.

Jessie gave birth to her second son, Owen James in 1923 and then in 1927 her third son, Martin John.

Matthew (or Max as he was known) worked in the carrying side of the business, until the retirement of John, and they continued to live in Oatley Avenue until Jessie took over the service station in Letitia Street in 1933.

Jessie ran the service station well into the 1940's; Max worked in various occupations including as a fencer and as a painter for the American Navy during WW2. By the end of the war, they had moved to a banana plantation in Coffs Harbour, returning to Oatley in 1947.

Owen had enlisted in the AIF and saw service as a gunner with the 60 Australian Search Light Battery between 1943 and 1944. He married Norma McCallum in 1948, and they began married life living with his parents.

Max died at home in Wyong Street, Oatley on 20 May 1949. He was 63.

After his father's death, Owen took a job managing a garage in Dunedoo, NSW where their first daughter was born. The family returned to Sydney in December 1951 for Owen to join the Fire Service.

Jessie and Martin had once again moved to Coffs Harbour, later returning to Sydney and for a short time managed a delicatessen.

In 1953 Martin married Yvonne Bellet, sharing the family home at Gympie with Jessie for a few years. Martin, more commonly known as Matt, spent five years in the Police Force, in 21 Division, the training ground for the CIB. He had various jobs in management and security in the Cronulla area, before moving to the South Coast.

He and Yvonne had four children, two boys and two girls. Martin died in Milton Hospital on 20 August 2003. He was 75.

JESSIE GODDARD (NEE HARRISON)

Jessie remarried in 1958. Her new husband was **Arthur Milton Reeve Goddard**, a retired farmer from Hernani (west of Dorrigo in northern NSW). Arthur was born at Morpeth in 1890. He married Una Moseley in 1921 and had three children, John, Keena and Dorothy. Arthur and Una divorced.

Jessie purchased a home in Glenbrook in 1959, re-uniting with her siblings Gar and Dorothy, but after six years, she and Arthur returned to Sydney, to a unit in Wonoona Parade, Oatley.

Arthur died suddenly at home five months later in September 1965. Jessie stayed on in the unit until her heart condition meant that a home with stairs was no longer viable. She moved into Macquarie Lodge. Less than a year later, she took a turn on a train and died suddenly in hospital on 17 January 1973. She was 76.

Owen eventually left the Fire Service, returning to sales. After fifty years in the same home in Oatley, he and Norma moved to a retirement village in Mittagong. He died on 12 October 2011 aged 88. Norma and Owen had two daughters.

Edna Janet Price (nee Harrison)



EDNA PRICE (NEE HARRISON) AND FAMILY



Second Cousin Rob Price was a great help in putting this chapter together.

Edna married **George Valentine Price** in Hurstville in 1922. George was born at Hallett in South Australia. Hallett is a small town some 32 kms north of Burra in the mid north region.

When he was in his late teens George went to Broken Hill to work in the mines and in his spare times raced push bikes.

It was about this time that George started to realise the value of a good education and he went to night school. It was there that he met another boy from the Burra area, Essington Lewis (who later became a prominent industrialist). After the completion of his studies George decided that he would move to Sydney to open an electrical shop.



Edna and George's wedding in Hurstville, Sydney in 1922

EDNA PRICE (NEE HARRISON) AND FAMILY

After their marriage they lived in the Waverley area in Sydney for the next couple of years and their two sons Kelvin Marshall and Elton Melville were both born there. After the children arrived, George and Edna moved to South Australia and settled at Norwood. George worked as a well driller and was away for long periods in his quest to find water on rural properties. He designed and built most of his boring plants.

No area was too remote for the George Price boring plant. He was responsible for forming 'The Well Drillers Association of Australia' and was a president and eventually a life member of the association.

His financial circumstances took a turn for the worst in 1931 and George's estate was sequestered at his request in May 1931. He appeared before the Acting Registrar of the Bankruptcy Court for examination three months later. He indicated that he had debts of £3,025 and assets of £1,030. He explained that his financial position had been largely brought about by undertaking boring contracts on a speculative basis during the Depression period. He had worked on the basis of payment by results. Sadly for George his work in Port Augusta over the previous two years had been less than fruitful – the end result being a loss of £2,000 during that period.

At the time of the examination he was separated from Edna. He was earning just £3 a week as a salesman and commission agent and paid Edna £2 to support her.

Edna was granted an undefended degree nisi on the grounds of desertion in July 1943. In 1945 George married Eva Madge Dansie (nee Talbot). She died in 1970. His third wife was Olive Phyllis Clarke (nee Ireland) but the date of that marriage is unknown. George died in May 1982 in South Australia.

According to Sandra's research, despite the circumstances, Edna never had a bad word to say about her former husband.

EDNA PRICE (NEE HARRISON) AND FAMILY



ABOVE: George working on his vehicle.

LEFT: Edna (in middle) showing her sisters Dorothy ('Dorrie' - left of photo) and Jessie the sights of the west coast of South Australia.

Edna spent almost all her married life in Adelaide and she had most contact with her son Kelvin and his family who also lived in Adelaide.

Edna's son Elton used to talk fondly of his mother taking him and his brother, in their younger years, to Sydney to see her family.

EDNA PRICE (NEE HARRISON) AND FAMILY

Kelvin Marshall Price

Kelvin Marshall Price was born on 12 April 1923 in Sydney. In May 1950 Kelvin married Betty Marie Collins (born 7 October 1928) in 'Queen of Angels Catholic Church' in Thebarton a suburb of Adelaide.



During the Second World War, Kelvin enlisted in the RAAF in October 1942 and was discharged three years later in October 1945.

After the war he studied law at The University of Adelaide and was appointed to a position in the Attorney General's Department in Canberra in August 1952.

Unfortunately Kelvin suffered poor health as a consequence of the war years; so much so that he was invalided out of the Commonwealth Government in December 1955.

His health was such that he was provided with a T.P.I. (Totally and Permanently Incapacitated) Pension.

Their children were:

- David John Price - 1951
- Barbara Margaret Price – 1952
- Susan Mary Price – 1954
- Stephen Kelvin Price – 1955 – 1990
- Peter Damien Price - 1957

Betty died of cancer in November 1977 at the age of 49.

Some years later, Kelvin married Milah Tudit who was born in the Philippines. They lived for a time in Hallett Cove, Adelaide and then moved to the Brisbane suburb of Calamvale where Kelvin died at the age of 74 in November 1997.

EDNA PRICE (NEE HARRISON) AND FAMILY

Elton Melville Price

Elton was born 23 December 1924, in Waverley, Sydney.



Elton was a pilot in the RAAF during the war and spent twenty-one months in England during the blitz. His plane, a four engine Lancaster, crash landed in Germany on Victory in Europe (V.E.) day. Elton made it clear to everyone that "*I was not the pilot on that occasion.*"

Prior to the war Elton did contract work at Leigh Creek and Port Augusta in the north of South Australia in areas where his father, George, had been working. He then moved to Winchelsea in Victoria and worked as an earth moving contractor whilst at the same time developing a farm. Winchelsea is about 40 km west of the City of Geelong.

There he met Mary Teresa Boddington (but known as Molly) and they were married in September 1951. Molly served as a 'postlady' in Winchelsea during the Second World War years and her role was to deliver the mail.

Elton and Molly (photo opposite) had four children:

- Richard John Price (stillborn 1953)
- Phillip Anthony Price (1955)
- Robert William Price (1956)
- Maree Frances Price (1962)



Elton and Molly left Winchelsea soon after their wedding. Once their children had been born, they purchased and developed a 650 square mile pastoral property west of Ceduna, where they had sheep, cattle and wheat. Plus an aircraft (photo on next page) to cover the vast distances from one end of the property to the other!

EDNA PRICE (NEE HARRISON) AND FAMILY



The wedding of Elton and Molly's son Rob to Pauline took place on Mexican Hat Beach on the far West Coast of the Eyre Peninsula in South Australia. Mexican Hat Beach was part of Elton and Molly's 35,000 acre grain and sheep property which was purchased in 1975 (as distinct from the 650 square mile property!!)

LEFT TO RIGHT: Elton, Molly, Pauline, Rob and his sister Maree and brother Phillip.

EDNA PRICE (NEE HARRISON) AND FAMILY



Elton with his son Phillip repairing a tyre on their 650 square mile property.

Elton and Molly retired to Ceduna in the late 1990s. Molly passed away in 2002 at the age of 76 and Elton lived for a further eight years reaching the age of 85. Photos below of Elton and Molly in their latter years.



Wilfred Henry Harrison



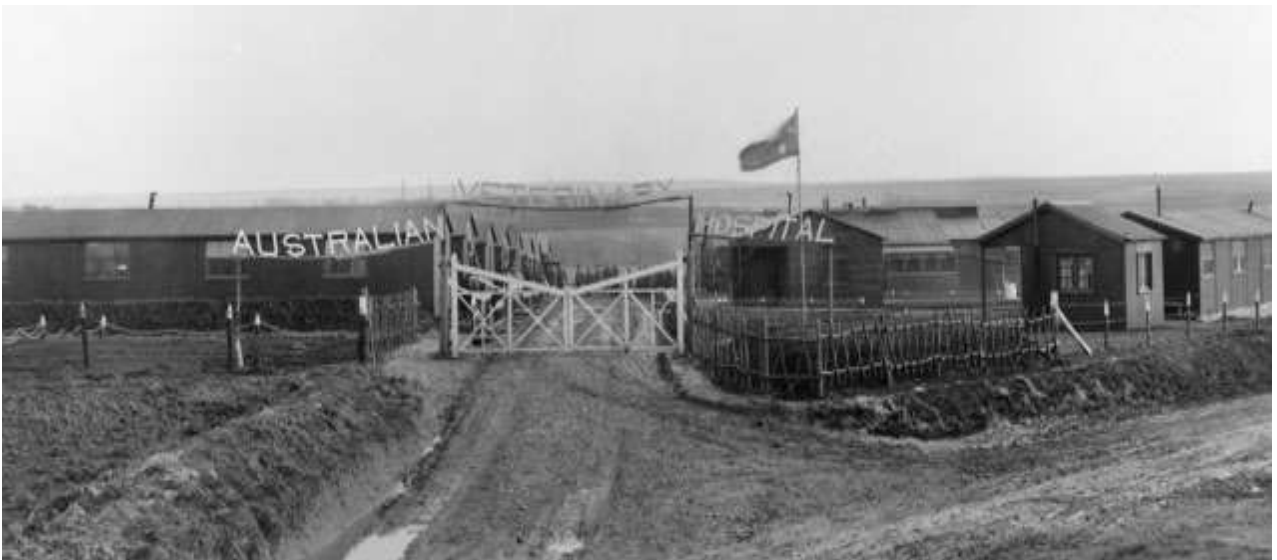
WILFRED HARRISON AND FAMILY



Christine (left) who provided information about Wilfred and his descendants lives with her sister Leanne and her family in Maryland USA. Their father was Wilfred's youngest son James.

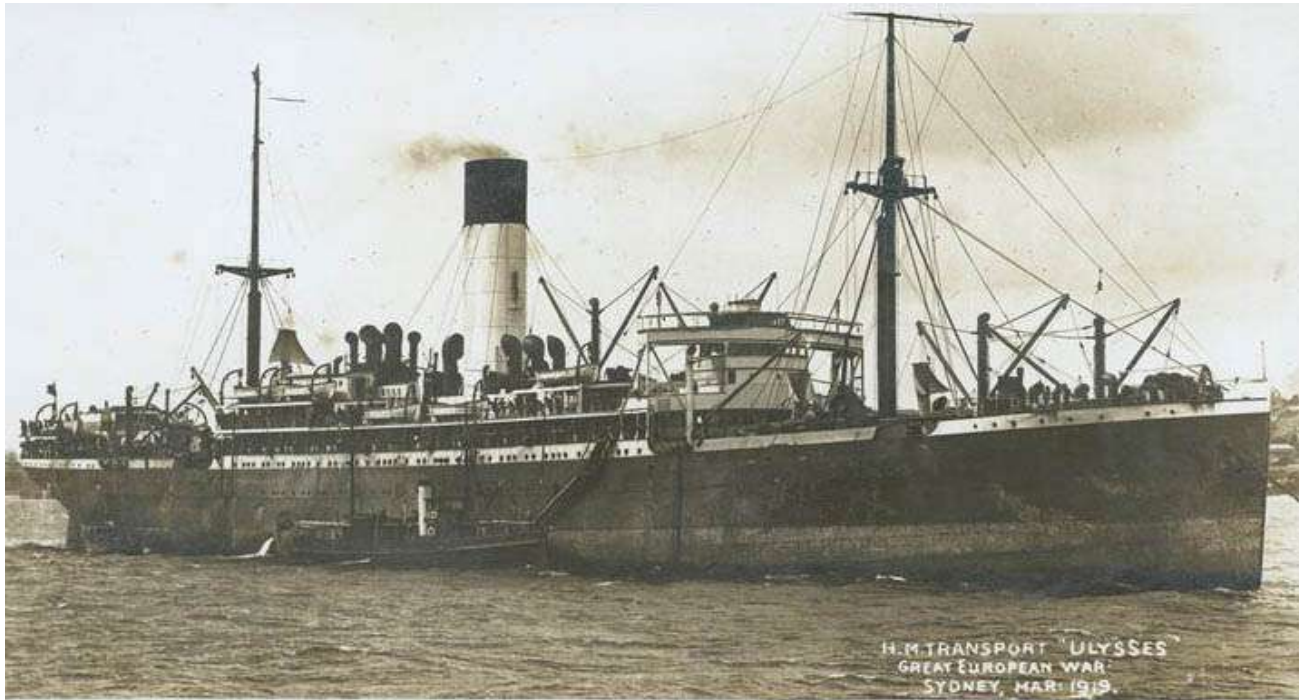
Wilfred was the baby of the family and his middle name almost certainly came from his grandfather Henry Wheare. John and Emily were aged 39 and 37 respectively when Wilfred was born.

Wilfred completed 8th grade at school at about 14 years of age. Unfortunately for Wilfred the year he left school coincided with the commencement of the First World War. After turning 18 he enlisted in Australian Imperial Forces in March 1918 and was soon after shipped off to Britain. Subsequently he was dispatched to France. Given that the Great War ended in November, 1918 Wilfred's arrival was very close to the end of hostilities and he was sent to assist in the Australian Veterinary Hospital located in Calais.



WILFRED HARRISON AND FAMILY

Wilfred returned home in July 1919 on board the troop transport ship "Ulysses" pictured below.



When Wilfred returned home after the First World War he resumed life at Oatley and was working as a carrier at the time. He met Annie Ellen Frances Field in Sydney. Annie was a waitress. She was the eldest of 11 children and grew up in the Sydney suburb of Glebe. It is thought Annie's parents moved to Melbourne in about 1915 and, soon after, Annie's father William, served in France during the First World War. But why Annie was in Sydney at the time when she met Wilfred is a question that cannot be answered.

Just to finish the subject of War and Wilfred. He was certainly patriotic. Twenty years later the Second World War started and Wilfred enlisted in May 1941. He served with the 17th Australian Garrison Battalion but was discharged with deafness in January 1944.

Wilfred was three years older than Annie. They were married in 1923 at the Methodist Church, Hurstville when Wilfred was 23, Annie 19. The witnesses were Wilfred's brother Gar and Annie's sister Dorothy Field.

At the time of their wedding, Wilfred and Annie were living at Richmond in Melbourne. Victoria was to be their home for the remainder of their lives. Wilfred and Annie had five children between 1920 and 1940.

WILFRED HARRISON AND FAMILY



PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE:

Left: Annie on a shopping trip into Melbourne accompanied by (from left) Norman, John and William. Photo taken early 1930s.

BELOW LEFT: Wilfred went to the assistance of a fellow traveller at Sydney's Central Station and was both thanked and fined for his trouble.

BELOW RIGHT: Annie in her later years with a child, name unknown.

ATTACKED BY GANG. At Central Railway Station.

"Whenever anyone goes to a ticket office at the railway station, especially those for the long-distance lines, he is immediately accosted by eight or ten men," said Frederick Banner, a labourer, aged 56, to Mr. Williams, S.M., at the Central Police Court on Saturday, when answering a charge of behaving in a riotous manner at Central Railway Station.

"They demand money, and if you don't hand over something there is a fight," he continued.

"Yesterday they demanded money from me, and I went for them," said Banner, after the prosecution had alleged that he had been arrested when found fighting with some other men. "Another man helped me, and then the police came. We two were arrested, but the other men got away."

Wilfred Henry Harrison, aged 23, a hod-carrier, was then called to answer a similar charge, but there was no response to the name.

"Your Worship," cried Banner, "out of the goodness of my heart I paid Harrison's bail last night. He helped me, and I helped him, but now he hasn't turned up. Can I plead guilty for him and pay his fine, too?"

"Yes, if you like," replied Mr. Williams. He fined each defendant £1, whereupon Banner drew from his pocket a large roll of banknotes, and walked from the court flourishing them.



WILFRED HARRISON AND FAMILY

William (known as Billy or Bill) John Harrison (1924 – 2012)



As a child Billy had polio but that didn't seem to impact on his later life. He was a bachelor.

One of his main interests was breeding and showing dogs. He was fond of two breeds – Cavalier King Charles Spaniels and Afghans.

Much of the recorded history of Billy centres around his service in the Second World War which was exceptional.

Billy enlisted in the second Australian Imperial Force in 1941. At that time he was living at East Brighton. After enlisting he was allocated to an artillery unit and sent to train at Puckapunyal, in Victoria.

Soon after the Japanese entered the war, a call went out to all branches of the Army for volunteers for a new military force – the 1st Independent Company. This unit was to be trained in sabotage and reconnaissance roles. While completing his training, many of those in the unit were sent to Rabaul and New Britain but were killed or executed by the Japanese. As a consequence Billy was transferred into what became known as the Second 5th Commando Squadron.

In May 1942 it was Billy's turn to go to New Guinea and he was deployed to Wau. While most of his unit were flown in, Billy was part of a small group who were sent by native canoes up one of the large rivers into Dutch New Guinea. He then needed to walk through thick jungle to Wau. He later remarked that this was the hardest walk he had ever done in his life.

At Wau the unit observed Japanese landings at Lae and Salamaua and spent the year harassing the Japanese with hit and run guerilla tactics. For seven months he didn't eat 'western' food and the natives taught him how to live off the land. The conditions were appalling with soaking rain, pests, diseases and a lack of food and medical supplies. It all caught up with Billy and he succumbed to malaria, dysentery and scrub typhus and was sent to hospital. He rode on the back of a mule but as there was nothing to eat along the way the mule was slaughtered and the natives carried him the rest of the distance. Eventually he was put on the 'Centaur' hospital ship and returned to Australia. At that time he weighed four stone six pounds (28kg).

When he recovered he was sent to Canungra Jungle Warfare Centre in Queensland as an instructor. Then in mid 1945 towards the end of the war Billy was dispatched to Borneo where he fought against the Japanese who, by this time, were no longer in the ascendancy.

WILFRED HARRISON AND FAMILY

Norman Henry Harrison (1926 – 1963)



Norman was a carrier at the time he married Janice Iris Rose Bishop in 1955. Janice, born in 1934, was eight years younger than Norman. Like all the Harrison boys Norman was a very good sportsman.

During the war Norman, as did his three brothers and father, served in the Army. Indeed he served alongside Billy in the second 5th Commando Squadron in New Guinea. But he suffered greatly from recurring bouts of malaria and this, it is thought was the reason for his death at age 37.

Norman and Janice had six children but the last child, Norman (Junior) was born after Norman had passed away. Janice died in 2004 in Maroondah Hospital, Ringwood

Norman and Janice's children were:

- Rodney John Harrison
- Kerrie Anne Harrison 1956 – 1978 : Kerrie was a teacher. She died following a parachute jump.
- Shane Robert 1958 – 1989
- John Harrison
- Michele Lea Harrison
- Norman Harrison

John Harrison (1928 - 2012)



Very little is known about John, his wife, Joan (Lauraine Joan) Frankland, and their two sons Keith and Phillip. In his thirties, John and family moved to Mitiamo in northern Victoria (40km west of Echuca and 65km north of Bendigo). Here he ran his earth moving business where he was known as Jack.

In his youth Jack was a great footballer and at one stage tried out for Hawthorn AFL team. His football was his passion in life and he won many 'Best and Fairest' awards. Joan too was always involved in the sporting community and was a life member of Mitiamo Football Netball Club.

WILFRED HARRISON AND FAMILY

James Garnet Harrison (1930 – 2014)



James' early recollections of life in Melbourne were about the family moving around a lot. They lived in Northcote, Richmond and South Melbourne areas as their father searched for work. They rode their neighbours' horses but mostly walked everywhere. His grandfather, William Field, was a bricklayer and would take James away with him for weekends.

James was a very good footballer and on one occasion he stayed overnight with his friend Frank Rafferty. Soon he was dating Frank's sister Patricia and the rest is history. James and Patricia Collins Rafferty married and had three children: Christine Patricia Domigan (nee Harrison - 1951); Kelvin John Harrison (1954); Leanne Joan Barton (nee Harrison - 1958)

James and Patricia bought a block of land at Mt Evelyn and James, who was a carpenter by trade, built the home where they lived for 30 years. At around the age of 40, James had heart troubles and it was suggested he retire from the building work. He did an estimators course and soon found employment with a commercial engineering company.

James' interest was his cars which he was always working on. However he also loved fishing and at one stage he made an impulse buy of a 32 foot yacht that he saw in the front yard of a home as he was driving by! His plan was to renovate the yacht, take navigation lessons and sail over to the US to visit their daughter Leanne who was working as a tennis coach.



In preparation for the big adventure they decided to sail along the Australian coast but he and Patricia were so seasick that they sold the yacht and flew to the US!

Later in life when the children had left home they lived in Noosa, Yamba, Bundaberg, Collinsville, Moor Park, Mossman before finally settling in Cairns. They would buy a house in need of repair, move in, fix it and then sell it and move on. James passed away in Cairns and Patricia still lives there.

WILFRED HARRISON AND FAMILY

Valerie Anne Ellen Dunn (nee Harrison) - 1940



Valerie was born 10 years after Wilfred and Annie's youngest son James.

Left: Valerie is pictured in the 1950s with her young niece Christine.

Valerie was born in February 1940 and married Denis George Dunn in October 1959.



Denis and Valerie had six children:

- Susanne Joy – November 1960
- Michael William – November 1961
- Julie Helen – April 1963
- Geoffrey Wayne – September 1964
- David John – April 1966
- Gregory Scott – July 1971

As of December 2019, the family now includes 21 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren with more expected in the not-too-distant future!

These days Denis and Valerie are retired and live on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula.

APPENDIX A - THE FIRE AT THE WOOL SCOUR

The following report was included in the 'Forbes Times' on 2 August 1902. John Corscaden's granddaughter, Jean Little, typed up the newspaper article for ease of reading. Many thanks Jean.

An enquiry was held at the Forbes Court House on Tuesday last by Mr Coroner Sowter, touching the origin of a fire by which portion of Messrs Harrison, Corscaden and Stokes wool scouring plant at Riverside, South Forbes, was destroyed.

Mr Woodruff watched the proceedings on behalf of the insurance companies' interest, Mr Lamrock appearing for Messrs Harrison, Corscaden and Stokes.

The following was the evidence taken:-

FREDERICK WILLIAM STANSFIELD, having been sworn, deposed: I am manager for the Firm of Harrison, Corscaden and Stokes, and also acting on a Power of Attorney for Mr Stokes; the firm are wool scourers and fellmongers; they carry on business at Riverside, near Forbes; I remember the morning of Thursday, the 24th inst, the wool scour at Riverside was then destroyed by fire at between 3 and 3.30; the building was of pine with iron roof; the walls were not weatherboard all round; on the north side it was partially weatherboard and partly wire-netting; the building was 102 feet in length and 56 feet in width; as near as I can tell the height from the floor to the wall plates on the main building would be about 10 feet; the machinery inside the wool scour was as follows:-

One 8 h.p. steam engine valued about £75,

One 3-sets Wright and Edwards scouring machine valued at about £550,

One centrifugal dryer valued at £240,

One Avery's weighing machine valued at £15,

Carpenters and blacksmiths tools estimated at £5 or £6,

One 12 h.p. horizontal boiler, of which I have no idea of the value,

One 12-horse vertical boiler, of which I have no idea of the value,

There were also two wood tanks with galvanized casings inside; I don't know the value of the tanks;

There were other articles in the shed of which I don't know the value.

Outside the shed was a 1400-gallon tank of wrought iron,

One 400-gallon iron tank, piping and Tangye pump; I don't know the value of these.

There were besides these articles in the building, baskets, woolcarts, soap and table destroyed; I don't know the value of these.

All the belting in connection with the machinery was destroyed.

The whole of the articles were either totally destroyed or damaged by fire; the scoured shed and the fellmongering plant were uninjured; all the damage really occurred in the main wool scour, which was insured in the Imperial Insurance Company for £400; I don't know when the policy was effected.

APPENDIX A - THE FIRE AT THE WOOL SCOUR (continued)

The machinery was insured in the Manchester Fire Insurance Company for £500; (The witness produced the policy for the machinery) the policy is dated July 26th 1898; the machinery premium became due on the 25th last; the premium was £4 10s.

I don't know what the premium on the building was or when it became due.

I was last over the wool scour before the fire occurred on Sunday, July 20th; everything was then in order; there was no sign of fire in the building at that time; there was only one door at one end of the building; the shed was an open one. Mr Corscaden was the caretaker; he resides about 800 yards from the wool scour.

I remember the morning of Thursday, the 24th instant; at five or ten minutes past three that morning my dog began barking; it woke me up; I got up and saw the wool scour on fire; when I first saw the fire the building was all in flames and I could not tell at which end the fire first started; I ran across and called Mr Corscaden; I then went to the shed with Mr Corscaden; the shed was thoroughly alight from beginning to end; we could not get nearer than 50 or 60 yards of the burning building; the staging on the north side was the last part of the building burnt; the building was totally destroyed in about half-an-hour's time; it was not possible to save the building when I first saw the fire.

I value the building at close on £500; I cannot value the machinery; no one except members of the firm and myself had any right on the premises; I saw no one about when I woke up; I am on good terms with my neighbours, and, so far as I know, so are the firm Mr Harrison and Mr Corscaden both reside close to the wool scour and Mr Stokes is in England.

I gave the alarm to Mr Harrison after arousing Mr Corscaden; they were both in bed when I gave the alarm.

There was about two gallons of lubricating oil close to the engine; I can't say whether there was any kerosene there. I have known of tramps camping at the shed, but not lately; I have frequently ordered people away from the shed; I haven't the slightest idea as to how the fire occurred.

Questions asked of the witness by the Police: Mr Stokes has been in the firm for five or six years, he has a third share in the business.

When the scour is at work we have a watchman there at night time; I have known two or three tramps camp there since the 1st January; the works were closed down about the middle of January, and that would be the last time there was a fire in the building; the entrance gate was always locked; the wool scour was in view of my own place, Mr Harrison's and Mr Corscaden's.

THE FIRE AT THE WOOL SCOUR (continued)

The first time I got up on the morning of the 24th it was five minutes to three; I saw no sign of fire then and went back to bed; the dog alarmed me the first time also; about ten minutes or a quarter of an hour elapsed until I was awakened the second time; it took me about two minutes (?) to get to Mr Corscaden's place; (?) Mrs Stansfield, Mr Corscaden and (?) went to the fire together.

This is the first large fire that we have had; there have been no disputes as far as I know between the members of the firm.

Questions asked of the witness by the Jury: I have been managing for the firm since last January; I always get up when I hear my dog bark; I waited for Mr Corscaden to put his overcoat over his pyjamas; the dog barking woke me the second time, and I fancied I heard a windstorm; the building was all flooded; I inspected the building as a rule once or twice a week; no member was likely to retire from the firm at the date of the fire.

[An adjournment was made for luncheon.]

Witness resuming – questions now being asked by Mr Lamrock: I have been in the firm's employ from 10 to 11 years; my dog is a large St Bernard bitch, she came to my bedroom door barking and bumping against the door; a tramp could have escaped by the bank of the river without my seeing him; I know that the articles mentioned as being insured in the Manchester were in 1898 insured for double the amount, and were reduced from £1000 to £500 by reason of increased premiums; that year the policy was transferred from the Australian Mutual to the Manchester; the firm is perfectly solvent.

On Sunday previous to the fire I was having a look round making arrangements for the forthcoming season; I was also laying out the position for the wood to be stacked; the wool season starts about the 1st September.

Questions asked of the witness by Mr Woodruff: I have been with the firm from 10 to 11 years; I see photo produced and marked "A"; the photo is taken from the north-eastern side; about four feet has been covered by weatherboards since the photo was taken; on the south-west side there was an addition made similar to the one shown in the photo; there were either four or five windows in it; the 24ft x 102ft building was erected in about 1888; the machinery was not put in the building when it was erected; the machinery was put in about two years after the building was erected; the skillions have been put up subsequently.

It was about half-moon on the night of the fire, and a clear night; I saw no strangers about that day.

Question asked by Coroner: Previous to last January I was assistant manager.

THE FIRE AT THE WOOL SCOUR (continued)

Question asked by Mr Lamrock: The additions were made to the place before the policy was made out.

JOHN C. CORSCADEN, on being sworn, deposed: I am a partner in the firm of Harrison, Corscaden and Stokes; I was the caretaker of the wool scour which was destroyed by fire on the 24th inst; I was last over at the wool scour on Monday 21st at about 4 o'clock; everything was perfectly safe and there were no signs of fire.

I remember the morning of the fire; Mr Stansfield's dog barking woke me; it was about three o'clock; I heard a rumbling noise; directly after this Mr Stansfield came and called me; Stansfield and I then went to the scene of the fire; the building was then all in flames; I think the fire started from the river side of the shed; it was impossible to save anything from the wool scour; I saw no one about at the time; I am on very good terms with my neighbours; I can't account for the fire in any way; there was inflammable material about the shed that I am aware of; I went over the wool scour about twice or three times a week, and turned anybody back that I saw going towards it; anybody could have got into the shed without my knowing it.

Questions asked by the Jury: I am on good terms with all my partners; from Mr Stansfield's to my place is just across the road, about 50 yards; I was in bed when Mr Stansfield came to my place.

Question asked by Mr Lamrock: It was a three-rail fence round the wool scour paddock; anyone could get through it; the fire was going towards the big shed in which was a large stack of wool; Mr Stansfield and I pulled the fence away to prevent the fire spreading.

Question asked by the Police: The other buildings were not insured.

Questions asked by Mr Woodruff: The building was insured in the Imperial for £400, and the machinery in the Manchester for £500; to the best of my belief Harrison, Corscaden & Co, own the building and the ground; I believe it is not mortgaged to anyone; I take no active interest in the business at all; I own one third share in the business; I saw our yearly balance-sheet last year; I will endeavour to obtain it if required; I know my firm has made a claim on the insurance companies; I don't know what they have claimed for, I will abide by whatever the firm do in reference to the claim.

I was previously living on North Hill; I know nothing as to the origin of the fire; we bought the machinery about ten years ago, and it was placed in the wool scour.

Question asked by the Jury: I believe Mrs Stansfield sent a telephone message to town about five minutes after he came to my place; the telephone is at Mr Harrison's house.

Constable Webster, having been sworn, deposed: I arrived at the scene of the fire at 4 am on the 24th instant; the building and contents were then almost completely destroyed; I saw Mr Harrison, Mr Corscaden and a few others there; I also saw Mr Stansfield coming across as from his private house;

THE FIRE AT THE WOOL SCOUR (continued)

Constable Webster: I had an interview with Mr Corscaden as to the origin of the fire, the particulars of the contents, and the insurance; he could give me little or no information; I also asked the same particulars from Mr Stansfield; he could give me little information, and said that all the business was done through the Commercial Bank; I had no opportunity of speaking to Mr Harrison; I also visited the scene of the fire on the evening of the 27th; up to the present I have been unable to ascertain anything as to the origin of the fire.

Questions asked by the Jury: I can't say if the place is mortgaged to the Commercial Bank; the policy in the Imperial Fire Insurance Company is dated 23rd November 1895. The firebell rang at 3.30; and that was the first intimation I had of the fire; the police received no telephone message; Mr Stansfield stated to me that a telephone message was sent to the telephone station to inform the fire brigade.

JOHN HARRISON, having been sworn, deposed: I am a partner in the firm of Harrison, Corscaden and Stokes.

Questions asked by Mr Woodruff: The firm has made a claim on the Imperial Insurance Company for £400 on the building; the Commercial Bank hold the policy in the nature of a lien against the current account; the photograph produced is one of the building prior to some alterations being made; the machinery was insured in the Manchester Fire Insurance Company for £500; we have made a claim for the full amount; the losses in machinery and tools I estimate at £1143, made up as follows:

One 8 h.p. steam engine £30,

Three sets Wright and Edwards scouring machines £550,

1 centrifugal dryer £210,

1 Avery's weighing machine £15,

Shafting, belting and pulleys £125,

Tools £15,

Two 12 h.p. boilers £160,

One 1200 gallon tank £20.

Our firm have never had a fire before. I was interested in a brewery at Springbank, South Lead, which was destroyed by fire about three years ago.

I have no idea how the fire, the subject of this inquiry, occurred; Mr Stansfield came over to my house; he called me and rang the telephone; I went over to the fire; the building appeared to be alight from one end to the other; I got home on the evening before the fire at between 5.30 and 6; I saw no one about; I retired that night at about 10 o'clock; previous to going to bed I had never been out of the house; my first intimation of the fire was on being called by Stansfield.

This concluded the evidence, and the jury, after a brief consultation, returned a verdict to the effect that there was no evidence to show how, or by what means the fire originated.