

# AUSTRALIAN WAUGH FAMILY SOCIETY

Newsletter #17 2021

Editor: Neville Maloney

15 Colin St

Bangalow 2479

02 66872250

neville@cottonsoft.com.au

Dear Fellow Members,

A family stalwart and a prominent figure in the Waugh Family, Rosemary Waugh-Allcock died on December 15<sup>th</sup> 2020. Rosemary was the Great Granddaughter of Alexander Waugh, one of the two Waughs that have had the appellation "Aussie" added to their names to distinguish them as the heads of the family lines who immigrated to Australia. Alexander 1814-1894, William Waugh 1808-1854. (These two were cousins one removed. That is Alexander was the son of William's cousin).

Rosemary's father was William Stanley Johnston Waugh (known as STAN) her mother Dorethea Nicholson. Rosemary's grandfather was William Napier REEVE Waugh and his wife was Marie (MOLLIE) Schrader – The Schrader line of her family also held much interest for Rosemary.



Rosemary at home at TALOUMBI near Maclean in northern NSW

Rosemary was an only child, she developed as an independent and curious person with a wide variety of interests; a visit to her home and you soon discovered she was a reader, books and magazines everywhere and the dirt speckled gumboots at the door along with her attire said that she was an outdoor worker.

She traveled the world as a young girl in the 1950's and 60's her visits to England and Scotland had her leading the way for the family historians who followed.



Rosemary, in the 1960's, cleaning the gravestone of, Thomas Waugh 1706-1783 her great great great great grandfather

In the last 25 years I have been fortunate to have visited and spent many hours with Rosemary. In 2015 we had a mini reunion based around Rosemary in Maclean and it was an incentive for her to find and collate much of her family researches. Robert Eady and his sister Christine Van Gulik were instrumental in this project and they also found Rosemary an inspiration and an incredible source of information for their family history interest. Laura Blackburn continued the association with Rosemary and she photographed and scanned and helped Rosemary sort her vast collection in the months following that reunion.

I am lucky that profession writers have written about Rosemary and it's to one of them I will now turn to tell her story in detail. In many of these stories they talk about TALOUMBI the farm where Rosemary was buried, it has become something of a sacred place for her line of the family. Her son Alec will continue the tradition and has plans to spend more and more time there.

The following by Debrah Novak was in the Queensland Times 27<sup>th</sup> Sept 2015

## **Portrait of an unstoppable lady**

A BROKEN wrist, breast cancer and a broken heel weren't enough to deter Rosemary Waugh Allcock, at 90 years of age, from still working her family farm in northern New South Wales.

She and her family have worked this coastal cattle property and horse stud, Taloumbi Station.

The 160-hectare farm, while much smaller than its glory days, is nestled between the coast and the mighty Clarence River and provides a direct living link to the Clarence Valley's colonial past.

"Every day while I walk around the farm and feed my boys and girls in the paddocks, I remember the years spent with my family around here, there are just so many wonderful memories and stories. I feel so privileged and blessed to be born at the right time and moment as if it were my destiny to own Taloumbi" Rosemary says.



Rosemary was born in 1924 in Maclean and was an only child. She was educated in horse riding, cooking, literature, painting, fashion and history; with her mother, Dorothea, grooming her from an early age to be married off.

That is what girls did in those days, but Rosemary had very different ideas about where her life was heading.

"When I finished my education at SCEGGS in Sydney I was handed letters of introduction and took up the strong call to travel Europe. This journey of self- discovery led me through the galleries and museums of Austria and Britain. While in Britain I was able to meet with my family and trace my lineage back 500 years, it was all so very exciting and grand".

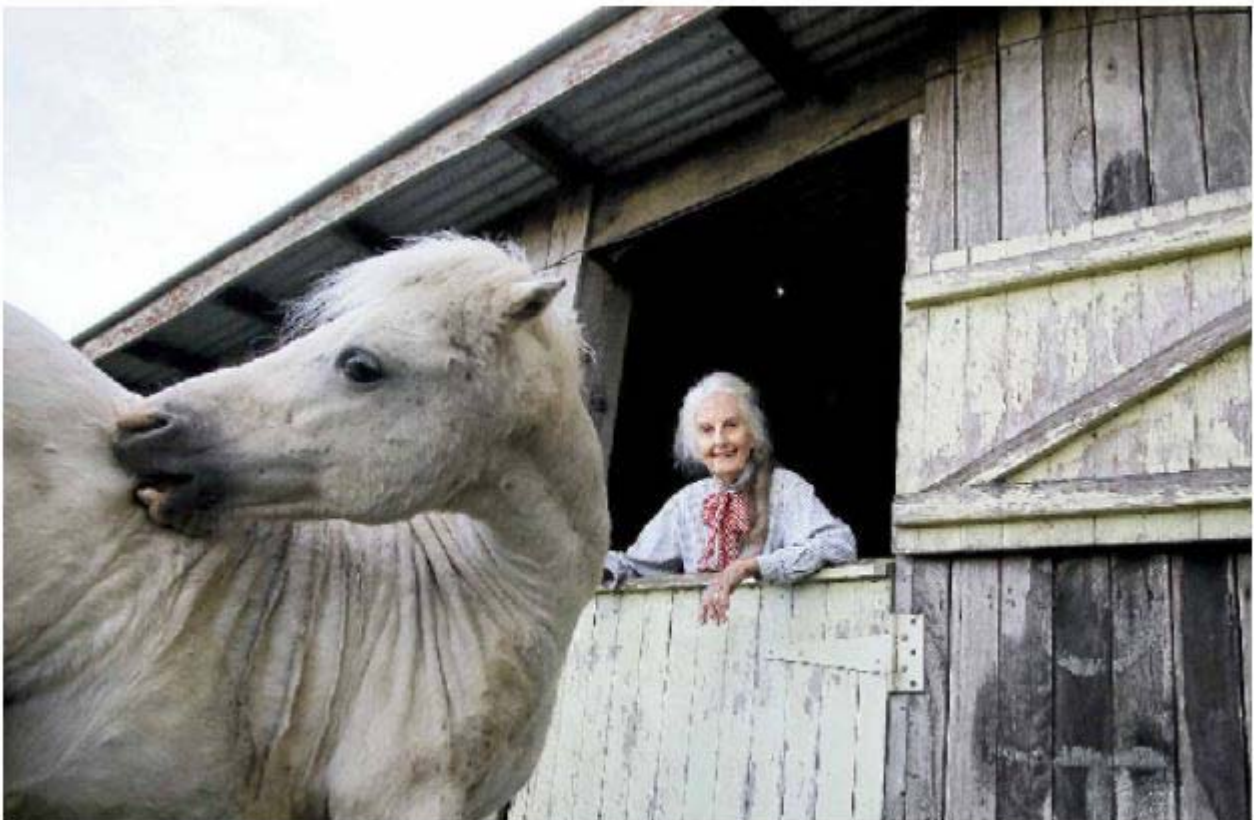
Among the many highlights of Rosemary's first trip abroad was the purchase of an old book costing the princely sum of six pence.

"I was walking past a vintage bookshop in London and for some reason I felt summonsed to go inside. I walked straight to a shelf of old dusty books and pulled one out and much to my surprise it was written by a relative, the Reverend Alexander Waugh in 1830. The Memoir of Rev Alexander Waugh, D.D. was an extraordinary find that came out of nowhere and is one of many interesting treasures in my home today".

Waugh family traditions established over the past century continue today and are testament to a bygone era where colonial elegance, style and fortitude were high on the list of values to aspire to.

The original stockyards on the property were built with convict labour. Cotton was the first crop sown into the virgin landscape. The success of the crop was written up in the local newspaper.

The Waugh brothers went on to introduce devon herds, stud and stock horses, sheep, and in later years introduced the angus breed to the Clarence district. That link continues today.



📷 One of Rosemary's passions is breeding Welsh Mountain Ponies. PHOTOS: DEBRAH NOVAK

As the 19th century rolled into the 20th, global events provided business opportunities for those on the land in the Clarence Valley, one of three major regions in Australia that succeeded in breeding horses for the wars.

The Waughs seized this opportunity by introducing clydesdales and Welsh mountain ponies to their herds, enabling the remounts to be sold for the Boer War and the First World War.

While the stock horses and remounts are long gone, the Welsh mountain ponies have continued to be an endearing fixture for Rosemary, who feeds and talks with them daily and knows each member of her stud by name.

Life in that pioneer period was tough for many; and even tougher for the women when their house burnt down - which was the case for Rosemary's mother, Dorothea, and grandmother.

This wasn't enough to deter Dorothea, a city girl who met her handsome farming husband while holidaying at Yamba's Main Beach. Rosemary believes her love of nature has come from her mother.

While her mother may have been a city girl, she grew to love the Aussie bush and its animals at Taloumbi Station and lobbied the state government in the early 1940s to have some areas of their farm declared a wildlife sanctuary.

Her dream was realised in the 1940s when a proclamation was made declaring the region between Angourie and Woolgoolga a bird and animal sanctuary where shooting was prohibited. Today this is Yuraygir National Park, the largest coastal park and undeveloped coastline strip in NSW.

Rosemary Waugh did end up marrying the man of her dreams, Dr Edward Allcock OAM from England who settled in the area and who came to Taloumbi Station looking to buy angus cattle.

Not only did he fall in love with Rosemary's damper, the magic of Taloumbi caught his attention.

Today the Waughs' love of nature still permeates the family seat where groves of trees planted decades ago provide inspiration for an aspiring artist and provide opportunities to sow seeds for future generations.

Rosemary clearly remembers the days spent on horseback mustering and droving with her father along the coastal plains of the Clarence River delta and it is this spirit of adventure that continues to inspire her today through her art practice.

**And Rosemary in her own words** - This link is to a video of Rosemary also produced by Debrah Novak. (There are two links to the same video.

<https://vimeo.com/259506256>

<https://www.facebook.com/ABCRural/videos/rosemary-waugh-alcock-94-year-old-cattle-farmer/1752054098149144/>

There is also a detailed story in the pdf file [Rosemary Waugh edit P51-55-Yuraygir National Park](#)

Now in a retired state I plan on being able to update and add more to the information on the website [www.cottonsoft.com.au/waugh](http://www.cottonsoft.com.au/waugh) I will put this newsletter the pdf mentioned above and some more pictures and a copy of the video on the website as well.

Pop me an email to [neville@cottonsoft.com.au](mailto:neville@cottonsoft.com.au) or give me a call to keep in touch.

The Australian Waugh Family Society is indebted to Ron Main 1927–2014, founding editor.

All the best,

Neville Maloney

January 2021