

AUSTRALIAN WAUGH FAMILY SOCIETY

Newsletter #2 June 2006

Editor: Neville Maloney

15 Colin St

Bangalow 2479

02 66872250

neville@cottonsoft.com.au

Dear Fellow Members,

My first newsletter as editor was in December and my first rush of blood to the head had me wondering why Ron Main didn't get more newsletters out each year, it seemed a pretty smooth process. But Ron provided me with most of the content for that one and he coaxed me along. Now I know why. The weeks rush by, seasons come and go faster as you get older, (the newsletter hasn't aged me that much yet) but still I thought at least one every 6 months would be a good number to aim for, and here it is on time.

A warm thanks to all who contacted me. I welcome ideas, suggestions and am more than happy to use the newsletter to spread news anyone may have for the society. To those who sent emails I am gathering the addresses and will also send the newsletter by email as well as the printed copy in the future. If you have an email address (or your children or grand children) let me know what it is.

In May while holidaying I stopped at Ron's and enjoyed an Autumn day with both Ron and Margaret at Pindari on the outskirts of Tamworth. They have sold (or about to) some of the farm and Ron is very active as he is about to enter his octogenarian decade building a sailing boat of quite substantial proportions. A little bit of personal story here will explain how I know Ron. I received a phone call one day from Ron with him saying was a cousin – as you all know Ron calls the most distantly related person a cousin – well I thought he must be related to mum or dad. Ron arrived a few hours later and he traveled in those days with an overnight bag and a bread making machine.

And now to the family history part. I am related to the Waugh family via William Waugh 1750-1854, Ron had given him the appellation of "Aussie" to distinguish him from the many other William Waugh's who appear in the family tree. "Aussie" William is my great, great grand-father, he came to Australia in 1833. Ron is the great grandson of "Aussie" Alexander Waugh 1814-1894. These two "Aussies" Waughs are named such because they came to Australia to start most of the lines that form the members of our society. They were first cousins once removed! To get to a common ancestor we have to go to a Scottish village to find Thomas Waugh and his wife, Margaret Johnstone, bringing up a family of three children. Thomas and Margaret were the grand parents of "Aussie" William and the great grand parents of "Aussie" Alexander. They were first cousins once removed. That makes Ron and myself 5th cousins, like normal cousins just separated by 7 generations.

Ron was newly retired and interested in finding his extended family; he certainly did a good job and the reunions in Tenterfield and Port Macquarie in 1996 resulted.

Family News – from Edith van Driel

Just a little news for your newsletter. My nephew, Martin Oakes, H549, is doing very well with his Country Music. Some members may have heard him singing at the Tamworth Festival or on the radio. He brought out his first CD "Gullyraker" in 2003 and is working on another now. He composes and writes his own songs and

has won a few awards. In 2004 he was a finalist in the Toyota Golden Guitar Awards- bush ballad. A finalist in TSA Comedy/Novelty Song & Best Songwriter. Finalist Victorian Country Music Awards for the same sector. Runner-up for Album of the year/Tasmanian & New Zealand Country Music Awards. Finalist Golden Saddle Awards. He also won a bush ballad award at the truck festival in Kempsey in 2005 and an award in 2002 and has sung his songs at Gympie, Newcastle and other places and has sung with Sarah Storer and Anne Kirkpatrick. Martin was a late starter and he taught himself how to read and write music from books while he was working on cattle stations in the Northern Territory. He now lives in the Hunter Valley and will most likely be competing at Tamworth this month (Jan 06). He is my brother Frank's eldest son.

I am still catching up on updating births, weddings, and deaths in the family so even if you have notified Ron in the last 12 months I would appreciate a note to let me know so I can continue the chronicles.

Over the next few newsletters I intend to highlight one of our ancestors for the most part notes taken from "The History of The Waughs". This month I have selected **Thomas Waugh 1706 – 6th July 1783**, for two reasons. He was born 300 years ago this year and he is the common grand-father of all of us who form the Waugh Society. He is also the most distant relative of whom we know something about. Thomas is the common ancestor that unites the Waughs that this family history is about. We know a little about him and we know the names of his father and grandfather. This grandfather's name was also Thomas he was born in 1630, his wife was Janet Hunter. Their son Adam born 1670 was Thomas's father (we do not know his mothers name), we can assume they were farmers and for now we know nothing else.

Thomas and his wife Margaret Johnston are known to us through a book written about their son Alexander 1754-1827. Apart from the information in James Hay's book we can piece together something about Thomas & Margaret from their time. In the early 1700's the Scottish border region was quite a rebellious area and they must have been influenced by the eventful politics. The Jacobite Rebellions from 1689 to 1746 during this period saw Bonnie Prince Charlie lead the 5th uprising to disaster at the Battle of Culloden rebellion in 1746. Their farm must have been fairly prosperous because they sent their children (at least Alexander) to school and to university. They were no doubt quite religious even for their time with early expectations of their sons being involved with the church.

Thomas and Margaret lived at East Gordon in Berwickshire, and at some time purchased a farm called CAULDRON BRAE close to the Tweed River near Kelso – about 70 kilometres south of Edinburgh.

They had 3 children

Elizabeth 1740-1809 (It was her son James Hay who wrote the book on his uncle *Alexander)

Thomas 1750-1820

Alexander 1754-1827 (*This is the uncle of James Hay about whom the book was written).

The following is commentary on the book of James Hay:-

Thomas and Margaret Waugh are the earliest ancestors of whom we know a little about their lives and characters. For this we have to thank James Hay, their daughter's son, who wrote the Memoirs of his Uncle Alexander, in which there are allusions to the rest of his family.

Thomas and Margaret were a hardworking, frugal and extremely devout couple, farming their own land around the village of East Gordon. James Hay explains that in those days each farm, or homestead, especially in remote situations, formed a little independent community in themselves, deriving their subsistence almost exclusively from the produce of the farm. The connection between servant and master was more patriarchal than commercial, and every household formed but one society. "They sat together, they ate together, they often wrought together; and after the labours of the day were finished, they assembled together around the blazing fire in the farmer's ha' conversing over the occurrences of the

day . . . This familiar intercourse was equally decorous as it was kindly - for decent order and due subordination were strictly maintained."

In most of the Scottish farming communities religion played a most prominent part, and certainly this was the case in the Waugh household. There were prayers for everyone before work, and again in the evening after supper. On Sundays everyone went to church in the morning, and after a late dinner would gather round Thomas who would catechise first the children and then the servants. No work was done on the Sabbath except what was strictly necessary, and "nothing was allowed to enter into conversation save subjects of religion."

James Hay assures us that in spite of the religious overtones, the farming community of those days had plenty of time for innocent amusements and entertainment. The work itself was not all that arduous, in fact "they had more leisure to be merry than their descendants."

It was said of Thomas Waugh that he was "an industrious and kind parent, an upright Christian before God, as he was confessedly a just and honest man before the world." He was asked to be an Elder of the Established Church, but refused - partly through modesty, but mostly because he disapproved of some of the activities of the ruling party in the General Assembly. And it was because of this disapproval that he favoured the Secession from the Established Church.

Margaret was an efficient farmer's wife as well as a devoted mother - "Piety and meekness and the tenderest regard for the happiness of their children formed the outline of her character."

Of their children, the eldest, Elizabeth, married twice and "had a numerous family of children, towards whom her heart yearned with all the kindly affections." Her son, James Hay, adds that "she was equal to her mother in tender sensibility, in ardent piety, and in the faithful discharge of every Christian and domestic duty, as a wife, as a mother and as a friend."

The oldest son, Thomas, was born about ten years later than Elizabeth in 1750, and succeeded his father on the farm. James Hay's description of his Uncle Thomas suggests that he was perhaps rather a difficult individual. "Thomas was a man of acute and vigorous intellect, of simple manners and of unbending integrity." His friends apparently complained that he was too unbending in his old-fashioned religious beliefs and his opinion of world affairs, but even so "he was esteemed and respected by all who knew him for his pious, upright and benevolent character." James Hay adds, however, "the peculiarities of his manner, though numerous, were perfectly harmless and inoffensive; and, under a rough exterior, he possessed much kindness of heart."

In later years, through hard work and good management he was able to buy a valuable farm on the banks of the Tweed, where in the midst of his family he died in 1820.

Alexander, who was born in 1754. Apparently, with many farmers in Scotland, it was quite usual to bring up one of their sons to a learned profession, and it was decided that Alexander should go into the Ministry. His parents were comparatively comfortably off, and so he was able to receive a rather fuller education than many young men who were intended for the Ministry at that time.

Alexander fully justified his parents' hopes and expectations, and became a well-known preacher and much loved and respected Pastor in a large London parish. His devotion and gratitude to his parents remained with him all his days. Towards the end of his life, Alexander wrote of his father "I owe everything,

under God, to his piety and affection. By the former he was led to devote me to God in the service of His son; and by the latter to lay out a considerable part of his substance for my education for that service."

When Alexander was twelve he entered the Grammar School at Earlstoun in Berwickshire. For a Grammar School it was small, but it had the advantage of being near Gordon, with a good headmaster who had the welfare of his pupils at heart.

The advantage of being near Gordon was manifested one winter when Alexander developed smallpox. He wrote - "My dear father, on being sent for, came himself and brought me to East Gordon behind him on horseback, in the midst of the snow, which lay a foot deep on the ground". Fortunately, he had few spots, and was not disfigured.

At sixteen Alexander joined the Secession Congregation at Sticheil where his father worshipped. He also used to attend a religious society which met in the house of an Elder of the Secession Church in East Gordon, and even then he was "noted for his singularly appropriate and interesting manner of expressing himself in prayer".

About this time Alexander's parents left East Gordon and moved to a nearby farm at Cauldron Brae, and in 1770 Alexander entered the University of Edinburgh where he studied for four years. None of his own papers of this period have survived, but there are various earnest and pious letters from his friends and tutors to "dearest Sandy".

St Michaels Churchyard, Gordon, Scotland
The Waugh Family grave of Thomas Waugh 1706-1783, his wife Margaret and their children.
The grave is the long horizontal tomb.

