

***The Willis Family  
Celebrating 190 Years in Australia  
1833-2023***



***William and Celia Willis***

## The Willis Family in Australia – 1833-2023

The story of the Willis family in Australia starts with William and Celia (nee Mitchell) Willis.<sup>1,2</sup>

### William's story

William Willis (1816-1897) was born in Trowbridge, a town located in the County of Wiltshire, England.<sup>1</sup> While the passing of time has unfortunately obscured many of the details regarding William's early life and his family in England, what is known is that his mother's name was Mary while his father was possibly called George.<sup>2</sup>



*Trowbridge, County of Wiltshire, England<sup>3</sup>*

The use of child labour was common in early 19<sup>th</sup> century Britain so it is not surprising to find that from a young age William was employed as a Carter's boy.<sup>4</sup> A Carter was someone who carried or conveyed goods in a horse-drawn cart or wagon. As a Carter's boy William would have assisted his employer with loading and unloading the cart and caring for the horses.<sup>5</sup>

It is also known that William was able to read, although he could not write.<sup>6</sup> Perhaps he developed his reading ability as a result of attending a local Sunday school. At that time these institutions not only provided religious instruction, they also taught literacy skills to children from poor backgrounds.<sup>7</sup>

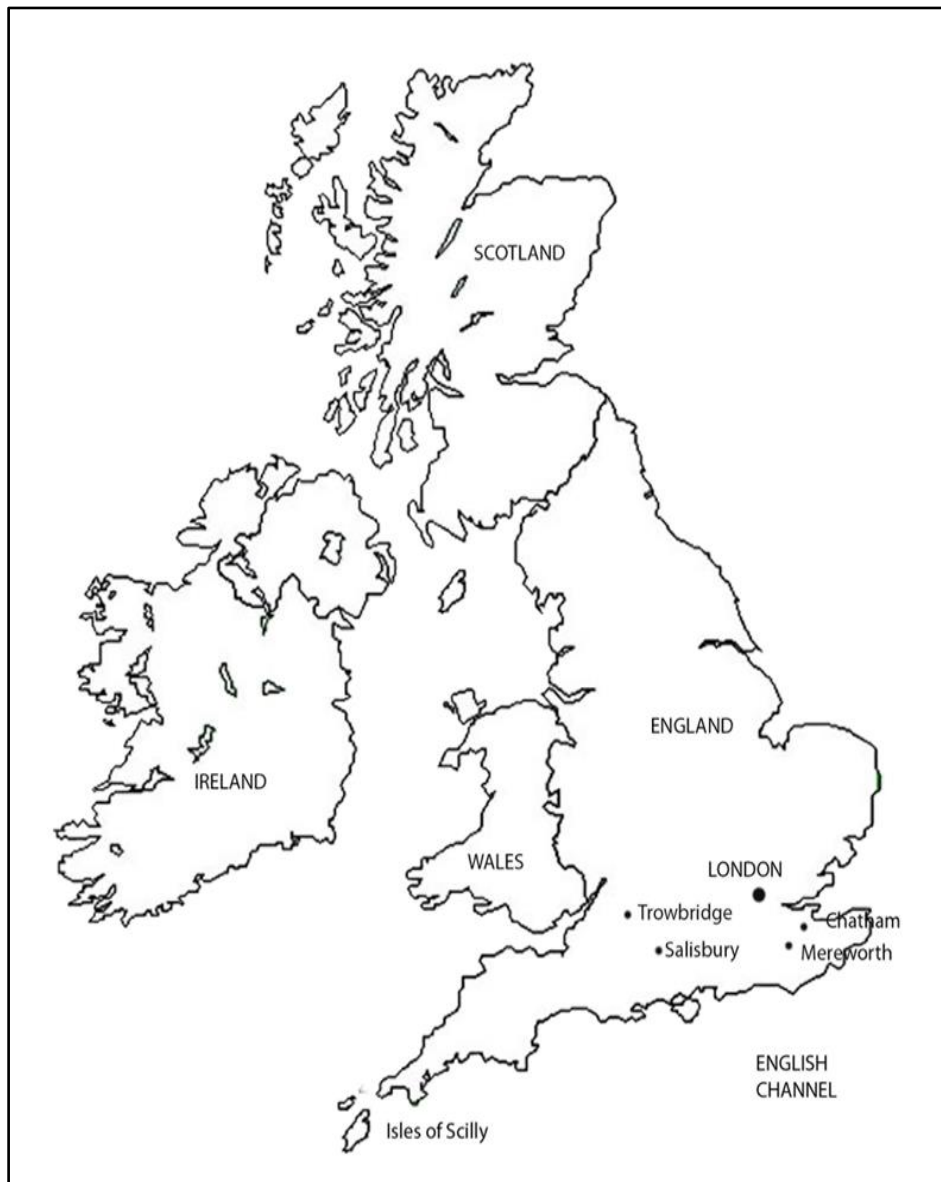
Importantly, the circumstances are known as to when and why William came to Australia. As a very young person William appears to have been sentenced to three months

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<sup>1</sup> This account of the Willis family in Australia, while not intended to be exhaustive, is as current as possible as at **2 March 2023**. The information in this account was researched and authored by Don Willis, great, great grandson of William and Celia (nee Mitchell) Willis, great grandson of William and Margaret (nee Mulholland) Willis, and grandson of William (Will) and Hilary (nee Cornell) Willis. For more information see: <<https://willhilarywillisfamilytree.weebly.com/>>.

<sup>2</sup> **Acknowledgement and thanks** go to a number of people who have provided valuable information, assistance and suggestions which have contributed to the development of this account of the Willis family in Australia including: Terry Raftery (over many years), Jennifer Willis, Colleen Kenny, Linda Willis, Andrea Luck, Bruce Fairhall, Lois Schulz, Marlane Fairfax (Picton & District Historical and Family History Society Inc), Sue Davis (The Oaks Historical Society Inc), and Marianne Diggles (Toowoomba & Darling Downs Family History Society Inc).

imprisonment in England,<sup>8</sup> although details of the offence have not been uncovered. Then in 1832, while still in his early- to mid-teens (between 14 and 16 years),<sup>9</sup> William was convicted of stealing “a quantity of bacon, cheese and other articles” from a Trowbridge local by the name of Robert Hussey for which it was decided he should be transported to New South Wales for seven years.<sup>10</sup> After being sentenced at New Sarum (Salisbury) in Wiltshire on 3 March 1832 William was initially detained in the local Fisherton County Gaol until 22 March 1832 when he was transferred to the Prison hulk *Euryalus*.<sup>11</sup> This vessel, which was moored east of London at Chatham, was used to confine juvenile offenders and was well known for its strict regimen and the stern discipline meted out to inmates.<sup>12</sup> During his time on the *Euryalus* William’s behaviour was reported as “good”.<sup>13</sup> On 27 November 1832 he was relocated to the sailing ship *Mangles* to await transportation to New South Wales.<sup>14</sup> Not only would young William not see England again, he also faced the uncertainties and challenges of having to start a new life in a distant, unfamiliar land.



*Key locations in William and Celia’s lives in England: William – Trowbridge, Salisbury, Chatham, and the Isles of Scilly, and Celia – Mereworth and London (Gravesend)*



At this point it is important to explain a little of the context of the times in which William lived. He grew up during the Industrial Revolution (c.1760-c.1840), a period in England of momentous economic and societal change and dislocation. The political and social elites of the day benefited greatly from the changes that occurred during this time. In contrast, living conditions for those from the “lower orders” were very difficult with no government assistance or welfare support available for people experiencing financial hardship or destitution.<sup>15</sup> The increasing squalor of city life and greatly diminished work opportunities due to the fundamental changes that occurred in agricultural practices led to unrest and riots in the countryside, including in William’s home County of Wiltshire.<sup>16</sup> In this climate it was not uncommon for some to steal food and goods in order to support themselves and their struggling families. Indeed, of all the convicts transported to Australia, three-quarters were sent for non-violent property offences.<sup>17</sup> For juveniles in particular, the impact of the societal and familial disruption arising from the Industrial Revolution was especially damaging and contributed to the antisocial behaviour of many.<sup>18</sup>

From the late 18<sup>th</sup> century until the time it ceased being used as a sentencing option, transportation to New South Wales and Van Diemen’s Land (Tasmania) (either for seven or fourteen years or for life) was applied to a wide range of offences for which death had previously been the penalty (including the offence for which William had been convicted<sup>19</sup>). While many former convicts remained in the country after completing their sentences because they could not afford to pay the cost of the return journey to England, a few went on to do quite well for themselves.<sup>20</sup> William would become one of those who experienced success in their new homeland.



*The Mangles*<sup>21</sup>

With more than 200 passengers on board, the *Mangles* finally set sail from England on 14 December 1832.<sup>22</sup> Previous voyages by the ship to New South Wales were comparatively fast, but on this occasion, it encountered some very heavy weather in the English Channel which delayed its journey:

*... Sailing from London ... [the Mangles] struck a winter gale in the Channel and was forced to seek shelter at the Scilly Isles. She did not sail from there until January 1. Thus, although she was 126 days out from London when she arrived at Port Jackson, the Mangles made the passage from St. Marys' Sound, in the Scillies, to Port Jackson in 100 days.*<sup>23</sup>

The *Mangles* eventually arrived in Port Jackson (Sydney) on 19 April 1833.<sup>24</sup> Although William needed to seek treatment from the ship's doctor on 12 December 1832 after suffering a bout of obstipation (a severe form of constipation often experienced by ship-borne convicts),<sup>25</sup> newspaper reports from the time commented how the new arrivals were mostly "... in a healthy state, which is generally the case when the vessel is kept clean and dry."<sup>26</sup>



*The Hyde Park Barracks (c.1820)*<sup>27</sup>

On 6 May 1833 the convicts from the *Mangles* were brought ashore and taken to the Hyde Park Barracks in Sydney.<sup>28</sup> Generally, it was from here that newly disembarked convicts were sent to work either for the Government or for private individuals.<sup>29</sup> In the case of William and others from the *Mangles* who were under the age of 17, they were then conveyed to the nearby Carters' Barracks for Boys in order to await allocation.<sup>30</sup>



*Carters' Barracks (c.1840-1850)*<sup>31</sup>

An official Government notice dated 2 May 1833 – while not naming any individual convict or the persons to whom they were assigned – indicates that the majority of those from the *Mangles* were allocated to “private service”.<sup>32</sup> William was among those from the *Mangles* so assigned. Indeed, official records indicate that soon after disembarking he was sent to work for George Harper (c.1802-1841), a well-known “public servant, natural history collector and settler”,<sup>33</sup> who owned a property called *Abbotsford* at Stonequarry, later called *Picton*.<sup>34</sup>

Number	Date of Arrival	Name	Ship	Station	How disposed of
3730	April 19 <sup>th</sup> 1833	Walley John	<i>Mangles</i>	First	Mr. Ingle, Sydney
3731	—	Weeks Charles	—	—	Self, for Waller, Picton
3732	—	Williams Willie	—	—	for Atkinson, Oldbury
3733	—	Wright Thomas	—	—	W. C. Riley, Roly
3734	—	Williams Saml	—	—	Edw. Gochyn, Cringston
3735	—	Walters John	—	Second	for Atkinson, Oldbury
3736	—	Wilmet Henry	—	First	for Seymour, Richmond
3737	—	Walker Shadrach	—	Second	Col. Wilson, for Wash
3738	—	Willis William	—	—	for Harper, Abbotsford
3739	—	Weston Edward	—	—	D. Anderson, Porra
3740	—	Wood James	—	—	Carters Barracks
3741	—	Walker James	—	—	J. E. Manning, Sydney
3742	—	Wilson Bernard also Buchanan	—	—	Sanctuary, Pitt St
3743	June 26 <sup>th</sup>	Walsh Patrick (Port Phillip)	—	—	Hughes, Donalds, Gosham
3744	—	White Edward	—	—	Allen, Berry, Shearman
3745	—	Wash Patrick (Port Phillip)	—	—	Port. Marguerite
3746	—	Walsh John	—	Self	Suro. Gen. Dept
3747	—	Walsh John	—	Second	Commis. Bushland
3748	—	Whelan Martin	—	Self	Church commissary
3749	—	Wingler Henry	—	—	Do Do
3750	—	Woodgate Thomas	<i>Asia</i>	Second	Wm. Hall, Sydney
3751	—	Wunstall Benj	—	—	Dead at Sea
3752	—	Wickenden James	—	First	Robt. Keisman, Esk River
3753	—	Wood Robert	—	Self	Wm. Rutledge, Darlington
3754	—	Wiggall Thos	—	First	Edw. Widdulphs, Sydney
3755	—	Whittle John	—	Self	Thos. Collins, Sydney
3756	—	Williams Wm	—	Second	H. Chant, Sydney

Official record of William's assignment to George Harper, Abbotsford (1833)<sup>35</sup>

An earlier Government directive issued on 18 March 1833 also had stipulated that from this date any newly-arrived convicts under the age of 17 years were to be assigned to employers who lived at least 20 miles outside of Sydney. Under this directive employers of “convict boys” were required to provide their charges,

*... with food and clothing, according to the regulations of Government in the case of adult male convicts; to afford them religious instruction, and, where practicable, to have them taught to read and write; and further, to accustom them to some kind of labour, whereby they may be enabled to earn an honest livelihood on attaining to freedom or manhood.*<sup>36</sup>

Official Carters’ Barracks’ records for the period 1833-1834 indicate that William’s assignment to Mr Harper was made in accordance with the Government directive of 18 March 1833.

As an assignee, William would have been involved in activities such as land clearing, building construction, growing and harvesting crops, and raising stock.<sup>37</sup> In keeping with the Government directive of 18 March 1833 Mr Harper would have been responsible for providing William with accommodation, food and clothing.<sup>38</sup> Also in line with this directive it is probable that during this time William gained some important farming, land and stock management skills which continued to be of use to him over the following years.<sup>39</sup> Indeed, William went on to hold a variety of occupations with each having strong ties to the land including labourer, farmer, stock keeper, and grazier.<sup>40</sup> By the end of his life, William was acknowledged as a “leading farmer” and “pastoralist”.<sup>41</sup>

During the period of William’s assignment, Mr Harper was a property holder in several districts including in the ruggedly beautiful, yet isolated country of Burragorang Valley west of Sydney.<sup>42</sup> The early settlers of the valley also faced the constant threat posed by local bushrangers in the area.<sup>43</sup> Although the Burragorang had been well known to its original Indigenous inhabitants for thousands of years, the first visit by Europeans to the valley only occurred in 1798 followed by the establishment of the first township in 1833.<sup>44</sup> It is possible that William became familiar with the Burragorang from working for Mr Harper on his various properties. It appears William was assigned to Mr Harper at least until 2 March 1839 when he applied for his Certificate of Freedom.<sup>45</sup>

CERTIFICATE OF FREEDOM.	
No.	39/1791
Date,	14 <sup>th</sup> October 1839.
Prisoner's No. ....	33/953
Name .....	William Willis
Ship .....	Managers 6
Master .....	ball
Year .....	1833
Native Place ...	Mitchell
Trade or Calling ..	Laborer
Offence .....	Thief lifting
Place of Trial ....	Wills Assizes
Date of Trial .....	3 August 1833
Sentence .....	Seven years
Year of Birth .....	1817
Height .....	5 feet 6 1/2 inches
Complexion .....	Yellow & black pitted
Hair .....	Brown
Eyes .....	Grey
General Remarks...	Backs of hands & neck pitted Nail of forefinger of left hand dis- figured
John C. B.	

Copy of William Willis's Certificate of Freedom (1839)<sup>46</sup>

On 14 October 1839 William received his Certificate of Freedom after completing his seven-year sentence.<sup>47</sup> Subsequently, William likely used the skills he had developed and honed during the years he was assigned to Mr Harper to work for different landholders in the local area. Perhaps he continued to work for Mr Harper up until the time of Harper's death in 1841.<sup>48</sup> It is also possible that William worked for other local landholders, one of whom could have been Mr John Benton Wild of the *Vanderville* station.<sup>49</sup> This is suggested from the New South Wales Register of Land Leases for 1843 which shows a William Willis "of *Vanderville*" applying to lease 640 acres of land in the Burragorang Valley. Certainly it was not too long before William started to acquire land, and it was to property beside the Wollondilly River in the Upper Burragorang to which he first turned his attention.<sup>50</sup> During the years William lived in the valley, he ran cattle, logged timber, and farmed crops such as corn and pumpkins.<sup>51</sup> Nowadays William's property lies within the catchment for the Warragamba Dam, the main water supply for the city of Sydney.<sup>52</sup>



The years William lived and worked in the Burratorang Valley, with its isolation and difficulty of access, were not always easy or straightforward. Living along the Wollondilly River meant he also would have seen many floods as well as times of drought.<sup>53</sup> There is no doubt of such events affecting his livelihood as a farmer and the quality of life for his family. In addition, during the 1840s Australia underwent the first of three economic depressions that have occurred over the course of its history, with the second occurring in the 1890s and the third in the 1930s. The depression of the 1840s saw thousands of individuals, businesses and tradespeople consigned to unemployment and bankruptcy.<sup>54</sup> Like many others, William would have been affected by the severe economic conditions of that time. Any economic difficulties William experienced during this period were initially compounded when he found himself accused of receiving stolen property, although he was subsequently cleared of the charge by the local court.<sup>55</sup> Despite the challenges and setbacks, William showed resilience and strength of character by persevering and becoming a well-known and highly-regarded member of the community.

### **Celia's story**

Celia Mitchell (1830-1909) was born in Mereworth in the County of Kent, England.<sup>56</sup> As a young child Celia joined her parents, James (1792-1857) and Hannah (nee Fairhall) (1787-1870), and surviving siblings, Jane (1818-1916), Emma (1821-1883), James (Junior) (1822-1857), William (1824-1854), Richard (1826-1906), and George (1828-1897) in leaving Gravesend (located on the Thames near London) England<sup>57</sup> to travel to New South Wales as free settlers aboard the *Lady Nugent*. They arrived in Sydney on 27 November 1838. Also on board this voyage with Celia and her family was the woman after whom the famous "Granny Smith" apple was reputedly named, Maria Ann (nee Sherwood) Smith.<sup>58</sup> The Mitchells initially settled at Bringelly (near Camden) with James working for a person called Mr King. Later, the family relocated to the vicinity of The Oaks before eventually moving to Bargo where James died in 1857. Hannah died some years after James, in 1870, at Gunning, New South Wales.<sup>59</sup>

### **William and Celia**

It is not known how William and Celia came to meet. William was some fifteen years older than Celia. Perhaps there were occasions when he performed labouring work for her father which, in turn, could have provided an opportunity for them to become acquainted.<sup>60</sup> While the particular circumstances are now unknown, what is certain is that they were married on 7 July 1849 in the newly-constructed and consecrated St John's Church of England at Camden after which they went back to live in the Burratorang Valley.<sup>61</sup> Over the next 25 years William and Celia had twelve children: Mary (1850-1934), Harriet (1852-1886), George (1854-1941), John (1857-1934), Matilda (1859-1943), William (Junior) (1861-1941), James (1863-1889), Samuel (1866-1949), Celia (1868-1947), an infant daughter who died soon after birth (1870-1870), Hannah (1871-1950), and Arthur (1876-1938).<sup>62</sup> All were born in the Burratorang except for those born after the family had moved to The Oaks, possibly Hannah (b.1871) and certainly Arthur (b.1876).<sup>63</sup>

Sadly, three of William and Celia's children predeceased them: their infant daughter (only two hours old) born and died on 30 January 1870, Harriet of typhoid fever in 1886, and James of Phthisis (tuberculosis) in 1889.<sup>64</sup> At the time of her death, Harriet was the mother of four children aged five and under (William 5, Harriet 4, Amy 3, and Celia 11 months), while James had one child (a six-month-old daughter named Irene) when he died at the age of 26 years.<sup>65</sup>

Perhaps sensing an opportunity to improve their circumstances, the early 1870s saw William and Celia – while keeping some of their land in the Burragorang Valley<sup>66</sup> – relocate to another property not too far away, a few kilometres south of The Oaks, on the way to Picton, which they named *Long Acre*.<sup>67</sup> The *Long Acre* property, which would eventually comprise some 630 acres, was situated on both sides of what was then called The Oaks Road, now known as Montpelier Drive.



*The Willis homestead, "Long Acre", at The Oaks*<sup>68</sup>

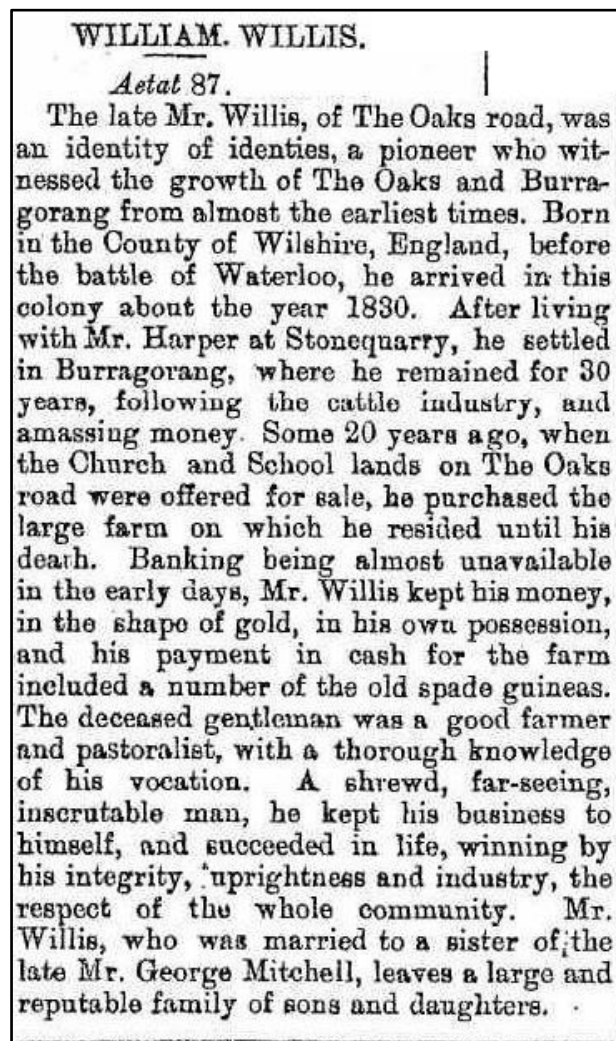
William and Celia went on to prosper at their *Long Acre* property. One record, the 1885 Return of New South Wales Land and Stock Owners, notes how at that point William owned 500 acres of land, 11 horses, 80 head of cattle, and 16 pigs.<sup>69</sup> William and Celia continued to live at *Long Acre* for the remainder of their lives.

William is an acknowledged and respected pioneer of the local area. As noted by the author of one local historical publication about the early settlers of the district: "Another well-known family name is that of Willis, William Willis of *Long Acre* being the founder."<sup>70</sup> The indications are that William was active in the life of his community. For example, several newspaper reports from the time recount him entering and winning prizes for competing in the Picton Agricultural Show.<sup>71</sup>

During his life, William also recognised and highly valued the importance of education.<sup>72</sup> For instance, in 1872 he allowed the Werriberri Provisional School to be constructed on his property at The Oaks<sup>73</sup> and in his Will bequeathed money specifically for the education of his granddaughter, Irene Willis (1888-1966), and grandsons, William Harris (1881-1947) and John Harris (1880-1960).<sup>74</sup> Even while living in the isolated Burraborang Valley, William took steps to ensure several of his older children could attend school and benefit from the opportunities it afforded.<sup>75</sup>

Given William's long association with the Burraborang Valley and The Oaks districts it is perhaps not surprising to find that in nearby Oakdale there is a *Willis Street* and a *Willis Park* which appear to have been named in his honour.<sup>76</sup> Indeed, it has been said that William donated much of the land for *Willis Park* to the local shire council through his estate.<sup>77</sup>

On 23 June 1897 William died in Picton at what was then known as the George Inn where he had been staying for medical treatment.<sup>78</sup> Soon afterwards an obituary for William was published in the *Camden News* (see below).



*Newspaper obituary for William Willis (1816-1897), Camden News, 8 July 1897<sup>79</sup>*

Another newspaper article from the time reporting William's death described him as "... one of the pioneer residents of the district, and a leading farmer."<sup>80</sup> It had been earlier reported

in the *Camden News* that even though it had been a wet day there was a large number of attendees at William's funeral.<sup>81</sup>

By the time William died, he and Celia had been married for almost 50 years. The life of the early settlers was undoubtedly hard and challenging. William and Celia would have worked together for the benefit of themselves and their family. It is touching how William referred to Celia in his Will as "my dear wife". His care for her may also be seen when a seemingly simple "Winter Buggy Rug" belonging to Celia was lost on the road somewhere between their property and Camden and William advertised a reward for its safe return.<sup>82</sup>

For her part, Celia likely contributed greatly to William's success in life, business and family. Most certainly she would have shared with him the dangers, hardships and privations commonly experienced by the early settlers. Without her support, especially as family matriarch, he would not have been able to achieve what he did. Celia's determination was such that even after William's death she continued as a residential landholder/grazier at The Oaks.<sup>83</sup>

Like William, Celia made provision in her Will for various members of her family. She bequeathed money to her son, Arthur, and daughters, Celia and Hannah. She also bequeathed to Hannah the pictures of herself and late husband William, together with those of her late son James and late daughter Harriet. Celia directed that all other effects be sold with the proceeds kept in trust for her grandchildren, Cecil Wheeler (1894-1927), Irene Wheeler (1897-1974), and Vera Wheeler (1899-1996).<sup>84</sup>

In acknowledging Celia after her passing at Picton on 6 November 1909, one local newspaper described her as "... an old and respected resident of the district, having lived in it for the last 69 years. She leaves a family of five sons and four daughters."<sup>85</sup>

William and Celia are buried together at the St Matthew's Anglican Church Cemetery, The Oaks, Wollondilly Shire, New South Wales.<sup>86</sup>

The *Long Acre* property was finally sold in 1910,<sup>87</sup> in line with the directions William left in his Will.

William and Celia's children and grandchildren and their families continued to grow and prosper with some making their way to places such as Queensland where many still live.

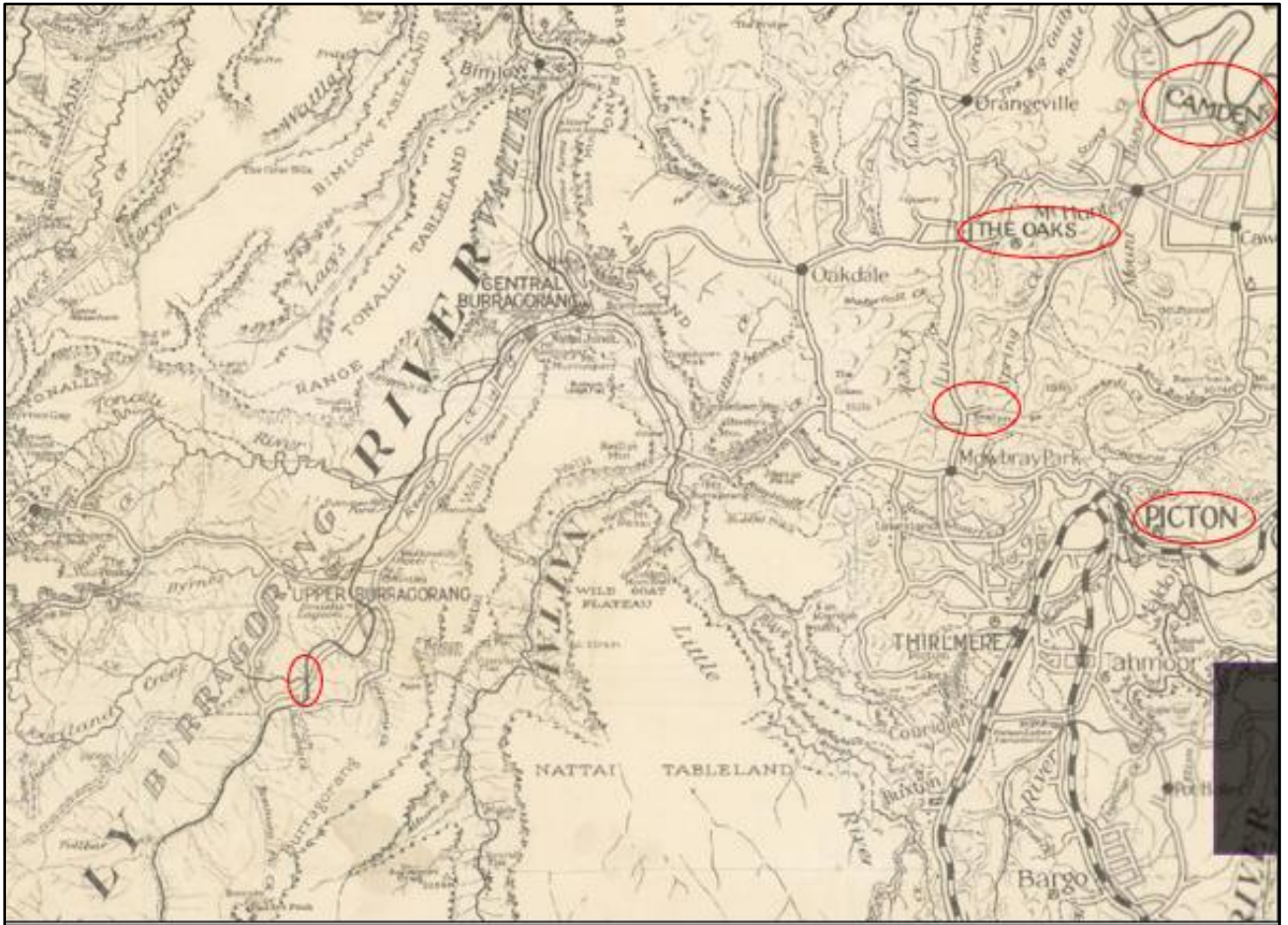
William and Celia are the progenitors of hundreds, if not thousands, who have lived across Australia and elsewhere. No doubt they would be very proud, perhaps even amazed, at this ongoing legacy which began all those years ago with a 16-year-old boy from Wiltshire in England arriving at Port Jackson in New South Wales on 19 April 1833.

***For a map showing where William and Celia lived in New South Wales, a family descendent report, and a selection of photos and images relating to William and Celia, their children and grandchildren please see the following pages.***



## William and Celia Willis

### Where they lived in New South Wales



*Key locations (in red circles) in William and Celia's lives in New South Wales: where they were married at Camden and where they lived in the Upper Burragorang Valley (in the area where the Jooriland Creek meets the Wollondilly River), and later at "Long Acre" (between Picton and The Oaks), and Picton (formerly known as Stonequarry)<sup>88</sup>*

## William and Celia Willis, their children and grandchildren

### Family Descendent Report

- ..... 1 William Willis Snr b: Abt. 21 Nov 1816 in Trowbridge, Wiltshire, England, d: 23 Jun 1897 in Picton, New South Wales, Australia
- ..... +Celia Mitchell b: 22 Feb 1830 in Mereworth, Kent, England, d: 06 Nov 1909 in Picton, New South Wales, Australia, m: 07 Jul 1849 in Camden, New South Wales, Australia
- ..... 2 Mary Willis b: 06 Aug 1850 in Burragorang, New South Wales, Australia, d: 02 Feb 1934 in Cobbity, New South Wales, Australia
- ..... +Henry Harris b: 1849, d: 1881, m: 06 Jun 1878
- ..... 3 John Harris b: 1880, d: 1960
- ..... 3 William Harris b: 1881, d: 1947
- ..... +Robert Armour b: 1846, d: 1933, m: 02 Apr 1884
- ..... 3 Arthur Armour b: 1883, d: 1950
- ..... 3 George Armour b: 1885, d: 1937
- ..... 3 Mary Armour b: 1886, d: 1964
- ..... 2 Harriet Willis b: 06 Jul 1852 in Burragorang, New South Wales, Australia, d: 21 Feb 1886 in Camden, New South Wales, Australia
- ..... +James Williams b: 1847, d: 1909, m: 24 Jul 1879
- ..... 3 William Samuel Williams b: 1880, d: 1970
- ..... 3 Harriet Anne Williams b: 1882, d: 1977
- ..... 3 Amy Grace Williams b: 1883, d: 1928
- ..... 3 Celia Serana Williams b: 1885, d: 1913
- ..... 2 George Willis b: 01 Aug 1854 in Burragorang, New South Wales, Australia, d: 20 Jul 1941 in Lidcombe, New South Wales, Australia
- ..... +Elizabeth Selina Hanger b: 1852, d: 1938, m: 31 Mar 1877
- ..... 3 Hannah Lillian Willis b: 1877, d: 1949
- ..... 3 Celia Willis b: 1880, d: 1881
- ..... 3 Alice Willis b: 1882, d: 1969
- ..... 3 Samuel Willis b: 1884, d: 1969
- ..... 3 William Willis b: 1887, d: 1977
- ..... 3 George Willis b: 1889, d: 1971
- ..... 3 Claude Willis b: 1892, d: 1968
- ..... 3 Cecil Willis b: 1892, d: 1975
- ..... 3 Ruby Willis b: 1895, d: 1942
- ..... 3 Ruth Willis b: 1895, d: 1991
- ..... 2 John Willis b: 28 Feb 1857 in Burragorang, New South Wales, Australia, d: 24 Jan 1934 in Ashfield, New South Wales, Australia
- ..... +Mary Ann Hanger b: 1857, d: 1945, m: 19 Mar 1878
- ..... 3 William Henry Willis b: 1880, d: 1965
- ..... 3 John Arthur Willis b: 1881, d: 1941
- ..... 3 Stanley George Willis b: 1883, d: 1949
- ..... 3 Harriett Maude Willis b: 1886, d: 1959
- ..... 3 Horace James Willis b: 1890, d: 1962
- ..... 2 Matilda Willis b: 08 Mar 1859 in Burragorang, New South Wales, Australia, d: 20 Jun 1943 in Granville, New South Wales, Australia
- ..... +George Hanger b: 1855, d: 1931, m: 16 Aug 1882
- ..... 3 John Hanger b: 1883, d: 1961
- ..... 3 William Hanger b: 1884, d: 1957
- ..... 3 Percy Hanger b: 1885, d: 1947
- ..... 3 George Hanger b: 1887, d: 1963
- ..... 3 Stanley Hanger b: 1889, d: 1951
- ..... 3 Alick Hanger b: 1894, d: 1963
- ..... 3 Leslie Hanger b: 1897, d: 1960
- ..... 3 Bertie Hanger b: 1898, d: 1966
- ..... 3 Harry Hanger b: 1900, d: 1966
- ..... 3 Nellie Hanger b: 1902, d: 1980

- ..... 2 William Willis Jnr b: 08 Feb 1861 in Burragorang, New South Wales, Australia, d: 09 Sep 1941 in Meringandan, Queensland, Australia
- ..... +Margaret Mullholland b: 1860, d: 1935, m: 09 Jan 1890
- .....3 William Louis (Will) Willis b: 1890, d: 1966
- .....3 James Vivian (Jim) Willis b: 1893, d: 1982
- .....3 Catherine Celia (Cate) Willis b: 1895, d: 1983
- .....3 John Harold (Johnny) Willis b: 1896, d: 1903
- .....3 Helena Mildred (Millie) Willis b: 1898, d: 1965
- .....3 Edward (Teddy) Willis b: 1900, d: 1903
- ..... 2 James Willis b: 14 Apr 1863 in Burragorang, New South Wales, Australia, d: 06 Jun 1889 in The Oaks, New South Wales, Australia
- ..... +Annie Johnstone b: 1861, d: 1946, m: 07 Dec 1887
- ..... 3 Irene Clive Willis b: 1888, d: 1966
- ..... 2 Samuel Willis b: 12 Feb 1866 in Burragorang, New South Wales, Australia, d: 30 Apr 1949 in Toowoomba, Queensland, Australia
- ..... +Joan Halliday b: 1873, d: 1949, m: 25 Aug 1897
- ..... 3 Arthur Willis b: 1898, d: 1992
- ..... 3 Nellie Willis b: 1901, d: 1992
- ..... 3 Dulcie Willis b: 1905, d: 2000
- ..... 3 Ethel Willis b: 1910, d: 1995
- ..... 2 Celia Willis b: 27 Apr 1868 in Burragorang, New South Wales, Australia, d: 28 Jun 1947 in Penrith, New South Wales, Australia
- ..... +Thomas Gibson b: 1867, d: 1941, m: 16 Jul 1890
- ..... 3 William Cecil Gibson b: 1891, d: 1974
- ..... 3 Leslie Thomas Gibson b: 1893, d: 1970
- ..... 3 Arthur James Gibson b: 1895, d: 1955
- ..... 3 Robert Roy Gibson b: 1898, d: 1960
- ..... 3 Jessie Mary Gibson b: 1902, d: 1977
- ..... 3 Vera Victoria Gibson b: 1904, d: 1964
- ..... 3 Minnie Blanch Gibson b: 1906, d: 1987
- ..... 2 Ruby Willis b: 30 Jan 1870 in Burragorang, New South Wales, Australia, d: 30 Jan 1870 in Burragorang, New South Wales, Australia
- ..... 2 Hannah Willis b: 27 Feb 1871 in Burragorang, New South Wales, Australia, d: 04 Jul 1950 in Camden, New South Wales, Australia
- ..... +Walter Wheeler b: 1869, d: 1940, m: 10 Aug 1892
- ..... 3 Cecil Claude Wheeler b: 1894, d: 1927
- ..... 3 Irene G Wheeler b: 1897, d: 1974
- ..... 3 Vera H Wheeler b: 1899, d: 1996
- ..... 3 Marjory Ruth Wheeler b: 1908, d: 1914
- ..... 3 Jack Ian Hamilton Wheeler b: 1915, d: 1968
- ..... 2 Arthur Willis b: 29 Jan 1876 in The Oaks, New South Wales, Australia, d: 04 Mar 1938 in Wallsend, New South Wales, Australia
- ..... +Clara Butler b: 1879, d: 1946, m: 23 May 1900
- ..... 3 Herbert Edgar Willis b: 1902, d: 1932
- ..... 3 Ethel May Willis b: 1908, d: 1982
- ..... 3 Lorna Ann Willis b: 1913, d: 1965

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Baptisms solemnized in the Parish of *Piston* in the County of *Camden*  
in the Year 18 *50-51*

When Baptized.	When Born.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents' Name.		Abode.	Quality or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
			Christian.	Surname.			
10 <sup>th</sup> of March No. 1	10 <sup>th</sup> of November 1849	Daniel	Thomas and Ellen	Hartman	Red Bank	Farmer	Edmund Rogers
12 <sup>th</sup> of May No. 2	August 22 <sup>nd</sup> 1849	Emma	James and Ann	Birch	Piston	Green	Edmund Rogers
June 10 <sup>th</sup> No. 3	May 12 <sup>th</sup> 1850	Albert	Julian King and Lucy	Hartman	Piston	Blacksmith	Edmund Rogers
June 10 <sup>th</sup> No. 4	May 28 <sup>th</sup> 1850	Alice Jane	William Butcher and Mary	Campbell	Piston	Butcher	Edmund Rogers
June 25 <sup>th</sup> No. 5	June 16 <sup>th</sup> 1850	Sophia	William and Ann	Bohland	Piston	Joiner	Edmund Rogers
July 14 <sup>th</sup> No. 6	April 29 <sup>th</sup> 1850	Mary	Isaac and Mary	Bowman	Piston	Farmer	Edmund Rogers
September 18 <sup>th</sup> No. 7	August 23 <sup>rd</sup> 1850	Richard Francis Bama	John and Emily Lane	Wild	Windsor	Quaker	Edmund Rogers
September 18 <sup>th</sup> No. 8	August 8 <sup>th</sup> 1850	Mary	William and Celia	Wether	Barnegat Bay	Labourer	Edmund Rogers
September 18 <sup>th</sup> No. 9	August 16 <sup>th</sup> 1850	Robert	Robert and Jane	Wether	Lakes	Farmer	Edmund Rogers
October 18 <sup>th</sup> No. 10	September 8 <sup>th</sup> 1850	Clara	Joseph and Emma	Taylor	Piston	Teacher	Edmund Rogers
1851							
February 18 <sup>th</sup> No. 11	January 25 <sup>th</sup> 1851	William	James and Elizabeth	Holmes	Waker	Farmer	Edmund Rogers
March 3 <sup>rd</sup> No. 12	August 8 <sup>th</sup> 1850	Mary Ann	Paul and Jane	Knapp	Wilmington	Labourer	Edmund Rogers
March	November	Henry					

4. William and Celia's eldest daughter, Mary Willis – record of birth and baptism (1850)<sup>92</sup>



187 . MARRIAGES Solemnized in the District of <i>Pictou &amp; the Oaks</i> —					in the Colony of New South Wales. Registered by				
No.	When and where Married.	Names and Degrees of the Parties.	Condition of the Parties, (Bachelors or Widows.)	Birth Place.	Rank or Profession.	Age.	Usual place of Residence.	Parents, (Christian Names and Surnames, Mother's Christian Name and Maiden Surname.)	Parents, (Rank or Profession.)
7	<i>December 25<sup>th</sup> 1877</i>	<i>Alfred Charles Bailey</i>	<i>Bachelor</i>	<i>Free Dock</i>	<i>Free Dock</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>Free Dock</i>	<i>Alfred Charles Bailey, Gunsmith</i> <i>Ann Widdler</i>	<i>Free Dock</i>
		<i>Eliza Jane Gidley</i>	<i>Spinster</i>	<i>Sydney</i>	<i>Pictou</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>Pictou</i>	<i>John Gidley</i> <i>Hannah Hogg</i>	<i>Labourer</i>
Married in the <i>Church of St. Mark's, Pictou.</i> According to the rites of the <i>Church of England.</i>					This Marriage was solemnized between us <i>Alfred C. Bailey</i> <i>Eliza J. Gidley</i> In the presence of us <i>John Widdler</i> <i>Ann Bailey</i> By (as before) us <i>Samuel Fox</i> Officiating Minister or Registrar.				
8	<i>March 23<sup>rd</sup> 1878</i>	<i>James Baxter</i>	<i>Bachelor</i>	<i>The Oaks</i>	<i>Farmer</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>Pictou</i>	<i>James Baxter</i> <i>Mary Baxter</i>	<i>Farmer</i>
		<i>Margaret Jane Henry</i>	<i>Spinster</i>	<i>Spring Creek</i>	<i>Pictou</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>Pictou</i>	<i>Gilbert Henry</i> <i>Ann Baxter</i>	<i>Farmer</i>
Married in the <i>Church of St. Mark's, Pictou.</i> According to the rites of the <i>Church of England.</i>					This Marriage was solemnized between us <i>James Baxter</i> <i>Margaret Jane Henry</i> In the presence of us <i>William Dinnick</i> <i>Ann Henry</i> By (as before) us <i>Samuel Fox</i> Officiating Minister or Registrar.				
9	<i>June 6<sup>th</sup> 1878</i>	<i>Henry Harris</i>	<i>Bachelor</i>	<i>New South Wales</i>	<i>Farmer</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>Bayview</i>	<i>John Harris</i> <i>Mary Hollingsworth</i>	<i>Farmer</i>
		<i>Mary Willis</i>	<i>Spinster</i>	<i>The Oaks N.S.W.</i>	<i>The Oaks</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>The Oaks</i>	<i>William Willis</i> <i>Eliza Mitchell</i>	<i>Farmer</i>
Married in the <i>Oaks Church</i> According to the rites of the <i>Church of England.</i>					This Marriage was solemnized between us <i>Henry Harris</i> <i>Mary Willis</i> In the presence of us <i>William Willis</i> <i>Harold Willis</i> By (as before) us <i>Samuel Fox</i> Officiating Minister or Registrar.				
10	<i>July 10<sup>th</sup> 1878</i>	<i>Joseph Lavender</i>	<i>Bachelor</i>	<i>Richmond N.S.W.</i>	<i>Farmer</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>The Oaks</i>	<i>Robert Lavender</i> <i>Emily Lavender</i>	<i>Farmer</i>
		<i>Mary Ann Morris</i>	<i>Spinster</i>	<i>Sydney N.S.W.</i>	<i>The Oaks</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>The Oaks</i>	<i>Mary Morris</i> <i>Hannah Cook</i>	<i>Cordwainer</i>
Married in the <i>Oaks Church</i> According to the rites of the <i>Church of England.</i>					This Marriage was solemnized between us <i>Joseph Lavender</i> <i>Mary Ann Morris</i> In the presence of us <i>William Lavender</i> <i>Sarah Lavender</i> By (as before) us <i>Samuel Fox</i> Officiating Minister or Registrar.				

5. Mary Willis and Henry Harris (d.1881) – record of marriage (1878)<sup>93</sup>



6. Resting place of William and Celia's daughter, Mary and her husband, Robert Armour (d.1933), Cobbitty Anglican Church Cemetery, New South Wales<sup>94</sup>



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Baptisms solemnized in the Parish of *S<sup>t</sup> Mark, Pictou* in the County of *Novascotia*  
in the Year 1852

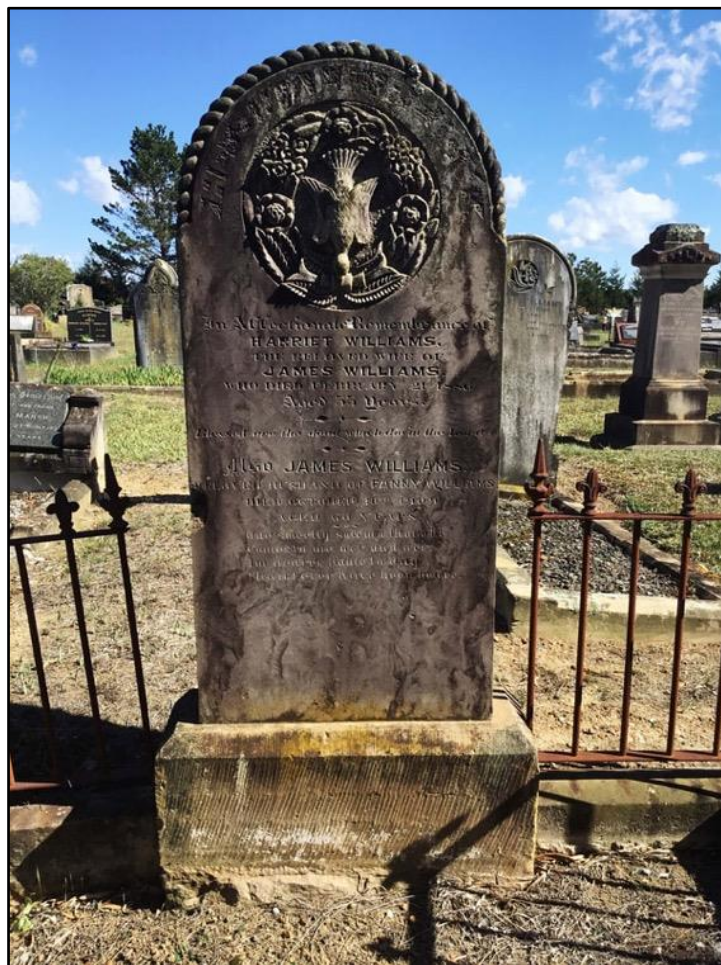
When Baptized.	When Born.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents' Name.		Abode.	Quality or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
			Christian.	Surname.			
May 10 <sup>th</sup> No. 1	May 10 <sup>th</sup> 1852	Uonato	John and Mary	Carpenter	Pictou	Farmer	Edmund Rogers
June 13 <sup>th</sup> No. 2	February 10 <sup>th</sup> 1852	Mary Ann	Joseph and Mary Ann	Sledge	Penangle Road	Farmer	Edmund Rogers
June 20 <sup>th</sup> No. 3	May 5 <sup>th</sup> 1852	Jane	William and Ann	Mitchell	Cakes	Labourer	Edmund Rogers
July 11 <sup>th</sup> No. 4	June 24 <sup>th</sup> 1852	Thomas	James and Elizabeth	Bell	Redbank	Labourer	Edmund Rogers
July 11 <sup>th</sup> No. 5	May 23 <sup>rd</sup> 1852	Elna Jane	John and Julia	Rose- marie	Pictou	Farmer	Edmund Rogers
July 11 <sup>th</sup> No. 6	March 8 <sup>th</sup> 1852	Richard	Thomas and Ellen	West- wood	Upper Pictou	Farmer	Edmund Rogers
July 11 <sup>th</sup> No. 7	July 8 <sup>th</sup> 1852	John James	William Barkley and Mary	Campbell	Pictou	Farmer	Edmund Rogers
July 18 <sup>th</sup> No. 8	July 8 <sup>th</sup> 1852	Harriet	William and Celia	Willis	Barrage- rang	Labourer	Edmund Rogers
August 8 <sup>th</sup> No. 9	July 4 <sup>th</sup> 1852	Margaret Campbell	John Macquarie and Selvie Campbell	Antell	Sarrisfield	Labourer	Edmund Rogers
August 8 <sup>th</sup> No. 10	July 26 <sup>th</sup> 1852	Alice Elna	Henry Golden and Teresa	Antell	Sarrisfield	Farmer	Edmund Rogers
September 19 <sup>th</sup> No. 11	July 21 <sup>st</sup> 1852	Elizabeth Selina	Henry and Mary	Stranger	Cakes	Shoe- maker	Edmund Rogers
October 17 <sup>th</sup> No. 12	September 17 <sup>th</sup> 1852	Jane	Thomas and Margaret	Whately	Stony Cops ing Place Cakes	Farmer	Edmund Rogers
October 17 <sup>th</sup> No. 13	September 10 <sup>th</sup> 1852	Elizabeth Ann	Prosser and Elizabeth	Hibbler	Cakes	Farmer	Edmund Rogers
November 15 <sup>th</sup> No. 14	October 7 <sup>th</sup> 1852	James Edmund	William and Ann	Rollard	Red- Bank	Labourer	Edmund Rogers
December 19 <sup>th</sup> No. 15	September 3 <sup>rd</sup> 1851	Alfred	Richard Lamont and Jane	Robson and Ingles	Cakes	Farmer	Edmund Rogers

7. William and Celia's daughter, Harriet Willis – record of birth and baptism (1852)<sup>95</sup>





8. Harriet (nee Willis) Williams (c.1882)<sup>96</sup>



9. Resting place of William and Celia's daughter, Harriet and her husband, James Williams, St Matthew's Anglican Church Cemetery, The Oaks, New South Wales<sup>97</sup>

**Sydney, Australia, Anglican Parish Registers, 1814-2011 for George Willis**  
 Picton St Mark > Composite > 28 January 1827 - 29 December 1861

No. 2	13 <sup>th</sup> May 1854	John Augustus	and	Mont-Abbott	Farmer	Edmund Rogers
No. 3	10 <sup>th</sup> July 1854	Henry David	and	Brown	Coach Painter	Edmund Rogers
No. 4	8 <sup>th</sup> Oct 1854	George	and	Willis	Barranger	Edmund Rogers
No. 5	8 <sup>th</sup> Oct 1854	Sarah Ann	and	Burch	Red Bank	Edmund Rogers
No. 6	8 <sup>th</sup> Oct 1854	Sarah Ann	and	Wright	Picton	Edmund Rogers
	8 <sup>th</sup> Oct 1854	Emily	and	John	Shor-maker	Edmund Rogers

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10. William and Celia's eldest son, George Willis – record of birth and baptism (1854)<sup>98</sup>

MARriages Solemnized in the District of Picton & the Oaks				in the Colony of New South Wales. Registered by			
No.	When & where Married.	Names and Surnames of the Parties.	Qualities of the Parties (Bachelors or Spinster, Widowers or Widows)	Place of Birth.	Age.	Usual place of Residence.	Parents.
1	March 17 <sup>th</sup> 1877.	William Matthews	Bachelor	England	28	Goulburn	Charles & Mattheus Turner
		Mary Jane Mulholland	Spinster	Ireland	26	Picton	Sarah Harvey James Mulholland
Married in the house of Messrs. Mulholland, Picton. According to the rites of the Church of England.				This Marriage was solemnized between us William Matthews Mary Jane Mulholland In the presence of us James Mulholland Samuel Fox Officiating Minister of the Gospel.			
2	March 31 <sup>st</sup> 1877.	George Willis	Bachelor	Barrangry N.S.W.	22	the Oaks	William Willis Elizabeth Willis
		Elizabeth Selina Hanger	Spinster		23	the Oaks	Henry Hanger Mary Hanger
Married in the Old Church at the Oaks. According to the rites of the Church of England.				This Marriage was solemnized between us George Willis Elizabeth Selina Hanger In the presence of us John Willis Mary Hanger Samuel Fox Officiating Minister of the Gospel.			
4	August 29 <sup>th</sup> 1877.	Henry Robottom	Bachelor	Sydney N.S.W.	23	Rockhampton, Queensland	John Robottom Elizabeth Robottom
		Rachel Anderson	Spinster	Barrangry N.S.W.	17	Barrangry, N.S.W.	William Anderson Elizabeth Anderson
Married in the house of Mr. William Anderson, Barrangry. According to the rites of the Church of England.				This Marriage was solemnized between us Henry Robottom Rachel Anderson In the presence of us John Robottom Mary Hanger Samuel Fox Officiating Minister of the Gospel.			
6	December 25 <sup>th</sup> 1877.	William John Perry	Bachelor	Liverpool, England	24	Picton	John Perry Polly Perry
		Emma Woodward	Spinster	Picton, Sydney	24	Picton	Frank David Woodward Mary Ann Woodward
Married in the Church of St. Mark's, Picton. According to the rites of the Church of England.				This Marriage was solemnized between us William John Perry Emma Woodward In the presence of us John Woodward Charlotte Woodward Samuel Fox Officiating Minister of the Gospel.			

11. George Willis and Elizabeth Selina Hanger – record of marriage (1877)<sup>99</sup>

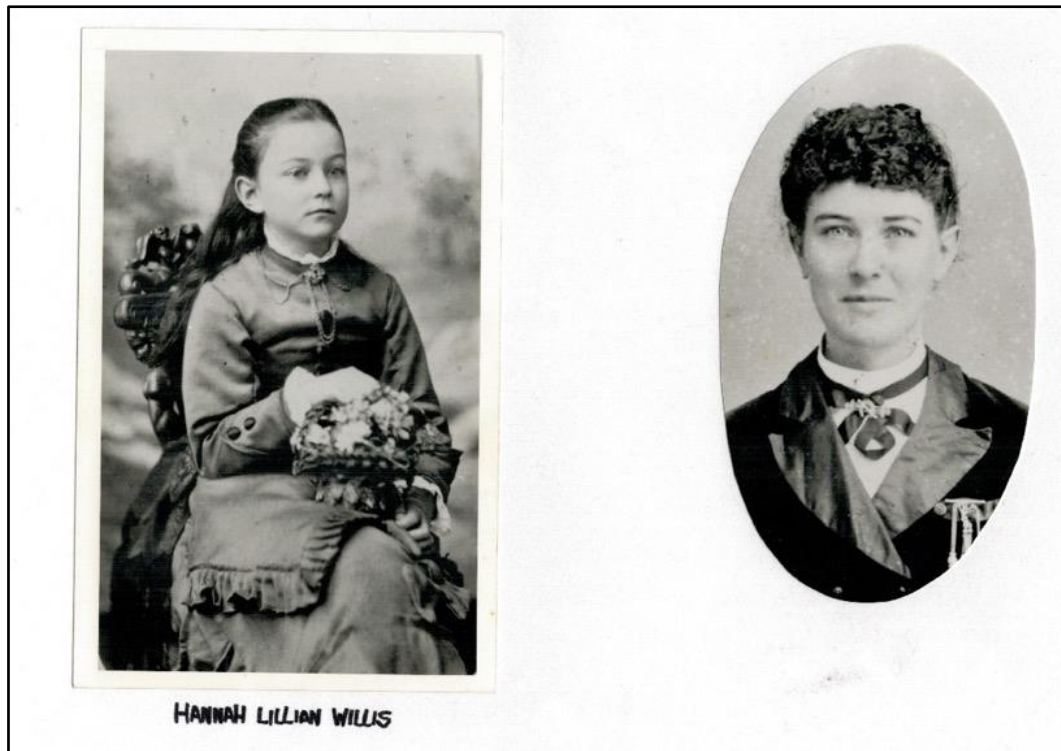




12. George and his wife, Elizabeth Selina (nee Hanger) Willis (c.1930)<sup>100</sup>



13. One of George and Elizabeth's sons, George Willis (Junior) (c.1910)<sup>101</sup>



14. Two of George and Elizabeth's daughters, Hannah and Alice Willis<sup>102</sup>



15. Another of George and Elizabeth's sons, Cecil Willis<sup>103</sup>



16. George and Elizabeth's twin daughters, Ruth and Ruby Willis (c.1915)<sup>104</sup>



17. George and Elizabeth's son, Claude and his wife, Edith (nee Lucht) Willis (1918)<sup>105</sup>



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Baptisms Administered in the Parish of in the County of

in the Year 1885

When Baptized.	When Born.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents' Names.		Abode.	Quality or Profession.	By whom the ceremony was performed.
			Christian	Surname.			
February 1 <sup>st</sup> No. 145	January 8 1885	Albert Stanley	Albert Davis Kate Rachel	Shellett	Pictou	Storekeeper	Frank Elder
February 11 <sup>th</sup> No. 146	October 23 <sup>rd</sup> 1884	Archibald Sydney Scott	Sydney Edwin Annie Rebecca	Herbert	Redbank	Medical Practitioner	Frank Elder
February 15 <sup>th</sup> No. 146	January 14 1885	William George	Joseph William Alice	Blanchard	Redbank	Fireman	Frank Elder
February 21 <sup>st</sup> No. 147	January 20 1885	George William	George William Elizabeth	Beland	Pictou	Guard	Frank Elder
March 8 <sup>th</sup> No. 148	January 20 <sup>th</sup> 1885	Frederic Bertram Claude	Thomas Matilda	Pell	Pictou	Publican	Frank Elder
March 22 No. 149	Feb 19 1885	John Borda	Robert Eva	Stevens	Pictou	Builder	Frank Elder
March 1 <sup>st</sup> No. 150	Dec 13 1884	Amey Elizabeth	John Jane	Waite	Mitlaying Port		Frank Elder
March No. 150	Jan 4 1885	Fred	Richard Josephine	Potts	Pictou	Saddler	Frank Elder
April 5 <sup>th</sup> No. 151	October 24 1884	Samuel	George Elizabeth	Willis	Harmony (Redbank)	Farmer	Frank Elder
April 5 <sup>th</sup> No. 152	January 30 1885	Frederic Daniel Lambert	William George Emily	Sell	Bargo	Builder	Frank Elder
April 8 <sup>th</sup> No. 153	August 26 1884	Elizabeth Emma	William Clara Ellen	Robson	Redbank	Prichard	Frank Elder
May 2 <sup>nd</sup> No. 154	March 20 1885	Cecil George	George Alfred Sarah Ann	Scott	Shunter	Pictou	Frank Elder
April 24 <sup>th</sup> No. 155	March 4 1885	Celia Serena	James Harriet	Williams	Blacksmith Oaks		Frank Elder
June 4 <sup>th</sup> No. 156	May 18 1885	Richard	William Janet	Sayle	Pictou	Guard	Frank Elder

18. Another of George and Elizabeth's sons, Samuel Willis – record of birth and baptism (1884)<sup>106</sup>

Sydney, Australia, Anglican Parish Registers, 1814-2011							
Picton St Mark > Composite > 28 January 1827 - 29 December 1861							
No. 7	1856		Mary		2 Road		
8 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	Matilda	John	Robinson	Jarvis-	Shoe-	Edward Rogers
March	December		and		field	maker	
No. 8	1856		Jane				
12 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	George	John	Reeves	Picton	Con-	Edward Rogers
April	March	Charles	and			stable	
No. 9	1857		Butt				
26 <sup>th</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>	John	William	Willis	Burra-	Stock-	Edward Rogers
April	February		and		gorang	keeper	
No. 10	1857		Celia				
10 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	Charles	Thomas	Clavis	Bed-	Black-	Edward Rogers
May	April	Robert	and		Banks	smith	
No. 11	1857		Eliza				
10 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup>	Fredrick	Fredrick	Reed	Longlaff	Laborer	Edward Rogers
May	February		and		Park		
No. 12	1857						

19. William and Celia's son, John Willis – record of birth and baptism (1857)<sup>107</sup>



20. John Willis (c.1920)<sup>108</sup>



**DEATH OF MR. WM. WILLIS, OF  
PICTON.**

*Senior constable Willis, of Yass, received the sad news yesterday morning of the death of his father, which event took place the previous evening. The deceased was 95 years of age and was a very old and respected resident of the Picton district. Senior constable Willis has been down to see his aged parent twice during the last week, and only returned back to Yass on Tuesday last.*

(Transcribed from *The Yass Courier* (NSW: 1857-1929), Friday 25 June 1897, page 2)

21. Newspaper article reporting the death of John Willis's father, William (1897)<sup>109</sup>

**PRESENTATION.**

*A very enthusiastic meeting took place at Mr. Eager's hotel on Tuesday evening last, when a number of gentlemen met to present Sergt. John Willis with a small token of their esteem, and to tender him a send off. Precisely at 8 o'clock, the Mayor Mr. G. Thomson was voted to the chair, and on referring to the object of the meeting spoke in eulogistic terms of the very efficient manner in which Sergt. Willis had performed his duties for a period of 12 years in Yass, concluding his remarks by presenting Mr. Willis with a handsome travelling bag, on behalf of the subscribers.*

*Mr. Tonkin in proposing the toast "Our Guest," amongst other things said that having been an eyewitness of the 12 years service rendered by Senior Constable Willis in Yass, he considered it left nothing to be desired, the toast was drunk with musical honors. Mr. Willis who on rising to respond was received with cheers, said that he was very agreeably surprised to find that his career in Yass for 12 years had merited such enthusiastic approval, as that large meeting evidenced, he stated he should always keep a warm corner in his heart for his many Yass friends, who had always treated him well, and that it seemed to him like leaving home to leave Yass.*

*Mr. Booty who on rising was greeted with ringing cheers, in the course of a neat speech, paid a very high compliment to Mr. Willis's abilities during his 12 months knowledge of him, concluding with the statement amid great cheering, that having known Mr Willis's late father, he could say he was a worthy son of a worthy father.*

...

(Transcribed from *The Yass Courier* (NSW: 1857-1929), Friday 10 June 1898, page 2)

22. A newspaper report pertaining to John Willis's farewell from Yass, which includes one speaker's high commendation not only of John but also his father, William (1898)<sup>110</sup>

**Local and General News**

...

*Mrs Willis, mother of Senior-sergeant Willis, died at Picton early on Saturday morning. The deceased lady was over 70 years of age.*

...

(Transcribed from *The Queanbeyan Age* (NSW: 1907-1915), Tuesday 9 November 1909, page 2)

23. Newspaper article reporting the death of John Willis's mother, Celia (1909)<sup>111</sup>

**RETIREMENT OF INSPCTOR WILLIS.**

**THIRTY-NINE YEARS IN THE FORCE.**

*After a service extending over a period of 39 years in the Police Force of New South Wales, Inspector John Willis, who has been stationed at Cooma for the past three years, will shortly retire on superannuation. His first duty as constable was at Burrowa where he stayed for six years, and was promoted to the rank of First-class Constable, thence being transferred to Wee Jasper, where he remained for two years. He then went to Yass, under Inspector Brennan, and there received promotion as Senior Constable, or what is now Sergeant of the third class. After 12 years' service at Yass he gained another step and was on leaving a Sergeant, 2nd class. Being further promoted to the rank of First-class Sergeant, he took charge of police matters at Queanbeyan district where he remained for six years when he was appointed as Inspector, and was at the conclusion of 12 years in that centre he was transferred to Hay. He remained 3½ years in that Riverina town, coming to Cooma in November, 1913. Since arrival at Cooma (says the "Monaro Mercury") Mr Willis has been classed as Second class Inspector, on which rank he will retire. His period of service will terminate at the end of February, but he will be granted the usual six months' holiday prior to retirement from the force, and will cease duty at the end of the present month.*

*During his stay in Cooma, as in other centres, Mr Willis gained the esteem of the residents by his close attention to duty, and his desire at all times to give the fullest assistance in the preservation of law and order. He has carried out his multifarious duties in the Monaro district with promptitude and efficiency, and has extended to all with whom he has come into contact a courteous assistance in the transaction of his duty. The residents will wish him prosperity and health in his period of well-earned retirement from police activities.*

(Transcribed from the *Queanbeyan Age and Queanbeyan Observer* (NSW: 1915-1927), Tuesday 22 August 1916, page 2)

24. Newspaper announcement of the retirement of John Willis from the New South Wales Police Force (1916)<sup>112</sup>

## OBITUARY

### MR. JOHN WILLIS

The death occurred on January 24 in the Masonic Hospital, Ashfield, of Mr. John Willis, who was 76 years of age. The late Mr. Willis enjoyed excellent health until he underwent an operation from which he did not recover. Born at Picton, deceased joined the police force and was stationed for many years in this and neighbouring districts where he had a large circle of friends and was held in high esteem. After serving in the force at Burrown and Wee Jasper, deceased was stationed at Yass for 12 years as senior constable under Inspector Brennan. He then went to Queanbeyan and was appointed as inspector at Hay. He then went to Cooma, and had been living in retirement for the last 16 years at Haberfield.

During his sojourn in Yass Mr. Willis was a keen coursing enthusiast and owned several notable dogs. In those days coursing thrived in Yass. Among the dogs which carried off trophies for Mr. Willis were Whalebone, Smiling Morn and Welcome.

The late Mr. Willis is survived by his wife who resides at Haberfield, and four sons and one daughter. They are Messrs. William (Crookwell), Jack (North Yass), Stanley (Haberfield), Horace (Sydney) and Miss Maude (Haberfield).

Yass Tribune-Courier (NSW : 1929 - 1954),

Monday 5 February 1934, page 2



26. Resting place of William and Celia's son, John Willis and his wife, Mary, their daughter, Harriett, and son, Stanley, Rookwood General Cemetery, New South Wales<sup>114</sup>



**Sydney, Australia, Anglican Parish Registers, 1814-2011**  
 Pictou St Mark > Composite > 28 January 1827 - 29 December 1861

March No. 7	January 1861	Ann	Mary Ann	White	Woodlawn	Farmer	James Carter.
March No. 8	30 <sup>th</sup> September 1860	William	John & Harriet	White	Woodlawn Oaks	Farmer	James Carter.
March No. 9	16 <sup>th</sup> September 1860	Lydia Anderson	Thomas & Jane	Mul- holland	Abbots- ford	Farmer	James Carter.
March No. 10	8 <sup>th</sup> February 1861	William	William & Celia	Willis	Burra- gorang	Quarrier	James Carter.
March No. 11	26 <sup>th</sup> November 1856	Caroline	William & Sarah	Ward	Menaple Road	Railway Laborer	James Carter.
March No. 12	26 <sup>th</sup> October 1858	Ellen	William & Sarah	Ward	Menaple Road	Railway Laborer	James Carter.

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27. William and Celia's son, William Willis (Junior) – record of birth and baptism (1861)<sup>115</sup>



28. William and his wife, Margaret (nee Mulholland) Willis (c.1917)<sup>116</sup>





29. William and Margaret's children (at Picton) – William Louis (Will), Edward (Teddy) (held by their nanny), James (Jimmy), John (Johnny), Catherine (Catie) and Helena Mildred (Millie) (c.1901)<sup>117</sup>



30. William and Margaret's son, William Louis (Will) and his wife, Hilary (nee Cornell) Willis (1915)<sup>118</sup>



31. William and Margaret's son, James Vivian (Jim) and his wife, Edith (nee Marshall) Willis (1918)<sup>119</sup>



32. William and Margaret's daughter, Catherine Celia (Cate) and her husband, Cyril Raftery (1917)<sup>120</sup>



33. Cate Willis (c.1915)<sup>121</sup>



34. William and Margaret's daughter, Helena Mildred (Millie) and her husband, John Reid (1926)<sup>122</sup>





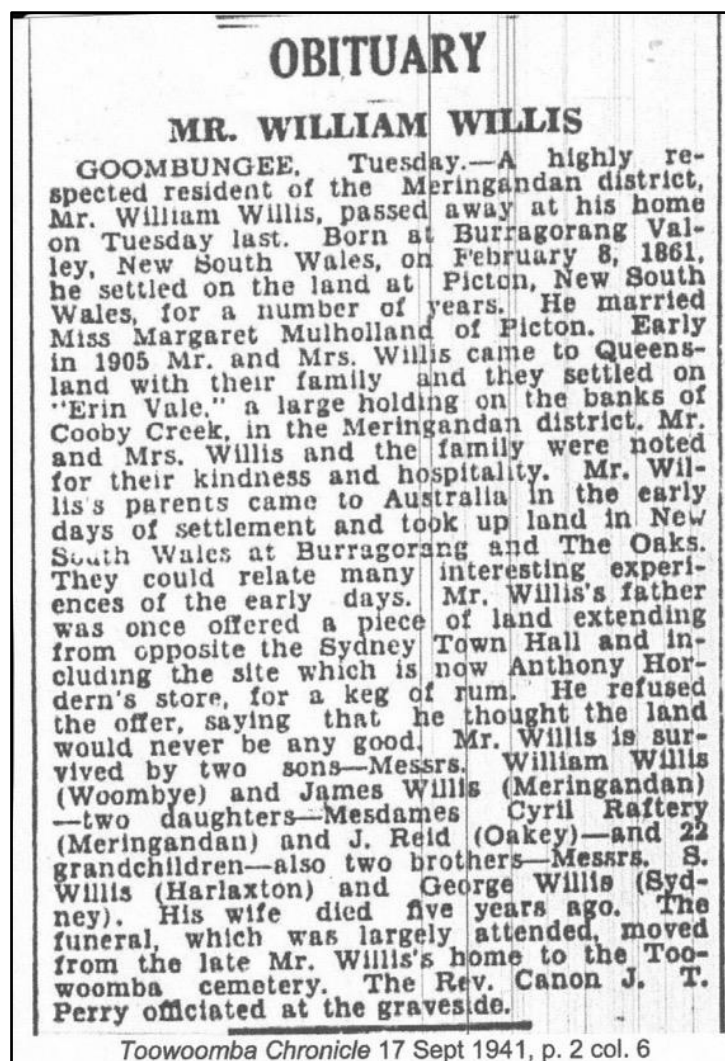
35. Millie Willis (1917)<sup>123</sup>



36. Resting place of William and Margaret's sons, John and Edward Willis, Picton Anglican Cemetery, New South Wales<sup>124</sup>



37. Resting place of William and Celia's son, William Willis (Junior) and his wife, Margaret, Drayton and Toowoomba Cemetery, Queensland<sup>125</sup>



38. Newspaper obituary for William Willis (Junior) (1861-1941)<sup>126</sup>





39. Another of William and Celia's sons, Samuel Willis and his wife, Joan (nee Halliday) (1897)<sup>127</sup>

187 . MARRIAGES Solemnized in the District of				in the Colony of New South Wales. Registered by					
No.	When and where Married.	Names and Descriptions of the Parties.	Condition of the Parties (Bachelor or Spinster, or Widow or Widower)	Rank or Profession.	Age.	Usual place of Residence.	Parties' Christian Names and Surnames, and Maiden Surnames.	Parties' Rank or Profession.	
	25 August 1897	Samuel Willis	Bachelor	Banagaang	Farmer	31	Oaks	William Willis	Farmer
	St Marks Church	Joan Halliday	Spinster	Scotland	Domestic	24	Lin Hill, Pictou	Celia Mitchell	Domestic
Married in the Church of St Marks Pictou According to Rites of Church of England				This Marriage was solemnized between us <i>S. Willis</i> <i>Joan Halliday</i> In the presence of us <i>Arthur Willis</i> <i>William Halliday</i> By (or before) me <i>J. H. Dillon</i> Officiating Minister as Registrar.					
	29 September 1897	Joseph Evans Williams	Bachelor	Stallhampton N.S.W.	Farmer	40	Engleas Park	Pomero Williams	Farmer
	St Marks Church	Beatrice Ridgway	Spinster	Pictou N.S.W.	Domestic	30	Pictou	John Ridgway	Farmer
Married in the Church of St Marks Pictou According to Rites of Church of England				This Marriage was solemnized between us <i>J. Williams</i> <i>Beatrice Ridgway</i> In the presence of us <i>W. H. Ridgway</i> By (or before) me <i>J. H. Dillon</i> Officiating Minister as Registrar.					
	6 <sup>th</sup> October 1897	William Marsh	Bachelor	Oaks N.S.W.	Farmer	30	Marsh End (Oaks)	James Marsh	Farmer
	Residence of Mrs George Taylor	Isabella Agnes Taylor	Spinster	Wentworth N.S.W.	Domestic	20	Marsh End (Oaks)	George Taylor	Farmer
Married in the Church of St Marks Pictou According to Rites of Church of England				This Marriage was solemnized between us <i>William Marsh</i> <i>I. A. Taylor</i> In the presence of us <i>Arthur Heyman</i> <i>George Taylor</i> By (or before) me <i>J. H. Dillon</i> Officiating Minister as Registrar.					
	19 <sup>th</sup> Oct	John Ridgway	Bachelor	Farmer	26	Pictou	John Ridgway	Farmer	
	St Marks Church	Isabella Agnes Taylor	Spinster	Domestic	24	Pictou	John Ridgway	Domestic	
Married in the Church of St Marks Pictou According to Rites of Church of England				This Marriage was solemnized between us <i>John Ridgway</i> <i>Isabella Agnes Taylor</i> In the presence of us <i>J. H. Dillon</i> By (or before) me <i>J. H. Dillon</i> Officiating Minister as Registrar.					

40. Samuel Willis and Joan Halliday – record of marriage (1897)<sup>128</sup>



PAGE							
Baptisms Administered in the Parish of <i>Pecton + the Oaks</i> in the County of							
in the Year 1898							
When Baptized.	When Born.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents' Names.		Abode.	Quality or Profession.	By whom the ceremony was performed.
			Christian	Surname.			
13 June 1898 No.	6 April 1898	Glyde	Joseph Margaret Rose Isabella	Larkin	Oaks	Labourer	JH Dillon
22 June 1898 No.	18 August 1897	Thomas	Thomas Elizabeth	McGregor	Pecton	Labourer	JH Dillon
30 June 1898 No.	20 Jan 1898	Mary Jane	John Theresa	Catt	Bunratty	Farmer	JH Dillon
30 June 1898 No.	8 Feb 1898	George Joseph John	John Richard Mary Jane	Weston	Bunratty	Farmer	JH Dillon
3 July 1898 No.	6 June 1898	Reginald Beretford	Fredrick Maria Wharton	Chatham	Pecton	Railway Employee	JH Dillon
3 July 1898 No.	1st June 1898	Arthur	Samuel Joan	Willis	Oaks	Farmer	JH Dillon
7th July 1898 No.	28 May 1898	Oliver William	Alexander Evelyn Margaret	Boyd	Pecton	Wheelwright	JH Dillon
11th July 1898 No.	4 June 1898	Ena Dorothy	Robert Beruval Mary Jane	Clark	Wyalong	Farmer	JH Dillon
15 July 1898 No.	7 May 1898	Margaret Leahore Florence	Joseph Emily Ann	Dickenson	Pecton	Painter	JH Dillon
15 July 1898 No.	26 March 1898	Dulcie Ethel	Martin Elizabeth	Fred Fraudenshten	Pecton	Teacher	JH Dillon
11 August 1898 No.	15 June 1898	Margaret Jane	Thomas James Elyse Naomi	Hilder	Pecton	Publican	JH Dillon
12 August 1898 No.	21st Nov 1895	Arthur Herbert Leelie	William Mary Jane	Hill	Myrtle Creek	Labourer	JH Dillon
12 August 1898 No.	14 April 1897	Lionel Ray Willsley	William Mary Jane	Hill	Myrtle Creek	Labourer	JH Dillon
29 August 1898 No.	2 July 1898	Francis William Nere	Francis Charles Elizabeth B	Calvera	Wurms	Farmer	JH Dillon

41. Samuel and Joan's son, Arthur Willis – record of birth and baptism (1898)<sup>129</sup>





42. Daughters of Samuel and Joan Willis – Dulcie, Nellie, and Ethel<sup>130</sup>



43. Resting place of William and Celia's son, Samuel Willis and his wife, Joan, Drayton and Toowoomba Cemetery, Queensland<sup>131</sup>

### **OBITUARY**

*Mr Samuel Willis*

*MERINGANDAN. Monday – A sense of personal loss was felt by all residents in the district at the death of Mr Samuel Willis at the home of his daughter, Mrs G James, on Saturday, after a short illness. Mr Willis, who was 83, was a highly respected resident of the district, in which he had lived with his wife and family for 41 years.*

*In 1866 he was born into one of the earliest pioneering families of the Burragorang Valley, New South Wales, and in his manhood moved to "The Oaks" district near Picton, where he settled on the land. In 1899 he met and married Miss Joan Halliday, of Picton. Always a lover of horses, Mr Willis was noted for his fine trotters, which were his greatest interest. In 1908, with his wife and two small children, Mr Willis came to Queensland, and settled at "Bannockburn" in the Meringandan district. He lived there until his retirement nine years ago, when he built a home at North Street, Toowoomba.*

*Always a great lover of sport, Mr Willis, who in his day was an excellent cricketer, took a great interest in the Meringandan Cricket Club, and donated many trophies to this club. He was the last surviving member of a large family. He was a regular church-goer, and made many generous donations to the Congregational Church at Meringandan, which he attended until his physical handicaps made it impossible. He is survived by his widow, one son, Mr Arthur Willis, of "Bannockburn", Meringandan, and three daughters, Mrs A E Grundy ("Wilga Park", Jandowae), Mrs A Graf (Crow's Nest) and Mrs G James (Meringandan) and 10 grandchildren.*

*The funeral, which was largely attended, moved to the Toowoomba Cemetery, where the service at the graveside was conducted by the Rev H E Hunt.*

*(Transcribed from the Toowoomba Chronicle, 3 May 1949, page 5)*





45. Resting place of William and Celia's son, James Willis, St Matthew's Anglican Church Cemetery, The Oaks, New South Wales<sup>133</sup>

187 . MARRIAGES Solemnized in the District of					in the Colony of New South Wales. Registered by				
No.	Where and when Married.	Name and Residence of the Parties.	Ordination of the Parties. (Baptized or Episcopate) (Widower or Widow.)	Place of Birth.	Rank or Profession.	Age.	Trade or Profession.	Father's Christian Name and Surname. Mother's Christian Name and Surname.	Father's Rank or Profession.
	The Oaks Church Parish of Peterborough	James Willis Annie Johnstone	Bachelor	N.S. Wales	Labourer	24	The Oaks	William Willis Celia Mitchell	Farmer
	December 1887	James Willis Annie Johnstone	Spinster	England		25	The Oaks	William Willis Celia Mitchell	Labourer
Married in the Parish of Peterborough					This Marriage was solemnized between us				
According to the rites & ceremonies of the Church of England					In the presence of us				
					By (as before) me, Registrar of the District.				
	The Oaks Church Parish of Peterborough	Ernest William Boney Mary Elizabeth Will	Bachelor	N.S. Wales	Merchant	Full	The Oaks	Thomas Boney Agnes Boney	Engineer
	Dec 21 1887	Ernest William Boney Mary Elizabeth Will	Spinster	N.S. Wales		Full	The Oaks	Robert Edward Boney Mary Ann Boney	Labourer
Married in the House					This Marriage was solemnized between us				
According to the rites & ceremonies of the Church of England					In the presence of us				
					By (as before) me, Registrar of the District.				

46. James Willis and Annie Johnstone – record of marriage (1887)<sup>134</sup>



Sydney, Australia, Anglican Parish Registers, 1814-2011  
Picton St Mark > Composite > 28 January 1827 - 29 December 1861

March No. 7 18 <sup>th</sup> 1859	February 21 <sup>st</sup> 1859	Emma	George Bell	Red Bank	Laborer	James Carter
March No. 8 3 <sup>rd</sup> 1859	March 14 <sup>th</sup> 1859	William Elliott Rogers	William Isabella Alice Grant	Webb	Picton	Teacher James Carter
April No. 9 17 <sup>th</sup> 1859	March 8 <sup>th</sup> 1859	Matilda	William Celia	Willis	Burra- gorang	Settler James Carter
April No. 10 21 <sup>st</sup> 1858	July 10 <sup>th</sup> 1858	Thomas	James & Jane	Toland	Jurvis- field	Laborer James Carter
April No. 11 22 <sup>nd</sup> 1859	March 15 <sup>th</sup> 1859	Silas	Silas Mary	Ings	Jurvis- field	Laborer James Carter
April No. 12	March 1859					

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47. William and Celia's daughter, Matilda Willis – record of birth and baptism (1859)<sup>135</sup>



48. Resting place of William and Celia's daughter, Matilda and her husband, George Hanger, Rookwood General Cemetery, New South Wales<sup>136</sup>

**GOLDEN WEDDINGS.**

GIBSON-WALLIS(\*). July 16, 1890, *The Oaks*, by Rev. Noake, Thomas Henry, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Robb Gibson, of Greendale, to Celia, fourth daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Willis, of Long Acre, *The Oaks*. Present address, Werrington.

(Transcribed from *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW: 1842-1954), Tuesday 16 July 1940, page 6)

(\* Typographical error in the original)

49. Newspaper notice announcing the Golden Wedding anniversary of Celia (nee Willis) Gibson and her husband, Thomas (1940)<sup>137</sup>

**Obituary**

• **MRS. C. GIBSON.**

Mrs. Celia Gibson, widow of the late Thomas Henry Gibson, died at the residence of her daughter at Werrington on June 28, at the age of 79 years.

Deceased leaves four sons and three daughters, viz: William (Werrington), Les (Mt. Druitt), Arthur, Roy (Rooty Hill), Jessie (Mrs. E. Hartley, Werrington), Vera (Mrs. A. Lawes, Northmead), and Minnie (Mrs. R. Brooker, Brighton-le-Sands). There are twenty grandchildren and eight great-children.

Mrs. Wheeler, a sister of the deceased, lives at Camden. Mrs. Gibson resided in St. Marys all her married life.

The funeral took place on June 30, proceeding to Penrith general cemetery. The interment took place in the C. of E. portion and the service was conducted by the Rector of St. Marys, Rev. L. H. Lambert.

50. Newspaper obituary for Celia (nee Willis) Gibson (1868-1947), *Nepean Times*, 10 July 1947, p. 2<sup>138</sup>





51. Resting place of William and Celia's daughter, Celia and her husband, Thomas Gibson, Penrith General Cemetery, New South Wales<sup>139</sup>

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*Baptisms Administered in the Parish of St. Mark's, Pictou in the County of Camden in the Year 1871*

When Baptized.	When Born.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents' Names.		Abode.	Quality or Profession.	By whom the ceremony was performed.
			Christian	Surname.			
1871 April 20 No. 15	April 21, 1869	Lachlan Alexander	Donald & Mary Ann	McInnes	Pull-bet	Grazier	Samuel Fox
April 20 No. 16	Feb. 13, 1871.	Christina	Donald & Mary Ann	McInnes	Pull-bet	Grazier	Samuel Fox
April 23 No. 17	August 18, 1870.	James Albert	William Joseph John & Elizabeth	Witfield	Myrtle Creek	Farmer	Samuel Fox
May 15 <sup>th</sup> No. 18	Feb. 27, 1871	Hannah	William & Cecilia	Willis -	Oaks	Grazier	Samuel Fox
May 29 <sup>th</sup> No. 19	April 13, 1871	Grace Isabel	William Redfern & Mary Susan	Antill	Atterford	Gentleman	Samuel Fox
May 31 <sup>st</sup> No. 20	May 1 <sup>st</sup> 1871.	Marrison	Angus & Ann	McInnes	Myrtle Creek	Farmer & Dairyman	Samuel Fox
June 11 <sup>th</sup> No. 21	April 3, 1871.	Emily Amelia	Charles & Amelia	Clayton	Upper Pictou	Labourer	Samuel Fox
June 12 <sup>th</sup> No. 22	April 10, 1871.	Arthur	James & Catharine	Redout	Pumpkin Hills Oaks.	Shoemaker	Samuel Fox
July 20 <sup>th</sup> No. 23	June 2, 1871.	Richards William	Thomas & Elizabeth	Blades	Douglas Park.	Little Overseer	Samuel Fox
July 23 <sup>rd</sup> No. 24	Nov. 10, 1870	Elizabeth Ann	George & Sarah	Shrobridge	Green Mistle Creek, Cox River	Farmer	Samuel Fox
July 30 No. 25	June 1, 1871	Mary Jane	Henry & Martha	Burgess	Pictou	Labourer	Samuel Fox
July 30 No. 26	June 2, 1871.	Emily -	John & Ann	Boardman	Rogers Creek	Farmer	Charles Archdale.
Printed August 3 <sup>rd</sup> No. 27	July 4, 1870.	Martha	William Adolphus & Martha Jane	Horne	Bargo	Farmer	Samuel Fox
August 6 <sup>th</sup> No. 28	July 9, 1871.	Freserie	Charles & Louisa	Cracknell	Pictou	Labourer	Samuel Fox

52. William and Celia's daughter, Hannah Willis – record of birth and baptism (1871)<sup>140</sup>

*WHEELER, Hannah. July 4, 1950, at her daughter's residence, 25 Broughton Street, Camden, wife of the late Walter Wheeler and dear mother of Cecil (deceased), Irene (Mrs. I. Clifton), Vera (Mrs. F. Crofts), Marjorie (deceased), and Jack, aged 79 years.*

(Transcribed from *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW: 1842-1954), Wednesday 5 July 1950, page 28)

53. Newspaper death notice for Hannah (nee Willis) Wheeler (1871-1950)<sup>141</sup>

*Mrs Hannah Wheeler, aged 79 years, died at her daughter's residence, Broughton Street, Camden, on Tuesday last, July 4. Mrs Wheeler was the wife of the late Walter Wheeler and leaves a son, Jack, and two daughters, Irene, Mrs I. Clifton, and Vera, Mrs F. Crofts. The cremation took place at the Rookwood Crematorium yesterday, Wednesday.*

(Transcribed from *The Camden News* (NSW: 1895-1954), Thursday 6 July 1950, page 4)

54. Newspaper obituary for Hannah (nee Willis) Wheeler (1871-1950)<sup>142</sup>



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*Baptisms Administered in the Parish of St. Mark's, Picton — in the County of Camden — in the Year 1875.*

When Baptized.	When Born.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents' Names.		Abode.	Quality or Profession.	By whom the ceremony was performed.
			Christian	Surname.			
1875 <sup>th</sup> Oct. 4. No. 30	April 27, 1875.	Lara Georgina	William Roderick Mary Susan	Antill	Whitford, Picton	Gentleman	Samuel Fox
Oct. 5. No. 31	July 28, 1875.	Emily Mary	Thomas Eliza	Harvey	Picton	Farmer	Samuel Fox
Oct. 10. No. 32	August 6, 1875	Lilian Jane	Samuel Alice Toppin	Bateup	Picton	Laborer	Samuel Fox
Oct. 10. No. 33	August 9 <sup>th</sup> , 1875	Samuel John Albert	Henry Martha	Borgess	Picton	Laborer	Samuel Fox
Nov. 23 No. 34	Nov. 7, 1875	Wilfred George	John Edmund Eliza	Warters	Picton	Carpenter	Samuel Fox
Dec. 19 No. 35	July 12, 1875.	Ada May	George Hannah	Kerwell	Mulgoa Forest	Farmer	Samuel Fox
Dec. 26. No. 36	Nov. 28, 1875.	Oswald Robert Herbert	Franklin Ellen Rosetta	M. Mullen	Moreton Park	Gentleman	Samuel Fox
1876 Jan. 2 <sup>nd</sup> No. 1	Dec. 25, 1875.	Ann Elizabeth	William Joseph John Elizabeth	Whitfield	Myrtle Creek	Farmer	Samuel Fox
Feb. 7. No. 2	Dec. 19, 1875.	Lara Theresa	Robert How Mary	Ingles	Caigland, The Oaks.	Grazier	Samuel Fox
Feb. 27. No. 3	Nov. 30, 1875	Hermie Jane	James Sarah Ann	Goldthorpe	Picton Lagoons	Fettler	Samuel Fox
March 12. No. 4	Jan. 29, 1876.	Arthur	William Celia	Willis	The Oaks.	Grazier	Samuel Fox.
April 9. No. 5	March 6 <sup>th</sup> , 1876.	Alfred Ferdinand	Joseph Henry Emma	Viles	Picton	Saddler	Samuel Fox
April 9. No. 6	Feb. 17, 1876	Herbert	William Eliza	Mitchell	Picton	Farmer	Samuel Fox
April 9. No. 7	Feb. 3, 1876.	Charlotte Jane	William Mary	Gittos	Hardwicke	Farmer	Samuel Fox.

55. William and Celia's youngest son, Arthur Willis – record of birth and baptism (1876)<sup>143</sup>

**Marriage**

*WILLIS—BUTLER — May 23, at the Wesleyan Church, Glenmore, by the Rev. G. Thompson, Arthur, youngest son of the late William Willis of “Longacre,” Picton, to Clara Louisa, eldest daughter of Joseph Butler of “Pleasant View,” Glenmore.*

(Transcribed from *The Camden News* (NSW: 1895-1954), Thursday 28 June 1900, page 4)

56. Newspaper notice announcing the marriage of Arthur Willis and Clara Butler (1900)<sup>144</sup>

**DEATHS**

*WILLIS.--Passed away March 4, 1938 at Wallsend Hospital, Arthur, beloved husband of Clara Willis, and loving father of Ethel (Mrs H. Wright) and Lorna, aged 62 years. (Late of Thirlmere and Lismore.)*

(Transcribed from the *Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate* (NSW: 1876-1954), Tuesday 8 March 1938, page 6)

57. Newspaper death notice for Arthur Willis (1876-1938)<sup>145</sup>



58. Resting place of William and Celia's son, Arthur Willis and his wife, Clara, Sandgate Cemetery, Newcastle, New South Wales<sup>146</sup>



## Endnotes and References

<sup>1</sup> The New South Wales, Goal Description & Entrance Books, 1818-1930 (Berrima 1844) identify William's year of birth as 1816 (accessed from Ancestry, 7 September 2020). William's 1897 death certificate states that he was born in "Wiltshire, England". Likewise, William's 1897 newspaper obituary noted that he had been born in the "County of Wilshire (sic), England" (<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/133279587>>). There is more specific information about William's place of birth in the birth records for his children John (1857), Matilda (1859), William (Junior) (1861), James (1863), Samuel (1866), Celia (1868), Baby Willis (1870), Hannah (1871), and Arthur (1876) – for all of which William was the informant – with each stating that their father was born in Trowbridge (or for some of these records it is spelt as "Troubridge") in the County of Wiltshire, England. The New South Wales, Convict Indents, 1788-1842 also identify William's native place as Wiltshire (accessed from Ancestry, 7 September 2020). Similarly, William's 1839 Certificate of Freedom lists his native place as Wiltshire.

<sup>2</sup> See: Death certificate for William Willis (DoD: 23 June 1897 at Picton)

Note: William's death certificate names Mary as his mother but does not give his father's name. In line with naming conventions at the time it is possible that William's father's name was George as suggested by the fact that this was the name given by William to his first-born son (see: <[https://www.opc-cornwall.org/Resc/naming\\_patterns.php](https://www.opc-cornwall.org/Resc/naming_patterns.php)>).

<sup>3</sup> Photo courtesy of Roslyn Willis and Beth Toomey, great great granddaughters of William and Celia (nee Mitchell) Willis, great granddaughters of William and Margaret (nee Mulholland) Willis, and granddaughters of Will and Hilary (nee Cornell) Willis

<sup>4</sup> <<https://www.historycrunch.com/child-labor-in-the-industrial-revolution.html#/>>;

New South Wales, Convict Indents, 1788-1842, William Willis, page 30 of 125 (accessed from Ancestry, 7 September 2020)

<sup>5</sup> <[https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Just\\_Jobs:\\_The\\_Effect\\_of\\_Occupations\\_On\\_British\\_Family\\_Life](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Just_Jobs:_The_Effect_of_Occupations_On_British_Family_Life)>;

<<http://doot.spub.co.uk/code.php?name=occup&value=023>>

<sup>6</sup> New South Wales, Convict Indents, 1788-1842, William Willis, page 30 of 125 (accessed from Ancestry, 7 September 2020)

Note: Whenever William needed to append his signature to a document he did so by marking an "X". For example, this is how he indicated his assent to his Will. At that time a person who could only use an "X" rather than write a signature was known as a "marksman" (for example see: <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/13000806>>).

<sup>7</sup> <[https://www.gale.com/binaries/content/assets/gale-us-en/primary-sources/intl-gps/intl-gps-essays/full-ghn-contextual-essays/ghn\\_essay\\_bln\\_lloyd3\\_website.pdf](https://www.gale.com/binaries/content/assets/gale-us-en/primary-sources/intl-gps/intl-gps-essays/full-ghn-contextual-essays/ghn_essay_bln_lloyd3_website.pdf)>;

<<https://thecitizen.com/2010/08/24/where-did-sunday-school-come/>>

<sup>8</sup> See: New South Wales, Convict Indents, 1788-1842, William Willis, page 30 of 125 (accessed from Ancestry, 7 September 2020);

Prison Ship (Hulk) Registers – *Euryalus* – Record transcription for William Willis (accessed from "Find my Past", 1 September 2020); and

UK, Prison Hulk Registers and Letter Books, 1802-1849, William Willis, page 29 of 50 (accessed from Ancestry, 13 September 2020).

<sup>9</sup> William was aged between 14 and 16 years at this time. In March 1832 the Prison Ship (Hulk) Register (*Euryalus*) transcription records his age as 14 years. By the time he had been transferred to the *Mangles* in readiness for transportation to New South Wales (December 1832), the Medical journal of the convict ship *Mangles*, for 8 November 1832 to 9 May 1833 by James Rutherford, Surgeon, pages 4, 13 of 35 (accessed from Ancestry [UK, Royal Navy Medical Journals, 1817-1856], 6 September 2020) gives his age as 16 years. Subsequently, the NSW Convict Indents, 1788-1842, William Willis, page 30 of 125 (accessed from Ancestry, 7 September 2020) identifies his age as 16 years. The disparity in the 1832 records as to William's age might be explained by his very young appearance. An indication of William's youthfulness at the time he came to Australia may be seen by comparing his height when he was initially transported to New South Wales in 1832 (4 feet, 11 and a quarter inches) (as reported in the New South Wales, Convict Indents, 1788-1842, William Willis, page 30 of 125 [accessed from Ancestry, 7 September 2020]) with his height seven years later in 1839 when he obtained his Certificate of Freedom (5 feet, 6 and a half inches). Given his slight build it is not surprising that a newspaper report at the time of William's sentencing in March 1832 described him as a "mere youth" (see: *The Salisbury and Winchester Journal*, 26 March 1832 [accessible through Old British News]). William's transportation to Australia as a young boy was not uncommon. It has been said that of the 160,000 convicts who were transported between 1788 and when transportation ended, some 25,000 were under the age of 18 years (<<https://www.smh.com.au/entertainment/books/the-story-of-the-wretched-boys-who-were-transported-to-australia-20190830-p52mew.html>>).

<sup>10</sup> See: England & Wales, Criminal Registers, 1791-1892, William Willis, Wiltshire Lent Assizes 1832 (accessed from Ancestry, 18 October 2021);

New South Wales, Convict Indents, 1788-1842, William Willis, page 30 of 125 (accessed from Ancestry, 7 September 2020);

*The Salisbury and Winchester Journal*, 6 February 1832 (accessible through Old British News); and

*The Salisbury and Winchester Journal*, 12 March 1832 (accessible through Old British News).

<sup>11</sup> See: New South Wales, Convict Indents, 1788-1842, William Willis, page 30 of 125 (accessed from Ancestry, 7 September 2020); Australian Convict Transportation Registers – Other Fleets & Ships, 1791-1868, William Willis, Convicted 3 March 1832, Ship – *Mangles*, Voyage Date 8 December 1832 (accessed from Ancestry, 6 December 2021); UK, Prison Hulk Registers and Letter Books, 1802-1849, William Willis, page 29 of 50 (accessed from Ancestry, 13 September 2020); *The Salisbury and Winchester Journal*, 6 February 1832 (accessible through Old British News); *The Salisbury and Winchester Journal*, 12 March 1832 (accessible through Old British News); and *The Salisbury and Winchester Journal*, 26 March 1832 (accessible through Old British News).

<sup>12</sup> See: *The Salisbury and Winchester Journal*, 26 March 1832 (which describes the *Euryalus* being moored at Chatham) (accessible through Old British News); <[https://www.digitalpanopticon.org/Convict\\_Hulks](https://www.digitalpanopticon.org/Convict_Hulks)>

<sup>13</sup> See: “A Return of Convicts under sentence of transportation on Board the *Euryalus* Hulk at Chatham by Command of His Majesty’s Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department, from the 1st April to the 30th June 1832, both inclusive”, which noted William’s behaviour on board the *Euryalus* as “good”. (Copy of original document accessed through the State Library of New South Wales, 12 November 2021).

<sup>14</sup> See: New South Wales, Convict Indents, 1788-1842, William Willis, page 30 of 125 (accessed from Ancestry, 7 September 2020); Prison Ship (Hulk) Registers – *Euryalus* – Record transcription for William Willis (accessed from “Find my Past”, 1 September 2020); and UK, Prison Hulk Registers and Letter Books, 1802-1849, William Willis, page 29 of 50 (accessed from Ancestry, 13 September 2020).

<sup>15</sup> See: <<http://industrialrevolution.sea.ca/impact.html>>; <<http://vcp.e2bn.org/justice/section11334-crime-poverty-and-reforms.html>>

<sup>16</sup> <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swing\\_Riots](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swing_Riots)>; <<https://schoolhistory.co.uk/notes/swing-riots/>>; <<http://www.historyhome.co.uk/peel/ruralife/swing.htm>>; and <[https://www.thesombornes.org.uk/village\\_org\\_page.php?page\\_id=204](https://www.thesombornes.org.uk/village_org_page.php?page_id=204)>.

<sup>17</sup> Hughes, R., 1988, *The Fatal Shore*, Pan Books, pp. 25-26, 161, 171; <<http://vcp.e2bn.org/justice/page11436-conditions-in-the-early-1800s.html>>; <<http://www.secretshropshire.org.uk/Content/Learn/Crime/>>; and <[https://www.digitalpanopticon.org/Convicts\\_and\\_the\\_Colonisation\\_of\\_Australia,\\_1788-1868](https://www.digitalpanopticon.org/Convicts_and_the_Colonisation_of_Australia,_1788-1868)>.

<sup>18</sup> <<https://www.oldpolicecellsmuseum.org.uk/content/learning/educational-programmes-and-tours/juvenile-crime-18th-19th-century>>; <<https://www.bl.uk/romantics-and-victorians/articles/juvenile-crime-in-the-19th-century>>

<sup>19</sup> According to his 1839 Certificate of Freedom, William’s offence was classified as “shoplifting”. Of this offence it has been noted: “The offence of “privately stealing” 5 shillings or more worth of goods from a shop was defined separately as a capital offence in 1699. This reflects concern over the apparent increase in this offence, which was thought difficult to prevent, and reflects the rapid growth in the number of shops in London. Theft of this sort taking place before 1699 is also included in this category. In 1823 shoplifting ceased to be a capital offence. For statistical purposes please note that not all thefts from shops were defined as ‘shoplifting’.” (See: <<https://www.oldbaileyonline.org/static/Crimes.jsp#shoplifting>>) Note: The year that convict transportation to Australia peaked (with 7000 convicts arriving) was 1833, the year of William’s arrival (<<https://www.nma.gov.au/defining-moments/resources/convict-transportation-peaks>>).

<sup>20</sup> <<https://www.oldbaileyonline.org/static/Punishment.jsp#transportation>>; <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bloody\\_Code](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bloody_Code)>; <<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z938v9q/revision/4>>; <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Penal\\_transportation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Penal_transportation)>; <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Convicts\\_in\\_Australia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Convicts_in_Australia)>; <<https://theconversation.com/the-story-of-australias-last-convicts-89723>>; <<http://vcp.e2bn.org/justice/section2196-transportation.html>>; <<http://vcp.e2bn.org/justice/page11385-on-completion-of-sentence.html>>; <<https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/stories/convict-experience>>; and <<https://www.nma.gov.au/defining-moments/resources/convict-transportation-peaks>>.

<sup>21</sup> Picture accessed from: <<http://www.mangles.eu/>>

<sup>22</sup> Bateson, C. 2004, *The Convict Ships 1787-1868*, Library of Australian History, Sydney, pp. 350-351; <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/32143531>>; <[https://www.jenwilletts.com/convict\\_ship\\_mangles\\_1833.htm](https://www.jenwilletts.com/convict_ship_mangles_1833.htm)>; and <[https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/Public%20Access/PDF%20Guides/Convict%20ships%20to%20NSW\\_1.pdf](https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/Public%20Access/PDF%20Guides/Convict%20ships%20to%20NSW_1.pdf)>.

<sup>23</sup> Bateson, C. 2004, *The Convict Ships 1787-1868*, Library of Australian History, Sydney, pp. 237-238

<sup>24</sup> Bateson, C. 2004, *The Convict Ships 1787-1868*, Library of Australian History, Sydney, pp. 350-351; <[https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/Public%20Access/PDF%20Guides/Convict%20ships%20to%20NSW\\_1.pdf](https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/Public%20Access/PDF%20Guides/Convict%20ships%20to%20NSW_1.pdf)>;

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/32143531>>;  
 <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/2211691>>;  
 <<http://www.convictrecords.com.au/ships/mangles/1832>>;  
 <[http://www.jenwilletts.com/convict\\_ship\\_mangles\\_1833.htm](http://www.jenwilletts.com/convict_ship_mangles_1833.htm)>;  
 <<http://www.historyaustralia.org.au/twconvic/Mangles+1833>>;  
 <<https://www.hawkesbury.net.au/claimaconvict/shipDetails.php?shipId=534>>;  
 <<http://oneillfamily.id.au/mangles.htm>>; and  
 <<http://www.fairhall.id.au/families/myline/g0/p86.htm#i8588>>.

<sup>25</sup> See: Medical journal of the convict ship *Mangles*, for 8 November 1832 to 9 May 1833 by James Rutherford, Surgeon, pages 4, 13 of 35 (accessed from Ancestry [UK, Royal Navy Medical Journals, 1817-1856], 6 September 2020).

William was one of several on board the *Mangles* during this voyage who suffered from the effects of obstipation (see: Roberts, M. 2018, *Transported: The stories of 236 convicts banished to Australia in 1832 aboard the 'Mangles'*, Brown Dog Books and The Self-Publishing Partnership, UK).

Note: Obstipation is a severe form of constipation that can have serious health impacts if not treated (<<https://www.healthline.com/health/obstipation>>). Obstipation was a condition experienced by many of the convicts who were transported to Australia. It was caused by factors including lack of dietary fibre, insufficient hydration and lack of exercise due to being held on cramped ships (e.g., see:

<[https://www.femaleconvicts.org.au/docs/seminars/Voyages\\_StephenLucas.pdf](https://www.femaleconvicts.org.au/docs/seminars/Voyages_StephenLucas.pdf)> and  
 <<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/voyage-to-australia-was-anything-but-plain-sailing-for-earliest-travellers/news-story/cbfcc91de1e8a23cbcd151c2ce979a72>>).

<sup>26</sup> <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/32143577>>

<sup>27</sup> Picture accessed from: <[https://www.jenwilletts.com/convict\\_ship\\_mangles\\_1833.htm](https://www.jenwilletts.com/convict_ship_mangles_1833.htm)>

<sup>28</sup> <[https://www.jenwilletts.com/convict\\_ship\\_mangles\\_1833.htm](https://www.jenwilletts.com/convict_ship_mangles_1833.htm)>;

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/32143658/4245516>>;

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/2211906>>;

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/12846777>>; and

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/32143658>>.

<sup>29</sup> Assignment of convicts to either Government works or private individuals was common practice at the time: "On arrival, a convict was either retained by the Government for labour on public works or was assigned to an individual" (<<https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/guides-and-indexes/convicts-guide>>). The Hyde Park Barracks in Sydney was the place where these arrangements usually occurred, especially for newly arrived convicts (<<https://sydneylivingmuseums.com.au/stories/who-were-hyde-park-barracks-convicts>>).

<sup>30</sup> From the Carters' Barracks many of the convicts from the *Mangles* who were under the age of 17 years, including William, were sent to work for private citizens across the outskirts of Sydney. See: Official Carters' Barracks' records for the period 1833-1834 (accessed from Ancestry, 10 October 2021).

The Carters' Barracks was located not too far from the Hyde Park Barracks. See:

<[https://dictionaryofsydney.org/building/carters\\_barracks](https://dictionaryofsydney.org/building/carters_barracks)>; and

<<https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/nsw/biogs/NE01682b.htm>>.

<sup>31</sup> Picture accessed from: <<https://femalefactoryonline.org/bio/sarah-bell/>>

<sup>32</sup> <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/230390208>>

Note: The practice of assigning convicts to "private service" would be discontinued by the Government within a few years of William's arrival. See: <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/230656648>>;

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/230670691>>; and

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/230671090>>.

<sup>33</sup> <<https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/harper-george-2157>>

<sup>34</sup> See: New South Wales, Settler and Convict lists 1787-1834 (results for William Willis): "William Willis (*Mangles* 6) assigned to Geo Harper, *Abbotsford*", p. 222 (accessed from Ancestry, 10 October 2021);

Carters' Barracks' official records for the period 1833-1834 (accessed from Ancestry [NSW Convict Records 1810-1891], 10 October 2021)

Note: The official records of the Carters' Barracks for the period 1833-1834 show that George Harper from *Abbotsford* was assigned a boy from the *Mangles* (6), namely a "William Wills". "Wills" is a likely spelling error as the records can only be referring to William Willis since there was no one aboard the *Mangles* (6) who was named "William Wills" (see:

<<https://www.hawkesbury.net.au/claimaconvict/shipDetails.php?shipId=534>> and

<<https://convictrecords.com.au/ships/mangles/1832>>). Errors such as these were known to have sometimes occurred in

the convict records. Nevertheless, the issue is put beyond doubt by the NSW Settler and Convict lists 1787-1834 which unambiguously state that upon his arrival "William Willis (*Mangles* 6)" was assigned to "Geo Harper, *Abbotsford*" (p. 222).

William's 1897 newspaper obituary provides further confirmation that after his arrival in Australia he lived with Mr Harper at Stonequarry before eventually heading off to the Burrarorang Valley

(<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/133279587>>). Also see:

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/141151824>>.

<sup>35</sup> New South Wales, Settler and Convict Lists, 1787-1834 (results for William Willis), image accessed from Ancestry, 10 October 2021

<sup>36</sup> <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/230389950>>



<sup>37</sup> Liz Vincent, in her 1996 publication *A Brief History of Picton*, noted that early landowners such as Mr Harper "... were allowed to have convicts assigned to them to clear the land, erect buildings, grow and harvest crops and rear stock" (p. 7). Also see: <<https://sydneylivingmuseums.com.au/convict-sydney/what-was-convict-assignment>>

<sup>38</sup> <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/230389950>>

<sup>39</sup> <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/230389950>>

<sup>40</sup> As stated in the various birth and death records for William's children: Mary (b.1850), Harriet (b.1852 d.1886), George (b.1854 d.1941), John (b.1857), Matilda (b.1859), William (Junior) (b.1861), James (b.1863 d.1889), Samuel (b.1866), Celia (b.1868), Baby Willis (b.1870 d.1870), Hannah (b.1871), and Arthur (b.1876).

<sup>41</sup> <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/108056613>>;

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/133279587>>

<sup>42</sup> <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/230686379/12476328>>;

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/2215174/500408>>;

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/230655341/12477372>>;

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/230654814>>;

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/12478401>>; and

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/70595269>>.

<sup>43</sup> It has been noted: "Burrangorang was a very popular area for bushrangers and cattle thieves to store their booty ... Bushranger activity was a common occurrence and a regular concern of many people in the area"

(<<https://changingcamden.com/category/people/page/2/>>).

<sup>44</sup> <<https://web.archive.org/web/20180313182818/http://www.stonequarry.com.au/nature/burrangorang.html>>;

<[https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Lake\\_Burrangorang](https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Lake_Burrangorang)>

<sup>45</sup> Again, this conclusion is consistent with the Government directive of 18 March 1833, in particular that part which allowed an employer to retain the services of their assigned youthful convict "... for the period of seven years, or until the earlier termination of their respective sentences." See: <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/230389950>>.

In William's case there are records which show that he remained assigned to Mr Harper for the entirety of his sentence.

For example, the Picton Court Bench Book of 2 March 1839 includes a reference to William applying for his Certificate of Freedom on this date and his association with Mr Harper. Similarly, the earlier Convict Muster of December 1837 shows a "William Wells aged 19" who came out on the "*Mangles* 1834" and working for "George Harper". There is no record of a William Wells coming out on the *Mangles* in 1833 so presumably "William Wells" in the 1837 muster was William Willis.

As noted above, it is known that these documents were sometimes prone to clerical error which could further explain the inclusion of "Wells" in this document instead of "Willis" as well as the incorrect year that was shown for the arrival of the *Mangles* ("1834" when in fact it was 1833).

<sup>46</sup> Image accessed from Ancestry, 20 July 2022

<sup>47</sup> See: <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/230385316/12582096>>;

<[https://records-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo-explore/fulldisplay?context=L&vid=61SRA&lang=en\\_US&docid=INDEX357070](https://records-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo-explore/fulldisplay?context=L&vid=61SRA&lang=en_US&docid=INDEX357070)>; and

<<https://sydneylivingmuseums.com.au/convict-sydney/rewards-freedom>>.

<sup>48</sup> It has been noted, "Some assigned convicts complained to the government about how their private master treated them. Others ran away and became bushrangers. However, other assigned convicts were well looked after by their master. Some even stayed on as a paid worker once they had finished their sentence"

(<<https://sydneylivingmuseums.com.au/convict-sydney/what-was-convict-assignment>>). The fact that William worked for Mr Harper for the duration of his sentence and never absconded during that time is a good indication that William felt he was treated fairly by Mr Harper and would not have objected to continue working for him after completing his sentence had there been opportunity to do so. Perhaps the mention of Mr Harper (who died in 1841) in William's 1897 obituary also suggests that William had felt kindly towards Mr Harper for the remainder of his life

(<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/133279587>>).

<sup>49</sup> <<https://henrykable-susannahholmes.com/keeping-the-story-alive/the-wild-family-200-years-in-australia/>>

<sup>50</sup> As recounted by Terry Raftery, great grandson of William and Celia (nee Mitchell) Willis, grandson of William and Margaret (nee Mulholland) Willis, and son of Cyril and Catherine Celia (nee Willis) Raftery

Note: It appears that William started acquiring land in the Burrangorang Valley from around April 1844 when he purchased a license to occupy. Under Government regulations at the time, purchasing a license to occupy was the only means by which William could acquire this land: <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/230145883>>;

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/230147414>>; and

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/12413816>>.

Also see from February 1845: <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/230361470>>.

William subsequently went on to acquire other property alongside the Upper Wollondilly River (e.g.,

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/228601402/12909814>>) and later around The Oaks (see: Greville's Official Post Office Directory 1875-76 [<<https://www.ihr.com.au/secure/docimages/greville75/gd750562.gif>> and

<<https://www.ihr.com.au/secure/docimages/greville75/gd750563.gif>>], 1885 Return of NSW Stock and Stock Owners –

"Long Acre, Picton, Wm Willis" – p. 308 [<<https://www.ihr.com.au/secure/docimages/vpsr/VPSR308.GIF>>], William Willis "Long Acre, Picton" – NSW Census 1891, and <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/133279587>>).

For a map showing the location of William's property in the Burrangorang see: <<https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-537800833/view>>. For an earlier version of this map see: <<https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-233795859/view>>.

For access to various historical maps which also show the location of William's property in the Burrarorang see: <<https://www.nswlrs.com.au/Parish-and-Historical-Maps>>. NB: Search under "Nattai" and "Jooriland" to see William's properties on both sides of the Upper Wollondilly River.

<sup>51</sup> As related by Terry Raftery. Jim Barrett, in his 1995 publication, *Life in the Burrarorang*, has also noted how the Burrarorang settlers farmed a variety of crops including pumpkins, corn and potatoes (pp. 58-64). Colin Sproule in his 1993 publication, *Timbermen of the Wollondilly 1821-1991*, has noted, "Most of the early pioneers had to become timber getters whether they liked it or not, the land had to be cleared, then shelters built for man and beast and fences erected to stop their cattle from straying and to keep the animals of the bush out of the crops" (p. 4).

<sup>52</sup> See: <<https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-537800833/view>>; <<https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-233795859/view>>; <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake\\_Burrarorang](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Burrarorang)>; <<https://camdenhistorynotes.com/category/burrarorang-valley/>>; and <[https://2ua.org/aus/nsw/wollondilly\\_shire\\_council/map/](https://2ua.org/aus/nsw/wollondilly_shire_council/map/)>. For information about the damming of the Burrarorang Valley see: <<https://www.smh.com.au/lifestyle/the-oaks-20040208-gdkq8g.html>>; <<https://camdenhistorynotes.wordpress.com/tag/burrarorang-valley/>>; and <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake\\_Burrarorang](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Burrarorang)>.

For images of Lake Burrarorang see: <<https://davesviewpoint.com/2015/11/14/the-everyday-italian-burrarorang-valley-via-picton/>>.

<sup>53</sup> In 1870 alone there were 15 major floods in the Burrarorang. See: <<http://www.wollondillymuseum.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Newsletter-July-2016-.pdf>> (p. 2). Also see: <[https://www.watnsw.com.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0010/58447/Warragamba-Dam-50th-anniversary-booklet.pdf](https://www.watnsw.com.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/58447/Warragamba-Dam-50th-anniversary-booklet.pdf)> (p. 14); <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/15143201>>; <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/115293705>>; <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/114043394>>; and <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/124503874>>.

<sup>54</sup> Dyster, B. 1993, "The 1840s depression revisited", Australian Historical Studies, 25:101, p. 589 (available at: <<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/10314619308595938?journalCode=rahs20>>; <<https://www.rba.gov.au/publications/rdp/2001/2001-07/1840s-depression.html>>; <<https://apebhconference.files.wordpress.com/2009/08/decker1.pdf>>; and <[http://myplace.edu.au/decades\\_timeline/1840/decade\\_landing\\_16\\_1.html?tabRank=2&subTabRank=3](http://myplace.edu.au/decades_timeline/1840/decade_landing_16_1.html?tabRank=2&subTabRank=3)>.

<sup>55</sup> Following a court hearing in Picton on 29 November 1844 William was committed to stand trial for allegedly receiving stolen property and for a short time pending trial was detained in the Berrima Gaol. Subsequently, on 27 February 1845, the Court of Quarter Sessions at Berrima found him not guilty and ordered his discharge. See: New South Wales, Goal Description & Entrance Books, 1818-1930: William Willis; Ship and Year of Arrival: *Mangles*, 1833; Berrima Gaol; 1844 (accessed from Ancestry, 7 September 2020); and New South Wales, Criminal Court Records, 1830-1945: William Willis; Ship of Arrival: *Mangles*; Date of Committal: 29 November 1844; Place of Committal: Picton NSW; Date of Trial: 27 February 1845; Place of Trial: Berrima NSW; Outcome: **Not guilty and discharged from custody** (accessed from Ancestry, 15 September 2020).

<sup>56</sup> Celia's birthplace, "Mereworth, Co. Kent, England", is ascertained from the birth records of several of her children namely Matilda (1859), William (Junior) (1861), James (1863), Samuel (1866), and Celia (1868). The 1906 death certificate for her brother, Richard Mitchell, similarly states that he was born in "Merryworth, England". Likewise, the 1897 newspaper obituary for another brother, George Mitchell, states that he was born in "Merryworth, near Maidstone, in the County of Kent" (<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/133282717>>). NB: Mereworth is pronounced as "Merryworth" (see: <[https://www.bbc.co.uk/kent/content/articles/2007/06/07/places\\_pronunciation\\_feature.shtml](https://www.bbc.co.uk/kent/content/articles/2007/06/07/places_pronunciation_feature.shtml)> and <<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mereworth>>).

<sup>57</sup> <<https://www.theshipslist.com/ships/australia/au1838.shtml>>; <<http://knarf.english.upenn.edu/Places/gravesen.html>>

<sup>58</sup> <<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Sherwood-2196>>; <<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Smith-115170>>

<sup>59</sup> Information in this paragraph about the Mitchells living at Bringelly provided by Terry Raftery. Also see: <<http://www.blaxland.com/ozships/events/3/276.htm#16796>>; <[http://indexes.records.nsw.gov.au/ebook/list.aspx?Page=NRS5313/4\\_4780/Lady%20Nugent\\_27%20Nov%201838/4\\_478000072.jpg&No=2](http://indexes.records.nsw.gov.au/ebook/list.aspx?Page=NRS5313/4_4780/Lady%20Nugent_27%20Nov%201838/4_478000072.jpg&No=2)>; <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/12856080>>; <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/229175223>>; and Death record transcription for Hannah Mitchell (nee Fairhall) (06523).

<sup>60</sup> William's 1839 Certificate of Freedom noted that at the time of the completion of his sentence his trade or calling was "labourer".

<sup>61</sup> As recounted by Terry Raftery

Also see: NSW Births, Deaths & Marriages - Marriage Certificate - Willis & Mitchell - Ref No 1849 212 Vol 34C

For information about the history of St John's Church of England in Camden where William and Celia were married see:

<[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St\\_Johns\\_Anglican\\_Church\\_Precinct](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St_Johns_Anglican_Church_Precinct)>; and

<<https://stjohnscamden.org.au/index.php/about/history>>.

<sup>62</sup> <<https://www.fairhall.id.au/families/myline/g0/p102.htm#i2547>>;

<<https://wc.rootsweb.com/trees/127713/P69/william-willis/individual>>

Note: The birth and death records for William and Celia's infant daughter, who according to these documents was "unnamed" although it is possible they were going to call her Ruby

(<<https://www.fairhall.id.au/families/myline/g0/p486.htm#i12146>>), state that she was born in the Burragorang on 30 January 1870 and died after only two hours on the same date. The death record for Baby Willis indicates that she was buried in the Burragorang on 31 January 1870. In later years, William and Celia's son, George and his wife Elizabeth named one of their twin daughters, Ruby.

<sup>63</sup> See birth records for William and Celia's children: Mary (b.1850), Harriet (b.1852), George (b.1854), John (b.1857), Matilda (b.1859), William (Junior) (b.1861), James (b.1863), Samuel (b.1866), Celia (b.1868), Baby Willis (b.1870), Hannah (b.1871), and Arthur (b.1876).

<sup>64</sup> See death record transcriptions for: Baby Willis (05501), Harriet (nee Willis) Williams (07676), and James Willis (07860).

<sup>65</sup> Note: William Samuel Williams (1880-1970); Harriet Anne Williams (1882-1977); Amy Grace Williams (1883-1928); Celia Serana Williams (1885-1913); Irene Clive Willis (1888-1966). Dates obtained from Ancestry, 12 October 2021

<sup>66</sup> These particular parcels of land in the Burragorang Valley had been acquired by William in 1859

(<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/228601402/12909814>>). When the Long Acre property was sold following Celia's death in 1909, this land was included in the sale. See: <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/136642526>>; <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/142023404>>

<sup>67</sup> In 1870 William purchased almost 320 acres in the Picton district comprising six adjoining allotments (size of acreage for each allotment: 61, 50, 47[1], 46[3], 59, 54) (see: New South Wales, Australia, Land Records, 1811-1870, Index to Registers of Land Purchases, accessed from Ancestry, 3 November 2021). It appears that the various parcels of land including the six allotments eventually purchased by William were initially offered for sale in August 1869

(<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/225584367/12674567>>). By March 1870 the deeds of grant for these allotments had been duly assigned to William (<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/223288657/12677046>>).

An article from a 1939 edition of the local Camden News also notes: "The Willis family in Australia dates back to 1830, when William Willis arrived and settled at Stonequarry; thence he laboured in Burragorang, and finally settled in The Oaks district in 1877" (<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/141151824>>). For context to this article, see the preceding article at: <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/141150984>>.

A local historical society periodical from 1988 has identified the various landholders in the Picton area as at 1885 including William as the landholder of *Long Acre* (<<https://www.pictonheritage.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/1988-09.pdf>>, p.15).

For a map showing the location of the Willis property at The Oaks see: <<https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-233796135/view>>. For access to various historical maps which also show the Willis property at The Oaks see: <<https://www.nswlrs.com.au/Parish-and-Historical-Maps>>. NB: Search under "Picton" to see the Willis property at The Oaks.

The parcels of land in the Burragorang Valley retained by William when he and Celia relocated to The Oaks had been acquired by him in 1859 (<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/228601402/12909814>>). When the *Long Acre* estate was sold following Celia's death in 1909, this land was included in the sale (<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/142023404>>).

<sup>68</sup> Photo courtesy of Lois Schulz, great great granddaughter of William and Celia (nee Mitchell) Willis, great granddaughter of William and Margaret (nee Mulholland) Willis, and granddaughter of James and Edith (nee Marshall) Willis

<sup>69</sup> 1885 *Return of NSW Stock and Stock Owners*, p. 308 (see:

<<https://www.ihr.com.au/secure/docimages/vpsr/VPSR308.GIF>>). Accessed from:

<<https://www.ihr.com.au/secure/html/vpsr.html>> and then search under "Picton District" followed by "Freshfield".

<sup>70</sup> den Hertog, S. 1987, *The History of The Oaks from the Records*, The Oaks Historical Society, p. 20

Also see: <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/141151824>>

<sup>71</sup> <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/111193776>>;

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/237245343>>;

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/13613230>>;

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/162811608>>;

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/71678200>>; and

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/162197572>>.

<sup>72</sup> Recounted by Colleen Kenny, great great granddaughter of William and Celia (nee Mitchell) Willis, great granddaughter of William and Margaret (nee Mulholland) Willis, and granddaughter of John and Helena Mildred (nee Willis) Reid

<sup>73</sup> den Hertog, S. 1987, *The History of The Oaks from the Records*, The Oaks Historical Society, p. 41

Note: den Hertog points out that the land on which the Werriberri Provisional School was built had originally been purchased by William on 17 January 1870.

<sup>74</sup> See: Will of William Willis (copy obtained from NSW State Archives)

Note: Irene's father was William and Celia's son James who died on 6 June 1889 while William and John's father was Henry Harris (b.1849), the first husband of William and Celia's eldest daughter Mary. Henry married Mary on 6 June 1878 and



died on 28 May 1881. See: <<https://www.fairhall.id.au/families/myline/desc-031586.htm>>; and <<https://www.ancestry.com/genealogy/records/mary-jane-willis-24-q5271>>.

Subsequently, on 2 April 1884, Mary married Robert William Armour (1846-1933) after whom "Armour Avenue" in Camden is named (<<https://www.cafhs.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/CAMDEN-STREET-NAME-1.pdf>>).

<sup>75</sup> A report dated July 1870 prepared by Inspector Huffer for the New South Wales Council of Education included an annexure in which William signed an undertaking (by marking an "X") to send his sons George, John and William (Junior) to the Half-Time teaching school that had been proposed to be established at the nearby residence of his neighbour Edward Smith. Inspector Huffer's visit to the Burratorang Valley is mentioned in this news article: <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/115293705>>.

<sup>76</sup> <<https://naming.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au/detail/426>>;

<<https://proposals.gnb.nsw.gov.au/public/geonames/9e86bea9-f2ec-4945-840a-d2b48f6782a1>>

<sup>77</sup> <<https://proposals.gnb.nsw.gov.au/public/geonames/9e86bea9-f2ec-4945-840a-d2b48f6782a1>>

<sup>78</sup> <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/108056613>>

<sup>79</sup> Image accessed through Trove (<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/133279587>>)

Note: The "late Mr George Mitchell" referred to in the preceding article was William's brother-in-law (Celia's brother) who had died a month earlier (see: <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/133282717>>). Also, the "old spade guineas" mentioned in the article is a reference to the gold coin that was introduced in 1787 during the reign of King George III (b.1738 r. 1760-1820). They were described as spade guineas because of the spade-shaped shield on the reverse side of the coin (<[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guinea\\_\(coin\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guinea_(coin))>). The spade guinea was highly valued because of its gold content and was widely circulated in early colonial Australia (<<https://www.downies.com/gb-1793-spade-guinea-gf-vf>> and <<https://coinworks.com.au/1787-Gold-Proof-Spade-Guinea~9609#:~:text=The%20Spade%20Guinea%20was%20one,value%20of%20%C2%A31%202s.>>>).

<sup>80</sup> <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/108056613>>

<sup>81</sup> <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/133280082>>

<sup>82</sup> The advertisement placed by William was as follows: "LOST—A Winter Buggy Rug between Mrs Willis's residence on The Oaks road and Camden. Reward on returning same to Mr Willis, The Oaks Road." (See: <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/133278393>>)

<sup>83</sup> Yewen's *Directory of the Landholders of New South Wales 1900*, p. 91 (accessed from "Find my Past", 17 November 2020); and

New South Wales Census 1901 (accessed from Ancestry, 12 October 2021).

Note: Celia was also registered as a voter on the 1903 Commonwealth Electoral Roll (see:

<[https://www.ihr.com.au/secure/docimages/nswer1903/nswer1903\\_04843.gif](https://www.ihr.com.au/secure/docimages/nswer1903/nswer1903_04843.gif)>).

<sup>84</sup> Will of Celia Willis (probate number Series 4-48280) (copy obtained from NSW State Archives) (DoD: 6 November 1909 at Picton);

<<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Willis-2030>>; and

<<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/genealogy/records/walter-wheeler-24-1xyqwwq>>.

Note: Cecil, Irene and Vera were the children of Hannah and her husband Walter Wheeler (1869-1940).

<sup>85</sup> <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/238240291>>;

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/31392040>>; and

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/136644104>>.

Note: The statement in the preceding article which identifies Celia as "the mother of the late Mr Williams' first wife" is a reference to William and Celia's second daughter Harriet Willis (b. 6 July 1852, d. 21 February 1886) who married James Williams on 24 July 1879. Harriet is mentioned in the newspaper obituary for James although only as "Miss Willis"; nevertheless, she is still recognised as being the "daughter of the late William Willis of Long Acre, The Oaks and Mrs Willis now of Picton" (see: <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/136643399>>).

<sup>86</sup> <<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/185685290/william-willis>>;

<<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/185685289/celia-willis>>

<sup>87</sup> <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/239412699>>;

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/15145359>>;

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/164337642>>;

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/136642526>>; and

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/142023404>>.

<sup>88</sup> Adapted from the Blue Mountains and Burratorang Valley tourist map / compiled, drawn and printed at the Department of Lands, Sydney NSW (1937), available at: <<https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-233873162/view>>.

Also see: <<https://www.bluemountains.org.au/documents/research/blue-mountains-burratorang-valley-tourist-map-1937.pdf>>

<sup>89</sup> Photo courtesy of Terry Raftery

<sup>90</sup> Photo courtesy of Lois Schulz

<sup>91</sup> Photo courtesy of Marlane Fairfax, Secretary, Picton & District Historical and Family History Society Inc.

Also see: <<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/185685290/william-willis>>; and

<<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/185685289/celia-willis>>.

<sup>92</sup> Image courtesy of Marlane Fairfax, Secretary, Picton & District Historical and Family History Society Inc.

<sup>93</sup> Image accessed from Ancestry, 7 September 2022

<sup>94</sup> Photo accessed from Ancestry, 4 October 2021

Also see: <<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/184280165/mary-armour>>; and

<<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/184280166/robert-william-armour>>.

Note: One of Mary and Robert's sons, George William Armour, died in 1937

(<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/140597469>>).

For Mary's 1934 obituary and funeral notice see: <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/140485212>>;

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/248971372>>; and

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/17045025>>.

For Robert's 1933 obituary and funeral notice see: <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/140484360>>;

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/112759311>>;

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/118942529>>;

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/247165101>>; and

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/17020437>>.

<sup>95</sup> Image courtesy of Marlane Fairfax, Secretary, Picton & District Historical and Family History Society Inc.

<sup>96</sup> Photo accessed from Ancestry, 4 October 2021

<sup>97</sup> Photo courtesy of Marlane Fairfax, Secretary, Picton & District Historical and Family History Society Inc.

Also see: <<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/235462595/harriett-williams>>; and

<<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/235462645/james-williams>>.

Note: For James's 1909 obituary see: <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/136643399>>.

<sup>98</sup> Image courtesy of Marlane Fairfax, Secretary, Picton & District Historical and Family History Society Inc.

<sup>99</sup> Image accessed from Ancestry, 12 September 2022

<sup>100</sup> Photo courtesy of Terry Raftery

Note: For George's 1941 funeral notice see: <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/17755025>>.

For Elizabeth's 1938 funeral notice see: <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/236399551>>; and

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/17475567>>.

<sup>101</sup> Identity of George Willis (Junior) in this photo confirmed by Wendy Holt, great great great granddaughter of William and Celia (nee Mitchell) Willis, great great granddaughter of George and Elizabeth (nee Hanger) Willis, and great granddaughter of William and Alice (nee Willis) Ford

<sup>102</sup> Photo courtesy of Wendy Holt

<sup>103</sup> Photo courtesy of Wendy Holt

Note: George and Elizabeth's son, Cecil Willis, was a veteran of the First World War. After being wounded several times, Cecil returned to Australia in 1919 (<<http://www.anzacsmacarthur.com/anzacs/cecil-willis/16/anzacDetail.htm>>).

<sup>104</sup> Photo accessed from Ancestry, 13 December 2021

<sup>105</sup> Photo courtesy of Wendy Holt

<sup>106</sup> Image accessed from Ancestry, 7 September 2022

<sup>107</sup> Image courtesy of Marlane Fairfax, Secretary, Picton & District Historical and Family History Society Inc.

<sup>108</sup> Photo accessed from Ancestry, 4 October 2021

<sup>109</sup> Text accessed through Trove (<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/263918820>>)

<sup>110</sup> Text accessed through Trove (<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/263987357>>)

Note: The speaker in question at this farewell for John Willis, Enoch William Booty (1856-1943), was a well-known local figure whose many roles included being the Branch accountant of the Bank of New South Wales in Camden between c.1876 and 1889. It was possibly during this time that he came to know John's father, William.

See: <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/71121140>>;

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/71121601>>;

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/162066344>>;

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/263918641>>;

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/227191505>>;

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/145702781>>;

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/101822878>>;

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/108055319>>;

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/133282915>>;

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/263987570>>;

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/263993231>>;

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/263986106>>;

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/113251184>>;

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/263988967>>;

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/139844324/16152084>>;

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/71205141>>;

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/15724122>>;

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/144104388>>;

<<https://www.ancestry.com.au/discoveryui-content/view/1429484:60528?ssrc=pt&tid=106188533&pid=152195628940>>;

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- <[https://www.camdenremembers.com.au/WWIRoll/wwl\\_B.pdf](https://www.camdenremembers.com.au/WWIRoll/wwl_B.pdf)> (p.16);  
 <[https://media.opengov.nsw.gov.au/pairtree\\_root/27/71/fa/56/54/32/4e/56/ba/9a/d3/cb/96/e0/3c/db/obj/document.pdf](https://media.opengov.nsw.gov.au/pairtree_root/27/71/fa/56/54/32/4e/56/ba/9a/d3/cb/96/e0/3c/db/obj/document.pdf)> (p.81); and  
 <<https://lawalmanacs.info/almanacs/nsw-law-almanac-1886.pdf>> (p.22).
- <sup>111</sup> Text accessed through Trove (<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/31392040>>)  
<sup>112</sup> Text accessed through Trove (<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/31671740>>)  
<sup>113</sup> Image accessed through Trove (<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/249510466>>)  
<sup>114</sup> <<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/189887693/mary-anne-willis>>;  
 <<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/235459466/john-willis>>; and  
 <<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/189836059/harriett-maude-willis>>.  
<sup>115</sup> Image courtesy of Marlane Fairfax, Secretary, Picton & District Historical and Family History Society Inc.  
<sup>116</sup> Photos courtesy of Terry Raftery  
<sup>117</sup> Photo courtesy of Terry Raftery  
<sup>118</sup> William and Margaret's eldest son, William Louis Willis (Will), married Mary Hilary Cornell at Meringandan (Queensland) on 29 September 1915 (<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/182688495>>). Will was a veteran of the First World War. He was awarded the Military Medal for Bravery in the Field for actions he took involving great personal risk during the Battle of Broodseinde Ridge in October 1917. Will returned to Australia in 1919. See: <<https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/awm-media/collection/RCDIG1068238/document/5495677.PDF>>;  
 <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/252979581>>;  
 <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/252998571>>;  
 <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/253019995>>; and  
 <<http://www.anzacsmacarthur.com/anzacs/william-louis-willis-mm/16/anzacDetail.htm>>.  
<sup>119</sup> Photo accessed from Ancestry, 24 January 2022  
 Note: William and Margaret's second eldest son, James Vivian Willis (Jim), married Edith Marshall in Toowoomba on 9 January 1918 (<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/171757057>>).  
<sup>120</sup> Photo accessed from Ancestry, 20 July 2022  
 Note: William and Margaret's eldest daughter, Catherine Celia Willis (Cate) married Cyril Raftery in Toowoomba on 30 May 1917 (<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/187518787>>).  
<sup>121</sup> Photo courtesy of Terry Raftery  
<sup>122</sup> Photo accessed from Ancestry, 23 July 2022  
 Note: William and Margaret's youngest daughter, Helena Mildred Willis (Millie) married John Reid in Toowoomba on 25 August 1926 (<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/253931300>>).  
<sup>123</sup> Photo courtesy of William (Bill) Reid, great grandson of William and Celia (nee Mitchell) Willis, grandson of William and Margaret (nee Mulholland) Willis, and son of John and Millie (nee Willis) Reid  
<sup>124</sup> <<https://austcemindex.com/inscription?id=6536356>>  
 Note: In early 1903 William and Margaret's youngest sons, John Harold Willis and Edward Willis, died within a day of each other from diphtheria. As reported in the *Picton Post and Advocate* on 4 February 1903:  
*Quite a gloom was casted over the town when it became known that Mr & Mrs William Willis had lost two of their children – both boys. The stroke came with awful swiftness for the little fellows who on Wednesday, were in their wonted health, were laid to rest in St Mark's Churchyard on Sunday afternoon. The children who were age six and three years were victims of croup. The eldest boy died on Saturday and the youngest one on Sunday morning. The spectacle of two little coffins being lowered into the one grave was indeed a pathetic one. Deep sympathy is felt for the parents in their great sorrow.*  
 (News article provided courtesy of Marlane Fairfax, Secretary, Picton & District Historical and Family History Society Inc.)  
<sup>125</sup> Photo courtesy of Tony Vanderpool  
 Also see: <<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/149521038/william-willis>>; and  
 <<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/149521041/margaret-willis>>.  
<sup>126</sup> Newspaper obituary for William Willis (1861-1941), courtesy of Marionne Diggles, Secretary, Toowoomba & Darling Downs Family History Society Inc.  
<sup>127</sup> Photo courtesy of Terry Raftery  
<sup>128</sup> Image accessed from Ancestry, 8 November 2021  
<sup>129</sup> Image accessed from Ancestry, 20 July 2022  
<sup>130</sup> Photo accessed from Ancestry, 8 November 2021  
<sup>131</sup> Photo accessed from Ancestry, 8 November 2021  
 Also see: <<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/149521037/samuel-willis>>; and  
 <<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/149521040/joan-willis>>.  
<sup>132</sup> Newspaper obituary for Samuel Willis (1866-1949), courtesy of Marionne Diggles, Secretary, Toowoomba & Darling Downs Family History Society Inc.  
<sup>133</sup> Photo courtesy of Marlane Fairfax, Secretary, Picton & District Historical and Family History Society Inc.  
 Also see: <<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/235482543/james-willis>>  
<sup>134</sup> Image accessed from Ancestry, 12 October 2021  
<sup>135</sup> Image courtesy of Marlane Fairfax, Secretary, Picton & District Historical and Family History Society Inc.  
<sup>136</sup> Photo accessed from Ancestry, 4 October 2021  
 Also see: <<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/178097730/matilda-hanger>>; and



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<<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/178097729/george-hanger>>.

Note: For Matilda's 1943 obituary and death notice see: <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/143943879>>;

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/76274379>>;

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/106130562>>; and

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/17853488>>.

For George's 1931 obituary and funeral notice see: <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/76327419>>;

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/224700051>>;

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/224694640>>;

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/106853312>>;

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/133291718>>; and

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/16776712>>.

<sup>137</sup> Text accessed through Trove (<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/27950522>>)

<sup>138</sup> Image accessed through Trove (<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/117906161>>)

<sup>139</sup> Photo accessed from Ancestry, 9 July 2022

Also see: <<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/184853495/celia-gibson>>; and

<<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/184853494/thomas-henry-gibson>>.

Note: For Celia's 1947 funeral notice see: <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/27901395>>.

For Thomas's 1941 obituary and funeral notice see: <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/108730174>>; and

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/17771998>>.

<sup>140</sup> Image accessed from Ancestry, 18 July 2022

<sup>141</sup> Text accessed through Trove (<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/18167979>>)

Note: For Walter's 1940 obituary, and death and funeral notices see:

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/141153511>>;

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/248230434>>;

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/17655317>>; and

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/17655487/1102766>>.

Hannah and Walter's son, Cecil Claude Wheeler, was a veteran of the First World War. He was severely wounded during combat operations, repatriated to Australia in 1917 and died in 1927 at the age of only 32 years. See:

<<http://www.anzacsmacarthur.com/anzacs/cecil-claude-wheeler/16/anzacDetail.htm>>; and

<<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/177681393/cecil-claude-wheeler>>.

<sup>142</sup> Text accessed through Trove (<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/143976526>>)

<sup>143</sup> Image accessed from Ancestry, 9 July 2022

<sup>144</sup> Text accessed through Trove (<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/133052991>>)

<sup>145</sup> Text accessed through Trove (<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/133651781>>)

<sup>146</sup> <<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/192936731/clara-louisa-willis>>;

<<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/192936729/arthur-willis>>

Note: For Arthur's 1938 death notice see: <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/133651781>>; and

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/17446733>>.

For Clara's 1946 funeral notice see: <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/133154819>>;

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/133161610>>;

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/133153421>>; and

<<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/133155180>>.