



Clan Forsyth

SYDNEY BRANCH

NEWSLETTER

CLAN FORSYTH SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA – SYDNEY BRANCH

PO BOX 396, ROSEVILLE NSW 2069

#3 September 2016

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<http://www.clanforythaustralia.org/>

Clan Forsyth Day

Sunday 6th November 2016

from 1pm to 5pm

(The Committee meets at 12.30pm)

Uniting Church, Clanwilliam Street, Willoughby

This is the day to bring along your Forsyth mementos: photos, literature, artworks.... anything related to your clan and your family history.

The focus this year will be on 'Forsyths in the Community.' What your ancestors did serving others...honorary positions, good deeds, charity work etc? Bring along certificates, medals, rewards and recognition through the media.

The day also gives you a chance to meet other clan members and to have refreshments including tea, coffee, delicious sandwiches and cakes. Members of other clans are welcome!

RSVP to Judy Forsyth by 23rd October: jaforsyth@ozemail.com.au

OR (02) 9634 2749



Denise's Column

(Denise is a Member of the Clan Committee)

Whilst walking through my local shopping precinct I noted the proliferation of hairdressing salons, usually with catchy names worth collecting on their own. The women's establishments are staffed by young girls with exotic hues in their hair and elaborate gelled styles or spikes, sometimes shaved like aerial road maps. Now customers are displayed in open view of the passer's by, and sit oblivious to their exposure. To sit with one's hair wrapped in little pieces of aluminium foil under harsh neon lighting emulating a sleep clinic or Frankenstein's laboratory.

Yes things have changed – In my younger years Hairdressers were called Miss and customers were similarly given their prefix, business was conducted in private curtained cubicles. The chairs were bridge type chairs and for children a plank was placed across the arms. A shelf with a glass cylinder, like drinking straw dispensers, filled with smelly Dettol, contained sundry combs and scissors. Toilet paper was wrapped around ones neck and a cape was wrapped around one's body secured with a large butterfly clip also used for crimping Marcel waves.

The only indication of other customers was the stench of rotten egg gas from permanent wave solution and singing hair. The occasional Ouch sometimes broke the silence as apart from the gossiping ladies there was no loud noise. Ladies emerged with red faces from the Bee hive hair dryers and hair moulded into elaborate curls and furrows. Oh to have curls was very desirable and many a baby was also Curly petted and advertisements were in women's magazines of cherubic infants with what appeared to be snails encasing their head.

I have very straight fine hair and on Sunday morning before Sunday School Aunt would heat up the curling irons on the gas burners in the kitchen, test them on a piece of newspaper and if deemed the right temperature set to work on my hair. Inevitably my ears would get burned and my hair singed, however I was deemed suitable to meet the public. Home permanent waves were also popular with pictures of identical twins and captioned 'which Twin has the Toni'.

My first 'perm' was at 14 and this involved the curtained cubicle and an apparatus of wires extending from a large box which were then wrapped around strands of hair. The smell was horrible it was also painful. The result was a frizzy mess. I thought I looked pretty good. I guess it is all a matter of fashion.

LOCATION OF THE FIRST FORSYTHS IN SCOTLAND

(Adapted by David Forsyth from correspondence of the Clan Chief, Alistair Forsyth of that Ilk)

The earliest record found so far is Robert Forsyth who was referred to as father of Osbert Forsyth in 1326 (Register of the great Seal Vol 1 Appendix 1 fo.40). It is from Osbert's three sons that the family of Forsyth began to locate at different areas of Scotland, Aberdeen and the North East, Edinburgh Fife the Lothians and Borders, Glasgow and Lanarkshire. The Ulster emigration came mainly from Central Scotland and Fife.

In 15th Century there were only two of these families who had received grants of Arms from the Lord Lyon and they traced back to the first two sons of Osbert, David and William. These and subsequent land titles revealed the following Forsyth properties, and their current disposition.

Dykes Castle was destroyed in 1828, the site is now woodland. The site of Inchknock Castle lies within a local authority housing estate. Kilgrath House was demolished and Lanarkshire Council excavated over 200 acres of its land to provide a Rubbish Tip. This tip is now closed but the site is scheduled for a Transport Hub. The 17th Century remains of Auchingray House is an utter ruin and the grounds were excavated for an Open Cast coal mine but abandoned. The Castle at Nydie in Fife was demolished and replaced by a farmhouse in the late 19th century. A similar fate befell Ecclesgreig Castle at St Cyrus in Kincardineshire. Glengorm Castle on the Isle of Mull is the centre of a thriving estate and has been in the hands of the Nelson family for two generations. Windyhill Castle in Moray was demolished and replaced by an 18th century house called Milton Brodie.

One of the reasons this research was recently reviewed is that the clan in Scotland has been considering establishment of a clan visitor centre. The Centenary of the Forsyth Family Association which renamed itself The Clan Forsyth Society passed



Ethie Castle

quietly last year and some consider it may now be appropriate to establish a Clan Centre in Scotland for the purpose of recording centrally the history and genealogy of the family and to provide a centre where future activities could be held in the years that there are International Gatherings. The Clan Chief considers that the centre should be a notable building and have some connection with Forsyths.

In view of the disposition of the older Forsyth castles and houses noted above, one of the available alternatives seems to be Ethie Castle, now on sale, which was the Chief's home from 1976 to 2001 and where he and his wife Ann entertained many Forsyths.

The Castle can be seen on the Internet at:

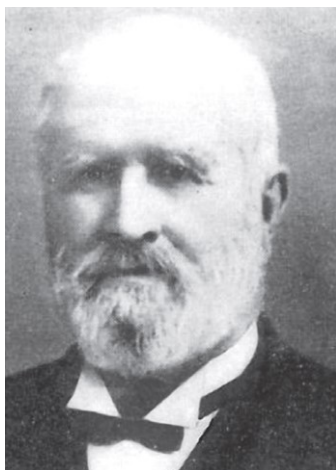
<http://search.savills.com/en-au/property-detail/gbbrrsbhs140081#/r/detail/GBBRRSBHS140081> .

David Forsyth, Clan Commissioner for Australia

ARCHIBALD FORSYTH

I thought the descendants of Archibald Forsyth and his nephew, John, may like to read the stories our past members have given to the Clan Archives. Maybe this will bring to mind something about Archibald and his other descendants which you can add to your collection.

Judy Forsyth, Past President of the Sydney Branch



The following sent in by Mrs. Irma Forsyth Moses in 1984. Archibald Forsyth was born on 10th March 1826 in Speyworth, Morayshire, Scotland. His father was John Forsyth and he had a shipyard where small ships were built. His mother was Ellen (Helen) Young of Yarmouth. Archibald arrived in Sydney in 1848, a young hopeful immigrant of 22 years, a cedar cutter at 26, a digger on many gold fields in his early thirties, and a pioneer manufacturer at 40. He married Sarah Corbett in Melbourne on 21/1/54, and she was from London. In 1873 he was the founder of the Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Animals in NSW. For many years he served on the committee, which he assisted generously. In 1898 in the depth of the depression he took the lead in organising direct assistance to thousands of unemployed through the Mission Church, of which he was a pillar, cheap meals were provided as well as accommodation at a converted foundry built off George St. The car and horse ambulance he purchased for the Civil Ambulance can still be seen at the Ambulance Station at the Quay. He was a liberal supporter of houses for old people and hospitals. Also Archibald Forsyth was the original founder of the Chamber of Manufactures.

The following sent in by May Forsyth and written by John Walter Forsyth – not dated. Your friend, Mr. Arnold Forsyth of Coffs Harbour, showed one of my cousins, and to me, your letter referring to the late Archibald Forsyth, M.L.A. Rope maker in Sydney. Perhaps I can further your enquiries.

I have no doubt that the Archibald in question is connected with my family (or perhaps as my understanding that I represent the elder branch of the family is founded on no documentary evidence) mine with his. Your information was mistaken however, as to his having had no children. He married three times and left numerous descendants in Australia, mostly in Sydney. It was only his last marriage, at the age of three score years and ten, that was childless.

My grandfather, John Forsyth of Randwick (a Sydney suburb) was his nephew, the son as I understand it of his elder brother who died comparatively young, so that Archibald was to me as to you a great grand uncle. John Forsyth emigrated to Australia to take up a partnership in Archibald's rope making business and I am the childless only son of the eldest of his five sons and five daughters who have now in this country a host of children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. As I was born and lived until after my grand-father's death at Brisbane in Queensland, and as my father

took no great interest in his Scottish relations, except the three aunts I shall mention, I have only vague information of my descendants as far as my great grandfather and none beyond that. One of my grandfather's several brothers came to Australia after him and lived in Sydney. My father had not a great deal to do with this uncle of his. He married and had one child a son, the father whose name I do not recall had one son (name unknown to me) who died unmarried. I only met them once. Another brother of my grandfather, James by name I believe, was master shipwright at the yard (Scotts of Greenock?) at which the battleship Dreadnought was built and was responsible for the design and construction of the deck of that vessel which appears to have been a famous piece of ship-wrightry in its day, as I remember my father mentioning it several times when that ship was in its hey-day, and as I was then a naval cadet, the fact stuck in my mind. This James had two sons, One James 11 headmaster at the Greenock High School. He entertained me during the last War several times at Greenock. He was quite a remarkable linguist. His wife was Irish and they had a young daughter who married the accountant officer of the Polish destroyer "Grom" and went back with him, I understand, to Poland after the war ended. Her father and mother were then I think both dead. Of James' brother I know nothing though I seem to recollect that he followed his father into the ship building trade and was, at least for a time, in Scotts yard. My grandfather had in addition to his brothers, three sisters Isa (whether Isobel or Elisa I do not know) Jessie and (I think) Mary. They lived at Kingston on Spey in a long low thatched cottage facing the river, a painting of which one of my cousins still has. It had been their parents' house which was heritable property and descended to my grandfather. When Grandfather's estate was wound up in about 1922, my father and his brother decided to make it over to the Aunts and I recall that my signature was needed to the transaction for some reason. If a 40 year old recollection can be relied on this cottage was "feu to the Barony of Buchie" whatever that may mean in Scottish law. Buchie was a barony of the Grants some of whom of the Salrork and Buchie branch we still have as friends here. When I was in Scotland during the War, I called on grand-aunt Jessie's daughter, Jessie 11 (the other two grand-aunts died unmarried). This Jessie 11 was married to Mr. Riach, who was engineer superintendent of some Scottish railway. They lived at Perth and had a young daughter (Jessie?111) who married a prominent surgeon in London. I have heard nothing of her since the War. Jessie Riach had spent part of her girlhood out here in my grandfather's house and my aunts and uncles kept in close touch with her and saw her whenever they went to Scotland. Shortly before the War she sent me by my sister, who had been to see her, a water colour portrait of Alexander Forsyth, the brother of Archibald and of grandfather's father. It was taken at Corfu somewhere about the middle of last century and he is in the uniform of the Royal Sappers & miners the original name of the Royal Engineers. This, I have given to the eldest grandson of my eldest uncle who, as I have no children will be the head of our branch of the family. Jessie Riach also gave me, when I was over there during the War, a number of very early photographs of my grandfather and his brothers, (..... types) taken when they were children. Unfortunately, I sailed from Leith that afternoon before I could place them in safety, my ship was bombed and sunk and I lost them. My recollection is that there were three little boys of about 7-9 in these pictures. In addition to the daughter, the Riach's had a son who was an officer in the Railway Construction branch of the army – probably the Royal Engineers. He had had a narrow escape from death in the course of the evacuation of France and was then out in Africa, so I did not meet him. Jessie 111 introduced me on one occasion to a Miss Urquhart, who came from Redcastle in Scotland. She called her "cousin" and introduced her to me as a cousin of mine also. I knew that we had Urquhart relatives, because one of my aunts was christened Urquhart and I had understood that that was the name of grandfather's mother. This Miss Urquhart had a brother, a soldier (I gathered he was an Officer in the regular army) what his name was I do not know as both the girls referred to him simply as Redcastle, from which I assumed that the Redcastle from which they came was heritable property of his. I didn't meet him, as he too was abroad, and I didn't get the opportunity of enquiring in just what degree we were cousins, as the occasion was a dance in honour of the birthday of one of my fellow officers, and you know or can guess what that means even in wartime even in Edinburgh. My father spoke to me several times of arms similar to those you mention being "in the family" but not useable by us unless we registered our descent in Scotland. The Chevron which he mentioned was not engrailed but plain and the griffons were rampant and like the chevron gules. The crest was a demi-griffon but of what tincture I do not know. I had until 1940 a silver ring which bore the crest on it – it too I lost in the war. The griffon was cut into it right way round and not in reverse so that it cannot have been a seal. It was much battered and the incised parts seemed to have been filled with some composition but whether originally black or blue I could not say. The ring bore no motto. That, I had always heart as Restaurator Ruinae; and I sometimes use the pen name Restaurator when writing corrections to the press on matter of Australian History. You will see from this that I know almost nothing of my father's family as far back my great grandfather and nothing beyond that. If you know anything of our great grand uncle Archibald's ascendants and collaterals, I would be most grateful if to hear it from you. Reciprocally, if you are interested to know how the family has spread in Australia, I would be most pleased to supply that information I can and to refer it to Cousin Alister to fill out his branch which is nearly as numerous as my own.

Annie Mason Forsyth

Born 16th May, 1919. Aged 97 years, Late of Croydon. Our dear Annie has passed away peacefully at the Willows Nursing Home, Ashfield. Dearly loved and loving wife of Perce (deceased). Loving sister of Mac (deceased), John-Snappy (deceased), Jean (deceased), Hughie, Marie (deceased) and Betty. An aunt, great-aunt and great-great-aunt to her loving nieces and nephews. Beloved step-mother to Mick (deceased). A very special lady who will forever be in our hearts. Family and friends of Annie attended her funeral service at 11am on Friday 20 May 2016, in the Mary Mother of Mercy Chapel, Barnet Avenue, Rookwood Catholic Cemetery. Following the chapel service, the cortege proceeded to her grave in the St Joan of Arc section.

Jean Nash



Born Jean Forsyth on 29th March 1916. She grew up at 144 High Street Willoughby one of 7 children born to Racheal and Frederick Forsyth. Jean grew up in Willoughby and then married Lesley Herbert Nash and lived most of her married life in Sydney Street Willoughby. She had one son Jeffrey. In later years they moved to Hornsby in Clarke Avenue. Les was deceased many years ago and she stayed in Hornsby for many years. Her later years have been spent at Bowden Brae at Normanhurst where she was looked after beautifully. Jean died on 9th March, missing her 100 birthday by 20 days. She was a dedicated family lady who did beautiful handcraft for everyone.

Robert Forsyth Freezes Flowers for England

The Kiama Independent, and Shoalhaven Advertiser. Tuesday 1 August 1893 Page 4, "Freezing Flowers for England." A silver medal has been awarded to Mr. Robert Forsyth, of Willoughby, for chrysanthemums at Royal Aquarium, London. The specimens were frozen in blocks of ice by the Fresh Food and Ice Company of Sydney, and taken to London. The P & O company carried the consignment free of charge, The freezing process was first tried in New Zealand when flowers were sent to the old country in this manner, and Mr. Forsyth not wishing to be outdone by our neighbours, so gathered some fine chrysanthemum blooms from 8 to 10 inches across, which were placed on a board and deposited in vats of water, and so frozen into blocks at the works of the Fresh Food and Ice Company. The blocks were then cut up according to the size of the flower, properly packed and sent to London, with the satisfactory result stated. Mr. Forsyth proposes next year to go into more extensively for flower freezing, now that his experiment has had such a pleasing effect.

The Sydney Morning Herald Saturday 29 July 1893 Page 9. "Australian Chrysanthemums for England" - A silver medal has been awarded to Mr Robert Forsyth of North Willoughby for chrysanthemums displayed at the Royal Aquarium, London. The specimens were frozen in blocks of ice by the Fresh Food and Ice Company, Pyrmont, and taken to London by Mr J L Faire.



Jonas Mynderse Coe Forsayth, son of James Forsayth and Emma Eliza Coe, known also as "Queen Emma of New Guinea" and his descendants

Jonas was born on the 14th April 1872 in Apia Samoa, the son of James Forsayth and Emma Eliza Coe. Details of his childhood are hard to ascertain but it appears he was a student at Newington College Sydney. Following his education Jonas took up a position in his mother's company which he held until he sold the family business and his own plantation interests, trading posts and fleet of schooners and vessels the serving the Island trade, and retired to Sydney in 1911. On the 16th December 1895 Jonas Forsayth married Ida Schmuetz in Apia Samoa. They had seven children.

With the proceeds from the sale of his mother's business and his own interests Jonas could best be described "as a man of independent means". He went on to build Vaocluse Hall (10 Coolong Road Vaocluse) which was fitted out with many exotic timbers. Vaocluse Hall, in its day was a

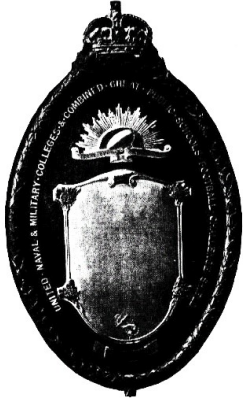
"society" focal point, with many balls and fundraisers. Following the death of Jonas and Ida Vaucluse Hall eventually passed to Kambala School becoming Massie House named after Mr. H. H. I. Massie, president of the Kambala council.

After making his home at Vaucluse, he occupied his leisure with ocean fishing and racing, as well as being an enthusiastic supporter of cricket and football. From newspaper reports however it does not appear he was very successful with his race horses. In 1917 did establish the Forsayth Shield played between GPS Schools and Naval and Military College Rugby teams which appears to have run through till at least the mid-1950s. The present day location of the shield is unknown.

Jonas Forsayth passed away on the 14th Mar 1941 and his wife Ida on the 15th April 1947. As for the children, Edward married Miriam Blanche Sawkins in 1923 at Mosman. Their children were John Mynderse Keys Forsayth; Robert William Paul Forsayth and Rex George Forsayth. Edward passed away on the 11th April 1943 at Chatswood. Emma married 1) Frank Edmond Getting on the 9th Jan 1923 and 2) Arthur Lyndon Knowles on the 23rd Jan 1930. Emma passed away on the 31st March 1967. Irene married Charles Leslie Sadler Falkiner on the 3rd Dec 1924. Their children were Franc Forsayth Falkiner; Beth; Patricia Irene and Charles. Hector married Josie Baker on the 16th June 1926. He died on the 7 Mar 1952 in Gladstone Queensland. John passed away at the Royal Melbourne Hospital on the 2nd Dec 1947. Phyllis married Ronald Clyde Leishman on the 14th Feb 1933. Lela married Franc Sadleir Falkiner on the 23rd Oct 1935. She passed away on the 3rd May 1995.

If you have any further details of the family of Jonas Forsayth please contact the clan.

THE FORSAYTH SHIELD



The Secret of a Scotsman's Kilt

A foreign lady visitor cornered a Scotsman in the Highland Games ground and asked:
'I heard of Scotsmen and their kilts. Do you mind telling me what's worn under your kilt?'
'Nothing is worn under the kilt Madam; everything is in good working order', answered the Scot smiling.

A Scottish prayer - "Oh Lord, we do not ask you to give us wealth. But show us where it is!"

Angus called in to see his friend Donald to find he was stripping the wallpaper from the walls. Rather obviously, he remarked "You're decorating, I see" to which Donald replied "Naw. I'm moving house."

We need NEW Members!

If you know of any Forsyths who are not members, please ask them to make contact with us so we can welcome them into the Sydney Branch:

clanforythaustralia@hotmail.com

Also post or email your articles, photos and anecdotes for inclusion in future Clan Newsletters.

Another option for contributions: the Newsletter Editor's email address:

cwlee@optusnet.com.au

We are also looking for someone to become Clan Secretary.

Please email us if you are interested.