

## DENNES COLLECTION

Gordon Dennes was born on 10<sup>th</sup> June 1892 at Wingham, the sixth son of Francis John Dennes and his wife Christina McDermid who had married at Mount Pleasant on 14<sup>th</sup> July 1877. Francis Dennes was a sawmill proprietor and undertaker in Wingham. Gordon Dennes attended Wingham Superior Public School commencing in 1900. His report card for second class in 1901 has survived<sup>1</sup>. In 1906 he received a certificate having passed the Presbyterian Church's examination in Catechism. In 1910 Dennes passed the Junior Public Examination conducted by the University of Sydney.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1911 he was accepted into the New South Wales Public Service, Posts & Telegraphs Branch as a mail boy.<sup>2</sup> In 1913 he was a postal assistant at the Wingham Post Office. The following year he was a clerk in the Customs Department in Sydney. He transferred to the Quarantine Department in 1920 and was posted as clerk to the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Townsville four years later.

In 1932 he married Isabella Sinclair and was transferred back to Sydney to the School of Public Health and Tropical Diseases at Sydney University where he was employed as secretary. Isabella Dennes died at Marrickville in August 1947 and was buried in the Presbyterian Section of Rookwood Cemetery. Four years later Dennes re-married in Grafton to Elizabeth Anderson.



**Woodside House, Manning River 1937**

SAG Manuscript and Image Collection 5/001903

On his retirement Dennes took his collection of historical documents, maps, photographs and papers to his home at 73 Livingstone Rd, Petersham. His field of historical interest was the Scottish settlers of the Manning and Clarence River catchments. His research commenced in the 1920s and was published in the Wingham Chronicle of which he was editor at the time. In 1934 Dennes had adopted the nom de plume of 'Braemar' and published items of interest in papers on the north coast. He compiled biographies of Manning River shipbuilders and wrote to the Society for assistance. In March 1935 he worked on biographies of pioneers of the Manning River and asked for research to be undertaken in the 1828 Census. Dennes published articles in the Northern Champion 1954 – 1958, Hastings Shire Gazette 1970, Wingham Chronicle 1971, Bellinger Courier Sun 1971.

The year following his retirement Dennes and his wife Elizabeth left for an extended tour of Europe aboard the S.S. Himalaya. In May 1959 he visited Wingham in Kent. Dennes returned to his home, 73 Livingstone Rd Petersham, and was still living there in 1974.

Gordon Dennes died on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1976 at the age of 83 years and was buried in the Presbyterian section of Rookwood Cemetery.<sup>3</sup> A memorial lecture was held in his honour at Wingham. He left no children and was the last remaining member of his family. His wife Elizabeth donated his research files to the Society of Australian Genealogy in 1976. Associated photographs and documents were also donated to the Mitchell Library.

### **Value as a research tool**

The Dennes Records collection brings together a variety of sources relating to the Scottish settlers of the Manning and Clarence River areas. If you have Scottish ancestors who lived in this region, it would be very worthwhile to search the Dennes Record collection for any biographical information on family members.

### **Guide to using the dennes collection**

The Dennes collection held at the Society consists of 1489 files of newspaper cuttings, hand written note, transcripts of headstones and birth death and marriage notices. The files have been arranged in alphabetical order according to family name.

#### **Series 4**

##### **04/001627 DOUGLASS**

Handwritten historical notes, copy of announcement of son's birth, 4th generation, descendant of man aged 100 living at Windsor NSW - SMH 1856

##### **04/001639 DE LISLE**

Colonel de Lisle: correspondence of G. Dennes with Secretary to Governor General.

##### **04/002041 NORTHERN RIVERS**

Northern Rivers Pioneers NSW by G Dennes; 13 Obituaries and other notices 1855-1878, taken from various sources.

##### **04/002093 MANING RIVER**

Articles by Gordon Dennes, 1954 - 1958 concerning Manning River area.

##### **04/002945 MANNING RIVER PIONEERS**

Notes on Manning River Pioneers (G. Dennes).

#### **Series 5**

##### **05/001895 DENNES FAMILY**

3 snapshot photographs of gravestones for Francis John Dennes died 1941, Archie Duncan Dennes died 1960 and Christine Dennes died 1928 at Yaypo Cemetery, taken 8 May 1972.

##### **05/001896 DENNES, Ethel**

Memorial card for Ethel Dennes died 28 Apr 1898, printed by Australian Memorial Card Co, Sydney.

##### **05/001897 MCDERMID, Archibald**

Memorial card for Archibald McDermid died 1894.

##### **05/001898 KIRK FAMILY**



Copies of photographs of Daniel and Catherine Kirk of Grafton, 1866, with information on reverse.

**05/001899 SHEARER FAMILY**

Copies of 2 photographs of William Geddes Shearer and Isabella Shearer, nee Kirk, 1908.

**05/001900 GEDDES, Christina**

Two snapshot photographs of the grave of Christina Geddes nee Manson, died 1859, at Gilwarra cemetery.

**05/001901 MACLEAN, NSW**

Photograph of the Clarence River from Maclean, NSW, with Ashby and Morningside properties marked.

**05/001902 STUART, Samuel Pentleton**

Mounted photograph of Rev Samuel Pentleton Stuart taken in Edinburgh 1908.

**05/001903 WOODSIDE, Manning River**

2 snapshot photographs of Woodside House, Manning River NSW and the boiler used in the sugar mill at Woodside, July 1937.

**05/001904 BRUHN, George Herman**

Copy of a photograph of Dr George Herman Bruhn, 1810-1889, geologist. Also negative which is crazed.

**05/001905 CLERKNESS, BUNDARRA**

Copy of photograph of Clerkness, Bundarra 1971.

**05/001906 PARKER, Anne Mary**

Two copies of a photograph of Anne Mary Parker 1805-1880 with her son Richard John Parker born 1846.

**05/003565 McINTOSH, Henry Brewster**

Photograph of Henry Brewster McIntosh, teacher at first school at Tinonee, later Town Clerk of Balmain.

**05/003637 McLEOD, Alexander**

Photograph of the grave of Alexander McLeod died 1925, Port Macquarie. Inscription legible.

**05/003641 McINNES, Duncan**

Photograph of tombstone of Rev Duncan McInnes, Presbyterian Cemetery, Maclean.

**Series 6**

**06/000351 DENNES, John**

Sydney University Prize Medal for physiology won by William John Dennes 1895.

**Series 13**

**13/001899 DENNES**

Obituary of Francis John Dennes in Wingham Chronicle, 1941

**13/003931 THOMPSON**

Marriage of Mervyn John Thompson & Daphne Joyce Dennes in Northern Champion, 1946.



## Series 17

### **17/000001** MANNING RIVER DISTRICT

Notes, obituaries, newspaper notices and articles of various people in Manning River District - surnames beginning with A. Dennes Records (12pp).

### **17/000043** BALFOUR, Roderick

Correspondence 1970 between Roderick Balfour and Gordon Dennes re Scottish migrants.

### **17/000111** BOARD, William Wilmet

Transcription by E Dennes of the Diary of William Wilmet Board born 1822 Exeter DEV. William Wilmet Board married Margaret Cameron (b1824), and died Rydalmere 26 Aug 1903. Diary date range 1843 - 1853. See also p 36 of 17/112 for biographical details. Index p178-188. Location of original diary in NLA and fully digitised.

### **17/000342** DEAN, Horace

Notes, research correspondence, newspaper articles & obituaries of Dr Horace Dean 1811-1887 and related families.

### **17/000352** DENNES FAMILY

Notes, newspaper articles and obituaries for the Dennes and related families.

### **17/000353** DENNES, Archie Duncan

Obituaries and death notices for Archie Duncan Dennes 1895-1960.

### **17/000354** DENNES, Arthur Manning

Notes and obituaries on for Arthur Manning Dennes 1886-1958.

### **17/000355** DENNES, Cecil

Obituaries and notes for Cecil Duncan Dennes 1887-1951.

### **17/000356** DENNES, Charles Frederick

Obituary for Charles Frederick Dennes died 1932 with brief notes.

### **17/000357** DENNES, Christina

Notes on Christina Dennes nee McDerimid died Oct 1928.

### **17/000358** DENNES, Florence Ethel

Obituary for Florence Ethel Dennes died 1940.

### **17/000359** DENNES, Francis

Notes on Francis Dennes 1816-1882 and family.

### **17/000360** DENNES, Francis John

Notes, Will and articles on Francis John Dennes 1851-1941 and family.

### **17/000361** DENNES, Frank Lyle

Engagement, wedding and death notices for the family of Frank's of Seaforth.

### **17/000362** DENNES, Gordon

Newspaper articles and school certificates awarded to Gordon Dennes died 1976.



**17/000363 DENNES, Victor Oswald Neville**

Notes and obituaries for Victor Oswald Neville Dennes born 1897 family.

**17/000364 DENNES, William Henry**

Notes on William Henry Dennes 1849-1920 and family.

**17/000365 DENNES, William John**

Biographical notes and obituaries for William John Dennes died 1949.

**17/000366 DENNES FAMILY**

Research notes for the Dennes, Chapman, Cann and related families, Manning River area NSW.

**17/000655 JOHNSTON, Clayton**

Correspondence between Clayton Johnston of Muswellbrook and Gordon Dennes concerning family research 1962-1963.

**17/001101 PARKER FAMILY**

Article by Gordon Dennes on Kenneth Stirling Parker died 1972, pioneer of Manning River area NSW.

**17/001266 SMITH FAMILY**

Notes, obituaries and newspaper articles for the Smith and related families of the Manning River area NSW.

**17/001481 DORRIGO**

Articles written by Gordon Dennes on reminiscences of Dorrigo Plateau NSW.

**17/001482 MANNING RIVER EDUCATION 1850-1864**

Articles written by Gordon Dennes on education on the Manning River 1850-1864.

**17/001485 MANNING RIVER NSW**

Series of articles in The Wingham Chronicle 1971 written by Gordon Dennes titled Journey to the Manning River, based on memoirs of E Muller 1877, (6pages).

**17/001486 MANNING VALLEY**

Copies of articles by Gordon Dennes on naming of places in the Manning River area NSW.

**17/001487 REDBANK**

Centenary history of Pampoolah School, formerly Redbank, Manning River NSW by Gordon Dennes 1952. (19 pages).

**IN THE LIBRARY**

These pamphlets are all available in the SAG library collection:

- A Centenary of Shipbuilding on the Manning River 1834 – 1934 pub 1952
- The Centenary of the First National School on the Manning River pub 1952
- Education on the Manning River pub 1952
- The family of Gordon MacDermid and Mary nee Stewart
- Taree Church of England, Redbank and Dingo Creek Presbyterian Denominational Schools pub 1952

Dennes also published articles under the nom de plume of *Braemar* between 1934 and 1948.



<sup>1</sup> SAG Primary Records Gordon Dennes file 17/362

<sup>2</sup> Commonwealth Public Service lists

<sup>3</sup> Section 5F grave 1096

