

# TIMELINES

The Quarterly Newsletter of Murwillumbah Historical Society Inc.

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## Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of *Timelines*, the newsletter of Murwillumbah Historical Society.

**This quarter**, Henry James writes about the Small-leaved Tamarind - its striking-looking fruit crowns the coat of arms of the Shire. While not exactly a tale of hubris, it is salutary to read the words of a professional botanist examining specimens of its flowers collected by amateur botanists: 'It must be new I think, and yet it seems so strange that such a notable tree, and one well known to the settlers, should have escaped the notice of (professional) botanical collectors. It is certainly a handsome tree, makes a dense shade, is very heavily foliated with dark glossy green leaves and is an ornament to any garden.'

**In the last issue** Greg Fox gave us a wonderful whodunit when scandalous evidence saved Noel Westwood from the noose. In this edition we examine a 1918 crime that was described as 'the most sensational happening in the history of our town'. The headline: 'The Chinderah Murder. How Charles Crompton Died. Young Found Guilty and Sentenced to Death'. Yet he, too, escaped the noose. Read all about it.

**Our third article** features Louie Smart, the first woman to ride a motorbike on the Tweed in 1916. There are a couple of smashing photos of her on an Indian motorcycle. Perhaps you can help us by explain why the motorcycles have different number plates.

Enjoy!

The Society is inviting you to a talk on  
**South Sea Islander history and heritage**

On Friday, 20th September 2024, 10:00 a.m.

At the Murwillumbah Services Memorial Club

Details on the back page!



## WE WANT TO COPY YOUR OLD PHOTOS!

If you have come into possession of any old family or historic photos, please lend them to us to copy! Please contact the museum on (02) 6670 2493 by email at [trm@tweed.nsw.gov.au](mailto:trm@tweed.nsw.gov.au)

## The Small-leaved Tamarind

Henry James has written an article for this edition on another unique tree found in the Tweed Valley.

The Small-leaved Tamarind is a rainforest tree that is literally emblematic of the Tweed. Its striking-looking fruit crowns the coat of arms of the Shire. And its scientific name – *Diploglottis campbellii* – acknowledges the work of a local amateur botanist.



As with the Durobby tree (see the last issue of *Timelines*), Tweed is at the centre of a limited distribution of the Tamarind. It grows in rainforests from Alstonville to Mudgeeraba Creek, with an outlier population near Beenleigh. It is less well-known than the Durobby, probably because of its relative rarity. According to estimates made in the early 2000s, mature wild trees occur at only 25 sites, 20 of which are in NSW. In 2004 the total population was estimated to be 106 mature trees (plus immature trees, saplings, seedlings and garden plantings). It is formally classified as an endangered species.

Botanists were especially slow to recognise the species. The first recorded collection of a specimen was made at Tintenbar in 1892 by renowned field botanist William Baeuerlen. However, he completely misidentified it, deciding it was a tree that had been named *Amoora nitidula* in the 1860s,

and that belonged to a completely different family of plants. (That tree is now called *Anthocarapa nitidula* – Incense Cedar.)

It was an amateur Tweed botanist who collected specimens that were to result in the Tamarind's formal classification. In 1904 and again in 1918, a Robert Alexander Campbell sent specimens to the state herbaria in Sydney and Brisbane. These specimens and correspondence between the



Above: The fruit of the Small-leaved Tamarind.

Source: Hugh Nicholson.

Left: The Tweed Shire coat of arms, with the fruit of the Small-leaved Tamarind at its crown.

Source: Tweed Shire Council.

Sydney and Brisbane herbaria led to a formal description of the plant by a taxonomist at the Sydney herbarium called Edwin Cheel in 1923 – in the *Proceedings of the Linnaean Society of NSW* – and a proposal for a scientific name that still stands today – *Diploglottis campbellii*. Cheel's choice of name honours Campbell's realisation that the plant was something different and needed further study.

Campbell lived in Murwillumbah at least as early as 1902 when his name appears on the electoral roll. The roll records him as still present in Murwillumbah in 1915. By 1919 his name appears as lessee of a portion of crown land at Piggabeen. In 1920 he leased two more portions in the same area. In 1921 he appears in the electoral roll with an address at Piggabeen. It seems he did not hold the leases for very long. The first-acquired portion became part of a selection made by his brother Norman. Leases of the latter two were taken over by others and



*Edwin Cheel. Hard-working field botanist. Chief botanist of NSW 1933-36. Frequent visitor to the Tweed. The man who put the present-day scientific name to the Small-leaved Tamarind.*

*Source: Australian National Herbarium.*

eventually about half was taken over by the Commonwealth and became part of the airport precinct. By the early 1960s the lease on the other half was not renewed. Campbell died in 1928. The notice of his death in the *Tweed Daily* said he 'was 62 years of age and had resided on the Tweed for about 40 years, during the major portion of that time following his trade of carpenter'. *The Australian Town and Country Journal* reported that

Campbell won a prize at the 1900 Murwillumbah Show for his exhibition of "a collection of district timbers". It seems he was the sort of carpenter that had a special interest in the exotic new timbers that settler tradesmen had to work with.

Campbell sent many tens of plant specimens to herbaria between about 1900 and 1924, mainly to the Sydney Herbarium, but also Brisbane and Melbourne. Most were submitted while he was in Murwillumbah and were mainly rainforest species. In the early 1920s, J. H. Maiden - the then chief botanist at the Sydney herbarium - mentioned that he was aware of specimens of Durobby collected by Campbell, but unlike the Small-leaved Tamarind, they do not appear in the herbarium records.

Edwin Cheel collected large numbers of plant specimens that are still held at state herbaria, especially the Sydney herbarium. He collected mainly in NSW and visited the Tweed at least as early as 1898. His last official recorded collection in the Tweed was in 1932. He was chief botanist of NSW from 1933 until he retired in 1936. I like to imagine that he sought out Campbell to guide him on his field trips in the Tweed.

The late recognition of Small-leaved Tamarind by professional botanists is all the more striking because some Brisbane gardeners chose to plant it

quite early. By the time botanists in Brisbane and Sydney were starting to take notice in the 1910s, it had been growing in gardens at Spring Hill and Toowong for long enough that the trees were setting fruit. The owners had taken samples to the Brisbane herbarium, whose botanists were unable to identify it. Until they happened to examine samples from Campbell and others collected from trees growing in 'scrub' at Mudgeeraba that had been waiting their attention for some while, they assumed the Brisbane garden specimens were a South East Asian species. When they collected flowers from wild trees at Mudgeeraba some time later, it all rapidly fell into place. In the words of C. T. White, the chief Queensland botanist at the time: 'It must be new I think, and yet it seems so strange that such a notable tree, and one well known to the settlers, should have escaped the notice of (professional) botanical collectors. It is certainly a handsome tree, makes a dense shade, is very heavily foliaged with dark glossy green leaves and is an ornament to any garden.'



*A Small-leaved Tamarind planted by the shore of Cudgen Creek at South Kingscliff. It has grown rapidly since planting about 15 years ago.*

*Source: Author supplied.*

## 'The most sensational happening in our town...'

*From the editor – 'true crime' appearing to be the obsession of the present time.*

About 9:30 am on Monday, 1 April 1918, Charles Crompton's body was recovered from the Tweed River. His body had been weighed down with cable, chain, and a stone. The autopsy conducted at Wulff's Hotel at Chinderah found that he had been shot three times. In the words of the *Tweed Daily* the following day: 'The sensational rumours current in town yesterday, crystallised today into the most sensational happening in the history of our town'.

What follows is a story of covetousness, violence, fatal chance, and fear and desperation. It ends with decisions made by courts, the state, and prison authorities, with the reasoning for some obscured by the fog of time.

### Charlie Crompton goes missing

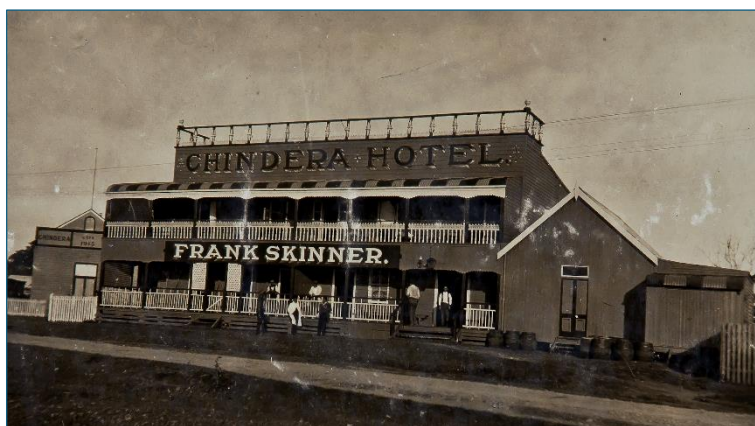
Charles William (Charlie) Crompton was a motor car proprietor working from Murwillumbah. On Wednesday, 27 March, a caller rang to ask Steve Skinner, another motor car owner, to take a group of girls from Sexton's Hill, between Chinderah and Tweed Heads, to a dance at Dunbible. Steve Skinner had a prior engagement, so Crompton was asked to do the trip in his stead. He drove from Murwillumbah to Chinderah, crossed the Tweed River on the ferry, and headed to the rendezvous. Arriving, he found there was no one there. He did, however, meet up with a man named Roland Young, who had been working for the Wizard Lighting Company in Murwillumbah. He and Young crossed back to Chinderah. Crompton headed off to the post office to call Murwillumbah and find out more about the job, to no avail. Having finished his call, he ran into another driver, William Law, who had just brought a

party to the dance being held that night at Chinderah. Law suggested he stay for the dance, but Crompton, annoyed, perhaps even angered, by the 'wild goose chase', said he was driving back to Murwillumbah, getting a 'feed at the Greek's', and finishing for the night. The last eyewitness report of Crompton, tendered by the ferryman Charles Garner, was hearing him answer, when asked if he was going across the river, "No I'm not going over". A short while later, about 9:30 pm, Garner heard a car leaving Chinderah, headed towards Murwillumbah.

Crompton's absence from Murwillumbah the following day was not a matter of concern, as he was in the habit of driving up to Brisbane without notice. Fears for his well-being only arose on Saturday, 30 March, when the police received a report that a car had been found 'capsized' on the Condong Range road. The car was identified as Crompton's. When the police examined the car on the following day, Easter Sunday, 31 March 1918, bloodstains were found on the cushions and mats. A search commenced, culminating in the discovery by William Wesley, a labourer, of Crompton's body about fifty to sixty feet from the river bank below Chinderah. Police also established that when last seen Crompton had been in the company of Young, who had since left for Brisbane. The police in Brisbane were asked to find him.

### Roland Young's story

Roland Percival Young provided three statements about the events of the evening and morning of Wednesday, 27 and Thursday, 28 March. One was given to the police in Brisbane, the second to the Murwillumbah police. The third was his 'statement from the dock' during his subsequent trial for murder. At the heart of each was that Crompton drew a revolver during an



*Chinderah Hotel, under the sign of Frank Skinner. He took over the licence in 1921. At the time of Charles Crompton's death in 1918, the licensee was Frank W Wulff. On the left, behind the Hotel, is the hall at which a dance was being held, which Crompton decided not to attend.*

*Source: Noel Butlin Archives Centre, Australian National University.*

argument over a previous fare that he considered Young not to have paid. Young grabbed Crompton's left hand holding the revolver, which went off 'in the ensuing struggle'. In Young's words as reported by the *Tweed Daily*: 'He got limp and his head fell forward. I remember no more.'

**STEAM PASSENGER SERVICE.**

**MURWILLUMBAH DEPARTURES.**

S.S. BOOYONG, daily (Sundays excepted), 7.30 a.m.

S.S. EMMA PYERS, daily (connecting with train), 11.30 a.m.

**TWEED HEADS DEPARTURES.**

S.S. EMMA PYERS, daily (Sundays excepted), 7 a.m.

S.S. BOOYONG, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 2.30 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday (connecting with trains) 12.5 p.m.

The S.S. MIBBIN will leave Tweed Heads at 9 a.m. daily, Sunday excepted, returning from Murwillumbah at 2.30 p.m.

**SUNDAY SERVICE.**

Murwillumbah, depart 9 a.m. Tweed Heads, depart 4 p.m. Sunday fares 2/6 return.

General Cargo and Farm Produce at Moderate Rates, carried daily.

Motor Launch THELMA, stationed at Murwillumbah—This fast and commodious Launch is available for Private Hire, Terms on application to—

**SKINNER, LOWES & CO.,**  
Proprietors

**Char a Banc meets all trains from and to Tweed Heads.**

*The Skinner, Lowes and Company Steam Passenger Service timetable published in the Tweed Daily on Wednesday, 27 March 1918. Roland Young's journey commenced S.S. Mibbin leaving Murwillumbah at 2:30 pm on its return trip to Tweed Heads.*

*Source: Tweed Daily, 27 March 1918, page 4.*

Young's journey on 27 March began when he caught the ferry from Murwillumbah at 2:30 pm, arriving at Chinderah two hours later. About five o'clock he rang Skinner's Hotel at Murwillumbah and booked a car to be at Chinderah at 6:00 pm.

Later he said that he had left a watch at a jeweller's and other possessions at his lodging which he wanted to collect. He had tea at Wulff's Hotel at Chinderah and at '[a]bout 7.5 [sic] [he] was rowed across the river by another man'. He was half way up Sexton's Hill when Crompton passed him, and he met him at the top of the hill. Crompton told him that he had to take a party of seven girls to Dunbible, and that 'someone had rung up Skinner's for a car, and he was waiting to go back to Murwillumbah'. Young joined him and together they crossed the river and returned to the Chinderah Hotel. They had a drink. Then Crompton went off to the post office to call Murwillumbah, and Young went to Wilson's fruit shop. Later, strolling up the road, Young saw Crompton at the ferry approach. He asked him how he had got on. He also volunteered that he had rung Skinner's for a car, but 'had said nothing about a party of girls or Dunbible'. At this point Crompton offered to take him to Murwillumbah, saying: "Come up with me, as the road is lonely". Young settled his accounts with Wulff, then joined Crompton at the ferry approach.

They set off, and about one and a half or two miles up the road the argument over the old fare began. Crompton said he was owed 10/- (ten shillings) and that he had bought a tyre that morning for £10 (ten pounds). Young replied saying he had already paid Skinner's, at which point Crompton threatened him: "If you don't pay you won't get out of this car alive." He drew a revolver and Young, frightened and thinking he was going to be shot, grabbed hold of the revolver. In the struggle the gun went off. To the Brisbane police, Young said that there were two shots fired, and maybe there were more. He was quoted as saying, "I lost my block." At his trial he stated that he did 'not remember anything after the second shot'. When he 'recollected' his senses, he was back at Chinderah. He drove the car off the road to the right, into some shrubs (on the side of the road away from the river). He took Crompton's body out of the car, laid it on the grass, and then went to get some weights. He took a punt at the ferry and after crossing the river, got wire rope, a stone, and a bit of chain. Returning, he fastened these to the body, which he let over in midstream. Following this he returned to the hotel, changed his clothes, and laid down on his bed. After some time ('how long I don't know'), he collected his suit case and hamper (portmanteau), got in the car, and

drove towards Murwillumbah, 'still in a dream, like'. It was now early Thursday morning, 28 March 1918. He did not remember turning onto the Condong (Range) road but remembered the 'spill'. Thrown out of the car, the accident 'took [his] senses away once again'. He recollected 'seeing a dark chap [David Santo] and another one, a European [Roy James Fitzgerald]'. He was down a gully and returned with the two men to the car. There he removed the number plate and asked Santo to cover the car to keep the sun off it, giving him 3/- and an old umbrella from the car for his efforts. Returning to Condong, he caught the 11:30 am boat to Chinderah, collected his own umbrella from the hotel, and then went on to Tweed Heads where he caught the afternoon train to Brisbane. At some point, as recorded in the police statements, Young said that he threw the revolver that he said belonged to Crompton into the river.

### Arrest and inquest

Young was arrested and charged with murder at Brisbane on Monday, 1 April. On Tuesday he appeared before the Brisbane Central Police Court and was remanded until the following Thursday, 4 April. In the interim he gave his first statement to the Queensland police, which was tendered to the Court on the Thursday. He was then remanded to Murwillumbah at the request of Murwillumbah Constable John Fogarty from New South Wales.



*Roland Percival Young. This image accompanied the Brisbane Truth's Sunday article.*

*Source: Truth, 7 April 1918, page 5.*

**The Tweed Tragedy.**

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**Was the Motorman Murdered?**

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**Defendant's Statement to the Demons:**

**"I THOUGHT HE WAS GOING TO SHOOT ME."**

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**Interesting Story of the Incident.**

*The Brisbane Truth headline on Sunday, 7 April 1918 – before the inquest, but after Roland Percival Young's appearances before Brisbane courts. ('Demons' was a slang term for detectives.)*

*Source: Truth, 7 April 1918, page 5.*

The Brisbane *Truth* of Sunday, 7 April, reported these court hearings and, relying on 'special inquiries' made by its representative, pre-empted much of the evidence that would be put before the inquest in Murwillumbah. Its headline, however, gave weight to Young's statement to police. The fact

that he had been charged with murder was only mentioned once in the article.

Young arrived in Murwillumbah at about 4:30 pm on Friday, 5 April. Handcuffed and manacled, he travelled from Tweed Heads by the Skinner, Lowes and Company's char-a-banc (a motor coach). He 'smiled as he left the lorry, and was greeted in return by a demonstration of hooting from the crowd, which remained outside the gates of the station for a considerable time after the arrested man had been taken in'. On Saturday he appeared before the local Police Court to once again be remanded.

The inquest was held before the Coroner, H F W Fletcher on 8 April 1918. He found that Young had shot and murdered Crompton and committed him to stand trial at Lismore on 3 October 1918. This date (for unknown reasons) was subsequently advanced to Wednesday, 1 May, and the venue to the Supreme Court at Grafton.

Other than Young's reception in Murwillumbah, there is little to be found in the published record about the effect of Crompton's death in the wider community. One snippet does appear in an article published in the *Brisbane Courier* on 20 April 1918 titled 'By Road and River'. The pastoral tone of the author, M. Gore-Jones is only interrupted once when the Tweed River steamer reaches Chinderah: 'This small township had recently gained an unpleasant notoriety through a murder having been committed in its immediate vicinity. The air seemed heavy with tragedy, and every breeze to murmur the horrible happening; the passengers discussed it in detail, and the very cattle grazing by the wayside wore a portentous air, as if they, too, could a tale unfold. It was a relief to turn to the clean, sweet spaces of the river reaches and soak in all the beauty of their blue and green and gold.'

### **The trial**

Justice Richard Meares Sly presided over Young's trial, held on Wednesday and Thursday, 1 and 2 May 1918. Wyndham Davies was the Crown Prosecutor, instructed by J Gonsalves, of the Crown Law Office; Young was represented by James Young (no relation), instructed by George Clifton Halliday, of Murwillumbah. (When James Young died in 1930, he was remembered as the "Stormy Petrel" because '[h]is advocacy was of an intensely robust style which often brought him into sharp conflict with presiding judges').

### **Prosecution**

The Prosecutor argued that Young had planned to steal a car and intended to kill the person who owned it. In the first instance this had been Steve Skinner, who had recently purchased a new Buick. To this end he sought to lure him to Sexton's Hill where he would commit his crime. When Crompton showed up he changed his plan. 'His intention originally was to tackle Skinner, who was a much smaller man, in fact a youth and a much easier man to handle than the deceased.' He told Crompton that he had left a watch at a Murwillumbah jeweller's which he needed to pick up before he left for Brisbane, so that he could join Crompton on the return trip to Murwillumbah. He shot him, but then realised that he could not leave the district in the stolen car, so he proceeded to cover his tracks. The evidence of the Government Medical Officer, Joseph Albert Goldsmid, was that any one of the

three bullet wounds suffered by Crompton on the left side of his head 'would have been enough to make a man collapse'. The bullet that was recovered from the body was one that would, before firing, have fitted the revolver found by the police in Young's belongings in Brisbane. Harry Bede Ward, the son of the people with whom Young lodged for nine months, and also his workmate, stated that Young had talked about buying a revolver at the beginning of 1918. He had seen a revolver on the dresser he shared with Young, which Young had taken away when asked. Young also 'used to talk of motor cars, and he said if he had the money he would have one to-morrow'. William Law and Crompton's brother, Robert, testified that Crompton was right-handed.

The Prosecutor emphasised that if the death had occurred as a result of the argument and the actions of Crompton as related by Young, all he had to do was go to the police in Cudgen and explain the circumstances. The Prosecutor's contention (as it appeared in the *Tweed Daily*) was that '[i]f the shooting had been an accident they [the jury] would have expected the accused to have gone to the police, explained the circumstances and handed over the revolver, which he said was the deceased's, and the position would have been a simple one.' He had not done this. His disposal of the body and the hiding of the car were proof of his guilt. 'The Prosecutor concluded his case: 'The accused himself summed up the whole position in his own statement to Detective[-Sergeant] Donnelly [from Brisbane], when he said, "I shot him and threw his body into the river." There is only one inference to be drawn, it was a deliberate murder, contemplated and committed by the accused.'

### **Defence**

For his part, Young's lawyer told the jury that if they had the slightest doubt about the case as presented by the prosecution, they should acquit. To this end, he challenged various elements of the evidence. Steve Skinner, while knowing Roland Young, did not recognise the voice of the person calling to ask for a car to go to Sexton's Hill. Charles Garner and Law both stated that Crompton was annoyed, and in the words of the latter, even angry about the 'wild goose chase', about having been 'humbugged about' for two hours. He put to Frederick Pearce, who at 1:30 am on the Thursday morning saw a Dodge car

heading towards Chinderah, that he was 'trying to persuade [him]self') of this by his knowledge that this was the type of car recovered by the police. Pearce denied this, saying he could tell Dodge lights from those of other makes. George Tranter, who had seen the motor car on the Condong Road at 5:30 am on the Thursday, described Roland Young as 'sitting behind the steering wheel with his feet on the wheel ... [b]oth of accused's feet were over the wheel, and one hand was on the hood. It was broad daylight, and both headlights were burning'. (This echoed the Tweed Daily's first report on Tuesday, 2 April 1918: 'It is confidently asserted in medical as well as other quarters that the murderer must have been temporarily insane to conceive and put into effect such shocking crime, and there can be little doubt as to the correctness of this assertion.') James Young also challenged the statements given to police. He claimed the statement of Donnelly was inadmissible as no caution had been issued, but '[a]fter some argument His Honor permitted Mr. Young to question the witness as to any caution having been administered.' Donnelly dealt with this challenge by stating: 'It is not the usual thing in Queensland for a senior officer to warn a person before interrogating him.' He also admitted he had refreshed his memory of his deposition 'admitt[ing] that he had read it about half a dozen times, the last occasion being that morning before the Court'. The lawyer also had Donnelly reiterate that he 'could not, under any circumstances, swear whether the revolver had or had not been recently used.' Sergeant Peter Sullivan from Murwillumbah was asked about Roland Young's second statement. He replied: 'The statement made by the accused was made freely and voluntarily. Accused did not put those words in the statement, I put them in. I thought it necessary, and suggested the words and put them down, and got the statement signed. The language throughout is the language of the accused, who gave it quite voluntarily.' Initially, Sullivan said he was the author of the questions Young answered, but he subsequently admitted two constables and a solicitor's clerk were present, and that a Constable Dickson had handed him a paper with one question on it. The defence team even play-acted the shooting to show that Young's version was what had occurred: 'The solicitor [Halliday] acted the part of the deceased *in re* the drawing of the revolver

from his right hand pocket and transferring it to his left hand, while counsel, acting the part of the accused, grasped the hand holding the weapon and, bending it back to Mr. Halliday's head, demonstrated that the shooting might have occurred in a way consistent with the accused's story.' Roland Young also presented to the jury photographs of himself before the accident that had disfigured him. Character witnesses were called. Robert L Edmonds, a traveller for the Wizard Light Company, and Young's sister's brother-in-law, described him as 'very quiet and inoffensive'. Frederick William Evans, another connection by marriage, stated that '[t]here was no need for accused to be short of money, as his mother had money, and would send him some if he had asked her'. He also gave Young's place of birth as Pitcairn Island, saying that he was 'the great great grandson of Sir Edward Young, a well-known man in England'. (It should be said that this ancestry was more wishful thinking than documented fact. The Edward Young in his ancestry was a *HMS Bounty* mutineer, both on his paternal and maternal lines. Of his sixteen great, great grandparents, four were mutineers, six were the Tahitian women who accompanied them to Pitcairn Island, one was a direct descendant of Fletcher Christian, and two unknown persons, the parents of John Buffet, a later arrival at Pitcairn Island. Along with Young, one of the Tahitian women and Christian's son were both paternal and maternal great, great grandparents.) The police confirmed Young's good character prior to Crompton's death. Fogarty gave evidence that Young was 'always a well-conducted, decent young fellow'. He had also ascertained that a fare paid by Young to Skinner, Lowes and Company for a January trip had not been passed on to Crompton, and that Young had left a watch in Murwillumbah for repairs, as well as some of his property at his former lodgings there. Sullivan stated that Young 'always mixed among a good class of people, and that his character was good.' (Sarah Grace Young, his mother, was a 'charter [member] of the Pitcairn Island S[eventh] D[ay] A[dventist] Church' in 1890. She arrived in Australia in 1912. In 1918 the Seventh Day Adventists had set up a 'Gospel Pavilion' near Broadway at Murwillumbah to deliver a series of 'Bible lectures'. The tent was lighted by a Wizard lighting plant. One of the 'Evangelists' was Benjamin Cormack, who



was mentioned in the evidence of Constable Fogarty. Cormack required Young to sign an authority to let him claim the watch left for repairs.) Even Garner said that '[The a]ccused was always well behaved.'

### The verdict and appeal

Justice Sly recapitulated the evidence and told the jury that it could return one of three verdicts – murder; manslaughter; or acquittal. He directed that

'the Crown had to prove their case beyond all reasonable doubt' and 'that if [the jury] thought that there was any reasonable hypothesis other than his guilt, accused must have the benefit of the doubt'. Before retiring to consider their verdict, the jury asked the judge to recall Dr Goldsmid.

They wanted to know 'whether the wounds on deceased's head were caused by a bullet, or in the manner suggested by Counsel for accused'. (What this suggestion was is not clear.) Goldsmid 'was prepared to swear that all the wounds on deceased's head were bullet wounds'. The jury then deliberated for two hours and twenty minutes, returning at 9:00 pm to declare Young guilty. Justice Sly

then sentenced him to death. (The Brisbane *Truth* reacted to this sentence as follows: 'That barbarous relic of the Mosaic law, the death sentence, was pronounced on Roland Percival Young at the Grafton Circuit Court'.)

The conviction was appealed on Thursday, 4 July 1918. The four grounds of appeal were: circumstantial evidence and there being a reasonable hypothesis consistent with Young's

innocence; that there was reasonable doubt as to Young's guilt and that the verdict was against the weight of the evidence; that Justice Sly had not pointed out the facts about a finding of manslaughter in his directions to the jury; and that 'the evidence of Steve Skinner relating to a transaction between the deceased Crompton and Skinner, Lowes and Coy.' should not have been admitted. Young's lawyer depended mainly on the

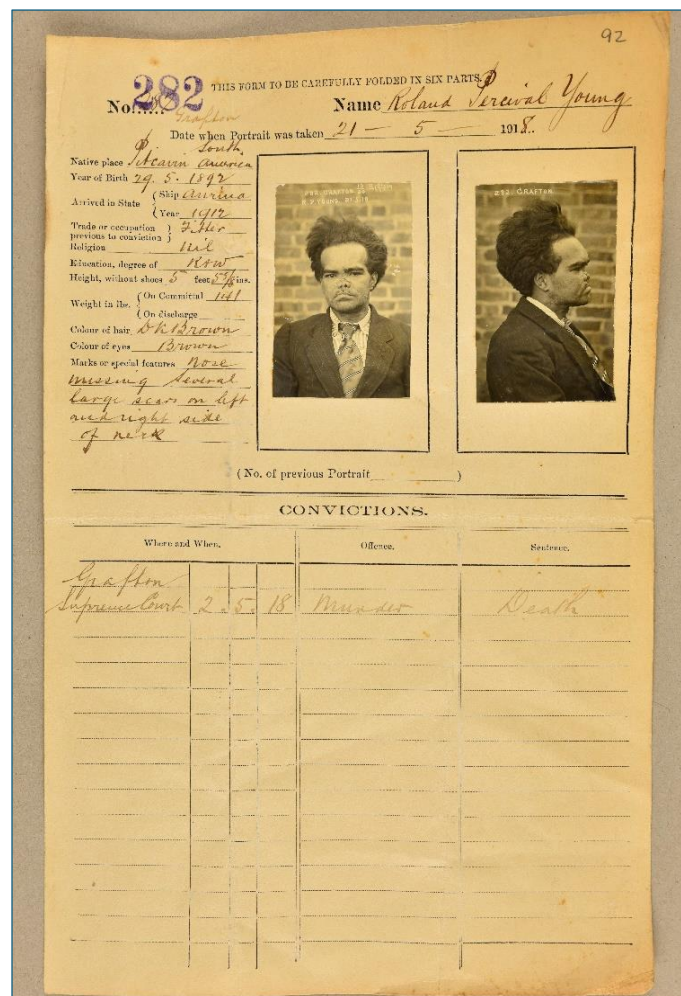
third ground, stressing that 'the revolver may have gone off in a struggle in the car'. The New South Wales Attorney General, appearing for the Crown, argued: 'The doctor's evidence of three distinct wounds rebutted any idea of the shooting occurring in a struggle. In such a case the first shot would have caused unconsciousness.' The Justices of the Criminal Appeal Court were of the opinion that the appeal should be dismissed, the Chief Justice saying that 'he did not think it any part of the judge's duty, in the present case, to do more than he did'. Justice Sly's directions to the jury were held to be correct.

### Commutation

Then in August, a notice appeared in the papers

that the New South Wales Cabinet had commuted the death sentence. Why this was done will remain shrouded in mystery (According to the Museums of History New South Wales: 'Unfortunately the Executive Council Minute Papers for this time period [1918] have not survived. Surviving Cabinet documents do not start until 1922.')

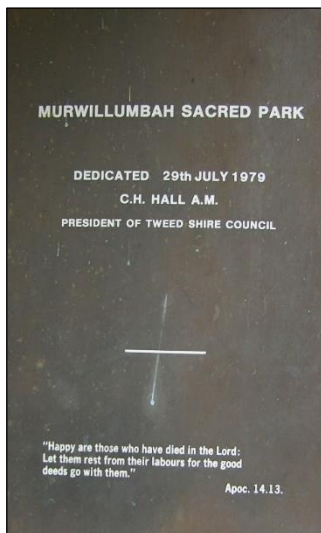
Young was taken from Grafton to serve his sentence at Goulburn gaol. But there was one



*Roland Percival Young. There are three copies of this page in the Gaoil Photographic Description Books held by New South Wales Archives. The photograph was taken on 21 May 1918 at Grafton, after Young's trial but before his appeal.*

Source: Museums of History, New South Wales, Series NRS 2258. Item 3/5994.

CRANG	Patrick Richard	27.2.1902	11 months
	William Henry	12.2.1898	3 days
CRAWFORD	David	29.1.1922	32 years
CREGAN	Allan Victor	17.12.1915	14 months
	Ethel	20.8.1926	36 years
	Michael	18.11.1919	58 years
CRIDGE	William Thomas	27.3.1923	55 years
CRIMMINS	Johanna	12.11.1930	31 years
CROMACK	Josephine	1.2.1920	60 years
CROMPTON	Bertha Alida	1.2.1911	20 years
	Charles William	27.3.1918	32 years
	Hubert Knight	11.4.1931	2 years
	Maud Eliza	12.5.1919	33 years
	Myra Edna	21.5.1927	9 years
CROSSE	Walter	28.7.1913	3 hours
CROSTHWAITE	Robert	10.12.1915	1 year
CUMMING	Alexander	27.9.1910	29 years
	Marjory Joan	26.3.1915	10 hours
CUMMINGS	Fanny Eliza	26.8.1907	43 years
CURRIE	William	27.12.1921	45 years



Charles William Crompton's memorial at the Murwillumbah Sacred Park.

Source: <http://www.ChapelHill.homeip.net> (Copyright 2006, Kerry Raymond and David Horton).

further turn in this case. Sometime before 1943 he was released from prison. Again, there appear to be no surviving records for this decision. He went to live with his sister in Victoria, as shown in the electoral rolls of the time. He died at this address in 1946. His cause of death was cachexia (or wasting) for three weeks due to tubercular enteritis

(abdominal tuberculosis) suffered for three years, caused by the pulmonary tuberculosis he had suffered for many years.

## Conclusion

Such was the fatal crossing of the paths of the son of settlers who had come from the South Coast to the Tweed to '[play] a part in the pioneering of the Tyalgum district' and a descendant of the Bounty mutineers. Crompton was buried in the old, Banner Street, Murwillumbah General Cemetery. Any memorial raised over his grave has long since disappeared as the cemetery has been completely razed, bulldozed by a Council taking advantage of legislation to clear away old cemeteries too expensive to maintain. His name, however, can still be read on the arch constructed for the Sacred Park – 'Crompton Charles William 27.3.1918 32 years'. Young lies in Box Hill Cemetery, Victoria, in a grave next to his mother. The names on the headstone can no longer be seen.



Roland (Rolland on his death certificate) Percival Young's grave in Box Hill Cemetery, Victoria. It's location on the Cemetery's website is OD-\*-0032, as is that of his mother Sarah.

Source: Find A Grave, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/123948578/rolland-percival-young>.

## The penultimate page ...

### 'Louie Smart - the first woman to ride a motorbike on the Tweed - 1916'

From the personal collection of Joan Cuthel, the Society's chief researcher.



These photos show Hannah Louisa (Louie) Smart sitting on an Indian motorcycle. A 1984 *Daily News* article with the photo of Louie in the white jacket states that in 1916 she bought the motorbike from Bob Johns. The photograph was taken by the Indian Motorcycle Company for publicity purposes, as 'it was rare for a woman to ride a motorbike'. Louie was a teacher at Dunbible, and on weekends rode the motorbike to Kiel Farm, her family's home.

The advertisement for the Indian motorcycle on the right was published on page three of the *Tweed Daily* on 23 June 1916. An associated article on page eight extended an invitation: 'Application for the agency of this machine is invited from all centres where not already represented.' Perhaps this is when Bob Johns began his business at Murwillumbah, and it may even have been that Louie was one of his first customers. What is



intriguing, however, is that the motorcycles pictured have different numberplates. Is this because two different machines are pictured or was it part of the registration process, with new plates issued annually?

Another undated newspaper article reports that Herb Moore purchased an Indian from Lil and Arthur Smart (Arthur being Louie's brother). This was Louie's old motorcycle. Is it still around? If you know anything, please drop us a line.

**The INDIAN Motorcycle**

Built by the Largest Motor Cycle makers in existence. It is the Motor Cycle of greatest comfort, because of the Indian (Patent) Spring Frame. The Motor Cycle of greatest strength and speed, because it holds all world's records for road racing, which proves its strength, because no other Motor Cycle can attain such speeds as the Indian for such marvellous distances without breaking down. The Motor Cycle of ample power (7 h.p.) for side-car and towing work.

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**Canada Cycle & Motor Agency (Q'land), Ltd**  
BRISBANE (Q.) and LISMORE (N.S.W.)

AGENTS WANTED WHERE NOT REPRESENTED

## An event!

### You're Invited!

Join the Murwillumbah Historical Society for a fascinating talk on

## South Sea Islander history and heritage

presented by Ms Felicia Cecil and Mr Geoffrey Togo

**When: Friday, 20th September 2024, 10:00 a.m.**

**Where: Murwillumbah Services Memorial Club, 10 Wollumbin St.,  
Murwillumbah**

Following the talk, enjoy lunch from a selected menu

To ensure your spot, please RSVP by 13th September 2024 to:

Betty Hamill (0458 793 223) or

[brianbettyhamill@gmail.com](mailto:brianbettyhamill@gmail.com)

Support local history.

## JOIN THE MURWILLUMBAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY TODAY!

Link to our Membership page: <https://www.murwillumbahhistoricalsociety.org.au/member.htm>

**ABOUT THE SOCIETY:** Formed on 16 March 1959, the Society's aim is to research, preserve and promote the rich and unique history of our town of Murwillumbah and its surrounds in the picturesque Tweed River Valley of far northern New South Wales. The Society operates out of our Research Centre in the Tweed Regional Museum's historic Murwillumbah facility. The Society is proudly supported by the Tweed Regional Museum, a community facility of Tweed Shire Council.

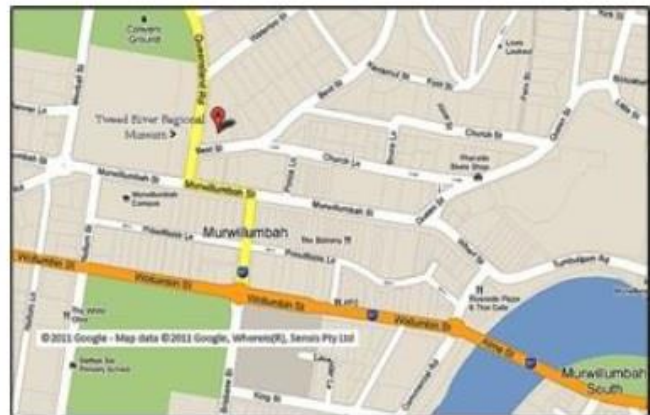
**CONTACT US: Phone:** (02) 6670 2273

**Web:** <http://www.murwillumbahhistoricalsociety.org.au/>

**FB:** <http://www.facebook.com/murwillumbahhistory>

**Email:** [editor@murwillumbahhistoricalsociety.org.au](mailto:editor@murwillumbahhistoricalsociety.org.au)

**Mail:** C/- Tweed Regional Museum, 2 Queensland Rd, Murwillumbah NSW 2484 or PO Box 373, Murwillumbah NSW 2484



**ABOUT THE MUSEUM:** The Tweed Regional Museum is a Tweed Shire Council community facility, established in 2004, with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Tweed Shire Council and the Murwillumbah, Tweed Heads and Uki and South Arm Historical Societies. It is one museum that operates across three branch locations; Murwillumbah, Tweed Heads and Uki, and in association with these three local Historical Societies. The three locations connect the Tweed Shire from the coast to the mountains, providing a unique journey into the history, people and places of the majestic Tweed Valley. For information about the Tweed Regional Museum please visit: <http://museum.tweed.nsw.gov.au/> or phone on (02) 6670 2493.

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To preserve maximum space for content, sources and references will not usually be listed. These are available from the Editor upon request.