



## Family Story of:

John Anderson Crowe and Annie Bevan



## **John Anderson CROWE and Annie BEVAN**

**John Anderson Crowe** was the fourth child of Northern Ireland immigrants John Crowe and Agnes (nee Anderson). John and Agnes, both natives of Belfast, Northern Ireland arrived in Australia per the ship "Briton" on 15 July 1844.

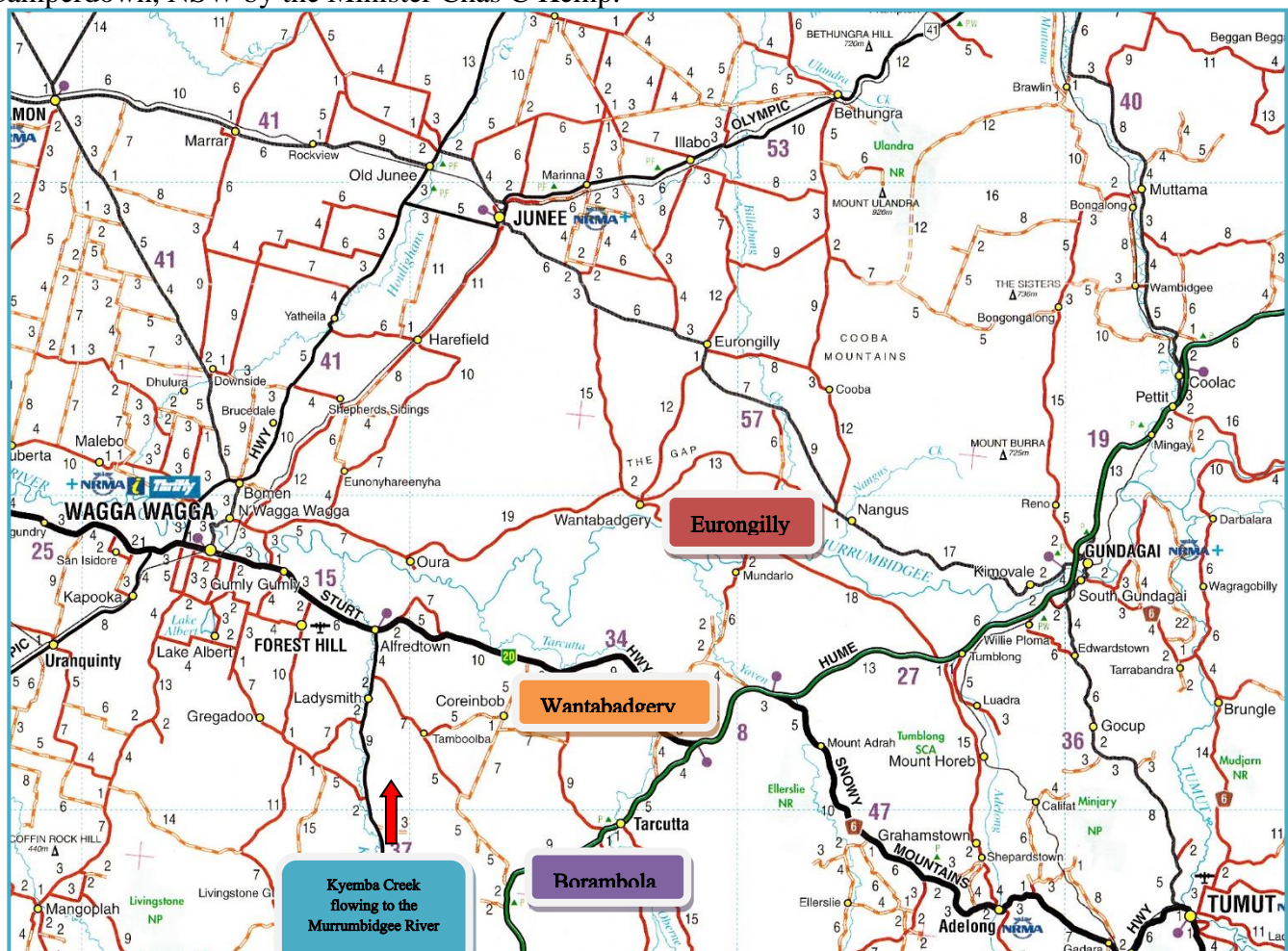
John and Agnes Crowe (parents of John Anderson Crowe) spent their early years in Australia in four basic areas before Agnes Crowe died at "Bundarbo" near Jugiong:

- ✓ ***Tanilba - in the Nelson Bay / Port Stephens region***
- ✓ ***Camperdown / Newtown, Sydney***
- ✓ ***Properties in the Tumut area***
- ✓ ***Properties along the Murrumbidgee River near Jugiong***

John Crowe (after the death of his wife Agnes) then became associated with:

- ✓ ***"Wantabadgery" further along the Murrumbidgee between Gundagai and Wagga***
- ✓ ***"Clarendon" Eurongilly (between Junee and Gundagai)***

**John Anderson Crowe** was born on 1 December 1849 in the Sydney suburb of Camperdown, NSW to John and Agnes Crowe and he was baptised on the 10 February 1850 in the Church of England Parish of Camperdown, NSW by the Minister Chas C Kemp.



John Crowe Jnr was only young when his parents John and Agnes relocated to the Tumut district and later moved to the Jugiong. After his mother's death, the areas of Eurongilly and Wantabadgery became associated with the life of John Anderson Crowe.

## John Anderson CROWE - Miner

The Grevilles 1872 Post Office Directory, lists John Crowe Snr and John Crowe Jnr as follows:

### Clarendon (later Eurongilly)

Page 117

Distance 276 miles South of Sydney

Mail arrives at Post Town Sunday, 8.30 a.m.

Mail arrives at Sydney Monday, 7.15 a.m.

Mail closes at General Post Office Friday, 4 p.m.

Mail leaves for Sydney Saturday, 3 p.m.

Route - Rail Goulburn, 148 m. Clarendon

SURNAME	CHRISTIAN	OCCUPATION	ADDRESS	POST TOWN
ALLAN	Chas.	boundary rider	Wantabadgery	Clarendon
BARRON	Edward	farmer	Clarendon	Clarendon
BARRON	William	farmer	Clarendon	Clarendon
BARTLETT	John	engineer	Clarendon	Clarendon
BEVAN	James	miner	Clarendon	Clarendon
BEVERIDGE	James	farmer	Tenandra	Clarendon
BEVERIDGE	John	overseer	Wantabadgery	Clarendon
BISHOP	Samuel	innkeeper	Clarendon	Clarendon
BURKE	Michael	farmer	Cuba Ck.	Clarendon
BURKE	Patrick	farmer	Clarendon	Clarendon
CLARK	William	farmer	Mitta Mitta Ck.	Clarendon
CLARKE	George	farmer	Mitta Mitta Ck.	Clarendon
COOMBS	Robert	farmer	Clarendon	Clarendon
<b>CROWE</b>	<b>John jun.</b>	<b><u>miner</u></b>	<b>Clarendon</b>	<b>Clarendon</b>
<b>CROWE</b>	<b>John sen.</b>	<b>farmer</b>	<b>Clarendon</b>	<b>Clarendon</b>

**Clarendon** Post Office was opened on 1 January 1866, and was “renamed” **Eurongilly** in 1886. It was then closed in 1926.

**Eurongilly** is a locality in the central part of the **Riverina** and situated about 19 kilometres North West of **Nangus** and 21 kilometres south east of **Junee**.



A newspaper article published in the [Empire \(Sydney\)](#), dated [Saturday 20 May 1865](#), provides some background to the mining scene at Eurongilly that John Anderson Crowe was obviously part of:

### **THE GOLD FIELDS.**

#### **THE GOLD-FIELDS.**

In our last summary the principle feature with reference to the gold-fields was the operations at Eurongilly. The first rush to this place took place early in March last, and work soon commenced. Five or six hundred persons were soon on the ground, and several shafts were commenced simultaneously. In a short time four or five claims were bottomed and all of them turned out "duffers." The stampede from Eurongilly after this was as rapid as the rush had been. Numerous shafts were abandoned, and in a few days the place was nearly deserted. Some few miners however, determined to persevere, and in the end their patience was rewarded with success. The following is from the Gundagai Herald:—"The want of success which has yet attended the efforts of the miners, to develop a payable alluvial gold-field, and an arrival of extensive quartz crushing machinery has had the very natural effect of giving an impetus to reefing; and at the present moment quartz is the most popular topic of conversation, and prospecting for fresh reefs is the rage. Some magnificent stone is still being obtained in the Discoverers' Claim, Victoria Reef, and it is expected the next crushing will realise at least 12 ounces to the ton. No. 1 on each side are sending up good stone; No. 1 north, being about to send several tons to Adelong to be crushed. Two shares changed hands this week in No. 2 south, for £20 per share. In No. 3 south (Cummings' Claim), three leaders containing gold have been passed through, and the party are now driving for the main reef, at a depth of 50 feet. The prospecting claim in the flat reef (or Hansen's) also looks well, and it is the generally expressed opinion that the ridge where these reefs are being worked will, eventually, be found to contain any quantity of payable quartz veins, and sufficient employment be therefore given to a large reefing population. Reports are current of the discovery of another reef 1½ miles distant, and of others farther away; but very little is known respecting them yet at any rate. But as almost every hill and valley within cooey, and a good deal further, is now being well scratched by an army of embryo quartz miners, it is very certain that plenty of work will be found for one machine amongst the whole; and that a vast quantity of stone will be accumulated before the machine just arrived is ready to commence crushing operations . . .

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A further article published in the [Sydney Morning Herald](#) dated [Tuesday 13 June 1865](#) adds further to the activities at Eurongilly:

**THE EURONGILLY RUSH** - It appears that the prospects of this rush have very materially improved within the last few days; and we learn from a party who has just arrived from there that the population, which had dwindled down to about twenty or thirty last Sunday, had again risen to upwards of two hundred when he left. This second rush was caused through a report that payable ground had been opened in a gully about a quarter of a mile - from the scene of the first rush; the depth of sinking being 105 feet, and the prospects averaging a pennyweight to the oil-can. This report has been confirmed by a letter received by Mr Lyons, storekeeper, of this town; on Thursday evening from a party at the rush, which stated that prospects: of three pennyweights had been washed, the depth of the ground being as given above. A great number of miners have again left the Flat [\[Lambing Flat - Young\]](#) since this news arrived, and many are still leaving.- [Burrangong Argus](#) [\[Lambing Flat Newspaper\]](#).



## John Anderson Crowe - Land

*The Gundagai Times and Tumut, Adelong and Murrumbidgee Advertiser, published Saturday 18 July 1868 lists the following land sale to John Crowe Jnr:*

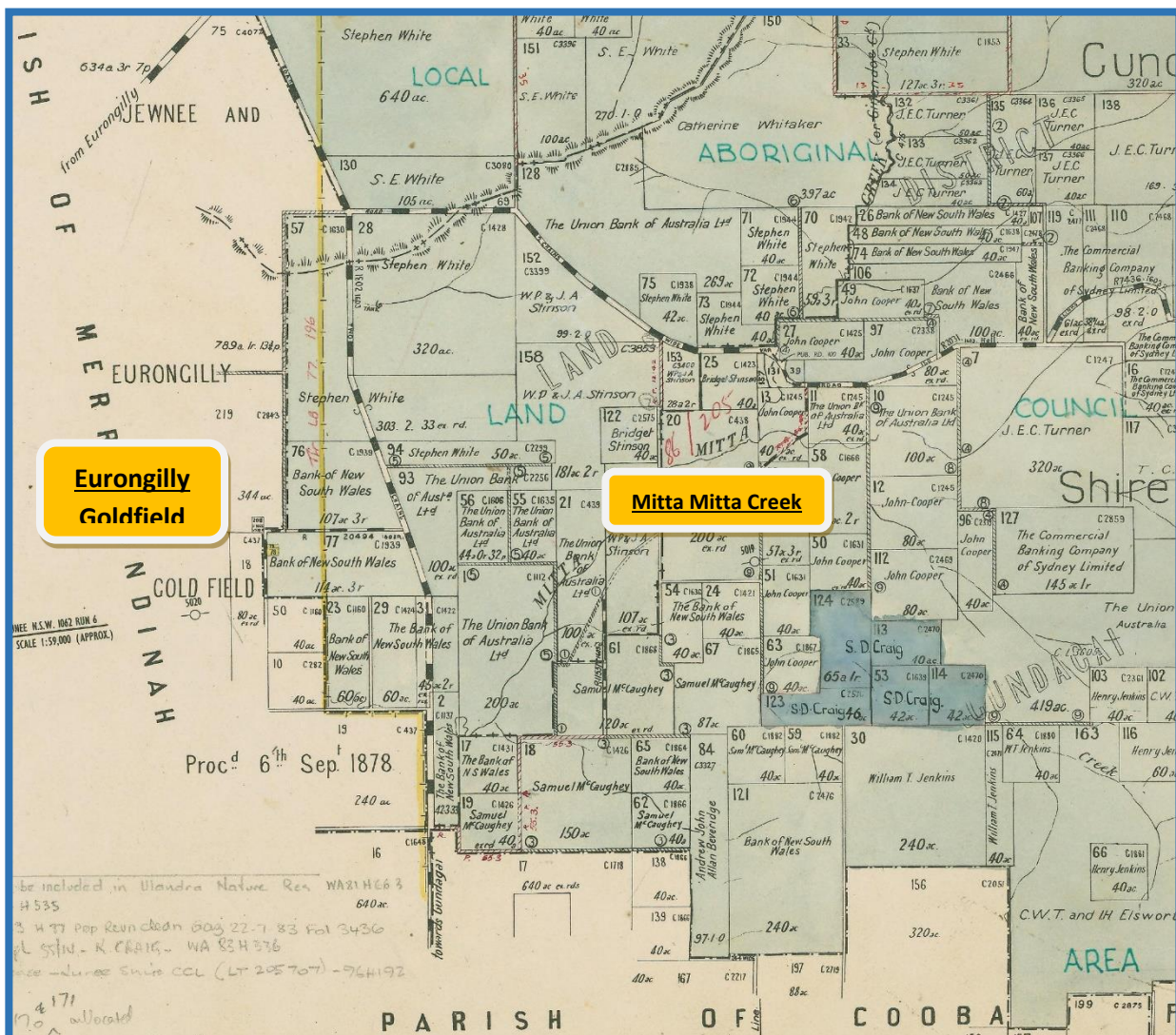
*The following sales have been effected at the Gundagai Land Office during the present week:*

— Mary Hobbs, Cootamundra, 200 acres on the Wagga Wagga and Murrumburrah road, County Harden: Henry Dawson Coker, 200 acres same locality; **John Crowe, Jnr, Gundagai, 40 acres Eurongilly, County Clarendon.**

John Charles Jones, Gundagai, 44 acres, Kimo, County Clarendon; Irwin Crain, Adelong, 44 acres Buna Buck-buck, County Wynyard; same 44 acres same locality; George Marshall, Gundagai, 40 acres Jones' Creek, County Clarendon.

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John Anderson Crowe was **18 ½ years of age** when this land sale transaction was to take place. The exact block is unidentified but is believed to be close to the Eurongilly Goldfield and close to Mitta Mitta Creek.





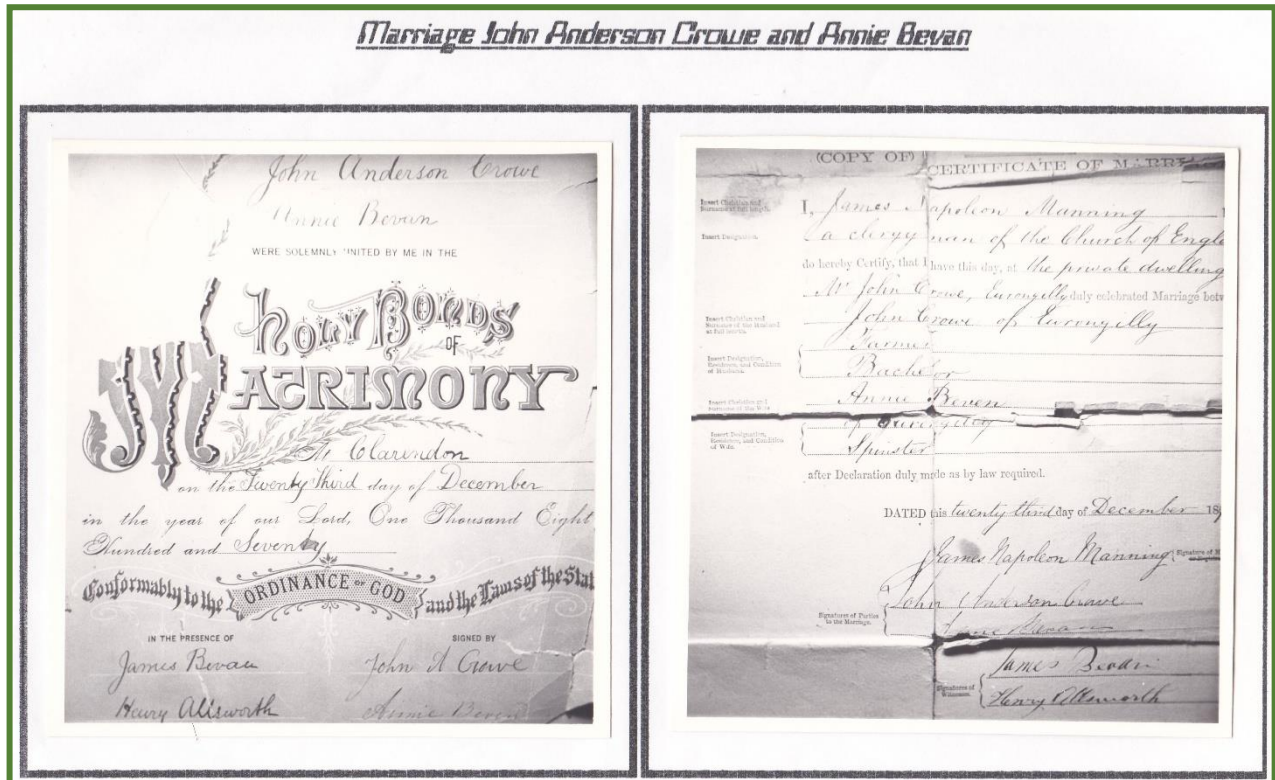
## Marriage of John Anderson CROWE and Annie BEVAN

When John was 21 years old he married Annie who was 20 years of age, the couple married on the 23 December 1870 in the private dwelling of his father John Crowe of Eurongilly, NSW. John and Annie's witnesses were James Bevan (*brother of Annie Bevan*) and Henry Allsworth.

Annie Bevan was born on the 31 May 1850, at "Kyemba" near Borambola (25km east of Wagga Wagga). Annie was the daughter of Richard Bevan and Sarah Jane (nee Cooper).

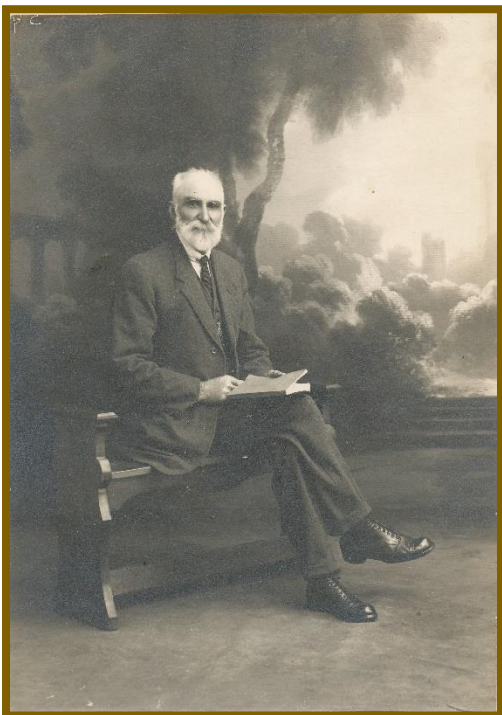
Annie Bevan was baptised on the 21 April 1851, in the Presbyterian parish at Wagga Wagga.

Annie came from a family of seven brothers and sisters and her parents were born in Ireland.



**John Anderson Crowe**

**Annie Bevan**





*John Anderson Crowe and Annie Bevan were married just 2 months when the following near disaster struck:*

### **John Anderson Crowe & John Crowe Snr – “Accident from Foul Air”**

*The Oueanbeyan Age* newspaper dated Thursday 16 February 1871 recounts a very dramatic story extracted from the [Wagga Wagga Express](#) newspaper relating to **John Anderson Crowe** and his father **John Crowe Snr** as follows:

**ACCIDENT FROM FOUL AIR.**—On Thursday morning last a very serious accident happened to a young man named John Crowe, in a mining shaft, at Eurongilly. It appears that on the above morning Crowe's father first went down the shaft, which his sixty feet in depth, to commence work, but finding the air bad he soon afterwards returned to the surface and his place was then taken by his son. Young Crowe sent a couple of buckets of dirt up and then experiencing a great sensation of suffocation and giddiness called out to his father to pull him up, and filling a third bucket, hitched it on the hook, and putting his foot in it and signifying that all was right his father commenced slowly winding him up. By this time however, the foul air in the shaft operated with alarming effect upon him, a feeling that his senses were leaving him, he clutched the rope with convulsive energy in the hope of reaching the pure air on the surface in safety. Just, however, as he reached the mouth of the shaft, and as

his father was in the very act of grasping his hand, a deadly faintness came over him, and relaxing his hold he toppled out of the bucket and fell headlong down the shaft. The father, in silent horror, heard the dull thud, announcing the descent of the body upon the bottom, and naturally concluded that his son had been killed, but immediately procured assistance, and regardless of the risk of the foul air, with which he knew the shaft to be dangerously charged, insisted at once upon being lowered to the bottom. When he arrived there he found that his son, though senseless, was still breathing, and hastily fastened him to the rope, he was, without loss of time, withdrawn from the deadly atmosphere of the shaft and removed to his house, and a messenger was then sent into Wagga Wagga for medical assistance, Dr Robinson was as quickly as possible in attendance, and found that Crowe had escaped almost miraculously without broken bones, but had otherwise been frightfully bruised, shaken, and injured. He vomited a good deal of blood, but recovered soon his consciousness, and with care it is believed will entirely recover from the shock his system has received. The poor fellow is just of age, and has been but two months married.—*Wagga Wagga Express.*

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**John Anderson Crowe and Annie Bevan – life and family matters**

John Anderson Crowe is said to have started off as a labourer, miner and then became a farmer in the Eurongilly and the Mitta Mitta district.

On the 25 September 1871 at Eurongilly, John and his wife Annie first child was born who they named **Agnes**, possibly naming her after John's own mother Agnes.

Agnes was baptised on 20 November 1871 in the Anglican Parish of Gundagai NSW, by Reverend James N Manning. At the time of Agnes baptism John's occupation was listed as a labourer of Eurongilly.

On the 13 December 1873 their second child **Emily Elizabeth** was born at Eurongilly and her birth was registered in 1874. Emily was baptised on 10 February 1874, in the Anglican Parish of Gundagai NSW, by Reverend H E Thompson.

**Robert Crowe** was born on 27 March, 1875, but was to die just eleven days later on 7 April 1875.

Two years later their fourth child **Hans Richard Crowe** was born on 25 April 1876 at Eurongilly, NSW. He was baptised on 4 October in the Anglican Parish of Gundagai N.S.W by Reverend S B Holt.

Their fifth child **Anna (Annie) Crowe** was born on 28 May 1878 also at Eurongilly NSW, and baptised on 14 June 1878 by Reverend S B Holt in the Anglican Parish of Gundagai NSW. At the time of Anne's baptism her father John was listed as a farmer of Eurongilly.

**Sarah Jane Crowe** was born 8 February 1880 in Eurongilly NSW and was baptised on 20 July 1880 in Anglican Parish of Gundagai NSW by the Reverend J W Williams. Sarah Jane Crowe was to be the sixth child born.

Their seventh child **John Anderson Crowe** was born on the 4 October 1881 in Eurongilly and he was named after his father own name. On the 26 December 1881 John and Annie had their son John Anderson Crowe baptised in the Anglican Parish of Gundagai, NSW, by the Reverend J W Williams.

Two years later, the eighth child, **Margaret Susan Crowe** was born on 28 March 1883 at Eurongilly, NSW and Margaret was baptised on 19 August 1883 also in the Anglican Parish of Gundagai by the Reverend J W Williams.

On the 21 December 1884 **Elizabeth Crowe** was born at Eurongilly, NSW, the ninth child of John Anderson Crowe and Annie Bevan. It would seem that Elizabeth's birth was not registered until 1885.

**Evelyn Mary Crowe** followed as the tenth child and was born on the 3 December 1886 at Eurongilly, and she was baptised on 6 February 1887 in the Anglican Parish of Junee by Reverend J W Williams.

Sadly on the 26 May 1887 John and Annie's daughter Margaret Susan passed away at the age of four years and two months old after being accidentally scalded. Margaret was interred in the Junee Cemetery, NSW.

Following the death of Margaret, Annie gave birth to another little girl and this time they named her **Effie Ethel May Crowe** who born on 19 November 1888 at Mitta Mitta near Cootamundra, N.S.W.

Their last child **Thomas Robert James Crowe** was born at Mitta Mitta, NSW on 15 November 1892 and his birth was registered in 1893. Thomas was baptised at Junee on 8 January 1893 by the Reverend J. Studds in the Anglican Parish of Junee, N.S.W.



The late Stella Bennett once lived with her husband Ted Bennett in Cootamundra.

Stella had in her possession the John Anderson and Annie Crowe Family Bible from which the following birth dates of John Anderson Crowe and Annie Bevan are notated.

**John Anderson and Annie Crowe Family Bible**

**Births**

BIRTHS	
Agnes Crowe	Born 25 <sup>th</sup> September 1871
Emily Crowe	Born 13 <sup>th</sup> December 1873
Robert Crowe	Born 27 <sup>th</sup> March 1875
Alfred Richard Crowe	Born 25 <sup>th</sup> April 1876
Annie Crowe	Born 28 <sup>th</sup> May 1878
Sarah Crowe	Born 8 <sup>th</sup> February 1880
John Anderson Crowe	Born 4 <sup>th</sup> October 1881
Margaret Susan Crowe	Born 28 <sup>th</sup> March 1883
Elizabeth Crowe	Born 21 <sup>st</sup> December 1884
Evelyn Mary Crowe	Born Dec 22 <sup>nd</sup> 1886
Effie Ethel May Crowe	Born Nov 19 <sup>th</sup> 1888
Thomas Robert James Crowe	Born Nov 15 <sup>th</sup> 1892

## John Anderson Crowe – Poundkeeper

Like other miners, John Anderson Crowe was to move on to other pursuits as the supply of gold petered out.

An article in [The Gundagai Times and Tumut, Adelong and Murrumbidgee Advertiser](#) dated Saturday 25 September 1875, relates to an **unfortunate and painful accident to John Crowe** (presumably John Crowe Jnr):

On Thursday, the 16th inst., Mr John Crowe, of Eurongilly, narrowly escaped meeting with a serious accident. He was driving a horse into the Bethungra pound yard when it kicked out at him with great force. Had Mr Crowe been further away in all probability his leg would have been broken; and even as it was the heel part of one of the animal's shoes made clearly a perceptible and painful imprint on one of his legs near the shin bone.

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A further article in [The Gundagai Times and Tumut, Adelong and Murrumbidgee District Advertiser](#), Friday 25 January 1878 sees John Anderson Crowe pursuing another **career path**.

On the recommendation of the Gundagai Bench of Magistrates, a new pound has been established at Clarendon, and on Tuesday last Mr John Crowe was appointed poundkeeper.

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*A poundkeeper was a local government official responsible for the feeding and care of stray livestock such as cattle, horses and sheep. This was common in colonial Australia. Unlike today, the control of stray companion animals (cats and dogs) was not the duty of the poundmaster.*

*The poundmaster was tasked with impounding livestock that were loose in a city, town, or village. Wayward animals were brought to the pound by the poundmaster, constables, or private citizens. The poundmaster would attempt to notify the owner, who could pay a fine and any associated fees, and claim the animal(s). If unclaimed, the animals would be sold at auction. More valuable livestock could require longer periods of public notification before an auction.*

**Impoundings.**  
CLARENDON.—On the 4th day of September, 1880, from Cooba, by order of W. Jenkins, Esq.; damages and driving 2s.; sum due at date of notice, 8s. :—  
Bay mare cob, bald face, hind feet white, 17 with — over off shoulder, agal, 15 hands.  
If not released, will be sold at this Pound, at noon, on the 25th day of September, 1880.  
J. CROWE, Poundkeeper.

**Impoundings.**  
ON the 28th May, from Cooba Creek, by Mr W. Flinn; driving, 1s 4d each :—  
Spotted heifer like white roan, like SF with S under, (the S and S slanting) near shoulder.  
Also, on the same day, from Cooba Creek, by Mr W. Flinn :—  
Yellow heifer, brands blotched, indescrivable, lump on off fore leg, 1s 4d.  
Also, on the 7th, from Billabong, by order of Mr H. Collins :—  
Chesnut filly, Cg near shoulder, blaze, 13 hands, 3 years old.  
If not released, will be sold at this pound at noon on the 26th day of June, 1878.  
J. CROWE, Poundkeeper.

As the poundkeeper, John Anderson Crowe himself fell foul of the law with a breach relating to his bookkeeping skills as below:

[Gundagai Times and Tumut, Adelong and Murrumbidgee District Advertiser](#), **Friday 16 December 1881**

**NEWS OF THE WEEK.**  
GUNDAGAI POLICE COURT.  
TUESDAY, DEC. 13.  
(Before Mr. Love, P.M.)  
BREACH OF THE IMPOUNDING ACT.  
JOHN CROWE, poundkeeper at Clarendon, was charged by the Inspector of Stock with neglecting to post notices at the pound as required by law.  
Fined £1, with £1 1s professional costs, and 5s 10d Court fees.  
Mr. Perkins for complainant.  
The same defendant was charged with neglecting to produce his book to the Clerk of Petty Sessions once each month, and was fined £1 5s 10d costs.

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**Tuesday, Dec. 13**

**(Before Mr. Love, P.M.)**

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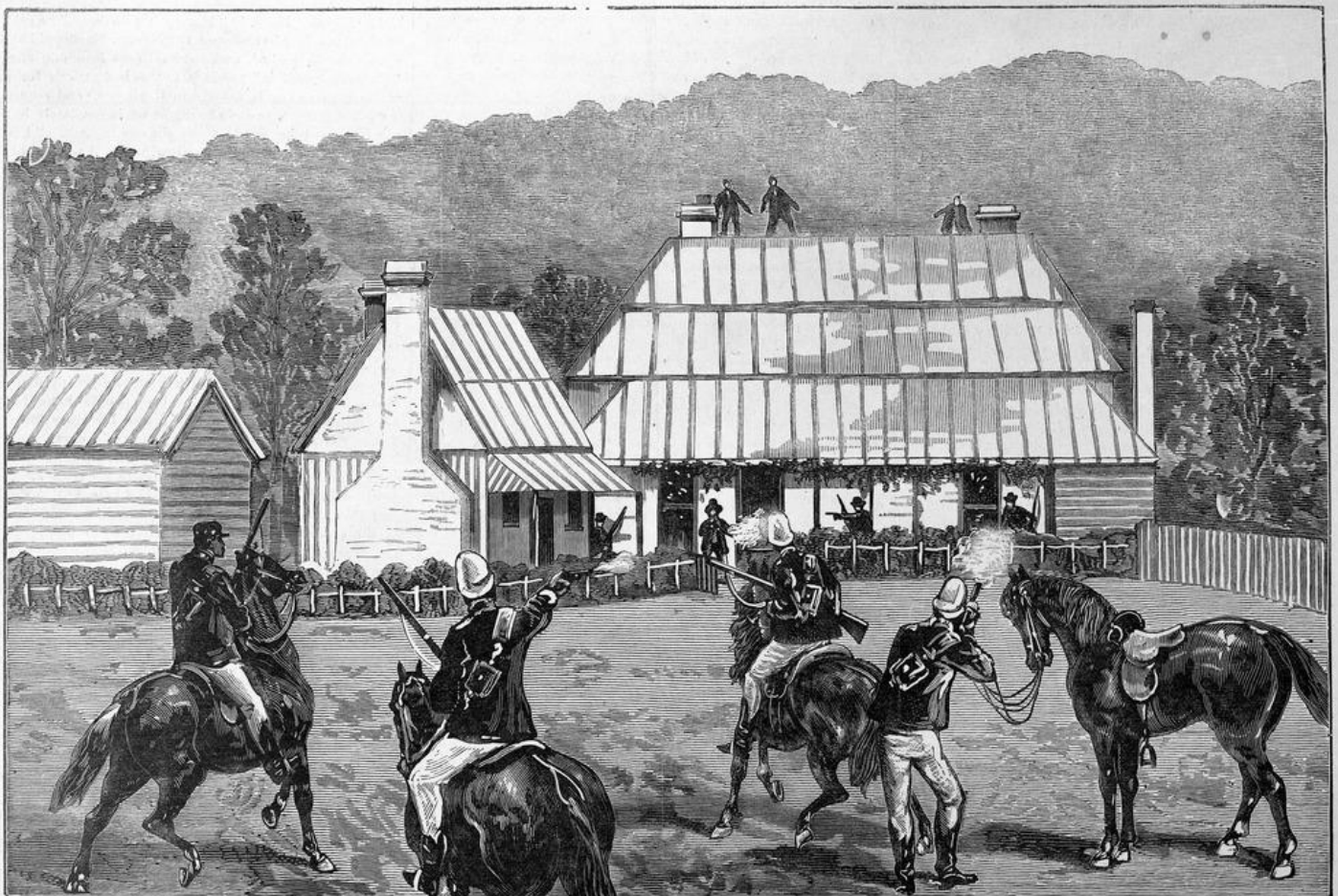
### John Anderson Crowe – Encounter with Captain Moonlite (Bushranger)

Family hearsay indicated that John Anderson Crowe, while working at Wantabadgery station, was one of the hostages taken prisoner by bushranger Captain Moonlight.

He apparently was locked up in a shed with other men and had to pluck a turkey for the bushrangers' lunch.

On November 18, 1879, a group of bushrangers led by Captain Moonlight (Andrew George Scott), held up the Wantabadgery station, east of Wagga Wagga. They stayed there for three days and held up all the people travelling along the road. They held about 30 people prisoner. One person was able to escape and tell the police. Two groups of police from Wagga Wagga and Gundagai went to the farm. After a lot of shooting, the bushrangers left and the police chased them through the bush. A bushranger, Gus Wernicke, aged 15, was shot and died in great pain. A policeman, Constable Bowen was badly hurt, and died a few days later. Captain Moonlight gave himself up to the police. The police captured the rest of the gang a few days later.

The police charged the bushrangers with the murder of Bowen. In court at Darlinghurst, Sydney, Scott tried to take the blame for the crime. He wanted the lives of his friends saved. Captain Moonlight, and gang member, Rogan, were hanged on January 20, 1880. In a letter from prison, Scott asked to be buried next to his friend, James Nesbitt. In 1995 he was reburied at Gundagai next to gang members Gus Wernicke and James Nesbitt. A death mask was made of Scott by Walter McGill. This mask is now in the Justice and Police Museum, New South Wales.



ARRIVAL OF THE WAGGA POLICE AT WANTABADGERY STATION.



[The Wagga Wagga Express](#), published Wednesday 19 November 1879 gives a much fuller account of the encounter with Captain Moonlite at Wantabadgery.

*(John Crowe is mentioned twice in the article)*

### LOCAL INTELLIGENCE - STICKING-UP OF WANTABADGERY STATION.

#### LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

##### STICKING-UP OF WANTABADGERY STATION.

At about a quarter past seven on Sunday evening a man named Alexander M'Donald, an employe at Wantabadgery station, reported to the Wagga police that the station had been stuck up by seven armed men, who had bailed up the occupants. He had received the information at Mr. Stephen Fennell's, Eringarra, where he called during the afternoon, and he came in to communicate with the police. He stated to Sub-inspector Medley his opinion that the affair was probably to outcome of a misunderstanding with the shearers, some of whom while employed at the station, where shearing was only completed late last week, expressed dissatisfaction before being finally paid off. It was not therefore believed that the affair was a bushranging raid of the character that it subsequently proved to be. Within half-an-hour of receipt of the information Constables Rowe, Headley, Williamson, and Johns, all experienced and tried officers, left the town for Wantabadgery, the first-named being in charge of the party. They were fully armed with Henry rifles and regulation Adams' revolvers, with a plentiful supply of ammunition. The moon being but two days old, the journey to Wantabadgery, a distance of about 26 miles, and over not too good a road, could not be accomplished very rapidly, as a matter of course, but the constables arrived at the station about midnight. The most judicious line of action was then determined upon, viz, waiting until daylight for further proceedings.

As before stated, Wantabadgery homestead is situated twenty-six miles from Wagga and twenty-two from Gundagai. It is on the north side of the Murrumbidgee, and the road between the two towns passes close to the house. To enable those of our readers who are unacquainted with it to fully understand the proceedings hereafter detailed, a brief description of its position is necessary. It is a stone building, only having a ground floor, surrounded by a broad verandah. The front faces the river, distant about half a mile. The house stands in a garden, which stretches towards the river. The portion of the garden directly in front of the house is largely stocked with shrubs; beyond these there is an orchard, and at the extreme end a lucerne patch. On either side there is a hedge, backed by rows of poplar trees which have been permitted to shoot from their butts. It will therefore be apparent that around the house there was plenty of cover, which could be used with advantage by bushrangers who were awaiting an attack by a small body of police. The main road between Gundagai and Wagga lies between the garden fence and the river. Beyond the road there is rather low-lying land, and beyond that again a lagoon in proximity to the river-bank. At the back of the house there is rising ground, extending from some distance, and running parallel with the river. The property has but recently been purchased by Mr. C. F. J. M'Donald, having been previously in the possession of the late Mr. Walter Orton Windeyer, upon whose death it was sold.

Information of the occurrence was conveyed to the Gundagai police, it would appear by a man named Williams, or through

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into the buggy, and the leader informed Mrs. Reid civilly that he had no wish to molest her, and that if she wished, she was at liberty to stay where she was. She elected, however, to go with her husband, and both were driven up to the station, and placed in the room with the others. Patterson's Wantabadgery Hotel was then stuck-up, and after the place had been rifled, some money together with a gun and revolver being stolen, the inmates were also taken up to the homestead, and lodged with the others. We append the gist of the mailboy's statement, in which some inaccuracies may exist, but which appears to be, upon the whole, pretty correct:—

I came to Wantabadgery with the Clarendon mail at half-past 10 on Sunday morning; there was a man on the verandah at the back of the house; he brought me in and told me to dismount, taking the mail bags; took me into the parlour, where there were seven or eight people, amongst whom there was Mr. Weir, two Mr. Websters, and Mr. Crowe; the leader was called "Boss," and the others No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, No. 4, and No. 5; No. 1 was the man who was on the verandah; he was about thirty years of age, tall, about six feet I should think, with black whiskers; the "Boss" was of middle height, stout built, with light whiskers, about forty years of age; the two Mr. M'Donalds and Mr. Baynes were not in the room when I came; I was kept at the station all that day and during the night; I heard the people say the bushrangers stuck up the station about 4 o'clock on Saturday afternoon; on Sunday afternoon the "Boss" went down to Mr. Reid's and Patterson's (the Wantabadgery Hotel), and returned, bringing their families back; I heard that the men were mounted when they came to

*At about a quarter past seven on Sunday evening a man named Alexander M'Donald, an employe at Wantabadgery station, reported to the Wagga police that the station had been stuck up by seven armed men, who had bailed up the occupants. He had received the information at Mr. Stephen Fennell's, Eringarra, where he called during the afternoon, and he came in to communicate with the police.*

*He stated to Sub-inspector Medley his opinion that the affair was probably to outcome of a misunderstanding with the shearers, some of whom while employed at the station, where shearing was only completed late last week, expressed dissatisfaction before being finally paid off.*

*It was not therefore believed that the affair was a bushranging raid of the character that it subsequently proved to be.*

*Within half-an-hour of receipt of the information Constables Rowe, Headley, Williamson, and Johns, all experienced and tried officers, left the town for Wantabadgery, the first-named being in charge of the party.*

*They were fully armed with Henry rifles and regulation Adams' revolvers, with a plentiful supply of ammunition.*



*The moon being but two days old, the journey to Wantabadgery, a distance of about 26 miles, and over not too good a road, could not be accomplished very rapidly, as a matter of course, but the constables arrived at the station about midnight.*

*The most judicious line of action was then determined upon, viz., waiting until daylight for further proceedings. As before stated, Wantabadgery homestead is situated twenty-six miles from Wagga and Twenty two from Gundagai. It is on the north side of the Murrumbidgee, and the road between the two towns passes close to the house. To enable those of our readers who are unacquainted with it to fully understand the proceedings hereafter detailed, a brief description of its position is necessary. It is a stone building, only having a ground floor, surrounded by a broad verandah. The front faces the river, distant about half a mile. The house stands in a garden, which stretches towards the river. The portion of the garden directly in front of the house is largely stocked with shrubs; beyond these there is an orchard, and at the extreme end a lucerne patch. On either side there is a hedge, backed by rows of poplar trees which have been permitted to shoot from their butts. It will therefore be apparent that around the house there was plenty of cover, which could be used with advantage by bushrangers who were awaiting an attack by a small body of police. The main road between Gundagai and Wagga lies between the garden fence and the river. Beyond the road there is rather low-lying land, and beyond that again a lagoon in proximity to the river-bank. At the back of the house there is rising ground, extending from some distance, and running parallel with the river.*

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*No attempt of this kind was however made, and it is the barest of justice to the officers to state that the temporary retreat which was rendered necessary, was no panic, but simply a judicious movement carried out without the slightest suspicion of ' funk.' The subsequent action of the officers clearly acquits them of anything of this kind. It was at about nine o'clock on Monday morning that the gang left Wantabadgery; they then set their prisoners free, informing them that they were going to Gundagai to stick up the bank there.*

*Four of the gang rode the police horses, two were on station horses, and a third station horse, packed, was led away. No one of the gang seemed an accomplished horseman, and just as they were leaving the station, one of the steeds, conscious of the ' Crown brand ' and irate at the indignity put upon his back in being made to carry a bushranger, 'pig-jumped,' throwing his rider some distance into the air.*



*This little discomfiture being repaired by a better horseman exchanging his quieter steed with the dismounted man, the bushrangers proceeded on their way. So far as we can learn no restriction as to leaving the place, giving information, &c, was placed upon the liberated prisoners. The manner in which the whole affair was conducted proved indeed that the gang, however determined, were inexperienced. The rumours that there were members of the Kelly gang with them was therefore very early, set at rest. The Clarendon mailboy, left Wantabadgery at about a quarter-past 9, arriving here shortly before noon. He delivered the mail, which does not appear, beyond the opening of the bags, to have been tampered with.*

*While the Wagga police were at Tenandra, getting fresh horses, the Gundagai force passed the place. The latter consisted of Senior-sergeant Carroll, Sergeant Cassin (Adelong), Constables Bowen, Gorman, and Barry. The whole body then returned to the Wantabadgery homestead, where they learned that the bushrangers had announced their intention of going to Gundagai. The party at once started in pursuit. On the road they were joined by Constable Wyles, of Bethungra, who had been 'stuck-up' by the gang and deprived of his arms. After this disaster he had gone to a selector's and borrowed a double-barrelled gun, armed with which he had pluckily followed up the trail.*

*From this point, as Senior-sergeant Carroll was satisfied they could not be far behind the bushrangers, the pace was pretty severe, and this told upon the horse Constable Bowen was riding. They came up with a civilian who was riding a likely-looking nag, and levy on the Queen's name was forthwith made.*

*The civilian, who was armed with a gun, and was anxious to be "in at the death," strongly objected, at the same time expressing his ardent desire to attend the party as a volunteer. The desire was, however, overruled, and the horse was transferred to Constable Bowen. When within three quarters of a mile of M'Glede's selection the police overtook a man, who informed them that the gang had just passed. The place of attack was then communicated to the party by Senior-sergeant Carroll. It may be mentioned that M'Glede's selection is a little over three miles from Wantabadgery station, upon the Clarendon road.*

*Mr. M'Glede originally kept the Wantabadgery Hotel, and has resided for some time in the district. It was decided that the police should advance upon the place in an extended semi-circle. When they came in sight of the house, a number of men were outside, and amongst them were observed the bushrangers. The police called upon them to surrender, and immediately it was observed that the bushrangers had presented their arms. A couple of shots quickly followed, and the fight commenced in earnest. The constables advanced towards the hut under the occasional cover of a tree, but the place is somewhat open. It is not clearly known whether M'Glede's had been stuck-up, but it is stated that there, were about twenty onlookers while the encounter was proceeding. Shortly after the firing commenced, one of the bushrangers, quite a youth, was shot in the right side and fell. He died subsequently from the wound. Shortly afterwards Constable Bowen, who is favourably, known as a most plucky officer was wounded in the neck, the ball entering the left side. After the fight had lasted about half an hour the bushrangers retired to a detached building at the rear of M'Glede's dwelling house, and then the police made a rush upon the place. More firing ensued, in the course of which one of the bushrangers was shot through the head, and another was wounded in the fleshy part of the arm. The 'ringleader, who was unhurt, remained last outside, and with the other unwounded subsequently surrendered to the police..*

*He then announced himself to be Andrew George Scott, alias 'Captain Moonlite' the notorious Egerton bank robber, and Ballarat gaol escaper. The sixth man escaped in the melee. It would appear that the band was organised by him, as he had evidently a great deal of influence with them. Two of the bushrangers, one of whom (Rogan) has paid the penalty of his crime with his life, were mere boys. Scott was addressed by the others as 'Boss,' and the remainder were known by distinguishing numbers as No. 1, No. 2, and so on. After the encounter Sergeant Carroll with two constables proceeded in pursuit of the escaped man. He was subsequently found in hiding under one of the beds in M'Glede's house. This man is stated to have been the most determined of the gang, not excepting the ringleader.*

*He is a young man of about 22 years, named Thomas Rogan. It was stated that he was seen leaving the hut during the progress of the fight, and making his way through a cornfield to a horse which had been left near a fence. If this be so, it would seem that he made his way back to M'Glede's, perhaps under the impression that it was the last place in which he would be looked for, but in view of the inevitable crowd that the events of the previous day would have brought around, this was certainly injudicious on his part. On the other hand the reported escape may be a mistake, and the man have merely lain perdu in the house the whole time. The man shot in the arm is named Graham Bennett, about 20 years of age. The fourth member of the gang is Thomas Williams, a youth of 19. He surrendered with the leader, having been previously knocked down by Sergeant Cassin with the butt-end of his revolver.*

*Two of the police horses were wounded during the encounter ; one being that ridden by Constable Barry, and the other Constable Headley's horse, then in possession of the bushrangers. Neither of the animals was fatally injured. The two men shot are supposed to be the brothers of Williams and Rogan respectively. Neither was killed instantaneously. The younger man lingered for some little time, and the other, notwithstanding a terrible wound in the head through which the brains were protruding, was still alive, though sinking rapidly at the time Constable Johns started for Wagga with the intelligence of the encounter. We append the telegram received from our Gundagai correspondent: —*

*'The police arrived at 4 p.m. with four bushrangers, Andrew George Scott, alias 'Moonlite' aged 37; Graham Bennett, 20, shot through left arm, near shoulder, not dangerous; Thomas Williams, 19, bruised about face, knocked down by Sergt Cassin with revolver stock; Thomas Rogan, missing man, supposed to have got away, but found secreted under one of the beds at M'Glede's.*

*The two men shot dead supposed to be the brothers of Williams and Rogan. On arriving, a large crowd congregated near the gaol and cheered the police lustily. Prisoners defiantly joined in the cheering, when they were hooted. Judge Forbes was present at the prisoners' arrival, and complimented the Gundagai police on their bravery and success, stating he would use his best endeavours for their promotion. At 8 p.m. Constable Bowen arrived in a waggonette, wounded by a bullet fired by 'Moonlite' in the left neck. Bullet supposed to be lodged in the spine. Bowen is totally paralysed; recovery very doubtful. The following are the names of the Gundagai police engaged: — Senior Sergeant Carroll, Sergeant Cassin, Constables Gorman, Bowen, Barry, Johnson, and Grainger. Barry's horse was shot dead. Bowen shot one bushranger dead. Two dead bodies expected to-night. Inquest to-morrow at the Court-house. Bodies to go to the dead-house of the hospital, Carroll states that he tried twice to shoot 'Moonlite,' being only ten yards away; each time his piece missed fire. Intense excitement."*

*With reference to the injuries sustained by Constable Bowen, we regret to learn that they are of an exceedingly dangerous character. So far, the medical gentlemen who attended him have been unable to determine the actual position of the bullet, which is not extracted. The shot would appear to have affected the spine, as the unfortunate man's arms are wholly paralysed.*

*Dr. Wren, the Government medical officer, of Wagga Wagga, and Dr. M'Killop, who fills a similar position in Gundagai, proceeded on Monday night to the scene of the encounter, and attended to the injuries of the wounded men, who with the others have been sent to Gundagai. The two bodies have been sent to the same town, and an inquest will probably be held to-day! It is generally believed that Scott fired the shot which wounded Bowen; indeed, the wretched man himself admits it. The intelligence of the encounter, as well as that of the capture of the man Rogan at M'Glede's, was brought into Wagga by Constable Johns, quite a recent addition to the local force, and undoubtedly an acquisition to it.*

*Within the past two days he has ridden over a great extent of country, and endured a large amount of fatigue besides being engaged in one of the most determined fights with bushrangers that the colonies have ever witnessed.*



*The conduct of the police generally appears to be worthy of recognition from the authorities, but of the actual merit of the men engaged in the affair, we shall have better opportunities of judging after the inquest.*

*At the final encounter, the determination of the bushranger, fighting as they were with halters round their necks, was evidently met by unflinching bravery on the part of the constables.*

*The arms taken from the gang comprised almost an arsenal. In addition to the numerous revolvers and guns they had three or four butchers' long knives. Scott himself carried one of these in his belt, and it is said used it gently while at Wantabadgery to accelerate the movements of one of his captives, it is reported that some, if not all the bushrangers visited the station some days before the attack, and were then, in consequence of their impudent bearing, refused rations.*

*This is alleged as the reason for the treatment to which they subjected the manager, Mr. Bayliss, whom they threatened to hang, and actually adjusted a rope for that purpose. Of this Mrs. Reid was an eye-witness, and she really feared that the outrage would be carried out. No reason is assigned for the attack upon the station, which seems merely to have been a preliminary to some more profitable raid.*

*They could not have expected to get much money, as it is a well-known fact that station payments are invariably made by cheque, and the amount of ready cash is usually small. We have been unable to ascertain the actual loss sustained by Mr. McDonald, but whatever the gang carried off in valuables will probably have been recovered.*

*After leaving Wantabadgery on Monday morning, the bushrangers when en route, for the place which was the scene of such speedy justice, called at Mr. James Beveridge's, where they ascertained the service he had rendered the police by supplying them with horses. They compelled him, it is stated, as a censure upon this proceeding, to shoot a very valuable, horse which he had in the stable at the time. It will be satisfactory to learn that the Government possess sufficient sense of justice to indemnify Mr. Beveridge; for any loss he has sustained by the assistance which he so opportunely and promptly rendered.*

*When the intelligence of the outrage reached the camp of the Junee-Narrandera railway contractors, Messrs Fishburn and Morton, these gentlemen armed and equipped a party of about a dozen of their employees.*

*Out of this a rather ludicrous incident arose. It appears that on their way to M'Glede's, the bushranger took captive a law-abiding sawyer, whom they compelled not only to come with them, but Scott, the leader, specially retained him to hold his horse in the early part of the brush with the police.*

*After a little time the bullets became rather too thick to be pleasant, so the pressed groom mounted his charge and rode for bare life. How far he got is uncertain, but suddenly he found himself in the midst of the Fishburn and Morton volunteers—with every outward appearance of being closely pursued.*

*His explanation was not deemed satisfactory, and he was detained a close prisoner until some friendly acquaintances chanced to come upon the scene and vindicated his character.*

*Another unwilling spectator of the fight is said to have sought shelter from the leaden hail in an adjacent water-hole, whence, breast-high in water, he frantically waved in view of the police a white pocket handkerchief as a token of his lack of sympathy with the criminals.*

*The news of the daring outrage was received with much excitement in Wagga, and although but little credence was placed in the extravagant rumours set afloat, the knowledge that the police horses had fallen into the hands of the bushrangers, coupled with the delay in getting further authentic information induced many surmises not unmixed with apprehensions as to the fate of the constables. Early in the afternoon of Monday it was reported, and generally accepted as true, that in a brush with the gang two of the Wagga constables had been seriously wounded. The only casualty on the side of the police which has to be recorded is the deplorable one to Constable Bowen.*

*In Gundagai, where the District Court was sitting, Judge Forbes adjourned in order to permit as many of the police as possible to join in the pursuit. Their place in the town was supplied by a number of special constables. This course was also hinted at in Wagga, but was not adopted, as in view of the various contingents sent to Wantabadgery it was deemed advisable to keep the rest of the available force on duty here. Early on Monday reinforcements of police were despatched from Goulburn and Yass, but were sent back to their respective stations upon the receipt of the news of the breaking up of the gang in the summary manner above described.*

*Among the other incorrect rumours which have been freely circulated is the statement that Pratt's Oura Inn had been stuck-up by the gang. It would seem that this was an error caused by the sticking-up of Patterson's Wantabadgery Hotel. We have been unable to ascertain whether the men were seen near Oura, but so far as we can learn they were not. Up to the present the route by which they entered the colony from Victoria is a mystery.*

*Constable Bracken, an officer of the Victorian Police, arrived here last night, and has proceeded to Gundagai to be present at the inquest. He is able to identify Scott, and it is possible that others of the gang may be known to him.*

*The elder of the two bushrangers who were shot dead was, it would appear, an old acquaintance of the leader, Scott, who manifested the utmost concern at the fate of his companion in crime. After his surrender he was repeatedly getting up excitedly, and sitting beside the man, shedding bitter tears over him. Scott himself appears very different from the bloodthirsty and confirmed criminal he has proved himself.*

*Those who have seen him since his arrest state that he not only appears educated and intelligent, but remarkably quiet in his demeanour.*

*The circumstances of the case bring strongly before us the necessity that some arrangement should be made for the use of the telegraph wire on Sunday in similar emergencies. In the present instance justice was at once swift and sure, but the capture of the men might have depended upon the transmission of a single message. The telegraphic authorities will do well to make some provision for the future for the despatch of really urgent messages on Sunday.*



THE CAPTURE OF MOONLITE AND HIS GANG.

**The Capture of "Moonlite" and his gang**



## Family Tragedy – Death of Margaret Susan Crowe

Family tragedy had its effect on the Family of John Anderson Crowe and Annie Bevan as below:

Sadly on the 26 May 1887 John and Annie's daughter Margaret Susan passed away at the age of four years and two months old after being accidentally scalded. Margaret was interred in the Junee Cemetery, NSW.

**Gundagai Times and Tumut, Adelong and Murrumbidgee District Advertiser, Tuesday 7 June 1887, page 2**

### DEATH FROM SCALDING AT CLARENDON. - Southern Cross

*Last week Mr. A. Elliott, J. P. Coroner, held a magisterial inquiry touching the cause of death of a child named Margaret Susan Crowe, four years of age, who had died from scalding.*

*The facts are detailed as follows: —*

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(Southern Cross.)

LAST week Mr. A. Elliott, J.P., Coroner, held a magisterial inquiry, touching the cause of death of a child named Margaret Susan Crowe, four years of age, who had died from scalding. The facts are detailed as follows:—

Constable Anderson deposed: From information received I examined the body of deceased; I found that she had been scalded on the body and legs; there were no other marks about the body.

John Anderson Crowe deposed: I am a contractor residing at Clarendon; deceased was my daughter and was four years and two months old; I saw her alive and well on the 12th instant; when I came home my wife said that Maggie had gone in front of the fire and pulled the teapot down and scalded herself severely on her body and legs; she lingered till yesterday morning, and died at five minutes past five o'clock; I was away from home when the accident occurred.

Ann Crowe deposed: I am the wife of the last witness; the deceased was my daughter and was four years and two months old; on the 12th May between 8 and 9 o'clock, after we had just finished breakfast, the deceased got down off her seat and passing between my chair and the fire she fell back on the fire and in some way which I am unable to say knocked over the teapot which was standing on the hearth near the fire; the teapot was nearly full; I cannot say how long the tea had been made; it was hot enough to scald anyone; I picked deceased up at once and looked to see if she was burning; I then lifted her clothes and saw that she was badly scalded about the body and legs; I dressed the deceased with kerosene; I got something from the chemist in Junee, and afterwards something from the doctor; deceased lingered till the 27th; she died at 5 o'clock on that morning; deceased suffered very much from the time she was burnt till she died; she had convulsions twice the evening after she was scalded and on the following Sunday; deceased was quite well before she was scalded and enjoyed good health.

The magistrate found that deceased had died from scalds accidentally received.

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**The magistrate found that deceased had died from scalds accidentally received.**

## John Anderson Crowe – Mail Contractor

In 1889 John conducted a contract mail run taking in Junee, Wantiool, Eurongilly, and Cooba via Quilters, Wier's and the McCarthy's families, a distance of twenty five miles, twice a week by horse and cart and was published in the local newspaper. John continued the mail run in the district in 1894 and was earning a wage of £50.

### Wagga Wagga Advertiser - Tuesday 5 February 1889: Mail Contracts:

**Intercolonial.**  
[Through Greville's Telegram Co.]

SYDNEY, MONDAY.

The following mail tenders have been accepted by the Government:—Coolac and North Gobarralong, John W. Carberry, £50 per annum; Gilmore, Upper Gilmore, and Reedy Flat, Patrick Quilty, £36 per annum; Tooma and Khancoban, Edgar Sheather, £40 per annum; Bethunga, Mitta Mitta, and Yamatree, Edward George Elms, £20 per annum; Bethunga and Ironbong, Alfred John Dairs, £20 per annum; Illabo Railway Station and Eurongilly, John Anson Crowe, £45 per annum; Kurongilly and Wagga Wagga, Peter Jas. M'Alister, £115 per annum; Harefield and Yathella, William M'Crea (horseback), £20 per annum; Wagga Wagga and Brucevale, to be re-advertised; Wagga Wagga, Downsides, Merool Creek, and Wollengough, James Heathwood, £223 per annum; Wagga Wagga and Mangoplah, William Cox, £100 per annum; Wagga Wagga, Yarragundry and Collingullie, Peter Jas. M'Alister, £74 15s. per annum; Wagga Wagga and Pullitop, not decided; Yarrong Creek and Mungah, not decided.

The candidates who presented themselves at the recent Junior Public Examination in Sydney, numbered 834, of whom 562 passed, including Miss Bonnie Laughlin, from the Sacred Heart Presentation Convent, Wagga Wagga.

The following tenders for the undermentioned services have been accepted by the Postmaster General: Illabo Railway Station and Eurongilly, twice a week, £45, John A. Crowe.

John contract terminating on the 31 December 1902 and John later purchased the Illabo store in 1922 and the store was later sold in 1925.

### NSW Government Gazette – Jan / Feb 1890

Contractors'		Postal Lines.	Distance in Miles.	Frequency of Communication.	Mode of Conveyance.	Annual Amount payable to Contractors.	Date of Termination of Contracts.
Names.	Addresses.						
205 James Waite .....	Albury .....	Tumberumba, Burns, Tooma, <i>Welaregang Station</i> , Tintaldra (Victoria), <i>Welaregang Station</i> , Ournie, Jingellic, Maracket, Wagra, Bowna, and Albury, via Camberona, Dora Dora, Talmalmei, and Ournie Diggings (Main Road to be travelled between Camberona and Wagra).*	115	No. of times per week. Two .....	4-wheeled coach, 2 or more horses, between Albury and Tintaldra; remainder on horseback.	£ s. d. 350 0 0	31 Dec., 1891.
206 Lukins & Masters	Tooma .....	Tooma and Khancoban, via Opossum Point.	50	One .....	Horseback	40 0 0	31 Dec., 1890.
207 Edward G. Elms ..	Forest Vale, Eurongilly.	Bethunga, Mitta Mitta, <i>Yammatree</i> , and Lower Yammatree.	24	Two .....	Horseback	75 0 0	31 Dec., 1890.
208 Chas. S. Smith ...	Bethunga .....	Bethunga and Ironbong .....	10	One .....	Horseback	25 0 0	31 Dec., 1892.
209 John A. Crowe ...	Eurongilly .....	Illabo Railway Station and Eurongilly.	10	Two .....	.....	45 0 0	31 Dec., 1890.
210 Peter J. M'Alister	Wagga Wagga...	Eurongilly and Wagga Wagga, via Ours and Eunonyhareenyha.	32	Two .....	Horseback	115 0 0	31 Dec., 1890.

Kiandra, once, 2-horse covered vehicle, £99, 31st December, 1896.

228, John Hodge, Bethunga, Langwell, Mitta Mitta, Yammatree, and Lower Yammatree, twice, £45/1/3, 31st December, 1896.

232, John A. Crowe, Junee, Eurongilly, and Cooba, via Quilter's, Wantiool, Weir's, and McCarthy's, twice, horseback, £50, 31st December, 1896.

233, George D. Gilltrap, Eurongilly and Wagga, via Ours, Eunonyhareenyha, and Wantabadgery, two or three times as re-

**The Cootamundra Herald** dated Wednesday **21 February 1894** lists a different mail run contract being awarded to John Anderson Crowe, this time from Junee incorporating the settlements of Eurongilly and "Cooba" and travelling via Wantiool.

It involved a significant horseback ride on two occasions per week **and the contract was to run until the end of 1896.**



## Assault on Eveleen Mary Crowe (daughter of John Anderson Crowe and Annie Bevan)

In February 1902, newspapers throughout the country reverberated with the news of an attempted rape and assault on Eveleen Mary Crowe, the 15 year old daughter of John Anderson and Annie Crowe, by a “tramp” or “swagman”.

Stories extracted from:

The Albury Banner and Wodonga Express dated Friday, 7 February 1902

Crookwell Gazette dated 14 February, 1902

*Similar stories were headlines throughout the country, and give some indication of the pressure and impact on both Eveleen Crowe and her parents John Anderson and Annie Crowe as well as their family.*

### **OUTRAGE AT EURONGILLY.**

The Junee Democrat of Tuesday says:—Hardly have people got over the horrors which were perpetrated at Ramsay's Bush and Queanbeyan by Campbell—who was executed—than word came to the Junee police on Tuesday morning that an outrage had been committed almost in front of our doors. The information to hand, which came from Bethungra, is very bare indeed. From what can be gathered it appears that a girl named Crowe, residing at Mitta Mitta, near Eurongilly, has been brutally outraged by a tramp. It is not yet known what age the victim is, but from what can be gleaned it would appear that the ruffian accomplished his foul purpose. It is further reported that as soon as the alleged occurrence became known at Mitta a party set out to capture the man who committed the deed. They soon came upon one who was regarded as the man they were after, and bailed him up. He soon showed fight, and being armed with a rifle, threatened to shoot anybody who interfered with or followed him, and thus escaped into the bush. Sergeant Bedingfeld and Constable O'Connor, of Junee, both started for the scene.

### **MITTA MITTA OUTRAGE.**

Junee, Tuesday.—The case against William Bell, the tramp, who was arrested for an alleged attempted assault on Evelyn Mary Crowe, aged 15, at Mitta on 3rd instant, was heard this morning. Evidence was given by Constable O'Connor, of Junee (who effected the arrest), by the girl, her mother and her little brother (aged 9); also Dr. Rutton, John Clark (a farmer) and by a man named Sheard (a bullock-driver on Dollar Vale Station), who, along with two others, tried to capture the man shortly after the offence was alleged to have been committed, but whom the tramp kept at bay with a pea rifle. The girl's evidence was very sensational, and at times was most pathetic. The case was heard with closed doors. When the case for the prosecution closed the accused on being asked had he anything to say said no; but he was not guilty. He was committed for trial at the Wagga Quarter Sessions on 19th instant. Bail was not allowed.

The Bench complimented Constable O'Connor on the plucky manner in which he had faced the accused and effected his arrest.

*The story is explained more fully in a separate article on Eveleen Mary Callaghan (nee Crowe).*

## **John Anderson Crowe and Annie Bevan**

John Anderson Crowe was known to be an ardent reader of **Thwaite's books**.

*Frederick Joseph Thwaites (23 May 1908 – 13 August 1979) was an Australian novelist whose books sold over four million copies. He was best known for his first work The Broken Melody, which was adapted into a 1938 film.*

*Born in the inner Sydney suburb of Balmain, Thwaites left school at the age of 13 and originally worked in the clothing industry. He wrote The Broken Melody when he was 19; it was originally self-published but eventually became a best seller, selling 55,000 copies in Australia and 25,000 in England.*

*In February 1933 Thwaites left for England to write screen scenarios for Elstree Studios.<sup>[3]</sup> He spent several months there, and several months in Hollywood, attempting to sell his work to movie producers. Thwaites said on his return:*

*I spent four months in Hollywood but had bad luck with my novels because of copyright laws. It is absolutely essential that after publication of a book in Australia and before three months has passed it has been copyrighted in Washington. I failed to do that, and I have no doubt it cost me the loss of the three pictures, for the picture folk only make pictures of stories that have been out twelve months on the American market and are protected, whereas my stories were open for any American publisher to copy without paying a cent.*

*He later estimated this cost him £15,000.*

*On his return to Australia in late 1933, Thwaites then toured the country looking for manuscripts to publish. In 1936 he founded his own publishing firm. F. J. Thwaites.*

*In May 1937 Thwaites joined Adelaide radio station 5KA as production manager. During this time he met Jessica Harcourt, who became his wife.*

*In 1938, Thwaites and his wife left for England via the Pacific Islands and Panama Canal, researching material for novels. They ended to stay in England for three years but World War II saw them return to Australia after by the end of 1939.*

*Thwaites was one of the most popular Australian authors of the 1940s and 1950s, with many of his works being adapted for radio.*

*In late 1954 Thwaites set up a company in England, Harcourt Press, to publish his books there. Much of his work was set in the Riverina region. His great-grandfather was Frederick Jenkins, who started the historic Buckinbong Station near Narrandera.*

**John Anderson Crowe** also loved to sing. His Cousin Robert Thomas Crowe's daughters can recall having to comb his grey beard and bringing him a jug of water to encourage him to sing.

**Annie Crowe (nee Bevan)** was said to be a very devoted wife and mother to her children.

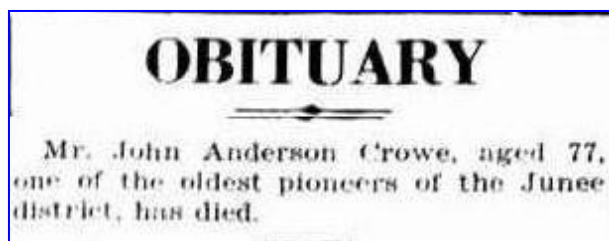
John's wife Annie passed away on the on the **6 September 1919**, at Mitta Mitta and was interred in the Mitta Mitta cemetery.

After the death of his wife John stayed on in the Mitta Mitta district, but also moved around visiting his children and other relatives.



John Anderson Crowe passed away on the **26 August 1928** he was interred in the Mitta Mitta cemetery on the 27 August 1928, near his wife Annie.

Mention is made of his death in **The Land** on **Friday 14 September 1928**.



*A fuller obituary appeared earlier in the 'Young Chronicle', Tuesday 4 September, 1928*

## Bendick Murrell.

### OBITUARY.

Last Sunday, 26th August, John Anderson Crowe passed away at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. A. Bennett, "Eureka," Mitta Mitta, near Junee. He was the last of the original settlers in that part. He was born 78 years ago at Cook's River and when a young man moved to Mitta Mitta and prospered, and was respected by all. After his wife's death nine years ago he gave up the old home and travelled from one place to another amongst his many

relations, always enjoying good health until a short time ago when staying with his daughter at Crouchedale Bendick Murrell. He was not ill enough to lay up, but a fortnight ago returned to Junee and passed away peacefully and suddenly on Sunday morning at 4 a.m. from heart failure. Six of his children were present at the funeral, which took place on Monday at the Mitta Mitta cemetery, where his wife was buried, the C. of E. Rector, Rev. H. Staples officiating. His family consisted of 13 children—Mrs. A. Sinclair, of Clarendon, Robert, Mrs. E. P. Chesher (Merrylands), H. R. Crowe

(Grahamstown) all deceased, and those living, Mrs. McKenzie (Sydney), Mrs. E. Francis (Wagga), J. Crowe (Bendick), Mrs. A. Bennett (Junee), Mrs. P. Callaghan (Bendick), Mrs. R. Bryant (Wagga), T. Crowe (Narrandera). There are 33 grand-children and 3 great grand children.

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J. Crowe (Bendick), Mrs. A. Bennett (Junee), Mrs; P. Callaghan (Bendick), Mrs. R. Bryant (Wagga), T. Crowe (Narrandera). There are 33 grand-children and 3 great grandchildren.

**John Anderson Crowe and Annie Bevan – Mitta Mitta Cemetery**

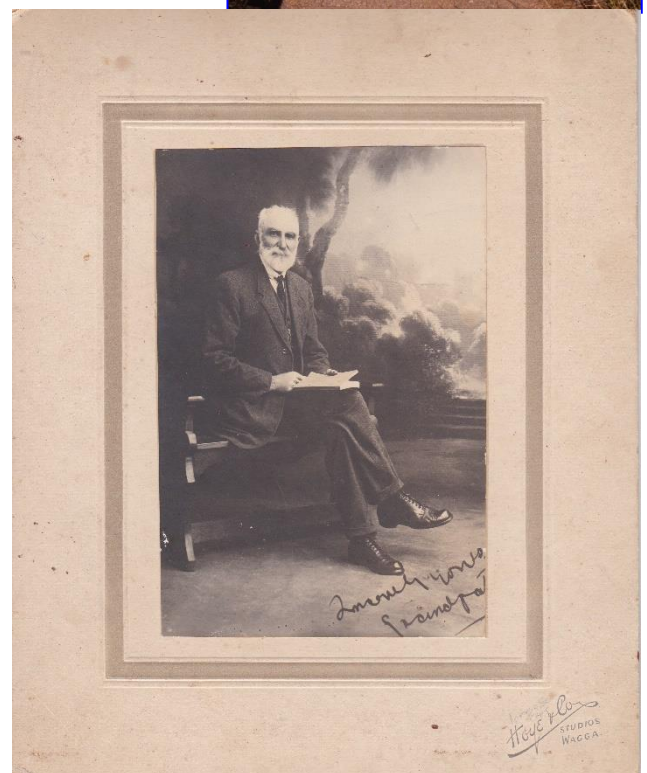
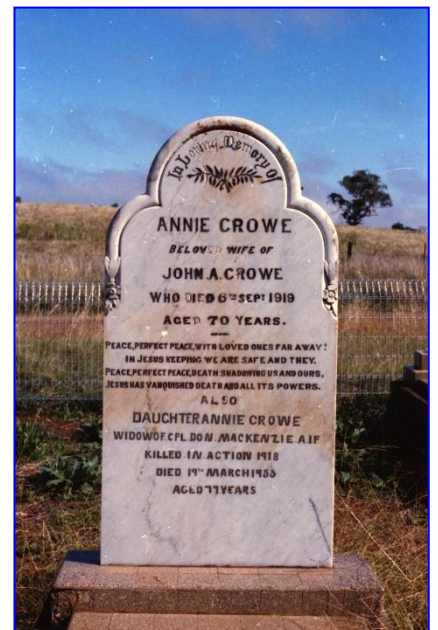
**Mitta Mitta Church**



**& nearby Cemetery**



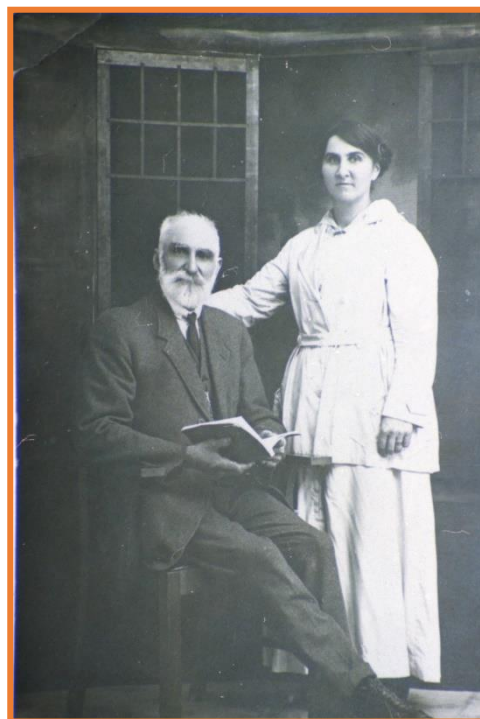
**Headstones of  
John Anderson Crowe and Annie  
Crowe (nee Bevan)**







Bill Sinclair (grandson) and John Anderson Crowe



John Anderson Crowe & daughter Sarah Crowe (later Francis)

### Crowe Family Deaths

From the Crowe Family Bible (Stella Bennett, Wagga)

Amy Crowe	Died June 18 <sup>th</sup> 1888
John Crowe	died March 4 <sup>th</sup> 1889
Thomas Crowe Sen	died Dec 15 <sup>th</sup> 1886
Robt Crowe (Wagga)	died April 7 <sup>th</sup> 1875
Margaret, Susan Crowe	died May 20 <sup>th</sup> 1887
Agnes Crowe	died June 18 <sup>th</sup> 1888
Emily Jones	died Sept 19 <sup>th</sup> 1904
Robert, Corcoran	died Jan 20 <sup>th</sup> 1912
Mary, Curran	died Jan 22 <sup>nd</sup> 1913
James Anderson Crowe	died Feb 20 <sup>th</sup> 1917
John Anderson Crowe	died 2 <sup>nd</sup> Aug. 1928
Annie Crowe (wife above)	died 1 <sup>st</sup> Sept 1919
Sarah Crowe (Francis)	died March 1958
Eliza Beth Bennett	died 14 <sup>th</sup> June 1958

## Family of John Anderson Crowe & Annie Bevan



**John Anderson Crowe**

born at Cook's River, Newtown  
1 Dec 1849

Son of John Crowe and Agnes  
Anderson  
(natives of Belfast, Nth Ireland)



**Annie Bevan**

Born 31 May 1850 at  
"Kyemba" Borambola  
District near Wagga Wagga  
Daughter of Richard Bevan [native  
of Bruff, Limerick Ire] and Sarah  
Jane Cooper [native of  
Randalstown, Antrim Ire]



**OBITUARY.**  
**DEATH OF MRS. E. V. CHESHER.**  
The death occurred at St. Joseph's Hospital, Auburn, on Tuesday, 15th July of Emily Chesher, wife of Mr. E. V. Chesher, of "Kilmanah," Merrylands, near Sydney, from double pneumonia. Deceased who was only 46 years of age leaves a husband and a family of four boys and two girls to mourn their loss. For many years she was teacher at Kilmanah and Greenhalp Public Schools. During the great war she nobly played her part as during the time her husband was fighting at the front she still taught in school and attended to her young family. The remains were interred in the Church of England portion of Brookwood cemetery. All the staff, eight in number, and many of the scholars of Merrylands Public School, where deceased was teaching at the time of her death, being present. Her Mr. Croft, assisted by Mr. Kinderlin, officiated at the graveside and in fitting terms referred to the sterling qualities of deceased as a wife and a mother. Too much could not be said in her praise and she was a mother who could ill be spared from our world. Mr. Kinderlin also extended his sympathy to the husband and little ones. "Abide With Me" was sung. A large number of wreaths and floral expressions were sent.  
Mrs. P. Callaghan of Bessieck, Murren and Mrs. L. McManis of Koorawatha are sisters of the deceased.

**Died aged 11 days**



**Died in a mining accident  
at Bangadang Gold Mine  
near Adelong in 1918  
aged 42 years**

**Agnes Crowe  
(m Archibald Sinclair)**

**Emily Crowe  
(m Eugene Chesher)**

**Robert Crowe  
born & died 1875**

**Hans Richard Crowe  
(m Blanche Agnes Smith)**



**Margaret Susan died aged  
4 years "scalding"**

**Annie Crowe  
(m Donald Mackenzie)**

**Sarah Jane Crowe  
(m Edward Francis)**

**John Anderson Crowe  
(m Cecelia Mary Hoad)**

**Margaret Susan Crowe**



**Elizabeth Crowe  
(m Arthur Bennett)**

**Eveleen Crowe  
(m Patrick Callaghan)**

**Effie Crowe  
1 Joseph Page 2 Richard Bryant**

**Thomas Crowe  
(m Gladys Britt)**