The Hamment family, Richard & Sarah arrived by boat as assisted immigrants,

Oct 1857.Richard was a farm labourer. After their marriage in Ramsey UK

1846 they had four children before immigrating. Two boys both of whom

died before age 1yr. Two girls Emily and Elizabeth who died and buried at sea

on way to Australia. Arriving in Sydney 21/10/1857 with Emily there was 7

more children, my Grandmother, Esther, was the 3rd youngest of these. From

arrival we lost trace of their movements for about 10 yrs, I thought they had

come straight to Glenbrook. Not so, by searching archive records, they went to

“Weatherboard” now Wentworth Falls, Richard as a fettler. Then onto “The

Valley Western Line” now Valley Heights. Their school children, including my

Grandmother, travelled 3 days/week, by train, to Mt.Victoria school. They

would leave on 5am train and return at 6pm. When Springwood Public School

opened in 1878, my Grandmother and her 4 siblings were among first to enroll.

In 1881 Richard and Sarah purchased a large parcel of land in Glenbrook from

Donald Ross, who later built “Ilford House” 8 Wascoe St. Their land was

bounded by Park St, Euroka Rd. Burfitt Pde and Ross St. So this shows how, in

that era, you could start as a farm labourer, assisted immigrant, fettler to

Landholder. There is still up to 6 generations of Hamment’s , living in the Blue

Mountains today. From age of 20 to 41 Sarah Hamment, my Great Grandmother

had 11 children in all. Am I glad I did not walk in her footsteps? My Great

Grandparents were well known citizens of Glenbrook. They helped pay for the

1st Public School built in 1892 , They were religious and were precursors to

St.Peters Anglican church, regular services were held in their home and the

Minister would arrive by horse. My Grandmother told me that they worked

with the community to help shape what we have today. After Richard Hamment

died 1891 age 64, Sarah ran a guest house, in her home, for holiday makers.

Hamment St. was named after them, which ran between Green St. and Ross St.

but now only exists in front of Information Centre and called Hamment Place.

One son , George, in 1896 went fishing in the Lagoon, and found what he

thought to be a large fish in the mud. In fact this was a waterproof leather bag,

containing personal belongings and ammunition belonging to Captain Lee

Weller who had been murdered by Frank Butler. This find was reported in

nearly every newspaper in the colony and was used in evidence at the trial.

Glenbrook had become famous overnight. My Grandmother, Esther Hamment,

married in their Glenbrook home by Rev E. Creswick to John Colquhoun Dunn

of Lithgow, and had 9 children with 8 surviving. All of these children were

raised in Glenbrook, Jessie and Daisy all their lives. My mother, Jessie, married

George K. Bunyan 1930 , who was born and bred in Emu Plains And a butcher

in Glenbrook from 1923 to 1946. And that is where I come in, being the 4th

generation to live all my life in Glenbrook, with my daughter, Jennifer, 5th

generation still residing in Glenbrook