

BORÉE,  
3 SAILE STREET,  
ORANGE, 2800  
7th April, 1975.

Dear Mrs. Hohnen,

I was most interested in your letter and so glad to know that material in "Quench Not the Spirit" had brought some family history to light. If you have read the book you will know that I married John Smith's grandson, Mac. Smith, so there is no need to explain myself.

I know Esrom well and it is a co-incidence that your mother's brother should have been there and I am quite sure if Mac. were alive, he would remember him. He used to go to Esrom when he was a boarder at All Saints. As you will know, All Saints <sup>has</sup> now moved to Esrom itself.

How delighted you must have been to find the old Cock home in Cornwall, even though all the Cocks had emigrated. I went to Cornwall and found much history in St. Keverne's Church of England and the churchyard. I found a tombstone with Peter and <sup>Ann Cock's</sup> ~~Ann's~~ name on it, and just near the front door of the Church was a tombstone with the names John and Elizabeth Smith on it, who were our John Smith's parents. The lettering was wearing off, so I left money with the Rector to have it engraved again.

You would have been interested to see Peter and Ann Cock's grave in the churchyard.

You mention a resemblance between Edwin Smith of Narragool and your mother's brother. It may interest you to know that the last portion of Narragool held by a Smith has just been sold. Today, <sup>the only land originally</sup> ~~it only land~~ held by the Hon. John Smith is Boree Cabonne (of course, very much <sup>now held by the Smith family</sup>)

P.T.O

BORNE,

6 SALE STREET, "

ORANGE 2800

3rd Nov. 1975.

Dear Phyllis,

First of all, thank you for your two letters - one from Wadonga and the other from Adelaide and also my manuscript, John Maxwell, arrived safely.

Now, for the co-incidence. Your letter from Wadonga, or was it Wahgunyah, was sent to me at my daughter Felicity's where I have been for two months, and to think you were so near! "Deep Lagoon", her home, is 60 miles from Albury and she is between Corowa and Urana, so you can see we were quite near to you when we wrote that letter. I should tell you Felicity's married name is McPherson.

I wonder did you go to Adelaide via Corowa. I have been that way up through Deniliquin; If so, you would have ~~been~~ been so close to Deep Lagoon as you <sup>went</sup> go by and Felicity and Bill would have so enjoyed meeting you.

I do hope your husband's remaining leg is no worse and I hope some day to meet him as I feel he must be a very exceptional person. Felicity told me she met David Hay who told her he knew Ross very well and admired him so much. This was at the Corowa races. I don't know how the conversation came up because I wasn't there. I think Felicity had been looking for your telephone number for me and she had looked under "Hohnen" and she must have mentioned this to David Hay who told her your name was Hohren.

P T O

How interesting it is to hear of Dr. Tregenza and what he says is so true about letters from Cornishmen to their relatives in Cornwall. There are a couple in my book, one from William Lane of Orton Park, Bathurst, to a cousin in Cornwall which I think extremely interesting and one from John Smith to his brother Richard and then of course one from John Glasson written in London to his father in Cornwall just before John Glasson left for Australia. I also have some interesting Glasson letters which I did not include in the book.

Hoping you enjoyed your holiday and that you are both feeling better for your trip, with love,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

Bertha Mac. Smith.

Per. *BS*

03716E  
S STATE LIBRARY  
BOWEN

"Boree" 6 Sale Street,  
ORANGE. N.S.W. 2800.

21st September, 1978.

Mrs. Ross Hohen,  
71 Empire Circuit,  
FORREST. A.C.T. 2603.

My Dear Phyllis,

I was so pleased to get your letter this morning and do feel I must answer it at once. I did know you were Overseas and have been waiting anxiously for your return, particularly because of the position your husband holds in the Scout Movement.

I forgot if I told you how interested I was in Esperanto. Well, at the Annual Conference this year of the C.W.A. of N.S.W., I managed to get a resolution through, which was passed unanimously by the 900 delegates, that the C.W.A. of N.S.W. support any movement towards the use of Esperanto as an International Common Language. I really have always been interested in a common language but realise, after listening to different broadcasts, that Esperanto is the logical answer.

Why the Scouts mean so much to this ideal is that Baden Powell said in his book there should be an international language and Esperanto seemed the one. I wonder what your husband does think of the idea and if he would help in any way to get this moving in the Scouts. By co-incidence only last night I went to the Meeting of the Scouters, Cub Mistresses, etc. to speak to them on the subject and they really did seem to be very interested. Since the C.W.A. passed this resolution, I have been really busy speaking at the different organisations - about 12 - such as Rotary, Lions etc. and I managed to get the Mayor of Orange to call a Public Meeting and Professor Robertson, the President of the Australian Federation of Esperantists, came up and spoke on Esperanto. It was a very well attended meeting and the questions thrust at him he answered very well and I don't think there was one person in the Civic Centre who did not enjoy every minute and saw the importance of Esperanto.

You can imagine what a thrill it was when I got your letter this morning and thought, 'there is someone who may put his weight behind this ideal'. I expect you know Ralph Harry. I understand he is back in Australia with a job at the National University. I did write and tell him of the move made by the C.W.A. when he was still in New York, though I had no reply. Really people are very lax about answering letters I think.

What a wonderful trip you must have had. Mac. was always very interested in the Scouts and so last night when I went to the Meeting I wore the 'Thanks Badge' that was once given to him.

Now I must tell you my grand-daughter Mary, she is Lance's daughter, went to St. Keveerne and when she signed the book she saw your name not far above hers and she wrote to her mother saying she thought she had heard me speak about you. Mary just loved going around the Church and she was very fortunate, the Vicar helped her and introduced her to the Historian of St. Keveerne's and she enjoyed it.

Unfortunately, the people she was with did not have time to stop at "Trelanvean" but she says she is sure they passed it and recognised the old house from the photo in my book. Did you notice in the Churchyard at the right hand side of the front door the tombstone to John and Elizabeth Smith whom the Vicar who took me round and showed me the Church Register, said would be John Smith's mother and father. I asked him to have the names redone as they were fading - as you said they were so doing, - on Peter and Elizabeth Cox. (As I am dictating this letter and I just had your letter read out once to me this morning, I may be using the wrong names that you mentioned). If only I could just see that letter in front of me and answer it exactly. But I must not worry about that.

There is so much I would love to talk about but I just cannot get over to Canberra so I think you and Ross should take a little trip over to Orange. You certainly left an impression here as Mrs. Hicks, who comes every day, was the person who read your letter to me this morning and I said before you start, who is the letter from. She replied by saying, 'that lady who came a couple of days for lunch and was so interesting and you enjoyed her so much'. Mrs. Hicks recognised how stimulating you were.

I must tell you there is a dear little woman, Mrs. Rozsa, who was an Hungarian and they had to flee from Hungary to Austria and finally her father brought them to Australia. He was an ardent Esperantist whom I did not know - he died some years ago. Mrs. Rozsa now comes with me to the meetings and answers the questions; she is a born teacher and she is a delight to be with and has already started an Esperantist Class which she holds here so that I can hear (not very well as I am getting horribly deaf!) what is going on, and it sounds a very easy language to learn. In the class there is a very brilliant young man and also a 6th year High School student. I just mentioned these to show the general interest. The young man Terry, is a University Graduate, and has also studied Music at the Conservatorium and he is certainly an asset and I am sure it will only be a very short time before he knows Esperanto.

I only wish I had been with you in that flat at St. Keeverne's. I remember gazing across to the Sea at Falmouth while standing in the Churchyard at St. Keeverne's. It is wonderful to think that your husband stood up so well to all his surgery and was able to do that trip and, at the same time, do so much for the Scouts.

Hoping you will come this way before too long. With all good wishes, I am,

Yours sincerely,

*Bertha Mac. Smith*  
Bertha Mac. Smith *per GJD*  
(Per: Gloria J. Dwyer).

P.S. Yes, there is to be a wedding on November 24th. Jim's younger daughter, Diana, is marrying Andrew Sullivan from Molong. B.M.S.

"Boree"

6 Sale St

Orange 2800

22<sup>nd</sup> July 1976

My dear Phyllis,

It is a long time since I heard from you and I have often wondered about your husband's leg. I rang Clifford Colvin the other night to ask him had he any news of you and he said, only the night before, he and Nina had been wondering about you, but had no news to give me. I did enjoy our days together last year, and we even got on to my 1898 "phantom cable". I am now enclosing two photostats of letters which you can imagine <sup>gave</sup> me a tremendous thrill, after years of research. My file from all the authorities I wrote to and their replies, are worthy of Gilbert and Sullivan. Even the day after I got Mr Tulip's second letter I received a letter from the Port of Launceston saying

they had no record of the "Shepard Osborn."

Another thing which might interest you is that the Australian Authors' Fund (Prime Minister's Dept.) has decided "Quench Not the Spirit's" author is Machattie and the Treasury sent a cheque payable to Mr B "Machattie" Smith. I have both returned both the cheque and the statement naming the author as Machattie (they came in separate envelopes) to the executive officer of the Authors' Fund on 20 June, but have had no acknowledgment.

Perhaps they don't know what to say but I do think courtesy would merit an ~~reply~~ acknowledgment. There is certainly confusion and I think it may have arisen at the A.N.U. as you will remember my trouble with the short biography of John Smith for the "National Biography" when they returned a proof to me with the name of the author "B. Machattie Smith" and the

source of the information. "Quench Not  
the Spirit" by Bertha Mac Smith. You  
were good enough to give me the  
name of the editor and I spoke to  
him on the phone and he sounded  
very nice and helpful, but, even so,  
I wonder what will appear in the  
National Biography? I almost wish  
I had decided to leave John Smith  
out.

Hoping you are well and that  
I may hear good news of your  
husband,

I am

Yours affectionately  
Bertha (Mac. Smith)  
Perdote

Dear Madam,

Your interesting letter addressed to the Postmaster, G.P.O., Hobart, was passed to me for investigation. A preliminary search of available records suggests that your statements concerning the "Sherard Osborn" are substantially correct.

This cable laying vessel, built in 1878 by Scott & Co. of Greenock, Scotland, was an iron, twin screw steamer. Her master, Captain R. H. Dunsmuir, was appointed to command in 1896, and she arrived in George Town on 17th July, 1898, following "cable laying activities" in Bass Strait. It is possible that she had been engaged upon repair work to the 1883 cable although I have yet to confirm her actual task.

Please regard this as an interim reply. I will contact you again, hopefully within a few days, after a more detailed search.



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## State Office

Public Relations Section  
CML Building  
47 Liverpool Street  
Hobart Tas. 7000

Dear Madam,

Your interesting letter dated 30th June, addressed to the Postmaster, G.P.O., Hobart, was passed to me for investigation. A preliminary search of available records suggests that your statements concerning the "Sherard Osborn" are substantially correct.

This cable laying vessel, built in 1878 by Scott & Co. of Greenock, Scotland, was an iron, twin-screw steamer. Her master, Captain R. H. Dunmall, was appointed to command in 1896, and she arrived in George Town on 17th July, 1898, following "cable laying activities" in Bass Strait. It is possible that she had been engaged upon repair work to the 1885 cable although I have yet to confirm her actual task.

Please regard this as an interim reply; I will contact you again, hopefully within a few days, after a more detailed search.

Yours faithfully,

*A. Tulip*(A. Tulip)  
Historian.

*Australian Council  
Chairman Richard Hall  
Waddell*

*To-morrow -*  
Mrs. L. Mac.Smith, O.B.E.,  
"Boree",  
6, Sale Street,  
ORANGE. N.S.W. 2800.

*Captain's name - "DUNMALL"*

Dear Madam,

Since writing to you earlier in the month, I have had an opportunity of investigating the 1898 activities of the "Sherard Osborn" in more detail, and I am pleased to inform you that the information contained in your letter dated 30th June was correct in all respects.

In July, 1898, a telegraph cable was laid between Flinders, Victoria, and George Town, Tasmania; both local and mainland newspapers made interesting references to the movements of the cable ship.

The 1900 edition of "The Cyclopaedia of Tasmania" summarises interstate communications development, to that year, quite clearly:-

"First cable to Victoria was laid between Cape Otway (Victoria) and Cape Grim (Tasmania) in August 1859, but the rocky nature of the bottom soon destroyed it. A cable was laid in 1869 between Flinders (Victoria) and Low Head (Tasmania) and communication obtained 1st May, 1869. This was duplicated in November 1885 and a new cable was laid in July 1898 to replace the old 1869 cable."

In the accompanying copy of "A History of the Post Office in Tasmania" (which I trust you will accept with the compliments of my State Manager), no reference will be found to an 1898 cable. Its existence was not suspected until the arrival of your welcome letter and I am therefore greatly indebted to you for instigating a search which has added a little more to our increasing store of knowledge of this island's development.

At some time in the near future, I should like to prepare an article on this "discovery" for publication in our local journal "Telecom Tasmania", and if you agree, I should like to include an acknowledgment of your valued contribution. Please let me know your wishes in this matter.

Mrs. L. Mac.Smith, O.B.E.,  
"Boree",  
6, Sale Street,  
ORANGE. N.S.W. 2800.

.../2

I note that you have personal recollections of the event and that a letter in your

6, Sale Street,  
ORANGE. N.S.W. 2800.

I note that you have personal recollections of the event and that a letter in your possession describes the laying of the cable "in detail". I shall be extremely grateful if you will inform me of any further material relative to the laying of the cable. There are, unfortunately, many inexplicable breaks in the sequence of our old files, and as I cannot find any reference to cable laying in 1898, your information will be invaluable.

Yours faithfully,

*Atkinson*

6 Dale Street  
Orange  
25th July 1981



Dear Mr & Mrs Hohner,

I was so pleased to receive your letter & strange to say I had been thinking I would write to you as it was so long since we were in touch but as you know it is difficult for me to get my letters written. However now someone is on the spot to write a letter to you for me.

In reply to your questions re Mr Rudd I couldn't say if he was connected in the pastoral world with John Smith that letter where John Smith mentions Mr Rudd is the only time I can remember seeing the name amongst my letters but I do think that somewhere along the line I remember hearing the name Rudd. I once was at Blackdown just out of Bathurst & I think I was told a bushranger story when the bushrangers held up a couple & ordered the wife to write to her father's home to collect the ransom & in the back of my mind I have a feeling that the woman had to ride to Blackdown & ask Mr Rudd for the money. I remember the name Rudd ringing a bell but that was years ago & I didn't follow it up.

With regards to the 100 acres on your

survey map you didn't say in what district your map was. There was another John Smith in Bathurst who acted as agent for Mrs. McPhillamy & eventually married her so if your map was in the Bathurst district it might have been that John Smith.

I was very interested to hear you had found the grave of Peter Cockst & his first wife Ann in the churchyard at St. Kevin's as I had also found that but didn't realise Ann was his first wife but knew their daughter <sup>Elizabeth</sup> Mary was John Smith's mother. I would not think John Smith would have erected the headstone but I have no reason for thinking that. I know my father-in-law Lance Smith visited Cornwall in 1901 but I never heard of John Smith returning to his native land. His mother's father's headstone I found just by the door of the church & I gave the vicar the money to have the names wording on the stone & done I was there in 1958.

You will remember I wrote & asked you if you knew anyone at the National Library & you kindly did ask a friend of yours there to look up Sir Norman Kates's papers that were given to the library after his death but no trace of the certificate was found amongst his

P.T.O.

(3)  
papers. Every now & then I  
think of this certificate which  
is a Smith Heirloom & only  
the other day I was talking  
to a cousin of Michael Howard  
Thwaites & she suggested I write  
& ask him to see if he could  
trace it, even though he is not  
the librarian now he would have  
easy access I think. I sent him a photo  
stat of the original certificate I am  
looking for & I am enclosing one for you  
as you may have an opportunity of  
knowing someone who would help to  
the original got into the hands of the  
Kates family & the last I heard of it  
it was left in Norma Kates' safe by  
Charles Kates mumblebone merino stud  
founded on Gamboola blood. My son  
Lance still has the descendants of  
the original stud sheep which became  
the Boree Cabonne merino stud in  
1872 when John Smith gave his second  
son Lance his portion of the Gamboola  
merino stud

I read a very interesting article on  
Heirlooms which made me once more  
try & trace this certificate & you will  
see in "Quench not The Spirit" photo-  
graphs of two such certificates but I  
only have the original of one. Norma  
Kates only sent me a photo stat of the  
one I am enclosing now. I am sure

your friend Mr White would consider  
it definitely a Smith Heirloom. He  
might be able to help us trace it.

I am so sorry to hear your husband  
is having so much trouble with his  
leg & do hope the ulcer will disappear  
I would love to go to Corbetta but as  
you know I can't advise all the  
wonderful beauty now, however I can  
still see so much in my mind &  
remember the lovely places & the many  
kind friends. I know you will be  
interested to hear I hope to have  
another book published early next year  
It is Early Australian History & I think  
will be called John Maxwell his  
letters 1823-1840. I wish I could tell you  
all about it but there is no time for  
more now with best wishes hoping  
you may come this way again

I am yours sincerely  
Bertha Macdonell

No 150



The Elms,  
Grays, Essex.

This is to Certify that I have, this Twentieth day  
of January 1850 Sold to J. Smith the Esquire  
Four PURE MERINO RAMS, Numbered on the rear ear  
and hoen respectively 29. 81. 32 and 27

and that they are directly  
descended from the pure Flock of His late Majesty George the Third  
purchased by my Father and since bred without cross or stain.

J. Smith Esq.





At the Agricultural Exhibition of all  
Nations held at Paris in June 1856  
I had awarded me for my pure Merino  
Tup first prize of 600 francs and  
gold medal as the breeder of him