

Yurunga

The Grigor name can be traced back to the very first stages of European settlement on the coast. William Grigor and Mary Fenwick both arrived at Moreton Bay on 19 January 1855 on the sailing ship William Miles. Mary met William during her voyage to Australia. She worked as a governess to the children of Captain Wickham, the Government Resident for the Moreton Bay settlement, at Newstead House, and later as governess to the McConnell children on Durundur station near Woodford, prior to marrying William in August 1863 at Eagle Farm. William Grigor and his partner John Low established strong timber getting business and established quite a few timber depots from Dunethin Rock, to Buderim and Mooloolah. When the government started building a proper road from Brisbane to Gympie, Grigor realised there was a living to be made out of accommodation and he set about building 'Bankfoot House' in Glasshouse Mountains for his wife Mary and their family. Bankfoot was named after the home village of Mary and was built in 1868.

This historic home became the first Cobb and Co station on the Coast catering for travellers moving between Brisbane and the Gympie goldfields. Apart from being a coach change station and providing overnight accommodation and stabling for miners and other travellers, the Grigor family also had their own dairy herd and ran a butchers shop and store to supply miners on their way to Gympie.

Williams son Harold, one of five brothers, bought out the shares held by his siblings and established Maleny Valley Station amongst lush pastures and the ridges and waterfalls of the Conondale National Park.

William and Mary's first four children were born at Mooloolah between 1864 and 1869 . They had 9 children, 3 of whom died young, leaving five sons and a daughter Clementina . Clementina lived there all her 85 years life and died in 1963. Clementina's daughter Mary was born in Bankfoot house and also lived there all her life, passing away in 1987. The house was home to descendants of the Grigor family until 2002.

William and Mary's firstborn son John Grigor (1864 - 1944) is recorded as the first white child to be born in Mooloolaba.

John married Elizabeth, the daughter of Joseph and Maria McCarthy of Mountain View Road, Maleny. He became a Councillor on the Caboolture Shire Council in 1906 and served on the Landsborough Shire Council after 1912. It appears he was a tremendously influential man in the district. He and his wife had 5 children:-

John Andrew 1895 - 1958 (married Jessie)

Mary Fenwick Josephine 1899 - 1969 (married Cornelius Keleher)

James Arthur 1900 - 1971 (married Hilda)

William Harold 1907 -1987

and George Joseph 1912 - 1967

John Andrew (usually known as Jack) Grigor and Jessie (nee Moodie) in 1919- parents of Doris Grigor, moved into Yurunga when they married.

In 1918/1919 John, the father, had the house Yurunga built as a wedding present for Jack and Jessie, It was called Yurunga meaning, in Doris' words " *House on the hill with a view*". Doris wrote in February 2015 that "*Yurunga contained three bedrooms with a verandah running round the front of the house and down the eastern side. IN the early 40's a builder by the name of Roy Battle, from Bald Knob, carried out extensive alterations and additions. The main bedroom was extended to include that portion of the verandah whilst taking a section at the rear to form a passageway to the new sleepout, plus a new bathroom. The kitchen was enlarged and the whole house was wired for electricity to be connected to all rooms in the house. A septic system was built and a toilet was installed. The back porch and back stairs were also altered and extended. An archway was created between the dining room and the lounge room (previously called the piano room) and these rooms were extended to include the sections of the verandah that was originally there. An office/sewing room was built on the south east corner of the verandah. It was approached by a doorway from the lounge. New stumps were installed both to replace the existing old ones and provide new ones for the new built sections. "*

Doris's son Darren recalls that his grandfather Jack provided all the stumps for all the churches in Maleny and when asked about going to church he (Jack) had said "I deal direct, I don't need to go through the middle man"

Doris continues " *Rooms were built under the house - a bedroom for the man who helped around the place, Tim Twomey, who worked for Dad. A laundry plus feed rooms, chook feed and hay etc for the horses grazing in the big paddock. New tanks were purchased and water was never a problem. The street was known as School Hill. The naming of Cedar Street came much later.*"

As she grew up Doris became quite a feature in the local newspapers.

ON Thursday 7th November 1935, the publication called The Queenslander, in a regular column called "Junior Readers Letterbox", the columnist, Aunt Hyacinth, talks to young people from all over the district, putting them in touch with each other to chat and make friends via letterwriting. Some of the children she pairs off are from India, England, USA and South Africa. She encourages one Dimple a doo to write to Doris Grigor at the address Yurunga, Maley.

ON Friday 8th November 1946, an article in the Courier Mail describes the forthcoming wedding of Doris to Gordon Jones in St Pauls Presbyterian Church, saying that there will be 8 attendants and that she would be wearing her great grandmothers pendant with her frock of needle-thread run lace.

The Nambour Chronicle then published a report of the wedding in Brisbane on 8th November 1946. It is simply delightful to read all about the occasion with lots of frilly details!

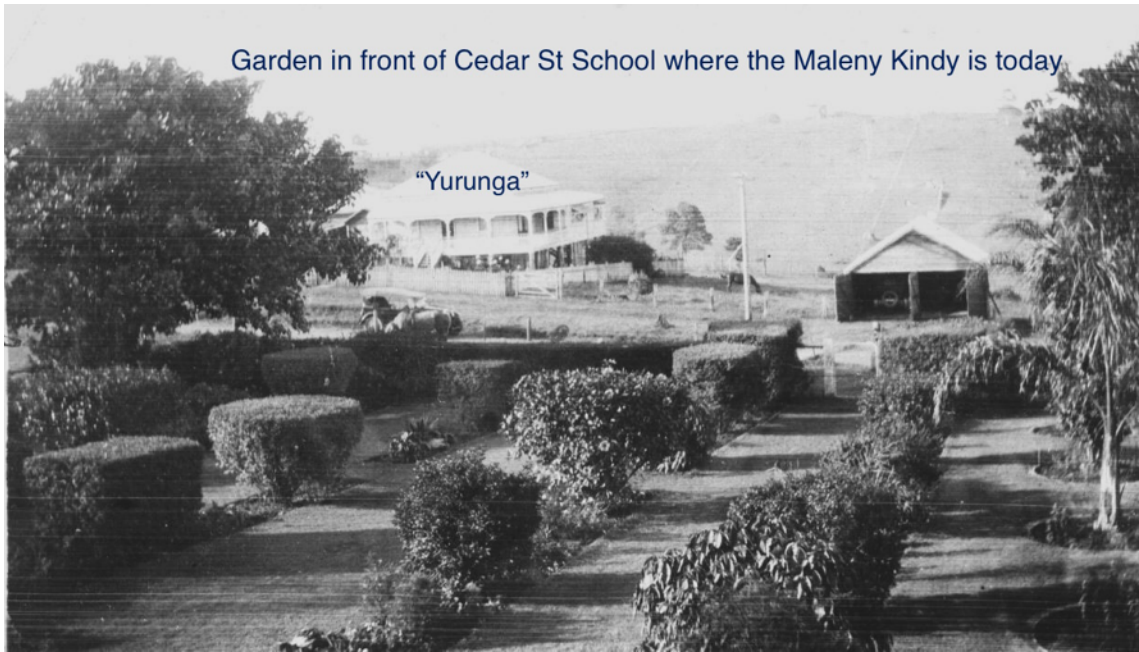
On Friday 15th November 1946 the Nambour Chronicle described the happy gathering of friends at Yurunga, the occasion being a trousseau showing by Doris after her wedding. Musical items were presented by some of the guests.

Doris currently lives in Manly, SW. She went to Sydney as a bride in 1946 and has lived there ever since. Her telephone number is 02 99772706, Her son Darren Jones can be reached at dazzagjones@hotmail.com

Jack, Doris father was an Honorary Ambulance Driver for many years. Doris had a brother Alan and sister Rae. Doris writes in a report that she prepared for the Maleny Historical Society, that on the end of year break up each year, her mum and other mums were responsible for the picnic goodies for the children. Year in and year out her wash tub, cutting up boards, knives etc were carted across the road to the school. Her parents assisted with all the concerts at the school -

sewing bees at Yurunga providing all the costumes. She says that she and her siblings never missed a day of school -“ mum and dad made sure we went even if we had a sniffle.”

Vaughan Grigor, grandson of Harold who together with Doris father owned the large family farm - Maleny Valley Station, (originally known as Rhodesia) had to sell part of the property in 2009 after Government resumed a 100 year lease on 16000ha of the property and with the declining dairy industry had found it too hard to keep going. *(Cherri Deutschmann)*



Doris (Grigor) Jones celebrating her 90th birthday in 2012