



VOLUME 8



JOURNAL OF THE
NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

OF AUSTRALIA INC.

<http://naa-online.com/>

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE FINDER OF THE KILLORA RESOLUTION AND ADVENTURE MEDAL

by Peter Lane



Mrs Janet Millar, nee Cadell, the finder of the Kollora Resolutions and Adventure medal age 85. Courtesy Les Carlisle

Since the original article on the medal was published in this Journal¹, a document thought to have been lost a quarter of a century ago has been unearthed. The papers were instrumental in tracking down person who originally found the Killora medal. This article explains how the medal was found in 1914, and the finder's relationship with the collector to whom it was sold to in 1970.

My earlier paper described how Captain James Cook distributed *Resolution and Adventure* medals to "natives of new found lands" and in particular discusses an example found at Killora in Tasmania.

The Killora medal remained in the finder's possession until 1970 when it was sold to Dr. William Crowther (Sir William) of Hobart, when it was offered for sale through the Australian Numismatic Society. Upon Sir William's death in 1981 the medal was auctioned by Spink's in Sydney, who knew it came from Sir William's Collection and sug-

gested it may have been found in Tasmania. The successful bidder was Richard L. Smith, who wrote a study on *Resolution and Adventure* medals. His collection of *Resolution and Adventure* medals was put to auction in 1991 as one lot, again by Spink's but failed to sell. Later several examples from his collection were disposed of privately, including the Killora medal.

Tom Hanley was the Secretary of the Australian Numismatic Society's Secretary in 1970 when a Mrs. J. Millar of Kingston Beach, Tasmania wrote to him on the 1st February and stated:

"...I have in my possession a Capt. Cook Commemorative medallion which I wish to sell. Is there anyone who is prepared to make me a direct offer? I enclose a rubbing of it...

P.S. There is a press cutting of *The Mercury* 20/2/24 about its discovery in 1916 approx. on Bruny Island, Tasmania".

Mr. Hanley found this correspondence relating to the original offer of the medal for sale in November 1994.

The newspaper article recorded the find but does not add anything new to this story. The rubbing clearly depicts the bubbles and flaking on the metal associated with the Killora example. This is the same medal as illustrated in Spink's auction catalogues as belonging to the Sir William Crowther Collection.

On the 4th March 1970, the A.N.S. Secretary replied after consulting with a number of medal collectors, suggesting that she could expect around \$35 to \$40 for it, subject to inspection. At that time there was virtually no interest in historical medals and medallions in Australia and the offer reflected this low demand.

Was J. Millar, nee Janet Cadell the finder of the medal? Correspondence from Bev. Davis,

1. Lane, Peter "The Killora Resolution and Adventure Medal", JNAA, 6, 1992 pp.15-20.

a local historian, from Bruny Island, confirmed it was one and the same person. Secondly she was alive and well and living at a War Veterans Village in Sydney!

In response to this news on the 15th of February 1995 Mrs. Janet Millar was interviewed at her home by Les and Margaret Carlisle. She said that she was born in 1910 and her family moved to a property called "Killora", (near the shore of Rats Bay) Bruny Island, which was a mixed farm of about 100 acres. The Medal was found in an Aboriginal midden which was located in front of their homestead (which is still standing). Janet discovered the medal while walking behind her father, who was ploughing the field with his horse drawn plough. She was picking up worms 'to feed to the chooks'.

The Mercury reported that the medal was found by Mr. James L. Cadell, on his property, and failed to mention that his young daughter picked it up, however he identified it and reported its find. Had he shown no interest in it, it surely would have been discarded by the little girl. Mrs. Millar could not remember a suspension ring on it, even though at the time of its find it was recorded as having one.

Mr. Cadell died during World War II and incidentally, during the interview it was learned that he was related to the Captain Francis Cadell who won one of Australia's

most important medals, a gold River Murray Medal, for navigating the river in 1853.

Janet later went to a boarding school at Huon Junior School and to the Friends School, Hobart run by the Quakers. In 1924 she went to England, being escorted there by her mother, and stayed there with an aunt until 1928 when she returned home. In 1932 she married Captain Andrew Millar, who later became a Major. They had three daughters and in 1986 they moved into the War Veterans Village. Mr. Millar died about eighteen months later.

Mrs. Violet Walker, who was Dr. William Crowther's receptionist from 1961 until his death in 1981, states "she has been a life long friend of Mrs. Millar, and Major Millar and Dr. Crowther also knew them fairly well". Crowther, recorded the purchase in a book, which is now housed in the Tasmanian State Library, and was discussed in my original article.

Acknowledgments:

- Les and Margaret Carlisle, Sydney
- Bev Davis, Bruny Island, Tasmania
- S. Gosling, A.C.T.
- Tom E. Hanley, Sydney
- J. Hewlett, Otago, Tasmania
- J. Knight, Sydney
- Mrs. Janet Millar, Sydney,
- V. Walker, Tasmania

THE KILLORA RESOLUTION AND ADVENTURE MEDAL

The illustration in Volume 6, p.19 purporting to be the "Killora" medal is incorrect.

