

EARLY PIONEERS OF ILLAWARRA FROM DIVERSE CULTURAL BACKGROUNDS

A List Compiled by Zofia Laba
Local Historian and Member of MHP
Current Research to Date
(in alphabetical Order)

Non- English Visitors in the Illawarra and their contribution to the area

Nationality	Name	Description
Austrian November 1858	Dr Karl Scherzer - Austrian Ethnologist and linguist <i>Source: Manuscript diary/journal of Dr. Karl Schrzer transcribed by Mrs Dymphna Clark, Jan – Feb 1995</i>	Dr. Karl Scherzer arrived in Australia aboard the Austrian ship Novara. He visited Illawarra in Nov. 1858. In his diary/journal described the flora and fauna of the Illawarra escarpment, Aboriginals living in the area and town of Wollongong.
Austrian November 1858	Joseph Selleny - Austrian landscape painter & lithographer <i>Source: M.K. Organ, J.E. Fletcher & G. Vldar “Joseph Selleny, An Austrian Artist in New South Wales, November-December 1858”</i>	Joseph Selleny , was the appointed official artist on board the Novara Expedition in 1858 . He visited Illawarra-Wollongong in Nov 1858. During this time he painted and sketched not only the natural sights of foreign parts, but most of all took portraits of their inhabitants. His work include many paintings with following titles: Wollongong; Landscape at Wollongong; Mount Keira Wollongong; Farm at Fairy Meadow near Wollongong; Farm in the vicinity of Wollongong; Farm in the vicinity of Wollongong; Mount Keira near the Osborne Wallsend coal mine; Keira escarpment near Wollongong; Keira escarpment near Wollongong with Aborigines; Australian Aborigine – Woman of Wollongong; Thullinbah – Male ethnic type Wollongong.
Polish 1839 – 1840	Paul Edmund Strzelecki – Polish Scientist and traveler <i>Source: Michael Organ Quo Vadis Count? – Paul Edmund Strzelecki’s Illawarra Maps & Fossils,</i>	Sir Paul Edmund Strzelecki was the first Polish explorer and scientist who discovered and named the highest peak in Snowy Mountains. He named it Mound Kosciuszko in memory of the Polish freedom fighter that fought not only for independence of Poland but for independence of the United States as well. According to Michael Organ’s article, Strzelecki had the opportunity to visit the Illawarra and may have done so between May and August 1839 or during December 1839 and January 1840. This Polish scientist published a book “Physical Description of New South Wales and Van Die man’s Land” in London in 1845 where he listed and described 18 fossils from the Illawarra.

Non – English Pioneers living in Wollongong – Illawarra

Nationality	Name	Description
Belgian Wollongong 1846-1850 Kiama 1852 -1860	Fr. Pierre D’Jonge (Peter Young) – Catholic Priest <i>Source:</i> Catholic Church in the Illawarra – 150 years?	Pierre D’Jonge (Peter Young) a Belgium Benedictine was a priest for the catholic parishes in Kiama and Wollongong (St. Francis Xavier).
Chinese 1851 - 1875	Tom Gam/Gammy - Farmer <i>Researched by: Terry Nunan</i>	Tom Gam/Gammy arrived from China in 1851, farmer from Mount Marshall. Lived in the Illawarra for 22 years. Naturalized in 1872, died in 1875 during an accident involving the overturning of his cart, buried at Roman Catholic burial ground, Dapto.
Chinese 1877	Tobacco – vegetable farmer - Mt. Pleasant farm <i>Researched by: Terry Nunan</i>	In 1878 A Chinamen leased 40-50 acres of the Mt Pleasant Estate for tobacco and vegetable growing. He employed couple of dozen Chinaman there.
Chinese 1877	Margaret Chie <i>Researched by: Terry Nunan</i>	1877 – she had a farm at Mount Marshall.
Chinese 1878	Honing Sing Long <i>Researched by: Terry Nunan</i>	In 1878 he had a Groceries – Fancy Goods shop in Crown St. Wollongong.
Chinese Early 1900s to present	Dion Family <i>Source: Ann Wood Tales From Our Street – Images and Stories of Illawarra’s History</i>	They had a market garden in Fairy Meadow (close to Fraternity Club) and later on became the owners of the Dion’s bus company.
Danish 1877 - 1905	John Peter Orvad – built the Denmark Hotel in Bulli <i>Source: Ann Wood Tales From Our Street – Images and Stories of Illawarra’s History</i>	John Orvad built the Denmark Hotel in Bulli , he did so much for the local community by allowing many public and private meetings to take place in the hotel as well as becoming involved himself in the matters which were important for the Bulli community. He died in 1905.
Egyptian 1877	Almus Ali – Egyptian coach driver <i>Researched by: Terry Nunan</i>	In 1877 was a coach driver for Mr. Waterworth. He died driving a coach from Campbelltown to Woonona. He was Mr. Waterworth’s employee for a considerable time and was described as a quiet, well conducted man. He died of natural course living behind European wife and a few children.

<p>French 1878 - 1909</p>	<p>Eugene Dominique Nicole – French engineer</p> <p><i>Source: Ann Wood Tales From Our Street – Images and Stories of Illawarra’s</i></p>	<p>He arrived in Australia in 1860, an engineer who contributed to the development of refrigeration in Australia. When he reached retirement age he moved to the Lake Illawarra to “Whiteheath” villa at Primbee, to the estate where beautiful Experanza is today.</p>
<p>French 1918 - 1995</p>	<p>Celine Jeanne Caron – French Bride</p> <p><i>Source: Ann Wood Tales From Our Street – Images and Stories of Illawarra’s History by Ann Wood</i></p>	<p>Celine Jeanne Caron married Frank Worrington in England in June 1919. Frank was World War 1 Australian soldier. She arrived with him in Wollongong in 1920. They opened a mixed business shop in North Wollongong, close to North Wollongong Railway station.</p>
<p>German 1862 – 1881</p>	<p>Charles Ziems and his two brothers arrived from the Gold fields of Victoria</p> <p><i>Source: Ann Wood Tales From Our Street – Images and Stories of Illawarra’s History</i></p>	<p>Charles Ziems built the Bulli Royal Hotel which he offered as the community venue. He formed a Friendly Society (and organisation to benefit the sick and needy), and the Bulli Brass Band.</p>
<p>1880s</p>	<p>Bode</p>	<p>The owner of North Wollongong Hotel. One of the streets in North Wollongong is named after him.</p>
<p>Italian 1856</p>	<p>John Sanarini – a visitor</p> <p><i>Researcher: Terry Bugg</i></p>	<p>John Sanarini came to Wollongong from Mudgee in 1856. He delivered furniture and dropped dead at the pub. He was buried at the Roman Catholic Cemetery, Wollongong.</p>
<p>Beginning of the 20th century</p>		<p>Fisherman from Sicily and Calabria who contributed to the Italian community of the Illawarra and the fishing industry.</p>
<p>Polish 1854 - 1873</p>	<p>Ignacy Zlotkowski – from Polish nobility, professor of modern languages, Wollongong’s first multilingual interpreter, prominent citizen of Wollongong</p> <p><i>Source: Zofia Laba & Barbara Mazur - “First Polish Pioneers of Wollongong”, MHP Newsletter, 08/12/08</i></p>	<p>Arrived in Australia in 1853, first record of him in Wollongong 1854.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owner of Zlotkowski’s Heights (area between Robsons Rd., Mt. Keira Rd and Keira Mine Rd). The area was subdivided and sold during the auction in 1887. Many miners cottages were built there and people of Wollongong even in 1950s referred to the area as Zlotkowski’s Heights. • Owner of a Concert Hall in Harbour St. (exactly where St. Mary’s of the Sea Chapel is today) • On two occasions one of the three representatives from the Illawarra to the Minister of Public Works – once regarding the progress of public work carried in Wollongong Harbour and second time lobbying for railway track from Bulli to Sydney.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairman of many public meetings. • Member of Wollongong Improvement Society. • Honorary Treasure of Wollongong Agricultural Society. • Wollongong's first bilingual interpreter for German, French and Italian migrants as a service to the Mayor of Wollongong
<p>Polish</p> <p>1882 – 1932</p>	<p>Paul and Victoria Radeski – parents of the First Australian Stained Artist</p> <p><i>Source: Zofia Laba Barbara & Mazur “First Polish Pioneers of Wollongong”, MHP Newsletter, 08/12/08</i></p>	<p>Arrived to Wollongong in 1882 with their 5 children. They had two more children who were born in Wollongong. Paul worked in coal mine, died in 1904. He was the first Polish born person to be buried in Wollongong. Victoria died in 1932.</p>
<p>Polish</p> <p>1882 - 1935</p>	<p>Valentina Radeski – Carmody One of Wollongong’s dressmaker s</p> <p><i>Researched by: Zofia Laba & Barbara Mazur</i></p>	<p>Arrived in 1882 as 10 years old. Lived and died in Wollongong. She died in 1935. She married Walter Carmody and was one of the Wollongong’s dressmakers. Her house still there in Keira Street.</p>
<p>Polish</p> <p>1882 - 1955</p>	<p>John Radeski/Radecki – the first Australian Stained Glass Artist</p> <p><i>Source: Source: Zofia Laba & Barbara Mazur - “First Polish Pioneers of Wollongong”, MHP Newsletter, 08/12/08</i></p>	<p>John Radecki arrived in Wollongong in 1882, worked in a coal mine, moved from Wollongong to Sydney in 1883. He contributed to Wollongong Architectural History by designing a number of stained glass windows for the following churches: St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Wollongong; St. Michaels Anglican Church, Wollongong; St. Michael’s Catholic Church, Thirroul; and St. Mary’s of the Sea Chapel, Wollongong. A beautiful story of the gratitude – the “Good Samaritan” stained glass window designed, made and donated to St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Wollongong by John Radecki. The window is dedicated to William and Elizabeth James of Shellharbour who in 1882 befriended the artist and his father when they were penniless migrants.</p>
<p>Polish</p> <p>1879 – 1920’s</p>	<p>Jacob Glass Polish Jew from Cracow– shop keeper, owner of the Princes Theatre in Woonona</p> <p><i>Source: Ann Wood Tales From Our Street – Images and Stories of Illawarra’s History</i></p>	<p>Jacob Glass a great supporter of miners during the Bulli miners’ strike, owner of the Miners J. Glass store in Bulli, owner of the Princess Theatre in Woonona (opened in 1912), supporter and the member of the Bulli Hospital Board. He was behind the initiative of Bulli Lookout (Hopton Park) and Woonona Bowling Club.</p>

Polish 1916 -	Hypolit Brynkevich – cotton worker from Poland <i>Researched by: Terry Bugg</i>	Born in Town Lodge (Lodz) in Poland, cotton worker age 28, single, resident of Corrimal who in 1916 joined the Australian Commonwealth Military Forces and went to war. He returned from the war to Australia in 1919.
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