

The History of Prouds Electric Clocks and The life of Thomas John Murday (1865 – 1938)

(Compiled by Norman Heckenberg and Anthony F Roberts, last updated 15 July 2014)

Date	Event	Remarks	Comments
7 September 1863	Parents Married	Parents, Maitland Murday (36) Widower, Coal Miner and Isabella Murday(27) nee Craig married at the Registry Office, Wooler in the District of Glendale in the county of Northumberland	True copy of Marriage Certificate number 93 issued on 28 November 2007. Number MXD535782 application number COL592365
1865	Thomas John Murday – Born North Shield	Mother, Isabella and Father, Maitland. Born North Shield, Northumberland, England. Father born North Shield, mother ?	1881 England Census at age 16. England and Wales Birth Index shows July – September 1864
1871	Family living at Murton Thomas Murday age 6		1871 Census
1881	Family living at Tritlington Hall, age 16	Parish Hebron Cockle Park Earsdon Tri	1881 Census
7/10/1882	Letter to Morpeth Herald	Storm warning, address given as Earsdon, Longhorsley.	P238
28/10/1882	Letter to Morpeth Herald	Storm warning, address given as Crofton, near Blyth	P237
20/10/1883	Letter to Alnwick Mercury	Storm warning, address given as Felton	P236
1889	Paper at BA meeting	Remote reading of meteorological records	London Times 17 September, p4
1891	Thomas Murday age 26 living at 41 Regent Rd, Coxlodge Gosforth	Electrical Engineer	1891 Census
1896	Applied for Patent	PATENT SPECIFICATION GB189612390 “An Improved Form of Integrating Watt or Ampere Hour Meter for Continuous or Alternating Currents” Staveley, Alwyn Walter; Parsons, Isaac Hardy; Murday Thomas John. Faraday Works, Braunstone, Gate, Leicester (Gent’s)	GB 1896 12390
1897	Applied for Patent along with Alwyn Walter Staveley and Isaac Hardy Parsons all of Faraday Works, Braunstone Gate, Leicester	PATENT SPECIFICATION No6212”Improved Means for Supplying Electric Current to Electrically operated Time Keeping Mechanism”. Date of Application (Mar., 1897, Complete Specification Left, 7 Dec., 1897 – Accepted, 9 Mar., 1898	Patent No 6212 A.D. 1897 <i>(pendulum and balance wheel drive, Parsons and Staveley were joint MDs of Gents at this time)</i>

1898?	Married	Florence Dawson born Gateshead, Durham abt 1876	Harry 3 in 1901 by census.
1899	Sept 1899	Patent 'Improvements in ammeters, Johnson, Walter Claude; Murday, Thomas. Victoria Works, Charlton, Kent, Electrical Engineers.	GB 1899 17774 (Elliott Bros, Century Works, Connington Road, Lewisham.)
1899	Patent Johnson, Walter Claude; Murday Thomas John	Improvements in Electricity Meters	GB 1899 17510
1901	Family living at Hammersmith		1901 Census
1901	Thomas Murday working for Standard Time Company		Such Great Inventors as the Late Mr Lund: An Introduction to the Standard Time Company, 1870-1970. By James Nye and David Rooney, AH, Dec 2007, 501-523.
29/8/1901	Patent: Standard Time Company Ltd; Thomas John Murday	Improvements in Synchronising Turret Clocks (<i>STC owned by Molden from Australia</i>)	Patent No. GB190117312
2/8/1901	Patent: Standard Time Company Ltd; Thomas John Murday	Improvements in Electric Clocks (<i>Hipp toggle and temp compensation</i>)	Patent No. GB190115664 STC at Queen Victoria St, London
1901	Census(street number is not registered)	Resides 364? Bollingbroke Rd, Hammersmith, app Elec Engineer, own account	P221
1902(Dec)	Patent	Improvements in Recording Instruments	GB 1902 28749
1903	Living in Gateshead-on-Tyne	3, Balmoral Ave, Gateshead-on-Tyne.(Homee town of wife)	GB 1902 28,749
1904	Prouds Ltd founded	Bought Goldstein's, partners , W.J., E.I & G.D.O. Proud	Obit SMH 24/3/1931
1/3/1904	Notice of sale	Modern Art Jewellery Coy to W.J. Proud	SMH (P214)
31/3/1904	Bangles...	W.J. Proud, WATCHMAKER AND JEWELLER, 187 PITT-STREET, SYDNEY	SMH (P 216)
2/4/1904	Muff chains...sale	W.J. Proud, JEWELLER, 187 Pitt-St	SMH (P215)
13/8/1907	Living in London	90 Hewitt Ave, Noel Park, London, N.	GB 1907 18,305
1907(Aug)	Patent: Murday Thomas John; Smith, Laurence Willoughby	Improvements in Recorder Pens	GB 1907 18305
1908 (4 Dec)	Patent	Improvements in Electric Clocks (<i>Murday slave</i>)	GB 1908 26239

1908 (27 Oct)	Patent	Improvements in Secondary Electric Clocks	GB 1908 24583
1908(27 Oct)	Patent	Improvements in Primary Electric Clocks (<i>double click</i>)	GB 1908 22819
7/2/1908	Living in Hounslow	32, Avonwick Rd, Hounslow, Middlesex. (between employers?)	From GB1908 26,239, GB 1907 18,305
1909	Brighton	Son Henry enrolled at Varndean boys school	Ross Garnsey (but name Varndean not used until 1932?)
1910	Patent: Reason Mfg Co Ltd; Thomas John Murday	Improvements in Electric Clocks (<i>balance wheel clock</i>)	GB 1910 01326
1910	Brevet d'Invention	Pendule Electrique (<i>balance wheel clock Mk I</i>)	FR418920. TJM, H.F. Reason, H.S. Saunderson
1910	Living in Brighton?	Lewes Rd, Brighton (also given in patent as address of Reason Manufacturing Co.	
1911	English Census (April 1?)	Family visitors at The Willows, Breck Rd Liverpool	Census in Coffee shop
1911	W.J Proud 187 Pitt St		
1911	Migration to Australia	Thomas (46), his wife Florence (35) and children Harry G(13) and Ethel (8) departed Liverpool,1 June 1911 on Afric, White Star Steamship Line bound for Melbourne, Australia via Cape (assume Cape of Good Hope, Africa). Also mentioned on the passenger manifest in the same area as the Murdays are Wm J Rooney(25) and Robt S Abraham(23), mechanic and warehouseman. The Afric arrived in Sydney on 22/7/1911 where the Murdays disembarked.	Ship Manifest
1912	Prouds 187 Pitt St	No mention of works in Sands Directory	
1912?	Prouds Ltd brochure 17pp 336 Kent St	Electric Clocks (<i>based on Reason catalogue</i>)	Copy from Taprells
1912	First (?) installation	Master and 13 dials for Sun newspaper	
1913???	Prouds 49 Clarence St brochure	Electric Time Circuits (<i>Synchrone Type Controlling Clock</i>)	
1912	Letter and brochure	Synchrone NSW still in operation	City of Sydney archives
28/10/1913	Murday letter to Evening News	Re Smallpox and Sanitation	

1913	Prouds Ltd, indentors, 336 Kent St	1913 Sands Directory	
1913-1916	A.L. Franklin then worked for Prouds Ltd between 1913 and 1916 where he was 'In charge of installation and maintenance of numerous Electric Time Service Systems'.		
1913	Prouds purchase business of Synchronome Electrical Coy	Supposedly from records of William Proud who believed Prouds were only manufacturers of electric clocks in Australia.	John Seymour Proud via Stan Proud.
1913	Installation at Circular Quay	Synchronised balance wheel clocks, turret clocks, connection to observatory	Electric Clocks: Uniform Electric Time Service and What It Means
16/12/1913	Fire in Kent St Sydney	..stock of Proud's limited, jewellers was also damaged	Singleton Argus (P210)
1914	Proud's Ltd, indentors, 336 Kent St	1914 Sands Directory	
1914	Murday living at 27 Wolger Rd, Mosman		1914 Sands Directory
9/1/1914	Clocks for the Wharfs	A start has been made...	SMH (P235)
17/2/1914	Letter to ed. SMH	Circular Quay clocks being installed, microbarometers 'accepted ...by Tourist Department'	Arthur J. Vogan
8/4/1914	HALL OF INDUSTRIES	Mention of Prouds display	SMH (P234)
1915	Prouds 187 Pitt St	No mention of works	
15/1/1916	Mention of Prouds at Trade Fair	The Mirror of Australia	
20/7/1916	Murday quoted in Wellington Times	Re Vortex guns, mentions Reason	P232
1916	Prouds works Lawson House, 49 Clarence St	First listing of Clarence St in Sands Directory	
1917			
>1917	Brochure 4pp 49 Clarence St	Uniform Electric Time Service (<i>Murday Type controlling Clock</i>)	Copy from Brisbane files
1918	Living at 59 Bradley's Head	House still stands now – Presbytery. Viewed house	1918 Sands Directory

	Rd, Mosman	March 2008	
1918	Installation at Kingaroy School of Arts.	Turret clock with 3 dials, now in Kingaroy Heritage Museum	Restored N Heckenberg, A Roberts, J Blyth end 2009. NAWCC Ch 104 newsletter Vol 33, issue 3, pp12-13 and Vol 34, issue 2, p10.
1918	Prouds Works, Lawson House, 49 Clarence St	Sands Directories 1918	
>1918	Brochure 4pp 49 Clarence St	The Electric Turret Clock	
1919			
1920	Living at 59 Bradley's Head Rd, Mosman	House still stands now – Presbytery. Viewed house March 2008	1920 Sands Directory
1921	Living at 59 Bradley's Head Rd, Mosman	House still stands now – Presbytery. Viewed house March 2008	1921 Sands Directory
1923	Prouds Works, Lawson House 49 Clarence St	Sands Directory 1923	
>1923	Brochure 16pp 49 Clarence St	Electric Clocks: Uniform Electric Time Service and What It Means	Original from Brisbane?
1923	Living at 59 Bradley's Head Rd, Mosman	House still stands now – Presbytery. Viewed house March 2008	1923 Sands Directory
1924	Living at 77 Bradley's Head Rd, Mosman	Now block of units. Viewed March 2008	1924 Sands Directory
1924	Prouds Works, Lawson house, 49 Clarence St	1924 Sands Directory	
1925	Prouds Works, Lawson house, 49 Clarence St	1925 Sands Directory	
23/12/1925	Cairns Memorial Clock	Tender accepted	Cairns Post (P175)
>1925	Brochure 4pp 422-424 Kent St	Electric Time Systems	Copy from Taprells
1926	Factory, "Clock House", 422-424 Kent St	First entry for 422-424 Kent St in 1926 Sands Directory	
1926	Living at 4 Effingham St,	House still stands. Viewed house March 2008	1926 Sands Directory

	Mosman		
16/10/1926	Commissioner's Offices, Canberra	'similar system is being built for Parliament House'	Canberra (P176)
1927	Living at 4 Effingham St, Mosman	House still stands. Viewed house March 2008	1927 Sands Directory
1927	Applied for Patent, living at 4 Effingham St, Mosman, NSW.	PATENT SPECIFICATION 279,311 "A Method of controlling automatically the recharging of accumulator batteries from the supply mains, applicable to electric clock circuits and the like" No 6033/27. Complete Accepted Oct. 27, 1927	Patent confirms address. Patent Number 279,311
31/03/1927	Florence joins Theosophical Society in Sydney	4 Eppingham (sic) St, Mosman	J.Hissey, Librarian, Theosophical Society in Australia 29/10/2012
7/11/1927	Miss Ethel Mary Murday joins Theosophical Society	4 Eppingham (sic) St, Mosman	J.Hissey, Librarian, Theosophical Society in Australia 29/10/2012
1928	Frank Rozzoli starts at Prouds	Remembered accompanying Murday to port to deal with chronometers. Murday in charge of chronometer rating for Prouds.	Recounted by Ron Rozzoli.
Late 1929	WJP sails for Colombo for health	Gradually withdraws from active management	Aust Dict Biography
1929	Living at 4 Effingham St, Mosman	House still stands. Viewed house March 2008	1929 Sands Directory
1930	Living at 4 Effingham St, Mosman	House still stands. Viewed house March 2008	1930 Sands Directory
1931	Living at 4 Effingham St, Mosman	House still stands. Viewed house March 2008	1931 Sands Directory
1931	Mrs H. Murday.	Milson Rd, Cremorne. . Could be the address of (the wife of) Harry Murday, Thomas' son. Harry married Hessie Burtha (nee Johnston) 1905 – 1995.	1931 Sands Directory
22 March 1931	William Proud dies	Wentworth Falls, of cerebro-vascular disease	Aust Dict Biography
1932			
1933	Factory, "Clock House", 422- 424 Kent St	Last listing in Sands online.	
1934			

>1935	Brochure 16pp, 422-424 Kent St	Modern Electric Time Systems	Copies from Taprell and Fellner
9/5/1936	George Proud injured	Collision with bullocks	Courier Mail (P177)
9/5/1936	George Proud injured	Collision with bullocks	SMH (P189)
9/5/1936	George Proud injured	Collision with bullocks	SMH (P190)
11/5/1936	George Proud discharged	Collision with bullocks	SMH (P192)
1937			
23/7/1937	ALAN CROOK ELECRRICAL CO. PTY. LTD	Capital £10,000 merchants, importers and electricians. etc First directors: Robert A. Crook, Jack S. Wilcox, and Gregory B. Kater	SMH (P208)
27/7/1937	ALAN CROOK ELECRRICAL CO. PTY. LTD	Capital £10,000 merchants, importers and electricians.etc First directors: Robert A. Crook, Jack S. Wilcox, and Gregory B. Kater	SMH (P202)
19 February 1938	Thomas John Murday died. lived at 54 Read St, Waverly (now Bronte)	Now a modern bungalow style probably 1970's. Viewed house March 2008	Death notice Sydney Morning Herald, Monday 21 February 1938. Funeral Notice, same paper.
21 February 1938	Cremated	Crematorium, Rookwood Necropolis, Lidcombe, Sydney	Crematorium records staff March 2010
25 February 1938	Ashes sent to then City Office	Crematorium, Rookwood Necropolis, Lidcombe, Sydney	Crematorium records staff March 2010
1938	Lawrence Taprell starts at Prouds		
17/12/1938	Fire in City	Last night on third floor of a building in Day St occupied by the electric clock and instrument factory of Prouds Pty Ltd. Considerable damage....	SMH? (P209)
12/7/1939	Clock for Avoca (Tasmania)	Had to be remade after finished model was burnt in the fire..	SMH (P212)
1 May 1940	Alan Crook buys in	ELECTRIC CLOCKS AND INSTRUMENTS PTY LTD, capital £20,000 in £1 shares. First Directors: John S. Proud, George Proud, and Robert A Crook.	SMH 1 May 1940 (P180)
1940	Brochure 20pp 168 Day St	Time; Modern Electric Recording Mechanisms. Stamped Alan Crook Electrical Co Pty Ltd Includes installations with dates.	Copy from Taprell
11/1/1941	Boys over 16..for engineering	Alan Crook Electrical Co., 3 Barrack St., City	SMH (P191)

	works at Camperdown		
30/6/1941	Boys 15-17for works Camperdown	Apply Alan Crook Electrical Co. Pty. Ltd. 2 nd floor, 3 Barrack St., City	SMH (P199)
28/9/1942	Storeman..Camperdown	ALAN CROOK ELECTRICAL CO PTY LTD. Apply at your local National Service Centre	SMH (P200)
25/5/1946	Electrical clock repairs	ALAN CROOK ELECTRICAL CO PTY LTD. 3 Barrack St, city	SMH (P204)
1/6/1946	ALAN CROOK ELECTRICAL CO. PTY.LTD.	3 Barrack St., Sydney	Advert SMH (P179)
8/6/1946	ALAN CROOK ELECTRICAL CO. PTY.LTD.	3 Barrack St., Sydney	Advert SMH (P187)
31/8/1946	Moulder	ALAN CROOK ELECTRICAL CO PTY LTD	SMH (P196)
4/9/1946	Boy 15-17...	ALAN CROOK ELECTRICAL CO PTY LTD St Leonards	SMH (P184)
12/4/1947	Mr R. Alan Crook resigns as managing director of Alan Crook Electrical Co. Pty. Ltd.	Remaining directors are Sir Norman Kater, G.B. Kater, Geo. Proud, J.S. Proud and A.M. Scott.	SMH (P194)
7/6/1947	NON-FERROUS FOUNDRY..	ALAN CROOK ELECTRICAL COMPANY PTY. LTD. Herbert St., St. Leonards	SMH (P185)
4/7/1947	NAME CHANGED	Alan Crook Electrical Co. Pty. Ltd. now Ac-Elec Pty. Ltd.	SMH (P183)w
8/8/1947	Advert for ACELEC	Advertiser (SA)	Smiths AC clocks
24/9/1947	If an egg and a half..	AC-ELEC PTY LTD, Herbert St., St. Leonards	SMH (P205)
22/10/1947	Advert for master time system	AC-ELEC PTY LTD, Herbert St., St. Leonards	SMH (P197)
11/11/1947	AC-ELEC PTY. LTD.	Keeping Time with the Master	SMH (P193)
3/7/1948	Junior process workers advert	ACELEC PTY. LTD. Herbert St., St. Leonards	SMH (P181)
24/8/1948	Men and boys...	Acelec Pty Ltd Herbert St, St Leonards	SMH (P207)
24/11/1948	Draughtsman, junior, electrical	ACELEC PTY. LTD. Herbert St., St. Leonards	SMH (P206)
26/11/1948	Save money on payroll accounting	AC-ELEC PTY LTD Herbert St, St. Leonards	SMH (P203)
30/3/1949	For sale Brass strip	ACELEC PTY LTD Herbert St, St. Leonards	SMH (P198)
3/5/1949	AC-ELEC PTY LTD	Keeping Time with the Master. Herbert St, St Leonards	SMH (182)
8/5/1949	AC-ELEC PTY LTD	Keeping Time with the Master. Herbert St, St	SMH (188)

		Leonards	
28/3/1950	Electrical Equipment of Australia Prospectus	Subsidiary Acelec Pty Ltd (formed in 1937) which operates a factory at Herbert St, St Leonards, producing outdoor switchgear and accessories, synchronous clocks, impulse clock systems and timing devices, slydlock fuses, burndy clamps and other electrical equipment	SMH (P201)
8/7/1954	Acelec Pty. Ltd.	Division of Electrical Equipment of Australia, Herbert St., St. Leonards	SMH (P186)
10/10/1956	Acelec part of Electrical Equipment of Australia		Argus. (P170)
27/07/1960	Florence Deceased adv	Last address 12 Myrtle Rd, Bankstown	Theosophical Society
16/9/1966	Ethel	Unit 10, St Ann's Court, William Street, Top Ryde	Theosophical Society
28/4/1969	Ethel	Chalet 14, Mowll Memorial Village 284 Castle Hill Road, Castle Hill	Theosophical Society
23/08/1972	Ethel	Resigned from Theosophical Society	Theosophical Society