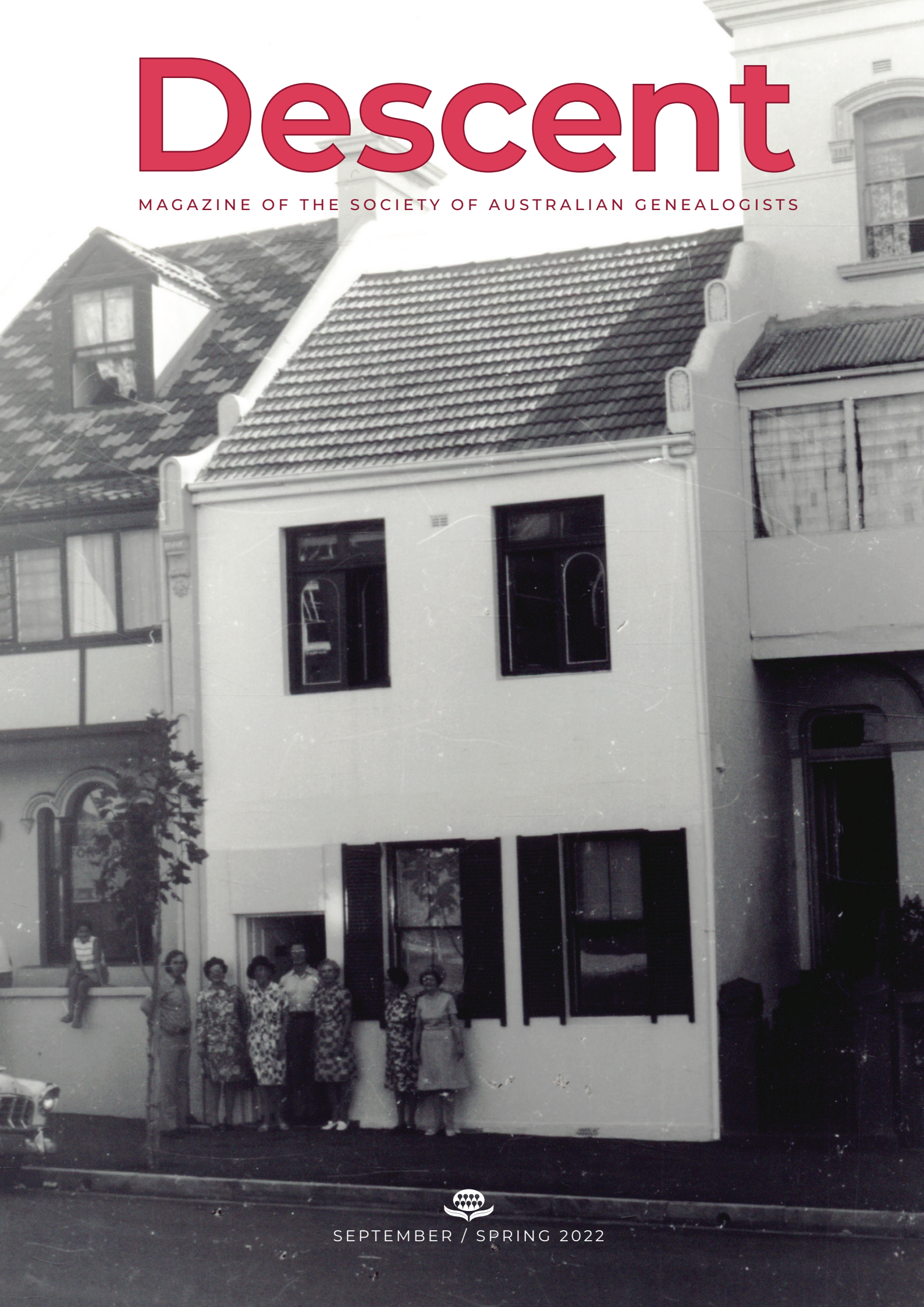


# Descent

MAGAZINE OF THE SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIAN GENEALOGISTS



SEPTEMBER / SPRING 2022



# In This Issue

---

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	79
BIOGRAPHY	80
CROKER PRIZE FOR BIOGRAPHY 2022	81
CROKER PRIZE WINNER – COLLITS INN	82
IN SEARCH OF...THE IMPACT OF EUROPEAN COLONISATION	
HOW DO WE MAKE SENSE OF THE DIFFICULT STORIES WE ENCOUNTER?	84
FROM SUSSEX TO BENGAL	85
GLYN MORGAN DAVIES	87
ECHOES FROM A FADED EMPIRE	89
WILLIAM GIBSON OF JESSORE	92
ON THE RECORD	94
EDUCATION@SAG	96
GENETIC GENEALOGY	97
OUR SAG COMMUNITY	98
DEATH OF SAG FELLOW – PAT GORDON	99
ARCHIVES REPORT	102
<i>THE WAR CRY</i> MISSING PERSONS' INDEX	104
LIBRARY NEWS	108
ABOUT US	110

The theme for this issue of *Descent* is an exploration of the impact of former European empires on the social and family histories of both the people who were colonised as well as those who arrived as colonisers. Our members have provided articles which illustrate the impact on families of the Colonial empires of the Early Modern period, with a particular focus on British India, South Africa, Hong Kong, Indonesia, New Zealand, Fiji and other Pacific Island nations.

## Descent

September/Spring 2022 [Volume 52 Part 3]

ISSN 0084 9731

## Editorial Committee

Danielle Tebb, Ruth Graham, Pauline Weeks,  
Danielle Lautrec, Viv Cunningham-Smith,  
Linda Waters, Sandra Dexter

[editor@sag.org.au](mailto:editor@sag.org.au)

## Design

Tracey Grady

[www.traceygrady.com](http://www.traceygrady.com)

## Cover Image

Heritage House, 413 Riley Street, Surry Hills. SAG occupied this building from 1971 to 1978, before moving to Richmond Villa. SAG Images.

## Acknowledgment of Country

We acknowledge the First Nations peoples and we pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging. The Society acknowledges the Gadigal people of the Eora nation, the traditional custodians of the land on which Richmond Villa stands.

## Copyright and Disclaimer

The Society does not hold itself responsible for statements made or opinions expressed by authors of items published in this magazine. It cannot vouch for the accuracy of offers of services or goods that are included, or be responsible for the outcome of any contract entered into with an advertiser. All articles and items in this magazine are subject to copyright and may not be reproduced without the written permission of the Society. This magazine cannot be redistributed, either electronically or in print, without the express permission of the Society.



# President's Message

MELISSA HULBERT

As we go to print, the last of the Society's cake for our official celebration of our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 29 August will have been consumed, though we will be continuing to mark this anniversary milestone throughout the rest of the year!

We have just come to the end of 2022's National Family History Month, a calendar of activities now firmly in the mindset of our community. I hope that you managed to get to an in-person event at a local society or one of our online meetings. Thank you again to all of those at the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations (AFFHO) for their efforts at the rescheduled Congress that was held in Norfolk Island to start off our month.

## Farewell John Burke and Betty O'Neill

John Burke stepped down from the Board in March this year. He joined the Board in 2012 and with an expertise in strategy, administration and financial management, served as the Honorary Treasurer until June 2017, before taking on the role of Honorary Secretary until his resignation earlier this year. John is passionate about history, genealogy and heritage which is also reflected in his long career at State Records NSW, where he was the Deputy Director when he retired in 2011.

Dr Betty O'Neill stepped down from the Board in July, having joined it in May 2021, bringing a wealth of knowledge across many areas with her eclectic range of degrees, including her most recent (2018) Doctorate in Creative Arts. Betty is a university lecturer in Creative Intelligence and Innovation and is best known at SAG for her creative writing courses which she will continue to present.

On behalf of the Society, I'd like to thank John and Betty for their knowledge and contributions to the Board and Society and wish them all the best with their future endeavours.

## Board watch

For the first half of 2022, your Society's Board has been working on a balance of internal activities, strategic planning and advocacy, whilst supporting the celebrations of the 90th anniversary of the organisation.

The Board started the year by responding to the Review of the Privacy Act 1988, following a consultation with the Commonwealth Government. Director Kerry Farmer wrote the Society's submission and key to this submission was the consideration of personal identity. Part of the submission documents included:

*Private genealogical research needs protection or exclusion from the scope of this Privacy Act Review. Just as privacy is a universal human right, so too it is a basic human need to know your family history and genetic identity. Genealogists seek to reconnect people with their families. Great pain is caused when individuals feel deprived of a familial connection – this is in keeping with the successive government policies acknowledging the harm of 'not knowing', which resulted in the national apologies to the 'Stolen Generations', to 'Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants' and to 'People affected by forced adoptions'.*

*We believe the rights of the individual to know their family identity needs to take precedence over the rights of an individual to not be identified. Considering the privacy rights of such individual family members as being absolute risks the continued denial of truth. SAG's position does not suppose that details of the identified family should be publicised or that there is any obligation for communication between the two parties.*

The submission also addressed issues of DNA testing throughout the community. This excerpt summarises the Society's position and the importance of using DNA in contemporary family history activities:

*DNA testing has become an integral part of genealogical research. However, DNA information is only valuable when used in combination with traditional genealogy research methods (using open access records). Employing traditional research methods, we build family trees. The DNA genealogy test then allows the comparison of shared DNA segments between consenting individuals. This comparison helps us to draw inferences about possible relatedness. DNA cannot on its own identify how we relate to others; that needs searching traditional genealogical documents and records to build the family trees. Then DNA comparisons with matches can confirm the truth of the written documents along with the conclusions we have drawn.*

This submission provided the Board with clarity of thinking that we will take forward with the formation of our Genealogical Standards Group. As this is such an important topic, the group will be lead in the first instance by myself.

The Group's terms of reference give it parameters "To initiate and provide ongoing advice to the SAG Board and Committees regarding genealogical research standards as pertains to publications, courses, and events". We are seeking to ensure the highest ethical standards in our educational offerings and develop new training and educational programs that meet the needs of modern genealogists.

If you have experience in standards and ethics and would like to contribute by joining the Genealogical Standards Group, please send an email to [admin@sag.org.au](mailto:admin@sag.org.au) and include a paragraph outlining your experience by 30th September.

In other matters, the Board recently supported an application from a state library to the UNESCO Australian Memory of the World. We welcome such approaches from colleagues in the 'GLAM' sector of Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums, where the Society can add its voice in the preservation of materials or where collections can support the undertaking of family history research.

We are also continuing work on a revision to the Society's Constitution, and I will be providing further updates in subsequent editions of *Descent*.

**Melissa Hulbert**  
President



The cake for the celebration of the Society's 90th Anniversary

## Kytic, Michael (1865–1932)

JULIE FITZGERALD

Michael Kytic (1865-1932), coal miner and community leader, was born on 23 August 1865 in Brzezowa, Galicia, a small village of the Austria-Hungarian Empire (now Poland), and baptised four days later. He was the son of Iwan Kityk, a farmer, and Maria nee Hanas.

With barely any education, initially Michael worked as a farm labourer, then later in a salt mine. At the time, Galicia (now spanning south-western Poland and western Ukraine), was one of the poorest regions of Europe. In 1888 Michael was one of many recruited to migrate and work in coal mines in North-Eastern Pennsylvania, USA. Michael was employed by the Hudson Coal Company until he and his wife bought a farm in upstate New York in 1924. He had always feared being buried alive in a mining accident and strongly desired to farm instead.

Michael married Francesca Mrocza in 1892 in Mayfield, Pennsylvania. Although both were from the same Polish village, Michael identified as a Ruthenian or Rusyn (now known as Lemko), a Slavic ethnic minority, and was of the Greek Orthodox faith. Francesca was a Roman Catholic but converted before their marriage, and their children were baptised and brought up accordingly. Michael's religion, language and cultural traditions were all rooted in Eastern Europe, particularly Ukraine. Michael became an American citizen in 1896.

By the turn of the century, the small town of Mayfield was comprised predominantly of Eastern European and Irish Catholic immigrants working in the mines, in poor conditions for low pay. With little government resourcing available at that time, and most European migrants speaking little or no English and illiterate, Michael was an integral part of setting up support systems and cultural organisations in Mayfield. These included the Brotherhood of St John in conjunction with a cooperative store, the Russian American Association, the Russian Hose Company, Russian parochial school on Saturdays, a choir, a band, a theatre group, and sporting teams.

The single most important organisation in the Eastern European community however was the Greek Catholic parish, with the first church being built in 1891. A rectory, school building and social hall followed. Open hostilities between the Roman Catholic and foreign Eastern-rite churches eventually resulted in a demand for charter control and parish property to be handed over to the local Catholic Bishop. This culminated in a push by the Mayfield parish to come under the auspices of the Russian Orthodox Church in Russia itself, which was ultimately successful. Michael was a founding charter member of the new iteration of the parish, with it becoming the Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church of St John the Baptist in 1907. The return to orthodoxy was a seminal moment for the parishioners, many of whom were members of Michael's extended family from the home country.

Michael and Frances had ten children together, including three of whom who failed to make adulthood: Stephen (1893-1909), Mary (1894-1983), Tekla (1896-1994), Peter (1898-1898), Anna (1900-1997), Julia (1902-1995), John (1905-1977), Michael (1907-1909), Pauline (1910-1975) and Andrew (1912-2004). The surviving children primarily stayed in Pennsylvania, with one settling in Rhode Island, and one in New Mexico. Michael's youngest son Andrew married an Australian woman and settled in Sydney, Australia, during World War II.

Unfortunately, and with great reluctance, the economic impact of the Great Depression meant that Michael needed to return to the mines in Pennsylvania temporarily. In 1932, just as he and his wife had recovered financially and were about to move back to their farm, Michael was hit

by a vehicle driven by a drunk driver. He suffered a fractured skull, had surgery, but succumbed to his injuries three days later. His widow and youngest son returned to the farm not long afterwards. Michael was initially buried in Plains, Pennsylvania. His body was moved after that cemetery flooded, to Fern Knoll Burial Park in Dallas Pennsylvania.

### Select Bibliography

Ancestry.com. 1900 United States Federal Census [database on-line], Census Place: Mayfield, Lackawanna, Pennsylvania; Roll: 1418; Page: 22; Enumeration District: 0014; FHL microfilm: 1241418, Michael Kitik.

Ancestry.com. 1910 United States Federal Census [database on-line], Census Place: Mayfield Ward 2, Lackawanna, Pennsylvania; Roll: T624\_1357; Page: 30A; Enumeration District: 0038; FHL microfilm: 1375370, Michael Kitik.

Ancestry.com. 1920 United States Federal Census [database on-line], Census Place: Mayfield Ward 2, Lackawanna, Pennsylvania; Roll: T625\_1578; Page: 14B; Enumeration District: 68, Michael Kytic.

Ancestry.com. 1930 United States Federal Census [database on-line], Census Place: Edwardsville, Luzerne, Pennsylvania; Page: 13B; Enumeration District: 0031; FHL microfilm: 2341800, Mike Kytic.

Ancestry.com, "Pennsylvania, U.S., Death Certificates, 1906-1968" [database on-line], Pennsylvania Department of Health, Death Certificate of Michael Kytic, (no. 203, 1932).

Ancestry.com, "New York, U.S., "New York, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820-1957" [database on-line], U.S. Customs Service, Michael Kittik, (The Fulda, 1888).

Archiwum Greckokatolickiego Biskupstwa w Przemyslu, Poland, Greek Catholic Baptisms, Michael Kytic, (scan no. 535, 1865) <http://www.skany.przemysl.ap.gov.pl/show.php?zesp=142&cd=0&ser=0&syg=6818>.

County Clerks' Office, Bath, New York, USA, Grantee Index of Deeds Steuben County, purchasers Kytic and Klimash, 1924, copy held by Julie Fitzgerald.

Genealogical Research Society of Northeast Pennsylvania, USA, Lackawanna County, USA, Naturalization Petition, Michael Kitik, 1896, copy held by Julie Fitzgerald.

Genealogical Research Society of Northeast Pennsylvania, USA, Marriage License Docket of Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania, USA, Application for Marriage, Mike Kittik and Franziska Mrotchka, (no. 8662, 1892), copy held by Julie Fitzgerald.

Kytic, Andrew, oral history, 2002, recorded and held by his granddaughter, Julie Fitzgerald.

Parish Centennial Committee, 100th Anniversary 1891-1991 St John the Baptist Russian Orthodox Church (Mayfield, Pennsylvania: self-published, 1991).

Parish Committee, 125th Anniversary 1891-2016 St John the Baptist Russian Orthodox Cathedral (Mayfield, Pennsylvania: self-published, 2016).

"Two Seriously Hurt at Nesbitt Memorial", Wilkes-Barre Times Leader (Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, USA), 19 September 1932, 3.

Wagonhurst, D'Arcy, emails, 2007, held by her husband's cousin, Julie Fitzgerald.

SAG runs a **Certificate in Genealogical Research** to assist members to both hone their research skills and explore areas of study they may not be familiar with. The course also functions as a pre-requisite to our Diploma in Family Historical Studies. One exercise is to write a biography of an ancestor in the style of an Australian Dictionary of Biography entry. Each issue of *Descent* we feature one such biography.



# Croker Prize for Biography 2022

The Croker Prize for Biography, which runs annually, was set up nine years ago to publicly recognise the Society's generous benefactors Colin and Loas Croker. Submissions must be centred around the entrant's relative and tackle the annual theme, this year's being '**Where Did I Come From?**' All of the biographies for 2022 can be viewed on the Society's website and entries from the previous two years are also available.

This year saw another bumper crop of entries, with 29 entrants vying for the honour and \$1000 prize on offer. It was pleasing to see some geographical diversity in the entries, with five from Queensland, one from Victoria, one from the Australian Capital Territory, two from South Australia and an impressive ten from regional New South Wales – for the first time equalling the number of entries from Sydney. Also encouraging was that three of the entries were from members new to the Society since the beginning of this year.

The theme this year was a fairly broad one, allowing scope to explore social and genetic connections, locations, cultural backgrounds and ethnicities. Aside from a couple of entrants who unfortunately fell foul of the conditions relating to word limits, references and images, the biographies were for the most part well written and thoroughly researched, with an impressive use of an array of sources.

---

**The competition judges were taken on journeys of introspection, reflection and detailed ancestral examination as entrants explored the often unexpected paths taken by long deceased family members. There were twists and turns, some interesting surprises, sorrows and disappointments, pride and satisfaction, and the discovery of hidden talents.**

Whilst not all entrants may have been happy with the outcome of their deep dive into where they came from, their exploration of the theme at least added a richness and conclusiveness to their ancestral searches.

Whilst we would love to provide highlights of all the entries, room only permits a selection to be showcased. These give some insight into the high standard of the biographies and the depth of individual research:

In **A Canine Tale**, the author speculates that a telepathic affinity with dogs derives from an ancestral connection to the legendary fox hunter, John Peel. Peel's reputation in rural north-west England, as immortalised in the song D'Ye Ken John Peel, depended upon his skills with a team of 24 hounds to keep local farmers' flocks safe from predators.

Set against a well-researched backdrop of bushrangers, gold prospectors and squatters in Central West NSW, **The Force of Charles Higgs** provides a reflective and honest appraisal of what it means to be descended from a colonial immigrant, a police officer in this case, who may have been involved in the violent displacement of Australia's Indigenous inhabitants.

**Shipwreck, Survival and Shady Deals** is the ripping yarn of John Austin and his scrapes with the law. It takes the reader from the insecurity of life shifting from farm to farm on the edge of Dartmoor in Devon, to a shipwreck in Bass Strait on the voyage to Australia and, once settled on land north of Brisbane, to the distilling of illicit liquor and Austin's role in the Great Spirit Fraud of 1879. The author astutely concludes that 'sometimes we forget that ingenuity,

cunning, lapses of judgement, and hidden talents are also part of where we come from.'

Antonio George Patrech stood before the open fireplace, bushy-moustached and with a twinkle in his eye, warming his whole body. 'She had asked, "where are you really from?" His answer was "**I am an Australian.**" This is the unusual story of the biographer's great-grandfather, a Pontic Greek seaman who deserted his ship in Australia and established a productive life mostly at Moruya on the south coast of New South Wales. Full of wonderful historical context and well-researched, it illustrates something of the world Antonio left behind.

With the catchy title **William Parsons Meeker: Rich Man, Poor Man, Beggar Man, Ancestor**, this biography captures the reader's attention from the first paragraph. It reveals how a merchant trader of Philadelphia, and a man of great wealth and social standing, suffered a dramatic fall of fortune during the Napoleonic War. While trying to revitalise his business, William disappeared on a voyage from England to America, and, despite the author's best efforts to trace him, his fate is unknown, but his resilience lives on in his descendants.

The age-old question of **Nature or Nurture?** formed the fitting backdrop for an immersive and entertaining exploration of whether an ancestral background of poverty, crime, mistreatment and desperation would creep its way through the generations to influence the author. After a wonderfully creative beginning – 'The man knelt in the shallow, murky water of the River Cherwell under Napper's Bridge and peered around several times. Confident that he was camouflaged in the shadows, he hurriedly dug a deep hole in the stinking mud and buried the large cloth-wrapped bundle, weighing it down with heavy stone.' – the narrative built into a well-researched and confidently written biography that, being only just edged out by this year's winner, has earned a Highly Commended certificate for Kerry Close. Well done Kerry!

Although choosing a winning entry from an impressive array of entries was always going to be a challenge, the Committee found a winner in **Collits Inn**, written by a deserving Bob Wright from Thornleigh in Sydney. Bob's entry, which can be found on the following pages, was a thoroughly researched and sentimental examination of the challenges endured by the original owner of the first inn west of the Blue Mountains. Congratulations Bob!

We hope you enjoy reading all the entries and perhaps pick up some research ideas in the process. The theme for next year's competition will be announced in the Autumn issue of *Descent*. We look forward to another absorbing group of entries which entertain, demonstrate sound genealogical techniques and showcase effective writing.

Thank you to the members of the Committee for their hard work and generosity with their time. Marking the entries was no small feat for the judging panel, which comprises previous winners, the Convenor of the Writing Discussion Group, and myself as Convenor of the Croker Prize Committee. It has been a pleasure being involved and I look forward to seeing what the 2023 competition brings.

**Philippa Shelley Jones,  
Convenor Croker Prize Committee**



## COLLITS INN

BOB WRIGHT

Nestled in a stunning location in the vale of Clwydd, where the old Cox's Road completes its descent from Mount York, lies Collits Inn. The first inn west of the Blue Mountains, it was built by ex-convict Pierce Collits in 1823. For the next decade the inn enjoyed a crowded hour of glorious life, bustling with brisk activity as travelers came and went, ate and drank, and exchanged news of the growing colony of New South Wales and its expansion to the west. The Collits family filled the inn with hospitality and good cheer. If I can be said to have come from anywhere in Australia, it is here, for Pierce Collits was my great-great-great-great grandfather.

Pierce Collett, as the name was originally spelt, was born in Thomas Town in County Kilkenny, Ireland circa 1763.<sup>1</sup> He is next heard of in London, where he married Mary Hardwick in 1795.<sup>2</sup> Pierce and Mary had four children in London, two daughters and two sons.<sup>3</sup> Both sons died in infancy.<sup>4</sup> In July 1800 Pierce was convicted at the Old Bailey of receiving stolen goods and sentenced to 14 years transportation to Australia.<sup>5</sup> Mary elected to join him in exile as a free settler and secured a passage for herself and their two young daughters on the ship Pierce was to be sent out in. The Collits family arrived in New South Wales on the *Minorca* in 1801.<sup>6</sup>

On arrival Mary, as a free settler, was granted 70 acres of land at Castlereagh on the River Nepean by Governor King.<sup>7</sup> Pierce had the good fortune to be assigned to his wife as a convict servant, and thus right from the start he was working for his own advantage.<sup>8</sup> The Collits' farm prospered despite recurrent flooding of the River Nepean, and Pierce and Mary raised a large family, having a further eight children in Australia.<sup>9</sup>

Over the years they earned a reputation as industrious and respectable settlers, and Pierce found favour with Governor Macquarie, who granted him a Conditional Pardon in 1811,<sup>10</sup> and in 1815 appointed him Chief Constable of the District of Evan.<sup>11</sup> During these years Pierce subscribed money to local funds to build a bridge and a schoolhouse in Castlereagh, to relieve flood victims on the Hawkesbury and to relieve veterans of the Battle of Waterloo.<sup>12</sup> He also donated large amounts of fresh meat to the Government Stores,<sup>13</sup> and in 1820 Governor Macquarie appointed him Pound-keeper and Inspector of Cattle for Slaughter on the River Nepean.<sup>14</sup>

### **The crossing of the Blue Mountains by Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth in 1813 and the completion of Cox's Road in 1815 opened up new opportunities to the west, and Pierce with his energy and entrepreneurial spirit was just the man to take advantage of them.**

---

In 1821 he received permission from Governor Macquarie to settle beyond the Blue Mountains and to construct an inn in the Vale of Clwydd at the foot of Mount York.<sup>15</sup> Work proceeded slowly as Pierce had to transport all his materials, including timber, hand-made nails and shingles, across the mountains,<sup>16</sup> and the convict labourers assigned to him had no carpentry experience.<sup>17</sup>

By August 1823 the building was complete, and Pierce moved his family to their new home, bringing to an end 20 years on the farm at Castlereagh.<sup>18</sup> He was already 60 years of age, and was embarking on a new business venture which was not without risk. He named the inn the 'Golden Fleece',<sup>19</sup> but it became popularly known as Collits Inn. It proved a great success, affording travelers shelter at the end of their second day's journey from Sydney on the road to Bathurst.<sup>20</sup> There, according to one account, one partook of 'the good cheer of mine host of the Golden Fleece, whose humour and hospitality will tend to smooth the rugged asperities of the way.'<sup>21</sup>

Pierce had built his inn on land he did not yet own however, and so in 1825 he requested and received a grant of 200 acres in that location from Governor Brisbane.<sup>22</sup> There followed some intricate manoeuvring over a number of years in which Pierce apparently tried (successfully, in the finish) to claim the 200 acre grant twice, alleging that he had been promised a 200 acre grant by Governor Macquarie, thus becoming embroiled in a long-running dispute with the Surveyor-General, Major Mitchell.<sup>23</sup> To further confuse the issue, Governor Darling granted Pierce a further 150 acres at the rear of the inn in 1830, and he subsequently also tried to claim that grant twice!<sup>24</sup>

The 1820s were the heyday of Collits Inn. Pierce hosted many hundreds of travelers to and from the interior, culminating in a visit by Governor Darling in 1829.<sup>25</sup> He had come a long way since he stood in the dock of the Old Bailey nearly 30 years before. However, the golden days of prosperity were already passing, never to return. In 1830 Major Mitchell began construction of his new line



of road through the Victoria Pass, which bypassed the steep and perilous descent of Mount York. When it was completed in 1832, Collits Inn was stranded, and Pierce closed it for business.<sup>26</sup>

Pierce died at the age of 85 in 1848,<sup>27</sup> predeceased by Mary, who died in 1841.<sup>28</sup> They were both buried in the bush cemetery behind their inn at Mount York, where their tombstones may still be seen today.

Collits Inn eventually passed out of the hands of the family.<sup>29</sup> It underwent extensive restoration work in the late 1990s, and in recent years has enjoyed a renaissance as a guest house, French restaurant, and wedding reception venue.<sup>30</sup> I have visited there many times, and stayed in

the home of my ancestors. That quiet spot, with the wide sweep of picturesque valley in front, the dramatic bulk of the mountain behind, and the gentle breeze sighing through the bushland on each side, is where I come from, and where my heart belongs.



*Bob Wright is a lawyer and creative writer living in Sydney. He has been researching and writing about his family history for 30 years, and has contributed several articles to Descent. He is currently working on a novel set in colonial Australia and inspired by his family history.*

*Collits Inn (supplied by the author)*



1 Ancestry.com, *England & Wales, Criminal Registers, 1791-1892, Pierce Collitts, 1800*, (database on-line).

2 Ancestry.com, *London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1936, Pierce Collett, 1795*, (database on-line).

3 Ancestry.com, *England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538-1975, Maria Collett, 1795, Sarah Collett, 1797, Henry Pierce Collett, 1799, Pierce Collett, 1800*, (database on-line).

4 The deaths of the two sons are not recorded in the Parish Registers, but they did not accompany the family to Australia.

5 Proceeding of the Old Bailey, *London's Central Criminal Court, 1674-1913, Pearce Collett, 1800*, (database on-line).

6 *Convict Records*, <https://convictrecords.com.au/convicts/collets/pierce/65664>, accessed on 24 May 2022.

7 NSW State Archives & Records, Index to the Colonial Secretary's Papers 1788-1825, Fiche 3268, [9/2731], p.132.

8 Lorna Hawkins, *Our Innkeeper*, (Orange, 1995), p.27.

9 The 1788-1820 Pioneer Association, *A Register of Pioneer Families*, Vol.2, (Croydon, 1996), pp.101-111.

10 Ancestry.com, *New South Wales, Australia, Convict Registers of Conditional and Absolute Pardons, 1788-1870, Pierce Collits, 1811* (database on-line).

11 NSW State Archives & Records, Index to the Colonial Secretary's Papers 1788-1825, Reel 6011, [4/3509], p.398.

12 W.L. Havard, 'Pierce Collits and His Inns', *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society*, No. 26 1940, pp.393-394.

13 *Ibid.*

14 NSW State Archives & Records, Index to the Colonial Secretary's Papers 1788-1825, Reel 6011, [4/3509], p.398.

15 NSW State Archives & Records, Index to the Colonial Secretary's Papers 1788-1825, Reel 6052, [4/1751], pp.48-49.

16 William Dumaesq, 'A Ride to Bathurst', *The Australian*, 24 March 1827, pp.2-3.

17 NSW State Archives & Records, Index to

the Colonial Secretary's Papers 1788-1825, Reel 6055, [4/1760], p.98.

18 Havard, *op. cit.*, p.396.

19 *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*, 25 March 1824, p.2.

20 Havard, *op. cit.*, p.396.

21 *Ibid.*

22 NSW State Archives & Records, Index to the Colonial Secretary's Papers 1788-1825, Fiche 3269, [9/2740], p.7.

23 Havard, *op. cit.*, pp.398-403.

24 *Ibid.*

25 *Ibid.*, p.399.

26 *Ibid.*, p.404.

27 Date as inscribed on tombstone of Pierce Collits in Mount York Cemetery.

28 Date as inscribed on tombstone of Mary Collits in Mount York Cemetery.

29 Hawkins, *op. cit.*, p.121.

30 Christine Stewart, *Collits Inn: Uncovering the Past*, (Tellwell, 2021), p.v.



## HOW DO WE MAKE SENSE OF THE DIFFICULT STORIES WE ENCOUNTER?

Unpicking the legacies of the Anglo-Boer War

FLOSSIE KINGSBURY



Genealogy frequently leads us to discover that we have family connections to difficult, upsetting, or controversial histories. It can be difficult to come to terms with these kinds of revelations, especially when they suggest that our ancestors might somehow have been complicit in others' suffering, or the victim of these events themselves. Often, these histories are connected with the stories of former empires. In this article, I uncover the details of one such story from my own family tree, and take a closer look into how family history can be used as a way of understanding the nuances and complexities of these events.

Frederick Brittain (my great-great-grandfather) was born in 1868, into a rapidly expanding and prosperous British Empire. In 1893 he joined the Royal Engineers, signing on for a period of 12 years – seven in active service followed by five in the reserves.<sup>1</sup> In reality though, Frederick only managed five active years, travelling to Gibraltar and Malta before he was hospitalised for "disordered action of the heart" in Hong Kong and had to be invalided back to Britain (this condition was extremely common amongst soldiers at this time, and thought to result from stress and fatigue). The respite was short-lived. Less than two years after his early return to Britain, Frederick was recalled by a special army order to fight a newly declared war in what is now South Africa.

### The Anglo-Boer War

The exact origins of the Anglo-Boer War, as it is now known, are complicated. What is clear is that they lie firmly with the British Empire, and the desire of those in power to promote British dominance in South Africa and gain control over recently discovered gold deposits in the Transvaal, and the valuable trade routes they were connected to. This land had already been colonised by the Dutch-speaking inhabitants of Cape Colony (the Boers) and was by 1899 an Independent Boer Republic. An attempt by the British in 1895 to annex the land was horrifically unsuccessful, and that was why they called in the reserves when launching their new attack in 1899.

Whilst war itself was not unusual at the time of the Empire, Frederick Brittain would likely have been surprised at being called to fight. Historian Eliza Riedi has pointed out that many reservists thought the role was a formality rather than an actual post and had settled themselves back into civilian life.<sup>2</sup> Frederick himself had married long-term family friend Elizabeth Mattock less than two months before being sent to South Africa. He arrived in South Africa on 22 November 1899, remaining until the end of March the following year, although the war itself did not end until May 1902. Following the British victory, and like every British soldier who served in this war, Frederick was awarded the Queen's South Africa Medal, with a Cape Colony clasp to indicate where he served.

### Legacy in South Africa

In Britain the legacies of the Anglo-Boer War have been mostly forgotten, overshadowed by the First World War. But in South Africa it is regarded as one of the most important conflicts in the history of the nation. In order to achieve victory, Britain adopted a 'scorched earth' policy, obliterating civilian farms and houses. Around 30,000 Boer farmsteads were destroyed, along with tens of thousands of Black labourers' homes. Over 100,000 Afrikaners and 100,000 Black civilians were left destitute as a direct result of this violence. Many of these now homeless women and children were placed in British 'refugee camps' (a name despised by the inhabitants, and now frequently referred to as 'concentration camps'). Horrific conditions in these camps, combined with a lack

of supplies, meant that disease spread frighteningly quickly. It is estimated that 28,000 white Boer civilians (primarily children) died, along with a further 23,000 Black civilians in separate facilities.<sup>3</sup>

The Boers who survived experienced not just poverty, but also extreme lasting trauma. This was passed down through their descendants, and so the Boer War left a legacy of intergenerational trauma that remains in South Africa to this day. Historian André Wessels argues that it was this "disruption, trauma and alienation" that led the now impoverished white communities to turn on Black South Africans, who were seen to pose competition for resources. The trauma of the Boer War would therefore be a keystone in the development of the Apartheid regime – a fact that Wessels describes as "probably the greatest tragedy in the history of the Afrikaner people – and in the history of South Africa".<sup>4</sup>

### Legacy in Britain

Frederick Brittain did not face any of these atrocities himself. Indeed, he is more likely to have contributed towards carrying them out. But the British Army also had its own problems. In Spring 1900, British troops in South Africa were hit by an epidemic of enteric (or typhoid) fever. Conditions in the military were little better than those in the concentration camps, and the disease spread like wildfire, affecting over 6,000 soldiers.<sup>5</sup> It was during this epidemic that Frederick returned home, and upon arriving at Woolwich he himself came down with the disease.

Frederick's army medical records for this period are mysteriously incomplete – there is a blank space in the paperwork for South Africa, suggesting that someone simply forgot (or neglected) to complete it. The only reason we know he contracted enteric fever at this time is because in 1909 he attempted to apply for a Disablement Pension, stating that because of this illness he developed chronic tuberculosis. An Army Medical report conducted in October confirmed this diagnosis, but was insistent that there was "no evidence except the man's own testimony" that the disease was the Army's fault (despite the clearly documented links to the South African epidemic). The request for a Disablement Pension is denied, even though the doctor dutifully recorded, as required by the medical paperwork, that Frederick was permanently disabled and completely unable to earn a living.

Frederick must have been desperate at this stage. He has been out of the army for four years, and likely unable to work for most of that time. By now he has four young children to support (Doris, Lillian, Leonard, and Winifred) and his wife Elizabeth is pregnant with their fifth child (Gladys). Someone evidently argued his case, as a second Army Medical was conducted a week later. By now he is reported to be "in a very debilitated and emaciated condition [...] he suffers from morning cough, night sweats, and occasionally spits up blood". This time the conclusion was that the condition was "due to service in South Africa", and Frederick is finally awarded a Disablement Pension of 17s 6d a week.

By now it was more than nine years since Frederick had contracted the disease, and the pension, while useful, was ultimately too little too late. In the 1911 census we can see that the Brittain family, squashed into a two-room dwelling with no other recorded source of income, have resorted to sending Doris and Leonard away to live with their extended family. Four years later Elizabeth herself died of tuberculosis, aged only 42. Frederick himself succumbed to the disease soon after, and by the 1921 census the two younger children (Winifred and Gladys) are recorded as living in the Royal Victoria Patriotic Institution, an orphanage for the daughters of soldiers.



As far as we know, Winifred and Gladys were never reunited with their elder siblings. Doris, my own great-grandmother, never knew what happened to them after their separation. My grandfather grew up without ever knowing his two youngest aunts, and nobody alive in my family today ever met them (even though Winifred only died in 2000). It's only now that we have been able to connect the stories and uncover what happened to them. Ultimately, this is the story of a family fractured and destroyed by the actions of the British Empire.

### Unpicking the story

Stories like that of Britain's are all too common. Thousands of families suffered as a result of the Anglo-Boer War – regardless of what side they were from. The conflict destroyed lives, homes, families, and livelihoods. It left multiple generations traumatised. And for what? The British did gain control of the Transvaal gold mines, but as with any extractive imperial industry very few people directly benefited from this – certainly not the Britains, nor any other families like them. There were some economic benefits to South Africa too, but again these were nothing like enough to compensate for the destruction and trauma of the war.

In Britain the early days of the war were met with patriotic fever and pro-war sentiment was high – Frederick Brittain was likely caught up in this, though it's impossible to say for certain what his views would have been. However, the tone quickly soured, especially after the British public became aware of the horrors of concentration camps, and the Anglo-Boer War became a shameful episode that the British Empire hastened to forget. The Britains, along with the thousands of other British and South African families who lost everything because of this war and never saw any of the benefits, probably wondered what the point had been.

It would be all too easy to look at the overarching story of the Anglo-Boer War and paint the British as the villains and the Boers

as the victims. But what this story shows is that the reality is far more complex than that. It was indeed the British who started the 'scorched earth' policy, whose mismanagement led to so many deaths in concentration camps, and who followed up the whole debacle by taking South Africa's gold. But British soldiers also died in huge numbers, or passed on suffering, disease, and poverty to their families. They were not responsible for the decisions made, nor did they benefit from them. In this way, the working and middle-class soldiers who were called to fight in the Boer War found themselves both acting as oppressors, through their role as agents of the British Empire, while also being oppressed by the same Empire themselves. This is not an either/or scenario, it's a paradox of both. Likewise, the white Boer civilians were both oppressed during the Boer War and became oppressors later during the lead up to and enactment of Apartheid. The history and legacies of Empire are infinitely complex and multifaceted, and this story has shown how this paradoxical, chaotic, contradictory mess of humanity is reflected in everyone's family pasts.

- 1 All references to Frederick Brittain's military history come from his military records, housed at the National Archives, Kew, and accessed via FindMyPast.
- 2 Riedi, Eliza (2017) 'Assisting Mrs Tommy Atkins: Gender, Class, Philanthropy, and the Domestic Impact of the South African War, 1899-1902'. *The Historical Journal*, 60(3): 748.
- 3 Wessels, André (2014) 'The Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) and Its Traumatic Consequences'. In Gobodo-Madikizela, Pumla (ed.) *Breaking intergenerational cycles of repetition: A global dialogue on historical trauma and memory*. Barbara Budrich Publishers: Opladen. P. 163.
- 4 Wessels, André (2014) 'The Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) and Its Traumatic Consequences'. In Gobodo-Madikizela, Pumla (ed.) *Breaking intergenerational cycles of repetition: A global dialogue on historical trauma and memory*. Barbara Budrich Publishers: Opladen. Pp. 169-170.
- 5 Adams, Caroline (2017) 'Lads and Ladies, Contenders on the Ward—How Trained Nurses became Primary Caregivers to Soldiers during the Second Anglo-Boer War'. *Social History of Medicine*, 31(3): 556.

## IN SEARCH OF...THE IMPACT OF EUROPEAN COLONISATION FROM SUSSEX TO BENGAL

### The Waller Family in British India

JADE MANLY



Until recently I was unaware that one of my ancestors, Martha Waller, was born in Meerut, located in Bengal, India.<sup>1</sup> Martha is my three times great grandmother who married John Dunstall on 10 July 1839 at Saint Nicholas in Brighton, Sussex, England.<sup>2</sup> Martha and John emigrated to Australia in 1840, onboard the *Lalla Rookh* and the latter half of their lives has been well documented in the text *The Dunstall Road to South Australia: A History of the South Australian Dunstall Pioneers*.<sup>3</sup> Within this book Martha's place of birth has been listed as 'Sussex' rather than India and very little has been written about Martha's early years.<sup>4</sup> This is what prompted me to conduct further research, as some of the information in the book about Martha's origins was a little vague.

I came to the conclusion that Martha may have been born in India as I could not find any record of her birth in Sussex or the remainder of the United Kingdom. I eventually located evidence of Martha's birth on 9 December 1822 and her parents have been recorded as Anne and Michael Waller.<sup>5</sup> This record indicated that Martha's father served in the military and his rank and regiment have been

documented as Corporal of the 14th Foot Soldiers, 2nd Battalion.<sup>6</sup> Michael was born around 1792 in Tarring, West Sussex and enrolled in the British Army at the age of just 13 years old.<sup>7</sup> He enlisted on 5 August 1805 and began his career as a drummer or fifer, which would have been a perilous occupation for a child.<sup>8</sup> According to Herbert, the British Military 'targeted' young boys who were often orphaned or destitute for 'recruitment' using patriotic slogans.<sup>9</sup> The role of music in the armed forces could be considered a type of propaganda as it was used to reinforce British ideals and create a positive image of the military.<sup>10</sup>

By examining British Army muster books and pay lists I was able to work out where Michael was situated during his service. From 25 December 1813 until 24 March 1814, he was stationed in Malta and from 25 September 1816 to 24 December 1816 he was posted to the Ionian Islands.<sup>11</sup> These islands are located near Greece and were known as *Corfu, Paxos, Lefkas, Ithaca, Cefalonia, Zante* and *Cythera*. Michael's presence in these locations during this particular time period is significant as it coincides with the conclusion

of the Napoleonic wars and the beginning of British occupation (or 'protection'). Following his stint in the Mediterranean, Michael was sent to India where he served in the Eastern region for almost seven years.

To provide some context, India was subject to British rule from around 1765 until a regime change in 1828.<sup>12</sup> Therefore, Michael was active during the latter part of the colonial period. The purpose of the military was to 'protect' the East India Company and to 'intimidate' more generally.<sup>13</sup> It was not uncommon for members of the armed forces to relocate their wives and children to India. After Michael's marriage to Anne Richardson in West Sussex in 1818, the couple moved to Bengal. Apart from Martha, the couple had three other children born in Meerut, two of whom died in infancy. Both of these children William (b.1819) and William (b.1821) died after only a few months, however the cause of death has not been stated for either.<sup>14</sup> Infant mortality was great in Bengal during the early nineteenth century and according to a missionary named William Ward, 'one-fifth of the children born in Bengal' did not survive their first year of life.<sup>15</sup> Marshall states that fever, smallpox, malaria and cholera were rife in British India.<sup>16</sup> The only surviving male child was William Michael, born in 1825 who emigrated to South Australia with his sister in 1840.<sup>17</sup>

The prevalence of disease was not the only hazard that would have been faced by the Waller family. The extreme heat and the presence of venomous snakes also posed a significant threat.<sup>18</sup> In addition, adequate food was difficult to obtain during periods of austerity or famine.<sup>19</sup> It is interesting to note that members of the British Military stationed in India were more likely to die during their service than to return to their homeland.<sup>20</sup> According to Marshall soldiers employed by the East India Company were not entitled to a pension unless they had served at least 21 years

in the military.<sup>21</sup> Based on Michael's pension record (obtained from the *Royal Hospital Chelsea*) dated 20 July 1825, he suffered from the fever which had a lasting impact on his health and well-

being.<sup>22</sup> Moreover, his medical notes indicate that he lost his left eye and had 'imperfect vision of right eye.'<sup>23</sup> Loss of sight was a common ailment amongst soldiers in British India and was often caused by smallpox and/or bacterial infections.<sup>24</sup> The pension record also includes a physical description of Michael who was approximately 5 foot 9 in height with brown hair, grey eyes and a dark complexion. His rank at time of discharge was Sergeant and his age was estimated to be 32 years old. Michael's military career spanned over 23 years across two very different continents.

The Waller family returned to Sussex around 1825, and Michael passed away during the following year. He was only 35 years old, although the exact cause of death is still unknown. Michael was buried in West Sussex on 5 March 1826 and his wife Ann survived him by nine years.<sup>25</sup> Ann Waller died on 18 November 1835 and was laid to rest in Brighton.<sup>26</sup> Martha and her brother William Michael were still very young when their parents

died and this undoubtedly influenced their decision to emigrate to Australia. Prior to their move, Martha worked as a house servant whilst William was employed as a labourer.<sup>27</sup> It is entirely possible that the siblings saw an opportunity to improve their circumstances and strive for a better future.

*Jade Manly is a family historian or genealogist with over ten years of experience. Jade has completed a Bachelor of Arts (with Distinction) at CQUniversity and a Graduate Diploma in Local, Family and Applied History (GDLFAH) at the University of New England. Jade is also a talented visual artist and writer.*



A photograph of Martha Waller, date unknown (supplied by the author)

1 Birth of Martha Waller, 1822, *India Births and Baptisms, 1786-1947*, vol. 12, p. 112.  
 2 Marriage of Martha Waller and John Dunstell [sic], *England Marriages, 1538-1973*, St Nicholas, Film Number: 1067116.  
 3 Sharon, Frederick G. (ed.), *The Dunstall Road to South Australia: A History of the South Australian Dunstall Pioneers*, Allen Press Pty. Ltd., Keswick, South Australia, 1997, p. 3.4.  
 4 Ibid.  
 5 Birth of Martha Waller.  
 6 Ibid.  
 7 Entry for Michael Wauller [sic], *UK, Regimental Registers of Service, 1756-1900*, The National Archives, England, Class Number: WO 25, Class Title: 14, Foot 2 Battn, Piece Number: 339.  
 8 Ibid.  
 9 Herbert, Trevor 'Public Military Music and the Promotion of Patriotism in the British Provinces, c. 1780-c. 1850', *Nineteenth-Century Music Review*, vol. 17, 2020, pp. 441-442.  
 10 Ibid., p.430  
 11 Entry for Michael Waller, *UK, British Army Muster Books and Pay Lists, 1812-1817*, Malta, The National Archives, England, General Muster Books and Pay Lists, Class Number: WO 12, Piece Number: 3202; Entry for Michael

Waller, *UK, British Army Muster Books and Pay Lists, 1812-1817*, Ionian Islands, The National Archives, England, General Muster Books and Pay Lists, Class Number: WO 12, Piece Number: 3202.  
 12 Marshall, P.J. *Bengal: The British Bridgehead Eastern India 1740 - 1828*, The New Cambridge History of India, vol. 2, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1987, p. 137.  
 13 Stern, Phillip J. 'Soldier and Citizen in the Seventeenth-Century English East India Company', *Journal of Early Modern History*, vol. 15, 2011, pp. 84-85.  
 14 Birth of William Waller, 1919, *India Births and Baptisms, 1786-1947*, vol. 11, p. 162; Burial of William Waller, 1919, *India Office Records*, Transcribed by the British Library, Reference: N/1/11 ff.162, 238; Burial of William Waller, 1821, *India Office Records*, Transcribed by the British Library, Reference: N/1/11 f.747.  
 15 Marshall, *Bengal: The British Bridgehead*, p. 19.  
 16 Ibid.  
 17 Entry for Michael Waller, 1840, *Lalla Rookh, Emigrants Seeking Free Passage To South Australia 1836-1841*, Application Number: 7736, Embarkation Number: 4515.

18 Goodman, Sam 'Unpalatable Truths: Food and Drink as Medicine in Colonial British India', *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences*, vol. 73, iss. 2, p. 205.  
 doi: <https://doi.org/10.1093/jhmas/jry011>.  
 19 Marshall, *Bengal: The British Bridgehead*, pp. 18-19.  
 20 Marshall, P.J. 'British Society in India under the East India Company', *Modern Asian Studies*, vol. 31, iss. 1, 1997, p. 93.  
 21 Ibid.  
 22 Entry for Michael Waller, *UK, Royal Hospital, Chelsea: Regimental Registers of Pensioners, 1713-1882*, The National Archives, England, Class Number: WO 120/21.  
 23 Ibid.  
 24 Nair, Aparna "They Shall See His Face": Blindness in British India, 1850-1950', *Med. Hist.*, vol. 61, iss. 2, 2017, p. 187.  
 doi: <https://doi.org/10.1017/mdh.2017.1>.  
 25 Death of Michael Waller, 1826, *England Deaths and Burials, 1538-1991*, available via *FamilySearch*.  
 26 Death of Ann Waller, 1835, *England Deaths and Burials, 1538-1991*, available via *FamilySearch*.  
 27 Marriage of Martha Waller and John Dunstell; Entry for Michael Waller, 1840, *Lalla Rookh*



# IN SEARCH OF...THE IMPACT OF EUROPEAN COLONISATION

## GLYN MORGAN DAVIES

RACHEL DAVIES

I think my father was a migrant because he liked a challenge; he brought his family to Australia.

Perhaps it was the same feeling that led my paternal grandfather, Welsh born and bred, to accept a job in Burma in 1937 and take his family there?

My Dad gave me some folders, that I didn't look at for years; when I did look, I found, neatly filed in plastic sleeves, carefully labelled, letters sent between my grandfather and great-grandfather. The earliest letters are full of pleasure at the general day-to-day happenings of life: work, family, a new job, Mam enjoying the roses in the garden. There is a gap in correspondence, and on resumption, concern colours the letters as World War Two has thrown everyone, their plans, and futures, into the air. Letters sent go unanswered, worry and hope take turns, it doesn't feel as though "no news is good news". The last letters are only grief and loss and a heart-breakingly polite frustration as a family seeks information about what happened to one young man among millions.

Glyndwr (Glyn) Morgan Davies (my grandfather) was born in Whitchurch, Cardiff (Wales), in 1904. His father was a manager and accountant for a railway wagon repair company.<sup>1</sup> He was the middle child between two sisters and it is clear from their letters that they were a loving family.

Having read the letters, wanting to know more, and with no one to ask, my search for information on my grandfather began by Googling his name.

The first mention of him I found was in a list compiled by the Anglo Burmese Library. He was on a spreadsheet titled 'The Trek Out of Burma, 1942, Casualty List'. This is a list of those who lost their lives during, or due to, their arduous trek across Burma, as they escaped from the advancing Japanese army towards India, and safety:

*Davies, Mr GM, Died at Panitola Hospital on 27-6-1942 of exhaustion.*<sup>2</sup>

This list makes for very hard reading. Much of the information is word-of-mouth, passed along the line as those who survived longer shared their knowledge of others' circumstances. Children, parents, friends, workmates, soldiers, many who died; some who struggled and survived, perhaps having left a child, or children, or a spouse on the roadside dead, or almost so but clear they did not have the strength to keep going.

After being married in 1931 to Delia Choyce Fraser ("Joyce"), who was also born and raised in Cardiff, and having had a baby boy in 1932 (Barry Fraser; my Dad); by 1937 Glyn was working in Johannesburg for The Consolidated Goldfields of South Africa. He possibly worked at the Robinson Deep mine, a large and well-established gold mine in operation since the late nineteenth century; Joyce and Barry were with him there. In a letter home in June 1937 he says that he has been offered a job in Burma:

*It was most remarkable that Mam should have dreamed of me going to another job as this letter will advise you that it is an actual fact.*<sup>3</sup>

Mam was probably dreaming of him getting a job in Cardiff... but, he would sail from Durban in six weeks; a few months later

Joyce and Barry would join him. He told his father that he would be able to send some good stamps home because the boat belonged to the India-Africa Line and would call at: Lorenzo Marques (now Maputo, Mozambique), Beira (Mozambique), Zanzibar (Swahili Unguja, 35km off the coast of Tanzania), Mombasa (Kenya), Colombo (Sri Lanka), Madras (now Chennai, India), Calcutta (now Kolkata, India), and finally Rangoon (now Yangon, Burma/Myanmar).

*From there I go to the Karenni States, one of the Shan States about 200-250 miles up the River Salween from Moulmein.*<sup>4</sup>

Glyn describes his new position as a good opportunity; with a three year contract, good leave, and paid passage home. His regret that it "will delay me seeing folks at home for a year" has a tragic cast to it as he didn't see his parents or sisters again.<sup>5</sup>

The Mawchi Mine was the most important tungsten mine in the world in the 1930s due to the scale and quality of its mineral deposits; both tin and wolfram (tungsten).<sup>6</sup> The Burmese had mined there for years and sold the ore in their region. The British reached agreement with a local ruler in 1830 and controlled the mine until 1942.<sup>7</sup>

Glyn reached the mine in mid 1937. He found delight in the landscape but immediately acknowledged the difficulty of moving people and things around this hilly, wet, world. "This place is really amazing – as soon as I can I want to take some snaps from the mine camp which overlooks ours. From there are wonderful views of the surrounding mountains. Transportation difficulties are enormous. At present we have to transport material about 850 miles by road from the rail head as the shorter road about 90 miles away is closed and awaiting dry weather."<sup>8</sup> He doubts whether he'll see much swimming in the pool being built in the Mine Camp due to the difficulty of getting there from the Stores Camp.<sup>9</sup>

Glyn was Stores manager at this time and had a culturally and linguistically diverse workforce: "I am the only European in the Stores. It is difficult to pick up a language here as we employ so many different people all speaking different languages. Burmese, Shans, Karens, Indians and Ghurkas etc."<sup>10</sup> "I have about 18 clerks of various capacities – and different religions – Karen Christians – Burmese Chinese Buddhists – Chinese Mohamedans – etc" [...] "I am going to gain at least a smattering of Burmese and Hindustani if I can."<sup>11</sup> In his first three months Glyn had attended two Depavali Hindu festivals, and the Buddhist Tazaung Daing, held by workers at the mine site.<sup>12</sup>

The climate seemed okay, "plenty of rain at times of course, but being so high we do not get fever. There are a number of married women with children here and they all look healthy enough – so I feel sure it's alright for Joyce and Barry."<sup>13</sup> Once Joyce and Barry arrived there would be eight children, with Dad being the oldest.<sup>14</sup>

I believe that Joyce and Barry arrived before Christmas 1937. By June 1938 Barry had been sent away to a school run by two Americans in Kalaw, Federated Shan States, with his parents expressing their hope that he would find it okay despite being so young. While Dad survived possibly all of 1938 at school, at some point his homesickness took over and his parents brought him back to Mawchi.

Glyn, Joyce, and Barry lived what my father remembered as a happy life in Mawchi. My father had a lot of freedom to play outdoors and specifically remembers building miniature rice paddies in the mud and water. He spoke Burmese and was good friends with the family's cook who he liked to spend time with in the kitchen.

Glyn speaks very affectionately of Dad: "the dear little chap amuses himself in such original ways at times" [...] "We usually buy our chickens about 30 at a time and then try to fatten them up, hence the baskets [in a photo of Barry and Joyce]. When I came home one lunch hour, I found Barry had been to our neighbours trying to sell chickens. Actually, he had a kitten in each basket, as you will see."<sup>15</sup>



*Glyn, Joyce and Barry in the pool at Mawchi Mine*

There was a social life associated with the mine; a club and swimming pool, people gathered for drinks, entertainments, tennis and snooker. Dad said that the 2005 movie *Wah Actually*, a film set in the colonial milieu of Swaziland in the 1960s, described a world he recognized from his childhood in Burma.

Their bungalow was served by a cook ("an Indian, speaks a little English"), a sweeper, garden boy and water boy. "This is a place where one does very little for oneself – the boys are at our service from 5am to whatever time we require them at night. If it rains, down comes a boy to the Store with my umbrella. After tennis he'll come with my torch to the club."<sup>16</sup>

"We get a talkie cinema show once a week at the Mine Camp. We have a tennis court here at the Mill and one at the Mine too."<sup>17</sup> Duplication was necessary due to the difficulty of moving around the mine site. There were pets: "we have two dogs – a puppy and 2 monkeys – so we are not so badly off in that line."<sup>18</sup>

While life was easy in some regards, with servants at the ready and leisure pursuits provided, the draw backs are obvious: the constraints on movement, the rain, and the hilly terrain; and ominous too, given that people left this place on foot and walked through similar terrain for hundreds of miles.

This life came to an end when, as World War II evolved in the East, the threat of the Japanese forces became clear. There are many letters missing at this point and by January 1942 Joyce and Barry were living in Cape Town, with Barry enrolled at Bishop's Diocesan College. Glyn's father was expressing his concern for Glyn and his hope that "you and the folks at Mawchi will be preserved from all harm [...] so far the news from the Far East is very disturbing but we have no doubt the tide will turn and take us on to a decisive win."<sup>19</sup>

The family received a letter from Glyn in June 1942 that he had posted two months earlier from a town on the road somewhere between Mawchi and the Indian border. In it he says that most of the staff left the Mine on 4 March while he stayed on for a few extra days, and then returned two times "getting certain materials away". Awful to hear as perhaps if he'd left earlier... A letter to Joyce written on 2 May communicated that "he was quite well and with a nice lot of fellows". Many more letters, air-graphs, and telegrams were sent by family members hoping for news, "events in Burma have been of such a nature as to make us more anxious than ever to hear further from you."<sup>20</sup> and hoping that the weather was not too hard to cope with.

The Anglo-Burmese Library list of casualties reveals the distressing reality of the walk out: A man died after he fell into some earthworks dug by elephants with his strength so depleted that he was unable to pull himself out; the holes were only three feet deep. Of a mother and her five children: four children died travelling between two towns; the mother and her surviving child died shortly afterwards. She had had to leave her children behind. Two girls, in their early teens, made it to safety but lost their parents and four brothers on the journey.

Malaria, dysentery, pneumonia, starvation, wounds, exhaustion, cerebral malaria, heat stroke, cholera, fever, heart failure; all these are given as causes of death, and in one case, in relation to her mother, in the diary of a daughter: "died of a broken heart" soon after the roadside deaths of first her husband and then her other daughter.<sup>21</sup> A simple spreadsheet full of facts; full of suffering, pain, and tragedy, and darkly expressive of the world that Glyn travelled through, while he himself became increasingly weak and ill.

Glyn completed this journey out as a soldier. Googling delivered a site called WW2 Talk where one of the forums contained a request for information on Captain Glyndwr Morgan Davies, Burma Army Service Corps.<sup>22</sup> A researcher was writing a book of mini biographies of all the casualties of World War II who came from his village, Whitchurch, and who were listed on the town war memorial.<sup>23</sup>

Public contributions to this WW2 Talk discussion forum reveal that Glyn became a soldier on 10 April 1942 when he was given an Emergency Commission as 2nd Lieutenant in the Army in the Burma Reserve of Officers (reported in the London Gazette). Apparently, people living in Burma were recruited at this late stage in the war because they had skills that the army needed. I don't know if this made for a different experience during the evacuation to that which he would have had as a civilian.

By 3rd July Glyn was in hospital in Assam. His father replied to Glyn's telegram: "We are greatly distressed to learn that you are in hospital and do fervently hope illness is not serious [...] we are greatly relieved to know that you reached India safely." "We have followed with intense interest and grave concern the reports of the Army retiring from Burma. What a terribly trying time all of you must have had. We are always wondering where and how you are."<sup>24</sup>

Glyn's family received news of his death from The Mawchi Mines office in Hertfordshire on 8<sup>th</sup> July; as they expressed it: he had died in Panitola Hospital, Assam, "from complete exhaustion. We are afraid that the arduous journey from Burma to Assam probably led up to this."<sup>25</sup> In his reply Glyn's father sends polite thanks for the news that "has shattered all our hopes and now we mourn the irreparable loss of our only son. He was outstandingly good in every way and we are very proud of him."<sup>26</sup>



Many letters follow as Glyn's father scrabbles to find out more about his son's death. He makes contact with Nurse Hopwood at Panitola Hospital. She had been Matron at the Mawchi Mines hospital and it was a great salve to the family to know that "there was at least one at Panitola who knew him."<sup>27</sup> She was with him when he died<sup>28</sup> and described his funeral: "he was buried here in Panitola on the Sunday and had a military funeral. We were able to get some very nice flowers for him from a friends garden"<sup>29</sup>

Temporarily buried in a grave with others in Panitola, his final resting place is the Gauwhati War Cemetery in Assam, India. Dad visited his father's grave in the 1990s where the generous Indian caretaker showed them around and described how he kept the cemetery and its dead well-cared for. He gave my Dad and Mum tea and, welcoming them into his office, showed them magic tricks.

1 Stennett, Ceri, In Proud and Honoured Memory 2 (Fallen Heroes of World War II): Remembering the valiant sons and daughters of Whitchurch, Llandaff North, Birchgrove, Rhiwbina & TongTongwynlais, Candy Jar Books, Cardiff, 2021, p67

2 <https://angloburmeselibrary.com/trek-casualty-list.html>, published 2009; accessed: 2 Oct 2021

3 Glyn to family, 26 June 1937

4 Obid.

5 Obid.

6 .Wikipedia – 'Mawchi Mine'

7 <https://ejatlas.org/conflict/mawchi-tungsten-mine-karenni-state-myanmar>; accessed: 12 Jul 2022

8 Glyn to family, 1 Oct 1937

9 Obid.

10 Obid.

11 Glyn to family, 31 Oct 1937

12 Glyn to family, 10 Nov 1937

13 Glyn to family, 1 Oct 1937

14 Glyn to family, 10 Nov 1937

15 Glyn to family, 26 May 1938

16 Glyn to family, 31 Oct 1937

17 Glyn to family, 1 Oct 1937

18 Glyn to family, 31 Oct 1937

19 Family to Glyn, 10 Jan 1942

20 Family to Nurse Hopwood, no date, June 1942

21 <https://angloburmeselibrary.com/trek-casualty-list.html>, published 2009; accessed: 2 Oct 2021

22 <http://ww2talk.com/index.php>; accessed 24 Aug 2021

23 Stennett, Ceri, In Proud and Honoured Memory 2 (Fallen Heroes of World War II): Remembering the valiant sons and daughters of Whitchurch, Llandaff North, Birchgrove, Rhiwbina & TongTongwynlais, Candy Jar Books, Cardiff, 2021

24 Family to Glyn, 6 July 1942

25 Mawchi Mines Company to family, 7 July 1942

26 Family to Mawchi Mines Company, 10 July 1942

27 Family to Nurse Hopwood, 13 July 1942

28 Family to Nurse Hopwood, 5 Sept 1942

29 Letter written 6 July 1942 by Nurse Hopwood, quoted in letter, Family to 26 Oct 1944

## IN SEARCH OF...THE IMPACT OF EUROPEAN COLONISATION ECHOES FROM A FADED EMPIRE: A PUNJABI-AUSTRALIAN JOURNEY

RACHEL CROUCHER

In this article, professional genealogist Rachel Croucher explores the impact of the British Empire on the Punjabi Sikh branch of her family tree. Her great-grandfather, Natha Singh, was a Sikh Hawker from Punjab who is believed to have arrived in Australia in 1902. Natha's eldest daughter from his brief marriage to Australian-born Emily Edith Bellingham, Florence Melba, was Rachel's paternal grandmother. Rachel's article takes a raw look at how colonial racial thinking influenced the way her ancestors were treated by society and the judiciary during the White Australia Policy era. She also discusses how the partition of India as well as cultural and language barriers have affected her research journey. Rachel concludes by sharing some exciting developments in relation to Punjabi family history research during British rule and beyond.

**Trigger warning: This article mentions physical violence and sexual assault**

Since I was a child, I've always known there was an Indian in my family tree. I didn't know where or understand the broader implications of empire or being non-white in colonial and early postcolonial Australia, I just thought it was cool. Better yet, the Indian in my tree was a hawker. "Like a department store on horse and cart!" I would brag to friends in the schoolyard, but that's where my knowledge ended, the finer details forgotten in time. My paternal grandmother, Florence Croucher (née Singh), passed away when I was a baby, so I never had the chance to pepper



Florence Melba in the backyard of her Bairnsdale home (circa 1975) – Private Family Collection

her with questions as curious grandchildren often do. Instead, for the better part of 20 years, I have used a blend of oral history and archival and academic research to go in search of the heritage of my dad's mum.

Florence Melba Singh was born on 17 July 1911 to Emily Edith Bellingham and Natha Singh.<sup>1</sup> Emily Edith was a domestic servant born on 24 September 1886 to English-born parents, Lucy Webb Heath and Albert Nathaniel Bellingham, in the working-class Melbourne suburb of Richmond.<sup>2</sup> In stark contrast, Natha was a soldier, labourer and hawker who came from a region of the Indian subcontinent called Punjab, a Persian word meaning *the land of five rivers*.<sup>3</sup> There is no known documentation of Natha's arrival in Australia. Still, multiple oral histories indicate he left Punjab – then ruled by Great Britain but now divided between the Republic of India and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan – in



Inder and Natha Singh  
(date unknown)  
Private Family Collection

1894.<sup>4</sup> I have been unable to locate local records relating to the brothers' lives in Punjab and their migration journey due to linguistic, cultural, and geographic barriers, but they are said to have been members of the British Indian Army who lived for several years in South Africa before purportedly being smuggled to Australia at the end of the Boer War by a group of Australian soldiers. My first cousin once removed, Alan Singh, was 16 when his grandfather

Inder died in 1951.<sup>5</sup> Alan told the following story to those present at the 2006 AGM of the Australian Field Battery Association:

*Over the past 50 years, many of my friends made fun of my name. For all those years, I harboured a secret from the many jokers and larrikins of the Battery. My grandfather [Inder] and his brother [Natha] did their military service in the Indian Artillery, after which they moved to South Africa. My grandfather [Inder] opened a teashop, his brother was a tailor. They were in situ at the outbreak of the Boer War. Both reported their expertise to the Battery Commander, who commented, 'As you are not British, we cannot employ you as Gunners, but you are welcome to set up your trades within Battery lines.' Joy of all joys—a tailor shop and teashop in the Battery! The bottom line is, my grandfather [Inder] became 'A' Field Battery's first Cha Walla. Both Indians were subsequently smuggled by boat to Australia by some of the boys from the Battery. My grandfather [Inder] is buried in the Bairnsdale Cemetery, his brother [Natha] is buried in a small private plot at Corryong, Victoria.<sup>6</sup>*



Natha Singh and Pollah Singh (date unknown)  
Australian Indian Historical Society

Natha and Emily Edith's marriage was short-lived and tumultuous and saw them frequently move in the few years they shared as a couple. They welcomed a child named Florence in 1908 in the working-class Melbourne suburb of Carlton.<sup>7</sup>

Tragically, however, their firstborn passed away only six months later in Brisbane, Queensland, of "gastroenteritis and bronchitis" on 3 February 1909.<sup>8</sup> Natha and Emily Edith married seven months later on 7 September 1909, at the ages of 35 and 23 respectively.<sup>9</sup> After their 1909 marriage, the couple welcomed their second child, my grandmother Florence Melba, on 17 July 1911, in the Melbourne suburb of Preston.<sup>10</sup> Their third child, a daughter named Beatrice Maud, was born on 28 November 1913 in Bairnsdale – a regional town nearly 300 km east of Melbourne with a small but visible Sikh community.<sup>11</sup> Natha and Emily Edith's marriage broke down approximately two months before the birth of Beatrice Maud. According to an article published in *Every Week* on 11 February 1915. Emily Edith told the Bairnsdale Police Court that "her husband [Natha] had left Bairnsdale about 18 months ago, and left his two children totally unprovided for." Shortly after Natha's disappearance, Emily Edith commenced a de facto partnership with Inder Singh—her husband's brother. Emily Edith and Inder never married, but they had five children, one of whom died in infancy, and raised their blended family in Bairnsdale, my hometown.<sup>12</sup>

I was born in the multicultural 1980s and accordingly saw my Punjabi heritage as something unique and cool, even inventing my own henna designs to paint my pasty-white freckled hands

with in permanent marker as a child. I therefore struggled (and still struggle) to reconcile the positive self-image I had built of my heritage with several examples of how colonial racial thought negatively impacted how my ancestors were treated by society and the judiciary in early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century Australia.

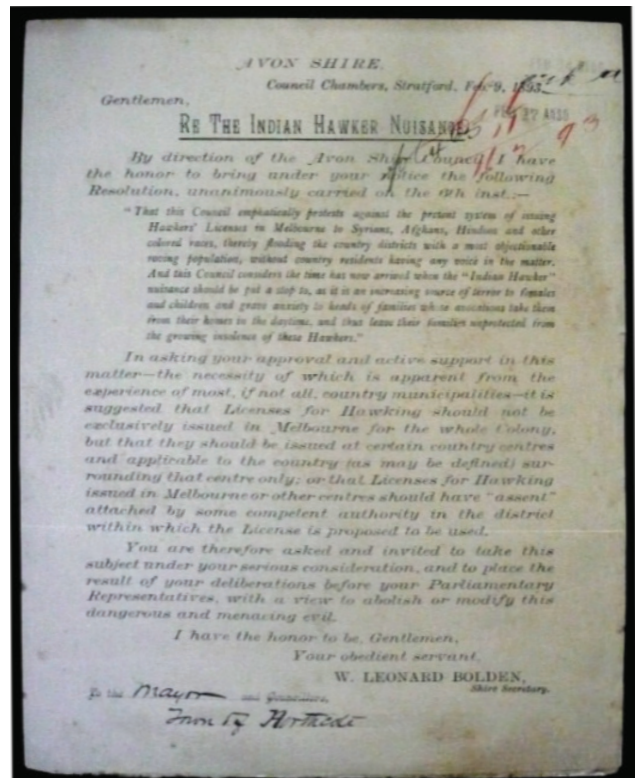
The framers of Australia's Constitution were motivated by notions of race stemming from Britain and the British Empire. At the 1890 Constitutional Convention, Sir John Hall described the type of Australia attendees envisaged in bluntly racist terms.

*The foundation exists in that feeling of kinship among Australasians to which so much eloquent allusion has been made. That is the foundation upon which we are preparing to build-upon interests which are common, upon community of race, language, and history.<sup>13</sup>*

Only months after the Constitution took effect on 1 January 1901, the new parliament passed the *Immigration Restriction Act 1901* (Cth), otherwise known as the White Australia Policy, on 1 June 1901. This law aimed to limit non-white immigration to Australia to help keep the country 'British'.<sup>14</sup> Although Natha and Inder were able to circumvent these racial restrictions by arriving as British subjects, their lives in the new nation would be dramatically shaped by the negative colonial attitudes towards race.

Colonial racial thought regularly denounced hawkers as a menace to society. In 1890, the Avon Shire Council Chambers in Stratford, Victoria, passed a motion in relation to the "Indian Hawker Nuisance" in the region (see inset below). Its members were unanimous

*That this Council emphatically protests against the present system of issuing Hawkers' Licences in Melbourne to Syrians, Afghans, Hindoos and other colored races, thereby flooding the country districts with the most objectionable roving population...*



Hawker Nuisance Notice – Avon Shire, 9 February 1893  
Museums Victoria

Such openly brazen racism surprised me after first discovering this announcement on the National Library of Australia's Trove database several years ago, no less because the town of Stratford in Avon Shire is situated in my home region of East



Gippsland. Sadly, it occurred to me that this was quite literally the environment into which my great-grandfather Natha was welcomed because of the colour of his skin. I was nevertheless amused by the concern that hawkers were "An increasing source of terror to females and children." Not all females, I quietly chuckled to myself, thankful for Emily Edith's disregard for the social norms of her time.

In addition to negative social attitudes, my forebears endured multiple discriminatory applications of the law by the judiciary during the White Australia Policy era. These incidents reflected broader colonial attitudes toward non-whites and the women who "consorted" with them. However, before exploring related media reports, it is essential to note that transliterating names from a source language with their approximate phonetic or spelling equivalents in a second language is a complex process, especially when government administrators were almost exclusively British—and because I do not speak or read any of the Indian languages. These cultural and linguistic barriers have created inevitable research obstacles, such as locating records wherein Natha's name has been alternatively transliterated as "Nuttah," "Nutta," "Muttah," and once even "Nutter," admittedly my personal favourite. Moreover, ignorance of the diverse cultural and religious fabric of the Indian subcontinent saw Natha regularly mislabelled in media reports and government documentation as Muslim, Hindu, and Afghani, amongst others.<sup>15</sup> I have adapted to these limitations by cross-referencing oral history and archival and academic research to distinguish between what is possible, what is likely, and what is true.

On 15 August 1903, the *Snowy River Mail and Tambo and Croajingolong Gazette* reported that "Mohammedan" Nutta Singh brought charges of unlawful assault against Herman Singh and Cartah Singh.<sup>16</sup> After cross-referencing this article against other media reports and my personal research files, I determined it is likely that the "Nutta" referred to in the article was indeed my great-grandfather. Regardless, both as a law student and the descendant of a non-white migrant to Australia with the same name, I was disappointed by the court's approach to the evidence before them. A medical doctor who examined Nutta deposed that,

*On examining the informant [Nutta], I found both sides of his face grossly swollen and discolored; the eyelids swollen; a cut over the bridge of the nose; a bruise about the size of a shilling on the right temple on which the skin was broken; also two or three red marks on the left side of his throat, each about half an inch in diameter.*

Despite the savagery of the beating and other corroborating evidence against both defendants, the court allowed their lawyer to raise the defence that "the affair was nothing but a drunken squabble between a lot of blackfellows, and that there was nothing for it but to dismiss both cases." Although Cartah Singh was fined, the case against his accomplice Herman Singh was dismissed.

The white women who consorted with non-white men during



*In the Shade of the Old Lemon Tree – Truth Newspaper 28 August 1910*

the White Australia Policy era were also treated harshly by the judiciary.<sup>17</sup> On 28 August 1910, the tabloid newspaper *Truth* (see inset above) reported that Emily Edith was living with her new husband Natha in a tent on Frederick Farm in Tallebudgera, Queensland, where he worked as a labourer. It was there on 24 January 1910 that Emily Edith alleged she was raped by a man named King. The article explained Emily Edith had felt "off colour" and gone to a nearby farm to retrieve some lemons to make a drink. There, a farmer named King reportedly offered to show her the lemons himself, and despite her resisting his "overtures," he "effected his purpose." I was shocked by the comical tone adopted to describe this horrific encounter and bewildered that despite extensive physical evidence, witness testimony, and police statements, the court discharged King, with the article

concluding that advocates of "black labour" would see the "error of their ways and become straight-out White Australians."<sup>18</sup> Justice was clearly not blind for victims of crime with the wrong skin colour and their families and loved ones.

Thankfully, assimilationist policies that once restricted non-European immigration and forced migrants to shed their cultures and languages to become indistinguishable from the white British ideal ended with the multiculturalism of the 1970s.<sup>19</sup> I am grateful the Australia I live in allows me to celebrate exploring my Punjabi heritage equally to my Irish and English family lines without fear of social or judicial recriminations. In this regard, there have recently been some exciting developments in relation to Punjabi family history research during British rule and beyond.

The records of 320,000 troops from Punjab who fought in World War I were digitised and uploaded to a database launched by the United Kingdom Punjabi Heritage Association and the University of Greenwich on Armistice Day 2021.<sup>20</sup> Although neither Natha nor Inder fought in World War I, this database is a promising development in Punjabi family history research because most databases are designed for the British in India rather than Indians in India, whereas until the *Punjab and World War One* database was launched in 2021, no such facility existed for the families of Indian soldiers.<sup>21</sup>

On research closer to home, I was cleaning out my woefully neglected Facebook Messenger folders in late 2021 and went to delete a message in my 'Other' folder from someone whose name I didn't recognise with no mutual friends. Instead, I accidentally opened it to find a message from Australian-Indian visual artist Yask Desai who had seen my contributions to a thread about hawkers in the Gippsland History Facebook group.<sup>22</sup> He politely asked if I was interested in taking part in a visually-based project he was working on about the descendants of hawkers from undivided India, describing his project *Telia* as,

*an attempt to reanimate and reexamine the experiences of the men who migrated from undivided India and worked as hawkers or travelling salesman within rural Australia in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.*<sup>23</sup>

Yask's work will involve the production of a photobook consisting of archival artefacts in combination with his own photography. I have eagerly assisted by sharing my own research and introducing him to as many of my Singh relatives as possible for him to photograph

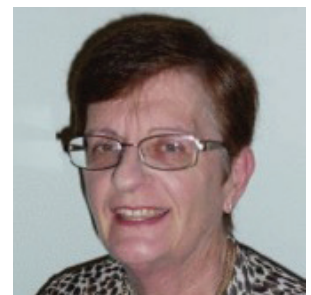
and collect oral histories. There are no words to describe the relief and satisfaction I feel knowing the history of the elusive Indian in my family tree is being celebrated and preserved instead of lost in time as just another echo from a faded empire.

1 Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, Event Registration Number 23100.  
 2 For birth certificate of Emily Edith Bellingham see Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths, and Marriages Event Registration Number: 29040; for birth certificate of Lucy Webb Heath see Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths, and Marriages Event Registration Number: 29040; for birth certificate of Albert Nathaniel Bellingham see Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths, and Marriages Event Registration Number: 13558.  
 3 Pippa Virdee, *From the Ashes of 1947: Reimagining Punjab*, (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2018) 20.  
 4 Encyclopaedia Britannica, Punjab <https://www.britannica.com/place/Punjab-state-India/History>.  
 5 Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths, and Marriages. Event Registration Number: 16052.  
 6 'Members Corner,' Australian Field Battery Association Newsletter, December 2006, 4.  
 7 Queensland Registry of Births, Deaths, and Marriages. Event Registration Number: 810620.  
 8 Queensland Registry of Births, Deaths, and Marriages. Event Registration Number: 810620.  
 9 Queensland Registry of Births, Deaths, and Marriages. Event Registration Number: B8008.

10 Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths, and Marriages. Event Registration Number: 23100  
 11 Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths, and Marriages. Event Registration Number: 27760 (birth)  
 12 Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths, and Marriages Event Registration Number: 18139 (birth), 11390 (death).  
 13 Parliament of Australia, 1890 Australasian Federation Conference I Proceedings No. 7 (14 February 1890) <https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;db=CONSTITUTION;id=constitution%2Fconventions%2F1890-1007;query=id%3Aconstitution%2Fconventions%2F1890-1005>  
 14 National Archives of Australia, The Immigration Restriction Act 1901, <https://www.naa.gov.au/explore-collection/immigration-and-citizenship/immigration-restriction-act-1901>  
 15 James B. Minahan, *Ethnic Groups of South Asia and the Pacific: An Encyclopedia*: An Encyclopedia (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2012).  
 16 Kamal Deep and Vishal Goyal, 'Development of a Punjabi to English Transliteration System,' *International Journal of Computer Science and Communication*, Vol. 2, No. 2 (2011).  
 17 On the treatment of white women who consorted with non-white men, see also Dr Kristy Love, *A Most Undesirable Woman: Writing about*

the Criminalisation of Poverty (YouTube, 24 June 2021) 32:07 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TmrXCQX0qjl>  
 18 Rachel Croucher 'I wasn't prepared for the emotional impact of tracing my ancestry,' SBS Online (2019) <https://www.sbs.com.au/topics/voices/family/article/2018/04/18/i-wasnt-prepared-emotional-impact-tracing-my-ancestry>  
 19 Department of Home Affairs | Multicultural Affairs, Australia's Multicultural Policy History <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/about-us/our-portfolios/multicultural-affairs/about-multicultural-affairs/our-policy-history>  
 20 Punjab and World War One, <http://punjabww1.com/>  
 21 Rajeev Syal, 'Records of 320,000 Punjab soldiers from first world war uncovered', *The Guardian* (2021) <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/nov/10/records-of-320000-punjab-soldiers-from-first-world-war-uncovered>  
 22 Gippsland History Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1755971574632862/>  
 23 Yask Desai, 'Telia,' *Blak Dot Gallery*, <https://blakdot.com.au/current-exhibitions/2021/6/17/telia-by-yask-desai>

**IN SEARCH OF...THE IMPACT OF EUROPEAN COLONISATION  
 WILLIAM GIBSON OF JESSORE  
 SUE REID**



William Gibson died at the age of 33 years in Jessore, Bengal, far from his home and family in Ayr, Ayrshire, Scotland. William was the son of Peter Gibson, a writer (a Scottish solicitor<sup>1</sup>), and had five brothers and one sister. The Gibsons were a peripatetic lot. Two of William's brothers served in the army in India. Another two brothers were surgeons: one in Lanark, Scotland, and the other in Jamaica. Only his youngest brother Thomas remained in Ayr. William was an indigo planter.

Indigo has been cultivated since 4000 BC in East Asia, India, and Egypt. A prized commodity on the ancient silk route, indigo produces a brilliant blue colour, treasured as it was one of the most colourfast natural dyes. In addition, artists value its opacity. The raw product comes from the leaves of the plant *Indigofera tinctoria*. As each leaf contained 2 to 4% of the dye, large crops were required to produce significant amounts of indigo. Once harvested, the indigo leaves were soaked in a series of large tanks or vats of water and eventually dried to form a thick paste.<sup>2</sup> The dye was in high demand in Europe in the 18th and 19th centuries, and later Levi Strauss used it to colour denim jeans.<sup>3</sup> During the industrial



revolution, a significant consumer was the flourishing textile industry in Manchester.

When growers in the Caribbean found coffee and sugar crops more profitable than indigo, British colonist revived their interest in indigo planting in Bengal. Bengal was in the northeast of what was then India, now part of Bangladesh. When the Nawabs of India came under the rule of the British East India Company, the cultivation of indigo became commercially profitable, and indigo became one of the earliest items of British trade in India. The planters established factories with associated buildings to process the indigo. They frequently advertised the factories for sale. For example, in 1814, a factory with eight pairs of vats, a drying godown (warehouse), pressing equipment, boiler, bungalow, and houses for sircars (domestic servants), standing on 40 biggahs (about 5.3 hectares) was for sale at 1400 sicca rupees.<sup>4</sup> In 1810, the value of indigo exported to Britain from Bengal was worth £6,000,000; three-quarters of that came from Jessore.<sup>5</sup>

William, who was born in 1784, would have made his way to Jessore in the early years of the 19th century, a dark period in the history of English colonialism. In Bengal, the British planters gained land rights by taking leases on unoccupied land from the zamindars (landowners who leased their land to tenant farmers). They could also cultivate crops on the land of ryots (tenant farmers) who had died without an heir or had abandoned their land. However, the



most predominant and exploitative form of cultivation was the ryoti contract system, whereby the planter convinced the ryot to cease growing food crops and to plant cash crops of indigo on his land. The planter advanced money to the ryot, who was obliged to plant, tend, and deliver indigo to the indigo factories owned by the Europeans. Due to its dependence on rainfall, only two crops of indigo could be grown each year. When the ryot delivered his crop to the factory, the planter deducted costs from the ryot's payment. These included the cost of the advance, the paper on which the contract was written, and the seed for the next crop. If the ryot's yield fell short of what was required, the ryot incurred a debt, but the planter provided a further advance for the next season. As a result, many ryots became trapped in a cycle of hereditary debt. The demand for indigo increased, and the ryots faced the burden of impossible targets. Thus the impoverished peasantry was forced into starvation and poverty.<sup>6</sup>

Eventually, in 1859, the Indian peasants revolted against the British planters, who controlled the industry. This violent rebellion was known as the Indigo Revolt. As a result, the British government passed an act to create an indigo commission to investigate colonial practices, issuing a report in August 1860, which affirmed that the colonialists could not force the ryots to grow indigo. As a result, the indigo industry in Bengal quickly declined, and towards the end of the 19th century, demand for natural indigo dye plummeted with the advent of a synthetic substitute.

William Gibson died long before the rebellion in 1859, but surviving documents indicate his part in the indigo industry in Jessore. His death was reported in *The Scots Magazine*.

*April 16, 1817. At Amdangah Factory, Jessore, India, Mr William Gibson, son of the late Mr Peter Gibson, writer in Ayr.*<sup>7</sup>

William Gibson had made his final will and testament the previous day, knowing that his death was imminent. He wrote he was 'very sick and weak in body but of perfect mind and memory of my body, and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die' and left all his estate to his two well-beloved nieces in Greenock. He names them Agnes and Grace Cameron, daughters of his sister Agnes, but the girls were baptised Margaret and Elizabeth, aged ten and nine, respectively. Perhaps he had left Scotland before they were born. The next day, the day of his death, he added a revealing codicil to his will, providing further insight into his state of health and his situation in Jessore. He writes:

*I William Gibson do further give and bequeath unto Maria now living with me all salary due to me at Digley factory of whatever amount it may be to be paid unto her the said Maria by my Executors.*<sup>8</sup>

Poor Maria – she is neither dignified with a family name nor an occupation. We are left to infer her nationality and status in William's household. He could not sign this codicil, as he died within hours, if

not minutes, of directing the codicil to be made, thus threatening its validity and Maria's legacy.

In the application for probate at Fort William Bengal in May 1817, William Gibson's executors swore that the codicil was:

*written at the request and the direction of the said William Gibson and ... was faithfully read over to the said Testator ... and when so read over was approved of by the said Testator who expressed his approbation at several different times ... [he] was then in a sound state of mind. And Deponent further saith that to the best of his belief it was the intention of the said Testator to have signed the said codicil but his illness increasing very rapidly [sic] he was unable so to do.*<sup>9</sup>

Fortunately, the Supreme Court granted probate for the will and codicil of William Gibson, and thus Maria received the money he intended for her.

No information is available about the Amdangah indigo factory (presumably situated in the present Bangladeshi village of Amdanga) nor the Digley factory. There was a Digley Mill, a textile mill near Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, established in the 1790s, which would have used indigo and may have been associated with the Digley indigo factory in Jessore.<sup>10</sup> However, as William Gibson was owed a salary from the Digley indigo factory, it is safe to assume that he was not an owner.

William Gibson has a contested identity, with many who post family trees on Ancestry.com and other places claiming him as an ancestor and that he died in 1849.<sup>11</sup> However, William Gibson of Jessore has an additional will, proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury.<sup>12</sup> The second will includes an inventory stating that a London merchant owed William Gibson £400. Sworn by William's brother Thomas and William's first cousin Thomas McClelland in Ayr, Ayrshire, Scotland, on 3 March 1822, this document leaves no room for uncertainty.

*Sue Reid's family history journey was inspired when a cousin gave her a copy of a diary written by an ancestor who was a missionary in Russia in the early nineteenth century.*

*Sue has presented at family history conferences and seminars, including the three most recent Australasian Congresses on Genealogy and Heraldry, the State Library of Queensland, and the National Archives of Australia. She is the author of articles on family history published in local and overseas family history journals and other publications. She has recently published a family history, The issue of gentlemen. This book was placed second in the 2021 Alexander Henderson Award. In 2022, Sue was awarded the Society of Australian Genealogists' Certificate in Genealogical Research.*

*A Fellow of the Queensland Family History Society, she convenes the QFHS Family History Writing Group and is the Chair of the QFHS Education Sub-Committee. In addition, she served on the Management Committee of QFHS for thirteen years.*

1 National Records of Scotland, Tracing your Scottish Ancestors: The Official Guide. 7<sup>th</sup> Edition (Edinburgh, Birlinn, 2020), 188.

2 How products are made, Indigo <http://www.madehow.com/Volume-6/Indigo.html>

3 Wikipedia, Levi Strauss [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Levi\\_Strauss](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Levi_Strauss)

4 Indigo Factory, Calcutta Gazette, (Calcutta, India), 20 October 1811, 2.

5 Indian Culture, Agony of indigo cultivators <https://indianculture.gov.in/video/agonny-indigo-cultivators#:~:text=The%20British%20introduced%20widespread%20indigo,in%20place%20of%20food%20crops.>

Indian Culture, Indigo revolt in Bengal <https://indianculture.gov.in/stories/indigo-revolt-bengal#:~:text=Indigo%20was%20being%20cultivated%20in,lands%20that%20he%20directly%20controlled.>

6 Britannica Kids, Indigo revolt <https://kids.britannica.com/students/article/Indigo-Revolt/623607>

7 Deaths, The Scots Magazine, (Edinburgh, Scotland), 1 November 1817, 102.

8 Findmypast.com.au British India Office Wills & Probate. Will of William Gibson, 16 April 1817, L-AG-34-29-29, <https://www.findmypast.com.au/transcript?id=BL%2FBIND%2FL-AG-24-29%2FWILL%2F457>

9 Op.cit.

10 Huddersfield Exposed, Digley Mills, Austonley [https://huddersfield.exposed/wiki/Digley\\_Mills,\\_Austonley](https://huddersfield.exposed/wiki/Digley_Mills,_Austonley)

Two independent newspaper articles in the *Manchester Times*, 7 February 1852, mention Digley Mills and the theft of indigo from another textile mill.

Stealing Indigo and Frightful Inundation, *Manchester Times*, (Manchester), 7 February 1852, p. 5.

11 See, for example, Genealogy.com, David-A-Gibson, <https://www.genealogy.com/ftm/g/i/b/David-A-Gibson/WEBSITE-0001/UHP-1202.html>

12 The National Archives (UK). Will of William Gibson, Indigo Planter of Bengal, East Indies, 13 April 1822, PROB 11/1655/310, <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/D147682>



## Digitisation project



NRS-4481-4-588-[AF00244133] Portrait of unidentified female, Burrinjuck Dam [Department of Public Works], no date

In the 2021-2022 year we undertook a large project to digitise at-risk material in the State Archives Collection.

We digitised photographic, audio-visual and selected paper-based material at risk due to physical deterioration or format obsolescence.

As part of the project we digitised:

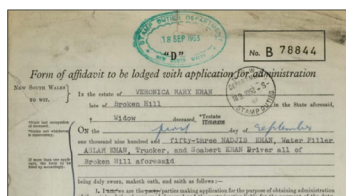
- 20,000 glass plate negatives from the Government Printing Office and the Maritime Services Board
- 509,000 acetate and photographic negatives from the Department of Education, State Rail, the Electricity Commission, Newcastle State Dockyard and the Darling Harbour Authority
- 2,000 audio-visual records
- 350,000 pages of paper based material including 3,350 fragile Insolvency files and 200 School files from 35 schools across NSW.

These are images and records which record the work of the government at the time, and many have never been seen before. They also give us a unique picture of life in our past. The digital copies are progressively being uploaded to our catalogue where we hope you will enjoy them as much as we do.

## New indexes

### Deceased estate files

Over 300,000 new entries have been added to our Index to Deceased Estate files covering the years c.1939 to 1958, as a result of our partnership with Ancestry. These files document the collection of death duties in NSW. Files were created for every individual who died leaving property or other assets which were subject to death duties. The contents of the files vary but can include incredibly comprehensive details about a deceased person's estate and possessions.



Search by first name, surname or place using the Indexes Online or via our catalogue. You can pre-order files for the reading room or purchase copies via our copy order service.

## Court of Claims 1833-1922

By the 1830s many people had been promised land grants but were not in possession of the title because the land had not been surveyed. There were also



many cases of land being in the possession of others claiming to have lawful right through the original promisees. It was becoming impossible to produce legal titles to land that could be recognised by the Supreme Court. In 1833 the Court of Claims was established to hear the claims of all persons holding or claiming to hold lands where grants had been promised.

The Index to the Court of Claims covers the names of people who had disputed land ownership claims heard in the Court of Claims. Originally this index covered claims brought during 1833-1835. The index has recently been updated by our wonderful volunteers with claims from 1836 to 1922.

Find the index in our Indexes Online and search by First name, surname, occupation or address: <https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/guides-and-indexes/court-claims-land-index>. For more information about records from the Court of Claims see our Court of Claims (Land) Guide in our Research A-Z.

## New to the catalogue

### Colonial Secretary's Special bundles, 1826-1982

The Colonial Secretary was involved in most government matters in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Over time records on important matters were extracted from the main series of Colonial Secretary's Letters received. These became the 'Special bundles', and cover a very diverse range of topics:

- NRS-906-1-[4/895]-4/895.2 | Thomas Walker M P, spiritualist – Canadian verdict of murder against for death of John Saunders, 1889
- NRS-906-1-[SZ1028]-SZ1028 | Report of Captain Sturt on his journey to South Australia, 1838
- NRS-906-1-[13/9656]-13/9656 | Bush fire administration files, 1954-1971.

There are over 3,220 Special bundles listed in the catalogue, where you can search the titles and easily pre-order for the reading room.



## On Flickr



NRS-21573-2-2-PR962\_J 1  
PR962\_J Stock from  
Show loading Darling Harbour,  
31-03-1948

With all the new images coming to light as a result of our digitisation project, we've been putting together albums on Flickr. Check out our new albums on the floats in the 1951 Commonwealth Jubilee, the ceremony naming Canberra on 12 March 1913, the Royal Easter Show and Cremorne Point.

## Reading room refresh

We have been refreshing our reading room over the past few months. New carpets and lighting and a fresh layout to help things flow. In June we installed a permanent self-serve records issue and returns area and an improved copying space with specialised lighting. See our opening hours and details of how to get there on our website: <https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/plan-your-visit>.

## Charles Sturt University Regional Archives temporarily closed

The Charles Sturt University Regional Archives at Wagga is closed from 6 June 2022 to undertake relocation. It will re-open in early 2023.

Enquiries should be sent to [archive@csu.edu.au](mailto:archive@csu.edu.au) or leave a phone message on (02) 6933 4590. For more information see the Charles Sturt Regional Archives website: <https://www.csu.edu.au/research/archives/home>.

## 20 years of volunteering

We've been celebrating 20 years of volunteering at NSW State Archives. It has been an amazing 20 years, with our volunteers notching up achievement after achievement. Our volunteers have given over 80,000 hours of their time to create 638,000+ index entries, 419,000+ catalogue entries and digitising over 4,800 items. Our volunteers are an integral part of what we do every single day. Volunteer project highlights include:

- Railway personal history cards
- Dependent Children Registers index
- Convicts index
- Soldiers settlement indexes and the
- Bubonic plague index



Thank you to our Volunteers!

## Exhibitions

### Sydney Snapshots 1900s-1940s

This new exhibition, developed in partnership with Sydney Living Museums, showcases snapshots of a city – highlights from a treasure-trove of images taken by the NSW Government Printing Office Photographic Branch.



From 1870 until the late 1940s, the Government Printing Office (GPO) Photographic Branch documented much of the NSW Government's activities using tens of thousands of dry glass-plate negatives. The resulting images are today held in our Collection. A curated selection of 28 images is featured in Sydney Snapshots at the Museum of Sydney.

The GPO collection covers a diverse range of subjects: roadworks and wharf construction, fleet visits, suburban soldier settlements, factory workshops, tourist sites, opening ceremonies for departmental buildings and significant state events.

Beyond its sheer volume, one of the most fascinating aspects of the GPO collection is the wealth of incidental background detail captured by government photographers. Behind or alongside the government-focused subject matter, Sydney's streets, buildings, beaches and waterways form the stage setting for sometimes curious bystanders, who become accidental characters as they go about their daily lives. Tantalising glimpses of soldiers and sailors, nurses and schoolchildren, immigrants and wartime evacuees – never intended to be documented for posterity or revealed to the masses – now tease the present-day viewer from the edges of each scene.

Discover the people, places and events that shaped our city in the first half of the 20th century, through the lens of GPO photographers. At the Museum of Sydney 30 June 2022 to 5 March 2023.

### Unrealised Sydney

This exhibition gives a fascinating insight into the future of our city as it was imagined in the past. Explore a selection of ambitious, shapeshifting and radical visions for some of Sydney's key precincts created by leading architects and developers from the post-World War II era to the 2000s. Though never realised, these schemes – shown through a range of plans, designs, models, sketches and documentary footage – form a rich part of Sydney's story.



The exhibition focuses on the story of eight precincts, including The Rocks, Woolloomooloo and Macquarie Street. Characterised by complex urban, political and community forces, the unbuilt proposals for these sites will allow visitors to imagine what Sydney might have been.

At the Museum of Sydney 6 August–13 November 2022.

# EDUCATION@SAG

BY VANESSA CASSIN

It seems like only a few weeks ago I was writing a column for *Descent* welcoming our members back for 2022, yet here we are three quarters of the way through the year.

To date, 2022 has been another fantastic year for the Society's extensive program of webinars, courses, conferences and group meetings.

I am pleased to say our two conferences, on the topics of funeral, mourning and memorial practices and researching English ancestors, were both very well received by those who attended. Both events featured a mix of Australian and international speakers, some well-known and others still establishing their reputation, but nonetheless just as impressive as their more widely known colleagues.

Our final virtual conference for the year, to be held on Saturday 26 November 2022, will investigate the ways religion has impacted on the lives of our ancestors. Please watch out for further information about this event on our webpage and social media channels.

Our webinar program continues to attract large audiences. We have had events on a diverse range of topics, including (but certainly not limited to) Welsh research, the Scottish Highlands, immigration schemes, writing a family memoir, tracing the history of a house, convicts in Queensland and the FamilySearch website. If you have never attended one of our webinars I would encourage you to try one. The majority are recorded, so if you can't attend live you will still be able to watch the presentation at your leisure. We use the Zoom platform and the chat box gets quite lively at times with attendees posting tips, websites and questions for the presenters. This creates a real sense of community even if we are not all together in person. If you have never used Zoom don't let that hold you back, contact the SAG office and we can send you links to a test session so you can set your device up in advance and make sure it is all working.

A highlight of the webinar program to date was a wonderful presentation by the Society's former Executive Officer, Heather Garnsey, on the Rookwood Project. In honour of our 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary Heather revisited one of the largest and most significant of the Society's undertakings. We were also excited to have a few of the original project volunteers in the audience. If you are interested in finding out more about this project you can read about it on our website.

The Society has added two new long form courses to our program this year. The first is a **Beginners Practical Introduction to Family History** which is run as either a six part series of online sessions or a two day intensive workshop. The aim of this course is to provide new or returning researchers with a solid understanding of the family history ecosystem in the 21st century. The content of the course includes where to find which records in Australia (and why you would want those records), explaining

the difference between online platforms vs software, looking at charting, discussing why DNA analysis is such a big part of our toolkit now and examining various research techniques.

For those who are more advanced in their research journey one of our valued volunteers and regular presenters, Danielle Lautrec, has created a new **Intermediate Research Methods** course consisting of seven online sessions. This course is based on a workshop model whereby participants bring along a case study from their own research and apply the techniques Danielle teaches to their own family or project. Both of these courses have been very well received, and will continue to be regularly offered as part of our education program.

## Research Group Round Up

As always the SAG's Research Groups and Software User Groups have been very active. It has been exciting to see the collaboration between members at each group meeting I have hosted. A number of members have overcome research challenges (aka brick walls) with the help of other attendees at a group meeting. Our research groups ensure I am constantly reminded of the fabulous community we have here at the SAG. I regularly receive emails following a group meeting from a member asking me to pass on some information to someone who had a question at a group meeting and they have found information that may be useful.

I would like to offer our thanks to Melanie Dunstan who led our DNA Research – Tools in Practice and DNA Research Discussion Groups for the previous twelve months. Melanie has now stepped down from her role and I'm sure all the DNA Group attendees would join me in thanking her for all her hard work preparing and chairing the meetings.

I would like to also thank Veronica Williams for stepping in as guest facilitator for the DNA Groups while we search for a replacement for Melanie.

Our three newest groups, Reunion and Mac Support (RAMS), Colonial Australia and Scottish Research are thriving. Each group has now held 2-3 meetings and are establishing loyal attendees. A reminder that all SAG members and the general public are welcome to register for any group meeting; there are no additional membership processes to go through. Thank you to Daniel O'Neill, Dale Fogarty, Kristine Newton, Lorraine Luks, Lucy Warden, Cathie Sherwood and Diana Pecar for volunteering to co-ordinate these groups. Your contributions to date have been much appreciated. We couldn't run these groups without the support of volunteer co-ordinators.

I look forward to reporting on the establishment of further new groups in the December issue of *Descent*.



# Investigative Genetic Genealogy

Monday 25 July 2022



When Vanessa, our Education Officer, 'pencilled' DNA in as the topic for July's "Let's talk about...", we needed something new and different in the world of DNA leading up to the Society's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The emerging use of investigative genetic genealogy (IGG) was the obvious choice. Within two weeks we had a stellar cast of local and international guests and over two hundred people registered for the event. The stage was set for a memorable evening.

Well-known Australian genetic genealogist, **Louise Coakley** opened the evening by explaining IGG and how it can assist in identifying the perpetrators of serious violent crimes and unidentified bodies and human remains.

## How your DNA can help

Many people don't know that only two sites are available to law enforcement and others working in the field: Family Tree DNA and GEDmatch. Most Australians test at AncestryDNA and MyHeritage DNA. So, our DNA data is not available to assist in these cases unless we transfer our DNA data to Family Tree DNA and GEDmatch.

Louise ended by explaining how she used IGG to assist the Queensland Police identify a man whose decomposed body was found near Nambour in 2008. In 2020, Louise was approached by CeCe Moore, from the internationally recognised US based Paragon NanoLabs, to work on the case. We were pleased that CeCe could join us from the US at 4am!

If you want your DNA to help, Louise has instructions at her Genie1 website that you can follow:

<https://genie1.au/how-your-dna-can-help-identify-human-remains-and-solve-cold-cases/>

We should also have a public tree linked to our DNA going back at least three or four generations.

Our next guest was **Matthew Waterman** from his home in the UK. Matthew is a volunteer genetic genealogist for the US based non-profit DNA Doe Project. Founded by Dr Margaret Press in 2017, its mission is "to identify John and Jane Does using investigative genetic genealogy". In five years, over 80 people have been identified. You can read about these cases on their website: <https://dnadoeproject.org/cases-success/>

Matthew gave us an excellent insight into the work his organisation undertakes using a number of case studies. Like Louise, he encouraged us all to upload our DNA data and a pedigree tree to Family Tree DNA and GEDmatch and "Opt-In" as this can assist in solving cases not only in Australia.

His example was a DNA Doe located in the US which was assigned to him to identify one potential British grandparent. He

was able to confirm the line using an Australian match back to common ancestors in the early 1800s in Oxfordshire.

Genealogical crime mystery author, **Nathan Dylan Goodwin**, has a huge following in the Society. He joined us from his UK home to talk about his upcoming book which will be the second in his Venator Cold Case series. *The Chester Creek Murders*, published in 2021, was the first in the series. This introduced investigative genetic genealogy to many readers and presents the process followed in a realistic and understandable way. We're looking forward to the next instalment from Maddy and her team at Venator. You can check out Nathan's website for more information: <https://www.nathandylangoodwin.com/home>

Our final presentation for the night was from **Alison Sears** and **Dr Jennifer Raymond**, Forensic Evidence & Technical Services Command of NSW Police. They outlined the complexities of incorporating IGG into the standard operating procedures and policies of state and national police forces in Australia and the work that's been taking place in this area over recent years. They talked about the various models that could be introduced for undertaking this work and the range of skills that are required. Alison and Jennifer said that engagement with the family history community through events such as this was important and of benefit to their work.

**Associate Professor Jeremy Austin** from the University of Adelaide pre-recorded a presentation. He was involved with a team of people in the fourteen-year quest to identify the remains of the unknown sailor from HMAS *Sydney*. They used DNA extensively in their search. Dr Austin received a vital lead after speaking to a group of family historians in Adelaide. Able Seaman Thomas Welsby Clark's identify was announced on 19 November 2021 to coincide with the eightieth anniversary of the sinking of the HMAS *Sydney*: <https://www.navy.gov.au/hmas-sydney-ii-part-6>

So many family historians have enthusiastically embraced DNA into their research and worked with adoptees and others to identify unknown parents. We've seen the numbers of testers grow exponentially over the last seven years and tools and methodologies developed to improve our research.

Our guests demonstrated how this growth in direct-to-consumer DNA testing has presented so many other opportunities in that time. We welcomed hearing about the efforts of so many people in so many areas across the world to incorporate DNA into their work. We wish them well for the future work and look forward to supporting them in any way we can. Thank you to our guests and all those who attended. You can find the recordings in the Members Area of the SAG website: <https://sag.org.au/Member-Area>

**Christine Woodlands**

# OUR SAG COMMUNITY



## Benefactors

Miss S. J. Atkinson \*  
K.E. Aubusson \*  
Miss M. J. Barnes  
Miss J. Bates \*  
Miss R.E. Bulkeley \*  
R. & Mrs L.U. Burge\*  
W.L. Chapman  
Dr C.C. \* & Mrs M.L. Croker \*  
M.A.J. Crowe \*  
Mrs P.J. Crummer  
R.J.W. d'Apice, AM, (Fellow)  
T.A. Eakin, (Fellow)  
R.A. Elliott \*  
Esso Australia Ltd  
Mrs J.E. Gale  
Miss D. Gardiner \*  
Genealogical Research Directory  
Mrs S.C. Gluskie  
Mrs P.J. Gordon (Fellow) \*  
Mrs N. Gray, OAM (Fellow) \*  
Dr Jennifer Harrison  
V. K. Hicks \*

IBM Australia Limited  
K.A. Johnson, AM, (Fellow)  
Miss M.A. Jones \*  
Mrs P.B. Josephson \*  
T.J. Kennedy, AM \*  
N.S.A. Layton (Fellow) \*  
G. P. Lewis (Fellow)  
Mrs I.A. Lewis  
Library of Australian History  
Mrs A.L. Lind  
Major D.H.V. Lobb \*  
A.J. Loewenthal \*  
A.G. Lowe  
Peter Mabey \* & Anne Carolan \*  
Mrs L.M. MacDonald (Fellow) \*  
Mrs S.P. McGlynn \*  
Dr Perry C. McIntyre (Fellow)  
John K. McLaughlin, AM, (Fellow)  
Mrs B. McNamara  
Mrs P.M.B. Mills \*  
Mrs S.C.M. Murphy \*  
R.H. Pocock \*

Miss M.E. Pritchard \*  
Mrs C. Robertson  
Miss E.J.G. Russell \*  
Mrs Gordon Russell \*  
M.R. Sainty, AM, (Fellow)  
Mrs C.E.O. Simpson, OAM \*  
E.P.T. Simpson \*  
M. Stirling \*  
Mrs B.J. Stokes  
Patricia Ulrichsen \*  
Nick Vine Hall, AM, (Fellow) \*  
Rev. O.B. Waldron-McCarthy (Fellow) \*  
A.H. Bridge Watts \*  
The William Roberts & Kezia  
Brown Family Assoc. Inc. \*  
C.R. Wilshire \*  
J.D. Wilson (Fellow)  
Worthington Clark Pty Ltd.

(\*deceased)

## Deaths

The following deaths of members and former members were notified to the Society between May to July 2022. We extend our sympathies to the family and friends of them all.

**Patricia Jean Gordon**  
Vaucluse  
18 May 2022

**Lady Jean Duncan Foley**  
North Turramurra  
17 May 2022

**Colin Graeme Allen**  
Normanhurst  
1 May 2022

**Raymon Burke**  
Balmain  
16 April 2022

**Pamela Goesch**  
Chatswood  
16 June 2022







## Obituary *Patricia Gordon*

1930–2022

Patricia Jean Gordon, honorary member and fellow of the Society of Australian Genealogists, died peacefully on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022, in Sydney, four days after her 92nd birthday.

Patricia Jean Holt was born at the Pacific Hospital in Brighton-Le-Sands, Sydney, on 14th May 1930, the eldest of four daughters to Leslie Holt and Kate Violet née Trimnell-Ritchard. She grew up surrounded by a large circle of relatives, her father being one of seven and her mother, who lived to 101, one of nine. In turn Pat leaves sons Steve and Mark and daughter Jill, seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Pat's interest in family history stemmed from her early childhood, when she had a strong bond with her step great-grandfather George Frederick Davies. George had been a member of the Sudan Contingent and was the secretary of the NSW S(o)udan Contingent Association of 1885, Australia's first Returned Soldiers League, for 60 years.

Pat joined the 'Genies' in 1968. Although the family was not well-off, her maternal grandmother had always told her that she could 'hold her head high', so she decided to find out why. She traced her mother's line directly to William the Conqueror, her 27x great grandfather. Her son, Mark, also a long-time SAG member, later discovered that he and his wife were very distant cousins, having a common ancestor in Humphrey de Bohun, the 4th Earl of Hereford, who had married Elizabeth Plantagenet in 1302.

Once she had established the veracity of her grandmother's claim, Pat turned her attention to her lesser-known ancestors including her Scottish Stewarts, Bannatynes and Millers. She contributed an article on her 'Scholarly Stewarts' to the June 1986 issue of *Descent* (Vol. 26, Pt. 2) and co-wrote 'Indexes to Scottish Sasines & Indexes' with Angela Phippen, Librarian, for the June 1991 issue. Pat was also a regular contributor of book reviews over many years.

Pat was a knowledgeable Irish researcher and co-led the 1990 SAG Irish Tour with Richard Reid, and the 1991 Irish Tour with Perry McIntyre. She was also one of the representatives of the Society at the 75th Anniversary Conference of the Society of Genealogists held at Oxford University in 1986. Pat was a

founding member of the Irish Interest Group and set up the Scottish Interest Group in 1998.

Outside of family history Pat was a long-time active member of the Double Bay Ladies Probus Club, the local Garden Club, was an elder of her local Uniting Church and served as a JP for over twenty years.

At various stages during her working life, Pat and her husband owned and operated a milk bar, a restaurant, two convalescent nursing homes, a day nursery for children, and a substantial dry-cleaning enterprise – many at the same time. She never retired, and was still an active company director of four private companies at the time of her death.

Pat's business acumen was highly valued by the Society's Council, on which she served from 1980 to 2000 (with a short break 1982-83 while travelling overseas). She was a long-time member of the Finance Committee, served as Assistant Honorary Treasurer 1981-1986 and as a Vice-President from 1996-2000. In particular, Pat revitalized the Society's Social Committee which later morphed into the Social & Fundraising Committee, a forerunner of the current Education Committee. Fund-raising was very close to Pat's heart, and she worked tirelessly to ensure that the Society raised additional revenue during some very lean and difficult times. On a personal level, she gave generously to the Society's Collection Fund to sponsor the purchase of many Irish, English and Scottish books and was subsequently elected a Benefactor.

For her service to the Society, Pat received a Certificate of Merit in 1982, was elected a Fellow in 1996 and became an Honorary Member in 2000. Pat's other major contribution was as a library volunteer, where she freely shared her extensive knowledge, and regularly engaged with members and volunteers so that she could represent their views around the Council table.

**“Well done, thou good and faithful servant”**  
*(Matthew 25: 21)*

The Society was well represented at Patricia's funeral by Keith Johnson and John McLaughlin both former Presidents and current Fellows, Heather Garnsey an Honorary Member, Danielle Tebb the Membership Officer, and long-standing Library Volunteer, Angela Lind.

*Compiled with grateful thanks to Mark Gordon from the Eulogy that he delivered at his mother's funeral on 30th May 2022, and from Society records, by Keith Johnson, Heather Garnsey and Evan Best. 20-06-2022.*

# OUR SAG COMMUNITY

## ✻ Congratulations! ✻

We congratulate the following members who have recently achieved the Society's Certificate in Genealogical Research:

**Roslyn Airs**, Kains Flat NSW  
**Jennifer Bates**, Melbourne VIC  
**Adrienne Beattie-Jeive**, Haberfield NSW  
**Michele Bomford**, Bundanoon NSW  
**Christine Cavanagh**, Currambine WA  
**Christopher Connolly**, Croydon WA  
**Janelle Dowley**, Tabulam NSW  
**Julie Fallins**, Branxton NSW  
**Julie Fitzgerald**, Griffith ACT  
**Danielle Garrett**, Ardlethan NSW  
**Margaret Koster**, Baulkham Hills NSW  
**Kathryn Le Gay Breerton**, Murwillumbah NSW  
**Kristy Love**, Sunshine North VIC  
**Karen Marosa**, North Balgowlah NSW  
**Sue Martin**, Cobar NSW  
**Susan McCleary**, Reesville QLD  
**Lee McKerracher**, Raby NSW  
**Allan Murphy**, Denistone NSW  
**Sharon Neale**, Inghside NSW  
**Linda Radulovitch**, Penshurst NSW  
**Sue Reid**, Fig Tree Pocket QLD  
**Virginia Richmond**, Orange NSW  
**Robyn Roylance**, St Lucia QLD  
**Nereda Shute**, Gosford NSW  
**Alison Trotter**, Bundanoon NSW  
**Julie Webb**, Nerang QLD  
**Marianne Webb**, Lightning Ridge NSW  
**Kendall Webber**, Seaforth NSW  
**Helen White**, Sorell TAS  
**Robyn Woodington**, Allambie Heights

We congratulate all for their efforts, particularly studying across the pandemic and various lockdowns!



You can find out more about our Certificate and other online courses at:

[www.sag.org.au/](http://www.sag.org.au/)  
**StudyOnlineWithUs**

## RETIREMENT OF MARLENE SCAHILL

We farewelled Marlene Scahill at the end of April this year after many years of dedicated service to the Society.

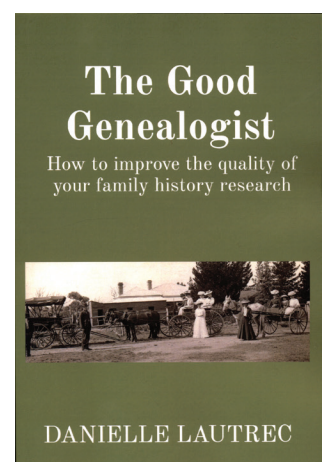


Marlene joined the staff in October 1990 and filled various admin roles over the next 20 years, firstly assisting the Executive Officer and then working as our Course Bookings Officer. In this latter role she patiently and good naturedly coped as the Society transitioned through several different online systems, each of which presented new challenges for both staff and members.

Many members will remember Marlene as the friendly voice on the other end of the phone when they rang for help sorting out bookings or confirming reservations with credit card payments. During the COVID lockdowns when staff were working remotely, she was of enormous support to other staff in returning calls from phone messages and liaising between members and staff. Our anniversary edition in June has delayed this thank you, but it is no less heartfelt coming some months later and we wish her a happy and productive retirement.

## NEW SAG PUBLICATION LAUNCHED: *THE GOOD GENEALOGIST*

We were delighted to launch Danielle Lautrec's inaugural publication, *The Good Genealogist* at Richmond Villa on the afternoon of Thursday 25th August. This book is a result of the popular Family History Fundamentals course she has been running for the Society for a number of years. Twenty members attended the launch, along with Danielle's brother, Andrew. The book was officially launched by our education manager, Vanessa Cassin, with most attendees lining up to get their copy signed. We congratulate Danielle on this significant endeavour.



Copies are available through our bookshop and a review will appear in the next issue of *Descent*. The book is also available through Amazon and other e-book retailers.





As we continue to mark the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the SAG, we would like to recognise the following 73 members for their continued membership for over half of our existence.

**JOINED 1963**

Anthony Joseph Lois McEvoy

**JOINED 1964**

Richard d'Apice Malcolm Sainty  
Keith Johnson Peter Scott  
John McLaughlin

**JOINED 1966**

Gillian Iles John Spurway  
Lawrence Sherwin

**JOINED 1967**

Evan Best Max Solling

**JOINED 1968**

Margaret Phee Joy Pronk

**JOINED 1969**

Helen Austin Geoffrey Leggatt  
Christopher Cutler

**JOINED 1970**

William Deeley Angela Lind  
Robert Ridding

**JOINED 1972**

Mavis Hibble Mark Pearce  
Raymond James Robert Wilson  
David McGrane

**JOINED 1973**

Noela Field Mark Shuhevych  
Leslie Grosse Michael Smith  
Brian Johnston Darrell Waight  
Dennis Mann Elizabeth Waight  
Raymond Pontifex

**JOINED 1974**

Gregory Dillon Nola Mackey  
William Good Margaret McKay  
Joy Hughes Grahame Thom  
Graham Lewis Donald Walker  
Isabel Lewis Marilyn Ward

**JOINED 1975**

Leonie Cable Dorothy Nelson  
William Collins Pamela Ray  
Nolda Craze Daphne Roberts  
Marjorie McFarland Lloyd Waddy  
Mervyn Montague Ross Young  
Barry Moss

**JOINED 1976**

Marie Beaumont John Shortland  
Christopher Bonnor Michael Stanfield  
Maureen Kremer Marie Tattam  
John Shipp John Wilson

**JOINED 1977**

John Clark Maxwell Rowland  
Allan Murphy Matthew Smith  
Reginald Norris Leigh Wallbank  
June Penny Robert Wiles  
John Ransley Eric Young

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO DESCENT**

The Society welcomes articles for publication in *Descent*. Preference is given to articles which demonstrate methods, sources and tactics which will help others with their research. Family is about sharing - so we encourage you to share your stories with your fellow Family Historians.

Deadlines: Articles can be submitted at any time to the Editorial Committee by emailing [editor@sag.org.au](mailto:editor@sag.org.au). Time sensitive items need to be received by 1st February, 1st May, 1st August and 1st November for the March/Autumn, June/Winter, September/Spring and December/Summer issues respectively.

Length: 2-3 page articles – 1,000-2,000 words although longer articles will be considered; 1 page articles – 700-900 words; short articles – 100-400 words.

Copyright Clearance: Copyright clearance is your responsibility and you must ensure that written and illustrative material does not breach copyright and all sources are correctly acknowledged.

Full details regarding submission lengths, images, copyright and consent can be found on our website at <https://www.sag.org.au/Our-Magazine-Descent>

Please note SAG does not pay author fees.

**NEXT THEME:**

Religions and  
Religious Orders



**Call for conference speakers (online conference scheduled for Sat 26 November) and *Descent* articles for the Society of Australian Genealogists:**

We are looking to highlight your research into family members or practices to do with various faiths. It may be that you can provide a story, for example, about a travelling priest, traditions to do with a marriage ceremony or the experiences or impact of a local church or religious institution in a community.

**Deadline for notification of intent to speak or write:** 15 October 2022, email [admin@sag.org.au](mailto:admin@sag.org.au)

**Deadline for articles:** 1 November 2022.

# ARCHIVES REPORT

BY ALEXANDRA MOUNTAIN PhD

As part of our continuing series exploring materials in the Society's archives, this *Descent* we will focus on items relating to India and Hong Kong. I must admit, however, finding these materials was a little difficult!

Our archive includes materials donated by members. As such, we have a large collection of documents from and about the United Kingdom and Ireland – as that's where, traditionally, a lot of our members' ancestors came from.

**However, we are the Society of Australian Genealogists, and as such, we feel that our archive should be a repository for all families in Australia.**

We're hoping to diversify the archival holdings we have, and are implementing a number of different strategies to ensure that our collection reflects all the different Australian families. If you have family history material that is about or is from places other than the United Kingdom and Ireland, we ask that you consider donating these records to our archive. As our collection grows, we can all rethink what Australian family history means.

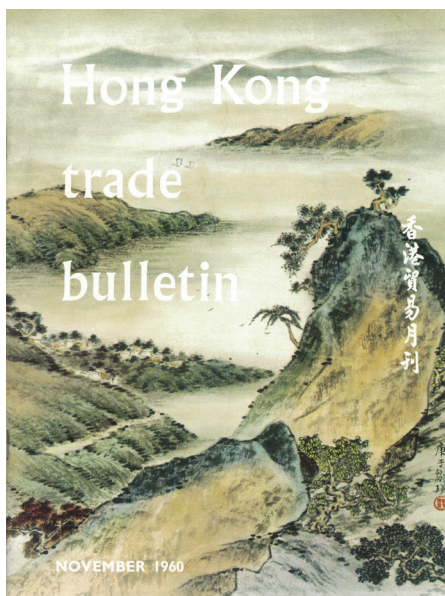
In the meantime, here are two gems from our collection that give a glimpse into ancestor's lives outside of Australia!

## A Copy Of The *Hong Kong Trade Bulletin*, November 1960

We hold a copy of the journal *Hong Kong Trade Bulletin*, which was a government serial published by the Hong Kong Department of Commerce and Industry, and issued by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council. The circulation of the *Bulletin* was quite far reaching in Australia – at least 10,000 copies per issue were made available to various businesses and government agencies.

Each issue is filled with a diverse range of advertisements detailing different Hong Kong industries, from magnet flashlights and rubber sandals to playing cards and cotton mesh bags. The *Bulletin* was intended to encourage investment in the British colony by Australian businesses, and in addition to the pages of black and white advertisements, also includes a small number of featured articles, each extolling a unique virtue of living, buying, or traveling in Hong Kong.

"Hong Kong offers the tourist everything for a perfect holiday," exclaims the opening lines of the article aptly titled "Hong Kong for your holiday." "Scenery of unparalleled beauty, friendly, courteous people, sporting facilities of every kind, food to satisfy the most fastidious of gourmets and shopping which must be the cheapest and most varied in the world—this and much more awaits the visitor to Hong Kong."



Another page published a letter from the then Australian Government Senior Trade Commissioner, G. R. B. Patterson, that carefully outlined the reasoning for the strong relationship between Australia and Hong Kong. "Apart from the overriding harmony of Commonwealth principle and understanding, Australia/Hong Kong relations are based on three important factors: firstly, mutual trade, secondly, export from Australia of foodstuffs to Hong Kong's millions and the supply of raw materials to Hong Kong's export industries, and finally a considerable inflow of 'invisibles' into Hong Kong from Australian visitors." Patterson ends his letter earnestly encouraging the continued good relations between the two countries.

The *Trade Bulletin* offers a fascinating glimpse into the economic relationship between Hong Kong and Australia during the 1950s and 1960s. It underlines the importance of maintaining Commonwealth links, but also offers a tantalising look into an Australian public looking outwards to new frontiers in a post-Second World War world.





## The Collier Journal, Part One

The Collier Journal is a large, hefty, fabric-bound tome with a brass lock that now glints dully under the archive lights, keeping the 868 pages penned by Charles Francis Collier secure even a hundred years after his writing. Collier was born in Gloucester on July 9, 1819 and this journal, part one of two, follows Collier's life from 1819 to 1859. In particular, Collier spends a large amount of time exhaustively detailing his travels in India as a young man.

Collier started journaling his experiences, he explains in the opening lines, because his father told him to at the young age of 14. He writes that his father "was of opinion that a faithful record of the principal events and actions of our lives, tends to make us careful in how we fix a stain upon our character, induces habits of self reflection, and punctuality, and often serves as a guide to future conduct..."

### **The journal is an incredibly rich record, filled with microscopic details of Collier's life and experiences.**

Collier wrote extremely briefly of his childhood and teenage years, explaining that reminiscences of a schoolboy were of little "novelty or interest to anyone," and by page two of the journal we are already in 1832, boarding a steamer with Collier to begin our journey to Bombay, where he would, as he writes, experience the best years of his life.

Collier's words are sometimes achingly modern, filled with dreams and thoughts that echo current aspirations. He wonders if humans will ever inhabit the stars, he builds castles in the clouds as he spends days aboard ships with little to do, and he describes fantasies where he is a hero vanquishing villains. His thoughts, he writes, "were of the past, and of the future."

Collier was filled with admiration for Bombay, and regarded the city as an untapped gem that would soon rise to prominence in the world. He found the diversity of Bombay in particular, a great strength of the city. But Collier's journal is also a detailed record of English colonial attitudes, particularly those towards ideas of race. Musings of the "different races" fill pages of his journal, with most discussed in poor relation to the English, and it highlights the intractable social understanding of white supremacy imbued in the colonial gentleman.

As a historical source, the Collier journal is invaluable. It shows India through the lens of colonialism, and in doing so, reveals the values of Collier and the society he was born and raised in. It also showcases the humanity of Collier, highlighting his anxieties and fears, his dreams and desires.



*Illustration: Life in Bombay, and the neighbouring outstations, etc, J. Gray, London, England, 1852, p 64*

# THE WAR CRY MISSING PERSONS' INDEX

BY DANIELLE TEBB PhD

When William Booth began preaching to the poor and destitute of London's East End in the mid-nineteenth century, founding the Salvation Army as an organisation to provide food, schooling and other relief to the destitute, he could not have imagined the importance his organisation would play in providing relief to the poor on the other side of the world. Part of the Salvation Army's ministry came in the form of a four-page weekly newspaper titled *The War Cry*,<sup>1</sup> which was launched in London on 27 December 1879, featuring an article by General William Booth.<sup>2</sup> The title of the magazine refers to the Salvos' 'war' against evil influences in the world, prompting them to raise a 'war cry' in opposition to anything that crushes the human spirit.<sup>3</sup>

The vast distances of the Australian continent, however, resulted in the division of the Salvation Army into two administrative territories in 1921 – the Eastern territory covering NSW, Queensland and the ACT, while the rest of Australia was included in the Southern territory.<sup>9</sup> At this time, a separate *The War Cry* was printed in Sydney and was circulated in the Eastern territory for the next 12 years, before a single issue *The War Cry* for the whole of Australia was again done solely from Melbourne, dating from the 7 January 1933 issue.<sup>10</sup>



First Australian issue of *The War Cry* 1883

In 1880 The Salvation Army arrived on Australian shores, with the first meeting held in Adelaide's Botanic Park.<sup>4</sup> Their work in NSW and Victoria commenced two years later, with Queensland in 1885 and Western Australia in 1891.<sup>5</sup> On March 24, 1883, the first Australian issue of *The War Cry* was printed in Sydney,<sup>6</sup> with South Australia following in April and Victoria in June of the same year.<sup>7</sup> With the acquisition of a house for its headquarters in South Melbourne, a basement printing press facilitated the printing of an all-Australian *The War Cry* from 1898.<sup>8</sup>

**The magazine was a people's paper and carried spiritual articles, songs and information about the Army and its popularity meant that by 1891, the Australian *The War Cry* circulation figures had become the third highest in the world.<sup>11</sup>**

An integral part of the service performed by the Salvation Army is in the area of social welfare. In the very early days of the Salvation Army in Australia, this was seen through providing economic relief and housing support to men discharged from Melbourne Gaol,<sup>12</sup> and it's an aspect we're all familiar with today, particularly in times of natural disasters and through their tireless efforts to support the homeless and less fortunate.

The Salvation Army developed into one of the world's largest organisations connecting missing relatives and friends.<sup>13</sup> In its early days, this was manifested in the missing persons' column which began in 1885 and soon became a regular feature in weekly editions of *The War Cry* throughout the world.<sup>14</sup>

Additionally, the Salvation Army was responsible for the sponsored migration of thousands of individuals from Great Britain to Australia, starting from the turn of the century, peaking in the 1920s, and continuing into the 1950s,<sup>15</sup> so the search for missing relatives became a trans-continental affair.

Realising the potential value of a searchable index of the Missing Persons' lists published in *The War Cry*, The Australian Salvation Army initially worked internally on ideas to produce an index, but soon realised they could better achieve this goal by working in conjunction with another organisation.

Following a 1999 lunchtime lecture given to SAG members to advertise the opening of their new Heritage Centre in Bexley North, part of their College of Further Education, serving the needs of both the Army and the wider public,<sup>16</sup> Salvation Army representatives quickly recognised they had found a willing partner and met the then SAG Executive Officer, Heather Garnsey to work out a plan. In the latter part of 2000 an agreement was reached to limit the index to only those entries appearing in 1949 and earlier, thereby addressing possible privacy concerns, with the aim for the completed index to be accessible at both the Heritage Centre and the SAG.<sup>17</sup>





And so, a call went out to SAG members via *Descent* in December 2000:<sup>18</sup>

#### Joint Project to Index the Salvation Army War Cry

As a result of Envoy Dr George Hazell of the Salvation Army Heritage Centre addressing members last year, the Society has recently agreed to assist the Army with an indexing project of the *War Cry* Missing Persons section, covering the date range 1883 to 1949. Many readers will recognise the value of name-indexing the large number of missing family and friends detailed in that section of the paper. The Society has agreed to co-ordinate the indexing into a computer database, with both organisations receiving a copy of the completed database for their own research purposes. The Society will supply the volunteer data entry operators while the Salvation Army will supply copies of the newspaper, either in original or as microfilm print-outs.

This is not a large project and a small team of volunteers is required from early 2001 to help with indexing at home (Microsoft Access will be required), at the Society, or at the Salvation Army Heritage Centre headquarters at North Bexley, Sydney. If you are interested in helping to open up this wonderful source of information to genealogists and other researchers, please contact the Executive Officer by telephone or email.

As part of the initial work, SAG member Joan Dwyer spent many days at the North Bexley Heritage Centre preparing photocopies of the Missing Person columns, which were then distributed to volunteers for indexing at home. While it was described in 2000 as 'not a large project' it took much longer to complete than anticipated and unfortunately went into abeyance for some time while more pressing projects and the move to 379 Kent Street needed our attention.

Finally, in 2017 the Thursday team of Richmond Villa volunteers, comprising Susie Wilson-Brown, Jennifer Walker and Mary Pringle, and led by Peter Lovell, completed the indexing and readied it for use. Covid lockdowns delayed it again, but, thanks to the capable hands of Alison Wolf and Christine Marcroft, the finishing touches are now complete and we're delighted to launch the index in MIDAS.

The time-frame of the entries is 24 March 1883 to 31 December 1949, although the years 1896-1898 are missing. Accompanied by a unique identifying number, each notice was published over three consecutive Saturday papers, listed under the headings, First Insertion, Second Insertion and Third Insertion, as each week went by. *The War Cry* project extracted the name and date for each First Insertion, including a transcription of the full notice, also recording whether the entry was published in the Sydney or Melbourne issue.

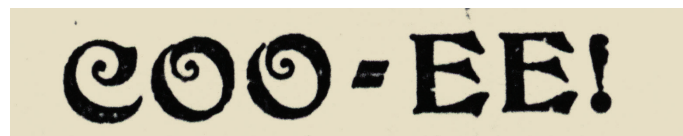
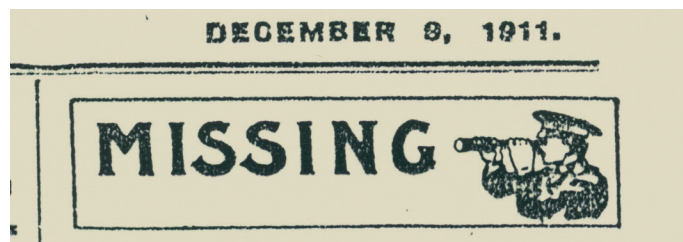
While the title of the column varied – perhaps due to space considerations – with at least 15 different styles identified, as seen from the following samples, the description remained largely the same:

#### WHERE ARE YOU?

Any information respecting the under-mentioned persons will be gladly received by –  
THE INQUIRY DEPARTMENT  
The Salvation Army  
140 Elizabeth Street, Sydney

To Parents, Relatives, and Friends, – We will search for missing friends in any part of the globe. Communications addressed as above will receive prompt attention.,

A charge of at least five shillings is made  
For each inquiry, to help defray expenses



So, as with Missing Person or Crew Desertion notices appearing in the Government Gazette, *The War Cry* entries record more than just the name of the person who is being sought by family. It is the incidental information, supplied to help identify the individual, however, where the treasure-trove lies, as we are generally treated to the person's age and varying

details of physical description: the information for Alfred Sinclair on 14 January 1928, for instance –

*Age 19. Medium height; dark brown hair and eyes; fresh complexion. Farm hand. Came to Australia in 1926; worked in Parkes district for some time. Last seen in Trundle. Address urgently required.*

Or for Harry George Yeo on April 20th, 1940 –

*Aged 41 years. Born South Brisbane. Grey eyes. Dark hair. Medium complexion. Slight build. Height, 5ft. 10in. Last heard of in 1929. Shop assistant. Fond of tennis. Sensitive, retiring nature. Parents heart-broken over silence, News urgently needed.*

It is rare to read such detailed physical descriptions, let alone behavioural descriptions, and occasionally a photo accompanies the notice – such instances are indicated in MIDAS, and while the photocopies used to create the index are not of sufficient quality to retain, copies of *The War Cry*

may be available on microfilm through your State Library, so check the relevant library catalogue for access information.

Often there is enough information to find out more about the individual: On 28 April 1928 the following notice first appeared, repeated on 5 May and 12 May:

*French, Mrs. (nee Menz) – Height, 5ft. 9in. Hair black, going grey; eyes grey; medium complexion; mole on chin; full double set false teeth; generally wears small gold earrings, and a brooch with the 30th Battalion colours (purple and gold). Recently seen in Strathfield. Address urgently required. (1699).*

A quick search of NSW BDMs reveal a likely marriage entry in 1890 for John T French to Annie M Menz in Wagga Wagga,<sup>19</sup> confirming both Anne’s married and maiden name, thus allowing us to locate her birth in 1874 to a Frederick and Louisa Menz in Albury.<sup>20</sup> A search for other issue to Frederick and Louisa reveal the birth of an older sister, Louisa B in 1972<sup>21</sup> as well as two unnamed infants in 1870<sup>22</sup> and 1877,<sup>23</sup> occurring in Albury and Wagga Wagga respectively.

Children of Annie’s marriage to John can also be located: Alice M in 1892<sup>24</sup>; William J in 1894;<sup>25</sup> Thomas J in 1879;<sup>26</sup> Frederick J in 1899;<sup>27</sup> Daniel D in 1901;<sup>28</sup> Edward A in 1904;<sup>29</sup> Harold G in 1906<sup>30</sup> and Gladys E in 1908,<sup>31</sup> all in Temora. So too the deaths of William Joseph in 1936<sup>32</sup> and Frederick James in 1959.<sup>33</sup>

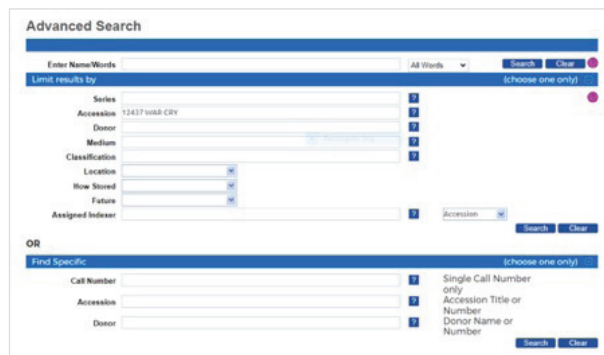
Most interestingly, perhaps, is the death of an Annie M French, aged 62, in 1935<sup>34</sup> in Temora. Research on TROVE reveals a notice for Annie’s death, which occurred "with tragic suddenness" at the Temora Hospital.<sup>35</sup> More research may reveal a lot more about this woman who took such pains over her appearance, and perhaps reveal why she was in Strathfield, or at least why she was considered missing. As she died in Temora seven years after the Missing Persons' entry, was this a happy ending to a missing person’s incident, or something else?

Many of the notices were placed by anxious family ‘back home’. A notice seeking Robert Smithers on 21 February 1891 records that he is ‘from Somersetshire, last heard of at the Melbourne GPO’ and that his oldest sister Ann Cofield is looking for him. On 1 December 1888 Clifford Partridge, who ‘lived at Mrs Elliot’s at Kogarah last seen Bulli NSW’ is implored to write to his ‘broken hearted mother, 10 Smith’s Terrace, King’s Road Chelsea in England’. On 14 July 1888 Albert Wood, late of Windsor, is asked to ‘write to his brother William or go home, as their mother has died and there are important matters to settle’. In each case these few lines contain useful family history leads.

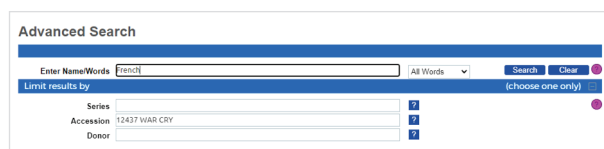
As the Salvation Army was instrumental in helping so many individuals migrate to Australia, a definite trend in the names of the individuals being sought can be seen as the incidence of European surnames and birthplaces increase dramatically leading up to and during the years of WWII. Analysis of the variety of surnames and places of origin would be a valuable area of study, as would an examination of the young men whose names appear in the columns to ascertain if they enlisted during war-time.

The War Cry Missing Persons' Index containing over 15,500 entries is found in Series 70 and is arranged by year within the series, so it’s not an index that lends itself to browsing. The index records the name of the missing person, last known residence and reason for the search – often listed as ‘address urgently required’, Mother/brother/sister/niece etc. urgently inquires, ‘a legacy awaits you’, or the more mysterious ‘you will hear something to your advantage’.

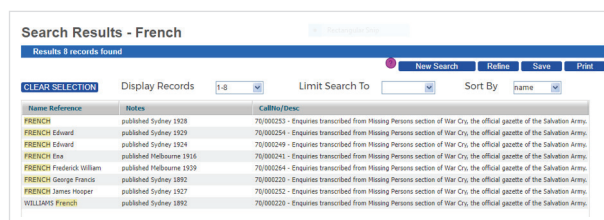
You can limit your search to this index only by logging on to MIDAS and going to the Advanced Search option, then use the drop-down menu on the right-hand side of the Accession field and select 12437 WAR CRY.



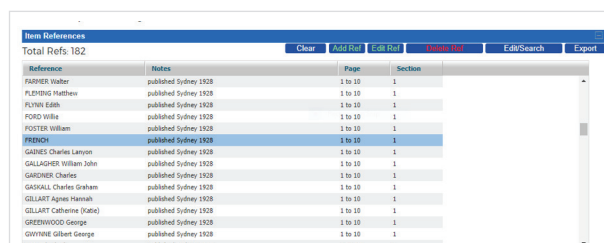
Once this is selected, enter the name of the individual, or surname, in the top field and click search.



All entries in the series containing the name French will be selected and from the list you can select the individual(s) who interest you.



Double-click on the selected name and you will be taken to a list of all the names appearing in the Missing Person’s column for that year.







Clicking on the highlighted entry will give you a summary of the entry. Forward this to admin@sag.org.au and we will send you the relevant page. The pages are grouped in sections of 10 for download and ease of use.

A number of members contributed their time to the indexing and checking of *The War Cry* entries. Unfortunately, due to the project's duration it isn't possible to accurately name each one. We thank them all and know that their efforts will result in researchers finding some gems in this new index.

The author would also like to thank Heather Garnsey and Alison Wolf for their assistance in preparing this article.

Society of Australian Genealogists - Salvation Army War Cry - Missing Persons			
NAME	DATE	PLACE	MESSAGE
FLYNN Edith	21-Apr-1928	Sydney	Mrs. Last heard of in Sydney in 1916. Supposed to be Salvationist, living with two Salvationist sisters. Address required.
FORD Willie	24-Nov-1928	Sydney	Born in South 103rd Street, New York City, 1892. Served in Great War. Father's name Edward Francis Ford. Parents anxious for news.
FOSTER William	03-Nov-1928	Sydney	Age 20, height 6ft. Dark. Came from England four years ago, last heard of at Charleville, Queensland. Mother in Australia inquires.
FRENCH	28-Apr-1928	Sydney	Mrs French (nee Menz). Height 5ft. 9in. Hair black, going grey, eyes grey, medium complexion, mole on chin, full double set of false teeth; generally wears small gold earrings, and a brooch with the 30th Battalion colours (purple and gold). Recently seen in Strathfield. Address urgently required.
GAINES Charles Lanyon	30-Jun-1928	Sydney	Age about 64. Has resided in Perth, Fremantle and Brisbane. Was interested in introducing a new system of shorthand. Came from England.
GALLAGHER William John	14-Apr-1928	Sydney	Age 52; height 5ft.; brown hair and eyes; fair complexion; mark on left cheek. Native of Kileen Ireland. Was a farmer, last known address, Richmond River, N.S.W.
GARDNER Charles	19-May-1928	Sydney	Age 35; height 6ft.; dark hair, grey eyes; dark complexion. Last known address GPO Sydney
GASKALL Charles Graham	22-Sep-1928	Sydney	Employed at Zaram Wanganelia until July 1827. Thought to have gone to Queensland. Address urgently required.
GILLART Agnes Hannah	14-Apr-1928	Sydney	Age 39 with sister Catherine (Katie) - Age 41. Left Sydney about 1890, and went to England with father (Harry). Agnes thought to have since returned to Australia, Married and living around Sydney. Mother anxiously inquires.
GILLART Catherine (Katie)	14-Apr-1928	Sydney	Age 41 with sister Agnes Hannah - Age 39. Left Sydney about 1890, and went to England with father (Harry). Agnes thought to have since returned to Australia, Married and living around Sydney. Mother anxiously inquires.
GREENWOOD George	11-Aug-1928	Sydney	Age 58. Address in 1919 was c/o Post Office, Kuridula, Hamden, via Townsville. Qld. May be known to District Copper Mining Hamden Co., Cutlbert Co., Mount Elliott Co. Sister anxiously enquiring.
GWYNNE Gilbert George	27-Oct-1928	Sydney	Age 30, Height 5ft 7in. Brown hair, brown eyes, fair complexion. Native of Parkhead, Glasgow. Last heard of at Hotel Sydney in 1927.
HALL Elizabeth	14-Jul-1928	Sydney	Age 67; height 5ft. 6in. Husband was a sailor. Native of Sunderland. Thought to be residing in Sydney or Melbourne.
HAMMOND Alick	08-Sep-1928	Sydney	Niece anxious. Anyone knowing whereabouts please write to above address.
HAMMOND William James	21-Apr-1928	Sydney	Age 36; height 5ft. 5in. light brown hair; brown eyes; fresh complexion. Butcher's assistant. Native of Hammersmith, London. Came to Australia in 1922 on the s.s. 'Barradine'. Mother enquires.

Manuscript &amp; Image Collection 70/000253

Page 4 of 12

© SAG



If you want to learn more about the Salvation Army in Australia, the SAG Library has the following books:

**Wiggins, Arch R:** *The History of the Salvation Army*, Volume IV 1886-1904 (London: Thomas Nelson & Sons Ltd, 1964)

**Bolton, Barbara:** *Booth's Drum. The Salvation Army in Australia 1880-1980* (Sydney: Hodder & Stoughton, 1980)

**Dale, Colonel Percival:** *Salvation Chariot: A Review of the first seventy-one years of the Salvation Army in Australia 1880-1951* (Melbourne: Salvation Army Press, 1952)

**Tarling, Lowell:** *Thank God for the Salvos: The Salvation Army in Australia, 1880-1980* (Australasia: Harper & Row Pty Ltd, 1980)

1 *The War Cry* celebrates 130 years in Australia press release 17 June 2013: <https://www.salvationarmy.org.au/about-us/news-and-stories/media-newsroom/warcry-celebrates-130-years-in-australia>

2 <https://www.theguardian.com/media/2009/jan/07/war-cry-goes-tabloid>

3 *The War Cry* celebrates 130 years in Australia press release 17 June 2013.

4 <https://www.salvationarmy.org.au/about-us/our-story/our-history/historical-timeline>

5 Ibid.

6 Dale, Colonel Percival: *Salvation Chariot: A Review of the first seventy-one years of the Salvation Army in Australia 1880-1951* (1952), page 53.

7 Dale, page 53.

8 Dale, page 55.

9 Dale, page 52.

10 Dale, page 53-54.

11 Dale, page 54.

12 <https://www.salvationarmy.org.au/about-us/our-story/our-history/history-of-social-work>

13 A full description of this work can be found in *Missing!: A study of the world-wide missing persons enigma and Salvation Army response* by Richard William (London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1969).

14 [http://www.sheillajones.com/yahoo\\_site\\_admin/assets/docs/Ripperologist\\_167\\_Mrs\\_Booth\\_Enquiry\\_Bureau.166203152.pdf](http://www.sheillajones.com/yahoo_site_admin/assets/docs/Ripperologist_167_Mrs_Booth_Enquiry_Bureau.166203152.pdf)

15 For an overview of the archives and published sources relating to the Salvation Army's migration projects and schemes, the following subject guide is available: [https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/2019-09/3.\\_migration.pdf](https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/2019-09/3._migration.pdf).

16 Notes & News, *Descent* (Vol 29 Pt 2), June 1999, page 94.

17 Minutes from meeting held on August 10th, 2000, held at The Salvation Army Heritage Centre, present Envoy George Hazell, Ms Christine Cole and Miss Heather Garnsey.

18 Notes & News *Descent* (Vol 30 Pt 4), December 2000, page 203.

19 NSW BDM 7249/1890.

20 NSW BDM 6159/1874.

21 NSW BDM 5540/1872.

22 NSW BDM 5415/4870.

23 NSW BDM 21700/1877.

24 NSW BDM 35704/1892.

25 NSW BDM 34418/1894.

26 NSW BDM 16902/1879.

27 NSW BDM 25620/1899.

28 NSW BDM 36369/1901.

29 NSW BDM 27190/1904.

30 NSW BDM 29212/1906.

31 NSW BDM 41102/1908.

32 NSW BDM 8853/1936.

33 NSW BDM 26877/1959.

34 NSW BDM 6864/1935.

35 TROVE, *The Albury Banner & Wodonga Express* Friday June 28, 1935, page 44.

# LIBRARY NEWS

BY KARLIE FRELINGOS

This is a selection of books, pamphlets and other format items accessioned from April to June 2022. The information is the title of the record and the library classification number.

All items are at 379 Kent Street unless otherwise noted. Consult the Library Catalogue at the Society's website for full details of the items included in this list.

- Angus, Lorance (2019)** *Rogers of Leatherhead Rectory: This line of Rogers is recorded from 1691 until 1909* A6/ROG/3
- Angus, Lorance (2021)** *The Cleeve family from Silverton, Devon England and New South Wales* A6/CLE/6
- Angus, Lorance (2017)** *A family history of the immediate descendants of William Adolphus and Gertrude Carter* A6/CAR/18
- Austin, Julie (2021)** *The long way to Jerilderie: the journey of the Hawkshaw and Smith families* A6/HAW/6
- Australian Council of National Trusts. (1978)** *Historic places of Australia* A3/50/4
- Cooper, Janice (2022)** *Unimaginable futures: Lamb, Ezzy, Irwin and Skuthorp families* A6/LAM/6
- Elder, Bruce (1987)** *The A to Z of who is who in Australia's history* A3/1/163
- Farmer, K. (2015)** *Arrivals in Australia from 1788* A3/9/18
- Gross, Julia (2020)** *Between maple leaf and wattle: Bede's Journey* A6/SMI/39
- Guinness, Catherine (2017)** *Rubber justice: Dr Harry Guinness and the Congo Reform Campaign* A6/GUI/2
- Hill, Maria (2010)** *Diggers and Greeks: the Australian campaigns in Greece and Crete* A3/71/92
- Kennedy, Patricia (2012)** *Journeys of the Byrum family* A6/BYR/2
- Kennedy, Patricia (2010).** *Legacy of Andrew Goodwin & Lydia Munro* A6/GOO/13
- King, T. & King, H. F. (2017)** *Weavers, wanderers & wigneys: the roller-coaster ride of a typical English family* N6/WIG/1
- Klaiber, Karleen (2021)** *Goodfellow: an Australian branch Ballarat and beyond* A6/GOO/14
- Lewis, Helen (2021)** *The Sherburds: pioneers and whalers in Van Diemen's Land* A6/SHE/13
- Macdonald, Charlotte (1991)** *The Book of New Zealand women = Ko kui ma te kaupapa* K3/1/24
- Rawlinson, Jennifer (2021)** *Peter Tickle and selected descendants: Manchester to Brisbane and beyond* A6/TIC/1
- Samuel, Ray (2022)** *The Old Tooheys Brewery* B4/10/3
- Samuel, Ray (2022)** *The Royal Oak Hotel* B4/20/Pam.1
- Shmith, Michael (2021)** *The eight families of Margaret and Ken Grenda* A6/GRE/17
- Slattery, John M. (2021)** *A Cameron family and descendants: From the highlands of Scotland to the Victorian goldfields and beyond* A6/CAM/26
- Smith, Patricia (2021)** *The Johnson and Ginders families of New South Wales and New Zealand* Thesis A6/JOH/13
- Stewart, D & Stewart, J. (2021)** *From penal colony to sealers colony & native reserve and as pastoral settlers* A6/STE/18
- Thearle, Margot, Jessie Isabel Garland and her relatives and family** A6/GAR/19
- Tisdell, Catherine (2022)** *Many windows, many doors: the years of living, learning, loving and loss 1976-1990* A6/TIS/4
- Tisdell, Catherine (2022)** *Only one police force in Australia the Northern Territory: Charles Edward "Tim" Tisdell (1926-1987)* A6/TIS/3
- Tisdell, Catherine (2022)** *The pinky purple car and the pinky purple hills: Tisdell's in the Territory 1955-1975* A6/TIS/2
- Van Zeller, Marcia (2020)** *Leila's family notes A genealogical study of the Clarkes: researching someone else's family from afar* Thesis A6/CLA/22
- Vizzard, Jeanette (2022)** *The voyage of the royal admiral in 1800: A story of Isaac Moss* A6/MOS/Pam1
- Whiddon, Jilda (2022)** *Kent to NSW: the Muckaway, Mackaway, McAway and Mudgway (NZ) families and their descendants* A6/MUC/1
- Whiddon, Jilda (2022)** *Thomas Hampton and Ann Kingsnorth: married Kenardington Kent 1774: ancestors of William Hampton and Mary Ann Muckaway and their descendants* A6/HAM/16
- White, Ian J. (2021)** *Elizabeth Rymes: A remarkable life* A6/EVE/8
- Worthington, Philip (2020)** *Worthington families of the seventeenth century: Volume 1 – origins in Lancashire Worthington 17th Century Project* N6/WOR/1





## European Colonies

The SAG Library has a collection of materials focused on family history research and general history of European colonies. A small sample of titles can be found below:

**Akenson, Donald Harman (1991)** *Occasional papers of the Irish in South Africa* V3.SAF/20/2

**Archives New Zealand (2006)** *New Zealand guides: Archives New Zealand* K2/11/3

**Hermanson, R. A. (1984)** *The Moser family in South Africa* V6.SAF/MOS/1

**Lee, John A. (1977)** *Early days in New Zealand* K3/30/2

**Lim, Patricia (2011)** *Forgotten souls: a social history of the Hong Kong cemetery* V3.HK/47/1

**Lombard, R. T. J. (1984)** *Handbook for genealogical research in South Africa* V2.SAF/1/1

**Miller, Harold (1966)** *Race conflict in New Zealand, 1814-1865* K3/1/19

**Morton, H. V. (1948)** *In search of South Africa* V3.SAF/13/1

**Pama, C. (1992)** *British families in South Africa: their surnames and origins* V2.SAF/30/1.s

**Reed, A. H. (1955)** *The story of New Zealand* K3/1/9

**Turner, Gwenda M. (1977)** *Akaroa: Banks Peninsula, New Zealand* K4/5/1

## RESEARCH MUSINGS

BY GEMMA BESWICK

One of our amazing Library Assistant volunteers, Margaret, brought in a wonderful mystery photograph recently. Margaret writes "This is the story behind this photograph found amongst the possession of the late William Neyle. William Neyle always known as "Bill" grew up in Grafton NSW at the home of his grandmother. He attended Grafton High School but would have left and moved to Sydney when this photo was taken".

### Who are the people in the photo?

Whist Bill had carefully labelled the back of the photo with names of each person; there were no other clues about the group.

Margaret and another of our amazing volunteers, Tony, put their thinking caps on (or thinking shoes, as the case may be), and set to work figuring it out. Looking at the small details in an enlarged version of the image and by zooming in on a detailed scan of the photograph, they noted that most of the students appeared to be wearing sport shoes of some kind and "the badge on the women's blazers...seems that it was taken at Grafton High School".

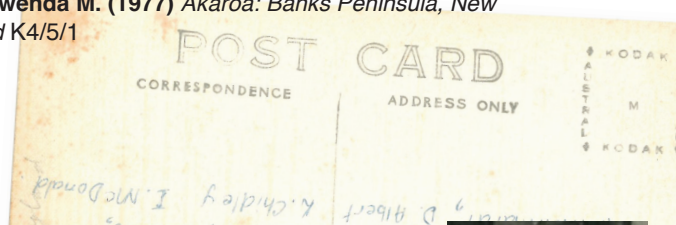
Using Trove, Margaret searched in the digitised newspapers for the surnames Bill had listed on the back and keywords such as 'Grafton' and 'school'.

She came across an article in the *Northern Star* on Wednesday 20 June 1923 explaining that the boys (with a majority of the same names) were part of their school football team, and the girls were in the school's basketball team.

Also "Man in the middle of front row was Grafton High School Principal, E. D. Davies who later became a school inspector".

Wonderfully researched by Margaret Neyle. Margaret has donated the photo to the Society's Archives Collection for the benefit of other family historians.

Maybe your ancestor is in this image?



# ABOUT US



## Society of Australian Genealogists

ACN 000 049 678

Richmond Villa  
120 Kent Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000  
(02) 9247 3953  
[www.sag.org.au](http://www.sag.org.au)

### Library

Level 2/379 Kent Street, Sydney  
Tuesday, Thursday and 1st & 3rd Saturday of the month  
10.00am–3.30pm  
During library hours: (02) 9299 5151

### Manuscripts & Library Stack

Richmond Villa  
120 Kent Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000  
To make a booking: (02) 9247 3953

### Contact Directory

General enquiries: [info@sag.org.au](mailto:info@sag.org.au)

#### Chief Executive Officer

Ruth Graham  
[execofficer@sag.org.au](mailto:execofficer@sag.org.au)

#### Library Services Manager

Gemma Beswick  
[bookshop@sag.org.au](mailto:bookshop@sag.org.au)

#### Collections – Library

Karlie Frelingos  
[librarian@sag.org.au](mailto:librarian@sag.org.au)

#### Collections – Manuscripts and Images

Alexandra Mountain, PhD  
[archives@sag.org.au](mailto:archives@sag.org.au)

#### Education Manager

Vanessa Cassin  
[education@sag.org.au](mailto:education@sag.org.au)

#### Membership Officer/Special Projects

Danielle Tebb, PhD, BA(Hons)  
[membership@sag.org.au](mailto:membership@sag.org.au)

#### Voluntary Research Officers

Sue Comrie-Thomson (Fellow)  
Judy Meyer  
[research@sag.org.au](mailto:research@sag.org.au)

 <https://www.facebook.com/SocAustGen/>

 [@SocAustGen](https://www.instagram.com/SocAustGen)

 [@SocAustGen](https://twitter.com/SocAustGen)  
[@archive\\_SAG](https://twitter.com/archive_SAG)

## Office Bearers

### Patron-in-Chief

His Excellency General the Honourable **David Hurley** AC  
DSC (Retd)

### Patron

The Honourable **Margaret Beazley** AO QC, Governor of  
New South Wales

### Vice-Patrons

**Richard d'Apice**, AM, KCSG, LLB, AIH (Fellow)

**Keith Johnson**, AM, FRAHS, FSG, FIGRS (Fellow)

**Martyn Killion**, BA, Grad. Dip. App. Sci. Info., Dip. FHS  
(Fellow)

**Malcolm Sainty**, AM, FSG (Fellow)

### Honorary Members

**Evan Best**, OAM, MA (Syd), BA (Hons) (Tas), Dip. FHS  
(Fellow)

**Anthony Camp**, MBE, BA, FSG (Hon)

**Heather Garnsey**, M.Litt, BA, Dip. FHS, FSG (Assoc.) Hon  
FHGSC, (Fellow)

**Perry McIntyre**, AM, M.Litt, B.Sc., Ph.D, Dip.Ed., G/Dip  
LAH, Dip. FHS (Fellow)

**John K. McLaughlin**, AM, BA, LLM, Ph.D. (Fellow)

**Angela Phippen**, BA (Hons), Grad. Dip. Lib. Sci.

**John Wilson**, (Fellow)

**Jan Worthington**, NZRN, Dip. FHS (Fellow)

### Honorary Solicitors

**Makinson d'Apice**

### Board of Directors

#### President

**Melissa Hulbert**, B.Sc. (Hons)

#### Honorary Treasurer

**Cheryl Wright**, B.Econ, FCPA, Dip(Fam Hist)

#### Vice-President

**Janette Pelosi**, BA (Hons) (Syd), Dip. IM Lib, Dip. IM  
ArchivAdmin, MInfoStud (Lship), ASAAP, MPHA

#### Honorary Secretary

Position Vacant

#### Directors

**Kerry Farmer**, B.Sc., BA

**Darryl Low Choy**, AM, MBE, RFD, KSJ (retd), PhD, MBIt  
Env (City & Reg Plan), Grad Dip Urb & Reg Plan, BA,  
GCert Higher Ed, RPIA (Fellow), FEIANZ

**Keith Roberts**, BCom(Hons) FGIA FCG(CS CGP) MAICD  
FIML MAPS

**Sonya Russell**, BSA, MMilDef, psc(j)

**Philippa Shelley Jones**, BA/LLB, Grad Dip Ed



# ADVERTISING DIRECTORY

## Turtle Consolidated Services

Helping with your family history research

- NSW Birth, Death and Marriage certificate transcription
- NSW State Archives including probate, deceased estate, insolvency, naturalisation, divorce, immigration, psychiatric, convict, gaol records, plus many more....
- English, Scottish, South Australian and Tasmanian Birth, Death and Marriage certificates

Laurence Turtle is an authorised transcription agent for NSW Births, Deaths and Marriages, holds a Diploma in Family History Studies and has completed the Archives Course at NSW State Archives.

Lorraine Turtle has conducted courses in family history for U3A and regularly visits NSW State Archives for research.

Both Lorraine and Laurie were teachers in "former lives" and are available for talks to family history groups.

**Turtle Consolidated Services**

(61) 2 4573 1559

lturtle@iprimus.com.au

http://home.iprimus.com.au/lturtle

PO Box 144, Kurrajong, NSW 2758



## NSW Birth Death & Marriage Certificate Transcriptions

Approved Transcription Agent

Save time and money – a Transcription costs at least 30% less than an official certificate, but contains the same information.

We can supply:

- NSW Birth, Death, Marriage Certificate Transcriptions
- NSW State Archives Documents and
- England & Wales Certificates.

Ordering is fast and easy on our secure website.

Completed Transcriptions are delivered direct to your email inbox, or by post if you prefer.

PO Box 52

CAMDEN 2570

Tel: (02) 4658 1206

Fax: (02) 4658 1296

nswtranscriptions.com.au

enquiries@nswtranscriptions.com.au



Professional Genealogist & Family Historian

Vicki Eldridge Dip FHS FSAG



### RESEARCH or CONSULTATION

- looking for a tree, a branch or a twig

### FAMILY TREE CHARTS

- cater to the individual family structure

### BOOKS

- tell the stories and mark the memories

Twigs & Branches Pty. Limited

PO Box 327 Five Dock NSW 2046 AUSTRALIA

Ph: (02) 9716 8987 [enquiries@twigsandbranches.com.au](mailto:enquiries@twigsandbranches.com.au)



How we can help to preserve your personal heritage:

- organise and curate your research and records
- input your family research findings into our genealogy software
- generate family tree charts, reports and customised stories
- write or edit personal life stories, memoirs and family histories

Contact:

Philippa Shelley Jones

recordmypast@gmail.com

Ph: 0414 874 347

www.recordmypast.com.au



**CREMORNE1.COM**

Self-Publishing

[www.cremorne1.com](http://www.cremorne1.com)

**Need help to finalise a Memoir, Biography, Family history???**

We can help with manuscript preparation, formatting, layout, editing, image scanning & placement, cover design, and printing & binding.

**Quality at a great price**

**- in paperback or hardcover**

**Talk to Margaret Tel: 02-9904 1829**

**Email: [margaret@cremorne1.com](mailto:margaret@cremorne1.com)**

## ADVERTISE HERE

If you are interested in advertising with us, please contact the Editorial team via email [editor@sag.org.au](mailto:editor@sag.org.au)

findmypast:

Your ancestor's voyage down under was life-changing.

Your journey back to *discover their stories* can be too.

With Findmypast you get:

- The ultimate British Isles family history experience.
- The largest collection of British and Irish records on-line.



Discover your family's incredible journey.  
**Findmypast** - the home of British & Irish family history.

[www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)