

Descent

MAGAZINE OF THE SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIAN GENEALOGISTS



MARCH / AUTUMN 2023

In This Issue

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	3
BIOGRAPHY	5
CROKER PRIZE FOR BIOGRAPHY 2023	6
IN SEARCH OF ... IRELAND AND IRISH RECORDS	8
STORIES FROM THE STONES <i>Michele Sowden Bomford</i>	10
MARY WILSON DUNBAR AND THE WRECK OF THE WHITE SQUALL <i>Ann Morgan</i>	13
THE DOG AND DUCK INN <i>Jan Chivers</i>	14
THE CUNNINGHAMS AND MORROWS OF MULNAGORE <i>Vivienne Cunningham-Smith</i>	16
FINDING MALONEYS AT LISCONOR <i>Bernard Thorley</i>	18
THE EDUCATION OF COL. J. G. N. GIBBES, 1787-1873 <i>Terry Jenkins</i>	19
IS YOUR WORLD WAR II AUSTRALIAN ANCESTOR BURIED IN BELGRADE? <i>Bojan Pagic</i>	20
ON THE RECORD	22
OUR SAG COMMUNITY	24
EDUCATION@SAG	26
ARCHIVES REPORT	28
DATABASE LAUNCH: RANDWICK ASYLUM FOR DESTITUTE CHILDREN	30
LIBRARY NEWS	34
LIBRARY UPDATE	36
BOOK REVIEW	37
RESEARCH RAMBLINGS	37
ABOUT US	38

The theme for this issue of *Descent* is Ireland and Irish records.

Descent

March 2023 [Volume 53 Part 1]

ISSN 0084 9731

Editorial Committee

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

editor@sag.org.au

Design

Tracey Grady

www.traceygrady.com

Cover Image

The best Celtic Cross in Ireland. 7th Century cross at Monasterboice.
Part of the Beale Papers [MIDAS: 5/515].

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

2022 in review

I am pleased to be starting the year in *Descent* in reflection of the past 12 months. It was a whirlwind of pursuits and achievements and I would like to share some of these accomplishments with you.

SAG90

Our highlight of the year was recognising the ninety years since the Society's inception. In particular I would like to extend our thanks to our Patron, the New South Wales Governor, the Honourable Margaret Beazley AO QC, for her hospitality at Government House last August. In addition to the joy at being able to have both in-person and online activities, the main consideration of the celebrations was how, in looking ahead, we can match the legacy of the Society founders and past members who did so much to establish the organisation and develop its collection. This is the challenge as the Board of Directors progresses a new strategic plan for the coming years over the next few months.

Membership

We concluded 2022 with our membership numbers at 3,520. Although 2022 saw a slight loss on the overall membership number from the previous year, and this was reflected in a smaller number of new members joining throughout the year, we are receiving good feedback from current members on their experiences, while also listening and responding to any concerns. Access to our ever-expanding array of online events remains a significant reason for joining, and the proportional increase of non-metropolitan NSW and interstate members reflects this trend.

Finance

Our financial health continues to be sound, following generous bequests supporting funds received from membership and courses income. We particularly acknowledge those former members listed below whose estates provided just over \$450,000 to the Society: Majorie Woore, Jennie Mackenzie, Margaret Barnes, Robert Pauling, and Philippa Morris. The Society's future is dependent upon bequests such as these and donations supporting the sustainability of our collection and program of activities. You can find information on how to leave a bequest to the Society at: www.sag.org.au/bequests or please telephone the office on (02) 9247 3953.

More detailed financial information will be provided with the papers for the Society's **Annual General Meeting** which will be held in-person and online from 2.00pm AEST on Saturday 20 May 2023.

Education, Courses & Prizes

2022 continued to be an active year for our Education Program, with the majority of our courses continuing to be delivered online. We adapted the scheduling of our **Certificate of Genealogical Research** to enable us to achieve both February and August intakes each year and we celebrated seven new Diplomates in 2022 (Society members achieving the **Diploma in Family Historical Studies**) and accepted ten new candidates.

The **In Search of...** online conference series continued across the year with the topics: ...English Ancestors, ...Religion and Religious Organisations in Australia, and ...the Last Rites – Details of funeral, mourning & memorial practices. All of these events are supported by our wonderful set of Education Committee members and staff/volunteer hosts.

Our **Let's Talk About...** series, regular **Friday Hang Out** and software and regional special interest groups also gained momentum in 2022, providing a packed schedule of activities, together with our webinar series and special events such as the popular "Do Something With Your Family History!" panel event, which attracted 405 registrants as part of Family History Month in August.

We were also very pleased to award the **2022 Croker Prize for Biography** to Bob Wright for his work on Pierce Collits.

Library, Archives, and Collection

In 2022, Roslyn Russell undertook a Significance Assessment of the Society's collection in accordance with the terms of our successful Community Heritage Grant of 2021, which had been achieved by our former Archives Officer, Dr James Findlay. We are thrilled with the completed assessment: parts of the recommendations are for our Quong Tart material to be nominated for inclusion in the UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Register as documentary heritage of significance to Australia. The Significance Assessment will help guide our future strategy for preservation and digitisation, and will be a key tool in facilitating further grants and collaborations with our Collection.

Our Family History Research Centre and Library started a mini-makeover in 2022; we purchased new furniture and equipment to support the return of face-to-face events and activities. A high point of this was a concentrated Beginners' Practical Introduction to Family History weekend session in August.

Publications

Part-way through 2022, we saw the end of the term for our sister *Descent* editors Jennifer and Melinda Kapp, and we

are now utilising the experience of our Membership Officer, Danielle Tebb, at the helm of the publication.

It was the Society's pleasure to support and launch the inaugural book from faculty member Danielle Lautrec, *The Good Genealogist* (available to purchase from our Library or online). Since her retirement in 2020, Danielle has gone from strength to strength in her development of courses for the Society, and consolidating skills and techniques from these courses into her recent book.

We also commenced our Colonial Women in Australia writing course and our cook book project, both of which are planned for completion later in 2023.

Board & Staff

In 2022 we said farewell to long-term staff Lorraine Brothers and Marlene Scahill, as well as part-timers Jesica Shrof, Courtney Bull, and John McManus. From the Board, John Burke and Betty O'Neill both resigned to pursue other interests. Their service was highly regarded and they continue to be members and strong supporters of the Society.

In 2022, we welcomed to the staff Karlie Frelingos, replacing Lorraine as our Librarian, and Dr Alexandra Mountain, replacing Dr James Findlay, as our Archives Project Manager. Alex has been at the forefront of supporting new initiatives with our volunteers. Twelve new volunteers were introduced to the inner workings of the Society in the past year and we hope to increase that number in 2023 – both across operational roles in our Archives and Library as well as through expertise in committees and working groups.

In 2023, we have just introduced Jessica Page to the new role of administrative assistant on the staff, as well as Dr Helen Hickson and Dr Dianne Snowden as Directors. An updated list of Directors and staff members is available within this issue of *Descent*. Short biographies and photographs of our new Directors can be found on our website at sag.org.au/MeettheBoard

I look forward to seeing and meeting more of you at Society events in 2023 and hearing of your family history research!

Melissa Hulbert
President

Congratulations!

We congratulate the following members who completed the Society's Certificate in Genealogical Research in 2022:

Helen Banes, VIC
Robyn Black, VIC
Rochelle Bradley, WA
Tracey Bradshaw, SA
Leonie Brownbill, VIC
Marilyn Louise Campbell, QLD
Jane Campbell, VIC
Vivienne Cunningham-Smith, VIC
Simon Daniel, NSW
Kathryn Edghill, NSW
Karys Fearon, NSW
Anastasia Foley, ACT
Kathleen Hackett, NSW
Bronwyn Hale, QLD
Kip Hayes, QLD
Helen Hickson, VIC
Julie Hind, VIC
Liliane Honsig-Erlenburg, VIC
Jon Horan, NSW
Tracey Hurren, QLD
Robyn Jenkins, QLD
Alison Jones, NSW
Marlene Kase-Lawrence, VIC
Colin Kilduff, NSW
John Macpherson, NSW
Elizabeth Michell, NSW
Lesley Muller, NSW
Patricia O'Brien, NSW
Julie Parry-Barwick, NSW
Margaret Partridge, QLD
Allison Peters, ACT
Trudy Poole, NSW
Gayle Quantock, NSW
Barbara Sapwell, VIC
Nathan Scudder, ACT
Narelle Seivers, VIC
Valma Sharp, VIC
Sharon Shelley, NSW
Lorraine Staniland, NSW
Anthony Stralow, NSW
Kathryn-Jane Taylor, SA
Tania Taylor, NSW
Belinda Tiffen, NSW
Mark Tschudin, VIC
Linda Waters, QLD
Rhonda Wright, NSW

Congratulations to all of our students!



If you would like to enrol in our August 2023 intake for the Certificate in Genealogical Research, or want to find out more about our other online courses, visit: www.sag.org.au/StudyOnlineWithUs

Kellow, Mary Ann (1860–1940)

T.M. HURREN

Mary Ann Cuffe was born in Ballyduff, Waterford, Ireland in 1860 to parents William Cuffe and Bridget Cunningham. She arrived in Australia on the immigrant ship *Scottish Hero*, which docked at Townsville on 29 June 1880.

Mary married within 11 months of her arrival, to a Cornish immigrant, William Hugh Nicholls, in the emerging mining town of Thornborough in Far North Queensland on 16 May 1881.

The marriage certificate indicates that Mary wasn't able to read or write, as an "x" is noted as "her mark" on the marriage certificate. Mary's occupation is listed as a general servant and her husband William's as a miner.

Mary and William were one of the first couples to raise a family in the Thornborough district. They had five children: John Michael (1881–1932), William Henry (1883–1915), Mary Anne (1884–1953), Ellen (1886–1965) and Joseph James, known as 'Bob' (1888–1954).

Family life as Mary knew it changed forever in 1888, when her husband William was found guilty of the murder of a female Aboriginal domestic servant who lived and worked in the family home. He became one of the first Europeans in Queensland to be imprisoned for an offence against a member of the Aboriginal race and was sentenced to seven years hard labour in St Helena's Island prison. At the time of his sentencing, Mary was heavily pregnant with her fifth child.

Mary remained in Thornborough for many years and endured what must have been some very difficult times. After the early death of William, following his release from prison, she married her second husband, Charles Neal Wright on 12 June 1907. Charles was also a miner. Sadly, this marriage was only brief as Charles passed away in 1910 from a condition known as 'miners' phthisis'.

Occupation records indicate that Mary supported her family as a licensed victualler, managing and living in a number of hotels in the Thornborough/Wolfram area from around 1902 through to 1919. Some of the hotel names that have survived in hotel license records include: The Royal Hotel, The Commonwealth Hotel and the Miners Home Hotel.

In addition to running hotels and guest houses, mining was also a source of income for Mary and her family; she held and inherited several mining leases in the Wolfram and Thornborough areas. In time, each of her sons would take up this profession. The names of the mines owned and worked by the family include 'Home Rule', 'The Explorer' and 'Forget-me-Not', which are all clues to the family's Irish roots.

In approximately 1919, Mary left Thornborough and moved to Cairns where she met her third and final husband, a German immigrant named Friedrich (Fred) Heinrich Kellow. Mary and Fred met when Mary was granted a license to run and manage the Crown Hotel in Cairns, employing Fred as her hotel manager. Fred and Mary were married at the Holy Trinity Anglican Church at Herberton on 18 March 1922.

By all accounts, Mary's final marriage was a long and happy one. From 1922 to 1940, Fred and Mary worked together managing a cattle property called Riverview Station on the Walsh River near Thornborough. Sadly, in May 1940, at the age of 80, Mary suffered a stroke and died in an accident while being conveyed to the Mareeba hospital for treatment. Her death certificate lists her cause of death as resulting from: "1. Cerebral Haemorrhage; 2. Shock; and 3. Post Accidental Haemorrhage."

Mary was buried on 28 May 1940 at the Mareeba Pioneer Cemetery in Queensland. Her husband Fred outlived her by four years passing away at age 73 from terminal pneumonia in the Cairns Hospital on 17 October 1944.



Figure 1. Photograph of Mary Ann Kellow nee Cuffe (L) and her daughter Mary Ann Blakeney, (R), 1912 from the book *Images of Wolfram Camp*, John C Hay.

SAG runs a **Certificate in Genealogical Research** to assist members to hone their research skills and explore areas of study they may not be familiar with. The course also functions as a prerequisite 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. In each issue of *Descent*, we feature one such biography.

Croker Prize for Biography 2023



PHILIPPA SHELLEY JONES
CONVENOR, CROKER PRIZE COMMITTEE

I'm sure I'm not the only one who is hoping for a little more normality in 2023 and that the only 'C' word on the lips of SAG members will be Croker as opposed to Covid. Given that 2022 saw a release from the rigours of enforced lockdown, I was assuming the number of entries for Croker might dip a little in comparison to the indoor isolation output of 2020 and 2021. However, the Committee was delighted to see (and kept busy by) the healthy number of Croker Prize entries, with 29 family historians submitting fascinating and well researched ancestor biographies.

The Croker Prize for Biography is now in its tenth year and publicly recognises the generous bequest given to the Society by Colin and Loas Croker. The \$1000 prize is funded from the bequest and encourages members to research and write a biography about one of their own relatives.

An entrant must be a financial member of the Society and submit an 800-1,000 word biographical essay about a relative, based on this year's theme. The entry must be accompanied by a completed entry form which can be found, together with the conditions of entry, on the Society's website: www.sag.org.au. Click on the Join Us option on the taskbar to access the Annual Croker Prize for Biography page. Entries must be submitted by midnight on 31 May 2023. The winner will be announced, and their biography published, in the September/Spring edition of *Descent*.

The competition is judged by the Croker Prize Committee, consisting of myself as Convenor; one of the new Convenors of our Writing Group, Emily Purser; and previous winners of the award: Bob Wright (2022), Michele Bomford (2021) and Bill Dudley (2020). We extend our sincere thanks for her expertise and generous donations of time, to Wendy Pryor (2019), who will not continue on the Committee in 2023 – perhaps she will try her hand at entering again! We also owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the outgoing Convenor of the Writing Group, Lilian Magill, who has dedicated five years to the Croker Committee and will be sorely missed. Perhaps another entrant in the wings?

The Croker Prize for Biography is not only an excellent way for members to record their research for posterity, but also to add to the Society's collection of biographical material for future generations of members and researchers. It doesn't matter how long you've been a member of the Society, where you are located, or how long you've been researching – just give it a go. All entries will be

published on the Society's website for 12 months and will be retained by the Society as part of our MIDAS collection. So, to the theme. Last year we had some fabulous contributions for 'Where did I come from'. This year, you'll need to get your thinking caps on for the 2023 Croker Prize for Biography theme:

A FAMILY MYTH

The topic this year allows scope to explore the various definitions and interpretations of the word 'myth' – it could relate to a traditional story, legend or tale, or also a false belief, idea or misconception.

Just a reminder to those entering to read the conditions carefully, in particular the word count specifications and the requirement that the submission be about the entrant's relative i.e. the biography must be about one person in your own family tree. Although detailed information about the judging criteria can be found on the website, the following suggestions might prove useful:

- (i) Relevant detailed and properly formatted sources provide evidence of good genealogical research skills. Referencing guidelines can be found in the Annual Croker Prize for Biography page on our website, referenced above. Remember that references are not included in the word count.
- (ii) A good introduction helps to engage interest and set the scene and a meaningful conclusion rounds off the entry for the reader.
- (iii) Good grammar and spelling boost an entry, as does evidence of a thorough proofread.
- (iv) Those entries which rate highly often make good use of descriptive language, occasional humour, sensitivity, relevant historical context and a logical sequence of events.
- (v) Entries without a good anchoring to the theme will receive marks at the lower end of the range.

Reading previous successful entries on the website will provide some insight into what makes a good entry.

Good luck to all. We look forward to reading about some family myths and the associated journeys of research and discovery.

Images, top (left to right):

Two young girls, wearing European style clothing with limed hair, New Guinea, ca. 1929, Sarah Chinnery photographic collection of New Guinea, England and Australia, National Library of Australia

Wartime parting of a family, Drouin, Victoria, ca. 1944, Jim Fitzpatrick, National Library of Australia

Giuseppi Angelini, conductor to the Melba-Williamson Opera Company, Sydney, 1911, photograph by Melba Studio, State Library of NSW

Chinese miner in traditional garb relaxing with a long stemmed pipe, ca. 1900, Richard Daintree, State Library of Queensland



Melva Loas Croker



Colin Croker

MELVA AND COLIN CROKER

Melva Loas Croker (known as Loas) was born on 19 January 1917 at Geelong, Victoria. She joined the Australian Women's Army Service on Australia Day 1942. She was promoted to Lieutenant in February 1944 and discharged on 2 April 1946.

Colin was born on 3 January 1919, the eighth child of William John Croker and Margaret W. Miller. He obtained his Bachelor of Dental Surgery from the University of Sydney in 1940 with Honours Class II. He served as a Flight Lieutenant in the Royal Australian Air Force during the Second World War.

Loas and Colin married on 4 September at St Thomas's, North Sydney and lived in Lane Cove for a number of years after their marriage.

In their retirement, they were both keen genealogists and travellers. They joined the Society in 1987 and were regular Tuesday visitors throughout the late 80s and 90s. Their research papers are now with the SAG.

Colin passed away on 9 February 1994 and Loas remained an interested member of the Society until her death on 26 August 2011.

In her will, Loas named the Society as the residual beneficiary of her estate. The bequest partly paid the remaining mortgage on 2/379 Kent Street, the balance being invested. Council elected both Benefactors of the Society in recognition of their generosity.*

**extracted from: Riley, Carole and Reddan, Nick. Melva Loas Croker nee Jones (1917-2011): obituary [online]. Descent, Vol. 42, No. 4, December 2012, pp 152-154. Re-printed from Descent Vol. 50, No. 1, March 2020, p6.*

BEQUESTS TO SAG

Help secure your family's future by making a bequest to the Society. Your legacy will help the broader community understand your family's history and the role they played. With so much of value thoughtlessly destroyed, you can be secure knowing that your research in family history will be preserved and appreciated by coming generations of family historians and by your own family. As we incur various expenses in cataloguing and indexing your papers, any financial donation that helps meet these costs is appreciated.

Through a bequest to the Society of Australian genealogists you can ensure your support for and interest in family history education and research endures beyond your lifetime.

Researching our Irish ancestors online

Irish family history has often been misrepresented as being difficult...
but where in the world doesn't have its challenges?

The links provided should keep you busy for a good while.

Start here

FamilySearch www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Beginning_Irish_Research

FamilySearch wiki www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Ireland_Genealogy

Historic civil & church records www.irishgenealogy.ie/

General Register Office Ireland www.gov.ie/

General Register Office Northern Ireland geni.nidirect.gov.uk/

Public Record Office of Northern Ireland www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni

National Archives of Ireland www.nationalarchives.ie/

Chief Secretary of Ireland's Office Papers csorp.nationalarchives.ie

Census information www.census.nationalarchives.ie/

Griffith's Valuation/19thC Land www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/

Other repositories, libraries and museums

Irish Townlands www.townlands.ie
Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland www.virtualtreasury.ie
The Irish Manuscripts Commission www.irishmanuscripts.ie
National Library of Ireland www.nli.ie
The Library of Trinity College Dublin www.tcd.ie/library
RCB Library Dublin www.ireland.anglican.org/about/rcb-library
Co. Clare Library www.clarelibrary.ie/eolas/coclare/genealogy/genealog.htm
National Museum of Ireland www.museum.ie
National Museums NI www.nmni.com
Irish Famine Memorial Site irishfaminememorial.org/orphans/database
Irish Linen Centre www.lisburnmuseum.com
EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum epicchq.com
Ulster American Folk Park www.ulsteramericanfolkpark.org
Library Ireland www.libraryireland.com
Belfast Central Library www.librariesni.org.uk
Irish Statute Book www.irishstatutebook.ie
Findmypast.com Ireland findmypast.com
Ancestry.com Ireland www.ancestry.com.au/search/places/europe/ireland

Special projects & organisations

Ireland Reaching Out www.irelandxo.com
Irish Placenames Database www.logainm.ie
Irish National Institute for Historic Research inihr.ucc.ie
National Folklore Collection UCD Digitization Project: www.duchas.ie
The Society for the Study of Nineteenth-Century Ireland ssnci.org
Ulster Historical Foundation www.ancestryireland.com
Irish History Live! www.qub.ac.uk/sites/irishhistorylive
The Mayo Orphan Girls Project mayoorphangirls.weebly.com
The Down Survey of Ireland downsurvey.tcd.ie
Irish War Memorials www.irishwarmemorials.ie
Irish Genealogy Projects Archive www.igp-web.com
Our Irish Heritage www.ouririshheritage.org
Irish Family History Centre www.irishfamilyhistorycentre.com
Centre for the History of Medicine in Ireland www.ulster.ac.uk/research/topic/english/history-of-medicine-in-ireland
Irish Studies Association of Australia and New Zealand isaanz.org
Tinteàn tintean.org.au
The Aisling Society aislingsociety.org.au
Irish National Association of Australasia irishassociation.org.au

Genealogists and Bloggers

Accredited Genealogists Ireland accreditedgenealogists.ie
John Grenham/Irish Ancestors www.johngrenham.com
Kerry Farmer [Bit.ly/KF-Irish](http://bit.ly/KF-Irish)
Veronica Williams genemonkey.com
Donna Moughty www.irishfamilyroots.com/blog
The Wild Geese thewildgeesegenealogy.blogspot.com
Trevor McLaughlin earlgreysfamineorphans.wordpress.com/author/trevo1
Cyndi's List UK & Ireland www.cyndislist.com/uk/irl

Celtic row graphic (above): pikisuperstar, freepik.com

STORIES FROM THE STONES

MICHELE SOWDEN BOMFORD



In the Ardstraw Parish Church graveyard at Newtownstewart in County Tyrone stand two imposing headstones, enclosed by a low iron railing. I was drawn straight to them when I walked into that graveyard on a chilly, wet day in September 2018, and they have haunted me ever since. The stones themselves are a rich source of genealogical information, but there are also multiple stories embedded within them. If these people could speak to us now, what would they reveal about their lives and those of their families? The details recorded on the stones are simply the triggers for further investigation and research, a journey of discovery that goes beyond a quiet graveyard at Newtownstewart and gives a voice to those who have long been forgotten.



The McFarland headstones in the Ardstraw Parish Church graveyard, Newtownstewart. Author photo, September 2018

The headstone on the left commemorates John McFarland (1735-1778), his children James (1761-1781), Patrick (1763-1792), Margaret (1775-1797) and John of Concess who died in 1836, not 1840 as recorded on the stone.¹ This John's wife was Isabel Adams (1776-1860). John and Isabel's son, Robert of Concess (1808-1876), his wife Ellen Wauchob (d 1850) and their children Joseph (1848-1879), Bella (1844-1897) and John (1842-1930) are also interred here. The headstone on the right marks the grave of John McFarland of Omagh (1806-1895), his first wife Fannie Barnwell (1815-1843), his second wife Margaret Jane Henry (1821-1873) and eldest daughter Mary (1839-1918). It is possible these identical upright headstones were erected around 1898; Bella McFarland left a bequest for that purpose in her will of 1897.²

It is likely, but not proven, that the eldest John McFarland was married to Frances Craig, who lived in the townland of Carnaveagh in Ardstraw parish. If this was the case, then John had another two sons not mentioned on the stones: George and Robert, who were named as Frances' sons in two property transactions in 1781 and 1806 respectively.³ Robert, and a

Robert Barnwell, may have been two of the founding members of Freemason Lodge 833 at Newtownstewart (Moyle Glebe) on 5 May 1796.⁴ At this time, Ireland was simmering with sedition, with the Society of United Irishmen plotting to establish an Irish republic, and the lodges, yeomanry and orangemen determined to uphold the sovereignty of the British Crown.

John McFarland and Isabel Adams had seven children: Frances (1801-1891), Isabella Jane (1805-1894), John of Omagh (1806-1895), Robert (1808-1875), George (1810-1896), Rebecca (1812-1877) and Anthony (1816-1887).⁵ Concess, a name meaning 'a ploughland', was a small townland of some 232 acres owned by the Marquis of Abercorn, and lay in the parish of Ardstraw to the north-west of Newtownstewart. John was farming at Concess from at least 1806.⁶ In 1833, he held 95 acres of mixed-quality land with an annual value of £27/11/9.⁷ When second son Robert inherited the farm, it was a comfortable and profitable, well-stocked establishment with all the necessary crop and farming implements. The family drew on rents from sub-tenants and employed servants. Robert's daughter Bella could claim a watch and chain, harmonium, silver teapot, biscuit barrel, an easy chair and a feather bed with bedclothes among her cherished possessions.⁸ The McFarlands weathered the years of the Great Famine (1845-c1850), when hunger and disease swept Ireland and, across the Abercorn Estate, leases fell. In 1841, 70 people lived at Concess; this had fallen to 46 people in 1851.⁹



At the nearby townland of Kinkit, in the parish of Urney, the trend was similar, with 91 people in 1841 reduced to 71 in 1851, while the number of inhabited houses fell from 17 to 10.¹⁰ This was the home of Ellen Wauchob's family, prosperous farmers who in 1858 held around 287 acres of the 316 acres comprising the townland. Ellen's brother, Samuel (1815-1899), was also the immediate lessor for the whole 101 acres of the townland of Carnaveagh.¹¹ The Wauchobs rallied around the bereaved Robert McFarland when Ellen died in 1850, leaving three small children who would barely know their mother. In their wills, Ellen's brothers Joseph (1828-1875) and John (1813-1889) left generous bequests to Joseph and Bella McFarland, and to the missions of the Presbyterian Church.¹²

In the 1830s, perhaps following their father's death, Robert's brothers, George and Anthony, relocated to Altdoghal, the

native townland of their mother, Isabel Adams, who came from a well-respected farming family. While her brother, George Adams Esq. (1775-1856), was venerated by his tenantry and neighbours and had the “largest and most respectable” funeral ever seen at Newtown Stewart,¹³ it was her sister, Rebecca Adams (1795-1879), who really captured the limelight. Rebecca never married, but was a farmer and landowner in her own right, an unusual occupation for a woman. In 1833 she was the landlord for the townlands of Altdoghal and Legnabraid, with her nephew John McFarland of Omagh acting as her agent. At the time of the Griffiths Valuation in 1859-1860, Rebecca was the immediate lessor for half of these townlands while John of Omagh owned the other half. Rebecca owned the whole of the townland of Ballynatubrit (447 acres) in the parish of Cappagh.¹⁴ In 1876, she owned a total of 873 statute acres of land with an annual value of £301 sterling.¹⁵ When she died, Rebecca left assets to the value of £1,738, which she distributed among her McFarland nephews and nieces, some of their children, and the Reformed Presbyterian Church.¹⁶

Belief in the Presbyterian faith looms large in these stories from the stones, whether it be mainstream Presbyterianism, or the restrained doctrines of the Reformed, or Covenanter, Church. The Covenanters believed in the pre-eminence of Christ in all matters, whether church or state, and the absolute truth of the Bible. No hymns were sung but the psalms, and then without musical accompaniment. The elders, who were always men, could discipline or punish those who disobeyed the rules of the church. Sunday was always a day of rest and worship, with services lasting up to four hours! These congregations believed in providing help to the needy and performing good works. They deplored ‘secret societies’ like the Freemasons and the Orange Order.¹⁷ Two men from the McFarland families at Altdoghal became Reformed Presbyterian ministers: the Reverend Robert Adams McFarlane (1842-1906), a son of George, and George’s grandson, the Reverend Professor Thomas Barnwell McFarlane (b 1879).¹⁸

John McFarland Esq. of Omagh, the eldest son of John McFarland and Isabel Adams, nephew of Rebecca and the man interred at Newtown Stewart, was a merchant and a woollen and linen draper in Main Street, Omagh.¹⁹ In 1876, he owned around 645 statute acres of land in Ardstraw parish with an annual value of £205 sterling.²⁰ His first wife, Fannie Barnwell, died in 1843 at the age of only 28, leaving two very young children, the Mary who is buried at Newtown Stewart, and George (1841-1909).

The search for Fannie Barnwell proved an unusual quest. At first glance, it seemed she was married to two different McFarland men — John of Omagh and James of Drumlea in the parish of Bodoney Lower — but the dates simply did not fit for her to be the wife of both. So, there must have been two women named Fannie Barnwell. Curiously, both had a connection to George McFarland of Altdoghal: one through marriage, and the other in a property transaction of 1836. In the small pool of Barnwells in County Tyrone, perhaps the two women were connected: one, or both, related to the Thomas Barnwell, a yeoman and gent, who held 28 acres of good land at Altdoghal in 1833 and died around 1836, the Robert Barnwell who occupied a dwelling house and shop in Main Street, Newtown Stewart around the same time, or the Richard Barnwell Esq (1794-1870), who farmed at Drum, a townland to the south of Omagh.²¹

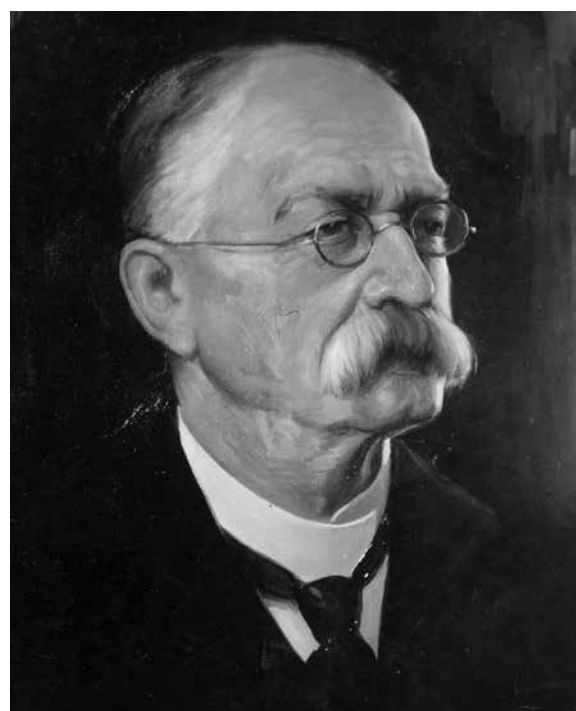
On 18 June 1850, John McFarland of Omagh married his second wife, Margaret Jane Henry, at the Reformed Presbyterian Church at Gortlee, near Letterkenny (Donegal), where her father, the highly-esteemed, philanthropic and intellectual Reverend William Henry DD (1788-1852), was the minister.²² The couple had five children: John Henry (1851-

1935), Anna (1853-1932), Isabel (1855-1938), Margaret Jane (1859-1924) and Robert Arthur Henry (1860-1922), who were raised alongside Mary and George to be well-educated, cultured and devoutly Presbyterian.²³

Anna and Isabel married Presbyterian ministers. The latter’s husband, Thomas Macafee Hamill (1855-1919), was later a professor of theology at the Presbyterian College, Belfast, and moderator of the General Assembly, while Margaret Jane’s husband, her cousin Robert Mitchell Henry (1873-1950), was a notable classics scholar and a professor of Latin at Queen’s University, Belfast. His brilliant and controversial life and career is a story in itself. Robert Arthur Henry MacFarland MA studied at Queen’s and Cambridge Universities. In 1907 he was appointed headmaster of Campbell College, Belfast, a relatively new but prestigious public school for boys. George MacFarland BA pursued a very distinguished career in the Presbyterian Church and was the mission secretary to the General Assembly for 27 years. Mary did not marry, but was “a lady of private means” when she died at Belfast in 1918.²⁴

The children of John McFarland of Omagh changed the spelling of their surname to MacFarland, perhaps an expression of their social status and prestige. In 1901, George lived at Belfast in a first-class house with ten rooms and a servant. When he died, his estate was valued at £4,267.²⁵ His only son, George Adams MacFarland (1872-1917), died of wounds received while serving as a medical officer in Belgium during the First World War, and therein lies yet another story. Isabel, Margaret Jane, Robert and George were all buried in the Belfast City Cemetery, a long way from their roots at Omagh.²⁶

Their brother, John Henry MacFarland MA LLD KB, was an ‘awesome’ man, brusque and stern, but known for his sense of justice, humanity and huge administrative capacity. He loved to cycle, walk, fish and play golf, and enjoyed a pipe with a dram of Glenlivet whiskey. John Henry studied mathematics and physics at Queen’s and Cambridge. In 1881 he sailed for Australia to take up an appointment as the inaugural master of Ormond College at the University of Melbourne. So highly was he regarded that he was appointed vice chancellor, then chancellor in 1918, a position he held until his death. Among many other commitments, he was also the leading financial executive for the Presbyterian Church. In 1919 he was knighted for his services to education.²⁷



Sir John Henry MacFarland 1924 (1935). *Herald and Weekly Times Limited Portrait Collection. State Library of Victoria H38849/2652*

Newtownstewart never witnessed a funeral like Sir John Henry MacFarland's in Melbourne on 24 July 1935. The university cancelled all lectures, and even a football final and a ball. His funeral procession suspended traffic in the city centre for over ten minutes as 50 cars passed through the streets from the Scots Church to the Melbourne General Cemetery. Students in black gowns and trenchers lined the pavement and huge crowds assembled to show their respect.²⁸ The monument under which his ashes lie is of the type and scale that only the gentry could afford to erect in Ireland.²⁹ His estate was valued at over £78,000, most of which he left to the Presbyterian Church or its satellites in Australia.

These stories are just a smattering of what is hidden within those headstones in the Newtownstewart graveyard. The stones have taken me from small farming communities in County Tyrone to the affluent middle class lifestyles of those in Belfast and beyond. I have met enterprising, independent women and eminent scholars. I have consulted fascinating documents in the search for evidence, explored the intricacies of Irish Presbyterianism and delved into aspects of Ireland's troubled history to provide a context for my characters. The stones may have brought me closer to proving my own McFarland family in County Tyrone, but that is still a work in progress.

Michele Bomford is a historian, published author and former educator. Her search for her family's past has spanned three decades. She is currently exploring her ancestry in Ulster, a project full of fascinating twists and turns and unexpected discoveries. Michele was the recipient of the Croker Prize for Biography in 2021 and completed the SAG Certificate in Genealogical Research in 2022.

- 1 Faye Logue (Ed), *Strabane and West Ulster in the 1800s: History from the Broadsheets, Selections from the Strabane Morning Post 1812-1837* (Strabane, Carroll & Gray nd), Strabane Morning Post 31 May 1836
- 2 Will Calendars, Isabella McFarland, probate 24 Jan 1898, Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI), www.nidirect.gov.uk/services/search-will-calendars
- 3 Registry of Deeds, Dublin, memorials 339 271 228716 (1781) and 587 250 397888 (1806/7), FamilySearch, Transcripts of memorials of deeds, conveyances and wills 1708-1929
- 4 T.R.Henderson, Two Centuries of Freemasonry: Newtownstewart Masonic Lodge No 547, 1777-1977, Item T3453/1/2, PRONI; Grand Lodge of Freemasons of Ireland Membership Registers Vol V (1760-1859), Ancestry
- 5 Key evidence to prove this family: Strabane Morning Post, 6 Nov 1827, 29 Dec 1835; Londonderry Standard, 25 Jan 1843, 3; Will Calendars, Rebecca Adams, probate 10 Feb 1880, PRONI
- 6 Abercorn Estate, Rental for the Manor of Strabane 1806, Item D623/D1/23, PRONI, www.cotyronaireland.com
- 7 Tithe Applotment Book, parish of Ardstraw c1833, townland of Concess, FIN/5/A/19A, PRONI
- 8 Will Calendars, Isabella McFarland; Joseph McFarland, probate 8 Oct 1879, PRONI
- 9 Census of Ireland 1851, County Tyrone, Enhanced British Parliamentary Papers on Ireland (EPPI), Sessional Papers Vol 92/1, Session 1852-3, Paper 1579, 318, www.dippam.ac.uk/eppi/documents/13138
- 10 Census of Ireland 1851, 322, EPPI
- 11 Griffiths Valuation 1847-1864, townlands of Kinkit (Urney), Carnaveagh (Ardstraw), Libraries Development LGMA, National Library of Ireland, www.askaboutireland.ie
- 12 Will Calendars, Joseph Wauchob, probate 5 Feb 1876, John Wauchop, probate 1 Aug 1889, PRONI
- 13 Tyrone Constitution 21 Nov 1856, 2
- 14 FIN/5/A/19A, townlands of Altdoghal, Legnabraid; Griffiths Valuation 1847-1864, townlands of Altdoghal, Legnabraid (Ardstraw), Ballynatubbrit (Cappagh)
- 15 Local Government Board, Ireland, Return of Owners of Land of One Acre and Upwards in the Several Counties, Counties of Cities, and Counties of Towns in Ireland, 1876, County Tyrone, 273 www.failteromhat.com/lo1876.htm
- 16 Will Calendars, Rebecca Adams
- 17 Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland, Testimony, www.rpc.org
- 18 Rev Prof Adam Loughridge, Fasti of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland, Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland (PHSI), www.presbyterianhistory.com
- 19 Slater's Commercial Directory of Ireland 1846, Ulster, 517, www.failteromhat.com/slater/0214.pdf
- 20 Land Owners in Ireland 1876, County Tyrone, 282
- 21 Registry of Deeds, memorial 1856 3 237; FIN/5/A/19A, townland of Altdoghal (Ardstraw); Ancestry, Indexes to Wills, Probate Administration, Marriage Bonds and Licences 1591-1866, Thomas Barnwell, Altdoghal, probate 1836, National Archives of Ireland, Dublin; Rev John H Gebbie, Ardstraw: Historical Survey of a Parish 1600-1900 (Omagh: The Strule Press, 1968), Newtownstewart Householders 1833-4
- 22 General Register Office (GRO), Ireland, Marriage Record of John McFarland/Margaret Jane Henry 18 June 1850 (Letterkenny 3203822), www.irishgenealogy.ie; Londonderry Sentinel 13 August 1852, 3
- 23 Key evidence to prove this family: Findmypast, Belfast Gazette 1 May 1925, Issue No 00201, 146; GRO Marriage Records of Isabel MacFarland/Thomas Hamill 4 July 1882 (Belfast 2207917), Anna MacFarland/James Brown 28 April 1896 (Belfast 2254487), Margaret MacFarland/Robert Henry 26 Dec 1908 (Belfast 2013276)
- 24 PHSI, History of Congregations, Omagh: Trinity (Second); Campbell College Register 1894-1954 (4th Ed), www.lennonwylie.co.uk/CampbellCollegeRegisterInfo.htm; GRO, Death Record of Mary MacFarland 9 Jan 1918 (Belfast 3794816)
- 25 Census of Ireland 1901, George MacFarland, National Archives of Ireland, www.census.nationalarchives.ie; Belfast Telegraph 14 Aug 1909, 6, Coleraine Chronicle 1 May 1909, 9
- 26 Belfast City Cemetery, George MacFarland G41, Robert Arthur Henry MacFarland G613, Isabel Hamill I35, Margaret Jane Henry J173, Belfast City Council, online.belfastcity.gov.uk/find-burial-records/burialsearch.aspx
- 27 Geoffrey Serle, 'MacFarland, Sir John Henry (1851-1935)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, www.adb.anu.edu.au/biography/macfarland-sir-john-henry-7353/text12771, published in hardcopy 1986
- 28 'Funeral of Sir John MacFarland', 'University's Tribute: 1000 Black Gowns', Herald (Melbourne) 24 July 1935, 5; 'Late Sir J MacFarland: Funeral Arrangements', Age (Melbourne) 24 July 1935, 8
- 29 Find a Grave, Plot MGC-PRES-Comp_NA-No_1, Memorial ID 153322969, Melbourne General Cemetery, www.findagrave.com/memorial/153322969/john-henry-macfarland

MARY WILSON DUNBAR AND THE WRECK OF THE *WHITE SQUALL*

ANN MORGAN



Mary Wilson was born in Newtownstewart, County Tyrone, Ireland about 1830 to parents John and Catherine Wilson. At the age of twenty she was engaged by Richard and Sarah Keyes as governess to their six children, and accompanied them on their return journey from Ireland to NSW in February 1851. Richard and Sarah had previously met and married in Sydney in 1838; Sarah being the sister of the Reverend John Saunders, the first Baptist minister in the colony. After losing their first-born son John as an infant in 1839, Richard and Sarah left Australia in December 1839 to return to England, then travelled to Ireland, settling in Londonderry where six of their children were born.

The journey from Ireland to Sydney was not without problems. They embarked on the ship *Montgomery* in Glasgow in February 1851 and disembarked in Port Phillip Bay (Melbourne) on 26 May 1851. Their onward journey to Sydney was to be in a brig called the *White Squall* which left Melbourne on 5 June 1851.¹ After clearing Port Phillip Bay on 7 June, they encountered a few days of bad weather and needed to take on more water.

The *White Squall* hove to in East Cove, Deal Island in the Kent Group in Bass Strait. On the evening of 14/15 her cable parted under a strong southerly wind and the ship was driven onto rocks. All the passengers reached shore safely, however all the cargo was lost except for a few bags of flour.²

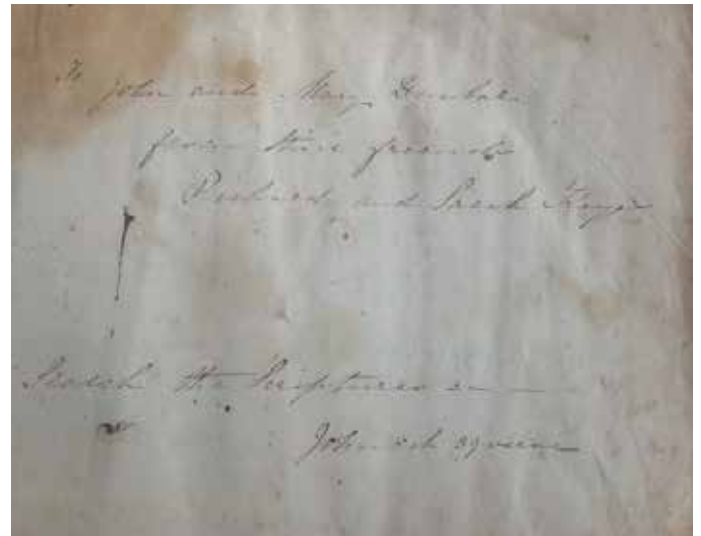
The survivors were stranded on Deal Island for nearly seven weeks, existing on flour, seafood and the rations shared by the Baudinets, the lighthouse keepers on the island. The lighthouse, the tallest in Australia, was turned on in 1848, so the passengers were lucky to find some habitation when they were stranded. Whilst on the island, Sarah Keyes gave birth to a son, Richard Kent Keyes, bringing the number of Mary's charges to seven.



Deal Island lighthouse keeper's lower quarters 1890 by J. A. Campbell, <https://collections.museumsvictoria.com.au/items/1258886>
The lighthouse no longer operates and the cottage is now a museum.

The Keyes family lived at 'Shancamore' in Greendale, where Richard Keyes was appointed a magistrate in 1854⁵, and it is likely Mary stayed in the employ of the family until her marriage to John Dunbar the following year.⁶ The Dunbar family bible was a wedding gift from the Keyes to the Dunbars.

It's more than possible that the families knew each other before arriving in Australia as John Dunbar also hailed from



The fly leaf of the Dunbar family bible

Newtownstewart, County Tyrone. He arrived as an assisted immigrant aboard the *Clyde* in April 1840, together with his sister, Margery and cousin, Samuel Dunbar.

Mary and John had nine children between 1855 and 1871: Joseph (1855-1937), Sarah (1856-1921), Jane (1859-1946), John (1861-1926), William (1862-1943), Andrew (1865-1938), Catherine (1867-1946), Abraham (1869-1948) and Mary (1871-1886).⁷

The Dunbar family lived at a property called 'Cherry Mount' on Silverdale Road, Werombi. The property of 102 acres was purchased by John in 1858 and was inherited by the eldest son, Joseph, who farmed there until his own death in 1937. Other children went on to be pioneering dairy farmers and orchardists in Baulkham Hills.



Deal Island Lighthouse and Upper Quarters in 1890 by J. A. Campbell, <https://collections.museumsvictoria.com.au/items/1258924>
A vast improvement from the accommodation Mary would have experienced.

The brig *William* called into Deal Island on its way from Launceston to Sydney³ to pick up the family and they arrived in Sydney on 9 August 1851.⁴

Mary Wilson's brother, Andrew, arrived in the colony in 1853 with his wife, Margaret née McNamee. Initially settling in Queensland, they had moved to Greendale some time before 1857 where they had most of their children, before moving to Young.

Mary died in 1880 at the age of 50⁸ and was buried at Mulgoa Forest (now Werombi). She was my great-great-grandmother.

This story was passed down in our family from my great aunt, Mary Hilda Gittoes, Mary Wilson's granddaughter. It was regarded as a bit of a tall tale but always fascinated me and led to the beginning of my family history journey and the discovery of the wreck of the *White Squall*.

1 "Shipping Intelligence. Arrivals" Argus (Melbourne, Vic.: 1848 - 1957), Tuesday 27 May 1851, 2

2 "Loss of the White Squall" The Argus (Melbourne) Thursday 3 Jul 1851, 6

3 "Miscellaneous" Launceston Examiner (Tas.: 1842 - 1899), Wednesday 3 September 1851, 3

4 New South Wales, Australia, Unassisted Immigrant Passenger Lists, 1826-1922

Ann Morgan lives in Bundanoon on the beautiful Southern Highlands of NSW. She has been researching her family history seriously since 2016 when she retired from her job as a School Administrator. Ann previously trained and worked as a librarian, so research was a great interest. Taking a DNA test in 2019 revealed more than she was expecting with the wonderful discovery of an unknown half-sister. She completed the Society of Australian Genealogists' Certificate in Genealogical Research in 2021 and continues to chip away at her family's 'brick walls'.

5 "Government Gazette Appointments and Employment." New South Wales Government Gazette (Sydney, NSW: 1832-1900) Tuesday 25 July 1854, 1588

6 NSW Birth, Death & Marriage Index: Marriage of Mary Wilson and John Dunbar #113/1854 V1854113 153.

7 Camden Pioneer Register. Third Edition 1800-1920. (Camden Area Family History Society Inc.2008), 92

8 NSW Birth, Death & Marriage Index: Death of Mary Dunbar #6014/1880.

In Search Of Ireland and Irish Research

THE DOG AND DUCK INN

JAN CHIVERS



Irish convict Ambrose McGuigan was my four times great-grandfather. His story, while unique to him, is also the story of many other convicts transported to Australia. In many ways, however, Ambrose was not typical of the thousands of convicts who landed on our shores as he was one of a small number of political prisoners transported from Ireland. He also endured one of the most brutal voyages to the new colony on the *Britannia*. Ambrose adapted to his new life and made the most of his time in the colony, engaging in a number of occupations, becoming a successful businessman, marrying and raising a new generation in a new land.

Ambrose was born in 1767 in Evishaloughan, in County Tyrone.¹ He had at least one sibling, Simon, who would later be transported with him.² In Ireland, Ambrose became a Dancing Master³ and as a young man joined the Defenders of Ireland Movement, a Catholic secret society which would eventually lead to the Rebellion of 1798.⁴ Ambrose's occupation as a Dance Master allowed him access to English homes, where he acted as a spy for the Defenders, taking on the alias of Arthur "Switcher" Donnelly.⁵ No doubt the decision to join the Defender movement was a result of the terrible conditions in Ireland at that time. In 1795, Ambrose took on the role of Commander at the Battle of the Diamond. In the same year he was involved in an incident where Major Cole Hamilton was shot in the leg.

When he was finally captured, Ambrose was tried at South Derry in 1796 and sentenced to seven years transportation.⁶

Between the years 1791

and 1867, about 40,000 Irish convicts were sent to the eastern Australian colonies. Only about 600 of those transported convicts were political prisoners.⁷ Ambrose was not your typical convict, being one of relatively few Irish convicts transported for political and not criminal offences⁸. Like most Irish convicts, Ambrose was a Catholic, but while about one third had previous convictions, he had none, and while less than a third of these convicts were 30 years old, Ambrose was aged 30 when he reached the colony.

Ambrose left Ireland on the *Britannia*, sailing from Cork on 10 December 1796, via Rio de Janeiro. There were 144 male convicts on board and 44 females.⁹ A large number of the male convicts were identified as Defenders and were transported either for having taken the Defenders' oath, as Ambrose had done, or for having taken part in disturbances.¹⁰

The voyage was unique for both its length and the treatment of the convicts. The *Britannia* arrived in Sydney 27 May 1797.¹¹ The voyage of five and a half months is recorded as one of the most brutal in the history of transportation;¹² there had been one death for every 17 prisoners.¹³ In response to the high death rate, a Bench of Magistrates was convened and charges were brought against the ship's captain Dennott.¹⁴

Ambrose had arrived just nine years after the colony had been founded. On his arrival, he was assigned to the Government Farm at Toongabbie¹⁵, one of many convicts employed there. Established in 1791 by Governor Phillip¹⁶, the farm played a critical role in providing food for the fledgling colony, growing wheat, maize and barley.¹⁷

By 1800, Ambrose had his Ticket of Leave¹⁸, and was free to work for himself, provided he remained in his district, attended convict musters and be subject to recall and restriction.¹⁹ At this time, he was recorded as a shingle cutter.²⁰



Author at the Battle of the Diamond Site in 2006.

Three years later, Ambrose had completed his sentence, and in December of 1803 responded to advertisements in the *Sydney Gazette* and the *New South Wales Advertiser* to go seal hunting²¹, joining the 12-man crew on the schooner *Edwin*.²² Men joined the sealing gangs for many reasons; many hoped to gain the profits from a big catch²³, and this was probably the motive for Ambrose as well. After seven weeks in Bass Strait, the *Edwin* returned with 1,600 seal skins.²⁴ Sealing in Bass Strait began as early as 1791 and by 1802 there were at least 200 men employed in the industry²⁵, providing New South Wales with its first export industry.²⁶ By 1806, Ambrose was done with whaling and was self-employed as a labourer.²⁷

There is no record of Ambrose continuing his occupation as a dancing master in the colony, however, when he became the licensee of the Dog and Duck Inn, he may have engaged in dancing, as hotels were sites of popular culture.²⁸ Dance played a significant role in the social life of some of the early Australian convicts in the period between 1788 and 1840: Clarke believes that dance "... provided a temporary escape from the unhappy memories and harsh circumstances which surrounded them ..." and provided "... shared memories of a common cultural experience".²⁹

Before going into the hotel trade, Ambrose was appointed a police constable in Sydney in December 1810.³⁰ During the first thirty years of the new colony, there were more than sixty police constables, most of whom were former convicts.³¹ Ambrose was No. 42 out of 50 men appointed and his term started on 1 January 1811. He was assigned to the Second District³², which stretched north from Surrey Lane to the Military Lane Barracks in the south and from Sydney Cove in the East to Cockle Bay in the west. The year Ambrose was appointed as a constable, Governor Macquarie had re-organised the colony's police force, creating a basic system of districts and ranks.³³

In 1813, Ambrose received money from the Police Fund for apprehending a runaway convict from Newcastle.³⁴ The fund had been established by Governor Macquarie only three years earlier.³⁵ Ambrose resigned as a constable in 1814³⁶, probably

influenced by his receiving a grant of land in the Picton area at Appin on 30 June, 1814³⁷ and becoming the publican of The Dog and the Duck Inn in George Street, Sydney³⁸.

From 1814 until his death in 1817, Ambrose is on the list of persons licensed as a publican at Sydney.³⁹ Ambrose died suddenly on 7 October 1817 from quinsy, his death being reported in the *Sydney Gazette*⁴⁰. He left behind his wife, Mary Murrell, whom he had married at St Philip's Church in 1813⁴¹, and six children.⁴²

While Ambrose was one of thousands of convicts transported to Australia, we can see that his story is not a typical one. He engaged in a variety of occupations, which established him in the colony. Like most convicts, he did not return to his homeland. It seems that Ambrose, like "... the majority of the Irish convicts, achieved a crime free record and made a significant contribution to their new home"⁴³. As his descendant, I like to feel that is true. Kirby reminds us, "... in a remarkably short interval, the free settlers, supplemented by convicts given tickets of leave and conditional release, began to build a civil society in Australia".⁴⁴ I am proud that Ambrose was a part of that nation building.

Jan Chivers is a proud descendant of nine convicts who arrived in the colony between 1797 and 1837. She is passionate about researching her family history, which she started in 1972, the year her first child was born. Jan believes it is important that her three children and seven grandchildren have a record of their origins. She has visited most of the villages in England, Ireland and Wales relevant to the history of her forebears, including those associated with Ambrose McGuigan.

Jan is very involved in her community, both in paid employment and as a volunteer.

*She was a researcher and writer of the chapters on Catholic History for the book **Cowra on the Lachlan** published in 1988. In 2003 Jan was awarded an OAM for services to her local community in Cowra.*

1 P. Gallagher and P. Gallegher, *A man with a Price on his Head* in McFarlane Ed. Chapter 7.

2 Mary Pike, *Ambrose & Mary* (Sydney: Privately published, 1997)

3 Gallagher and Gallegher, *A Man with a price*

4 Pike, *Ambrose & Mary*

5 Gallagher and Gallegher, *A Man with a price*

6 Gallagher and Gallegher, *A Man with a price*

7 Irish Transportation Records, National Archives of Ireland. 1787-1868 Reels M2125-229

8 Richard Reid & Brendon Kelson, *Sinners, Saints & Settlers: A Journey through Irish Australia* (Canberra: National Museum of Australia Press, 2010)

9 Charles Bateson, *The Convict Ships 1787–1868* (Glasgow: Brown Son and Ferguson, 1959)

10 Barbara Hall, *Death or Liberty The Convicts of the Britannia, Ireland to Botany Bay* (Barbara Hall, 2006)

11 Hall, *Death or Liberty*

12 Con Costello, *Botany Bay The Story of the Convicts transported Ireland to Australia 1791 – 1853* (Dublin: Mercier Press, 1996)

13 Bateson, *Convict Ships*

14 Hall, *Death or Liberty*

15 Gallagher and Gallegher, *A Man with a price*

16 Elders Suburb Profiles – Toongabbie www.elderstoongabbie.com.au/buying/suburb-profiles-toongabbie2146.php?pagecall=content&ContentTypeID=16482 Downloaded 14/07/2019

17 Environment New South Wales www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=5061406 Downloaded 14/7/19

18 Settlers Muster Book, 1800 NSW Colonial Secretary's Office (in Pike, M)

19 Michael Bogle, *Convicts: Transportation & Australia* (Sydney: Historic Houses Trust of New South Wales, 2008)

20 Gallagher and Gallegher, *A Man with a price*

21 Pike, *Ambrose & Mary*

22 *Sydney Gazette* 11 December, 1803

23 Susan Lawrence and Peter Davies, *An Archaeology of Australia Since 1788* (New York: Springer, 2001)

24 Gallagher and Gallegher, *A Man with a price*

25 Bethell in Ling, J, (1999)

26 John K. Ling, *Exploitation of fur seals and sea lions from Australian, New Zealand and adjacent subantarctic islands during the eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries* (Australian Zoologist Vol 31, No 2. December 1999)

27 Carol Baxter (ed), *Musters of New South Wales and Norfolk Island 1805-1806* (Sydney: Australian Biographical and Genealogical Record, 1989)

28 Mick Roberts, 6 May, 2013 (6) 'The Dog and the Duck, Haymarket, Sydney 1815 –1891' in Time Gents Australian Pub Project timegents.com/2013/05/06/the-dog-duck-george-street-sydney-1815-1891/ Downloaded 16/1/19

29 Heather Evelyn Clarke, *Social Dance and Early Australian Settlement: An historical examination of the role of social dance for convicts and the 'lower orders' in the period between 1788 and 1840* (Submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Creative Industries Creative Industries Faculty Queensland University of Technology 2018), p232.

30 Colonial Secretary Index 1788 – 1825 Reel 6038; SZ758, 151-2

31 Cassie Crofts, Australia's First Cops Were All Criminals (National Geographic 29 January, 2016). www.nationalgeographic.com.au/history/australias-first-cops-were-all-criminals.aspx

32 National Geographic 29 January, 2016 www.nationalgeographic.com.au/history/australias-first-cops-were-all-criminals.aspx. Pike, M.

33 Australian Police – New South Wales Police History www.australianpolice.com.au/nsw-police-history-index/ Downloaded 13/7/19

34 Colonial Secretary Index 1788 – 1825 (Reel 6038); SZ758, p426

35 Australian Police

36 Colonial Secretary Index 1788 – 1828 (Reel 6038); SZ758, p449

37 Colonial Secretary's Papers: list of persons to receive grants of land (Fiche 3266; 9/2652 p 17)

38 Pike, *Ambrose & Mary*

39 Colonial Secretary Index 1788 -1825 Reel 6038;SZ759 p 54, p192

40 *Sydney Gazette* 11 Oct 1817 [Death Announcement of Ambrose McGuigan]

41 Marriage of Ambrose McGuigan and Mary Murrell, New South Wales Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, 66/1813 V181366 7.

42 Pike, *Ambrose & Mary*

43 Costello, *Botany Bay*, p162.

44 Kirby, M. in Bogle, *Convicts*

THE CUNNINGHAMS AND MORROWS OF MULNAGORE

VIVIENNE CUNNINGHAM-SMITH

My mother is a Cunningham and you would assume we stemmed from Scotland, but on the arrival of her great-grandfather William Morrow Cunningham's death certificate, my Irish hunt started. It identified his birthplace as Mulnagore, Ireland and he had been in the colonies for 49 years, placing his emigration around 1862. His father was John Cunningham, a farmer, and his mother was Hannah Morrow. William had died on 20 August 1911 at his property "Marulan" in Ben Boyd Road, Neutral Bay and was a general storekeeper. I knew my mother's grandfather also had the name William Morrow Cunningham, as did my Uncle Bill. It became clear that the 'Morrow' all three generations carried came from my great-great-grandmother's line. William's death certificate answered many questions, but raised a hundred more.

I had a fleeting understanding of Irish history and geography and located Mulnagore in County Tyrone, part of Northern Ireland since 1921, in the province of Ulster. In William's day, however, it was all just Ireland. 1862 was also outside the years of the potato famine and convict transportation, so it was unlikely William emigrated for either of these reasons.

Where to start? I googled Irish family history and found that records were scant. I purchased a book on tracing your Northern Irish Ancestors- and then never used it! Be careful with over-resourcing yourself, but also don't ignore them; they do have some gems in them. Before delving around in carriers like Ancestry or Findmypast, I looked at the broader area of Irish history to inform my research. I researched Ulster specifically and discovered the Ulster Plantation – could my Northern Irish Protestant ancestors have been a part of it? I found a number of useful sites:

🔗 discoverulsterscots.com/history-culture/story-presbyterians-ulster

Useful for looking at the Presbyterians in Ulster.

🔗 ancestryireland.com

The Ulster Scots Foundation: whilst it had no information on either William or Hannah, I was able to list my research interests.

🔗 ulsterscotsagency.com/what-is-ulster-scots

Very useful for historical and cultural information.

🔗 discoverulsterscots.com/

Useful for background information.

🔗 nidirect.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/Plantations_in_Ulster.PDF

Unable to find a record of William's ancestors coming from Scotland, I decided to research the broader Irish Cunningham name. Several sites on the Irish Cunninghams told the same story. The following comes from irelandroots.com/cunningham.htm: The surname Cunningham or Conyngham is among the 75 most numerous in Ireland, with the majority of the name being found in the Ulster counties of Down and Antrim and also in the Connacht counties of Galway and Roscommon. The name Cunningham, taken from the place of the same name near Kilmarnock in Ayrshire, was brought to Ireland by settlers from Scotland who arrived in Ulster during the 17th century Plantation of Ulster. Descendants of those settlers today form the bulk of those bearing the surname in that province, where it is most numerous.

I was satisfied that my Cunninghams were probably part of the Ulster Plantation.

I now wanted to know as much as I could about William's family and, given the restrictions with Irish records, turned my attention to his Australian story.

What brought him to Australia and when did he arrive? Searching the NSW State Archives collection (now the Museums of History New South Wales) I found the Assisted Immigrants Index 1839-1896. This told me William's passage had been "sponsored" by a Samuel Watt, originally from County Tyrone. He arrived with Watt's wife and children on board the *Persia*, aged 19. Samuel was referred to as his depositor. Digging further into the same index, I discovered Samuel himself had arrived, aged 17, in 1856, and his depositor was Irwin Crain of Adelong, NSW. Looking for more context, I found several records in Ancestry indicating Irwin Crain had sponsored other families from County Tyrone to NSW. Was there an Irish community around him? I must say my research was not as organised as it appears here. I delved back and forth into Trove and Ancestry, trying to put some flesh on the bones of Samuel and Irwin's lives as more information came to light on William. Samuel had been working for Irwin and then leased his own property around Adelong, NSW. Trove was a wealth of information to create their stories, and this was to be important for the story of why William may have ended up in Marulan, NSW.

Looking for Irish records in Ancestry didn't reveal much. Birth registrations in Ireland did not start until 1864 and parish records were patchy, so it was unlikely I would find anything substantial online. However, I did locate some worthwhile sites on County Tyrone:

🔗 cotyroneireland.com/index.html

🔗 cotyrone.com

🔗 johngrenham.com/records/newspapers.php?county=Tyrone&search_type=full

I managed to locate the will of a John Cunningham of Mulnagore on proni.gov.uk, naming the executor as William Morrow. Was this William's father? John's wife was Isabella and they had three children: James, Sally and Elizabeth. Had Hannah died and John remarried?

Using Griffiths Valuation, I found a John Cunningham Jnr and John Cunningham Snr, both from Mulnagore, and analysed the documentation. The 1829 Tithe Applotment book also indicated a William Morrow of Mulnagore. Was this Hannah's father? As I couldn't go any further from Australia, I commissioned a local researcher, through Ulster Ancestry, to follow up the information I had gleaned. It was money well spent. The documents cited here also contained Tithe Applotment Books 1823-1837; the Will of William Morrow and significant Morrow family information, helped by the fact that the family remained in Mulnagore. William Morrow's will of 1883 cited his wife as Jane, and their children as William James, Eliza and Margaret, with the mention of grandchildren in Australia; however, there is no mention of Hannah. There were also references to key documents such as Registers of Freeholders; 1766 Religious Census (looking for Presbyterians, of course); 1796 Flax Growers Lists. This, in turn, gave me a list of available records: Protestant marriages were registered from 1 January 1845; Catholic marriages from 1 January 1864 and all deaths from 1864. I realised that the maternal Morrow line would probably give me better information and that tracing property may well be my only chance of documenting the Cunninghams in Ireland. It confirmed what was not available, preventing me from chasing ghosts.

I gathered more and more information on the Morrows of County Tyrone through a range of online sites, and found family trees and Australian descendants to assist me. Thanks to Ross Beattie, with whom I corresponded on his Morrow ancestors. His wealth of information started to piece together the generations. I created a timeline in Excel for all the Cunninghams and Morrows I had to date, to stop me getting confused, and this was very useful given the number of Williams and Johns who existed across the generations. I find plotting timelines helpful to establish the generations and possible relationships between people, and I had enough information to establish a Morrow timeline to try to determine who Hannah's father was, given I would be unable to get a birth certificate. Her father was most likely the William Morrow cited in John Cunningham's will.

Next came my property search and I commissioned documents from Public Records Office of Ireland (PRONI). I found indenture documents from 1841 between John Cunningham and Samuel Morrow which indicate the Mulnagore land was owned by Samuel and leased to John, adding another Morrow to the list. Another indenture in 1852 indicates that John leased land in Mulnagore from James Briars, a fact confirmed in Griffiths Valuation, also giving a history of ownership of this land back to 1797. I obtained several other indentures which trace the movement of land leased or owned by John Cunningham. As it was difficult to decipher many of the words of these large and formal documents, I again resorted to my timeline and documented dates of sale/lease/changeover of land and framed the story of John Cunningham Jnr and Snr. Coupled with information from my paid research I could create a timeline when the Cunninghams were likely in Mulnagore, given there were none left by 1901. The Cunningham homestead collapsed in 1871, so it was unlikely they were still residing there. The remainder of the land identified in Griffiths Valuation as belonging to John Jrs was now occupied by William James Morrow, and he remained the only Morrow or Cunningham in Mulnagore in 1901 and 1911 census.

Connecting with William's descendants, I found to my dismay that one of them had been living only two hours from me before I moved interstate! The connection confirmed further information, but Hannah remained lost to history. To my astonishment, this cousin's father was living in the Mulnagore farm that was once owned by John Cunningham. I was ecstatic. In 2014 we visited the current Morrows of Mulnagore.



Mulnagore House. Photos supplied by the author.



An email arrived out of the blue from a descendant of William Morrow Cunningham, containing a copy of a letter he sent to his nephew, James Cunningham, written two years before his death in 1909. This told the story and pieced together the fragments of data and history that I had. It also gave voice to Hannah.

William Morrow Cunningham was born at 1pm on 16 November 1843 in Mulnagore, Ireland. His mother was Hannah Rachel

Morrow, referred to as Rachel, and his father was John Cunningham. He had two brothers: Robert born in 1833 and James born the same day and time as William but four years earlier. His sister Margaret was born 1836 and he had another two, unnamed, sisters. There were also step-siblings from his father's second marriage with the eldest, Lizzie (possibly the Elizabeth mentioned in his will) born 1860 and Sally. Little is known of this second family as both William and James objected to it.

The letter goes on to explain that John and Hannah managed both the farm and a grocery store. Hannah managed the latter, with James keeping the ledger before and after school. On Hannah's death, which we could now place as 1852/3, John gave up the store and James had to work the land. James was not a manual labourer and William says the climax came when his 70-year-old father married a much younger woman, Isabella Hoey, on 20 December 1859 in Dungannon. James emigrated to Australia, and William followed when the second child of the marriage was on the way.

John's will assigns the six acres called Caddas Land to be sold to pay off debts, with his young wife inheriting the farm until such time as she remarries. The three sons, Robert, William and John, receive only one shilling each (to prevent them contesting the will), Elizabeth 20 pounds and Sally 20 pounds when she comes of age.

William says he was farewelled by his disgruntled father with only eight pounds, while James had been provided with 100 pounds when he left for Australia two years earlier. His father was angry as there was no-one left to tend the farm – the other brother, Robert, had moved to Belfast and set up a successful business and Margaret, as a woman, would not have taken up the farm.

When he arrived in Sydney, William relates he had only four pounds, but met up with friends: Mrs William McIntyre and John Davidson, a schoolmate of his brother James. John had come from Menangle to meet other passengers from the same boat, possibly Samuel Watt's family. When he realised who William was, John told him that his brother James was living 12 miles away in Bargo.

William describes his struggle during his early years in Australia. He managed to save six pounds, which a mate stole from him, using the word 'mate' when relating this episode. "Nothing daunted", he saved again and was robbed by bushrangers – again, he says "nothing daunted", and proceeded to bank the next lot of savings. He settled in Berrima and lost contact with James and his family. On the point of leaving for America to see his sister (presumably Margaret), he relates that he met with another catastrophe: "I lost again, but this time it was my heart." He had met Mary Jane Chapman. William was 24 when they married and he states that he took a wife to share with him his discomfiture! With advice from Mary Jane, William invested the little cash he had and went hawking soft goods: the fun, he says, was that he could scarcely tell print from calico.

William admits that "by having a wife to teach me and give me lessons before I started each trip I soon picked up what was necessary and in about a month was capable of distinguishing between underclothing and girls pants." The first year was a struggle, but he was able to buy an allotment in Marulan and build a house, "and after a very short time shelved one room and stocked for wife." Could this have been the Commercial Store which also acted as their home? He enlarged it after a time and in three years was compelled to sell out. William stated that, "Hawkers turn out and help at local store which I then made large – that was in '70 [1870] which was the Commercial Store Marulan."



The Commercial Store at Marulan. Photo supplied by author.

Attached to the letter was a hand-drawn family tree which suggested that William was born in Moneymore where we were told in 2014 the Cunningham clan tended to live. Voila, we had a first-hand family tree back to at least John and Hannah.

William and Mary Jane had a very successful life in Marulan and when I visited their store, which still stands today, I was dismayed that the historical plaque rendered it as Baldock's Store. I compiled research data to prove it was in fact William and Mary Jane who built the store, but that's another story. It can be accessed on the family website:

vivcsh.wixsite.com/cunningham-tarrants.

The Cunningham story could only be brought to light through multiple sources which supplemented the meagre Irish records available. Since the time I undertook this research more Irish sites are coming online with available records so it is wise to keep returning to the data to see if more of the family story can come to light.

In Search Of Ireland and Irish Research

FINDING MALONEYS AT LISCONOR

BERNARD THORLEY



My great-grandmother, Honora Maloney was born in Stonehall, (Lisconor), County Clare, Ireland, about 1835. She was the daughter of Thomas Maloney and Honora McMahon. Stonehall and Lisconor are townlands situated in what is today known as the ecclesiastical parish of Newmarket-On-Fergus. The 1855 Griffith Land Valuation lists Thomas Maloney, a blacksmith, leasing two acres of land in Lisconor, and a forge and land in nearby Ballinooskany; his total property valuation being three pounds.

Thomas Maloney had a son, also named Thomas, who was my great-grandmother's brother. He inherited the family property and was also a blacksmith who continued to work the forges. He had no sons, and his daughter Bridget married Edward Fitzgerald in Newmarket-On-Fergus in 1888, after which the property passed to the Fitzgeralds. The forge continued to shoe horses and repair farm machinery until it closed in the 1960s.

It is thought that my great-grandmother Honora Maloney migrated to Australia about 1856, although no shipping records have been found for her. She went to Mudgee to join relatives who had arrived earlier. She married Thomas Knowles in the Catholic Chapel in Mudgee on 18 February 1857, when they were both recorded as living at Oakfield Farm on Lawson's Creek. The property was owned by Michael Maloney, who was probably her cousin. The population of Mudgee was skyrocketing at this time, becoming the centre for the surrounding goldfields. Honora and Thomas Knowles moved to Bombira, five miles out of Mudgee, and then to Bodangora in the Wellington district, taking up a settlement, "Leichidale" on the Mudgee Road. My grandmother Honora (Nora) Knowles was born in Bombira in 1863, grew up in Bodangora and married Alfred James Thorley there in 1889.

My family history research in the 1990s revealed my unknown Maloney ancestors from Lisconor. On contacting the family (now Fitzgeralds) they were surprised to find that they had relatives in Australia. My great-grandmother Honora was long-forgotten in

the place she had been born. My wife and I visited her old home in Lisconor in 2006 and were shown around by the then present owner, Sue Fitzgerald. The house was the same as it had been when Honora left, except for an extension in the same style, put up at a later date. A forge remained beside the house.

We stood at the back door, looking across at a small field, at the end of which was the boundary fence of Shannon International Airport, with international and domestic flights zooming overhead. After 150 years, one of Honora Maloney's descendants had returned to her home.

Bernard Thorley is a retired academic. Now aged 93, he has plenty of time to sit and remember the excitement he felt when he discovered ancestors who came from County Clare, Cork, Louth and Waterford, and he was the first Australian descendant to visit his distant cousins in those places in Ireland.



Bernard Thorley and Sue Fitzgerald outside the old Maloney home (at left) in Lisconor. The 1901 Census describes the home as having thick stone walls, a thatched roof, two windows and three rooms.

THE EDUCATION OF COLONEL J. G. N. GIBBES, 1787-1873

TERRY JENKINS



The origins of Colonel John George Nathaniel Gibbes, Collector of Customs at Sydney from 1834, have long been a mystery. I was fortunate to discover, purely by chance, that his mother was the actress, born Mary Logan, who was known after his birth as Mrs Gibbs.¹ However, problems of his father's name and childhood remained unresolved.

The *Australian Dictionary of Biography* (ADB) states that he was "born in London on 30 March 1787 the son of John Gibbes, planter, of Barbados and later of London. Part of his education was by Rev. D. Geary Dejether, North Wales".² Unfortunately the Dictionary provides no sources, and Anthony Camp comments, "these people (if they existed) cannot be identified".³ Well, the 'Rev. D. Geary Dejether' can now be identified, and the discovery of his identity would have been easier had the information in the ADB been correctly transcribed from its original source.



Portrait of Lieutenant-Colonel John George Nathaniel Gibbes, the Collector of Customs, by William Nicholas; Trove

The earliest source I have found for the information occurs on 27 January 1844 in *The Weekly Register of Politics, Facts and General Literature*, revealing this article was actually a correction and reprint of an article published three weeks earlier on 6 January. The corrected entry reads: "He received a part of his education at Merchant Tailors' School, and the remainder under the Rev. Dr. Geary, of Dyether, North Wales".⁴ I have no idea how, why, or when 'of Dyether' became mangled into Dejether.

Unfortunately, there is no such place as Dyether in North Wales. So here we enter the mysterious world of Welsh place-names and their spelling. Suffice it to say, English maps now spell the village **Deytheur**, while Google maps uses the Welsh spelling **Deuddwr**, and these are not the only variants. The village lies just to the south of Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain,⁵ very close to the Shropshire border, in what was then Montgomeryshire but is now part of Powis. It is about 10 miles south of Oswestry, and 18 miles west of Shrewsbury.

In 1796, the church authorities at St. Asaph appointed the Rev. John Geary⁶ as headmaster of the village school.⁷ There are three listed citations relating to his appointment as headmaster, with three different spellings of the village's name: **Deytheur** and **Deyddur** (in 1796), and **Dauddwr** when he left the school in 1806.

Geary can be found living in the parish in 1798, recorded under the section of Llansantffraid [sic] which is marked as 'the township of Llanuchkela'.⁸ I haven't found this place on any contemporary maps, but I think it must be the 'Llannerch-celli' which appears on later ordinance survey maps to the east of Deytheur.⁹

Interestingly, a report of proceedings in the House of Lords in 1896, when there was a problem with the grant from the County Council, describes the school as "one of the oldest endowed schools in Wales, having been founded upwards of 300 years ago"¹⁰ i.e. around 1600. Quite unusual, I suggest, for a small village school in a remote part of Wales.

Geary left Deytheur in 1806 when he was appointed headmaster to a school in Uppington, Shropshire, about eight miles east of Shrewsbury. This is where he died in 1838. Geary was a local man and, apart from obtaining his degree at Oxford University, lived in the area all his life. He was born in Westbury (about nine miles west of Shrewsbury), and his will shows he was married but had no children. He left bequests to a large number of nephews and nieces living in Shropshire.

This research, therefore, shows that the school, and schoolmaster, definitely existed; but it doesn't necessarily prove that Col. Gibbes attended, and I have not found that there are any school records (registers and such like) still in existence to confirm the matter. However, I think the circumstantial evidence is strong enough. And the wording of *The Weekly Register* article clearly indicates he attended the school after studying at Merchant Taylor's. If he has been correctly identified as the John Gibbes who attended there from 1795 to 1799, he must have studied in Deytheur from 1799 until enrolling in the army in 1804.

So, why Deytheur? What took him, as a teenager, to a village school in a remote part of Wales? I suggest the answer lies with his mother's sister Elizabeth Logan, otherwise known as Mrs Carey.¹¹ While Elizabeth had a very brief career as an actress, she is better-known for her relationship with the Duke of York.¹² The relationship started around 1808, after the Duke's previous affair with Mary Ann Clarke had ended in public scandal, and lasted until his death in 1827. However, that all came later in Elizabeth's life. In 1797 she was living with a wealthy landowner named Nicholas Owen Smythe Owen, whose estate was at

Condover Park, about five miles south of Shrewsbury. Owen made his will that year and left her a bequest, showing that the relationship must have started before 1797 and, according to the subsequent legal battles over probate, she was with him when he died at Condover in 1804. This period therefore covers the entire time when the young Gibbes was at Deytheur.

I cannot find that Rev. Geary had any direct connections with Condover. Two of his nieces were married there in the 1830s, but that was many years later. Nevertheless, Geary came from a large family who would have been well-known throughout the Shrewsbury area. I think it perfectly possible that he and Nicholas Owen were acquainted, and that would bring Elizabeth Logan into the picture. As Owen's partner, she would surely have mingled with the Shropshire gentry, and if her sister was looking for a place where her teenage son could continue his education, she could have suggested Geary's school. I suggest this would explain why the future Colonel suddenly found himself two hundred miles from London, at Deytheur.

There seems little reason to doubt that Gibbes studied at the school. Especially as the statement appears in the corrected entry on 27 January 1844 of *The Weekly Register*. The earlier entry on 6 January did not contain any information about his childhood, merely (and incorrectly) described him as a "native

of the county of Norfolk, in England", and continued, "In early life he entered the army . . . etc. etc." I suggest the only person who could have corrected the inaccuracies, and supplied the information, would have been Gibbes himself.

This gives much greater weight to the supposed date of birth: if Gibbes was correct about his education, perhaps he was right about his birthdate and father? I think we must accept that Gibbes himself firmly believed he was born on 30 March 1787. However, no-one has any personal memories of their birth, and all we know is what we are told by our elders as we grow up. In the days before birth certificates, that information could be vague, imprecise or even a complete fabrication; it is not unknown for people to invent a completely fictitious story of their origins. So it is wise to remain cautious. There are still too many inconsistencies and anomalies in the story for comfort. The research into the Colonel's father, and his date of birth, is therefore still unresolved; and I fear that unless some startling and unexpected evidence turns up, will remain so.

Terry Jenkins is a retired British opera singer. For twenty-five years he was a principal tenor with the English National Opera in London. He made his debut at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden in 1976, and performed widely in Europe and the USA. In retirement he has published extensively on 18th-century theatre.

1 Terry Jenkins, "The true facts of Colonel John George Nathaniel Gibbes", *Traces 13* (December 2020), 20-22.

2 A. F. Pike, 'Gibbes, John George (1787–1873)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography* (Melbourne: Melbourne University Press, 1966), 439.

3 Anthony Camp, *Royal mistresses and bastards: fact and fiction 1714-1936* (London: Anthony Camp, 2007), 226.

4 "Australian Biography No. 26. – The Collector of Customs", *The Weekly Register of Politics, Facts and General Literature* (Sydney: NSW), 27 January 1844, 397. Accessed via Trove (www.trove.nla.gov.au).

5 Wikipedia tells us the spelling of Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain is still disputed, leading to two different versions of the name on local road signs!

6 Geary's ecclesiastical career can be found on www.theclergydatabase.org.uk, where he has the CCEd ID no. 11184. Geary never held any position within the

parish and its church of St Fraid - he was an ordained schoolteacher - but he may have helped on occasion if needed.

7 "Brecenock Summer Circuit", *The Hereford Journal* (Herefordshire: England), Wednesday 29 June 1796, 3, spelling the place-name **Dytheur**.

8 UK, Land Tax Records for 1798 on Ancestry.

9 The 1841 census lists a 55 year-old Mary Geary at Llanuchila, in the parish of Llansantffraid. This must be the same place, and I expect she was a relative. Oh, the vagaries of Welsh spelling!!!

10 *The Times*, 4 March 1896.

11 Terry Jenkins, "Mrs Carey (c.1773-1848): the other mistress of the Duke of York" *Genealogist's Magazine*, Vol. 33, no. 10, June 2021, 354-360.

12 This is probably where all the unfounded beliefs that the Colonel was an illegitimate off-spring of the Duke have sprung from.

IS YOUR WORLD WAR II AUSTRALIAN ANCESTOR BURIED IN BELGRADE?

BOJAN PAJIC

At least 1,500 Australians and New Zealanders served in Serbia, or alongside the Serbs, in the Serbian campaign of the First World War.¹ I have published three books² and a number of articles³ on this topic, and have also assisted the Australian War Memorial and the Department of Veterans Affairs to prepare presentations about these ANZACs on their websites.⁴

Following exhibitions on this theme held at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne, the Army Museum of South Australia and the Maryborough Military and Colonial Museum in Queensland, I have been contacted by relatives of these Australians and two of them – Kathy Hancock and Richard Cooke, whose great-aunt and grandmother, respectively, served as a medical officer and Nursing Sister with the Serbs – will be accompanying me to visit the places and battlefields where their forebears served in Serbia and the wider region.

The Australian Embassy is in the process of having my book *Australians with Serbs in World War One* translated into Serbian to distribute in Serbia, and we will be in Belgrade for the launch of the Serbian-language edition. The Embassy has also invited us to participate in the Anzac Day ceremony in Belgrade on 25 April 2023.



Australian War Cemetery in Belgrade; supplied by author

This ceremony will take place at the War Cemetery in Belgrade where there are the graves of 27 Australian servicemen from the Second World War. We would like to contact any surviving family of these individuals to ask if we can do anything for them while at the cemetery, such as placing sprigs of rosemary or poppies on the graves and/or taking photos. We hope to film around Serbia as well to possibly make a documentary about the theme and our visit; in which case we can also provide current families with links to such videos.

The list of the 27 Australians buried in Belgrade follows and shows where their families were located in the 1940s, although family members will doubtless have moved. We would appreciate any help to find the families of these Australians and would ask them to get in touch with us at bjpiris@gmail.com

Australians buried in War Cemetery, Belgrade

	Forename	Initials	Age	Rank	Service No	Additional Information
BLACK	ERIC LYNN	E L	24	Private	NX2593	Son of Irvin Thomas Hiselton Black & Vera Lynn Black, of Ashfield, NSW.
BLACKFORD	WALTER FEDERICK	W F	24	Flying Officer	425589	Son of Ernest George Tobias & Georgina Amelia Blackford, of Northgate, QLD.
BROWN	STEWART EMERSON	S E	25	Private	VX5102	Son of Mark Emerson & Catharine Mary Brown, of Caulfield, VIC.
CALDER	LEWIS WALTER	L W	23	Flight Sergeant	427416	Son of Walter & Jessie Emily Calder; husband of Edith Edna Calder, of Victoria Park, WA. (Buried in Trbovlje Civil Cemetery, Slovenia).
CARGILL	COLIN EDWARD	C E	23	Gunner	QX1679	Son of Alexander & Margaret Jane Cargill, of Red Hill, QLD.
CUSTANCE	GEOFFREY JAMES	G J	21	Warrant Officer	416938	Son of John Leslie & Gladys Marion Custance, of Kensington Park, SA.
GARDINER	DESMOND EDWARD JAMES	D E J	41	Flight Lieutenant	251432	Son of Edgar Robert Watson & Lucy Margaret Gardiner; husband of Rose Irene Gardiner, of St. Kilda, VIC.
HOLMES	EDWARD JAMES	E J	21	Pilot Officer	420946	Son of Herbert & Alma Clarice Holmes, of Bentley, NSW.
HOUGH	BERNARD AUSTIN	B A	30	Flight Sergeant	415424	Son of David Edward & Martha Ann Hough; husband of Beryl Grace Hough, of Subiaco, WA.
IRWIN	WILLIAM	W	32	Lieutenant	NX3953	Son of Harold & Georgina Irwin; husband of Joyce Alloron Irwin, of Parkes, NSW.
KIMBER	DONALD DAVID	D D	21	Flight Lieutenant	425414	Son of Lewis Joseph & Mary Elizabeth Kimber, of Toowong, QLD.
LEE	EDWARD GEORGE	E G	24	Flight Sergeant	410502	Son of Albert Edward & Nilsa Christina Lee, husband of Nola Lee, of Manly, NSW.
LOWE	GEORGE ROBERT COLQUHOURN	G R C	31	Warrant Officer	419502	Son of Arthur Milbourne & Marie Isabelle Lowe, of Tottenham, NSW; husband of Barbara Lowe, of Newmarket, Suffolk, England.
LYON	ANDREW WALLACE	A W	30	Warrant Officer	427522	Son of Francis Andrew & Freda Louisa Caroline Lyon; husband of Joy Lyon, of Mosman Park, WA.
MANN	PERCY GARFIELD	P G	38	Flight Sergeant	412601	Son of Henry Palmer & Sarah Fanny Mann, of Birkenhead, Cheshire, England.
MASON	HENRY OSCAR	H O	31	Flying Officer	432241	Son of Henry & Lilian Mason, of Hawthorn, VIC; husband of Eileen Mason of Ballarat. VIC.
McGUGAN	IAN	I	27	Flight Sergeant	414720	Son of Alexander & Florence McGugan; husband of Heather Sackville McGugan, of Peachester, QLD.
MORANTE	ERIC	E	27	Private	NX9922	Son of Edwin James & Pauline Inez Morante, of Blackwall, NSW.
MOSS	FRANK WILLIS	F W	24	Pilot Officer	421040	Son of William Joseph & Jane Moss, of Wollongong, NSW.
O'SULLIVAN	KENNETH GEORGE	K G	21	Private	NX15509	Son of Sidney & Edith Marion O'Sullivan; stepson of Gertrude Ann O'Sullivan, of Sydney, NSW.
PARKER	GEOFFREY GOODHAND	G G	20	Flight Sergeant	427933	Son of Reginald Goodhand & Ida Linda Parker, of Minnivale, WA.
REID	WILLIAM HOWARD	W H	33	Sergeant	VX9752	Son of William John Coombe & Evelyn Rosina Reid.
SIMMONS	LESLIE	L	25	Bombardier	QX.1217	Son of John & Mona Madeline Martha Simmons, of Millmerran, QLD.
STEELE	CHARLES GIBSON	C G	21	Flight Sergeant	424114	Son of Charles Oliver & Annie Beattie Steele, of Burwood, NSW.
STEWART	DEREK GEORGE	D G	31	Warrant Officer	418578	Son of George & Lillian Elizabeth Stewart; husband of Flora Mavis Stewart, of Ascot Vale, VIC.
WAITE	REGINALD	R	34	Sapper	WX.5861	Son of Mary Waite, of Harefield, Bristol, England.
WALKER	GORDON MURRAY	G M	21	Flying Officer	418610	Son of William & Eunice Agnes Jean Walker, of Sandringham, VIC.

1 Biographies of some of those who served on the Serbian front can be found at the Anzacportal: anzacportal.dva.gov.au/

2 Bojan Pajic, *Our Forgotten Volunteers: Australians and New Zealanders with Serbs in World War One* (Melbourne: Australian Scholarly Publishing, 2019); *Australians with Serbs in World War One: Guide to Exhibitions* (Melbourne: Australian Scholarly Publishing, 2022); *Serbian Decorations through History and Serbian Medals Awarded to Australians* (Self-published, 2016)

3 Bojan Pajic 'Our Forgotten Volunteers', *RSL Queensland: rslqld.org/news/latest-news/our-forgotten-volunteers* Lieutenant Colonel Russell Linwood, ASM

(Ret'd), Review of Our Forgotten Volunteers in *Sabretache*, Vol. 60, No. 1, March 2019, 54-57.

4 Australians with Serbs in World War One, presentations in Canberra, Adelaide and Melbourne: www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLr7yNhFSYQbi9fwEp5l-O6Y9o4nx_ecOJx; Australian War Memorial presentation: www.awm.gov.au/articles/blog/AustraliaandNZSerbianfront; Department of Veterans Affairs presentation on Australians on the Serbian Front for school students: anzacportal.dva.gov.au/wars-and-missions/ww1/where-australians-served/serbian-campaign



Museums of History NSW (MHNSW)

We're excited to write to you for the first time as Museums of History NSW, the new home for the history of NSW. Rest assured that the services to the public we provide in respect of the State Archives Collection (primarily our Reading Room, online indexes, guides and our copy service) will work the way they always have. Our Online Indexes, research guides and catalogue will be enhanced by the Sydney Living Museums collections including the Caroline Simpson Collection. In addition, as you will see below, we have a great line-up of programs in the next few months.

Open Days

Kingswood Saturday 15 April



Save the date! We are holding an Open Day at the Western Sydney Records Centre. Bring your walking shoes and get ready to discover the archives with a great range of activities:

- * Stalls: Ancestry, City of Sydney Archives, Hawkesbury Library Service & Family History Group, Nepean Family History Society, Royal Australian Historical Society, Society of Australian Genealogists
- * Talks: speakers from the State Library of NSW, City of Sydney Archives, Ancestry and the Museums of History NSW
- * Behind the Scenes tours of the Western Sydney Records Centre
- * Treasures Room: come face to face with the archives
- * Ask an Archivist: we will answer your tricky questions about searching the State Archives Collection

The reading room will be closed on Friday 14 April 2023 and Saturday 15 April 2023.

The Mint Saturday 22 April

10 Macquarie Street Sydney

Bring along your family and friends for a great day exploring the history of The Mint, Australia's oldest surviving public building, with a series of talks, tours and more. Explore fascinating stories of the past through objects and archival material on display.

Webinar program

Our webinar program continues in 2023. Register on our website at <https://mhnsw.au/whats-on/> for:

- 24 March Public Service Board Employees History Cards, 1911-1968
- 28 April Discovering the State Archives Collection on the MHNSW Website
- 23 June Probate packets revisited

Exhibition: Queering the interior: London, New York, Sydney, 1882-1929

Caroline Simpson Library, open Tuesday to Friday, 10am–4pm, free entry.

A new display drawn from the Caroline Simpson Collection, highlights the design practices of five figures from queer history.

Discover how Oscar Wilde, Elsie de Wolfe, Eirene Mort, Roy de Maistre and Adrian Feint shared the belief that one's individuality could be conveyed through design.

Find out more at <https://mhnsw.au/whats-on/>.



Eirene Mort (right) and Nora Weston, Gate Manor, Dent, Cumbria, photographer unknown, c. 1912. Photograph © Rob Little



Lord Carrington is coming to town!

Discover one of the jewels of the State Archives Collection, as the Carrington Albums embark on a regional tour, hosted by Museums of History NSW.

Travel back in time to colonial NSW and view the exquisite handcrafted illuminations in these albums from the 1880s. You'll marvel at the rare snapshot of a bygone era, and learn about the history of the Carrington Albums and their journey around the world.

Talk schedule

22 March	10.30am-12pm	Grafton Library: 126-144 Pound St, Grafton NSW 2460
23 March	10am-11.30pm	Port Macquarie Library: 32 Grant St, Port Macquarie NSW 2444
29 March	11am-12.30pm	Armidale, details to come
30 March	11am-12.30pm	Tamworth City Library: 466 Peel Street, Tamworth NSW 2340
3 April	11am-12.30pm	Kiama Library: 7 Railway Parade, Kiama NSW 2533
4 April	11am-12.30pm	Maitland Library: 480 High St, Maitland NSW 2320

Railway Land and Building Cards 1961-1975

Newly digitised and uploaded to our catalogue this series of cards capture details of railway property available for lease or sale. Most cards include a photograph of the property and a floor plan drawn on the back of the card. Details about the location of the property, its construction, available accommodation, owners and valuation are included.

Search the cards in our catalogue by locality or suburb name or the name of the railway line.



NRS-16408-1-1-[2]_1965/24 | Warral - Main North [Northern Line: Kempsey to Wyong], 1965

NRS-4481-3-[7/16111]-St29935 | Government Printing Office 1 - 36972 - Grand parades, Royal Easter Show

State Archives Reading Room Opening hours April 2023

Changes to opening hours for our reading room over the Easter/ANZAC holiday period are:

- Friday 7 April -Monday 10 April **CLOSED**
- Friday 14 April **CLOSED**
- Saturday 15 April (Open Day) **CLOSED**
- Tuesday 25 April **CLOSED**

We wish everyone a safe, happy and healthy holiday break.



OUR SAG COMMUNITY



SAG VOLUNTEERS

The Board is grateful to everyone who has assisted the Society in a voluntary capacity during 2022, either in the Library, on committees, with indexing, specialised advice, data entry or miscellaneous projects. This list does not include Directors or other honorary office bearers whose names already appear in the magazine, unless they carry out additional volunteer work. Members who have assisted in more than one area are listed under their primary area of volunteering.

Library

Roger Benson
Geoff Bovard
Judy Day
Belinda Doonan
Vicki Eldridge
Philippa Garnsey
Tony Jackson
Doug Jenkins
Anne John
Jackie Kelly
Judy Meyer
David Morris
Robert Nash
Margaret Neyle
Sharon Reece
Christine Sanderson
Cathey Shepherd
Michael Turner
Hilary Walker
Ken Webber

MIDAS and Archives

Robin Bishop
Michael Burleigh
Andrew Goffe
MaryEd Hartnell
Terence & Jenny Hicks
Lesley Hume
Lorna Jones
Jeffrey Madsen
Christine Marcroft
Barbara Reen

Jill Roberts
Ann Rowntree
Norma Smith
Judith White
Alison Wilson
Alison Wolf

Education Leads and Helpers

Thistle Anderson
Jill Ball
Kathryn Barrett
Larry & Colleen Czarnik
Melanie Dunstan
Dale Fogarty
Vicki Hails
Lyn Hudson-Williamson
Melissa Hulbert
Suzanne Hyde
Beverley Hyssett
Danielle Lautrec
Lorraine Luks
Lilian Magill
Kristine Newton
Danny O'Neill
Michelle Patient
Diana Pecar
Linda Radulovitch
Helene Shepherd
Cathie Sherwood
Marianne Spencer
Young

Annesley Watson
Pauline Weeks
Veronica Williams
Christine Woodlands

Committees: Certificate & Diploma, *Descent*, Croker and others

Michele Bomford
Lorraine Brothers
Vivienne Cunningham-Smith
Sandra Dexter
Nyree Dietrich
Bill Dudley
Jennie Fairs
Kerry Farmer
Karol Foyle
Heather Garnsey
Tracey Grady
Alicia Howard
Jennifer & Melinda Kapp
Daryl Low Choy
Janette Pelosi
Wendy Pryor
Andrew Redfern
Greg Ross
Charlotte Schaefer
Philippa Shelley
Jones



CALL FOR ARTICLES

Call for *Descent* articles on the topics of Southern Europe and Child welfare in Australia: for our May and September issues of *Descent* respectively and to support our online conferences scheduled in 2023.

Deadline for notification to write on the topic of Southern Europe: **4 April, 2023**

Deadline for article: **18 April, 2023**

Deadline for notification to write on the topic of Child welfare in Australia: **4 July, 2023**

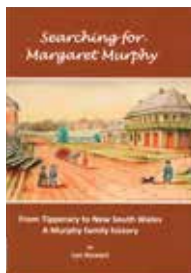
Deadline for article: **18 July, 2023.**

Please email: editor@sag.org.au



Image (top): Antiparos, Greece, Dimitris Kiriakakis; unsplash.com

Image (above): Children's Christmas party, St Anthony's House, Croydon NSW, Sam Hood, 'Labor daily' newspaper 17/12/1934; State Library of NSW



SEARCHING FOR MARGARET MURPHY

SAG member Lyn Stewart self-published *Searching for Margaret Murphy, from Tipperary to New South Wales – a Murphy family history* in 2019. Perry McIntyre reviewed the book in *Descent* March 2020 (Volume 50 Part 1), stating: "The family history is researched in detail and Lyn has pulled together a fascinating story for family members and historians in Australia and Ireland. I thoroughly recommend it to anyone with an interest in how to write an interesting and comprehensive family and local history."

Lyn has a limited number of copies available for sale at the discounted price of \$25 plus \$15 postage. If you would like to purchase a copy, please contact her directly at lynstewart@netspace.net.au

Deaths

The deaths of the following members and former members were notified to the Society between November 2022 and January 2023. We extend our sympathies to the family and friends of them all.

Patricia Clout
Mount Victoria
July 2022

Ina Farrer
Narellan
5 November 2022

Judith Hall
Northbridge
28 August 2022

Allen Hawke
Yarralumla
31 August 2022

In response to the news that Federal Government funding for Trove runs out in July 2023, SAG added our voice to petitions from the History and Arts sectors as well as countless individuals to encourage our members to sign the petition and write letters to their local MPs, Senators and Ministers. Our letter to The Hon Tony Burke MP follows:



Richmond Villa & Henty House
120 Kent Street, Millers Point NSW 2000
2/379 Kent Street, Sydney NSW 2000
W: www.sag.org.au E: info@sag.org.au
T: 02 9247 3953
ABN: 45 029 698 871 ACN 000 049 678
NSW Charitable Fundraising No. CFN/26276

The Hon Tony Burke MP

Minister for the Arts

PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

I write on behalf of the 3,600 members of the Society of Australian Genealogists, to express concerns regarding the funding of *Trove*.

The Society is alarmed regarding reports that the National Library of Australia will not have sufficient funding to maintain the current *Trove* service and requests strong consideration is given to securing adequate funding in the upcoming budget.

Trove represents the story of Australia, capturing the mosaic of our history through newspapers, images, music, letters, journals, and magazines, in a free and easily accessible format for us all.

As Australia's largest family history society, our members use *Trove* to support research on a daily basis. We find the stories of our ancestors via the joy of wedding announcements, the depictions of debutante ball gowns, the tragedy of funeral notices, the disgrace of criminal gazettes, and the determination of industrial actions. Our members also contribute to *Trove's* continued development, by correcting transcriptions and creating records lists.

In announcing Government's progress on the 'National Cultural Policy' in August 2022, you stated the policy would focus on the strength of institutions. Safeguarding adequate funding for the National Library of Australia to enable the continued delivery of *Trove* is a crucial step towards achieving this focus and will demonstrate the Government's commitment to the arts.

Trove needs secure and adequate funding to guarantee we don't lose access to Australian stories.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa Hubert", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Melissa Hubert
President
Society of Australian Genealogists



info@sag.org.au
[@SocAustGen](https://www.instagram.com/SocAustGen)
(02) 9247 3953
Family History Research Centre & Library: 2/379 Kent Street, Sydney, NSW 2000
Archives: 120 Kent Street/Richmond Villa, Millers Point, NSW 2000

EDUCATION@SAG



BY VANESSA CASSIN

By the time this edition of *Descent* reaches you, our education program will have been in full swing for around two months and I will have had the chance to welcome many of you back to the Society for another year of events – for those who I have not yet had the opportunity to greet in person, I hope you had a chance to gather with family and friends over the summer break (and pick up some new family stories to research). I look forward to seeing many of you at one of our sessions soon.

The theme for this issue of *Descent* is Ireland. Many of our members have connections to Ireland in their ancestry, or have been exposed to Irish cultural influences through events such as St Patrick's Day celebrations or Irish religious orders working in schools, hospitals and charitable endeavours. In 2022 we held a number of well-attended events incorporating aspects of Irish emigration and the Irish diaspora in Australia.

This year, the first of our four "In Search of..." virtual conferences will be held on 11 March. The theme of this conference is Ireland. We have put together a varied program with speakers from Australia and overseas and are looking forward to a great day of learning. As always, there will be live presentations on the day and a number of pre-recorded additional talks available to view at your leisure before and/or after the event.

Whilst our Irish themed conference reflects one of the more traditional areas of research for members of the Society, we are pushing ahead this year with our aim of diversifying the geographic/cultural diversity of the webinars and courses we offer. As a Society, we are well aware that Australia is a multicultural country and our members have ancestors from many different parts of our planet. As an organisation, we recognise that it is important to be able to assist all our members to discover their family stories, no matter which corner of the world their family called home.

Many of our members are descendants of post-World War II migrants and have ancestors from places such as Italy, Malta and Greece. The theme of another of our "In Search of" conferences (save the date: 10 June) this year will be Southern Europe and we look forward to hearing family stories connected with this theme. If you have an interesting story connected to Southern Europe, please start writing now and submit it for our June issue of *Descent*, or email me with a brief outline for a conference presentation you would like to propose.

I would be delighted to hear from any members who would be able to present a webinar, or are interested in helping establish, a research interest group on an area we don't currently cover. Our new USA and Canada Research Interest Group recently held their inaugural meeting, and we are very excited to see where the members' research will lead them this year. A reminder that any member is welcome to attend a research group meeting. Simply register via our website (sag.org.au) and join us online on the day. Each of our research groups has a page on our website where you can find out more about them and ask a question via a forum. You can access the group pages using this link:

sag.org.au/Research-and-Software-Groups

We are especially keen to hear from members who have experience researching Indigenous family histories. We have had several requests to establish a group to support members who are trying to uncover the stories of their First Nations ancestors. To have a successful group we need some

members who are actively involved in researching First Nations ancestry and are willing to provide some guidance to those just beginning this journey. If this is something you are interested in please email a short outline of your experience to education@sag.org.au

We look forward to hearing about your research challenges and breakthroughs throughout this year.

Wrap up of Wikitree 7 in 7 Challenge

In January this year, the Society was thrilled to be invited to partner with Wikitree for one of their 7 in 7 Challenges.

Wikitree (wikitree.com) is a free online community whose mission is "to grow an accurate single family tree that connects us all and is freely accessible to us all, forever." It was established in 2008, and as at 3 February 2023 their tree included 33,333,010 profiles (11,083,937 with DNA test connections) edited by 973,537 members from around the world.

Collaboration is the aim of Wikitree and in that spirit the site runs regular challenges its members can participate in, including connect-a-thons, source-a-thons and celebrity challenges. The 7 in 7 challenge involves a partner organisation nominating seven people whom the Wikitree community then spend seven days researching. Profiles are developed on Wikitree for each of the seven individuals and the community works to add as many connections within seven degrees over the ensuing week. These connections can radiate in any direction from the individual, including children, parents, siblings, spouses and families connected by marriage.

Within Wikitree, various projects have been formed to progress profiles from various geographic regions or ethnic groups. The SAG is very fortunate to have both leads of the Wikitree Australia Project, Veronica Williams and Gillian Thomas, as members. Veronica and Gillian, together with SAG former Archives Manager and now regular volunteer, Danielle Lautrec, were instrumental in advocating for the SAG to participate in the 7 in 7 Challenge.

The first step in our involvement was to nominate the seven individuals we wished to submit for the challenge. Our remit was to choose individuals who were important to the SAG in some sense, or whom we wanted to know more about in general. Veronica and Danielle developed an initial list which was predominantly focussed on people about whom we held significant material in our MIDAS collection. We also posted a request in our Facebook Discussion Group which generated some additional names. As a member society, we were particularly keen to have member input into our choice of subjects, so the lead group of Veronica, Danielle, Gillian and I decided to do a short member survey, despite having only two days left to submit our selected names to Wikitree! To our absolute delight, 199 members responded in the 24 hours the survey was open. Not only were we left with some very clear winners, but many worthy additional names were nominated. All of the names put forward can be viewed via the following link: wikitree.com/wiki/Category:Society_of_Australian_Genealogists%2C_2023_Challenge

On examination, four names stood out as clear choices from the voting process. In addition to those names, we selected a further

three to make up our list of seven names to submit to Wikitree. When selecting the individuals to be submitted for the challenge the team took a number of things into consideration, such as:

- the person's connection to the Society, e.g. volunteer or with a significant collection in our archives
- the extent of research already completed about the individual and their ancestors on Wikitree
- where the person was born/lived as we wanted to ensure a variety of Australian States were represented
- the country of origin of the person's ancestors, to allow scope for Wikitree members outside of Australia to share their expertise.

The seven individuals selected for the challenge were Adelaide Ironside, Hurbert Rumsey, James Bourn, Quong Tart, Jessie Hill, Oliver Heggie and Dora (Tiedmann) Wicks.

The challenge officially commenced at 4am AEDT 16 January and at least two of our dedicated members were up in the early hours, hard at work building connections. They were joined throughout that day and the following week by numerous other SAG members and Wikitree members from around the world.

On Wednesday 1 February, members of the SAG staff and team were invited to join a live broadcast where Wikitree volunteers revealed the results of everyone's hard work. The results were amazing and demonstrated beyond a doubt the benefits of collaborating with your family history research. You can view the full reveal broadcast on Youtube using this link:

youtube.com/live/Q6gTjBMFiv4

Overall, more than 65 Wikitreers made 14,597 edits to profiles connected to the seven primary individuals and 3,395 relatives were added to the focus people.

The line related to Dora (Tiedmann) Wicks had the most additions, with 569 profiles added to her family connections. Dora was chosen as she had First Nations of Australia ancestry, in addition to German and British, so this was very exciting. There were also some very interesting connections uncovered, revealing that some of our individuals were actually related to each other: James Bourn and Adelaide Ironside had shared connections through the Oke family, whilst James Bourn was also found to be connected by fourteen degrees to our own challenge leader, Veronica Williams.

A full summary of each of the seven people can be found here: wikitree.com/g2g/1529720/genealogy-australian-genealogists-challenge-highlights

Everyone involved in the challenge learnt a lot and had lots of fun throughout the week. So many worthy names were put forward for us to choose, that the Society intends to organise several community challenges this year to work on those profiles. We look forward to having many more SAG members join us for these challenges.

Since March 2020, over 300 people have attended SAG's two-hour session, *First Look at AncestryDNA*, and the four-module program, *Analysing your AncestryDNA results*. AncestryDNA is the main "direct to consumer" testing company with around 23 million testers in its database.

DNA is now essential evidence for family historians. "DNA doesn't lie," but we must invest time and effort to understand how to use it. In the sessions and programs, we demonstrate the power of genetic genealogy in family history research and how to work with your DNA matches and ethnicity estimates. You can read my recommended DNA testing strategy here:

mossiesmusings.blogspot.com/2020/08/dna-testing-strategy-for-australians.html

Who to test?

For those interested in taking a DNA test, "the rule of thumb" is to test the oldest generation. That's the best value for those scarce dollars. Too often I see parents and their children have tested, but I recommend the parents' siblings test rather than children. If only one parent tests, their children's tests can be used to research the ancestral lines of the other parent.

Assigning a manager to your AncestryDNA test

Making someone a manager is useful when the AncestryDNA tester is either uninterested or can't manage their test. The manager can do everything a test owner can do. A test owner can also invite someone to collaborate or view their AncestryDNA match list and ethnicity estimates. View instructions on sharing your AncestryDNA test here: support.ancestry.com/s/article/Sharing-AncestryDNA-Results?language=en_US

My cousins who test at AncestryDNA make me their manager so I can research our family stories. When I work with people looking for their birth parents, they give me collaborator access to their AncestryDNA test. If you are a manager, collaborator or viewer of another AncestryDNA test, you can access it under **View Another Test** on your DNA home page.

Linking more than one AncestryDNA test to a tree

Connecting your AncestryDNA test to a public or private, searchable tree can allow you to see how you're related to DNA matches using AncestryDNA's ThruLines and Common Ancestor features.

Owners, managers or collaborators of an AncestryDNA test can link it to a tree. An AncestryDNA test can only be linked to one tree at a time, **but** multiple tests can be linked to one tree. If you're managing tests for members of your family including your partner, it's much easier to work with one tree. You can read more at Ancestry's website:

support.ancestry.com/s/article/Linking-an-AncestryDNA-Test-to-a-Tree?language=en_US

'Anonymising' DNA test name

When taking a DNA test, your test name will appear on the match lists of thousands of 'DNA cousins' around the world. You should consider whether you want your known name or an 'anonymised' name to be shown. You can change the test name at AncestryDNA under Settings on your DNA home page.

You can also choose not to be listed as an AncestryDNA match, but this option prevents you from seeing your matches. Fortunately, the feature can be switched on and off, providing more control over your privacy. Read more about turning matches on or off: support.ancestry.com.au/s/article/Choosing-not-to-be-Listed-as-an-AncestryDNA-Match

Look at your AncestryDNA home page to check the name shown to matches and the person the test is linked to in public or private, searchable tree. You can read Ancestry's privacy philosophy via this link: ancestry.com.au/c/privacyphilosophy

ARCHIVES REPORT

BY ALEXANDRA MOUNTAIN PhD

When I was 18, I found a letter nestled in a sheaf of certificates and official forms. My sister was collecting legal documents from Patrick Mountain, our paternal grandfather, to apply for Irish citizenship. Patrick emigrated to Perth, Western Australia, in 1928 at the age of three from Waterford, Ireland, and died when I was seven.

The memories I have of my grandfather are painted with broad brush strokes: I remember that his hair was tightly wound in white curls, how his hands were big and swallowed mine when we walked to the corner shop, and the smell of wood and oil that permeated his shed out back where he would build beds for my dolls and let my brother and I crush fizzy drink cans with zero supervision.



Alex as a child, with her Grandfather.

My sister was always the one who wanted to know more about our family. She pestered our great uncle, the resident family historian, to tell her stories about what he had uncovered about our ancestors in Ireland and of his own recollections of our grandfather. She instigated the process for our Irish citizenship application, and she was the one who went through our grandmother's files to retrieve the needed documents. It wasn't something I had much interest in, to be honest. I was busy trying to find myself in the present, and couldn't find the energy to interrogate the past.

Seeing my grandfather's handwriting, however, shifted that for me. It was the first time in over a decade that he had suddenly, shockingly, seemed vibrant and real again. I didn't know that I remembered what his handwriting was like, but when I saw the letter, I knew he had written it: the loping swirls of pale blue ink were as familiar to me as my father's cramped and neat penmanship. I couldn't even tell you the content of the letter now, or where it's been placed, but the immediate familiarity and relief that came from seeing my grandfather's writing has stayed with me.

I think this is why I love reading the letters in our Archive so much. Letters are such an intimate and profound portrayal of our ancestors, and connect us so quickly to their thoughts and feelings, their manner and personality. My grandfather was proud of the way he wrote, so beautiful and formal, and you can tell he took care when he laid pen to paper. I wish now that I could remember what he wrote, as well as the way he wrote, as repeated sentences, literary quirks, and even misspellings can also reveal so much to us about our past family members.

The collection of letters we have in our Archive showcase family relationships and connections across decades and oceans in a sublime way. Take, for example, the letters of Harry Alington Creaghe, transcriptions of which were donated to the archive by his grandson, together with the transcription of a diary of Creaghe's wife, Emily Caroline Robinson. Creaghe would become a famous historical figure for his and his wife's involvement in the 1883 Exploration party with Ernest Favenc across North Queensland and the Northern Territory through to Darwin, while Emily wrote in her diary of the landscape they trekked through, observations of frontier life, and comments on the relations between the frontier colonists and First Australians.

As Harry Alington Creaghe's letters are transcriptions, the intimacy of reading handwriting is lost. But, in a way, the formal standardisation of the typescript make his individual idiosyncrasies and interpersonal humour more apparent. Harry Alington Creaghe migrated from Ireland to Australia at the age of 16 on the ship *Young Australia* and wrote to his parents about the daily happenings and his musings aboard the ship.

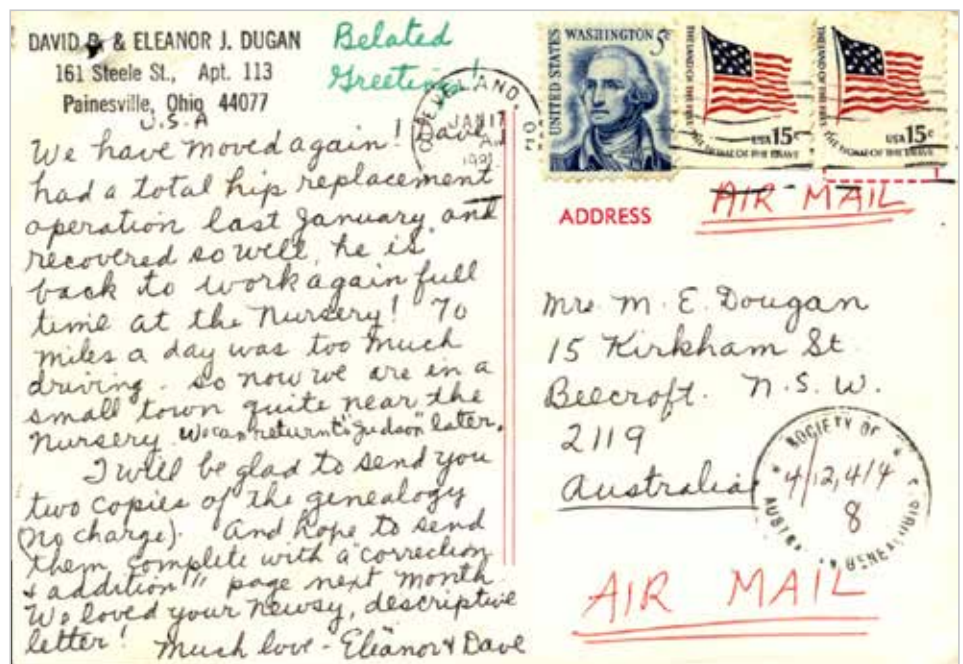
He starts his letter, dated 18 June 1865, with "My own darling Father and Mother," and this effusive warmth and love towards his parents is clear throughout the letter. He jokes with them as he tells them about his daily work, like any child would do to a parent who chides them on how they spend their time: "Now to give you an idea of what we do all day. You would naturally enough say 'Pooh! He has nothing to do' but my dear father and mother you would be wrong." Creaghe thinks about how his parents and sister would fare on the voyage, "I am sure you would be heartily sick of it before it was half over" and he worries that his letters won't reach them, "Am writing you this but I do not know whether it will ever reach you as ten chances to one we will not meet a ship". He sends his family all of his love and affection, clearly and without hesitation: "Hoping you are all quite well and with thousands of love to you all and that God may bless you all and keep you safe is ever the prayer of your fond son Harry A Creaghe."¹ The letters demonstrate a simple tenderness and fond regard, born from many years of knowing and caring about his parents.

Creaghe's words are a wonderful example of the joy of finding letters between ancestors: they offer evidence of a warm and familiar relationship between parents and son; they strengthen family ties and links; and they reveal the quirks of personality and mannerism of both Creaghe and his parents.

But more than just providing an intimate portrayal of familiar relationships, letters can also give a social history of the time and place in which they were written, offering an incredible source of context and understanding to larger social changes and trends. This is apparent when reading the letters donated to the Archive by Mary Dougan in 2008.

Mary's letters differ from the previous example, as hers are not of her ancestors, but contemporary ones received from relatives in the United States. Dougan had painstakingly curated a large number of familial pen pals from around the world, as Irish ancestors had disseminated across the globe, ending up in Australia, Canada, and the United States.

Dougan's letters therefore contain references to a variety of world happenings across their many pages. Eleanor Dugan,

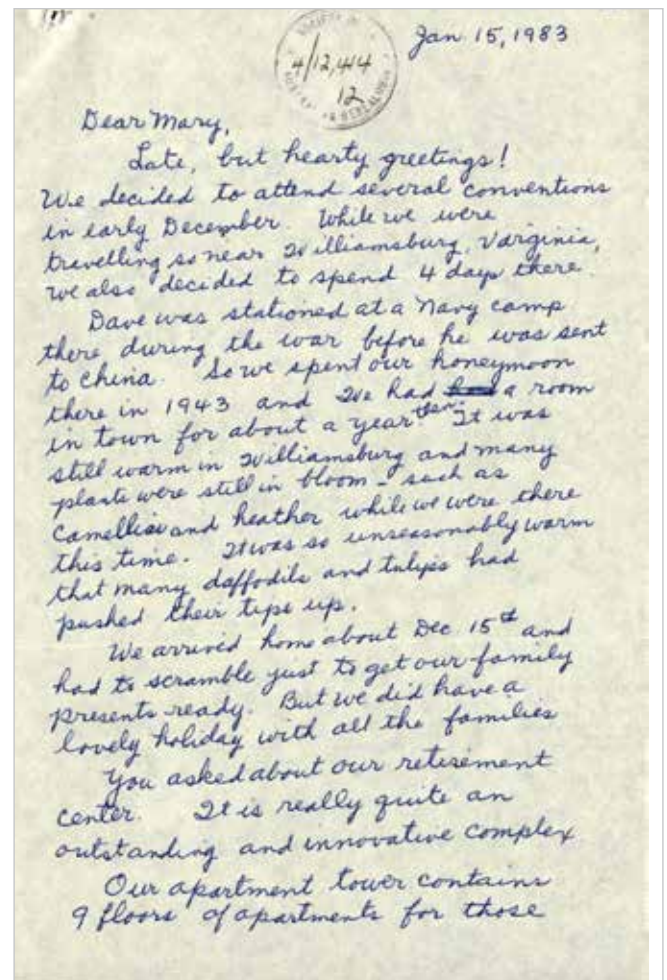


A postcard to Mary Dougan from Eleanor Dugan, SAG Archives.

a relative living in Ohio, writes in September of 1981 that she is “wondering how everyone survived the drought,” in suburban Beecroft, NSW, where Mary Dougan lives. Eleanor, when giving her own family updates, notes that “the farm is running smoothly, despite the economic problems of our country. We can thank our hard-working sons and nephew for that.” In a later letter, dated 15 June 1983, Eleanor notes that “The recession, of course, has slowed us all down and made us very careful of every penny.”² These tidbits of social commentary are sandwiched between life updates and family research revelations; these letters show the connections made across the Pacific, borne from family ties, but grown with genuine delight.

The last letter from the Dugans in Ohio is from Eleanor’s husband, Dave, responding to Mary. Dave reveals that Eleanor had passed away unexpectedly. It was Eleanor, who married into the Dugan family, who made these transpacific connections, Dave writes: “Eleanor is the one that did all the work to put our history to-gether. So from Her efforts [sic] it has made it possible [sic] for Us to know there is a Dugan in all corners of the earth.”³

Letters occupy a singular position for historians, offering both an incredible social history and a fascinating glimpse into the intimate and personal. Historian Sarah M. Pearsall writes in her book on families, letters, and transatlantic exchanges that “Letters are one of the best ways to reach families and their histories, but they are also an excellent way of reaching larger changes in societies and cultures. Their production, circulation, and reception allow us to witness families and individuals at various stages and various situations. The increased circulation of letters, and shifts in their forms and tones, provides a useful means of entry into larger cultural and social changes.”⁴



A letter to Mary Dougan, SAG Archive

1 Society of Australian Genealogists Archives, Accession 10566, Item 4/23874.

2 Society of Australian Genealogists Archives, Accession 6033, Item 4/12414

3 Ibid.

4 Sarah M. Pearsall, *Atlantic Families: Lives and Letters in the Later Eighteenth Century* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2008), 2.

DATABASE LAUNCH: THE RANDWICK ASYLUM FOR DESTITUTE CHILDREN

JAN WORTHINGTON
NZRN, DipFHS, FSAG

When the old Randwick Asylum cemetery ground was excavated in 1995 for an extension to Randwick Hospital, remains of some 174 children were uncovered. A previous dig in 1918 for hospital huts to accommodate returned WW1 soldiers had also found skeletal remains of children and these were supposed to have been removed to Randwick Cemetery.

For the first 10 years of the Asylum, children who died while in care were buried in the local church yard, according to their denomination, if it was known. Godden Mackay Logan Heritage Consultants and Archaeologists employed the author, Jan Worthington, to identify the remains of the 174 children buried in the Randwick Asylum cemetery between 1863 and 1891. No headstones remained, and 65 individuals were excavated; 216 pieces of bone were unearthed and 35 children were identified by name. The anthropological exploration of the cemetery was important for social and medical history, but it was equally important to name and re-inter these lost children.

After the remains had been identified, it was Jan's job to find living relatives for each child so they could be reinterred in a place of their choosing. Where a child could be identified, their death certificate was purchased from *New South Wales Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages*, and this group of certificates became a fascinating source of information in their own right as they reveal the result of childhood diseases, often connected to their poor health on admission, and doubtless exacerbated by the close living conditions within the Asylum and their general despondency at being parted from their family. Those children who died tended to be the only child in a family, or the youngest of a sibling group, and they had often been ill for some time. Unfortunately, not all the children who died in the Asylum had their deaths recorded.

Once the certificate was obtained, there was often very little identifying information recorded; it was rare to find parents' names, father's occupation, the child's place of birth or their length of time in the colony. Ages were inaccurate and the spelling of their names varied: Frederick Carley's death was registered as Curley; Sarah Ann Heckley as Hickley; Mary Hutton as Hixon; May Eliza Day as Mary Day Clarke and Alfred Heedle as Keedle. Nonetheless, where possible, a sibling(s) to the deceased child was located and their descendants traced through the public records of birth, death and marriage records, electoral rolls and so on, to the present day so their relatives could decide where their remains would be reinterred.

A memorial park and garden was created near the Barker Street entrance of Randwick Hospital in memory of the children who were buried there. The history of the Randwick Asylum is recorded on three bill boards and the names of the children whose remains Jan was able to identify are inscribed in bronze on the top of the coffin-like concrete memorials.

As a consequence of her exhaustive research, Jan created a database of all the children who attended the Ormond House and Randwick Asylum institutions between 1852 and 1916, initially with the assistance of Perry McIntyre. For well over ten years, she carried out research on as many individual children as she could, with the assistance of her company employees. Not all the indexed children have been researched, however, so the database remains incomplete.

The Historical Significance of Social Changes in New South Wales 1850-1870

During the mid-nineteenth century, the attitude of politicians to the social life of the population of New South Wales was one of *non-intervention*. They were reluctant to act in the less popular policy areas such as social security, working conditions and health, unless their disinterest resulted in dire consequences, e.g. an outbreak of disease. This did not change until the 1890s when social unrest gave rise to Workers Unions and social changes.

Government assisted immigration was also bringing in shiploads of families from the United Kingdom. While they generally arrived in good health and with a surgeon superintendent on board to address problems during the voyage, upon disembarking they were often left to use their own resources to find work and accommodation.

Deserted children frequently crammed the streets and alleyways of Sydney in the early 1850s. Many families had been abandoned by their fathers in the rush for gold which started in California, USA in 1848 and NSW in 1851.

Mothers and children were left behind and had no money. Other children had lost one or both parents, through mental and physical sickness, death, jail for prostitution, alcoholism, petty theft; and desertion. Women frequently died in childbirth and widowed working men were left to care for young children.

To address the need to remove children from the streets of Sydney, Government orphan schools were established. The *Female Orphan School* was established in 1801 by Governor King to house young destitute girls and the *Male Orphan School* was established in 1819 by Governor Macquarie to house destitute boys between 7-10 years of age. Both schools closed in 1850 and the Admission Books for each are held at the State Record Office of New South Wales. The *Protestant Orphan School* 1850-1886 amalgamated the Female and Male Orphan Schools, it was also government funded. The State Record Office of New South Wales on line Index (1817-1886) has 4400 entries.

Private charitable organisations such as The Benevolent Society, founded in May 1813 by Edward Smith Hall, Rev. William Cowper and five other like-minded gentlemen, aimed to fill the gap where government assistance fell short. By 1852, members of the Benevolent Society formed a separate organization, *The NSW Society for the Relief of Destitute Children*, and opened Ormond House (Juniper Hall) in Oxford Street, Paddington on 5 June of that year. Within two years the building was too small to accommodate the children in need.

Simeon Pearce, first Mayor of Randwick, and a member of the Society, secured a 60-acre grant of land in 1854 and fund raising began to build Randwick Asylum. The generous bequest of £11,000 from a murdered doctor, who was also a member of the Society, allowed construction to begin. The Edmund Blackett-designed Hawkesbury sandstone building on the corner of Avoca and High Streets, Randwick, was opened on 21 March



1858 and could accommodate 400 children. It too was soon overcrowded and an extension was built five years later in 1863 for another 400 children.

However, Randwick Asylum was not just about buildings: it was all about people, primarily those children who were permitted entry. Because of the large number of children living at the Asylum, there was also a large number of staff: 12 women attendants for the children under the supervision of sub-matrons and the Matron, the Supervisor as well as an accountant, teachers, general servants, cooks, labourers, gardeners and well diggers.

Daily Routine at Randwick Asylum

Randwick Asylum operated under what was known as the Barrack System because of its regimentation. Girls carried out domestic chores daily: making beds, laundry, cleaning and needlework, making all the clothes worn by the children, while boys worked on the 60-acre site which included a farm. Master tradesmen were employed to teach farming, engineering, tailoring, carpentry, shoemaking, growing cotton and raising silk worms. By 1857, about a hundred children were learning and practising the art of making and plaiting straw hats which were sold to the general public to improve the Asylum's finances. The boys also baked bread, attended the vegetable garden and milked the cows to supply enough food for the children and the staff. The Asylum was intended to be self-sufficient. While some schooling was given, it was not until 1877 that formal education was established in the institution, with teachers under the control of the Council of Education.

Saturday was a recreational day and the children went on picnics and swam down at the beach. They also did gymnastics. As religious instruction and ritual occupied a central place in the life of the Asylum, Sunday was a quiet day with the children attending church.

Relatives and friends were allowed to visit the children during the week, although they were always accompanied by a member of staff. 'Lady Visitors', a long list of the most prominent, often single and influential women in the Colony, also frequented the Asylum on a regular basis to check on the educative, moral progress of the children as well as their food, sleeping arrangements, amusements etc., and the general and domestic economy of the establishment. Some of the girls became their full-time companions.

Was your Relative Admitted to Randwick Asylum?

Possibly, if you are having difficulty tracing poorer families in this time period. Find out by checking the *Randwick Asylum Name Index* online at the State Record Office New South Wales¹ or by consulting the *Biographical Database of Australia*.² The latter is fairly complete, with detailed biographies from 1852 until about 1870, and then random after that. It has been annotated with the variation of spelling of names found while carrying out research on each individual child, which can vary from the State Records database.

You should also check the index online to *Sydney Benevolent Asylum Index to Admissions and Discharges 1857-1900*, created by Heather Garnsey and Martyn Killion.³ They provide a free

report which will show if a child was transferred to Randwick. Note that not all children admitted to the Benevolent Asylum were transferred across to Randwick Asylum as they had to be eligible; however, those children who did transfer have details regarding their admission and discharge in both sets of records.

Attachments to the Randwick Asylum Admission & Discharge Registers may include letters from parents, newspaper notices reporting accidents or deaths when they were apprenticed, as well as letters from the children themselves. Police Gazettes are worth checking for information about any parent who had been in trouble with the law. Once you have found the name of the child and their admission date, it's well worth checking the Colonial Secretary's Correspondence for additional information in the form of letters from clergymen, police, doctors, lawyers, and members of the public.

The Asylum Admission Registers

The Society was run by a Board of Directors and a House Committee and the rules for admission were: First priority for admission was given to children abandoned by their parents, or left without friends or protection. Second priority to children, the offspring of parents who, from their profligate habits, were unable to support them, and unfit to educate them, as proved before a Magistrate; and who would sign an agreement if required, giving their children over to the Society for as many years as the House Committee decided, according to the age of each child. Third priority was to children of whom the mother was of a dissolute and abandoned character, proved by conviction before a Magistrate. The children were to be kept in the Institution while the mother lived, on condition that the father paid an allowance for their support, the amount to be determined by the House Committee. No children of widows or widowers were to be admitted unless they came under the third rule.

So, where did the children come from? – from the Benevolent Asylum, their parents, relatives, police, local council aldermen; clergy and members of the public. Why were they sent there? Samuel Fisher, aged six, was admitted in June 1856 to Ormond House as his mother was dead and he had been deserted by his father who was at the Victorian gold fields. Four Hanna boys: John aged 12, James aged six, Noble aged four years, six months and William aged three, were admitted to the Benevolent Asylum in November 1866 and four days later they were transferred to Randwick Asylum. Their mother was in *Tarban Creek Lunatic Asylum* and their father was in custody in Darlinghurst Gaol, supposed to be of unsound mind. Charles Layman/Leayman was admitted to the Benevolent Asylum aged 18 months in November 1862 with his mother. A brother was born and died there the following year. His father was serving a sentence for bigamy and his mother was unable to support the children. When Charles was four years old, he was admitted to Randwick from the Benevolent Asylum, but he died eight months later from exhaustion and diarrhoea. Charles was one of the children identified in the burial ground. His father, Alexander Layman, a sail maker, left a lawful wife and two sons when he died in 1885 and their descendants were traced and contacted. They knew of their bigamist ancestor.

There was an age criteria for admission: no child younger than four years, or older than 10 years, except in cases of peculiar

emergency, were admitted. A physical description can be found in the early records, along with their religious denomination. The relationship between the children was recorded, although step children with different surnames on admission were not always recognised by the staff, according to the registers. For example: *Mary Day, admitted 24 June 1863, age six years, R.C.* Sister to Thomas and John on the preceding page, which stated that they were orphans from Kiandra and received from the Benevolent Asylum. *James William Frazier, with Wm underlined (the name he was later known by), aged seven, Prot.* He had been deserted by both parents and placed in the Benevolent Asylum by Dr Foulis five weeks earlier. *Mary Jane Fitzsimmons, nine years, Prot. Father dead. Mother is in Hyde Park Asylum.* The early records also indicate whether the child could read and write. Fees were paid by known parents able to do so: 4/6 - 5/- per week per child by a man in a job or on the goldfields, while a woman working to support herself paid 2/6 (25c) a week.

The Asylum Discharge Registers

These reveal who the child was discharged to and, if apprenticed at 13 years, where they were sent. Re-admissions and discharges were recorded if the placement was not suitable, although the reason was not always given and some children had several moves.

Sometimes a younger child was apprenticed to the same people and joined an older sibling who had been discharged earlier. The children were sent to mainly country areas such as the Blue Mountains, Morpeth, Maitland, Ballarat and Newcastle and also parts of Sydney. The children were apprenticed to subscribers of the Society, who in turn were required to pay an extra guinea on receiving one of the children. *Mary Day, aged 13 years, was apprenticed on 9 January 1873, to Mrs Draton of Redfern. William James Frasier, 13 years, was apprenticed on 24 August 1869, to Dr Mitchell, Glebe and M. Jane Fitzsimmons was apprenticed on 18 January 1867 to Mr Williams, Sydney Morning Herald, and was transferred to Mr Henry Todd of Redfern on 16 October 1867. The children went to tradesmen, businessman, farmers, clergyman, doctors, into domestic service, or learnt a skilled trade. A local clergyman checked out the suitability of the applicant and the local police were required to check on the general welfare of the apprentice once a year.*

The length of stay for a child varied considerably; some children were in and out of the Asylum in a very short period of time. They were claimed by their parents or other family members after proving they could provide for the child. Sometimes a parent would come and get one or two children, and then get the others sometime later. At other times, they claimed the younger children, but let the older children continue through to be apprenticed. Now and again, a group of boys absconded and were brought back to the Asylum. The *Boarding Out Scheme* was officially adopted in 1881 when the State Children's Board was set up to place children in family homes rather than institutions. However, the need for Randwick Asylum continued until 1913.

Randwick Asylum Case Study: Emily and William Cosgrove

Emily Cosgrove was a seven-year-old child with a dark complexion, hazel eyes and dark hair, who could not read or write when she was admitted on 10 June 1852 to Ormond House from the Benevolent Asylum. Her brother William was admitted the following day. They were Roman Catholic. Their mother was at Tarban Creek and they had been deserted by their father, who was described as a very dissolute character.

Mary Cosgrove, the mother of six children, had been recommended admission to the Benevolent Asylum by Dr O'Brien at Darlinghurst Gaol on 12 September 1851. She had been admitted to Darlinghurst Gaol because she had created

a great deal of noise and disturbance due to her delicate state of health. Her husband had deserted her, leaving her seriously depressed, destitute and the carer of their children, the youngest being twins aged six months. She had "suffered ill-usage" from her drunken husband. She was put on a ten-pound good behaviour bond for 12 months but could not afford it, so remained in custody.⁴ A month later, on 8 October 1851, the visiting surgeon, Arthur Savage, found Mary to be insane and recommended her removal to the lunatic asylum at Tarban Creek where "she would benefit from the treatment".⁵

On 22 October 1851, Emily and William's father William Cosgrove, a journeyman plasterer of Sydney earning 30/- a week, was to receive the four eldest children into his care and pay the Benevolent Asylum 4/- a week for the care of the twins.⁶

This was not the first time the Cosgrove family had been in trouble. Two years previously, on 28 September 1849, admission was requested for Harriett aged 10 years, Bella aged 8 and Emily aged six, to the Institution for Destitute Roman Catholic Children. William Cosgrove, their father, was in Darlinghurst Gaol, having been committed for trial for stealing a sofa. Mary Cosgrove, their mother, was in the greatest distress without means of support. She had five children, the youngest three months old, hence the admission to the Benevolent Asylum.⁷

After four and half years in Randwick Asylum, on 26 December 1856 (Boxing Day), Emily was removed with permission of the Board to Mr Finn, Postmaster and storekeeper at Hartley, on the recommendation of Archdeacon McEncroe. Six months later, on 25 July 1857 she was assistant to Mr Finn, and her indenture was signed. She was 12 years old. Emily E. Cosgrove married Joseph Kean at Redfern in 1889⁸ and they had one daughter, Myee Dolosa Kean, in 1890.⁹ Emily Kean died at Newtown in 1897¹⁰ when her daughter was seven years old. Myee Kean married Harold Windsor Hull at Paddington in 1913.¹¹

Four-year-old William Cosgrove was admitted to Randwick Asylum the day after Emily. He was described as having a fair complexion, blue eyes and brown hair on admission, and could neither read nor write. On 1 November 1862, William was 13 years old when he was discharged to the service of Judge Callaghan of Randwick. The indenture was cancelled and William was returned to the House Committee two months later on 22 January 1863, there being no complaints against the boy. No further records could easily be found regarding the fate of William Cosgrove.

Randwick Asylum Case Study: James William Frazier (William James Frazier)

Alias: Frasier, Frazer, Fraser, Fraiser

James William Frazier was admitted to Randwick Asylum on 25 June 1863, aged seven years. He was Protestant and had been deserted by both parents. James was received from the Benevolent Asylum, where he had been placed by Dr John Foulis on 18 March 1863.

Six years later, on 24 August 1869, aged 13 years, he was apprenticed to Mr Mitchell at Glebe. Just over two months later, William, still aged 13 years, was received back to Randwick Asylum from the service of Dr Mitchell on 2 November 1869. A couple of months later, on 28 January 1870, William Frazier aged 13 years left the Asylum again to be apprenticed to Dr Morris of New England.

The Fraser family oral history says that sometime after that, William James Fraser (sic) left Dr Morris and was adopted by the Bulmer family of New England. Edward Augustus Bullmore, formerly from Cornwall, UK, and Victoria, moved to New England and the Hunter Valley in the 1860s. He owned and

managed several properties in these areas, as did Dr Morris. William married Hannah Penn at Thargomindah, Queensland, on 30 March 1882. They purchased the hotel at Hungerford, a changeover stop for Cobb & Co coaches. After six months they moved to Tinnenburra Station, north of Hungerford. They had five children and continued to move frequently over the years until 1896, when the marriage broke up and Hannah returned to England. William continued to work in the bush until he died on 29 June 1926. He is buried in Cooyar Cemetery and is remembered by his family as a “gentleman”.¹²



Photo of the Fraser family, given to the author by a descendant of a Fraser Randwick orphan in 2015

This new Randwick Asylum for Destitute Children database prepared by Jan Worthington contains 5,805 entries and is available through the Biographical Database of Australia (bda-online.org.au) which can be searched for free in the SAG library or through the lookup service. While the Randwick Admission & Discharge Registers are available on Ancestry and State Records includes Randwick in its Child Care & Protection Index, this new database contains biographical details on many of the children and is well worth checking.

When using the BDA, enter the child’s name into the main search field – the resulting short report for Emily Cosgrove is shown in image 1.

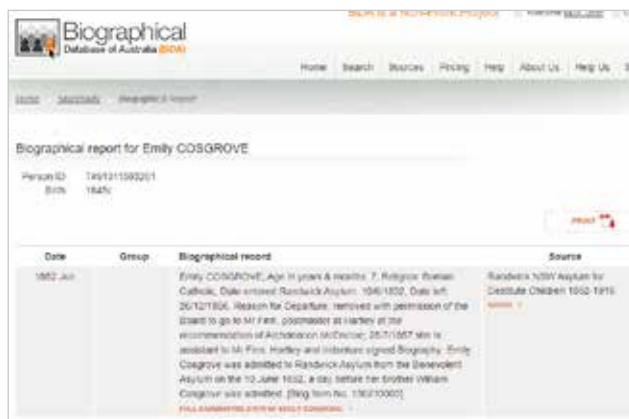


Image 1

Click on the ‘Full Biographic Item of Emily Cosgrove’ at the end of the record and her full report appears. The right-hand column of the short report lists the basic Source and when you click on ‘About’, a more detailed Source screen appears: see image 2. Click on the ‘Open Description for this Source’ and an information page will appear, giving details of the Asylum.

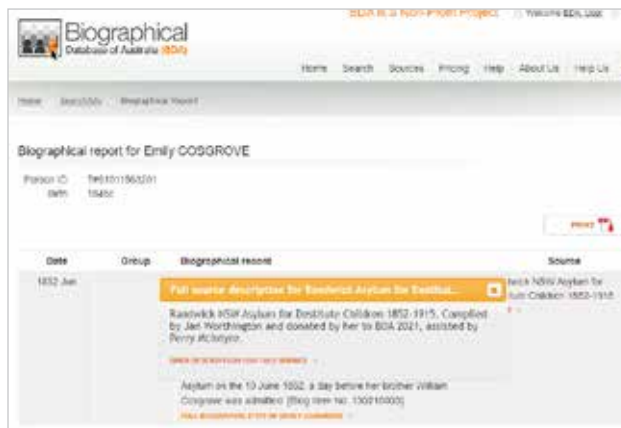


Image 2



A professional genealogist and family historian, Janet (Jan) Worthington is now retired from client work. Her 40-year career encompasses researching and writing historical non-fiction, family histories, biographies, memoirs and articles for publication; she is a specialist in probate genealogy, adoptions and locating missing

people, as well as an international speaker. Her professional accolades include: Association of Professional Genealogists Professional Achievement Award 2012. Independent Publisher Book Awards winning author 2012 and 2017 for European Historical Nonfiction. Society of Australian Genealogists Honorary Member 2013; Fellow of Society of Australian Genealogists 1994; Board member & Vice President 1984-2009; Chair of Certificate and Diploma Committee 2010-2018 and Chair of Computer User Group 1984-1997. SAG Convenor of 1st International Congress on Genealogy & Heraldry Sydney 1988. President of Worthington Family History Society 2004-2019.

- 1 mhsw.au/indexes/child-care-and-protection/child-care-and-protection-index/ This index combines Mittagong Farm home for Boys (1907-1921); Randwick Asylum for Destitute Children (1852-1915); Orphan schools records (1817-1886) and Industrial schools records (1867-1942).
- 2 www.bda-online.org.au/
- 3 sydneybenevolentasylum.com/index.php?page=search-index
- 4 Colonial Secretary Main series of letters received, 1826-1882: 1851 No. 8967 [4/2948] & No. 9820 [4/3016].
- 5 Col. Sec. 1851 No. 9820 [4/3016].
- 6 Col. Sec. 1851 No. 10162 attached to No. 11575 [4/3020].
- 7 Col. Sec. 1849 No. 9386 [4/2863.3].
- 8 New South Wales Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages: Marriage of Joseph Kean and Emily E Cosgrove (1889/3116).
- 9 NSW BDM: Birth of Myee Dolosa Kean (1890/3482).
- 10 NSW BDM: Death of Emily Kean (1897/5628).
- 11 NSW BDM: Marriage of Harold Windsor Hull and Myee Kean (1913/10744).
- 12 This information was given to me by a descendant, Ken Fraser, son of William Ambrose Fraser.

LIBRARY NEWS

BY PHILIPPA GARNSEY
WITH ASSISTANCE FROM HILARY WALKER

Ireland in the Library

Many of our early ancestors, who arrived in Australia, are of Irish descent and the number of books, pamphlets, microfilms and maps, held in the library reflect the need, for those of Irish descent, to be able to trace these ancestors.

Often the origins of our Irish ancestors are difficult to trace as convict and shipping records did not record their exact place of birth. Similarly, Australian birth, marriage and death certificates frequently just recorded the place of the event as Ireland. Newspaper obituaries, headstones and even gaol description and entrance books, however, can sometimes provide a more specific location in Ireland for your ancestor.

There are so many resources on Ireland and the Irish in the library that only a few examples can be given under each of the headings below. Explore the library catalogue at home and decide what items may help you with your research prior to visiting the library.

Two comprehensive guides which contains valuable information on tracing your Irish Ancestor include:

📖 *Tracing your Irish Ancestors*, John Grenham, 2019, S2/10/7. The 5th edition of this book has been expanded, updated and indexed to make it easier to use than ever before. The book helps you identify where to start if you're a beginner and to how to access and understand registry office records, census records, church and property records, and county-by-county source lists.

📖 *Irish Record: Sources for family and local history*, James G Ryan, 1997, S2/10/5. Although this book has not been recently updated, it remains



Dr Tully's House after Eviction. An eviction on the land of the Marquis of Clanricarde at Woodford, Co Galway, 1 September 1888. (NLI, LROY 02482)

useful in providing information specific to each county on the availability of census and census substitutes, directories, gravestone inscriptions, wills and other miscellaneous areas.

Firstly, it is important to identify which town or townland your ancestor came from. The most comprehensive book to help you do this is the *General alphabetical index to the townlands and towns, parishes and baronies of Ireland: based on the census of Ireland 1851*. S8/40/1851.

The townland is the foundation of land division in Ireland, so is the starting point for many searches. This book includes a list of the townlands and towns, their size in acres, along with their names of the associated civil parishes, baronies, Poor Law Unions and Counties based on the data available at the time from 1851 census returns and statistics extracted from the returns.

📖 *A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland, Vols 1 and 2*, 1837, Samuel Lewis, S8/40/1 (a), (b).
Summary: These two volumes list towns and parishes in addition to providing a short history of each town, employment in the town and information on the parish church.

Maps

If you are able to locate the townland of your ancestor(s), there are numerous maps in our Library to further aid your research - the Irish maps are located on the stand in the south east corner of the library. The following books may also prove useful:


📖 *A New Genealogical Atlas of Ireland*, compiled by Brian Mitchell, 2002 S8/42/4
This book contains maps of both civil and Catholic parishes and is useful for identifying counties, parishes and Poor Law Unions.

📖 *The antiquities of County Clare: letters containing information relative to the antiquities of the County Clare collected during the progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1839*, John O'Donovan, Eugene Curry, edited and indexed by Maureen Comber. S4.3/20/2. The library holds three of these books which relate to Wicklow, Westmeath and Clare. For anyone researching ancestors in Co Clare this book is essential reading.

📖 *Atlas of the Great Irish Famine 1845-1852*, edit J Crowley, W J Smyth and M Murphy, S8/42/11.
Over a million people perished between 1845-1852, and well over a million others fled to Europe, Australia and America. This book provides comprehensive information on the number of people who died, where they were buried and includes over 150 original maps showing the decline of the population.



Northern Ireland



 *Ordnance survey – memoirs of Ireland, Vols 1 to 40*, edit Angelique Day and Patrick McWilliams, S3/1/1a to S3/1/1zn. The Ordnance Survey Memoirs of Ireland document the landscape, buildings, land-holdings, employment and livelihood of the population of the northern part of Ireland immediately before the Great Famine. Surnames of the families in the area are included as are the names of those who emigrated, from the area, in 1836 and 1837. These forty volumes are essential for members researching their northern Irish ancestors.



Hand-loom linen weavers and village children, Ahoghill, Co Antrim, (*Journal of Irish Textile*, 15 September 1888).

Census and census substitutes

The library holds a number of books relating to Irish census records. Although the 1901 census is the first surviving census to cover the whole of Ireland, censuses were conducted from 1821 and fragments of these have survived:

-  *Crosserlough, Co Cavan, 1821 census*, compiled by Marie Keogh, 2000. S7.2/30/1821a. Over 8,000 people, with their ages, addresses and occupations from over 70 townlands in the Parish of Crosserlough (also known as Kildrumfertan), County Cavan are listed in this book.
-  *Census of Co Clare, Ireland 1901*, compiled by the Society of Australian Genealogists, CD 2008, S7.3/30/CD.1901. This CD contains a searchable database of over 112,000 individuals listed in the 1901 census of County Clare, Ireland. Clare was one of the main counties from which so

No. 24 Townland of Carn in the Parish of Castlerahan		Barony of Castlerahan and County of Cavan	
NAME OF TENANT	AGE	NUMBER OF ACRES	NUMBER OF ACRES FARMED
John Griffin	57	17	17
John Griffin	17	17	17
John Griffin	53	17	17
John Griffin	57	17	17
John Griffin	27	17	17
John Griffin	4	17	17
John Griffin	3	17	17

1821 census for the townland of Carn, Parish of Castlerahan, Co Cavan. The image shows the author's fourth great grandparents, Anthony and Jane Griffin, their ages, their children and grandchild and the number of acres farmed. (Ref: The National Archives of Ireland).


many people emigrated to Australia, and the 1901 census is the earliest surviving census of the county.

The library also holds books and CDs containing information on the 1901 and 1911 census.

Other census substitutes can be located on the computers in the library within the Electronic Resources section and include *Old Age Pension Claim Forms, 1841/1851, S7/30/CD.1* and *Irish Transportation Records, S7/40/CD.1*.



Church records

The majority of the Irish church records held in the library belong to the Church of Ireland but there are a small number of Presbyterian, Catholic, Huguenot and Society of Friends records. The following book is useful in finding the location of records of each church.

-  *Irish Church Records* edited by James G Ryan, Dublin 2001, S2/10/10. This book details the records of each of the eight major Irish denominations and their value for family history, church, and local history. The locations of the records of each church, and guidelines for their access, are provided, however, as the book was compiled over 20 years ago, access details will have changed.

Gravestone Inscriptions

The following books may be useful in identifying the location of graveyards:

-  *Directory of graveyards in the Dublin area: an index and guide to burial records* (2nd edition), S2.6/1/10. The directory is arranged in alphabetical order with the main entry listed under the popular name of the graveyard. It includes information on the person, or organisation, responsible for the graveyard, the period of use, and the location of the burial/death records.
-  *A record of seven graveyards in the parish of Castlegar, Co Galway*, Galway Family History Society, S7.7/11/3. The parish of Castlegar lies approximately three miles east of Galway City. There are eight graveyards in the old parish: Tirellan, Menlo, Carrowbrowne, Castlegar, Killeen, Ballybrit, St James' Mervue and Roscam. Records included in this publication relate to Ballybrit/Lisheen, Carrowbrowne, Castlegar, Killeen, Menlo, Roscam/The Moor and Tirellan. The inscriptions have been recorded in full, marked on a location plan and indexed.

To search the library catalogue, visit the SAG website (sag.org.au) and click on the Search our Collections button in the top left-hand corner. Our library volunteers are experienced in searching the catalogue and are always happy to assist you in your search.

LIBRARY UPDATE

This is a selection of books, pamphlets and other format items accessioned from December 2022 to February 2023.

The information provided is the title of the record, library classification number, format and donor's name.

All items are at 2/379 Kent Street unless otherwise noted. Consult the Library Catalogue on the Society's website sag.org.au for full details of the items on this list.

AUSTRALIA

Bounty immigrants to Tasmania: Elizabeth Oliver and Osborne Allen (2022) Joan Crawley. A6/OLI/Pam.2 (Pamphlet) Donated by Joan Crawley

The Singleton, Campbell, Dines and Blaxland families of the Hunter Valley New South Wales (2022) Carolyn Williams. A6/SIN/Pam.6 (Pamphlet) Donated by Carolyn Williams

From humble beginnings: commemorating 200 years of Catholic education in Australia (2021) Dr Mark Askew. A3/92/45 (Book)

The Music Never Stopped: A Memoir of Music, Theatres and University Life (2022) Donald Munro. A6/MUN/12 (Book) Donated by Jacquelyn Munro

Back to Gilgandra Week celebrations: 15th May to 22nd May 1976 (1976) B4.827/1/Pam.2 (Pamphlet) Donated by Sally Reynolds

The Halloran saga: a brief history of the Halloran family of Wagga Wagga 1838 to 2000 (2000) Marie Bennett et al A6/ HAL/16 (Book)

The Hebers of the Hunter (1998) Dorothy W. Heber. A6/HEB/2 (Book)

Orchfield: the Grose family of Newcastle (1995) Dorothy W. Heber. A6/GRO/9 (Book)

Greta: the town and it's people, 150 years (1993) Val Randall. B4.334/1/1 (Book)

Bimbi and District Anzacs: 'Cobber, remember to tell our story' (2016) Bruce Robinson, Margaret Nowlan-Jones. B4.810/71/1 (Book)

Pubs, publicans & people: a catalogue of hotels in the history of Harden Shire (2022) Robyn Atherton. B8/12/2 (Book) Donated by Robyn Atherton

History & hearsay: Some family folklore (1986) Raymond Bradfield. A6.BRA.Pam.1 (Pamphlet)

Leddin Reunion: Albury, January 86 (2020) Jilda Whiddon. A6/LED/Pam.2 (Pamphlet) Donated by Jilda Whiddon

Lives in letters: the barnclouth letters of William Alfred Cribb and his family (2022) Patsy Jones. A6/CRI/5 (Book) Donated by Patricia Jones

Miss Harp: from whence I came (2022) Hafey Noelene. A6/HAF/2 (Book)

Recollections of Launceston 1836-1847: from memory (2003) George Fuller. D7/40/3 (Book) Donated by Sally Reynolds

Scattering seeds of faith: a history of St Patrick's parish Rockley 1870-2020 (2022) Compiled by Father Paul Devitt. B4.795/92/Pam.2 (Pamphlet)

The Prestons Brookhouse to Boorowa and Beyond: Thomas and Mary (Hughes) Preston. A story of three generations (2022) Catherine Tisdell. A6/PRE/6 (Book) Donated by Catherine Tisdell

The stained glass windows of St Patrick's church Rockley: and the stories of the donors (2022) B4.795/92/Pam.3 (Pamphlet)

Bargo: two hundred years in the making (2022) Marjo Hollowell. B4.751/1/3 (Book) Donated by Marjo Hollowell

ENGLAND

Medieval local records: a reading aid (1971) K. C. Newton. N4.13/2/Pam.3 (Pamphlet)

The forced loan and men fit to serve as soldiers, 1523 (2021) C.R. Elrington. N4.14/71/1 (Book)

A companion to the British Army, 1660-1983 (1993) David Ascoli. M3/71/27 (Book) Donated by Carol Gall

IRELAND

Corpus genealogiarum Hiberniae (1990) M. A. O'Brien. S7/1/13a-g (Book) Donated by Ms Fitzgerald

Corpus genealogiarum Hiberniae (1976) M. A. O'Brien. S5/30/6a (Book) Donated by Ms Fitzgerald

Corpus genealogiarum sanctorum Hiberniae (1985) Pdraig O Riain. S5/30/7 (Book) Donated by Ms Fitzgerald

The annals of Inisfallen (1988) Sean MacAirt. S5/3/2 (Book) Donated by Ms Fitzgerald

The Annals of Ulster (to A.D. 1131) (1983) Sean Mac Airt and Gearoid Mac Niocaill. S5/3/1 (Book) Donated by Ms Fitzgerald

USA

Miami's Brickell Avenue neighborhood (2020) Paul S. George & Casey Picket. U4.14/20/1 (Book)

ASIA

Southeast Asia: an introductory history (1997) Milton Osborne. W3/1/18 (Book) Donated by Carol Gall

Felice Beato: a photographer on the Eastern road (2010) Anne Lacoste. W3/1/19 (Book) Donated by Carol Gall

Lucknow, then and now (2003) Rosie Llewellyn-Jones with photographs by Ravi Kapoor. W3/48/1 (Book) Donated by Carol Gall

The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway: Illustrated guide for tourists. Fred Ahrlé. W3/13/Pam.1 (Pamphlet) Donated by Philippa Garnsey

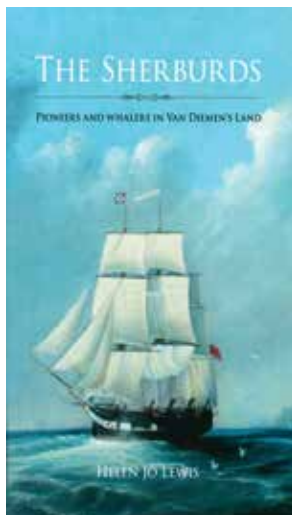
Warren Hastings and British India (1961) Penderel Moon. M6/HAS/1 (Book) Donated by Carol Gall

Helen Jo Lewis, *The Sherburds: Pioneers and whalers in Van Diemen's Land*. Published by Helen Jo Lewis, 2021

SAG ref: A6/SHE/13; 182 pages

Book review by Christine Sanderson

This book is a little gem. It is a lovingly rendered story of the Sherburds meticulously researched with the quality of the text enhanced by the attractive palette of colours used for the many photographs, illustrations, maps and documents. It is clear that a great deal of attention has been paid to the presentation of this eye-catching and colourful book.



The author, Helen Jo Lewis, is a seventh-generation, Australian born descendant of convicts William and Esther Sherburd who were pioneer settlers. They and their family had all the characteristics of pioneers, being able to endure the harshest of conditions that came with poverty and incarceration, the notorious Second Fleet, and all the privations which were endured as they established a life for themselves in the colony.

The book spans the early lives of William Sherburd and his wife Esther Thornton, their trials at the Old Bailey, along with their friend Thomas Ransom. It follows their transportation, marriage

and settlement at Norfolk Island where their children were born between 1791 and 1807, and then their evacuation to Van Diemen's Land when the settlement was abandoned.

True pioneers that they were, they settled in to their new home, and were granted land which they successfully cultivated until Williams' death in 1822 and Esther's in 1826, when it was passed on to other members of the family. It is a worthwhile exercise to explore the land grants and their locations at Crayfish Point and Blackmans Bay, and particularly to view the survey chart of south-east Van Diemen's Land, and enjoy some contemporary images.

The final chapters of the book provide biographical details of the descendants illustrated with some remarkable photographs, particularly the wedding photos as well as the striking images of Captain John Sherburd. The men and women of this family each have a story to tell, from sons John and William Sherburd, and their involvement with the whaling industry to grandson William Henry, the last Sherburd to inherit all the family land grants at Blackmans Bay.

Pioneers have a special place in the Australian imagination, and what is most valuable about this book is that it shows the unbroken connection between the arrival of the first generation and the existence of the current ones. It is a provenance that all those who have convict ancestors and have been tracing their origins may aspire to but may not be able to successfully make the connection. The records and evidence in this case speak for themselves, and it is the talent of the author that she has brought her family to life in such an extraordinary way.

RESEARCH RAMBLINGS

BY MARGARET NEYLE
AND GEMMA BESWICK

The Manurewa
Supplied by Margaret Neyle

... May her sails soon come in sight ...

The barque *Manurewa* departed Sydney for Clarence River, Grafton, New South Wales on 31 March 1922. She was sighted off Camden Haven on 10 April the same year, near Port Macquarie and was then never seen again. The *Manurewa* and her crew of fourteen just disappeared.

The crew was a mixture of nationalities. The Captain R. G. Holmes, like the ship, was a New Zealander. In the crew there was a Scot from Glasgow, a seaman from Norway, one from Chile, another from Coventry, England, several Maori crew and three young boys from Watsons Bay in Sydney. One young boy was the Macquarie Lighthouse keeper's son.

No message was ever received that the vessel was in trouble.

In September 1922, the Superintendent of Navigation declared, "after carefully considering all the evidence taken at the inquiry... he cannot assign any reason for the disappearance. She must be considered lost with all hands."

Some sightings of an upturned hull 200 miles south of Raoul Island (Sunday Island) of the Kermadec Islands were reported in October 1922 and it was "presumed were the hull of the *Manurewa*". No wreckage was positively identified.

Margaret Neyle has donated the photo displayed here to the Society's Archives Collection for the benefit of other family historians. On the back of the photo is the following description:

"A sailing ship in the Clarence River. One of the many that carried timber-piles for wharves – telephone poles and railway sleepers from Grafton to New Zealand. Those I remember are the *Manurewa*, *White Pine*, *Abemema*, *Wangai*. We had lots of fun on these, climbing all over them and diving off them. They came till about 1922. This is the '*Manurewa*'."

Maybe you know something more about the *Manurewa*?



Selected references for further reading:

1922 'The Manurewa.', *The Richmond River Herald and Northern Districts Advertiser (NSW : 1886-1942)*, 12 May, p. 1., nla.gov.au/nla.news-article126119871

1922 'BARQUE MANUREWA LOST.', *The Australasian (Melbourne, Vic. : 1864-1946)*, 16 September, p. 28., nla.gov.au/nla.news-article140785246

1922 'TELEGRAPHIC', *Adelong and Tumut Express and Tumbarumba Post (NSW : 1900-1925)*, 13 October, p. 3., nla.gov.au/nla.news-article115931806

1922 'MISSING VESSELS.', *Daily Commercial News and Shipping List (Sydney, NSW : 1891-1954)*, 9 December, p. 4., nla.gov.au/nla.news-article159694827

1923 'THE KOOMBANA.', *Advocate (Burnie, Tas. : 1890 - 1954)*, 14 July, p. 14., nla.gov.au/nla.news-article66778781

1923 'Oversea Freights.', *Daily Commercial News and Shipping List (Sydney, NSW : 1891-1954)*, 14 February, p. 4. (Weekly Summary.), nla.gov.au/nla.news-article160043324

ABOUT US



Society of Australian Genealogists

ACN 000 049 678

Richmond Villa
120 Kent Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000
(02) 9247 3953
sag.org.au

Family History Research Centre & Library

Level 2/379 Kent Street, Sydney
Tuesday, Thursday and 1st & 3rd Saturday of the month
10.00am–4.00pm
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

Chief Executive Officer

Ruth Graham
ceo@sag.org.au

Library Services Manager

Gemma Beswick
bookshop@sag.org.au

Collections – Library

Karlie Frelingos
librarian@sag.org.au

Collections – Manuscripts and Images

Alexandra Mountain, PhD
archives@sag.org.au

Education Manager

Vanessa Cassin
education@sag.org.au

Membership Officer

Danielle Tebb, PhD, BA(Hons)
membership@sag.org.au

Administrative Assistant

Jessica Page
adminofficer@sag.org.au

Voluntary Research Officers

Sue Comrie-Thomson (Fellow)
Judy Meyer
research@sag.org.au



[facebook.com/SocAustGen/](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

Directors

Kerry Farmer, B.Sc., BA

Helen Hickson, PhD

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

Diane Snowden, AM, PhD, BA (Hons), DipEd, DipFHS,
MAAGRA

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



CREMORNE1.COM

Self-Publishing

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



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

ADVERTISE HERE

If you are interested in advertising with us, please contact the Editorial team via email 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.

Geographical Miles: 60 100 200 300 400 500

English Miles: 69 One Degree

www.findmypast.co.uk