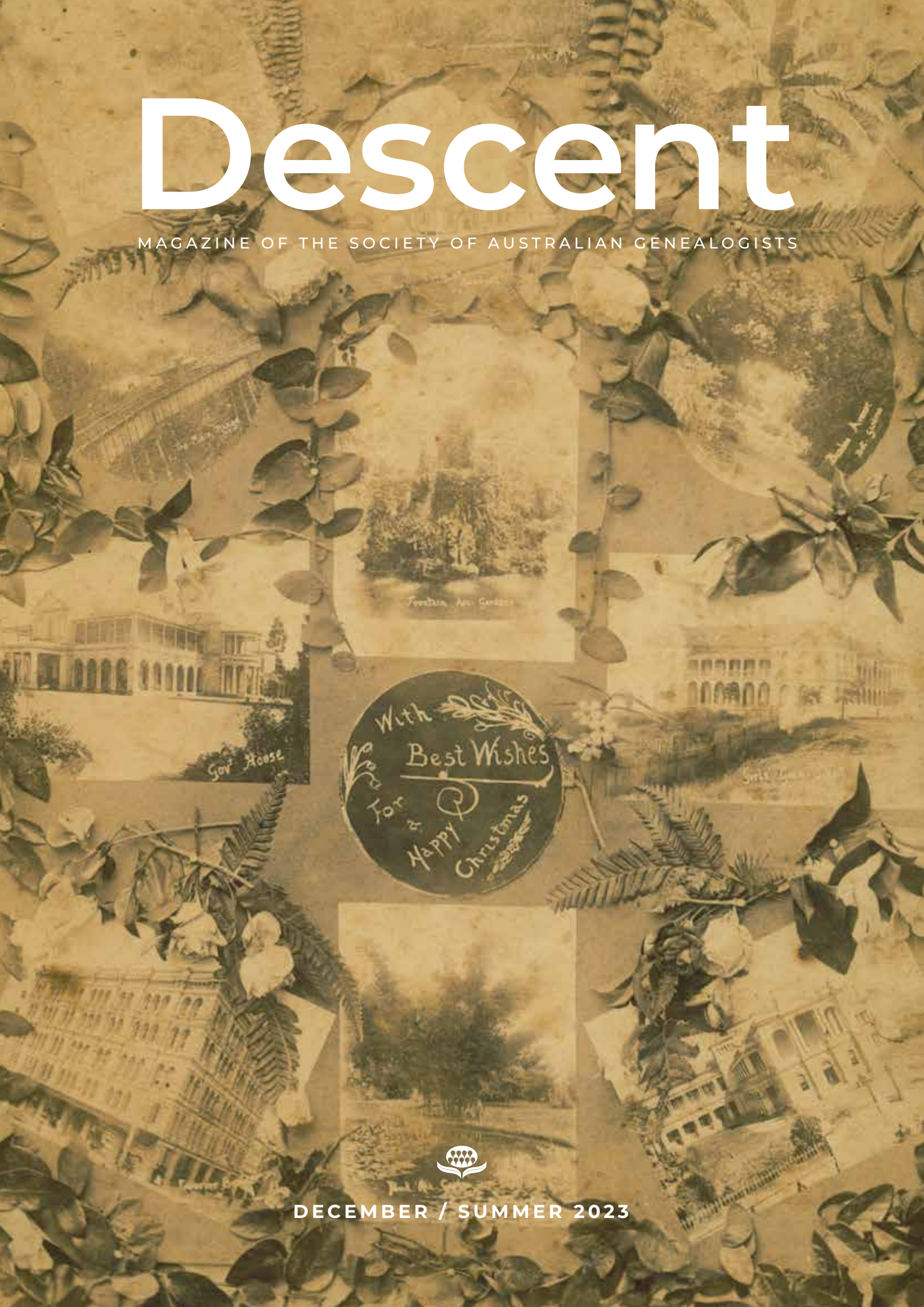


Descent

MAGAZINE OF THE SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIAN GENEALOGISTS



DECEMBER / SUMMER 2023

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Views of Brisbane Qld on a Christmas greeting.
Rare early example of a Christmas card circa 1890. MIDAS 06/000212.

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.

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President's Message

MELISSA HULBERT

I hope this message finds you in good health and high spirits as we approach the festive season. As we reflect on the year gone by, it brings me immense pleasure to share some significant milestones and initiatives that have shaped our Society in 2023.

In Search of ... DNA Connections Conference: A Resounding Success

The recently concluded "In Search of ... DNA Connections" conference stands out as a testament to the vibrant spirit and dedication of our genealogical community. The conference — which brought together enthusiasts, researchers, and experts from diverse locations — explored the intricate web of DNA connections that bind us all. The insightful presentations, engaging discussions, and collaborative spirit that permeated the event underscored the importance of embracing genetic genealogy in our quest for understanding our ancestral roots.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the conference presenters and to all participants for making this event a resounding success. The knowledge shared and connections forged during the conference will undoubtedly reverberate through our community for years to come. The Society's revitalised Genetic Genealogy Group, now under the leadership of Chris Hingerty, was also vital as a sounding board for ideas, suggestions, and contributions to our panel discussions.

Acknowledging the Remarkable Work of Group Leads

Our Society thrives on the passion and commitment of its dedicated group leads. In 2023, their efforts have been nothing short of exceptional. Each group, whether focused on regional genealogy or technology, has contributed significantly to the shared knowledge and sense of camaraderie within our community.

Progress of the Genealogical Ethics & Standards Group

One of the Society's critical endeavours in 2023 has been the establishment of the Genealogical Ethics & Standards Group. This group has been diligently working on drafting a comprehensive code of conduct that will guide our members in ethical genealogical practices and working together as a community. As we navigate the intricate landscape of genetic genealogy, it becomes imperative to set standards that ensure responsible research and respectful collaboration.

I commend the members of the Genealogical Ethics & Standards Group for their thoughtful and thorough approach in developing this code of conduct. Their commitment to upholding the integrity of our field is commendable, and I eagerly anticipate the finalisation of the code, which will serve as a support tool for members. One of the aspects of the code has been around **presenting information about living people**. We have witnessed that our *Friday Hang Outs with the SAG* are a great way for us to share how we research and our latest finds in our quest to uncover all there is to know about our families. It is important that consent has been given when presenting genealogical or genetic information of living people, other than that *which is already publicly available*.

In addition to the code of conduct, the group is also exploring ways to support genetic genealogy research standards. As the field continues to evolve, it is crucial that we adapt and refine our practices to meet the highest standards of accuracy

and ethical conduct. The Society of Australian Genealogists is committed to being at the forefront of these advancements and supporting our members in their pursuit of excellence.

Supporting Society Faculty & Presenters

Our Society takes pride in the wealth of knowledge and expertise of its staff and members. Our faculty and presenters play a vital role in disseminating genealogical insights and methodologies. In 2024, we will be actively working to provide increased support and resources to them, ensuring they have the tools and platforms necessary to share their expertise effectively.

By investing in our faculty, we not only enhance the educational opportunities for our members but also contribute to the overall growth and vibrancy of the genealogical community in Australia. We are always on the lookout for new faculty and course proposals from our members. If you would like to propose a short or long form course, please get in contact with our Education Manager, Vanessa Cassin.

Vale Rosemary McKenzie

In October, we received the sad news of the passing of Rosemary McKenzie, President of the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations (AFFHO) and President of Family History ACT. Rosemary contributed so much to family history and helping others research their own family stories and will be greatly missed. Our condolences go out to her family.

End-of-year financial donations

The Society of Australian Genealogists has thrived because of the unwavering support and dedication of its members, and as 2023 draws to a close, we look towards the future with enthusiasm and ambitious plans as we go into a further period of strategic planning in 2024. Our end-of-year financial appeal is a crucial initiative that enables us to continue our mission of fostering excellence in genealogical research, education, and ethical standards. Your generous contributions play a pivotal role in sustaining the diverse programs, conferences, and resources that make our society a vibrant hub for genealogists across Australia.

By donating to our end-of-year appeal, you directly contribute to the growth and enrichment of our community. Your support empowers us to expand educational opportunities, enhance research standards, and provide valuable resources for genealogists at every level.

Festive Greetings and Best Wishes

As we approach the festive season, I would like to extend warm wishes to our staff and each member of the Society of Australian Genealogists and their families. As we gather to celebrate, let us also reflect on the rich tapestry of our shared history and the incredible journey of discovery that genealogy continues to unfold for us all.

In closing, I express my deepest gratitude for your unwavering support and enthusiasm throughout the year. Together, we will continue to discover and record the story of our heritage and pave the way for future generations of genealogists.

Wishing you all a joyful festive season and a prosperous New Year.



Editor's Letter

DANIELLE TEBB

Welcome to our December issue of *Descent*, themed around the topic of DNA Connections, supporting our one-day conference held at the end of November.

We will all be in the midst of Christmas festivities by the time this issue reaches you, so on behalf of all SAG staff, I would like to wish all our volunteers and members a very Merry Christmas and a New Year full of family history learning and research breakthroughs. I think I can also say on behalf of the staff that we are looking forward to a well-earned break from a year filled with challenges both large and small, before returning to the office and Library to face whatever 2024 throws at us and to see the fruits from some of the plans we have already implemented.

The last few months of the year have seen us host a number of face-to-face events, particularly the Writers Group 10th anniversary morning tea, and the launch of the Women of Colonial Australia three-volume set. While there's an article on the former in this issue, you'll have to wait for the March issue to learn about the latter.

I'm pleased to have received a couple of letters to the editor, which you can find below. Future letters will be published on an ad hoc basis as they are received, but I would also encourage informal feedback and suggestions on the future directions of the magazine. Comments may be sent to editor@sag.org.au or membership@sag.org.au

Letters to the Editor

Editorial Team

Hi there, I am a long-term member, #2405, and just recently got back to reconstructing my family tree and starting on my husband's family (all my original charts, records, the family bible etc., got destroyed in the 2003 bushfires).

I have been catching up on reading all the last few years' copies of *Descent* that I had put to one side for "later". I am up to September 2022, and was astonished and absolutely delighted to see my name in print in your list of members who have been with you for over 45 years.

It meant a great deal to see that acknowledgement — a small thing I know, but I am so pleased, and would like to thank you for taking that trouble. My family were very impressed and now of course think I am ancient!

Please accept my thanks, and very best wishes for your efforts now and for the next 90 years!

Helen Austin

Dear Editor,

I would just like to let you know how much I appreciated the September 2023 issue of *Descent*, which I have enjoyed reading tremendously and wanted to congratulate you and your Team.

Every page I turned greeted me with a new delight, but I was particularly intrigued by the title of Susan Zeitunian's article, *Three Little Girls in an Orphanage*. My grandmother was one of three little sisters in an orphanage and after years of my mother and I looking for them, I recently discovered their entries in the Child Care and Protection Index, 1817–1942 in State Records. They weren't orphans of course, and Marilyn Wood's article on *Orphan Ancestors in Colonial Australia* explains why.

So many of the articles in this edition have honoured women in history — particularly Australian history — and for that SAG is to be commended.

I'm not sure which aspect of the journal I enjoyed the most: as a retired social worker I was thrilled with the articles on the Australian Welfare Experience, and as the daughter of a union organiser for the Federated Engine Drivers and Firemen's Association and a political activist I was thoroughly impressed by Michael Considine's Croker Prize winning Biography. Also great that Michael acknowledged the SAG Writing Group as being helpful. Couldn't agree with his sentiments more!

Among so many interesting articles, two stood out for me: what an amazing person Dinah McGregor was and what an extraordinary humanitarian legacy she passed on to her descendants. Finally, thanks to Lilian Magill for her excellent book reviews. I also attended the SAG Book Club earlier in the year and recommend accessing the recording on *Flesh and Blood* by Stephen McGann in order to enjoy a very interesting discussion.

Congratulations once again.

Christine Sanderson

Cruickshank, Helen Brownlow née Dixon (1827–1898)

J. M. COLLINS

Helen Brownlow Dixon (1827–1898), publican and boarding house mistress, was born at Hobart, Tasmania, the second of seven children to Thomas Dixon and Helen Brownlow. She was baptised on 1 December 1827 at the old St David's Church of England in Macquarie Street, Hobart. Thomas was from Staindrop, Durham, England, and Helen (known as Ellen) was from Hibaldstow, Lincolnshire, England. Thomas was the publican of the Hope and Anchor Hotel in Hobart, which still stands on the corner of Macquarie and Market Streets.

Helen's father, Thomas, was from a Quaker family of famous surveyors, with Thomas' brother, Robert, being Assistant Surveyor to John Oxley. Thomas' great-uncle was the famous surveyor of the Mason-Dixon Line in the USA, Jeremiah Dixon. Helen's mother, known as Ellen, arrived in Hobart with her brother, Richard, on the *Princess Charlotte* in January 1823. Thomas Dixon was another passenger on the voyage, which left from London and took 18 weeks to arrive in Van Diemen's Land.

By age seven, Helen and her family were living in George Street, Sydney, where Thomas was operating a hay and grain store adjoining his brother-in-law Richard Brownlow's business premises.

On 6 April 1846, age 19 and with her father Thomas' permission, Helen married an Englishman from Broomfield in Somerset, Frederick Cruickshank. Frederick had arrived as a cabin boy on the convict ship *Mangles* in 1825. The wedding was officiated by Irving Hetherington, Minister of St Andrew's Presbyterian Church of Scotland. It was held at The Scone Inn Family Hotel at Scone, New South Wales, as the couple travelled north to settle in the New England region. The witnesses were the publicans Thomas and Maria Glanfield, who were business acquaintances of the Dixons from their time in Sydney.

There were connections between the Dixon and Cruickshank families, as Frederick and his brother Henry were also in Hobart and then Sydney at the same time as Helen's family. Henry Cruickshank married Helen's sister, Sarah Brownlow Dixon, in Sydney in 1848. The two families settled in the Uralla area of New England, New South Wales, with Helen and Frederick farming at their sheep and cattle property *Mihi* near Enmore. Both families raised Helen's and Sarah's youngest two brothers, Richard and Robert, after their father's death in 1847. Helen and Frederick had no children of their own.

After Frederick's bankruptcy in 1848 the couple ran the Woolpack Inn at Bendemeer, New South Wales, where Helen

was the licensee from 1852 until 1855. Frederick died in Bendemeer in 1852, and in 1855 Helen sold the Woolpack Inn and moved to Sydney where for 13 years she was the proprietor of the boarding house *Athol House*, which was located in a prime position opposite the Domain Gates at 199 Macquarie Street. With the sale of this building in 1882, Helen relocated to the boarding house *Strathspey House* at 187 Macquarie Street, Sydney, where she was the boarding house proprietor for 12 years.

Helen died of stomach cancer, aged 72, on 23 January 1898 at her family friend's home *Shanklin*, in Wharf Road, Concord, Sydney. She had suffered this affliction for two years prior to her death. She was buried at the Balmain Church of England Cemetery on Norton Street, Leichhardt, Sydney. This cemetery has since been turned into the Pioneers Memorial Park, with any headstones being removed. In her will, dated only 22 days before her death, Helen bequeathed her considerable assets to her nieces and nephews, including the locket pictured.



"HC" locket left in Helen's will to a family member.
Photo courtesy of Anne Maher.

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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.



In Search of... DNA Connections

DNA TESTING: WHY WOULD I?

Using genetic genealogy (DNA) in your genealogy

by Christine Hingerty

Ancestry recently announced that they now have 25 million testers in their database.

That's 25 million potential cousins for you!

Taking a DNA test with a company such as Ancestry has the potential to give you contact with many “cousins”— living people who relate to you. It is easy to message them via the DNA testing company and they may have information, photos, and family stories that you do not have. That alone makes the small investment in time and money worthwhile — but wait! There's more!

Using DNA tests in conjunction with traditional genealogy tools and methods can help you:

- **Confirm the tree you have built** – Did you follow the correct Smith family in Wiltshire? Have you found the child who was adopted out? Do you have the correct parents for your great-great-grandfather?
- **Confirm the information contained in those paper records** – Was her husband really the father of all her children? Did the son-in-law married to the youngest daughter get the name of his father-in-law's parents correct on the death certificate?
- **Build your tree beyond available paper records** – Especially useful in locations such as Ireland where the paper trail has many gaps or where your ancestors moved around a lot while not always telling the same origin story in each new location.
- **Explore the ethnicities you inherited** – There might be a surprise or two in the list.
- **Solve a family mystery or two** – Was her father the man her mother married a few months before she was born? Why can't we find records of my grandfather back in his supposed home country? Why do records for my grandmother suddenly start with her marriage with no previous records? Is the family story of one brother emigrating to Australia and the other to the USA correct?
- **Meet the Genealogical Proof Standard of “reasonably exhaustive research”**.

Okay, so you have convinced me that it can help my research, but how does it work? What is involved? How can DNA testing of living people today help me to find (or validate) who my great-grandfather was? He isn't around to be tested and they didn't have DNA testing when he was a boy.

Everyone living today has inherited their DNA from their parents; they in turn inherited their DNA from their parents and so on back through the generations (back five or six generations for “useful” DNA from a test like Ancestry).

We inherit about 50% of our DNA from each of our parents, about 25% from each of our four grandparents, 12.5% from each of our eight great-grandparents ... and so on ...

So, in theory, if our great-grandmother had many descendants alive today and they all took a DNA test we could “reconstruct great granny” using all the bits of DNA she handed down to her descendants.

Let's say that you have decided to take the plunge and you have gone online and ordered a DNA test. What happens next?

A saliva collection kit arrives in the mail. You spit into a tube (or take a cheek swab depending on the testing company), making sure you haven't eaten for a while before the test. You fill in a form or validate your kit online (depending on the testing company) then you send it back to the lab overseas and wait about six weeks to be notified by email that you can access your results online using the log-in credentials supplied (kit number and password, or username and password depending on the testing company).

When your sample arrives at the lab overseas, they process it and then compare all your bits of DNA (segments) in two different ways.

First, they compare your DNA with the DNA of groups of people they call Reference Panels. These panels represent populations from around the world. From this comparison the company predicts your ethnic makeup. This is presented to you as maps and charts indicating where your DNA “came from”. Ethnicity estimates (note the use of the term “estimates”) can be interesting and even useful, but be sure you read all the notes and charts that accompany the estimates, so you understand what it is and isn't telling you.

However, the most powerful and useful part of the processing is when the testing company compares your DNA segments with the other testers in their database, and finds testers who share (also have) the same segments of DNA as you. Then they list these people as your matches, and the testing company makes a prediction about your relationship based solely on the DNA. This list of matches keeps on growing as new testers test— you take a one-time test and it is forever updated.

The testing company bases its relationship prediction on the principle that the more DNA you share with someone the closer your relationship. The amount of DNA you share is measured in a unit of measurement called a centimorgan, usually abbreviated as cM.

You would share:

- about 3,485 cM with a parent
- about 2,613 cM with a full brother or sister
- about 1,759 cM with a half-brother or half-sister
- anywhere between 396 cM and 1,397 cM with a first cousin and
- between 41 cM to 592 cM with a second cousin, and so on

Genetic Genealogy Basic Glossary

Autosomal DNA (atDNA): The DNA that we all have, males and females. DNA tests, such as those offered by Ancestry, test autosomal DNA which is inherited by both males and females from both their maternal and paternal ancestors.

Centimorgan (cM): A unit of measurement used to describe the size of a DNA segment that is shared between two testers. The more centimorgans shared, the closer the relationship.

Chromosome: A strand of DNA that transmits hereditary information.

Ethnicity / Admixture: The percentage of your autosomal DNA that can be assigned to different ancestral populations (based on reference samples).

Genetic genealogy: Utilises results from DNA tests AND traditional genealogy and historical records to infer relationships between individuals.

Match: A tester (who has uploaded their results to the same company as you) who shares DNA segments with you and therefore shares a common ancestor.

Misattributed parentage event / non paternal event (MPE / NPE): The presumed parent is not the biological parent.

Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA): DNA found in males and females that is inherited only from the mother. mtDNA tests are offered by the company FamilyTreeDNA. mtDNA operates differently to atDNA and has its own set of terminology, reports and ways to analyse results.

Most recent common ancestor (MRCA): The most recent shared ancestor between two matches or relatives, e.g. MRCA for first cousins would be their shared grandparents, MRCA for second cousins would be their shared great-grandparents.

Predicted relationship / Relationship range / DNA relative: These are terms used by the various testing companies for their estimate of how close a connection you have to a DNA match. Their estimate is based on how much DNA (how many centimorgans) and how many segments of DNA you share with a match. Often the estimated relationship is a range, i.e. 4th to 6th cousin. You then use traditional genealogy to verify and define the actual relationship.

Segment: A section of DNA that has been inherited from an ancestor.

Shared match / In common with (ICW) / Relatives in common / Genetic cousin: A match to you and at least one other tester on a DNA test. Shared Matches can share the same common ancestor.

Y-DNA: DNA that only males have which is passed down the patrilineal line from father to son. Y-DNA tests are offered by the company FamilyTreeDNA. Y-DNA operates differently to atDNA and has its own set of terminology, reports and ways to analyse the results.

Once you get beyond very close family (parents, sibling, half-sibling) the amount of DNA you share decreases while the range of possible match size increases. By the time you get out as far as fourth cousins the range can be from 0 to 139 cM. This range results in you having some genealogical work to do to confirm the relationship.

Since we are talking about DNA inheritance, I need to mention the concept of random recombination. You inherit a random 50% of DNA from each of your parents. Your sibling (unless you are identical twins) would inherit a slightly different random 50% from your parents. So even your sister will not have exactly the same DNA as you.

This randomness of inheritance means that by the time you get beyond second cousins it could be that you randomly didn't inherit any of the same DNA from your common ancestor. You and your known third cousin could have each randomly inherited different segments from your common ancestor and so you don't "match". You are related but you don't "match".

This randomness and the decreasing amounts of DNA you will have inherited from any given ancestor results in a recommended testing strategy of:

- Testing initially with the company with the largest database (Ancestry)—as there is more chance of matches.
- Testing the oldest available person on each family line. If your parents (or grandparents) are alive test them not yourself — you don't have any DNA that they don't have since you inherited all your DNA from them PLUS they are a generation (or two) closer to the ancestors and could potentially have more of their DNA than you do. If you test you and your partner, then you don't need to test your children— your children don't have any DNA you or your partner don't have.
- Testing aunts/uncles, siblings and cousins— as they might have randomly inherited segments of DNA from distant ancestors that you did not inherit. Genetic genealogy is a team sport!

DNA testing will not by and of itself solve your mysteries or build your tree. It must be used in conjunction with sound genealogical resources, tools and methods. At the very least you will need to compare your tree with your match's tree to see where your trees intersect. Note: If your match is likely to be at say the third cousin level but their tree only goes out to their grandparents (first cousin level) you, or they, will need to do some tree building to find the intersection between your two trees.

Genetic genealogy, just like traditional genealogy comes with its own set of terminology, tools and methods. To make the best use of your DNA test results you will need to build your knowledge and skills. Luckily, you are not alone. SAG offers a range of beginner, intermediate and advanced opportunities to learn about genetic genealogy. Check out what's on offer under *Events and Courses* on the SAG website.

DNA testing is a very powerful tool when used in conjunction with your family history research.

Just think of the mysteries you could solve (or uncover) and the brick walls that could come tumbling down.

A simple spit and you will be on your way!



In Search of ... DNA Connections

A FAMILY MYSTERY SOLVED USING DNA

by Merylyn Stewart

In the *Evening News* on Wednesday 19 July 1916, it was reported:

At Summer Hill Station on Tuesday Night an unusual discovery was made by a railway porter named Kennil. He was making a tour of inspection about 11.30 and in the waiting room on No. 1 Platform he noticed a carry-all basket. On opening it he found two baby girls about 6 weeks old, apparently twins. They were well dressed and well nourished, every care having been taken for their comfort and warmth. The police were informed, and the babies were taken to Renwick Hospital, none the worse for their experience. Inquiries are being made for the parents.¹

In 1916 the original Renwick Hospital was located at Railway Square in Thomas Street, Sydney and run by the Benevolent Society. On applying for access to the Benevolent Society's records held at the Mitchell Library, I found that 1916 was one of the missing years. These two babies were subsequently fostered by two childless couples — the husband of one of the couples being the brother of the wife of the other couple, so the girls were raised as first cousins.

It was thought that they were born about 29 June 1916, but as the adoptive parents didn't want the girls to know they were twins, my mother (on the left) being the larger twin was given 9 June as her birthday, while her sister was given 29 June. Copies of this newspaper article were kept by both families; one in the shape of a pattern of a little vest and the other, the shape of a pair of baby bloomers. If either of the girls became suspicious it could be said it was just a pattern.

As cousins they could quite naturally spend a lot of time in each other's company, which they did, and even though my mother lived in Earlwood and my aunt lived in Randwick, they remained close. It wasn't until their 21st birthday that they were told that they were actually twins and that their birthday was closer to 29 June than the 9th, although my mother continued to read both Cancer and Gemini stars, just in case. After that the matter was never raised again.

My mother said she had thought of her adopted parents as her real parents for so long it didn't really matter, and she would never hurt them by asking any questions. As a teenager, I was so frustrated that I was forbidden to ask questions of any of them and as each one died I became more and more desperate to understand. It wasn't until after my mother died that DNA testing became widely accessible and I realised that with no name to go on and no other clues, this was the only way I was going to find out who my grandparents really were.

My aunt had only one son and I had a sister, so naturally our maternal grandparents would have to be related to all three of us. Our DNA results came back with lots of matches, some I recognised from being on my father's side, while others I had no idea about.

One thing testing proved was that my aunt's son was our cousin. That might sound obvious, but up until that point it had never been proven that my mother and my aunt were sisters: they looked nothing alike and had personalities like chalk and cheese.

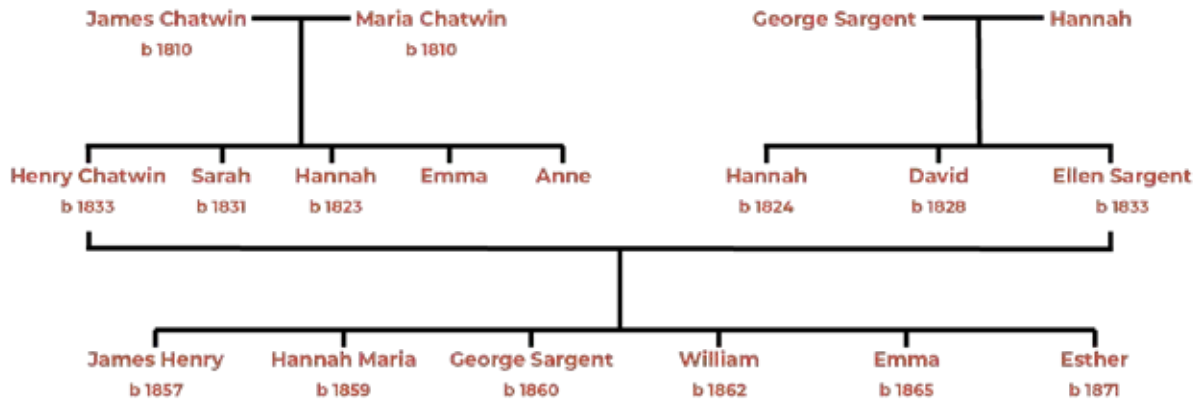
I also realised that as we had our DNA tests done with Ancestry, our results would only be compared with other Ancestry users. So, I uploaded our raw data to GEDmatch, in order to compare our results with people who have used other DNA testing companies. There was one person who we were all related to, who went by the initials *rd*. I emailed her with my story and she sent me a list of her ancestors, which of course meant nothing to me as I knew no names relating to my mother's side of the family. However, after many months she got back to me and I was very lucky to have initial contact with *rd* as she, and her husband in particular, were far more



My mother (left) and my aunt growing up as cousins

This is the family tree they sent me.

CHATWIN FAMILY TREE



knowledgeable about DNA mapping than I was.

They had compared the family trees of many of the people who showed up as matches: some came down the Chatwin line, others the Sargent line, and these two groups had no DNA in common. Interestingly, I didn't show a match to the people who share James Chatwin and Maria Deakin as their common ancestors, but I did match those who had a recent common ancestor in George and Hannah Sargent. But the situation was the opposite for my cousin. However, as we are first cousins we both had to be descended from James and Maria Chatwin and George and Hannah Sargent, so logically our common ancestors must be Henry Chatwin and Ellen Sargent.

The next piece of information they passed to me was that of the six children of Henry and Ellen Sargent, four remained in England, while George and Hannah came to Australia with their respective families. They sailed from Plymouth on the SS *Warwick* on 19 January 1884, arriving in Sydney on 12 March 1884². George and his family left Sydney soon after their arrival and moved to Brisbane, while Hannah and her family stayed in Sydney, variously residing in Newtown, St Peters, Marrickville and Petersham — not very far from Summer Hill. Incidentally, George Chatwin was *rd's* great-grandfather, but he was unlikely to be a common ancestor for me as we weren't related that closely genetically.

The generations were getting closer to the time I needed: if Hannah proved to be an ancestor, she would be my mother's grandmother, and one of her seven children potentially a parent to my mother, so I researched each of them very

carefully.

Hannah Chatwin married Joseph Henry Arter in 1881³ and by the time they left England in 1884 they already had two children, Ellen Jane and James Henry. Ellen was a nurse who spent much of her time in England but travelled widely. She came to Australia in 1913, presumably to see her family and visited Canada in 1917. She returned to Australia and was approved to register as a nurse in 1926⁴. She married in 1945⁵ at the age of 62 and had no children.

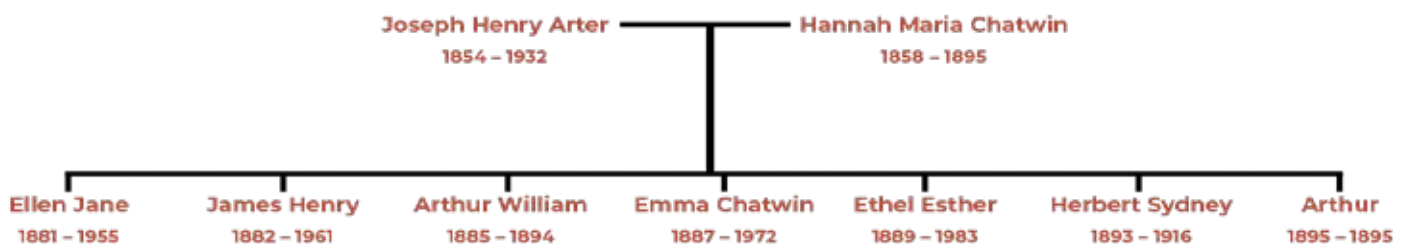
James Henry married in 1906 and had two children: a daughter in 1907 and a son in 1910. The family lived at Brighton-Le-Sands in Sydney for many years.

Hannah and Joseph went on to have five more children after they arrived in Australia, but sadly both Hannah⁶ and her last son, Arthur, died shortly after his birth.

Their first son born in Australia, Arthur William, was accidentally drowned in 1894 aged 9 years⁷. Their only other son, Herbert Sydney, enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force in February 1915, but died of wounds received in action in France in July 1916⁸. At this point the thought occurred to me that Herbert could have been my mother's father, and their mother gave them up in desperation following his death, but I could find no evidence of a marriage and with no idea of what the mother's maiden name might be, I just stored it away and continued.

That left me with two daughters: Emma Chatwin and Ethel Ester. I sent for their marriage certificates. Emma married John Thomas Allison, a tramway employee, in 1908⁹, while

ARTER FAMILY TREE



Ethel married Arthur Leslie Leigh Jones in 1923¹⁰, some years after the twins were born.

Although Emma Allison's death certificate wasn't to be found, John Thomas Allison's was and it revealed quite a lot of information. He died in 1944¹¹ in a mental hospital in Orange. While his age and his parents' details were correct, some irregularities had crept in: his wife was recorded as Emily not Emma and the ages of his two living sons were prefaced with "about". When I checked the informant, I realised it was the manager of the mental hospital, there seemed to be no family member present at all.

My next step was to check the births of their three sons: John and William, with one son deceased by 1944. When I entered John Thomas Allison and Emma Chatwin Allison as parents into the NSW BMD birth search, the result left me stunned. There were three sons, Jack (not John), William and Harold, as well as two girls Violet¹² and May¹³, born in 1916 *with consecutive registration numbers*, so obviously twins. I immediately sent away for their birth certificates and, to my pleasant surprise, the reply emails arrived the next morning.

And there it was — 25 June 1916, just four days off their estimated birth — not a bad guess by whoever did it back then.

Of course, my discovery raised more questions than it answered, but it was wonderful to finally be able to put names to my maternal grandparents and I added them to all my online family trees.

I continued to follow up on the other family members. I discovered the death in 1918 for another son, Allan, who only lived for eight days.¹⁴ By this stage John Thomas Allison's occupation was listed as boundary rider. Then I decided to go in search of Harold, the deceased son, and lots came up about him on Trove. It appears that on 19 December 1925, a drowning accident occurred in Parsley in Sydney Harbour, the victim being Harold Allison aged 14 years. He was paddling in a small canoe that was struck by a heavy breeze and capsized.¹⁵ But the most interesting article related to the Coroner's report¹⁶ that stated that Harold Allison was a State child, his father being an inmate of Callan Park. His mother had deserted her husband and children and it was not known where she was.

More searching led me to the marriage of Emma Chatwin Arter and Edgar Harrod Uden. They were married on 23 February 1924¹⁷ with Emma (using her maiden name, with no record of a divorce) stating she was a spinster. She'd had six children by this stage! The only evidence I could find of any offspring of this marriage was the death of baby Edgar Uden who died on 22 March 1926 aged three months.¹⁸ Emma died in 1972¹⁹ and while her death certificate stated she was 86 and her husband had predeceased her, all her particulars were unknown, with no issue recorded, in spite of her having had at least seven children.

So, after this confusing paper trail, I was left with a grandfather in a mental asylum and a grandmother who was a bigamist and rejected all her children.

It was time I turned back to DNA. The first thing I did was go to Ancestry and check my DNA matches for the Chatwin side of the family. There were not a lot, but definitely enough to encourage me, and some of them were the people *rd* had mentioned to me at the beginning of my search. Interestingly, I had no matches at all for John Thomas Allison — not in Ancestry, not in Family Tree DNA, not in My Heritage and not in GEDmatch. I was fairly sure John Thomas Allison was not my grandfather. Was *that* the reason he abandoned the twin girls?

I decided to go back to GEDmatch and choose another match who was fairly closely related to my cousin, my sister and me. Fortunately, she was neither a Chatwin nor Allison descendent. In all the information she sent me, one surname kept cropping up in the family trees of people I was distantly related to — Perrett.

From the family tree she sent me and by a process of elimination, I worked out there was only one person in my great-grandfather's generation, who I could possibly be related to — Isaac Perrett. In 1888²⁰ he married Alice Mary Hemson, which was another familiar name from related family trees. Isaac and Alice had eleven offspring, five males and six females, and one of those five males could potentially be my grandfather.

The youngest son, Norman Isaac Perrett was born in 1902, making him 13 when my mother was conceived — a bit young. The next one, John Stanley Perrett was born in 1898 and enlisted at Dubbo on 23 October 1915, stating he was 21 years and three months when he was actually just 17.

I was more inclined to concentrate on the three older sons. Charles Walter Perrett was born in Paddington, Sydney, the only one born in Sydney; and all the others except one child born in Moree, were born in Narrabri where the family lived. Charles enlisted in Dubbo on 8 November 1916.

Arthur Leslie Perrett is a bit of a mystery man. I have found him on the 1934 electoral roll living in Brewarrina but that is all.

Lastly, there was Albert Henry Perrett, born in Narrabri in 1888²¹. He enlisted on 25 October 1915 in Narrabri. Remembering Emma was born in 1887, any of these last three Perretts could have been my grandfather. The problem, however, was that they were all in Narrabri when the twins were conceived in early October 1915 when Emma was in Sydney. So I tried to find any evidence of their being in Sydney at the relevant time. I struck gold with Albert. It seems that Albert Henry Perrett was sentenced at Narrabri Quarter sessions on 16 August 1914 to 12 months hard labour for stealing from a dwelling. As it was his third conviction, he was sent to Goulburn Goal on 4 August 1914.



Albert Henry Perrett

Presumably he was released sometime in August 1915 and he enlisted in the AIF in Narrabri on 25 October 1915, leaving a couple of weeks when he could have been in Sydney.

Now it was time to test my theory. I took the plunge and replaced John Thomas Allison with Albert Henry Perrett as my grandfather, adding the rest of his family, then waited for the Ancestry algorithms to work on the new data.

When I clicked on my second great-grandfathers on both sides in Ancestry DNA, I came up with lots of matches, one being my second GEDmatch contact. Many more have since been added and I have met my second cousin.

This proves one thing — that I am related to the Perrett/Hemson family. Which son is really my grandfather, I cannot say with any certainty, but the paper trail lets me hazard a pretty good guess.

One thing that neither the paper trail nor DNA can tell me is what their private lives were like. Was the marriage between Emma Chatwin Arter and John Thomas Allison a happy one, despite their poverty? Maybe family violence was the reason Emma had to get out of the marriage. As there were very few, if any, support mechanisms in place for women in that situation at the time, escape may have been her only option. Was she on the street for a period when she met Albert Perrett? Was liaison consensual? Did she think her daughters would be better off in foster care? How did she meet Edgar Uden? She was married to him for 45 years: maybe she worried she could incriminate herself as a bigamist by acknowledging her children, or maybe the past was just too painful to remember.

For better or worse, I have finally found my maternal grandparents, but without DNA testing, that would never have happened.

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Merilyn Stewart studied Science at Sydney University where she became interested in DNA. She researched family history for many years, but it wasn't until DNA became available to all as a research tool that she was able to break down some brick walls.

A problem I didn't know I had

by Chris Lowndes

A simple name search amongst my AncestryDNA “matches” showed there were no people bearing my maiden name. Did I have a DNA issue?

A simple name search amongst my AncestryDNA “matches” showed there were no people bearing my maiden name. Did I have a DNA issue?

The Society of Australian Genealogists was running an “Analysing your AncestryDNA” program starting in January 2023, so I decided to enroll, being both intrigued and new to working with DNA evidence in my family history research. I now know that my dilemma was not unusual.

There were three possibilities as to where the “break” may have occurred: my great-grandfather, my grandfather or my father. I ruled out my great-grandfather having the “wrong” father, because there were no DNA matches with either his mother’s or father’s descendants.

Could my father have a different father to his sister? They look alike, so it would be hard to believe they were not fully related. Their parents’ relationship was also well established before they married, so while possible, it was unlikely.

Next to consider, my grandfather, Sid. He was the oldest of six children “born” to Sarah and Fred and lived in Wycheproof in the Victorian Mallee. At the time of Sid’s conception, around May/June 1894, Sarah was living with her mother on their farm following her father’s death earlier in the year. Sarah was aged 17, an only child and a good six months pregnant when she married Fred, my “great-grandfather”. Fred, as the family story went, had been working on their farm as a labourer.

The newlyweds moved immediately from Wycheproof south to Dunkeld, Fred’s family home. It was a large welcoming family and there was no reason to believe that Sarah’s child was not fathered by Fred.

However, the move was odd, leaving Sarah’s mother alone on the farm. Her only child was taking her future grandchild away. Was Sarah escaping public scrutiny?

Did Fred believe he was the child’s father? Did Sarah think Fred was the child’s father? Even if Fred did know the truth, they apparently told no-one. Sid’s birth certificate records Fred as the father.

Sarah was to inherit some farmland back in Wycheproof when she turned 21. So, Fred, his pregnant wife and their two children returned to her family home four years later.

Sarah and Fred went on to have a reasonably successful marriage. They had five children after Sid, but only Sid went on to have his own children. Consequently, there were no descendants from the other children to take an AncestryDNA test to unravel this mystery.

Sid was different to his other siblings. He was clever at school. The headmaster at the local school encouraged Fred and Sarah to send him away to Melbourne High School. Sid went on to become an architect. He volunteered for the First World War, was commissioned in the field and returned as a lieutenant. The local brass band greeted him on his return. His parents, and the town, were enormously proud of him.

We don’t think Sid or my dad had any inkling that there was this “genetic break” in their lineage.

So, what next ...

When I went back to look more forensically at my DNA matches, there were quite a lot of Kings and Carrolls filling the space you would expect to see our surname. I drew up numerous family trees looking for common ancestors and all lines led to a Mary Carroll and her husband Michael King, from Portland. I have matches with pretty much all their children’s descendant lines. It was becoming evident that Michael and Mary could be my grandfather’s grandparents.



Chris Lowndes has a keen interest in history and started researching her family history during the COVID pandemic. She has almost completed the Diploma of Family History from the University of Tasmania.

Chris is a retired geriatric physiotherapist, who has a Masters in Health Sciences (Gerontology) from Charles Sturt University.

So, which of their sons was Sid's father? Who had a relationship with 17-year-old Sarah in 1894?

Michael and Mary had four sons: Edward, Michael, Daniel and John.

- It probably wasn't Edward because he married in 1889 and his daughter was born in 1892 in Temora, NSW.
- Michael married in 1892 and moved to Western Australia in about 1898. So unlikely but possible.
- Daniel didn't marry until 1896.
- John would have been aged 15, so possible but unlikely. He died aged 21 in 1901 and was unmarried. There were no known children and therefore no descendants to take an AncestryDNA test.

Daniel was the most likely brother. Additionally, his descendants appeared on my AncestryDNA match list. I share a lot more with Daniel's descendants than I do with any of the other King descendants.

There is a program called DNA Painter which attempts to place a target person (me) amongst the DNA matches. The results showed that young John King was the most likely father of my grandfather and the second most likely was Daniel. For the moment I eliminated John because of his age.

My niece and nephew (one from each of my sisters) and my brother had done AncestryDNA tests. Their matches had the same profiles as mine — lots of Carrolls and Kings. I asked one of my cousins to test, to absolutely eliminate the possibility that Dad's father was not who we thought he was. This test's results confirmed that "the break" appeared to be with Sarah and her son Sid.

How did Sarah and Daniel cross paths?

Daniel and his family were from coastal Portland in Victoria, and Sarah was from Wycheproof in the Mallee in North Western Victoria.

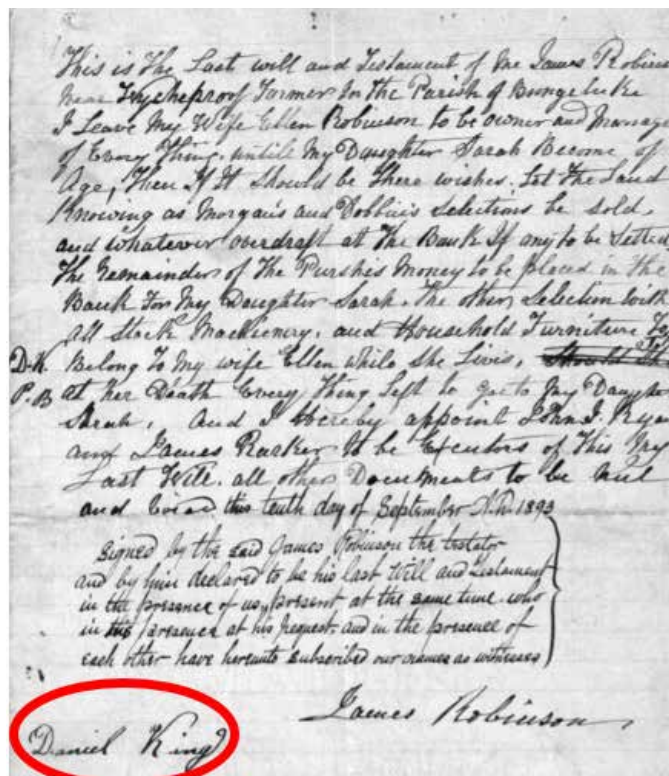
I had been in contact with a couple of my matches through Ancestry. One kindly rang the 90-year-old King family patriarch. He confirmed that his grandfather, Daniel, had worked up in the Mallee. Apparently when times were tough and work dried up in Portland, Daniel headed off seeking employment. He remembered as a boy, his grandfather, Daniel, telling him about catching the train north and when it stopped at Horsham, passing parcels to relatives through the train windows. That story confirmed Daniel was in the area.

Looking for more evidence of a possible relationship between Daniel and Sarah

A few weeks later, pondering all this, I went back to Sarah's father's will and her inheritance. James wrote his will in September 1893 a few months before he died in January 1894.

I noticed, by chance, that one of the witnesses to James' will was Daniel King, farm labourer. This name would have meant nothing to me at the time I first read the document. Daniel must have been working for Sarah's parents, at least in late 1893. He would have been acquainted with Sarah and, comfortingly to me, respected enough by James to be asked to be a witness.

So, there we have it. Daniel, confirmed by his family to have been working in the area at the right time and now with documentary evidence to prove it.



James Robinson: Grant of Probate, Public Records Office of Victoria, Probate and Administration Files, VPRS 28, 54/394.

Why did Sarah marry another man? Did the two men know each other? Were they both working on the farm? Did Daniel know Sarah was pregnant? Did Fred know he wasn't the father? We'll never know.

The DNA showed a mismatch in my family tree and pointed to the biological family. Traditional family history research gave the story.

A meeting with Daniel's descendants completed the picture. The 90-year-old patriarch was a "family history guru" in the days before we started using DNA evidence. He has extensive archives. He is the half first cousin of my father and the likeness is uncanny. He loved his grandfather Daniel, which was lovely for us to hear because we felt the same about our grandfather, Daniel's son Sid.

What I haven't mentioned is the 13 Carroll matches. Their trees lead back to Killaloe in Ireland where Mary came from and back to her possible great-grandfather. Many emigrated to Victoria bringing their DNA with them.

A happy ending to a problem our family didn't know we had and a good story to tell. Without DNA we would never have known we had this Irish heritage, let alone an ex-convict, Michael, to boot.

WHO WAS JULIA? A question peppered with possibilities

by Louise Millar-Hoffmann

My strongest memory about my maternal great-grandmother, Julia Roberts, was her funeral service in 1976. It was the day before my tenth birthday, and the first funeral I'd attended where I was aware of the significance of the occasion. I had grown up many miles from where Julia lived and had not visited her many times within my recallable memory at that time.

Two days before her death, Julia had turned 86 years old, and was very unwell. She'd had heart disease for at least 20 years. As such her death was not unexpected and the secular service at the Le Pine Funeral Home in Box Hill, although sombre, was not traumatic for those in attendance. Julia, a widow, was survived by her four daughters and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren, including me.

Roberts was Julia's married name, having been known by the name Pepper prior to that. However, it wasn't until 2022, nearly half a century after her death, that I discovered Julia's secrets: intimate matters that she'd thought had gone to the grave with her. These discoveries were made quite by accident, as is often the case, simply because I'm thorough and follow through on all the details when undertaking family history research.

As part of the genealogical research into my maternal line, I noticed that Julia's death certificate¹ placed her year of birth as 1889/90 in Adelaide to Richard and Sarah Pepper (née McGee). However, I was not able to find a birth record matching these details. I did find South Australian (SA) Birth, Death and Marriage Records that indicate Richard Pepper, a bootmaker, and Sarah McGee married in 1873² in Adelaide and had five children between 1873 and 1882.³

Records also indicate Richard Pepper died in March 1887.⁴ This means that, although Julia was raised as a Pepper by her widowed mother, alongside five other children, she may



*Julia Roberts c. 1950s.
Photograph in author's possession.*

not have had the same biological father as them. It is likely that she was born three years after their father's death. Clearly, something was not right and led me to question, "Who was Julia?" I was hooked and thus my quest began.

Very curiously, a search of SA birth records revealed that a Julia Ann Slattery was born on 13 April 1890⁵ to Patrick Slattery, bootmaker, and Sarah Pepper. It seemed too much of a coincidence to find a record that contained the name Pepper and another man with the occupation of bootmaker. I couldn't resist the challenge to attempt to confirm this potential biological father for my great-grandmother and research whether Julia Slattery's mother, Sarah Pepper, was the same woman born Sarah McGee.

My search for a marriage record for a Patrick Slattery and a Sarah Pepper was not successful. Sarah Pepper (née

McGee) did eventually marry again, but this was to a James Aitchison and was not until 1905 and occurred in Victoria.⁶ Sarah is recorded as the widow Pepper and falsely indicated that she had been widowed in 1890 with six children, and not in 1887 with five children, as had been the case. Now it seemed that Sarah Pepper also had something to hide.

Further research into Sarah Pepper (née McGee) revealed that she had migrated⁷ from Ireland in 1855 as a five-year-old child with her family, including a brother named Robert. She married and was subsequently widowed upon the death of her husband Richard (Aldgate, SA, 1887), who had by then changed his occupation from bootmaker to publican. Sarah took over his publican licence⁸ and later moved on to various other publican licences in Adelaide and the Adelaide Hills area (1888–1898).⁹

By 1903 she had relocated to Melbourne, Victoria¹⁰ and then, as previously referenced, remarried, before residing in Williamstown, Victoria for the remainder of her life.¹¹ Sarah

died in 1942 and is buried in the Williamstown Cemetery under the name Sarah Aitchison Pepper.¹²

That was as far as the genealogical paper trail could take me. In the recent past, my research would have sadly reached a dead-end at that point. However, as a modern genealogist, I was able to call upon an additional and big-hitting technique to continue my research into Julia's parentage. I now turned my attention to my genetic genealogy.

In 2022 I undertook DNA testing with the Ancestry platform along with my mother, denoted as "EJ" and one maternal cousin, denoted as "SL". The match between me and EJ confirms a mother-child relationship¹³, the one between me and SL confirms a first cousin relationship,¹⁴ and the match between EJ and SL confirms an aunt-niece relationship.¹⁵ These confirmations give validity to the use of my DNA results as a method to unblock the "brick walls" in my maternal genealogy caused by Julia's unknown parentage.

Consulting my AncestryDNA matches I discovered a match to a descendant of Robert McGee,¹⁶ older brother of Sarah McGee. Our common ancestors are their parents, Laurence McGee and Mary (née Holt). This match gives a genetic, as well as genealogical confirmation, that Julia is my great-grandmother and Sarah McGee was her mother, and that Sarah's parents, Irish-born Laurence McGee and Mary (née Holt), are my 3x great-grandparents.

As such, I had quite easily confirmed that the information on Julia's death certificate stating that her mother was Sarah, née McGee, was indeed correct. My next task was the more challenging one of confirming, or refuting, that bootmaker Patrick Slattery, a man not on my genealogical tree, was Julia's father.

By applying the Leeds method of analysing DNA matches, I discovered a cluster of four matches, one of which had a public tree containing Slattery ancestors, including a Thomas Slattery (b 1846 in Victoria), and hence a contemporary of Sarah McGee (b 1850). That public tree indicated that Thomas' parents were John Slattery and Catherine (née Sheehan).

This result revealed potential ancestors in John Slattery and Catherine (née Sheehan) that warranted further research. I discovered that John Slattery was born in County Tipperary, Ireland in 1813¹⁷ and arrived in Melbourne in 1841.¹⁸ He married Catherine Sheehan in Melbourne the following year (1842).¹⁹

Birth and immigration records for Catherine cannot be located, however, information on her death certificate (Fitzroy, Victoria, 1898)²⁰ would place her birth in 1823 at County Waterford, Ireland and arrival in Australia in 1841. This was the same year of arrival as her future husband, John Slattery, however, it is not known if they sailed on the same ship.

Catherine's death certificate also indicates that she and John had seven children in Victoria between 1842 and 1861, including Thomas (1846)²¹, and Patrick (Collingwood, Victoria, 1849),²² with all the other births being daughters.

As such, I had found a potential fraternal link between the Thomas Slattery, ancestor of my DNA match, and a Patrick Slattery born in Victoria in 1849. This spurred my curiosity and research even further. I discovered a death notice for a Patrick Slattery, youngest son of the late John and Catherine Slattery of Fitzroy, Victoria, in *The Age* newspaper (1911)²³ indicating that he'd died in Adelaide on 30 September 1911.²⁴ This was supported by a record from the Destitute Asylum of South Australia indicating a Patrick Slattery, aged about 62, former boot finisher and originally from Victoria, died at that institution on 30 September 1911. That record indicates that Patrick arrived in South Australia in 1881.

Next I undertook research and analysis for overlapping relationships, timeframes and places between the widow Sarah Pepper and the bootmaker Patrick Slattery. I discovered that Sarah Pepper (née McGee) resided in Adelaide and surrounds from her arrival in 1855 until 1903, while a Patrick Slattery arrived in Adelaide in 1881. The two had overlapping timeframes and places in the nine months prior to Julia's likely birth date of April 1890. The Patrick Slattery named on Julia Ann Slattery's birth certificate was a boot maker and the Patrick Slattery who died in Adelaide in September 1911 was a former boot finisher. The Patrick Slattery who died in Adelaide in September 1911, aged about 62 years old, was born in Victoria, had parents named John and Catherine from Fitzroy and was the youngest son in his family. These facts directly align with the Patrick Slattery born in 1849 in Collingwood, Victoria whose parents, John and Catherine, had moved to neighbouring Fitzroy by the time of their deaths. It did indeed, seem quite likely that these two Patrick Slatterys were actually the same man.

Based on all the above credible information regarding Patrick Slattery, I was sufficiently confident to provisionally place him and his parents, John and Catherine, on my Ancestry Family Tree as the ancestors of my great-grandmother, Julia. After doing so, the Ancestry algorithm subsequently updated my ThruLines at the third great-grandparent level.

The update resulted in four matches each to both John Slattery and Catherine (née Sheehan) via their son, Thomas, Patrick's older brother. These matches include two fourth cousins^{25, 26} and two fourth cousins-once-removed.^{27, 28} In each of the four cases, the number of centimorgans matching is consistent with the usual range for fourth cousin and fourth cousin-once-removed relationships.

I am now confident that it is reasonable to assert that my maternal great-grandmother Julia was born on 13 April 1890 in Adelaide, South Australia and was given the middle name Ann. Furthermore, her parents were the widowed Sarah Pepper (née McGee) and a man that Sarah was not married to, named Patrick Slattery, who was originally from Victoria. There is a birth certificate to that effect and I have established timelines for both Sarah and Patrick that place them both in the Adelaide area at the time of Julia's conception in 1889.

Additionally, there are at least two plausible explanations as to how Sarah and Patrick may have encountered each other. Firstly, Sarah, was a publican in the year 1889 and,

therefore, would have had daily opportunity to interact with men outside of her family and friendship circles. Secondly, Sarah's late first husband, Richard Pepper, and Patrick Slattery worked in the same industry of boot manufacturing. These two men are unlikely to have worked together as Richard had changed his profession to publican before Patrick relocated from Victoria to South Australia, however, Sarah may have met Patrick through mutual contacts dating back to her late husband's previous workmates.

Finally, the DNA matches with descendants of both the Slattery and McGee families give certainty to my assertion about Julia's parentage.

I have also come to the conclusion that it is highly unlikely that as an adult Julia was unaware that her father could not have been Richard Pepper. At the time of her birth, her oldest sibling, Monty, was 17 and had been 14 when his father died. All of the Pepper children moved interstate from South Australia to Victoria with their mother, Sarah, around 1903 and remained close for the remainder of their lives.

Perhaps Julia was never aware of Patrick Slattery, but it is not credible that she wouldn't have known she was born outside of marriage to a different father than her siblings.

Secrets within families frequently cause pain and division. Julia kept secrets about her own birth outside of marriage and then repeated a very similar deception on her own children many years later (a whole other story not involving DNA discoveries). However, what Julia could never have known was that a tenacious great-granddaughter, armed with the power of the internet and genetic genealogy, would finally discover those intimate secrets nearly half a century after she took them to her grave.



Louise Millar-Hoffmann has been interested in her family history for almost 40 years and is currently studying the SAG Certificate of Genealogical Research after previously completing the Intermediate Research Methods course.

She is a contributing author of the SAG 2023 Colonial Women's Writing Project and an entrant in the SAG Croker Prize.

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28. Ancestry, DNA match between Author and 'CD' (12 cM across 1 segment), retrieved from ancestry.com.au, accessed 28 August 2022

How AncestryDNA tests reunited Irish “orphan” Jane Feeney with her family

by Martyn Killion and Christine Woodlands

Jane Feeney, our great-great-grandmother, was one of 234 “Earl Grey” orphan immigrant girls, arriving in Sydney on the *Digby* in April 1849. Over many years of traditional genealogical research, we learned about Jane’s life after she entered the South Dublin workhouse in 1848; however, we’d struggled to unearth any details of her parentage or siblings until Australians started testing at AncestryDNA.

We knew the following about “our Jane”:

- » Aged 15, Jane was admitted to the South Dublin workhouse twice in 1848 from Chambers Street, South Dublin. Her religion was recorded as Protestant and occupation as “plain worker” and dressmaker. Jane left the workhouse in November 1848 bound for her new life in New South Wales.
- » The *Digby*’s passenger list shows that Jane was a children’s maid, aged 16, religion was listed as Church of England, she was the daughter of William and Jane Feeney, “both deceased”, and her native place was Ratheiham (?) County Wicklow.
- » Jane spent five weeks at the Female Immigration Depot at Hyde Park Barracks in Sydney before travelling 380 kilometres north to Port Macquarie, NSW, where she was indentured for employment.
- » In September 1851, Jane married John Killion, an Irish convict 25 years her senior. They had five children prior to his death in 1864 and lived at North Shore, Port Macquarie, NSW.
- » Seven months later, Jane married Thomas Seward, an English convict 19 years her senior. Together they had five children, but the two youngest, twins, died as infants.
- » In the late 1870s, Jane and her eight children moved a further 60 kilometres north to Kempsey, NSW.
- » In 1880/81, Thomas Seward served time in Darlinghurst Gaol for vagrancy. He was admitted to Liverpool State Hospital following his release and remained in the hospital until his death in 1884.
- » Jane sold John Killion’s land at North Shore, Port Macquarie in 1885.
- » In 1887, Jane married for a third time, this time to Charles Moran, an Irishman only 10 years her senior, who had served in the British Navy.

- » Jane died on 11 August 1907, in her mid-70s and was buried at West Kempsey Cemetery, NSW. She was survived by Charles and over 35 descendants.

Over the years, there has been a niggling question about Jane’s “orphan” status at the time of her arrival in Sydney. A Register of Letters Received by the Immigration Department contains an entry from June 1850 for Jane Feeney of Sydney. The Register states that the correspondence received by the Department from Jane was “respecting her daughter, Jane Feeney, an Immigrant per *Digby*”. The letter has not survived.

So, it seemed that Jane may not have been a female orphan in the sense of both parents being deceased, but rather, one of around a quarter of all the Sydney orphans who had one parent alive.

We did all the usual searches to identify “Jane Feeney of Sydney”. After eliminating many, we found newspaper reports of a Jane Feeney dying in July 1852 at the Sydney Infirmary after being accidentally burned at her home in Kent Street, Sydney, but there was no further evidence to connect “our Jane” with this particular “Jane”.

There were few leads to trace “our Jane’s” birth family. We knew she was born about 1833 and presumably lived in South Dublin in 1848. In official records, her birth location is recorded variously as County Wicklow and County Wexford; her father’s name as William, John or James; her religion as Protestant and Church of England; and her occupation as plain worker, dressmaker and children’s maid. We could not find any likely immigration details of “mother Jane” or further details of her life in Sydney.

Jane’s story had to wait until DNA testing became available.

DNA Testing

Genetic genealogy proved an invaluable tool to reunite Jane with her family.

We took the three types of DNA tests available and tested at the four main testing companies. You can read more about Y-chromosome DNA, mitochondrial DNA and autosomal DNA tests at <https://genie1.au/what-types-of-dna-tests-are-available/>

Children of Jane Feeney



L-R Edward John Killion, Annie Quinn née Seward and Margaret Gersbach née Killion

The autosomal DNA (atDNA) test at AncestryDNA provided the evidence to connect “our Jane” and “mother Jane”. Often called a “cousinship” test, an atDNA test allows the tester to find matches on all ancestral lines, rather than the direct paternal line (Y-DNA test for males) or maternal line (mtDNA test for males and females). See <https://genie1.au/what-is-an-ancestrydna-test/>

Gathering biological evidence to “prove your pedigree” and break down “brick walls” are the primary objectives for family historians taking DNA tests. The size of DNA shared between two testers is estimated in centimorgans (cM), a unit of measurement. The more centimorgans testers share, the closer the relationship. The testing companies also report on the “shared matches” between two testers and while many of these matches are “known cousins”, it is the “unknown cousins” who can provide the clues for breakthroughs.

When our AncestryDNA results came back, they supported our relationship to each other as third cousins with “our Jane” and her husband John Killion being our “most recent common ancestor”. We share 32 cM across three segments. At that time, all our shared matches were “known cousins”.

As more descendants of “our Jane” from her marriages to John Killion and Thomas Seward took tests at AncestryDNA, we began to see more shared matches from “unknown cousins”. The first was from Elizabeth who shared 24 cM of atDNA with Christine, 22 cM with Jan (a great-granddaughter of Jane and Thomas Seward) and none with Martyn. As the atDNA is passed down randomly from generation to generation, testers with a relationship of second cousin or closer will always report shared atDNA at AncestryDNA. The more distant the relationship, the less likely the probability of testers sharing atDNA.

So what was the connection between Elizabeth, Christine and Jan? There was only one common family name

in Elizabeth’s small tree — Arthur Feeney, her great-grandfather. He was born in 1905 and died in 1984 in Sydney.

Within hours we’d found five further “unknown” Feeney cousins and built a tree in all directions from Arthur Feeney, connecting Elizabeth with the other five. Arthur’s great-grandmother was the very same Jane Feeney who’d written to the Immigration Department in 1850 and died in the Sydney Infirmary in 1852. All were descendants of “mother Jane’s” two sons, Edward and Thomas, who came from County Longford and County Dublin respectively. Their parents were Edward Feeney (a weaver), shown as deceased in all Australian records, and Jane Feeney (nee Baker or Bourke).

The naming of “our Jane’s” first two sons as Edward and Thomas suddenly took on a new meaning. Next, we found that Edward Feeney had married Margaret McCabe in 1853 at St Mary’s Cathedral, Sydney. Margaret was another of the “orphans” on the *Digby* with “our Jane”. John and Jane Killion’s youngest child was also named Margaret.

A search of newspapers for Edward Feeney revealed a further connection. While we know that Jane successfully sold the Killion land at North Shore, Port Macquarie in 1885, there was at least one earlier attempt to do so. The *Sydney Morning Herald* on 9 June 1871 carries an advertisement for the sale of a “beautiful farm” near Port Macquarie consisting of 53 acres. Who was the contact for any enquiries? None other than Edward Feeney of 104 William Street, Sydney.

Working with descendants of “our Jane” and Edward and Thomas Feeney, we were able to undertake more advanced genetic genealogy research. That research shows that descendants of each share common segments of DNA which establishes their relationship as fourth cousins with Edward Feeney and Jane Baker or Bourke (“our Jane’s” parents) being their common ancestors.

We then started analysing and reassessing previous traditional research, in particular, those Feeney tidbits of information we had previously dismissed on the assumption that “our Jane” was an orphan, alone in the colony of NSW.

We have now established that “mother Jane Feeney” arrived as an assisted immigrant on the *Columbine* in 1841 with two daughters, Eliza and Ann. Her two sons, Edward and Thomas, arrived in 1843. It was another six years before the family was briefly reunited in Sydney. It’s unlikely that “our orphan Jane” ever saw her mother or sisters after she left for Port Macquarie, but communication between them was clearly maintained. Ann died at her mother’s home just weeks after her mother’s letter to the Immigration Department in 1850. Two years later, their mother died. Eliza died in childbirth on the Victorian goldfields in 1854 and her only child died a few days later. By 1855, only Jane’s brothers and their families remained in Sydney.

After decades, genetic genealogy and traditional research have reunited “our Jane” with her family. We’ve answered the niggling question about the 1850 letter written by Jane Feeney of Sydney. More than 40 descendants of “our Jane”

and her brothers, Edward and Thomas, have now tested at AncestryDNA and each adds more and more genetic evidence establishing the connection between the three.

An earlier version of this article appeared in *Descent*, June 2018, p. 38, and was subsequently published on Tinteán’s online magazine as the ninth Famine Orphan Girls Series by their descendants. The article has been revised for this DNA issue.

Martyn Killion is the great-grandson of Jane’s son, Thomas Killion. Christine Woodlands is the great-granddaughter of Jane’s daughter, Margaret Killion who married Francis Gersbach. We are always interested in hearing from Feeney and Killion descendants at killioncousins@gmail.com

For more on Jane Feeney, see <http://killionquinnhand.blogspot.com/>

CALL FOR ARTICLES

Call for articles on the topic of **Convicts** for our March issue of *Descent* and to support our online conference scheduled for March 2024.

Deadline for notification to write on the topic of Convicts: 10 January 2024

Deadline for article: 18 January 2024

Please email: editor@sag.org.au

CONTRIBUTIONS TO DESCENT

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

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

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

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

Please note SAG does not pay author fees.

SAG Christmas/New Year Holiday Break

Our Family History Research Centre & Library, Archives and Office will close for the year from Friday 15 December 2023. The Office will re-open on Monday 9 January, and the Family History Research Centre & Library and Archives on Tuesday 16 January 2024.

Another Life: The Power of DNA & Archives

by CJ Eddington

Were Frances Galloway and Ann Stewart the same person? At what point does the evidence meet the Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS)? This can be simply summarised as: search, cite, analyse, consolidate, and conclude.¹ This five-step process will be used to frame the search for Frances Galloway's identity; but with the addition of DNA evidence.

My father's family were solidly Tasmanian and all his lines went back to Britain except one. See *My Uncle John's family tree*.² My great-grandmother, Sarah Ann Thompson's parents were Frances Galloway (1835–1885)³ and Thomas Thompson (1807–1879).⁴ From burial records and newspaper family notices, I knew that Frances was from Glasgow and Thomas was a mariner from Norfolk, England.⁵ Over many years searches were made of the Tasmanian Archives and Heritage Office (TAHO) for arrival documents, convict records, marriage records or birth records for this couple. None could be found.

What is known about Frances Galloway comes from the birth registrations of her children. The first time Frances Galloway appears in the Tasmanian records is the 1862 birth registration of her son, Thomas William Thompson Anderson, born 15 July 1862.⁶ The birth was registered 12 August 1862 with Thomas Anderson, a sailor, as the father; and Frances Anderson formerly Galloway as the mother. The informant is Arthur Joseph Anderson, brother, of Campbell St Hobart; but the detail of Thomas Anderson as the father is problematic.

Another son, John, is born on 29 February 1864, father Thomas Anderson, sailor; mother Frances Anderson formerly Gallagher; and informant Arthur Anderson, brother, Campbell Street. Registered 4 April 1864.⁷

Subsequently a daughter, Sarah Ann Thomson, is born to Thomas Thomson, a farm labourer, and Frances Thomson formerly Galloway on 6 February 1867.⁸ The informant is Frances Thomson, mother of Murray St Hobart, who makes her mark, as she couldn't write. The name change from Thom(p)son to Anderson on the first two birth records requires explanation; but Frances Galloway is named as the mother on this later birth registration. This is the first time Thomas Thompson appears in the Tasmanian records.

Here is a possible scenario — the informant, Arthur Joseph Anderson (son of Frances Galloway from a previous relationship) is asked by his mother to go up the street to the Registry Office and register the births of his two brothers. He is told the name of the baby — in 1862 Thomas William Thompson; Arthur not realising that Thompson is the surname of child rather than another given name adds Anderson, as Anderson is both his and his mother's

surname. In 1864 Arthur is again asked to register John's birth and again gives Anderson as the surname as that is both his and his mother's surname.

When Sarah Ann Thom(p)son is born on 6 February 1867, Frances herself registers the birth with Thomas Thomson as the father. However, no marriage for her and Thomas Thompson has been found.

A search was made for a marriage of Frances Galloway and Anderson in Tasmania — none found; and a search for a birth registration of Arthur Joseph Anderson — none found. Later, a search for Arthur Joseph Anderson in Catholic baptism records was also unsuccessful.

To summarise, Frances Galloway, Thomas Thompson, and Arthur Joseph Anderson are living in Hobart in the 1860s, but no records of their births, arrivals or marriage can be found. All that is known about them is from the birth registrations of Frances' three children. These children are probably also Thomas Thompson's children. It is worth mentioning that convict transportation to Tasmania continued until 1853 with the associated impeccable record keeping; in contrast the arrival of seafarers to Hobart, like Thomas Thompson, were not recorded.

That would have ended the search for further family connections except for a group of DNA matches, which then led to more documents.

Using DNA matches to explore this mystery further, my Uncle John had matches to the following people: John Vandyke sharing 77 centimorgans (cM), Judith (114cM) on My Heritage⁹ and later on Anthony (102cM) on Gedmatch.¹⁰ John Vandyke and Judith are second cousins to each other, sharing the same great-grandparents — Susan Vincent and Arthur Ernest Anderson from Hobart, Tasmania. John Vandyke and Judith could trace their ancestry back to this couple via two different siblings.¹¹ See *John Vandyke's family tree*.¹² Anthony was a generation younger than John Vandyke and Judith, but I could not find any link to my family.

For a long while the Anderson link was thought to be through Thomas Thompson — but that turned out to be a red herring.

John Vandyke is an outstanding family history researcher and was as keen as I to solve the puzzle, and indicated that Arthur Ernest Anderson was a mystery — no vital records prior to his marriage to Susan Vincent have been found. Arthur was 22 when he married in May 1876, giving a birth year of either 1853 or 1854. John Vandyke had previously made an unsuccessful search for the birth registration of

Arthur Ernest Anderson in Tasmania. Subsequently when the birth of this baby was found, he was registered without a name.

Using *The Shared cM Project* tool for the match between John Vandyke and my Uncle John of 77cM gave four possible relationships — 3C, half 2c1r, 2c2r, half 1c3r with a probability 31%.¹³ A half relationship seems the most likely scenario. A half 2c1r shares a great-grandparent or a great-great-grandparent depending on whether you are the older or younger generation. So, the research focus began there.¹⁴

My Uncle John's DNA was not on Ancestry, but using my match to John Vandyke of 14cM on Ancestry, the shared matches were through my grandfather Charles' line.¹⁵

Given that I couldn't confirm the parents of either Thomas Thompson or Frances Galloway, and John Vandyke couldn't confirm the parents of Arthur Ernest Anderson, it looked like John Vandyke's Arthur Anderson and either my Thomas Thompson or Frances Galloway were related. And for over five years a lot of effort was put into finding a connection between these people. But it would be foolhardy to completely dismiss the possibility that the link was through the other side of my family, Thomas Henry and Louisa, as Louisa came from a very big Tasmanian family with a big network of interrelationships. But John Vandyke and I kept circling back to the Thompson–Galloway–Anderson connection.

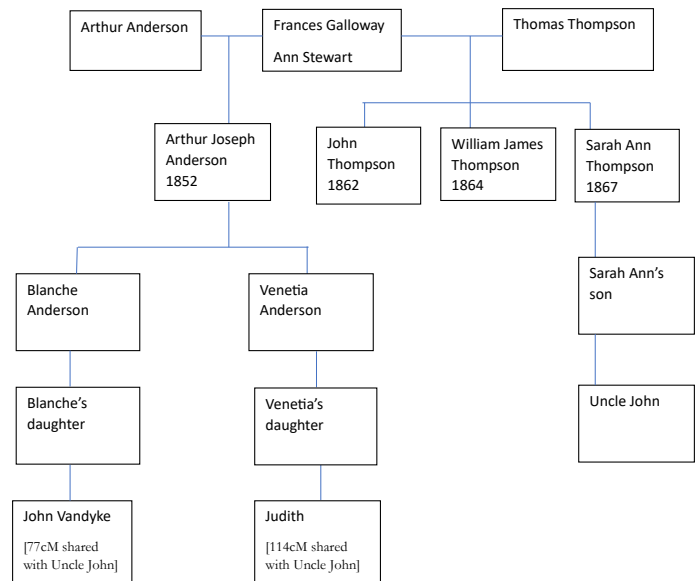
Once the DNA link between John Vandyke's and my family was found, searches were made for additional genealogy documents. The last three pieces of evidence in the puzzle were a marriage between Arthur Anderson and Ann Stewart,¹⁶ a birth registration for a child of this couple¹⁷ and thirdly, court documents from Scotland.¹⁸ Finally, revisiting the birth registrations for two of Francis Galloway's children with the surname Anderson¹⁹ completed the picture.

In early 2023, John Vandyke contacted me with a number of extraordinary pieces of information. Firstly, he had found both a marriage permission in 1852 and a marriage registration in 1853 for Arthur Anderson and Ann Stewart.²⁰ Both parties said they were 21 years old when they married, giving birth years of 1832. And the marriage permission stated they both arrived in Van Diemen's Land (later Tasmania) as convicts — Anderson on the *L Auckland* and Stewart on the *B Junior* (*Baretto Junior*). These ships arrived in 1846 and 1850 respectively. Next, the birth registration in Hobart of an unnamed male child in 1853 with parents Arthur Anderson and Ann Stewart.²¹ The next item was Ann Stewart's²² convict record held at TAHO²³ which stated she was also known as Galloway.²⁴ The date of birth and birthplace for Ann Stewart on this convict record were the same as for Frances Galloway — 1835 and Glasgow.

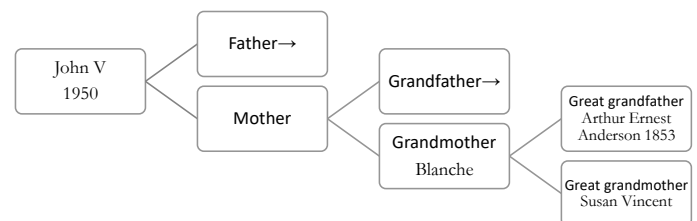
Could Ann Stewart and Frances Galloway be the same person?

The next step was to obtain a copy of the court records for Ann Stewart from the National Records of Scotland.²⁵ These cost £45 and John Vandyke and I shared the cost. While these records provided details of Ann's crime and two more aliases,²⁶ more important was the confirmation that she used the surname Galloway — but no given name was provided.

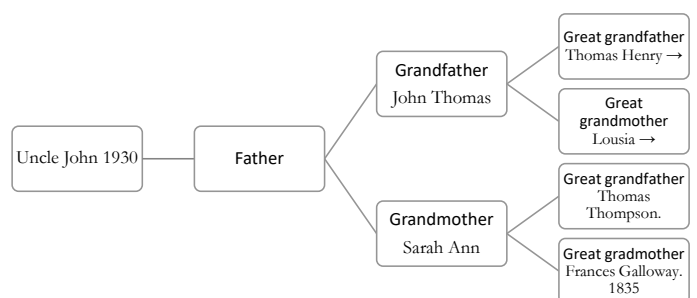
Galloway Stewart family tree



John Vandyke's family tree



Uncle John's family tree



→ ancestors of this person are verified.

Finally, the breakthrough — the court records said she was held in Millbank Prison, London prior to transportation to Van Diemen's Land (VDL). Findmypast.com.au had the images of the prison records and there she was. Ann Stewart or Frances Galloway in *Millbank Prison Registers: Female Prisoners. Volume 1*.²⁷

The details read:

3421/Ann Stewart or Frances Galloway/15/ Single/ Read/Millworker/do[14 January 1850 Glasgow]/ Theft by housebreaking/Seven/do[19 February 1850]/ do[Glasgow]/Thrice theft/do[18 April 1850 ship Baretto V.D.L.].

Further confirmation that this was the right person was found in the sentencing details of Ann McGurk, her co-accused, on the same page of the register.

To recap — Ann Stewart, also known as Frances Galloway, is convicted of housebreaking in Glasgow in 1850 and is held in Millbank Prison before being transported to Van Diemen's Land in 1852. Ann Stewart marries Arthur Anderson in Hobart and has an unnamed son believed to be Arthur Joseph Anderson in 1853. After 1853 Ann Stewart does not appear in any Tasmanian records.

Frances Galloway then has three children (including my great-great-grandmother Sarah Ann) with Thomas Thompson between 1862 and 1867 in Hobart and calls herself Frances Thompson. Arthur Ernest Anderson has the same birth year as Arthur Joseph Anderson and is believed to be the same person. After 1862 Arthur Joseph Anderson does not appear in any Tasmanian records. If Ann Stewart and Frances Galloway are the same person, then Uncle John, John Vandyke and Judith are half second cousins once removed (half 2c1r), and this sits nicely with the shared DNA amount of 77 and 114cM. See the *Galloway Stewart family tree*. This mystery could not have been resolved without the help of DNA.

- 1 Isherwood, Phil, Pharos Tutors. What is Proof? 7 June 2020, <https://www.pharostutors.com/what-is-proof> [accessed 2 Aug 2023]
- 2 Eddington Standven 2017 family tree showing ancestors of Charles Eddington [public tree] Ancestry.co.uk [accessed 21 July 2023].
- 3 Death registration of Frances Thompson, 3 August 1885, Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office (TAHO), [RGD35/1/10, 2553](#).
- 4 Death registration for Thomas Thompson, 16 May 1879, TAHO, [RGD35/1/9, 1847](#).
- 5 Family notices, *Mercury*, 16 Oct 1889, p.1, <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/9221652?searchTerm=haines> [accessed 19 May 2023]; Burial registration for Frances Thompson 7 Aug 1885, Cornelian Bay Cemetery, TAHO, BU5420.
- 6 Birth Registration of Thomas William Thompson Anderson.
- 7 Birth Registration of John Anderson.
- 8 Birth Registration of Sarah Ann Thompson, 6 February 1867, TAHO, [RGD33/1/9, 9049](#).
- 9 Member matches for Uncle John and Judith, sharing 114 cM, My Heritage, [accessed 21 July 2023].
- 10 Member matches for Uncle John and Anthony, Gedmatch.com, [accessed 21 July 2023].
- 11 Marriage registration for Arthur Ernest Anderson and Susan Vincent, 23 May 1876, Hobart Tasmania, TAHO, [RGD37/1/35,298](#).
- 12 Vandyke and Towell family tree showing ancestors of John Vandyke, [public tree] Ancestry.co.uk [accessed 21 July 2023].
- 13 DNA Painter, Shared cM Project 4.0 tool v4, <https://dnainter.com/tools/sharedcmv4>, [accessed 21 July 2023].
- 14 To further complicate matters in what is already a bewildering situation both members of John Vandyke's family and mine have

a group of DNA matches leading back to Alice Margaret Lane (1885–1946) whose unnamed father is believed to be Arthur Ernest Anderson. Member matches for unnamed Eddington and five unnamed descendants of Amy Lane, sharing 29–149 cM, Ancestry.co.uk [accessed 21 July 2023]; Member matches for John Vandyke and two unnamed descendants of Amy Lane, sharing 196–243 cM, email John Vandyke to CJ Eddington 22 Mar 2023.

- 15 Member matches for CJ Eddington and John Vandyke, sharing 14 cM, Ancestry.co.uk, [accessed 21 July 2023].
- 16 Marriage Certificate of Arthur Anderson and Ann Stewart, married 16 August 1852, TAHO, [RGD37/1/11, 379](#).
- 17 Birth Registration of unnamed son of Arthur Anderson and Ann Stewart, 26 July 1853, TAHO, [RGD33/1/4, 2513](#).
- 18 Criminal record Ann Stewart – Crown Office Precognition 1850. Precognition against Margaret Noble, William Park, George Grainger, Ann Stewart, Ann McGurk, James Mitchell. National Records of Scotland. NRS reference AD14/50/77; Trial papers relating to Ann McGurk, Ann Stewart, James Mitchell, William Park, George Grainger, Margaret Noble, Alexander Clark 14 January 1850 Glasgow (Second Court). NRS reference [JC26/1850/162](#), copy held by CJ Eddington.
- 19 Birth Registration of Thomas William Thompson Anderson, 15 July 1862, TAHO, [RGD33/1/8, 5370](#); Birth Registration of John Anderson, 4 April 1864, Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office, [RGD33/1/8, 6736](#).
- 20 Marriage Certificate of Arthur Anderson and Ann Stewart, married 16 August 1852, Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office, [RGD37/1/11, 379](#).
- 21 Birth Registration of unnamed son of Arthur Anderson and Ann Stewart, 26 July 1853, TAHO, [RGD33/1/4, 2513](#).
- 22 Ann Stewart's convict record includes details of her family. Father James, sister Jane and brothers James, Thomas, Daniel and Joseph Gallagher – also a convict sent to VDL on the *Oriental Queen* in 1853.
- 23 Ann Stewart, Convict record, TAHO, CON15-1-6, 216. [https://stors.tas.gov.au/CON15-1-6\\$init=CON15-1-6P216](https://stors.tas.gov.au/CON15-1-6$init=CON15-1-6P216) [accessed 1 Apr 2023].
- 24 When the first search for Frances Galloway in the Tasmanian records was done various spellings of Galloway were used and nothing was found. Alias should be included in the TAHO index but this one wasn't.
- 25 Criminal record Ann Stewart – Crown Office Precognition 1850.
- 26 Meikle and Euphemia Nicols.
- 27 Ann Stewart or Frances Galloway, 14 Jan 1850, Millbank Prison Registers: Female Prisoners. Volume 1, HO24, piece 12, Home Office: prison registers and statistical returns 1838–1875, Findmypast.com.au, <https://search.findmypast.com/record?id=TNA%2FC-CC%2FH024%2F012%2F00242&parentid=TNA%2FCCC%2F-2D%2FH024%2F00067804> [accessed 18 July 2023].



Carolyn Eddington was born in Tasmania but raised in Western Australia. Her ancestors migrated from Britain in the days of sailing ships, and building on her parents' research using internet resources has uncovered a bigamist, a traitor and several publicans. She has completed the University of Tasmania Diploma of Family History to better equip herself, particularly with convict records. Using DNA has both confirmed her documented family tree and found new branches for it. This year she wrote the stories of her 22 migrant ancestors and published them on her blog fromoaktogumtree.wordpress.com

CAREFUL – DNA CAN LIE

by CJ Eddington

When Blair Bettinger spoke at DNA Downunder a few years ago, he gave a caution about assuming that a group of shared matches always have a common ancestor. This is a specific problem with Ancestry DNA shared matches.

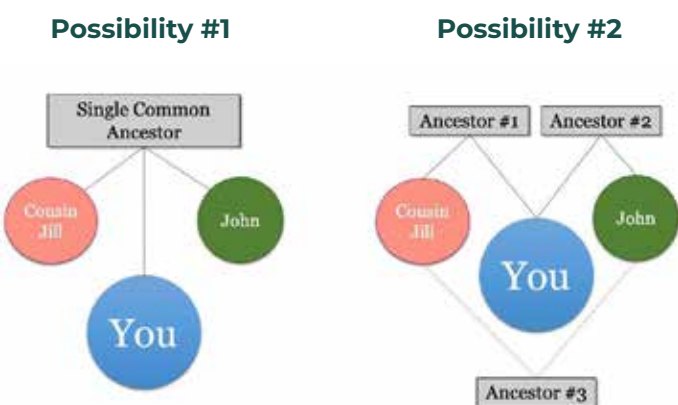


Figure 1 Source: Blair Bettinger

Possibility #1 is what we expect and we then look for a single common ancestor for Cousin Jill, John and you. However, sometimes what we get is Possibility #2, where there are actually three sets of ancestors, independent from each other.

Recently a new match, William, showed up on Ancestry DNA. We shared 26 cM over 1 segment (26/1) and we had 16 shared matches.¹ Most of them were on my maternal line, including Anne, my first cousin (1c) but one, Daniel (3c), was on my paternal line.

First 5 shared matches for CJE and William sharing 26 cM			
Name	Centimorgans	Relationship	Side
Anne	739	1c (1 st cousin)	Maternal
M1	133	2c	Maternal
M2	49	4-6c	Maternal
Daniel	38	3c	Paternal
M3	36	4-6c	Maternal

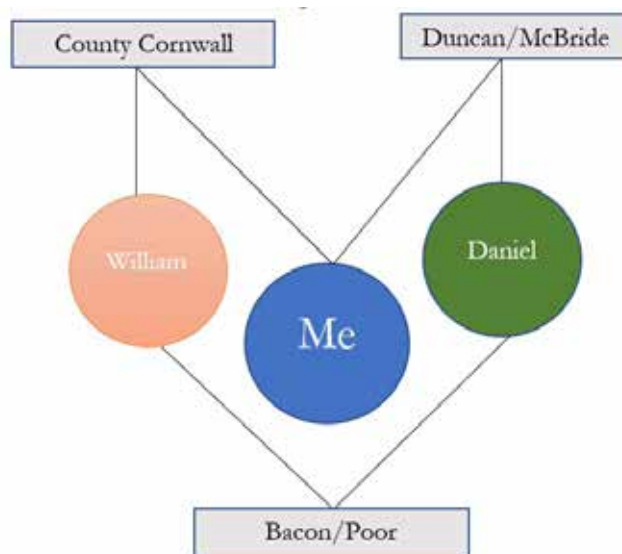
Had I made a mistake with attribution? Were my mother's and father's family interconnected? Or something else?

Even without doing any further research I thought it unlikely that my parent's families were interrelated because:

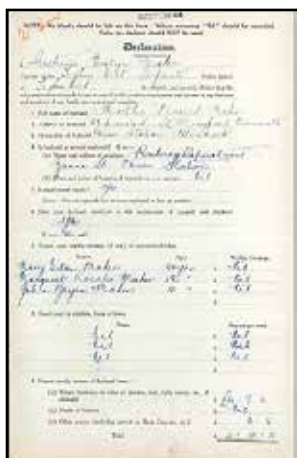
- While they had all come from Great Britain, they originated from different counties, with one exception – Berkshire, a county close to London. My father's ancestor left before 1790 and my mother's people arrived in Berkshire after 1800, from Cornwall. It's worth noting that I have never successfully found any Cornwall DNA connections, although there is a family Bible with Cornwall baptisms.
- My father's ancestors migrated to New South Wales and Tasmania, while my mother's family came to South Australia and Victoria.
- The shared DNA amount was only 1 segment and you would expect at least 2 if there was a paternal and maternal connection.

I checked Anne's DNA shared matches with me (I am a collaborator on her kit) and Daniel was not listed. As she is my first cousin, you would expect her shared matches to be the same as mine, through our shared set of grandparents. So that confirmed that William, Daniel, and I did not share a common ancestor as per Possibility #1.

Then I had a look at William's tree and Daniel's tree. And there it was – in both Daniel's and William's trees there was an ancestor couple Bacon/Poor. And Daniel and I had an ancestor couple Duncan/McBride. I am still not quite sure how William and I are related but probably through my maternal county Cornwall line.



1. Member matches for CJ Eddington and William, sharing 26 cM, ancestry.co.uk, [accessed 21 July 2023].



Married women teachers' declarations

We hold copies of 693 declarations submitted by married women teachers for the years 1932–1935 as part of series NRS-12294 Special bundles [Public Service Board], which have all now been digitised and are [available for searching in our catalogue](#). You can narrow your search by the name of the teacher, husband (when listed in the file) or school.

NRS-12294-56-[8/1187C]-[60] *Married women teachers' declarations - MAHER, Catherine Evelyn*

Against the backdrop of the Depression in the 1930s, the NSW Government passed the *Married Women (Lecturers and Teachers) Act 1932*. This Act restricted the

employment of married women in the Department of Public Instruction. Under the Act, all married women employed by the Department faced dismissal, and any woman intending to marry had to resign upon marrying.

The justification for the Act was to release teaching places for new female and male graduates of the state teachers' college, who had been guaranteed employment as part of their study. Further, although previously women teachers had been encouraged by the Department to resign upon marriage, the numbers of those staying on began to increase.

Section 2 (3) of the Act provided for the retention of married women teachers on a year-to-year basis. In order to be considered for retention women were asked to complete a statutory declaration every year explaining their circumstances. Most applied for an exemption on the grounds of hardship — for example, being separated from a husband and left without means of financial support, combined incomes being inadequate to support a family, supporting husbands unemployed due to illness or injury (disability after service during World War I), or supporting family members.

At the time there were 854 married women teachers, of whom 725 were found to satisfy the conditions of exemption. The declarations show details of both the teacher and her husband, including his address and occupation, income of the teacher, her husband and unmarried children living at home. The women teachers were asked to include detail about their financial circumstances to support their declaration.

Dismissed women were offered compensation in the form of a superannuation payout under the Act. They received three weeks salary for each completed year of service, and half a week's salary for completed six months service.

The *Married Women (Lecturers and Teachers) Act 1932* was finally repealed in 1947 after a long campaign led by Jessie Street, the United Associations of Women, and Teachers Federation activists.

Immigration records released online

We are delighted to announce that our partner Ancestry has digitised, indexed and published an important set of 19th century NSW immigration records held in the State Archives Collection. The database is titled [New South Wales, Australia, Immigration Records, 1840–1902](#).



NRS-4481-3-[7/15960]-St3681 *Government Printing Office 1-11416 -On board S.S. Pericles, 1909*

These previously undigitised records provide a remarkable range of information beyond traditional shipping lists, about immigrants and the schemes under which they emigrated.

Key indexed series included in this suite are:

- **NRS 5274** Wages paid to orphans, 1849–51
- **NRS 5324** Persons authorised to import migrants, 1838–42
- **NRS 5243** Applications from persons in the colony nominating immigrants, 1857–58, 1880, 1885–95

In addition, a number of non-indexed, browsable series are included:

- **NRS 5328** Ships' papers, 1839–91
- **NRS 5250** Copies of letters sent to public officers re migration to NSW, 1841–02

Digitisation increasingly plays a key role in both the preservation of and access to the State Archives Collection. Our partnership with Ancestry is central to furthering this work and we are so pleased to bring these records to a worldwide audience.

Assisted immigrants digital shipping lists, 1828–1896

One of our most popular online resources, the [Assisted immigrants digitised shipping lists 1828–1896](#) is now available in an easy-to-search index format.

Simply type in the name of ship and the year of arrival to locate the shipping list you are after. We have also provided a handy [chronological list of ships](#) arriving for those who like to scan the lists in date order.

Search for the name of an assisted immigrant in our [Assisted Immigrants Index 1839–1896](#). This will give you the name of the ship and the year. Then look for the passenger list in the digitised shipping lists.



NRS-5316 [4/4808] *Assisted immigrant list, North arrived 24 Dec 1883*

More probate packets added to the State Archives Collection: update

The Supreme Court of NSW is actively transferring probate packets into the State Archives Collection. The Court has now transferred the packets for 1977 and they are [listed in our catalogue](#).

One of our most popular record series for family historians are probate packets for 1817–1979 and 1989. Records in a probate packet include:

- the last will and testament of the deceased
- codicils (additions or revocations to the will)
- letters of administration.

You can also find an inventory of assets of the estate, affidavits of death and copy of the death certificate, oath of office of the executor and affidavits sworn by the executor. To find probate packets in our catalogue search for the name of the deceased and add the word death — for example 'Arthur Smith death'.

To find out more about our probate packets, see our Probate Packet and Wills guide on our website at <https://mhsw.au/guides/probate-packets-wills-guide/> and our recent webinar: <https://mhsw.au/webinars/probate/>.

Field book listings added to the State Archives Catalogue

Field books are a record of surveyors' measurements and observations, including land boundaries, descriptions of natural features, and are often accompanied by sketches of properties, town allotments, and roads. They complement Crown plans, and assist family and local historians find out more about land.



NRS-20347-1-6-1472
Mr J Maguire – Surveyor,
20/03/1958

We have recently added many thousands of items to the State Archives Collection catalogue, including several series of survey field books.

These include almost 9,000 items from series NRS-14467 Field books relating to property valuations (and cancelled field book entries), 1920–2019; and 5,700 items in NRS-18887 Surveyors' field books – Departmental surveyors [Surveyor General], 1925–1993.

This makes finding and requesting relevant field books easy, and many more items are still to be added!

Please note that items from these series with contents less than 30 years old are closed to public access.

Celebrating the centenary of The Astor, 1923–2023

Caroline Simpson Library Display
24 October 2023 – 26 February 2024

Upon completion in 1923, The Astor was the largest reinforced concrete building in Australia, the tallest residential block, and this country's first company title residences. Designed by architects Donald Esplin and Stuart Mill Mould, The Astor was a visible sign of a modernising city, and provided residents with a new way of city living that incorporated a range of modern conveniences. One hundred years on, it remains an elegant and enduring Sydney landmark.



NRS-4481-3-[7/15983]-St8736
Government Printing Office
1-17381 Prince Consort's
statue with Astor building in
background, 1923

To celebrate the centenary of The Astor, a display in the Caroline Simpson Library brings together a range of objects from the archives of The Astor, alongside collection material from the library, to explore the concept, design, and construction of the building, as well as look at the apartments of several early residents.

Christmas Opening Hours

Our closure and reopening dates for the holiday period are:

State Archives Reading Room

- Closed from Saturday 23 December 2023
- Open from Tuesday 9 January 2024

Caroline Simpson Library

- Closed from Saturday 23 December 2023
- Open from Tuesday 16 January 2024

Subscribe online to Collection eNews

Join our mailing list at <https://pages.wordfly.com/sydneylivingmuseums/pages/Subscribe/>

Be the first to find out about our latest news, exhibitions, events and special offers.

To stay up to date with the NSW State Archives Collection, Caroline Simpson Library Collection and Museums Collection at Museums of History NSW simply select **Collections** as one of the options you'd like to hear about.



OUR SAG COMMUNITY

We congratulate the following members of the August 2022 cohort who completed the Society's Certificate in Genealogical Research this year:

Lesley Abrahams, NSW
Paul Azzopardi, VIC
Susan Beets, TAS
Kirstine Boy, VIC
Sally Byatt, NSW
Janelle Collins, NSW
Beverley Collis-Bird, NSW
Kate Cunningham, VIC
(awarded posthumously)
Wanda Dempster, NT
Sandra Dexter, VIC
Kerrie Franks, NSW
Christina Goddard, SA
Lyn Hanlon, QLD
Miriam Hurworth, WA

Neville Jones, NT
Kim Kennaugh, QLD
Katrin Kroeger, VIC
Tonya Lambor, WA
Nitsia Lionis, ACT
Marsha Milliken, SA
Kirsty Peddi, WA
Rory Rasmussen, SA
Eileen Shine, NSW
Donna Steven, VIC
Emma Svedin, WA
Michelle Tabe, NSW
Debra Tiziani, VIC
Ann Wells, WA

If you would like to enrol in our February or August 2024 intake for the Certificate in Genealogical Research, or want to find out more about our other online and in-person courses, visit: www.sag.org.au/StudyOnlineWithUs

SAVE THE DATE 2024 Annual General Meeting

The Society's Annual General Meeting in 2024 will be held on Saturday 18 May from 3pm. Further details will be provided on the Society's website and to members in the new year.

Deaths

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

Elizabeth Allum
Killara
28 August 2023

Marion Goard
North Narooma
1 May 2023

Jenny Healy
Berry
14 June 2023





Benefactors

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

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

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

End of Year Appeal

As the year concludes, why not take the opportunity as you gather with family over the festive season to let them know of your desire to donate your family papers and/or a monetary gift to the Society in your will.

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 material will be preserved and appreciated by coming generations of family historians.

As we incur various expenses in cataloguing, indexing and storing this material any financial donation you can make to offset these costs is appreciated.

The Society has an urgent need to replace aging scanning equipment to help expand our digitisation program. We would like your help to raise at least \$5,000 to put toward this very worthwhile cause.

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.

Donate today and help us safeguard Australia's genealogical treasures!

www.sag.org.au/gift

(02) 9247-3953

Out & About

BY DANIELLE TEBB



Edina Tour

On a fresh spring afternoon in September, I accompanied Education Manager, Vanessa Cassin, on a private tour of the Edina Estate in Waverley to see this beautiful house and learn about the family who donated it to the Uniting Church.

The Estate was home to the Vickery family from 1844 until 1922, when it was transferred to the Methodist Church for use as a War Memorial Hospital. From exquisite stained glass windows, intricately carved wooden interiors and furniture, to pressed metal ceilings and unique tiled fireplaces, the tour has something for everyone, complete with a carved stone face in the garden, patiently waiting to be returned to pride of place, watching over the grounds. The building's restoration is a credit to the Uniting Church and the work hasn't finished yet.

As the building has functioned as a hospital for just over 100 years, it's not surprising to note that there is a small

area set aside for housing memorabilia: certificates, photos and artefacts and so on — a bonus for those who may have relatives who worked in the hospital, or were born there.

The SAG was fortunate to arrange two tours for the first half of 2024 with Michael Waterhouse, tour guide and descendant of the original owners: Sunday 10 March and Sunday 17 March, 10.30am –12.30pm on each day. See our event calendar for more information. While we will have the opportunity to add further tours, don't miss your chance to view this magnificent building: War Memorial Hospital, 125 Birrell Street, Waverley.

The SAG Library holds a copy of Michael Waterhouse's recent publication – *Family, Faith and Fortune in Victorian Sydney: The Edina Estate* at B4.024/20/1 with a review appearing in *Descent* June 2023, p. 73.

Parramatta Female Factory

SAG President Melissa Hulbert and Vice-President Janette Pelosi joined New Zealand Interest Group Lead Pauline Weeks, Education Manager Vanessa Cassin, and myself at the Parramatta Female Factory on Friday 28 October to celebrate their annual "It's A Riot" event.

Overcast weather and a light drizzle of rain kept the temperature pleasantly cool as we gathered to commemorate and celebrate the day nearly 200 years ago when the female inmates, fed up with hunger and appalling living and working conditions, broke out of the Factory gates and onto the streets of Parramatta. Although they were rounded up, the women refused to identify the ringleaders, so all shared equally in the consequent punishments.

Following the opening address by Parramatta Female Factory Friends President, Gay Hendriksen, other dignitaries present — including the Vice Consul for Ireland and NSW Environment Minister Penny Sharpe — all spoke movingly of their personal connections to the women and the site. In standing up for themselves, the actions of these convict women continue to resonate with us today. The ceremony concluded with the laying of flowers at the Welcome Wall.

The Female Factory Precinct was established in the 1820s and was home to tens of thousands of female convicts, orphaned

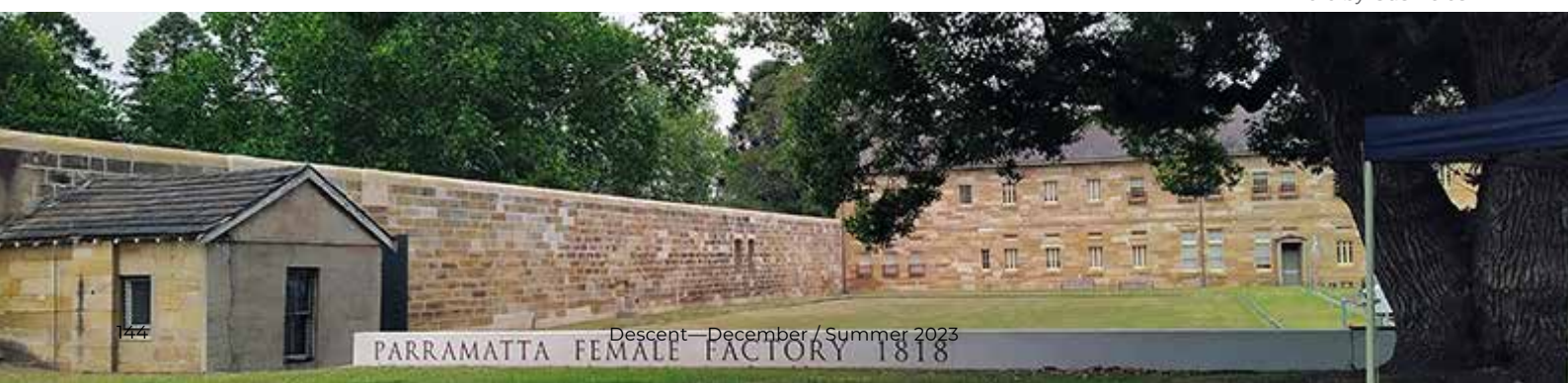
children, and vulnerable girls and young women before it closed. It had the first dedicated women's health service in the colony, and it was the site of the first known female workers riot in Australia in 1827. When the Factory closed in 1848, it became the Parramatta Lunatic Asylum and is now part of the Cumberland Hospital. The well-preserved buildings, archaeology and landscape of the precinct has been on the Australian National Heritage List since 2018, and is recognised for its outstanding heritage value to the nation as a place that demonstrates Australia's social welfare history.

The state and federal governments have officially added the Parramatta Female Factory to Australia's UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List, and the next steps include a rigorous assessment process to meet a minimum of selection criteria by the World Heritage Committee. The SAG is fully supportive of the efforts to have the site listed and will report on updates when they become available.



From front: Pauline Weeks, Melissa Hulbert and Janette Pelosi at the commemoration ceremony.

The Welcome Wall at the Parramatta Female Factory
Photo by Gus Pelosi



SURPRISES FROM SECRETS: DNA results as a feminist issue

by Ruth Graham, SAG CEO

When we run Society events, we can often predict the type that's likely to attract a strong audience, and then sometimes we can be surprised. In recent months, our special *Let's Talk About ... Secret and Lies in Family History* webinar attracted 178 members, whilst a call to participate in focus groups for the *Intimate Lives: The Ethics of Uncovering Family Secrets* project generated around 200 emails. We had obviously hit on topics of interest! At the heart of both activities is the consequence of new family members identified from DNA testing and results analysis. Sometimes this is a consequence of following specific searches for parents or family members by adoptees, or from finding out that a father or grandfather doesn't match the documented person, or may have strayed from the marital bed to father another child.

As much as test results can confirm a pedigree line when the paper trail is inconclusive (such as too many John Smiths in an area as potential fathers), they can also reveal the result of forced adoptions and illegitimacy. Illegitimacy — historically defined as the state of being born to parents who are not married — is a concept deeply rooted in patriarchal structures that have long perpetuated gender inequalities. From a feminist perspective, illegitimacy is not just a social stigma but a manifestation of the broader issues surrounding women's autonomy, reproductive rights, and the societal expectations placed upon them.

This ties in with the social research we routinely undertake to situate our ancestors in their local and wider community sphere. Opportunities for education, professional careers, contraception, abortion, and indigenous rights have varied considerably for women, and in the 21st century remain contentious issues in places from Afghanistan to Indiana, attracting modern legislative instruments to either right historical wrongs or return us to the practices of the past.

Historically, the term "illegitimate" has reinforced societal norms that dictate a woman's value is tied to her marital status. In traditional patriarchal societies, women who bore children outside of wedlock often faced severe social ostracisation and discrimination. This stigma served to control women's sexuality and reinforced the notion that a woman's primary role was within the confines of marriage. For example, those with Scottish heritage such as myself might have seen evidence from their own families from the kirk session records (available via the ScotlandsPeople website) that both seek to force marriages or at least mandate financial support for an unmarried mother to be.

One of the key issues is the impact of legal and institutional frameworks on the experiences of unmarried mothers and their children. Historically, laws and social policies have discriminated against individuals born outside of wedlock,



Photo by Laura Garcia from pexels.com

further entrenching the stigma associated with illegitimacy. Advocates for legal reforms try to ensure equal rights and protections for all individuals, regardless of their family background. This includes challenging patrilineal inheritance laws, custody battles, and discriminatory practices that have disproportionately affected unmarried mothers.

The family history community *Project Infant* is a recent undertaking to provide databases of individuals caught up in the challenges associated with Mother and Baby Homes in Ireland. In 2023, the then Australian Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, provided a formal apology for those impacted by forced adoptions from the 1950s to the 1970s — which in some cases has led to compensation being made available — it is those babies now grown up that we are seeing buying DNA kits and looking for their genetic pedigrees, looking for their birth parents, looking for answers.

The *Intimate Lives* project led by Dr Ashley Barnwell from the University of Melbourne and Dr Alexandra Mountain from SAG, is one that seeks to provide a framework for family historians, or anyone uncovering past family secrets about intimate lives. The concerns surrounding family secrets are complex: from the psychological impact to legal implications, alongside a disruption to the previously known family structure and dynamics, need be addressed. I look forward to the outcomes of this project, as well as further discussions regarding respectful handling of the choices the women in our past were forced to make.

Further reading

Barnwell, Ashley. "Family Secrets and the Slow Violence of Social Stigma." *Sociology (Oxford)* 53, no. 6 (2019): 1111–26. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0038038519846443>.

Moore, Susan M. "Family History Research and Distressing Emotions." *Genealogy (Basel)* 7, no. 2 (2023): 26. <https://doi.org/10.3390/genealogy7020026>.

To contact the **Forced Adoption Support Service** in your state or territory, call 1800 21 03 13.

<https://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/families-and-children/programs-services/forced-adoption-practices>

Link-Up services:

<https://aiatsis.gov.au/family-history/you-start/link>

EDUCATION@SAG

BY VANESSA CASSIN

I would like to start my final column for 2023 by wishing all our members a safe and joyous holiday period. My thanks go to the many volunteers who have worked with me throughout 2023 to help the education program here at SAG continue to run smoothly and with a great variety of events. There are many volunteers who assist in a variety of ways across the Society, however, I would like to particularly highlight those who help in my sphere of operations: course presenters, event hosts, the Education Committee, the Certificate & Diploma Committee, thesis supervisors, group leads and members who have offered to provide one-off presentations.

I would also like to thank the other staff here at the Society who have all been very generous with their time whenever I have approached them to host online events, provide presentations or help me source presenters.

Work is well underway to plan our 2024 education and events program. All of our popular longer courses will be returning, including our research methods and DNA courses. A preliminary calendar is included with this issue of *Descent* and many events will be available on our website for registration by the time you receive this magazine. As always, please check our website regularly as dates sometimes need to change due to unforeseeable events.

SAG will continue to offer the majority of events online. As our events over the past few years have been greatly enriched by the contributions of members who live in regional areas, interstate and overseas, we are excited to continue building these networks with other enthusiastic researchers. A small number of hybrid and in-person only events will also take place throughout the year.

We are very pleased to announce an in-person only, full-day conference we are holding in conjunction with the Ulster Historical Foundation on Wednesday 21 February. We were able to secure the easily accessible Sydney Mechanics School of Arts

as a venue, and we would love to have a full house for this event. More detailed information will be sent out shortly, but please save the date if you have research interests in Northern Ireland.

Our quarterly conferences for 2024 will be:

- Convicts
- Artificial Intelligence and Technology
- The Gold Rushes
- Wills and Probate

In addition, we plan to hold quarterly half-day events focusing on research in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

If any members would like to submit a proposal for a presentation at any of these events, please email a brief outline of what you can offer to admin@sag.org.au with the subject line "2024 conference proposal".

SAG's Interest groups continue to thrive and diversify. A survey to gauge the level of interest in establishing a Scandinavian/Nordic Research Interest Group showed a significant level of interest with over 270 members responding. We hope to launch this group in early 2024.

Following the Caribbean Research Group meeting in early November, the decision was made to continue meeting in 2024 and we would like to thank Sally Byatt who has volunteered to take on the group lead position. We would love to hear from any members who have Caribbean research interests or knowledge about the various countries that make up the Caribbean.

Developing from the strong level of interest in artificial intelligence and technology for family history that was apparent from a couple of sessions during the year, a new group dedicated to exploring the opportunities technology presents to researchers had its first meeting on 29 November this year and I'm sure we will be hearing a lot more from that group in the future.

I look forward to catching up with members, new and old, in 2024.

The SAG Writing Group turns 10!

The story began when Margaret Szalay, of Cremorne1 Publishing, presented a course at SAG's Richmond Villa on "Writing Family History" over three weeks in August and September 2013. When that ended, some people wanted to continue meeting to exchange information, ideas and techniques for writing their family and local histories; and thus the Writing Discussion Group was born.

The name was chosen because we wanted to encourage communication, and also because none of us felt sufficiently expert to call ourselves a Writers Group. We were also advised that the Society received phone calls from people wanting their history written for them and might think that was us!

To keep us motivated, we wanted to meet monthly, and on a weekday, not quarterly on a Saturday, as other Interest Groups did at the time. Our initial approval was until June the next year when the future of the group would be reviewed. During our period of probation, attendances were so high that our future was secure. We have met on the second Thursday of the month (with the exception of January) since November 2013.

At our first meeting the topic was writing style, ably, if nervously, presented by Ailsa Dee and Christine Sanderson. Since then we have had editors, publishers and authors as guest speakers and drawn on the skills of our members for such varied topics as writing for your audience, grammar, compiling an index and appendix, editing, illustrations, maps, photobooks, etc.

We also have had many Flash stories, designed to practise our editing skills. One or more themes were chosen the month before and people prepared a relevant story from their family history to read at the next meeting. There was a strict time limit of three minutes, thus forcing people to focus on the important parts and discard the irrelevant.

Many times we have celebrated the success of members who had their story, article or book published. In our first five years, Writing Group members had 19 books published as well as 127 articles in family and local history journals, in addition to writing entries for SAG's annual Croker Prize, not to mention blogs, obituaries and other assignments.





From left: Sue Stenning, Elizabeth Capelin, Lilian Magill and Emily Purser cut the cake.



Over 30 past and present members of The Writing Group attended the Group's birthday celebrations at Richmond Villa on Thursday 16 November. As The Writing Group has existed online since COVID, it was a great opportunity to meet new members face-to-face for the first time, catch up with some of the long-term members as well as remember those well-loved members who have sadly died.

I was the group's convenor until the end of 2017. Then we were fortunate when Lilian Magill took over, because she was able to take us online. She saw us update our name to "The Writing Group". This year we welcomed our new co-convenors, Elizabeth and Emily. They have established an optional Basecamp website for sharing of ideas and writing projects between meetings. All convenors have served on the marking panel for the Croker Prize each year.

So if you would like to develop your writing skills in an encouraging environment you can find out more about us on the Society website www.sag.org.au. Click on the tab Events & Courses and then Groups. Almost at the bottom of that list is THE WRITING GROUP. Each session is only \$5 for SAG members, and new attendees are always welcome!

Sue Stenning

I took over The Writing Group from Sue in February 2018 and tried to continue in the same way. We had authors giving advice on how they wrote up their stories, flash stories continued, and members gave talks on topics they were experienced with, like using maps, indexes and using humour in our stories.

2020 dawned with talk of a new flu-like bug, and little did we know that because of that bug our March meeting would be our last face-to-face meeting.

The Society scrambled to get us onto Goto Webinar and our meetings continued, but not everything that was planned could go ahead. In November 2020 we switched to Zoom meetings and now we could see each other again. This presented new challenges, however, with different technology, which even now some still struggle with.

As the co-ordinator, this became a challenge to present the topics in interesting ways and not all authors wanted to give a talk on this platform. I am thankful that Robert Tickner, Sarah Luke, Corinda Watt and Rachel Franks had no qualms using Zoom.

While our stories became PowerPoint presentations, show-and-tell remained a challenge that we worked around as best we could, but the group struggled as we missed the friendships, the chat at morning tea and lunch afterwards. In December 2020, I organised a socially-distanced lunch for 15 at the pavilion in the Botanical Gardens. It was wonderful to be together again.

The Writing Group also raised money for different charities throughout the year, with the last two being for Hay Bales for Farmers in 2018 and the NSW Rural Fire Service RFS in 2019. Unfortunately, that too has ceased since COVID.

I have enjoyed my time as co-ordinator and am thrilled that the group has reached its 10th anniversary.

Lilian Magill

In 2023, The Writing Group has grown, welcomed new members from across Australia and other countries, and new developments have been introduced. We now have two convenors, Elizabeth Capelin and Emily Purser, and have introduced an online discussion platform (Basecamp) for members to share information, random chats and pieces of writing between meetings.

Discussions have taken place through open forums for questions and comments as always. In addition, we have had small group discussions in breakout rooms on Zoom and these have helped to personalise the online experience.

Topics covered this year included the various genres through which family history is written, biographies and research reports, story structures and narrative techniques, and the difference between writing for family and for the general public. We talked about technologies for writing including the use of AI (artificial intelligence) and the principles and practices used in editing.

Guest authors have shared their writing experiences and methods, and the challenges encountered both in writing and publishing their family histories. Two members of the group, who have won the SAG's annual Croker Prize for Biography writing competition, have shared their practical knowledge and advice on writing, particularly for the competition.

The Writing Group has always showcased flash stories: a limit of three minutes on a specific theme. We have heard and read remarkable stories written with such detail and emotion at two meetings this year, and the November meeting brought many to tears with beautifully worded pieces for Remembrance Day.

We look forward to 2024 — encouraging each other through communicating ideas, resources and practices to develop and improve the writing of our histories, as well as sharing with the group our writing, what we have read, and podcasts we have heard that offer family history writers helpful suggestions and guidance.

Writers of all levels are welcome to join our monthly meetings where we share the joy of writing family history.

Elizabeth Capelin & Emily Purser

DNA CORNER

BY CHRISTINE WOODLANDS

How strong is your proof?

One 7 cM match does not prove a great-great-grandparent relationship.

Adding DNA evidence to documentary evidence has been the biggest development for family historians over the past decade. Many of us find that our recent genetic ancestors are the same as those we've established from documentary evidence. The bonanza is when genetic genealogy allows us to extend our ancestral tree back one or more generations. However, about one in four people who take a DNA test find that a parent, grandparent or great-grandparent is not the person expected.

Systematic and thorough analysis of DNA evidence is essential. We start by proving our known parents are our genetic parents, and then move out by generation starting with our grandparents. We shouldn't skip generations.

To "prove our pedigree", we need to understand two concepts:

- Tree triangulation: The process of reviewing the pedigree charts of DNA matches to identify a shared ancestor or ancestral couple.
- Chromosome triangulation: The process of reviewing shared segments of DNA with our matches to identify a shared ancestor or ancestral couple.

Proving relationships out to our great-great-grandparents generally requires:

1. Documentary evidence to support the pedigree charts of the tester and DNA matches.
2. Tree triangulation with matches from different descendant lines.
3. Total shared DNA to support the relationship between the tester and the matches.

Chromosome triangulation with matches from different descendant lines is generally the additional requirement:

- for relationships beyond our great-great-grandparents, and
- where documentary evidence can't be located for closer ancestors other than a parent/child.

This can't be done at AncestryDNA, which only reports the total shared DNA between the tester and match.



The diagram above helps me consider the DNA and documentary evidence I have gathered and what is required to prove different ancestors and relationships between matches. "Beyond reasonable doubt" is my standard for a parent/child or other close relationship. However, I'm more comfortable moving to "balance of probabilities" as the relationship becomes more distant like a great-great-grandparent. But one 7 cM match with the target ancestor in both trees is "insufficient" evidence to support the relationship.

Shared DNA between tester and match

AncestryDNA provides highly reliable relationship predictions where there's one relationship between a tester and match. I recommend using this over the Shared cM Project Tool at DNA Painter.

These two examples (see page 149) demonstrate why we need to be systematic and thorough in analysing our DNA evidence and consider the "proof continuum".

In the first example, the tester and match share 1151 cM of DNA. We can't jump to the conclusion that these people are first cousins. Sure this relationship is in the 87% group but half-sibling is in the 12% group. In this example, I'd look to gather evidence to prove the relationship "beyond reasonable doubt".

In the second example, the tester and match share 120 cM of DNA. As the shared DNA reduces, the range of possible

Possible DNA relationships	
This table shows the percentage of the time people sharing 1,151 cM have the following relationships:	
Percent	Relationship
87%	1st cousin Great-grandfather Great-grandson Granduncle See more
12%	Grandfather Grandson Half brother Uncle Nephew

Possible DNA relationships	
This table shows the percentage of the time people sharing 120 cM have the following relationships:	
Percent	Relationship
51%	2nd cousin 1x removed Half 2nd cousin 1st cousin 3x removed Half 1st cousin 2x removed
26%	2nd cousin 1st cousin 2x removed Half 1st cousin 1x removed Half great-granduncle Half great-grandnephew
18%	3rd cousin 2nd cousin 2x removed Half 2nd cousin 1x removed Half 1st cousin 3x removed
2%	3rd cousin 1x removed Half 3rd cousin Half 2nd cousin 2x removed 2nd cousin 3x removed
<1%	1st cousin 1x removed Half 1st cousin 2nd great-grandfather 2nd great-grandson See more
<1%	4th cousin 3rd cousin 2x removed Half 3rd cousin 1x removed Half 2nd cousin 3x removed

relationships grows. There's even a small possibility the relationship is half-first-cousins. For this relationship, I'd gather evidence to prove it "beyond reasonable doubt". There's the same small possibility the relationship is fourth cousin. For this relationship, I could move down the continuum to "balance of probabilities" but I'd continue to gather more evidence to work towards "beyond reasonable doubt".

You can watch a presentation, *Using DNA evidence and adding it to your tree*, by Veronica Williams from March 2023 by following this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BKEuvRTOwMg>



In August this year, to coincide with our 91st birthday and the end of Family History Month, the Society of Australian Genealogists launched a new series to help you delve further into research mysteries, answer some tricky questions, and perhaps even knock down a research brick wall or two.

Our new members-only series, *Family History Connect*, is now an ongoing series featuring small and intimate sessions focused on a particular area of genealogy research. Sessions have generally been facilitated by one of the Society's wonderful volunteers and, with a couple of exceptions, have taken place in-person at our Family History Research Centre & Library.

The group sessions have been an opportunity to discuss research strategies and approaches, get ideas for source leads and potential next steps. Our first session *Family History Connect | Aotearoa New Zealand* was a huge hit! Facilitated by our Aotearoa New Zealand Research Group

Lead and expert in all things NZ, Pauline Weeks, the group of participants discussed sources available for *Aotearoa New Zealand research in the library*, as well as tips and tricks to move forward with their individual research goals.

Other sessions so far have included:

- Family History Connect | Library Tour
- Family History Connect | Ancestry DNA
- Family History Connect | One "Focus" Studies
- Family History Connect | Beginners tips for the Library catalogue

A big thank you to dedicated Society volunteer Pauline Weeks for helping us get this new concept off the ground. Our thanks also to Society volunteer Christine Woodlands, as well as Kathryn Barrett, Vicki Hails and Yvonne Masters for generously donating their time to facilitate and assist with events in this series during the year.

We've got some exciting topics lined up for 2024, so stay tuned for more details at www.sag.org.au/FHC

If you are a member of the Society and would like to facilitate a session on your area of interest, either in person or online, please get in touch with us. These sessions are open to all current members of the Society and you are welcome to facilitate a one-off session or a series of sessions.

NEW LIBRARY CATALOGUE

Revamped online library catalogue!

BY GEMMA BESWICK

In November 2023, SAG's Family History Research Centre & Library launched a new online catalogue. Thanks to volunteers Lorraine Brothers, Heather Garnsey, and especially to Alison Wolf, who contributed invaluable assistance and guidance throughout the long development process.

We encourage you to use the catalogue and try out the different features. If you have any suggestions for improvements, we've set up an online feedback form for you to let us know. The form can be found at:

www.sag.org.au/Using-our-collections

Alternatively, you're welcome to call and speak with our Library staff or email us: Library@sag.org.au

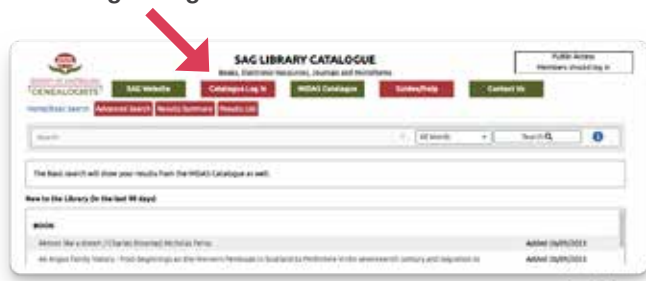
How to log in

Visit sag.org.au. Click the **Search our Collections** button in the top left-hand corner.



Once there, click the red **Search Library Catalogue** button. This will bring you to the Library catalogue.

Once at the catalogue home page, click the red **Catalogue Log in** button.



Log in with the username and password you use for the SAG website. Your username is the email address you have registered with us.

How to perform a basic search

Type a search term into the **Search** box towards the top of the screen.



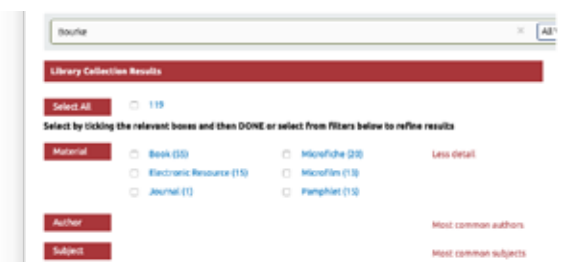
In the search box, you can use terms such as:

Placename e.g. Bourke or Surname e.g. Smith

You can also use a combination of both, e.g. Bourke plus also adding Smith into the search box.

Search results

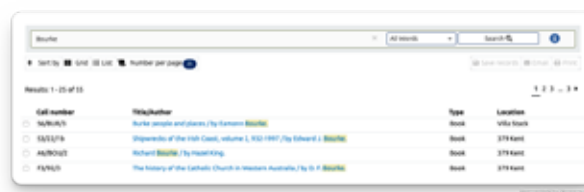
A summary of results for your search terms will be returned. The screen will be similar to this:



Click the blue text to see: All results or Results by material type

You can also choose to see the most common authors or subjects that match the search term you have entered.

In this example, we selected the **Book** material type. Results of the books matching the search term will be displayed like this:



Important fields to look out for include:

- **Call number:** This tells us how an item is classified, and is a finding aid for locating the item.
- **Location:** There are two locations being 379 (SAG Library at 2/379 Kent Street, Sydney) or Villa Stack. Villa Stack items are in storage.

You can then click on the title of the item to see detailed information about the item.

For more information, or questions about the library catalogue please get in touch with us. As always, Society staff are only a phone call away if you need assistance searching. You can reach us on (02) 9299 5151 during Library opening hours, or (02) 9247 3953 at other times.

RETRO RESEARCH ...

that never goes out of style!



Retro Research is a new series of articles we're starting in *Descent* and online via our social media channels to promote "retro" methods of research, as well as items in the collection that may not be available online or easy to find elsewhere.

In each article we will be highlighting resources in SAG's Family History Research Centre & Library or our Archives collection, where you might not have thought to look.

Thank you to our wonderful Library Assistant volunteers who provided some of the suggestions for the article, particularly Tony Jackson and Judy Meyer.

The Genealogist – Map Explorer

Whilst the website is far from retro, some of its sources are! One very useful section is the Map Explorer, which allows you to search for a street, or even a place, within overlays of historic and current maps of England and Wales. This is a great function which allows you to see changes through time, identify who was living near your ancestors, and learn details about their community, such as the locations of their workplace and place of worship from where they were living.

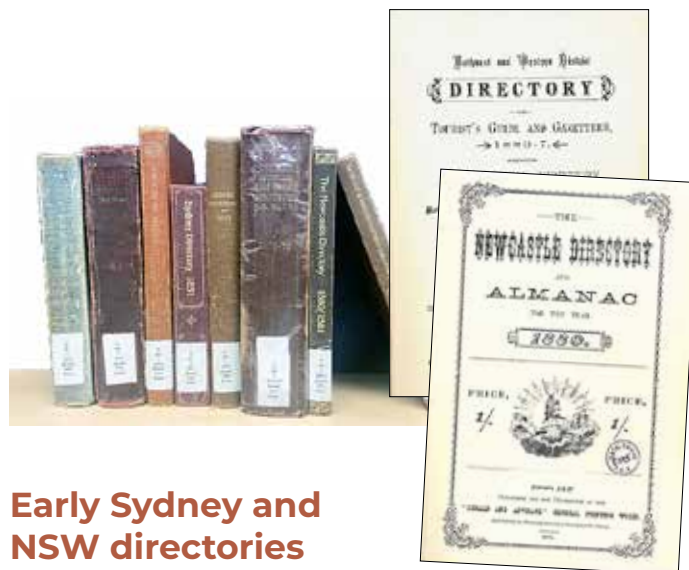
SAG has a subscription to *The Genealogist*, a commercial UK-based online website, available for members to access in our Family History Research Centre & Library. You can also search *The Genealogist* from home, without a subscription, and submit screenshots of the item(s) you want to our Library team, as part of our Quick Look Up service for SAG members.

Pioneer Registers

SAG holds a vast collection of "pioneer registers" in its holdings. These registers often contain vital facts and biographical information of settlers to a particular area. Listed below are some titles we hold at the SAG Family History Research Centre & Library, and as they were all published in or before 1998, they may be difficult to find elsewhere.

To find these and others, search using the place name and "pioneer" on our online catalogue.

The 1788–1820 Association's Pioneer Register second edition – Volume 1: containing genealogical details of 500 pioneers, their children and grandchildren	A5/14/2
Compiled by C. J. Smee and J. Selkirk Provis (2nd ed.)	
Pioneers of Stanley, Hurdle Flat, and Hillsborough	C5/90/Pam.7a and
Compiled by G. F. Craig	C5/90/Pam.7b
The Townsville and District Pioneer and biographical register	H5/90/Pam.1
Compiled by Marilyn Hammond	



Early Sydney and NSW directories

Before the heyday of the telephone and street directories, there were other commercial and residential directories for Sydney and other areas in NSW. You may have heard of the Sands and MacDougall Directories, however, below is a selection of other related items we hold in our library.

These are Special Reserve books and are to be handled with care, but we are more than happy for you to come in and view them or request a look-up!

The New South Wales calendar and General Post Office directory 1832	ZB8/1/1832
Compiled by James Raymond	
NSW directory 1836	ZB8/1/1836
The City of Sydney directory for MDCCCXLIV-V [Also known as Sydney directory of 1844–5]	ZB8/1/1844
Compiled by Francis Low	
Waugh and Cox's directory of Sydney and its suburbs, 1855	ZB8/1/1855
Greville's official post-office directory and gazetteer of New South Wales 1875–77	ZB8/1/1875-77
The Newcastle directory and almanac for the years 1880 and 1881	ZB8/1/1880-1
Compiled by William Hobart Shaw	
Bathurst and Western District directory, 1886–7	ZB8/1/1886
Compiled by Alex Middleton and Francis Beresford Maning	
Sydney commercial directory for the year 1851	ZB8/9/1851
Compiled by W. & F. Ford	

BOOK REVIEWS



BY LILIAN MAGILL

From Castlebar to Leichhardt: A Carr family history

by Edwin Catt

Edwin Carr has written a well-researched, illustrated and detailed book on four generations of direct Carr ancestors. Starting with John Carr, from Castlebar, County Mayo, and ending with Edwin's great-grandfather, Thomas Peter, "TP" Carr.

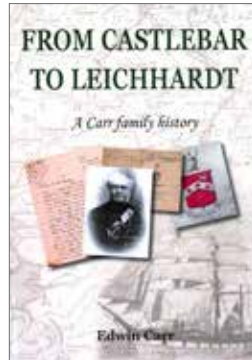
Spanning the 18th and 19th centuries, the book touches on the history of that period and the changes that happened, such as the invention of the telephone.

The book has 21 chapters, two detailed family trees, four appendices and an index.

Topics include women in family history, cops in Ireland and chapters for each of the nine family members, who came to Australia over a 23-year period.

I found it easy to read and was enthralled by the family story and the history of the times.

Edwin Catt, *From Castlebar to Leichhardt: A Carr family history*. Published by Kookaburra Hill Publishing Services, Victoria, 2023. SAG ref: A6/CAR/20



Tying the Knot The Formation of Marriage 1836–2020

by Rebecca Probert

This interesting book has nine chapters that cover the various acts and changes to them BUT read the introduction first. Rebecca's detailed introduction starts with her parent's wedding and contains useful information as to why she wrote this book.

This book will be very useful for people wishing to understand English marriage acts and how they affected those wishing to marry.

Rebecca's final sentence — "The law should reflect how twenty-first-century couples wish to marry, rather than how nineteenth-century lawmakers thought they should." — sums up a very complex subject.

Rebecca Probert, *Tying the Knot. The Formation of Marriage 1836–2020*. Published by Cambridge University Press, 2021. SAG ref: N3/30/34



Vandemonians The Repressed History of Colonial Victoria

by Janet McCalman

Vandemonians were convicts who, once freed, made their way across Bass Strait to lose themselves in Victoria. To quote from the book, they were "unwanted, the flies that spoil the honey pot".

Janet McCalman has written a very interesting book about these people, asking questions about who they were and why they had offended in the first place. She has selected a broad cross-section of individuals and investigated their convictions, transportation and then their time in Victoria.

One case study tells of James Francis Bentley, of the Eureka Hotel in Ballarat East, who had made good but, because of an incident with James Scobie, had his hotel burnt down and was tried for manslaughter. Although he tried to turn his life around a second time, he committed suicide in 1873.

Well researched, the book has endnotes, potted biographies of the people mentioned and a bibliography. There is also a look at the Founders and Survivors Ship Project Data.

Janet McCalman, *Vandemonians. The Repressed History of Colonial Victoria*. Published by The Miegunyah Press, 2021. SAG ref: C3/23/3



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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.

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