



# THE ANCESTRAL SEARCHER



Family History ACT

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# FAMILY HISTORY ACT

**Family History ACT is a business name of  
The Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra Inc. founded in 1964**

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**Front Cover:** Dr. Niel Gunson, graduation Melbourne, at 'The Bluff' Lang Lang (vale p. 70)

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# THE ANCESTRAL SEARCHER

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*\*Family History ACT is a business name of The Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra Inc.*

# *From the President*

*Rosemary McKenzie*

Another quarter has gone past very quickly and FFACT has been very busy throughout. We finished February off with two courses which were very interesting and well attended.

March started with our stall at the COTA (Council on the Ageing) Seniors Expo with a large number of visitors coming out to Exhibition Park in Mitchell. Our volunteers assisted many attendees who were interested in researching family history and also publishing their family history.

Also in March our education team offered *Beginning Your Family History* which ran for three consecutive weekends with 25 attendees joining us in-person and via Zoom to learn about constructing pedigree and group charts, vital records, DNA, genealogical databases and using *Trove* to find information about their ancestors. The course also covered a little colonial history and using family and government records, photographs, publications and other sources to add to our understanding of the lives and times within which our families lived.

Hopefully we left our attendees with much to think about and plenty of tips for developing their research plans, record and store the information that they find and an understanding of all that FFACT has to support and help them on their journeys. A huge thank you to the volunteers and presenters who made this course a success.

April was ACT Heritage Month and FFACT included a number of events in the program. I would like to thank those who organised the events, those who hosted the events and those who participated in the events enabling us to promote Family History ACT to the wider community.

April was also a sad month for our Society as two very well-known and admired members passed away. Trish Downes was well known for Irish and Convict research, and Dr. Niel Gunson known for his Heraldic knowledge, was also one of our Society's founding members. Their funerals were conducted during April, and Vales for both follow in this journal.

In May we celebrated the Irish. This included Jennifer Barnes talking about Irish *Brehon Law*, Richard Reid talking about personal experiences with *Family Records: An Immigrant's Backward Look* and Barbara Moore presenting the ever popular *Basic Irish Research*.

At the end of May, Vice President Michele Rainger and I, represented FFACT at the National Library's annual Donor Dinner. The event was held at *The Marion* across the lake from the National Library. This was an opportunity for the Library Council to recognise and thank the benefactors who support the Library and the organisations with which it works. It was a particularly joyous

event this year following the recent announcement of secure funding for the Library and Trove, and the completion of repairs to the Library's roof. We shared good food and good conversation with friends and colleagues from the Canberra philanthropic community, other cultural organisations in the region and Library staff.



*Attendees at the Patron Dinner. Dr Marie-Louise Ayres FAHA, Director-General, NLA.*

In this journal we also include an article from Dr Kate Bagnall who is the Family History Coordinator and Senior Lecturer in Humanities, University of Tasmania. The University of Tasmania is providing sponsorship for the EM Fletcher Writing Competition 2023 and have provided some information about the Family History course on offer through UTAS.

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## Heritage Month Wrap Up

April 2023 marked the 40th *Canberra and Region Heritage Festival*. Family History ACT helped celebrate with five events during the month of April. It made for an incredibly busy month for our volunteers but also a very enjoyable one.

Our last event was a very successful **Library Open Day** attended by over 35 visitors. This included 25 who took advantage of our sessions for members of the public to talk with an experienced Society member to start to *Shake their Family Tree*. Some fascinating and helpful conversations were had.



*Gina Tooke demonstrating Family Tree Maker. Barbara Toohy helping a guest with their research.*

The month started for us on 4 April with our **Father Brian Maher Lecture** which was delivered this year by Cheryl Bollard, our Treasurer and Project Leader for the Canberra Pioneers Project. The lecture was attended by over 50 people including ACT Heritage Minister Rebecca Vassarotti, who has discovered that she has connections to families in the Maher Collection, and by members of Fr Maher's family who were thrilled to learn of our efforts to preserve and make available Fr Maher's legacy.



*Cheryl Bollard presenting. L-R: Cheryl Bollard, Minister Rebecca Vassarotti and Rosemary McKenzie*  
A number of families joined our **Childrens Scavenger Hunt** on April 15th.



*Participants in the Cemetery Scavenger Hunt. Photos: Barbara Toohey.*

And while Barb Toohey and Cheryl were managing that activity at Riverside Cemetery in Queanbeyan, another group led by Mel McNamara was representing us at the **National Trust Open Day at Duntroon Dairy** where Canberra's beautiful autumn weather brought out good crowds.



*Family History ACT information at the Open Day. The well in the Duntroon Dairy.*

After a Covid-induced hiatus June Penny (assisted by Pennie Pemberton) conducted her **Torchlight Tours at St Johns Churchyard** over three nights. The tours were fully booked on every evening. Attendees on the Monday night received an added bonus when the Rector, Rev. David McLennan, accompanied the tour and invited participants to view the inside of the church where he provided a brief commentary on the memorials that line the walls. As is our practice, the proceeds of these tours have been shared with the St Johns Schoolhouse Museum.



*June Penny introducing the departed. June Penny welcoming the visitors to St Johns tour.*

Organising this many events required a lot of work from many of our members and we thank them all for their contributions.

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## Father Brian Maher Collection, Significance Assessment

Cheryl Bollard

In November 2022, Family History ACT (FHA) was granted a National Library of Australia Community Heritage Grant for a Significance Assessment of the Father Brian Maher (FBM) Collection. Significance Assessments use an independent qualified assessor to evaluate the collection, determine its national significance, and make recommendations for future collection management. It was a collaborative process between FHA and our assessors, A/Prof Bruce Pennay (CSU) and Dr Alexandria Dellios (ANU).

This article contains the Statement of Significance, the meaning and value of the collection and the key recommendations from the final report. Other areas in the report include the methodology, a literature review, and the assessment of the history and significance of the collection, including its condition, comparable collections and the value for possible research. A copy of the Significance Assessment report and its recommendations are available from Family History ACT.

## Statement of Significance

The Father Brian Maher collection, created and curated by Father Brian Maher, is a unique paper-based collection that has social and historical value for local and national communities. As a historical collection of documents pertaining to the family histories of mainly Irish-Catholic settlers in southern NSW from the 1820s to the 1920s, it has potential to enrich our understanding of Australia's colonial and immigrant history.

The collection, taken as a whole, is valuable to family historians with direct connections, regional historians wanting to understand local European settlement patterns, religious historians exploring importance of denominational supports, and migration historians unravelling how groups went about the task of settling.

Organised according to the family name of the first male settler, each family file offers valuable insights—but collectively, and cross-sectionally, the collection demonstrates the deeply connected and co-dependent lives of these rural Irish-Catholic families of a labouring class. The collection spans the convict, pre-famine bounty immigrant, and free immigrant period in Australia's colonial history. These waves of migration, especially after the convict era ended in the 1840s, shaped the strong Catholic nature of the region. While Australian history is not short of prominent and influential Catholics, few of them, let alone the bulk of the 'ordinary people' represented in this collection, are recognised in the local and regional historiography of Canberra and southern NSW. Individual documents contained throughout the collection can enrich the local histories of places like Boorowa, Gulgong, Yass and Binalong, and the 'Irish villages' that formed there as a result of chain emigration and the support of religious and ethnic patronage. The collection has great potential to inform in Richard Reid's words a '**map of the past**', and demonstrates the transnational connections and networks established between particular counties in Ireland (especially Tipperary) and towns in southern NSW. The collection, therefore, lends itself to countless research projects covering areas like national group supports and community formation in rural and isolated surrounds, chain migration and transnational patronage, and genealogical projects mapping Tipperary to particular locales in Australia.

The value of the collection also lies in its **convenience and organisation**. It brings together sources that would otherwise be disparate and spread across many collections and online platforms, and therefore facilitates the concentrated study of families in the region. Admittedly, while some records may be available in other online platforms, the collection should be approached holistically. The potential connections to be drawn across different files and families reveals a rich and interconnected history of Irish-Catholic settlement, in which both class and ethnicity, as well as the obvious **denominational** focus, played a part.



The ACT region's history, in particular, has been told in reference to prominent Protestant families, despite the density of Irish-Catholic populations in places like Goulburn, Queanbeyan and Yass; the (ethnic) Irish element, as well as the Roman Catholic element, is needed to diversify understandings of the region's history.



*One of the files from the Collection. William Sullivan #152*

The collection Father Maher amassed offers fascinating insight into the diffuse influence of early Irish and Catholic communities in Australia—speaking to their distinctive cultural identity, the complex networks of kinship that developed in the Australian colonies, and their economic and cultural contributions to building the region of southern NSW from the 1820s to the 1920s. The FBM collection contains elaborate family charts, photographs, useful photocopies of title deeds, convict and emigration records, BDM records, letters and correspondence, newspaper articles and accounts of local and family histories written over the last 50 years.

### **Meaning and Values**

The FBM collection contains the voices of many, including settlers themselves, officials and bureaucrats, descendants and family friends, archivists, and historians.

The denominational focus of the collection, which is also a socio-economic focus, is paramount in assessing the collection's historical and social value.

It has the ability to inform local and national histories of Catholicism in the region. The collection has broader social and historical value to the region, and potentially the nation. As a collection of family histories, it has great potential to offer fuller historical accounts of Australia—the family is central to people’s understanding of history, particularly in Australia. The FBM collection can inform histories of non-Anglo colonisation, and to undo the “myth of homogeneity” that tends to collapse the experience of Irish-Catholic settlers into the story of ‘British’ settlement.



*Father Brian Maher*

The Irish-Catholic families who settled in southern NSW from the nineteenth century were a sizeable and influential ethnic and religious cohort in Australia. It should also be stressed that family history, or genealogical work, can be deeply political and intersectional. De Groot summarises this potential well when he states that genealogical work appreciates “linearity and complexity, cosmopolitanism and migration, mobility and social development”. Family history “can be used to cleave to an identity and a community, to discover one’s context in the world and to tell stories which were only kept just alive by family and ignored by the main narrative of history.” The records relating

to Irish-Catholic families in the FBM collection have much to tell family, public and academic historians, as well as the broader public, about the following:

- Familial networks and settlement patterns. Connections between families are demonstrated in the collection through intermarriage, which was high, and business dealings and lease holdings. The collection is a testament to how national group support networks persisted across generations and between Irish-Catholic families in small rural communities. This **relational** aspect could be mapped (a task for future researchers) and would reveal much about early settlement in southern NSW (including the role of religion and patrimony in people’s movements and the patterns of development of bush towns in the region).
- The **lifestyles and physical impact** of early settlers, particularly in regional towns where little infrastructure pertaining to this period remains. These settlers built some of the first churches and schools in the region, and the collection contains accounts and sometimes images of these endeavours.
- The importance of **religion and sectarianism** and how it formed settler society. This is evident too in the incidence of travel for worship or Catholic education for their children, and in the context of regional and isolated

surrounds, and the buffeting factor of anti-Catholic discrimination across early colonial Australia (and arguably up until the era of mass immigration after WWII).

The collection, taken as a whole, is valuable to: family historians with direct connections; regional historians wanting to understand local European settlement patterns; religious historians exploring the importance of denominational supports; and migration historians unravelling how groups went about the task of settling during this period and in the landscapes of southern NSW.



*Some of the boxes of files in the collection. Indexed, digitised and mapped.*

## Key recommendations

1. The priority for the Father Brian Maher collection should be improved by public accessibility and promotion. Both can be aided by digitisation and more fruitful connections with similar institutions and collections. Digitisation is key to enabling broader access to the collection.
2. Community consultations undertaken for this Significance Assessment revealed a lack of knowledge about the collection's existence. Where knowledge did exist, particularly in institutions like the ACT Heritage Library, there was a desire to ascertain its access conditions and contents. It is recommended that FHACT share the collection with other local collecting institutions, who may direct researchers to it (local council libraries, Queanbeyan Library, Yass, and ACT Heritage Library).
3. Seek to develop end-user focused collaborations with relevant organisations and groups to document and share their respective histories, and their tie-ins with the FBM collection.

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- Malcolm, Elizabeth, and Hall, Dianne. *A new history of the Irish in Australia*. Cork: Cork University Press, 2019.
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# Fact vs Fiction

Tony FitzPatrick

One of the Macquarie Dictionary's meanings of the word *fact* is "Something said to be true or supposed to have happened". And for *lie* the meaning can be "A false statement made with intent to deceive". When you distort the facts, is that a lie? And if it is, then is it a "lesser" lie if done to preserve the family name?

This is a story that takes place circa 1910 of a woman in her 20s who has the misfortune of being unmarried and in the family way. Her strict Roman Catholic family lived in the Fairfield area of Sydney. Where the couple met, Sydney or Melbourne, cannot be determined from the information available. At the time, was Annette CROSS living in Melbourne, or in Sydney and packed off to Melbourne in the 'care' of her Uncle and Aunt?

Jenny Maunsell MILLER, female, is born on 19th May 1912 at North Fitzroy and a copy of the registration<sup>1</sup> of Birth is shown.

VICTORIA AUSTRALIA BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES REGISTRATION ACT 1996		REGISTRATION NUMBER [REDACTED]
BIRTH CERTIFICATE		
1 CHILD	Surname Given Name(s) Sex Date of Birth Place of Birth	<b>MILLER</b> Jenny Maunsell Female 19 May 1912 North Fitzroy
2 MOTHER	Surname Maiden Surname Given Name(s) Occupation Age Place of Birth	<b>MILLER</b> <b>CROSS</b> Annette  22 years New South Wales
3 FATHER	Surname Given Name(s) Occupation Age Place of Birth	<b>MILLER</b> Peter Dyer 26 years Mansfield, Victoria
4 MARRIAGE OF PARENTS	Date of Marriage Place of Marriage	21 March 1911 New South Wales
5 PREVIOUS CHILDREN OF RELATIONSHIP		Not any
6 INFORMANT(S)	Name Address	<b>A. MILLER</b> 10 Gloucester St North Fitzroy Mother

*All of the details have been amended for privacy.*

Here are the distorted facts:

- Annette MILLER (nee CROSS), the mother, was 25 years NOT 22 years.
- The 'married' surname MILLER was the stage name of her Uncle.
- A hint as to the Father's actual surname, MAUNSELL, is the second given name of the Child.
- The date of the supposed marriage, 21 March 1911, is composed of the day and month of Annette's Father's birth and the year of marriage of one of her Sisters.

I cannot verify the Mother's address that she gave when she was the informant. Is this another falsehood?

At some point after the birth Annette and daughter Jenny returned to live with her parents in Sydney. It would seem Annette was now using the surname of MAUNSELL as recorded as the second given name of her daughter. No doubt questions were asked: "Where is the Father" and the possible reply could be "Oh, interstate."

Evidently the questions kept coming as the months dragged on. But how do you bring forth a mythical father? Easy, you don't, you just kill him off. And so, 7 months later an advertisement appeared in *The Sydney Morning Herald* newspaper:

*MANSELL (nee CROSS) - December 16, 1912, the beloved husband of Annette, who was accidently killed in Victoria. In peace.*

More lies. Firstly, the surname is misspelt going from MAUNSELL to MANSELL. Secondly, he would not have been born CROSS. This was added to give a connection to Annette for anybody knowing her maiden name.

But wait, it gets better. Poor Jenny dies just short of her third birthday and her Death Certificate tells a different story again as Annette's Father, Jenny's Grandfather, was the informant. The child is now named Jenny MAUNSELL and NOT Jenny Maunsell MILLER. The Father's name is given as Peter MAUNSELL and not Peter MILLER.

And then to complete the deception a month after Jenny's death there appears an advertisement in a local newspaper:

### **RETURN THANKS**

*Mrs. MAUNSELL wishes to THANK all friends for the cards, flowers etc.*

And what is one of the Golden Rules of Genealogy – NEVER believe everything on a Birth, Death or Marriage certificate. The information is only as good as the person supplying same is knowledgeable or wishes to have presented.

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1 The data has been manipulated to provide privacy.

# Looking for Twenty-nine Girls

Rosemary McKenzie

*Coming near land, the sight, at first, frightened every one, that had no other thought but the large houses of their own native land; but seeing none there only a little smoke here and there in the bush ...*

*Coming on the river, oh! How happy I would be if you could just picture to yourself the neatest cottages ever seen on the banks. It revived us a little to see such comfort, thinking that as the outlets was so nice, what would the town be ...*

*Hobart Town ... There are mail-coaches, hotels, and two theatres here. Every week it is getting better. Go to what part of the town you will, you will see men working at the roads, new houses, and every stir [sic] that can be mentioned. Good wages for every one. A free person may think it their home when they come to it, by good behaviour, as they are respected.*

*Sarah Ward per the Edward Colston to VDL 1833, Irish Newspaper*

Sarah WARD was one of the 30 free female Irish immigrants who arrived in Van Diemen's Land on the 9 October 1833. Their 16-week voyage from Liverpool was not without incident but they all arrived safely and in good health. My ancestor, Jane WALSH, was one of the females in the group. All had come from the Dublin Mendicity Institute, a poorhouse in Ireland, and were under the care of Mr and Mrs PARSONS until they arrived in Hobart. Their care was then transferred to Captain M FORSTER who housed them at the Kings Orphanage until they were employed.

By 1833 the emigration schemes for England and Ireland were in full swing. The administration had realised that the high volume of convicts to NSW and VDL, most of them male, had left a large inequality in the balance of the sexes and a large gap in the available trades and skills required by a growing country. Emigration schemes were set up to entice families with trades and also to encourage single females. For single females the aim was to engage them in domestic work and increase the pool of prospective brides. Depending on the scheme, the ages and qualities were tightly controlled.

Difficult times in Ireland had left many areas with high unemployment and poverty. Families were destitute and looking to poor relief and the workhouses for basic needs. Begging in the cities was a common occurrence and, in an effort to clear the streets, institutions were setup to house and manage the unfortunate. The Dublin Mendicity Institute was one such organisation setting up in 1831 with its main objective to clear the paupers and beggars from the

streets of Dublin. Emigration schemes in collaboration with church groups and benevolent societies assisted in sourcing migrants from these institutions.

In March 1833 one such benevolent group, the Mendicity Emigration Committee, advertised they were raising funds to assist 50 young women from the Dublin Mendicity Institute immigrate to a better life. Unfortunately, by the next month it was apparent that their fundraising would only be able to assist 30 of the Mendicity Girls to emigrate.

On Thursday the 18 April 1833 the Committee, the girls and the administration met at the Institution on Usher's Island to farewell the girls on their journey. Their care had been consigned to Mr and Mrs SCOTT and along with 8 rules for their guidance, they were exhorted by the Rev Mr COOPER, then address by Mr HOWELL. A formal letter of thanks was then read by Mrs WADE on behalf of the girls.

So it was that they left that evening for Liverpool 'in the charge of their moral governess, and in the charge of Mr C O LOGAN, Australian Agent, to proceed from Liverpool to their destination.

Three months later on 16 July 1833, the 30 females from the Dublin Mendicity Institute, now under the care of Mr and Mrs PARSONS, left Liverpool on the *Edward Colston*. Also on the voyage were another 14 adults and 20 children making up various family groups with trades including joiners, plasterers, a mason and a nailer. The other passengers on the voyage were a different emigration group under the care of Messrs FITZSIMMONS (brothers Matthew and Charles) which included 46 adults with 22 children having a variety of trades going on to Sydney. With a crew of 15 under the captaincy of Joseph HAMMOND this made up the ships list.

The ship left Liverpool in miserable weather which didn't clear until they reached the Bay of Biscay. In her letter Sarah includes an unusual narrative about the ceremony crossing the equator with Neptune and his progeny. By the time they had rounded Cape of Good Hope the weather had deteriorated again and one morning they woke to find that the storms had broken the cabin windows on the back of the ship and flooded the cabins. Luckily no one was injured and it seems those not affected slept through the incident.

Nearly another three months later the *Edward Coston* arrived into Hobart on 9 October 1833. All on board were in good health and very complimentary of the crew. Letters to the newspapers in both Hobart and Sydney following the voyage commended the crew and captain on their care and attention to the passengers' comfort.

Upon arrival in Hobart the *Edward Colston* moored at the quay opposite Government House. The passengers stayed on board until the following day when Captain M FORSTER arrived to interview and list those arriving under the emigration scheme. Captain FORSTER's wife seemed to take a

fancy to Sarah WARD and Sarah left the ship that day to become part of the FORSTER's household earning £16 per annum. The remaining females from the Dublin Mendicity Institute walked to the Kings Orphanage where they were housed at the government's expense until suitable assignments were found for them.

The Hobart Colonial Times advertised their arrival and their wonderful qualities.

*The late importation of young women by the Edward Coulson, to this colony, as regards their numbers, description, and general conduct, will, we trust, prove of the greatest benefit to the community. The greatest possible pains have been taken by ladies of distinction in Ireland to select well-conducted females, who have never wandered from the paths of virtue, and who, it is to be hoped, will be proof against the arts of seduction. As an earnest of what may be expected from them, we understand that their behaviour on board the ship was most exemplary; no quarrelling, no uproar of any description; in short, the account given by every one who came out with them, is truly gratifying. The ladies, who thus interested themselves in the welfare and future prospects of these young women, at the head of whom was Lady DE BATHE, have consigned their charge to Captain FORSTER, who has, in his turn, devoted much of his time in attending to their wants and comfort on landing; and, it is to be hoped, with the aid of the benevolent ladies, of whom there are abundance in this town, that they will be soon placed in situations to earn their bread. The Government has kindly afforded them an asylum at the Orphan School, where, on making application, every information can be obtained.*

By 26 October the newspaper announced that all the females from the *Edward Colston* had been assigned and found employment – except for three who had ‘gone bush’, as we found out later in Sarah’s published letter. The girls were engaged on salaries of between £16 to £20 per year, to increase each year.

### **Jane WALSH (MILKINS)**

My ancestor Jane WALSH was engaged by a family in Launceston where, in January the following year, she met and married Paul MILKINS. Paul was a convict who had received his Conditional Pardon in 1831 and was working in Campbell Town as a javelin man (constable). Their first child, Elizabeth MILKINS, born the following year, unfortunately died as a baby. The family moved to George Town where Paul worked as a labourer for Lieutenant M C FRIEND on a building ‘said to be for a public house’. Two more children arrived, William MILKINS in 1836 and Nicholas MILKINS in 1838. After receiving his Absolute Pardon in July 1840, Paul and the family moved to Geelong in Victoria where my ancestor James MILKINS was born the following year. Sadly, the trail for Jane WALSH/MILKINS goes cold there. By the time James marries in



1862 he seems estranged from his parents as he lists them as Jane WELCH and Nicholas MILKINS, who he specifically states is a 'Miner in Devonshire, England'. He seems to be distancing himself from the 'convict stain'. Possibly Jane has passed away by the time he marries, but by the time Paul MILKINS dies in 1872, Paul is listed as a widower.

## The Project

I am tracing the other 29 girls who arrived in 1833 on the *Edward Colston* into Van Diemen's Land, or other passengers who then went on to NSW. The *Edward Colston* is also recorded as *Edward Coulson* and *Edward Coulston*. The names of the 30 girls follow, so if you have any information and would like to share, then please email me at [editor@familyhistoryact.org.au](mailto:editor@familyhistoryact.org.au). I have assumed that the girls would have been in their mid to late teens, but I have no confirmation of this as no ages were listed on any documents I have for Jane WALSH.

*Ships List for the Edward Colston 9 Oct 1833. <https://stors.tas.gov.au/MB2-39-1-1P214>*

Following are the Dublin Mendicity Institute emigrants organised by the Mendicity Emigration Committee, with various spellings from newspapers and shipping lists.

- |                            |                 |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Mary A BRANNAN             | Mary FARRELL    |
| Mary BROUGHTON (BROUGHALL) | Jane FORBES     |
| Bridget COFFY (COFFY)      | Jane GILCHRIST  |
| Mary DILHUNTY (DELHANLY)   | Mary A HARFORD  |
| Ann DOYLE                  | Rose HARFORD    |
| Eliza EGAN                 | Jane HARRINGTON |

Lydia KEMP  
Sarah KEMP  
Mary A MADDEN  
Margt MASON  
Mary MCGINNES (MAGINNES)  
Eliza MCGREITH (MAGSATH)  
Briget (Bridgett) NIEL  
Ellen O'BRYAN (O'BRIEN)  
Eliza PLUNKETT

Mary PLUNKETT  
Esther RATLIDGE (RUTLIDGE)  
Eliza RICE  
Catharine ROACH  
Mary ROACH  
Ann SCOTT  
Margaret (Margt) SMITH  
Jane WALSH  
Sarah WARD

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# Studying Family History at the University of Tasmania

Dr Kate Bagnall

*Since 2016, the University of Tasmania has been helping family historians improve their skills through the online Diploma of Family History. Course Coordinator Dr Kate Bagnall tells us more about what's on offer.*



People come to family history from many different starting points. Some know very little about the ancestors who came before them, while others start with a foundation of stories, documents and objects passed down through the generations.

In my case, both my grandmother and mother before me have been family historians. My grandmother left my mother with many stories and an assortment of documents, photos, letters and certificates she had put together, in the age when research was all on paper and could be very, very slow. In my mother's hands, and as we entered the digital age, this research has grown and grown, and we now know much more about both my mother's and father's families – from my adventurous bicycle-riding great-grandmother in 1890s Sydney to the entrepreneurial great-uncle whose company invented Australia's iconic Weet-Bix. I imagine that, in time, I will inherit this legacy – and it will be up to me to shape what is passed on to the next generation.

Those who study Family History with us at the University of Tasmania (UTAS) similarly start from different points in their family history journeys. Since 2016, more than two thousand students have completed the Diploma of Family

History, from all around Australia, from many walks of life, and from all ages, including their twenties, eighties and everything in between! In teaching all these students, we have learned much about the skills and knowledge family historians need to succeed and how we can help our students be the best family historians they can. We have also learned what a fabulously keen, engaged and supportive group of people family historians are!

The University of Tasmania offers two fully online courses in Family History – the Diploma of Family History and a new Undergraduate Certificate in Family History. The Diploma comprises eight units (or subjects), usually studied over two years, while the Undergraduate Certificate comprises four units, usually studied over one year. Both courses are taught online and are structured so that you can study when it suits you during the week, whether that's in the morning or evening or on the weekend.

The units offered in the two courses are the same, and cover researching, writing and creating family histories. In the 8-unit Diploma, you complete four 'Foundation'-level units and four of the five 'Introductory'-level units. In the Undergraduate Certificate, you choose any four units from the nine on offer. The Foundation-level units are the best place to start – particularly if you're new to family history – before moving on to the Introductory-level units, which are at a similar level to first-year units you might study in a Bachelor of Arts.

### **Foundation-level units:**

- HAA003 Introduction to Family History – start here in Term 1 or Term 3
- HAA007 Convict Ancestors
- HAA004 Writing Family History
- HAA006 Place Image Object

### **Introductory-level units:**

- HAA108 Migrant Families
- HAA106 Oral History
- HAA107 Families and War
- HAA104 The Family Saga
- FXA102 The Family Photo Essay



Each unit runs for eight weeks, and the course schedule has four teaching terms each year, which are similar to Tasmanian public school terms. You can study the units in any order, but we strongly recommend that you begin with *Introduction to Family History*, which is offered twice a year (Term 1 and Term 3), especially if you are new to Family History research or online learning.

In *Introduction to Family History*, we cover the fundamentals of being a good family historian including primary and secondary sources, referencing,

organising your research, key sources and where to find them, using Ancestry and Trove, understanding archives, ethics, DNA, and difficult histories. Assessment for the unit is made up of online quizzes and a short genealogical research report, where you develop a research question based on your own family history, locate sources, and then use them to work towards an answer to your question. Along the way, we introduce you to the King family of Hobart in our own mini *Who Do You Think You Are?* style video!

Across the course as a whole, you work on developing skills and knowledge that will help you with your own family history goals. The research assignments – including the research report, essays, oral history interview, annotated map, written narratives, to name a few – are based on people or topics you choose to focus on. The teaching staff are always on hand to guide you, through our online discussion boards and Zoom Q&A sessions in each unit. You will also find that your fellow students are willing to help based on their own knowledge and research experience. And, of course, the university offers a range of resources and support services, including access to Ancestry Library Edition and 24/7 study support through a service called Studiosity.

Typically, the Diploma is studied over two years and the Undergraduate Certificate over one – but there is lots of flexibility if you want to complete your course faster or slower. To complete the Diploma in two years, you would study one unit per term, and most students find this allows them time for all the other busy things in their lives such as work and caring responsibilities. It isn't unusual, however, for students to need up to three years to finish their Diploma – some take a break for a term when life gets too busy, or to fit in some travel!

For those who aren't able to commit to a full course, or for Diploma graduates who'd like to try one of our new units, there is also the option of studying single units through Open Universities Australia. Simply search for the unit's name on the OUA website: <https://www.open.edu.au/>

Wherever you are in your family history journey, and whatever your previous study experience, we welcome you to study Family History with us at the University of Tasmania. As one of our graduates, Ros Escott, has said: 'If you're just starting out, you'll learn a lot. If you think you already know a lot, you'll still learn something new.'

### **UTAS Family History study options:**

- Diploma of Family History, 8 units, 1–3 years' duration
- Undergraduate Certificate in Family History, 4 units, 1–3 years' duration
- Single units available through Open Universities Australia

For more information visit our website at:  
<https://www.utas.edu.au/family-history>.



## Vale Patricia (Trish) Downes

Trish passed away peacefully at the Canberra Hospital on Friday night 1 April 2023 after a long illness.

Formerly a schoolteacher, Trish joined the Women's Royal Australian Naval Service (WRANS) in the late 1960s at a time when the WRANS only had about 800 members and fewer than thirty female officers. She was promoted to First Officer (Lieutenant Commander) in 1978, on the staff of the Director of Naval Communications. In 1990 Trish became the first female Director of Naval Communications



Trish joined FFACT in 1990 and since then has been an active member of a number of our special interest groups

most notably the Convict and Irish Groups where she regularly led Brick Wall sessions and built a reputation as an erudite colleague always willing to share her knowledge to help others.

Trish was a driving force behind the development of the Boer War Memorials database that FFACT now hosts undertaking research and developing biographies and assisting in the design of the website.

Sadly, Trish was unable to complete her PhD Thesis *Redcoats Transported* which examined the stories of British Soldiers who became convicts. But her database has been passed to the Australian National University and some of the chapters of her thesis are to be published. In death, as in life, Trish continues to support her fellow researchers.



Trish was farewelled at a service in Canberra attended by many of her friends and colleagues from her many walks of life. Our condolences to her family and many friends.

*Trish with fellow FFACT attendees at the AFFHO Family History Congress on Norfolk Island November 2022.*



# Vale Niel Gunson MA PhD FGSV FHGSC

*Founding member and Fellow of  
The Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra Inc.*

*The following was presented at the Celebration of Life for Dr W. Niel Gunson by Rosemary McKenzie (President) on behalf of HAGSOC. The Celebration was held at The Ainslie Football Club, ACT on Saturday, 6 May. Dr Niel Gunson's funeral service had been conducted earlier in Victoria. (Niel's unusual spelling came from a shortening of Daniel.)*

In June 1964 an article appeared in *The Canberra Times* titled *To Find a Pedigree*. In the article Dr Gunson advised those with an urge to trace their family tree to carry out a preliminary search through old papers, death and marriage certificates, tombstones, scrap books and albums.

Four months later, in October, an ad appeared in *The Canberra Times* to form Canberra Genealogy and Heraldry Group. The convenor was Dr. W. N. Gunson.

The following February another ad announced, for the *Canberra Genealogy and Heraldry Group*, the election of office-bearers, a talk by Niel on *First*

*Steps in Practical Genealogy* and also an Armorial Exhibit. And so began a Society which is still in existence today nearly 60 years later.

Many of our Fellows and Life Members have been with the Society for nearly as long so mobility is becoming an issue along with other commitments and unfortunately many could not be here today.

## **June Penny**

The passing of Walter Niel Gunson, known affectionately as Niel, the founding father of the Canberra Genealogy and Heraldry Group, was received with sadness by me and members of the Society who had the pleasure of knowing him.



Niel was the convenor of a meeting held in familiar surroundings for Niel at the Coombs Building, Seminar room 1 on 20th October 1964. The name of the Society changed over time until becoming incorporated, and the society was registered as The Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra Inc. Recently a business name of Family History ACT was introduced.

Niel's involvement with family history was extensive commencing with:

- In his mid-twenties acceptance as a member of the Genealogy Society of Victoria. Even before the Canberra Society formed Niel was recipient of service recognition in 1962, a Fellowship Award by the Genealogical Society of Victoria.
- Together with members Ian Mackay and Michael Crawford, Niel contributed to formation of The Heraldry Council of Australia, and jointly with Michael Crawford in 1972 published a 2 volume Report on Heraldry in Australia, a case for Heraldic Control in the Commonwealth of Australia, copies are available in the society library.
- During my (June Penny) service as President of the Society, Niel claimed I 'persuaded' him to form the Heraldry Special Interest Group in 1997. I was also concerned about the development of Heraldry knowledge for younger members of the society, and I encouraged Niel to conduct a Heraldry education program for members of the Society. Three members of the society responded to an advertised course. From this course there is one person today who continues to be a member of the Society and the Heraldry Special Interest Group.
- Niel attended the first Australasian Congress on Genealogy & Heraldry (held in Victoria in 1977) and presented a paper on Genealogy in a Changing Society.
- As President of the Society, in 2008 I had the pleasure of presenting Niel with the highest Society achievement of a Fellowship of The Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra.
- In 2015 Niel was also honoured with a Services to Family History, Meritorious Award, received at the 15th triennial Congress organised by the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations. This event was hosted in Canberra by our Society.
- Niel moved with the times and was interested in the outcome of his DNA results that reported he had 20% Scots and Irish heritage – he commented the connection came via Northumberland through the Nelsons and via Ireland through the Fagans.
- Separate to his academic commitment as a prolific writer, Niel penned an article on the early days of the society for inclusion in the time capsule sealed on 26 January 1988. In addition to his regular contributions to the

Society journal, he also donated publications of his family history research to the society library – the most recent copy is listed in the online library catalogue in November 2019.

RIP Niel.



*Dr Niel Gunson and Kerrie Gray following his presentation of AFFHO Meritorious Award for service to family history by Robyn Williams AFFHO Vice President 25 Mar 2015. 2015 Congress Gala Dinner. Photos Jeanette Hahn*

## **Grahame Thom**

When I joined HAGSOC and got on the Committee in 1972, Niel had already stepped back from being involved with running HAGSOC. I was on the Committee till 1991 when I went to Hobart with work. I have a copy of Niel's book *Messengers of Grace* written in 1978 and following is the information about Niel from the cover of that book.

A graduate of the University of Melbourne, Niel Gunson completed his doctorate in Pacific History at the Australian National University in 1959 under Professor J. W. Davidson. After further research at the School of African and Oriental Studies, University of London, and a lectureship at the University of Queensland, he joined Professor Davidson's staff, specialising in European contact, especially missionary history. He has written numerous papers in this field. His books include

- *The Good Country: Cranbourne Shire (a local history)* and
- *The Australian Reminiscences & Papers of L. E. Threlkeld, Missionary to the Aborigines 1824-1859*, and he is an editor of *The Journal of Pacific History*.

Besides working in mission archives and record depositories overseas, Dr Gunson has visited many of the historic Protestant mission fields in the Pacific Islands, Madagascar, South and East Africa, and is familiar with most of the island communities about which he writes.

Dr Gunson's present position is Fellow in Pacific History, Australian National University.





*Jeanette Hahn President HAGSOC being presented with Ian Mackay's Armorial Insignia of Canberra by Heraldry expert Niel Gunson with Chris Lindesay watching on.*

## **Chris Lindesay**

I met Niel at least 25 years ago, through our shared passion for heraldry and genealogy and its surrounding history. Once I'd joined the Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra (HAGSOC) I naturally gravitated towards the Heraldry Special Interest Group, so wonderfully led by Niel through several decades. Every second month our like-minded group of HAGSOC members and others with heraldry interests would gather at his home, surrounded by the books and objects he loved, to hear a presentation on a heraldic topic. This was always followed by the strongest loose-leaf tea imaginable, and almond finger biscuits -- and extensive, wide-ranging conversation that often went on long after a sensible bed-time!

Whether Niel was presenting to the group or hosting another speaker, he would draw on his extensive library, and collections of china, artwork and other objects, to illustrate and bring to life the topics we discussed. It is striking how wide-ranging those topics were, and how knowledgeable Niel was about all of them. The talks he presented covered time periods ranging from ancient, such as Byzantine Heraldry; to modern, on the topic of using DNA in family history research. And they dealt with the use of heraldry in diverse parts of the world, including Mexican indigenous heraldry, Italian heraldry, and use of heraldry in the Pacific.

Under Niel's leadership our heraldry group was also involved in giving advice on the design of coats of arms and symbols for individuals and official entities: one example is the badge used by the Australian Command and Staff College, founded in Canberra as the premier education arm of the ADF. Members of our group are currently acting in an advisory capacity as the ACT government develops designs for the first Territory coat of arms; Niel's input to this process has been invaluable.

Niel's wealth of knowledge on all heraldry-related subjects shone through in all our discussions, to which we all looked forward with great anticipation. His advice on questions relating to the uses of heraldry (today and in history), and on genealogical subjects, was characteristically insightful, informed and helpful – Niel was always happy to share his knowledge and the wisdom he'd developed through a lifetime of his own research, and of guiding, educating and supporting research and scholarship.

Niel obtained his Bachelor of Arts with Honours degree from the University of Melbourne in 1954, his Masters the following year, and his doctorate from the Australian National University in 1960. He continued his research in the Research School of Pacific Studies at the ANU for decades, and was a Visiting Fellow in the School of Culture, History and Language until he died. He was a leading scholar in the history and anthropology of the South Pacific, focusing on Polynesia, and contributed greatly to research on Tongan history.

Perhaps some of the greatest legacies of Niel's life are in his contributions to documenting and illuminating aspects of the cultural histories of the Pacific and of Indigenous Australians; and in his support of others, through the lives and work of the many postgraduate students he advised during their studies, and the researchers whom he encouraged and with whom he shared his insights. A Google search for Niel's academic work highlights the books and papers he authored; the journals he edited for long periods (*The Journal of Pacific History and Aboriginal History*, of which he was founding editor); and the research by other scholars referencing their interviews with him.

With Niel's passing we have lost a considerable intellect, a wealth of historical knowledge and wisdom, particularly about the peoples of the Pacific, and a gentle man who was a gentleman in the truest sense.

We will remember him. Vale Niel.



*Dr. Niel Gunson, graduation from Melbourne University.*

# *Obscure Library Resources*

*compiled by Pauline Ramage*

## **The Returns of the Colony or Blue Books 1822-1857**

The **Blue Books** (also known as Civil Establishment, Returns of the Colony, or Statistical Returns) were usually published annually and listed most of the public servants currently employed by the government.

The information contains details of public works taxes and duties, military, population imports and exports, churches schools agriculture, clergy, medical, manufacturers, grants of land, gaols, prisoners, pensioners teachers, magistrates, police, surveyors.

If your ancestors were government employees you may be able to trace their careers through the **Blue Books**.

The information found in these publications varies from State to State but may include:

- Name, position and department within the public service, salary (including allowances)
- Date, when first appointed to current position, date when first appointed in the public service

Library fiche cabinet:- **Y2/AN6/1-176**

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## **Index Colonial Secretary's Papers 1788-1825**

The Colonial Secretary was the right-hand of the Governor in the Colony of New South Wales. Since all requests, complaints, and other correspondence came through his hands, the correspondence of the Colonial Secretary is a valuable and important resource when looking for information on your ancestors. There are records for convicts, immigrants, military, landholders, and people from all walks of life. Much of this correspondence has now been indexed.

The index to the correspondence up to 1825 is available on State Records NSW website. Also at our Library at Cook, we have books, fiche, microfilm, and CDs e.g. **AN5/60 CD0316**, and Fiche **Y2/AN48/1-63** and **Y2/AN47/1-312**

The correspondence from 1826 to circa 1877 has been indexed by the late Joan Reese. Mrs Reese's series of indexes are on microfiche in our Library and total 17 sets. By using our catalogue and entering "Joan Reese" you will obtain a list of our holdings and the Accession number you will need to view.

While looking at the Catalogue for Col Sec holdings, I found "Alphabetical Indexes from School Masters forwarded to Col Sec" showing names of pupils, parents, guardians and teachers 1847-1851 **Y2/AS41/1**

## The Catalogue

It is marvellous what can be found in our Library. On our website choose Resources > Library > Catalogue. I always find it best to just enter the name of area or subject I am researching or need. You can choose a Location, but can leave it as 'All', then skip to Search Terms I enter name of area or subject, the results may surprise you as to just what our library holds. If you are unsure how to use the catalogue, on your next visit, the library staff will be able to show you.

Happy researching.

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# The Chief Secretary's Office Registered Papers

Barbara Moore FHGSC

Commonly referred to as CSORP, the Registered Papers of the Chief Secretary's Office of Ireland span the years from 1818 to 1922 and are a valuable collection of original source material for family historians seeking their roots in Ireland.

I attended the 4th Irish Genealogical Congress held in Dublin in September 2001. One of the talks given by Tom Quinlan, Archivist at National Archives of Ireland, was about the CSORP, extracts of which I have quoted below:

*"The Registered Papers of the Chief Secretary's Office consist of one main series of bound volumes used as finding aids to series of incoming reports, returns, letters and memoranda. The incoming communications or papers, and their finding aids, form the largest class of archives of the former Chief Secretary's Office. In all, there are 337 volumes serving either as indexes to incoming papers, or as registers into which abstracts of information relating to these papers were entered and indexed to these registers. Subjects covered by the papers include cholera epidemics, cattle plague, economic depression, breaches of law and order, rebellion and political unrest, as well as the routine day-to-day administrative matters, such as the preparation of Treasury estimates, the payment of gratuities and pensions to civil servants, the administration of justice and the prisons and the preparation and enactment of legislation. The incoming papers were received from a range of individuals, institutions and government offices."*

*"The system of recording information relating to incoming papers altered over the period 1818 to 1922 as various methods were experimented*

*with to ensure the registry of the CSO could produce quickly any available papers on a given subject. From 1818 to 1839, the registry clerks indexed rather than registered all papers and the volumes for these years form annual indexes to incoming papers.”*

*“There was no system of opening and registering of files on a particular subject and of placing all relevant papers in a file jacket as is done at present in many government department”.*

The lecture notes from this congress are in the Society’s library at R2/10/26 where the complete article can be seen at B10.

In 2008 a project to catalogue the papers from 1818 to 1852, estimated at 230,000 files, to international archival standard and to facilitate public access was commenced. This project has been funded by the bequest of the late Professor Francis J Crowley. To date, papers for the years 1818 to 1833 have been rehoused, renumbered and catalogued. These records are accessible online at <https://csorp.nationalarchives.ie>

On the home page one can go straight to the “Search the Catalogue” but I would advise going to “About the Papers” and read the various topics to familiarise oneself with the amount of material now available. The Catalogue is searchable yearly from 1818 to 1833 by simply clicking on a year and either browsing the records or entering a name (1821 has 1906 brief entries).

Match 4 from 'CSO/RP'	
<b>NAI REFERENCE:</b>	CSO/RP/1821/918
<b>TITLE:</b>	Petition of Catherine <b>Higgins</b> , County Westmeath, requesting government relief
<b>SCOPE &amp; CONTENT:</b>	Petition of Catherine <b>Higgins</b> , of Kinnegad, County Westmeath, widow, to King George IV, requesting relief for her family. Certified by Reverend Robert Noble, Church of Ireland curate of Kinnegad.
<b>EXTENT:</b>	1 item; 3pp
<b>DATE(S):</b>	16 Aug 1821
<b>DATE EARLY:</b>	1821
<b>DATE LATE:</b>	1821
<b>ORIGINAL REFERENCE:</b>	CSORP1821/955

If you wish to obtain a full copy of an entry you have found on the CSORP website go to

<https://www.nationalarchives.ie/visit-us/obtain-copies-of-archives>

and follow the instructions.

Unfortunately, the two convicts in my husband’s family came out to New South Wales in 1816 and in 1836 so there are no mentions of them in these papers.

# From Our Contemporaries

## Pauline Bygraves

The items selected for this column are taken from some of the many overseas journals received by the Society – they usually mention Australia in some form or may be of general interest to Australian researchers. If you have an interest in a particular country or location, there will often be other relevant material – recently received journals are on display at the front of the Library.

E-journals are accessible on the computers in the main room. Open the HCER icon on the desktop and click on the link to “Electronic Journals” under “Electronic Resources”. E-journals can also still be accessed on the computers in the overseas room. If you have any comments or suggestions, please email the editor@familyhistoryact.org.au.

### AUSTRALASIA

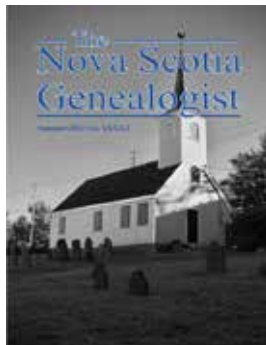
- George William John FOLLWELL was born at Citadel Barracks at Dover in 1858. His father, George, adopted the surname JOINER/JOYNER, his mother's maiden name, when he enlisted in the 12th Regiment and was sent to Sydney. When George jnr was 12, he spent time on the *Vernon*, a sailing ship purchased by the NSW Government in the 1860s and fitted out as a nautical training school for wayward boys. It's not clear what happened to him, although he may have settled in Tasmania. *Down-Under Australian Branch Newsletter (Kent FHS) Apr 2023 n57 p3 (electronic journal)*.



- Fanny HUMPHREY (nee RODWELL) was born at Wingrave, near Aylesbury in 1823. She and her husband Joseph migrated to Australia in 1847 aboard the *Cressy*. Initially they farmed at Gawler, South Australia before moving to Victoria. In the lead-up to her 100th birthday, the *Ballarat Star* printed an article about Fanny's life on 8 Mar 1923. *Origins (Buckinghamshire FHS) Spring 2023 v47 n1 p32 (electronic journal)*.

### CANADA

- W Ernest URLWIN, of Port Adelaide, South Australia married Charlotte Durling ORMON(D), daughter of James R ORMON, at Boston, Massachusetts on 22 Aug 1901. Their marriage notice appeared in *The Halifax Herald*, Nova Scotia on 24 Aug 1901. *The Nova Scotia Genealogist Summer 2022 vXXXX n2 p37 (electronic journal)*.



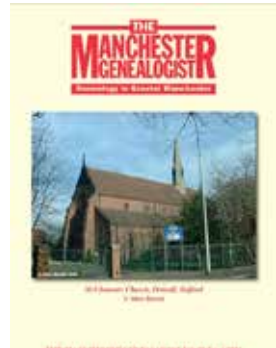
## ENGLAND

- John COLE was convicted of wounding Emily LOOKER/LUKER with intent to murder in 1856 and was transported to Western Australia. Emily arrived in the colony in 1862 and they were married a week later. They had four children. John died in 1891 and Emily in 1912. *Berkshire Family Historian Mar 2023 v46 p32 (electronic journal)*.
- William FEAST, husband of Margaret HOWARTH, whom he married in 1893, sailed from London to Brisbane on the SS *Ophir* in 1909 leaving his family behind. He is believed to have worked in Australian opal mines, but stayed for less than a year before returning to England in 1910. *Lancashire FH&HS Feb 2023 v45 n1 p14 (electronic journal)*.
- Thomas PENGILLEY, his brother George and friend Alfred CHILDS migrated to Australia aboard the *Syria* in 1852. George died in 1854, and Thomas and Alfred became storekeepers in Geelong and on the gold fields. Thomas later became a hotelkeeper. Thomas married Mary Ann (Polly) SHIPLEY in 1858. They had seven children. Following the death of their youngest child Thomas became unstable and hanged himself in 1880, aged 47. *Berkshire Family Historian Mar 2023 v46 p36 (electronic journal)*.
- Megan ROBERTS: book review - "The Wretched Women". The initial focus was on 20 or so women who were languishing in Lancaster gaol under sentence of transportation but then expanded to cover 138 women during the period 1818-1824, 12 different trial sessions and 10 separate voyages to Australia. *Lancashire FH&HS Feb 2023 v45 n1 p29 (electronic journal)*.
- Alfred Edward STEVENS, son of Alfred Edward STEVENS and Ann (nee TURNER) was baptised in 1843. Alfred became attracted to Eliza DEWBERRY but when she rejected his advances, he tried to shoot her. He was tried, convicted of intent to murder and sentenced to 15 years' penal servitude. Alfred arrived in Western Australia on board the *Clyde* in 1863 and died at the Fremantle Prison Hospital one year later, aged 21 years. *Root and Branch (West Surrey FHS) Mar 2023 v49 n4 p176 (NSur9/60/02)*.
- Jane Sadler WHITE (nee GALL) married Dr Lewis EASTWOOD in 1910. Dr Eastwood, a medical practitioner, was also a Justice of the Peace, town councillor and Mayor of Darlington. Following his death in 1913, Jane joined her married daughter and husband in Australia where she died in 1934. *Cleveland FHS Jan 2023 v15 n5 p45 (NYo9/60/14)*.



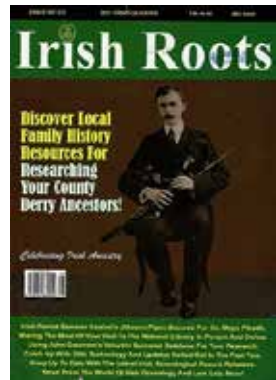
## GENERAL

- Hillary HARTIGAN: “The Fromelles Genealogy Project - A talk on identifying the remains of WWI soldiers, by Michelle LEONARD”. *The Manchester Genealogist 2023 v59 n1 p66 (electronic journal)*.
- James HUTTON: Talk - “Records and Research Using Commonwealth War Graves Commission Archives, an archive of international importance”. *The Manchester Genealogist 2023 v59 n1 p72 (electronic journal)*.



## IRELAND

- John GRENHAM: “Tracing Your Irish Ancestors with John Grenham” by using his surname database and maps. *Irish Roots 1st Qtr 2023 n125 p8 (R9/60/04)*.
- Jennifer HARRISON: “Australian Irish Connections - Return to Tipperary” reporting on a Conference held at Galong, NSW in 2022. *Irish Roots 1st Qtr 2023 n125 p26 (R9/60/04)*.
- Dr Mary HATFIELD: “Visiting The National Library”. *Irish Roots 1st Qtr 2023 n125 p6 (R9/60/04)*.
- Joseph LESTER from Co Armagh arrived at Moreton Bay aboard the *Gauntlet* in 1873. Joseph settled in the Lockyer Valley and married Susan BURGESS in 1876. They reared a family of 11. *Irish Roots 1st Qtr 2023 n125 p29 (R9/60/04)*.
- James G RYAN: “Local Resources for Family History Research - County Derry”. *Irish Roots 1st Qtr 2023 n125 p10 ((R9/60/04)*.



## SCOTLAND

- George ALLANACH who was born in 1820 to James ALLANACH and Isabel RANNIE became a mariner. In 1855 he signed an affidavit declaring his wish to reclaim his proper surname of STUART which had been changed after the last Rebellion in Scotland. In 1857 George was Master and part-owner of the *Catherine Adamson* which sank off Botany Bay, due to pilot error during a storm. George was not blamed, and he later purchased shares in the *Strathnaver* which was launched in 1865. He died in 1868. *Aberdeen & North East Scotland FHS Feb 2023 n165 p26 (electronic journal)*.





- Dr Agnes BENNET ‘a formidable Australian woman’ was commanding officer of the American Unit of the Scottish Women’s Hospital which sent volunteers to northern Greece in 1916. Of the 60 or so volunteers in the Unit, many were from Australia and New Zealand. *Aberdeen & North East Scotland FHS Feb 2023 n165 p31 (electronic journal)*.
- Robyn PRICE: “Australia and New Zealand Chapter” reports on a presentation titled “The Mobile Scot” which provides some explanations for migration to other countries including Australia. *Aberdeen & North East Scotland FHS Aug-Nov 2022 n164 p17 (electronic journal)*.
- Lorna STEELE: “The Highlands: Jacobites, Clearances and Emigration” provides background to the clearances and mentions the Highland and Islands Emigration Society which helped people relocate to Australia. In 1852 hundreds of people from the Outer Hebrides and the Isle of Skye went to Campbeltown where they embarked on the *Hercules* for Melbourne. *Central Scotland FHS Spring 2023 n65 p25 (electronic journal)*.




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## *FHACT Library - New Collection Items In Brief*

*compiled by Barbara Moore FHGSC*

A selection of those items which have been received recently and are available for use in the Society’s Library. More details on the items can be checked via the catalogue on the FHACT website. Our thanks to members who have provided donations.

### **NEW SOUTH WALES**

*Berridale Public School Centenary 1883-1983 - AN628/48/01*

### **TASMANIA**

*St Andrew’s Immigration Society: Assisting migration to Van Diemen’s Land  
1854-1862 - Gregory Wighton - AT7/18/03*

### **FAMILY HISTORIES**

*From Vicars to Gunmakers - Barbara Moore - N4/CUM/01*

*Goodfellow, an Australian branch: Ballarat and beyond - Karleen L Klaiber -  
A4/GOO/04*

*The Hutchisons in Queanbeyan and Wanniasa 1848-1871: a family history  
about connection and subsequent loss of connection with the Limestone  
Plains - Alison Hutchison - A4/HUT/01*

# Society Education and Activities

Meetings are held via Zoom, face-to-face in the Education Room, or "hybrid" via both methods. Refer to the website [www.familyhistoryact.org.au](http://www.familyhistoryact.org.au) for additional information or to register for the meetings. Contact the convenor if you have any questions.

**Education Sessions** – Registration is required for all paid Courses or Events. Information is on the website [www.familyhistoryact.org.au](http://www.familyhistoryact.org.au) or in the newsletters. Contact [events@familyhistoryact.org.au](mailto:events@familyhistoryact.org.au) for any questions about education events.

## Calendar for regular Groups

### Australia SIG

2pm the fourth Sunday of odd-numbered months

### Coffee and Chat

10am the third Friday of each month

### Convict SIG

7.30pm the second Wednesday of even-numbered months

### DNA SIG

1pm first Saturday of February, second Saturday of March, May, July, September, November

### English and Welsh SIG

7.30pm the third Thursday of odd-numbered months

### Family Tree Maker SUG

10am the second Thursday of each month except January

### Heraldry SIG

8pm the third Thursday of even-numbered months except December

### India SIG

10am the first Saturday of even-numbered months.

### Irish SIG

9.30am the second Saturday of February, March, May, July, September and November.

### Legacy SUG

10am the third Thursday of each month except December

### Morning Coffee and Chat

10am the third Friday of each month

### Pauline's Parlour

10am the last Tuesday of each month except December

11am the third Sunday of each month except December

### Practical Procedures

10am the fourth Monday of each month except December

### Reunion & Mac Support SUG

9.30am the first Friday of each month, except January and December

### Scottish SIG

7.30pm the first Thursday of each even-numbered month

### TMG Down Under SUG

2pm the second Saturday of even-numbered months except December

7.30pm the second Wednesday of odd-numbered months except January

### Writers SIG

10am the third Saturday of each month February to November (dates around Easter may change)

## JULY 2023

- 4 7:00pm **Monthly Meeting**
- 7 9:30am **Reunion & Mac Support UG**: convenor Danny O'Neill  
ram.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 8 9:30am **Irish SIG**: *The early stages of the English Plantation of Ireland*.  
convenor Barbara Moore irish.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 8 1:00pm **DNA SIG**: *A member meeting to hear about successes and raise  
our queries*. convenor Cathy Day dna.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 11 7:30pm **TMG Down Under UG**: convenor Lindsay Graham  
tmg.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 13 10:00am **Family Tree Maker UG**: *Recording and documenting DNA  
results in Family Tree Maker*. ftm.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 15 10:00am **Writers SIG**: convenor Clare McGuiness  
writers.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 16 11:00am **Pauline's Parlour**: Having a problem with your research, or not  
sure where to start? Come along to our round table chats, where we help  
with enquiries. convenor Pauline Ramage  
parlour@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 20 10:00am **Legacy UG**: *Legacy Family Tree Charts*. convenor Julie Hesse  
legacy.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 20 7:30pm **English and Welsh SIG**: *Finding my Suffolk Ag Labs PLUS  
Occupations on canals & waterways*. convenor Floss Aitchison and Nina  
Johnson english.welsh.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 21 10:00am **Coffee and Chat**: coffee.chat@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 23 2:00pm **Australia SIG**: *Orphan Schools from the Early Days of the  
Colony*. convenor Pauline Ramage australia.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 24 10:00am **Library Practice**: Making best use of the HAGSOC Library  
with Jeanette Hahn. These sessions are for anyone wishing to improve  
their knowledge and make the most of our own really fabulous resources.  
Four places per session are available so bookings are required. convenor  
Jeanette Hahn library.practice@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 25 10:00am **Pauline's Parlour**: convenor Pauline Ramage  
parlour@familyhistoryact.org.au

## AUGUST 2023

- 1 7:00pm **Monthly Meeting**
- 3 7:30pm **Scottish SIG**: convenor Clare McGuiness and Mae Mulheran  
scottish.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 5 10:00am **India SIG**: *Finding Clara - Solving a British India Family  
Mystery*. convenor Prof. Peter Stanley india.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au

- 9 7:30pm **Convict SIG**: *British Convict Records at the National Archives Kew*. convenor Michele Rainger convict.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 10 10:00am **Family Tree Maker UG**: *General Questions and Answers about Family Tree Maker*. ftm.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 12 1:00pm **DNA Drop-in**: Round table discussion of individual queries about DNA results, held in the Education Room. convenor Allyson Luders dna.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 12 2:00pm **TMG Down Under UG**: convenor Lindsay Graham tmg.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 17 10:00am **Legacy UG: Merging and Linking**. convenor Julie Hesse legacy.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 17 8:00pm **Heraldry SIG**: *The D'Arcy Pedigree* by William Camden. convenor Chris Lindesay heraldry.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 18 10:00am **Coffee and Chat**: coffee.chat@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 19 10:00am **Writers SIG**: convenor Clare McGuiness writers.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 20 11:00am **Pauline's Parlour**: convenor Pauline Ramage parlour@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 28 10:00am **Library Practice**: convenor Jeanette Hahn library.practice@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 29 10:00am **Pauline's Parlour**: convenor Pauline Ramage parlour@familyhistoryact.org.au

## SEPTEMBER 2023

- 5 7:00pm **Monthly Meeting**
- 9 8:00am **NSW/ACT Association Conference**: *The Running Waters of History*. registrations@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 9 9:30am **Irish SIG**: *Help with your Brick Walls*. convenor Barbara Moore irish.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 9 1:00pm **DNA SIG**: *Epigenetics presentation*. convenor Cathy Day dna.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 10 8:00am **NSW/ACT Association Conference**: *The Running Waters of History*. registrations@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 12 7:30pm **TMG Down Under UG**: convenor Lindsay Graham tmg.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 15 10:00am **Coffee and Chat**: coffee.chat@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 16 10:00am **Writers SIG**: convenor Clare McGuiness writers.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 17 11:00am **Pauline's Parlour**: convenor Pauline Ramage parlour@familyhistoryact.org.au

- 21 10:00am **Legacy UG**: convenor Julie Hesse  
legacy.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 24 2:00pm **Australia SIG**: *Discussion on Police Force*. convenor Pauline Ramage  
australia.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 26 10:00am **Pauline's Parlour**: convenor Pauline Ramage  
parlour@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 

## *Every Family has a Story*

### *Short stories from the 2022 EM Fletcher Writing Competition*

Pre-order your copy now and take advantage of the discounted early ordering price. A SPECIAL PRICE of \$45.00 inc. GST is available for **pre-orders until 23 June 2023**. (please note postage is additional or books may be collected from Family History ACT during library opening hours). Following this date the regular price will be \$58.00 (inc. GST) or \$52.50 inc. GST for FHACT members.

Please take advantage of this special introductory rate and order your copies now through the FHACT online bookshop.

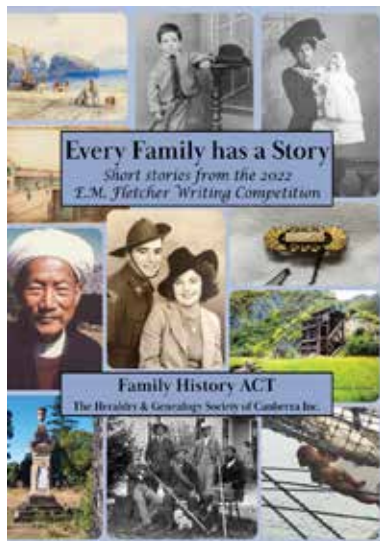
Publication expected July 2023.

This is the third volume of *Every Family has a Story* and includes stories from the 2022 E.M. Fletcher Writing Competition. *'These are stories of ordinary people whose lives tell us about our past'*, says Dr Craig Cormick in the Foreword. *'Family history is a vitally important history. Why? Because it is about us. Where we come from.'*

The 86 stories in this volume canvas themes familiar to family historians, and the many genres in which the stories are told will stimulate you to think in different ways about your own family history, and to find a new voice for telling your own stories.

See the table of contents on the website.

If you've thought about writing your family story, *Every Family has a Story* could be the place to start for inspiration and motivation.



# Services for Members

## Photocopies

A4 25c

## Microform Prints

A4 45c

## GRO Certificate and PDF Service

Members \$24 certificate, \$16 PDF

Non-members \$27 certificate \$17 PDF

## Translation Service

Translations available for the following languages:

English handwriting c. 1600, Estonian, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Icelandic, Italian, Latin, Norwegian, Polish, Welsh, Yiddish.

Prices: A \$10 fee for assessment of the material is non-refundable. Prices vary according to language and are charged per 100 words or part thereof.

Further details in Library or from the secretary@familyhistoryact.org.au

## LDS Film Viewing

The FFACT library is registered as a Library Affiliate with the LDS FamilySearch Organisation. This enables members using the FFACT library access to the approximately 25% of digital records held by LDS that have restricted access imposed by copyright holders.

## Discounts

Financial members receive a 10% discount when purchasing FFACT publications. Further details in Library

## Research Advice

The service providing free research to members, for those facing a "brick wall" in their research, is currently suspended.

## Research Service

Contact Jenny Higgins 0429 704 339.

## Readers' queries

Members may submit queries for inclusion in *The Ancestral Searcher* free of charge. Please no more than 200 words per query. Non-members \$27.50. Contact: editor@familyhistoryact.org.au (all prices include GST)

## Notice to Contributors

The copy deadline for contributions to *The Ancestral Searcher* is the 2nd Monday of the month prior to publication. The journal is published quarterly in March, June, September and December.

The Editor welcomes articles, letters, news and items of interest on any subject pertaining to family and local history.

Please send text files in either MS Word or plain text. Articles should be no more than 2000 words, with one or two quality images. Please limit footnotes to 3-4 per 500 words.

Digital images should be a high resolution and tiff or jpeg images.

The Editor reserves the right to edit all articles and include or omit images as appropriate.

Authors can assist by; formatting dates to '1 July 1899'; months to be spelled out; no ordinals on numbers (no st/nd/rd/th); ship names should be italicised; all quotes to be in "double quotes"; and all family names should be formatted as CAPITALS. (But not in captions or end notes.) Submissions and questions to: editor@familyhistoryact.org.au.

## LIBRARY

**Unit 7, 41 Templeton Street, Cook – 02 6251 7004**

Opening hours:	Tuesday	11.00	am	–	2.00	pm
	Wednesday	10.00	am	–	3.30	pm
	Thursday	11.00	am	–	2.00	pm
	Saturday	2.00	pm	–	5.00	pm
	Sunday	2.00	pm	–	5.00	pm

**The Library is CLOSED on all Public Holidays**

## SOCIETY MEETINGS

**Reader's Access Ticket** for non-members: \$10 for one day, \$20 one week, \$30 one month. Monthly general meetings are held beginning at 7.00pm in the FFACT Education Room, Templeton Street, Cook, ACT on the first Tuesday of each month, except January. The Annual General Meeting is held on the first Tuesday of November. Notices of special meetings, and social gatherings are advertised in this journal as appropriate.

## MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Membership begins from the date the member joins and will expire either one or two years later at the end of the month in which the member joined. New members, or members who have lapsed for more than 12 months, are required to pay a joining fee. Joint membership is available for additional members at the same address. The Pensioner concession are available to Australian residents please check with our Membership Secretary. Amounts are shown for one year.

Individual	\$ 81.00*	Joining Fee	\$ 20.00
Joint	\$ 122.00*	Journal Only – Australia	\$ 35.00
Individual – Pensioner	\$ 76.00*	Journal Only – Overseas	\$ 45.00*
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\* GST free other prices include GST

*Membership forms are available on the website, at the FFACT Library or can be posted on request.*

**The Ancestral Searcher** is the official journal of the Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra Inc. The journal is published quarterly and available without charge to financial members of the Society and affiliated bodies. Kindred Societies can receive the journal on an exchange basis. Back copies are available for current year and previous two years at \$5.00 each. Earlier issues are \$3.00 each or \$5.00 for a yearly bundle of 4 issues (price includes postage within Australia).

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## ADVERTISING AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Copy for advertising and contributions is required by the first day of the month preceding the month of publication. Advertising in the journal:

Full page for four consecutive issues \$330; half page for four consecutive issues \$175;

Full page for one issue \$110; half page for one issue \$60.

Advertising in non-consecutive issues is charged at the single issue rate. 10% discount is available to advertisers who are members of the Society.

Advertising flyers can be included with the journal posting. These are to be supplied by the advertiser folded to A5 or smaller in size, cost for A5 20c, A4 30c and A3 or larger 50c per insert.

Readers' Queries up to 60 words: members, no charge; non-members \$35.00.

*Payment is required at the time of submission.*

*All prices include GST*

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*The objectives of the Society are:  
To promote and encourage the study and preservation  
of family history, genealogy, heraldry and allied  
subjects, and to assist members and others  
in research in these areas.*