



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**

Member of the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations;

NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies;

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Honorary Office Bearers 2023-2024

President: Michele Rainger president@familyhistoryact.org.au

Vice-President: Sue Pillans vice-president@familyhistoryact.org.au

Secretary: Margaret Nichol secretary@familyhistoryact.org.au

Treasurer: Cheryl Bollard treasurer@familyhistoryact.org.au

Councillors: Floss Aitchison

Peter McLoughlin

Mel McNamara newlsetters@familyhistoryact.org.au

Nick Reddan

Howard Viccars computermgr@familyhistoryact.org.au

David Wintrip facilities@familyhistoryact.org.au

Non-Committee Posts

June Penny 0429 411 942

Archivist
Bookshop Manager Anne Beasley and Francine Morrison
bookshop@familyhistoryact.org.au

Computer Manager Howard Viccars computermgr@familyhistoryact.org.au

Editor Clare McGuinness editor@familyhistoryact.org.au

Education and Events Susan Pillans and Michele Rainger
registration@familyhistoryact.org.au

Education Room Bookings Robyn Coghlan roomhire@familyhistoryact.org.au

Membership Co-ordinator membership@familyhistoryact.org.au

Public Officer June Penny 0429 411 942

Research Manager Jenny Higgins 0429 704 339

Serials Librarian Susan Mann 02 6161 6494

Translation Service Jenny Higgins translation@familyhistoryact.org.au

Webmaster mjadministrator@familyhistoryact.org.au

Front Cover: *Barnbaum Family, 1945, author's collection (see story p. 34)*

Society Library and Headquarters:

41 Templeton Street, Cook, ACT

The Secretary, FFACT. PO Box 152 Jamison Centre ACT 2614

e-mail: secretary@familyhistoryact.org.au

ABN: 50 317 924 321

Telephone: 02 6251 7004

Webpage: <http://www.familyhistoryact.org.au>

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From the President

Michele Rainger

Hello to all our readers, and welcome to this edition of The Ancestral Searcher. 2024 is an important year for Family History ACT as it marks our 60th anniversary of providing assistance and support to family historians across the Canberra Region and well beyond. The first meeting of what was then known as the Canberra Genealogy and Heraldry Group was held in Canberra on 20 October 1964. We were the third family history society to be formed in Australia following the Society of Australian Genealogists established in 1932, and the Genealogical Society of Victoria formed in 1941.

To help us celebrate this important milestone we have three key activities occurring during 2024:

1. **A refresh of our facilities** in the Canberra suburb of Cook. Local Canberra company T&Q Interior Solutions have very kindly donated their services to draw up plans for what the refreshed areas might look like. These plans will be made available in our Library later in March for members and visitors to view and make comment on.
2. **A Commemorative Book that will trace the Society's first 60 years.** Work is well under way, but we would welcome any photos, memorabilia or ephemera that our members might be able to share. This project was supported with funding made available by the ACT Government under the ACT Heritage Grants Program
3. Celebrating with a **Big Birthday Bash** in Canberra on the weekend of Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 October 2024. Further details will be available soon, but please Save the Date if you are interested in joining us.

This year we will also be sharing snippets about the Society's history in a special series of news items on our Family History ACT website titled From Our Archives. By the time you read this, we should be up to our third monthly story. I do hope that you find these peeks into our history interesting.

The 2024 edition of our annual E.M.Fletcher Writing Competition also opened on 15 February. Entries must be submitted by 15 July 2024. More information about the competition and how to enter are available via the Family History ACT website. The next edition of Every Family has a Story – the stories from

the 2023 iteration of this competition, is expected to be published later this year.

Family History ACT offers access to around 20,000 books and journals and many thousands of microforms at our Library.

We also provide on-site access to family history subscription sites - FamilySearch, Ancestry, FindMyPast, the British Newspaper Archive and the 1921 England & Wales Census. The FHACT Library is a designated Affiliate FamilySearch library so you can view locked digital images that may not be available elsewhere at our Library.

Members and visitors can also make use of our Research and Translation Services provided by a dedicated team of volunteer members, and offered on a fee-for-service basis. More information about any of these services is available via our website or by visiting our Library—which we hope you will do soon.



Look out for our 60th Anniversary Logo on information, in publications and at the Library

From the Editor's Desk

Clare McGuinness

Welcome to my first real go at being the Editor of The Ancestral Searcher. I am very excited to be taking on such a new role for me, all the software ignorance notwithstanding. Bear with me as I learn it. My first call to everyone is twofold. Firstly, if you have anything to do with the TAS production and handling process and you have not yet spoken to me, please contact me through the Editor email 'editor@familyhistoryact.com.au'. Secondly, I want to hear from members who have an opinion about how the TAS looks, its content or any other TAS matter. No-one likes a survey, so rather than inflict one on you, please send your thoughts to me again via the Editor email at any time.

The Council, the Engagement Committee and I are open to changing the look and feel of TAS over time. I'd like photographs, research interests and email contacts for authors and Letters to the Editor, for a start. Easier to read text? More colour images (at least online). Are you a fan of themed editions? How about DNA, methodology, SIG or SUG based, or record collections? I'd love to hear any suggestions.

Our March edition includes a variety of articles. Sandra Barnbaum reflects on the huge changes in women's lives in her lifetime; Grahame Thom finds the answer to questions he posed in an article published nearly 50 years ago; Jenny Burgess is on the genealogical hunt for the author of Advance Australia Fair; Jo Callaghan, our new Writers SIG convenor writes about rediscovering a Vanishing Man. Elaine Gifford follows her Woodgate connections beyond the story of Herbert Woodgate in our September 2023 edition. Margaret Clough brings a creative component to research into her great uncle. Beverley Richardson, winner of the 2022 E.M. Fletcher award, relates the oral history of an elderly relative's childhood. Beverley will also be a judge in this year's writing competition, so why not consider entering the competition this year telling your relative's story – or how you discovered it.

You'll find details of our latest Fellow and Life Members, ACT Heritage month, Legal Deposit at NLA and of course, this year's E.M Fletcher writing competition which is now open for 2024.

Happy reading.

Family History ACT Members Honoured

Three distinguished members of Family History ACT were recently honoured at the Society's Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 7 November 2023. Held in high regard for their invaluable contributions to the field of genealogy and family history research, Nick Reddan, Tina Davey and Peter Mayberry received awards from President Michele Rainger.

Tina Davey and Peter Mayberry were granted honorary life membership to Family History ACT, a testament to their unwavering commitment and sustained efforts over many years. Nick Reddan was bestowed the title of Fellow of the Society, recognising outstanding achievements and his influential role within the family history community.

Nick, Tina and Peter have played pivotal roles in the success of Family History ACT, and as we read each citation, we recognise and celebrate their outstanding accomplishments.



From the left, Peter Mayberry, Tina Davey and Nick Reddan

Richard Nicholas (Nick) Reddan

Citation for the Honour of Fellow

Nick Reddan has rendered distinguished service to Family History ACT and has made significant contributions to the broader cause of family history and genealogy over many years. Nick joined Family History ACT on 27 February 1988. He served on the Society's Council from November 2009 to November 2021 and was President of the Society from 2014 to 2020.

He has been the Society's webmaster since the beginning of 2015. During this time, he has managed and upgraded the website: most recently he was an integral member of the team that selected and implemented the Society's new combined website and member management system which has provided additional functionality and integrated web and member services to improve access for members and enhance society administrative processes. He has also implemented several searchable databases including for the *Mildura Wentworth World War I Soldiers*, and a new index for *The Ancestral Searcher* including indexing all editions since 2016.

Nick represented Family History ACT on the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations, serving on their Council as Treasurer from 2015 until 2021 where he introduced PayPal as a method of payment for overseas members and introduced systems to remove transcription errors in the collection membership data. Nick has also represented the ACT at the NSW and ACT Association of Family History Societies, serving on their management committee since September 2013. He remains their webmaster. He also introduced a speaker database as a resource for members and others seeking speakers for events.

In 2007, Nick initiated and continues to manage, the Registry of Deeds Index Project Ireland which has grown into a significant resource of about 525,000 index records in the primary database and with a further 300,000 records on subsidiary index transcriptions. He continues to manage the project and website and co-ordinates the work of nearly 100 volunteers.

Nick has made many newspaper extracts and memorial inscriptions and other manuscripts available to all genealogists through his own website (nickreddan.net) and through the Irish Genealogy Research Society's website.

Nick has given talks to diverse audiences within and outside Family History ACT. Many of these talks are available as PDFs on his website.

Nick has been an active member of the Irish Special Interest Group since its inception in July 1995 and given many informative presentations to members

on various Irish topics. Nick has also contributed articles of Irish interest to *The Ancestral Searcher* and many other genealogical journals.

In 2007, Nick was made a Fellow of the Irish Genealogy Research Society.

Tina Davey

Citation for the Honour of Life Member

Tina Davey originally joined Family History ACT in 1984. She has had some time away for personal reasons but has always returned ready to help and support the Society in any way that she can. She has rendered outstanding and distinguished service in support of the Society and its many activities as an ever-willing helper with a keen sense of responsibility and reliability.

Tina has been a committed volunteer library duty officer on a weekly basis in the society's library for many years. She has offered her services as a volunteer to the library Shelf Checking program that commenced in 2003.

Tina was part of a FFACT working group which started in 1999 and continued to around 2013, doing general conservation work, repackaging of document series and transcribing of details into lists ready for uploading into *RecordSearch* for the National Archives of Australia. She was part of the team of volunteers who attended each week to help visitors who were researching their family history in association with the National Museum of Australia's *Not Just Ned* exhibition in 2011. She was a Volunteer host for the NSW & ACT Annual Conference in Canberra in 2013 and one of the 'Purple People' volunteer helpers for the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations Congress hosted by Family History ACT in 2015.

Tina was a member of the Family History ACT team that transcribed the admission registers to create an index of students for Telopea Park School in 2020. She is one of the regular indexers and transcribers and has completed more than 20 files for the Society's project to digitise the Father Brian Maher Collection. Tina is often seen helping at the Society's stand out Open Days—most recently at the Duntroon Dairy Open Day and the Council of the Ageing Expo in 2023.

Tina is a dedicated genealogist – she is methodical in what she does and is a great friend and help to colleagues and visitors alike. With her many years of service, Tina continues to extend her personal knowledge to provide expertise and knowledgeable advice of the holdings and methods of access to the various forms of the library collection to users, new and old visiting the library – and always with a cheery smile of welcome in a gentle and friendly manner.

Peter Mayberry
Citation for the Honour of Life Member

Peter Mayberry has rendered distinguished service to Family History ACT and made significant contributions to the broader family history and genealogy community over many years.

Peter joined Family History ACT on 17 February 1983. He was elected to the Council and served as Secretary from 2009 to 2010. For many years he has fulfilled the role of Returning Officer for the election of Councilors at the Society's Annual General meetings, bringing a humorous touch to these important occasions.

Peter has actively promoted Family History ACT and fostered society membership as well as making a significant contribution to scholarship in the field of family history through his specialised interest in Ireland and Irish convicts. His own Irish ancestry has made Peter a passionate speaker on Irish research, and he has given numerous talks to diverse audiences within and outside Family History ACT. He has been a very supportive member of the Irish and Convict Special Interest Groups giving talks to members and assisting others with their research. Peter was a participant and speaker in most of the Irish weekends held at Galong between 1999 and 2008.

Peter's preoccupation with convict studies began with researching every convict on the convict ship *Tellicherry* which arrived in Sydney in 1806. He went on to index Irish Convicts to NSW (Port Jackson) from 1788 to 1849, which further developed into an online Convict website that contains details of over 30,000 individuals. This website was used by the National Museum of Australia in its 2011 Canberra Exhibition *Not Just Ned*.

Peter's interest in Ireland extends to aspects of Irish history such as the Penal Laws, Insurrection Acts and United Irishmen 1797 is reflected in the contents of his website (<https://members.pcug.org.au/~ppmay/cgi/irish/irish.cgi>)

Congratulations to our Honoured members. Will you be next?

Every family has a story – write yours now!

2024 E.M. Fletcher Writing Competition

The Award is named in honour of Society Fellow Eunice Fletcher

1500 to 2000 words on a family history theme.

Prizes of \$1,000 for best short story,
\$500 for runner up (sponsored by UTAS),
and a bonus \$100 prize for FHACT members.

Open to individuals over 18 years.

Entry fee of \$20.00 for FHACT members and
\$30.00 for non-members.

No limit on the number of entries.

Terms & Conditions and Entry Form available at familyhistoryact.org.au or by
email from writingcompetition@familyhistoryact.org.au



Competition closes 15th July 2024

2024 Judges

Associate Professor Emmett Stinson: Emmett is Head of the School of Humanities in the College of Arts, Law and Education at the University of Tasmania. He is a literary scholar, a creative writer, and an expert on the global publishing industry.

Therese Lynch: Therese is a retired senior public servant who now works as a professional genealogist. Therese is a FHACT member and Education Officer for the Association of Professional Genealogists (Australia and New Zealand Chapter).

Beverley Richardson: Beverley's love of writing commenced at an early age and was a major focus of her former career as an English teacher. A member of FHACT, Beverley was shortlisted in the 2021 E.M. Fletcher Writing Competition and took out the award in 2022.

Contact Details

Family History ACT
41 Templeton Street, Cook, ACT
PO Box 152, Jamison Centre ACT 2614

Website: familyhistoryact.org.au

Telephone: 02 6251 7004
secretary@familyhistoryact.org.au

Writing Competition Committee
writingcompetition@familyhistoryact.org.au



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Peter Dodds McCormick, writer of Advance Australia Fair

Jenny Burgess

Love it or hate it, Australia's anthem is written for love of a country, not to incite their residents to war. Little is known of the writer.

Being related by marriage to Peter Dodds McCORMICK, during my travels I have researched the family in Scotland, USA, Canada, Australia and met relatives there.

Peter's parents were Peter McCORMICK and Janet DODDS.¹

Peter McCORMICK b1800 Lock Gail, Dumbarton, no baptism found. Place details from the 1841 and 1851 Scottish Census. The 1841 Scottish Census shows the family were living in Scott Street, Port Glasgow. When I visited in 2006, there was a grassy square park, surrounded by a housing estate with a short walk to the river and local church.

Peter was a sailor and rigger, working on sailing and later steam ships. He was a long-time employee of Handyside and Henderson (Anchor Line). At the time of his marriage to Janet DODDS also DODS on 19 March 1830, Peter was living in Port Glasgow. Later the family moved to King Street Tradeston, across the Clyde River from Central Glasgow. Peter died 14 January 1864 and is buried in Glasgow Necropolis. His son Hugh, informant, names Peter's parents as Peter McCORMICK, Glass Blower Journeyman and Mary GRIEVE.

Janet DODDS was born 2 July 1800 at Port Glasgow to parents Thomas DODS and Janet RUSSELL. Reading the England and Wales Prerogative Court of Canterbury Wills 1384 to 1856 on Ancestry, I discovered Thomas DODS was a Ships Surgeon. Janet had watched all her children, except Hugh, leave Glasgow for Australia and USA. Janet herself left Glasgow some years after Peter died, coming to Sydney with Hugh. Janet died on 22 November 1874 and has a large headstone at Rookwood Cemetery beside her son Peter.

Peter and Janet had five children.

1. Peter Dodds McCORMICK was baptised on 11 Feb 1833 at Port Glasgow, he could read and write and became a joiner. Peter left Glasgow by boat for Liverpool where he boarded the sailing ship *Anna* on 10 November 1854

bound for Sydney. The 419 passengers included farm labourers, carpenters, joiners, shepherds, labourers, stone masons and housemaids. On the last night of the voyage, 19 February 1855, as the ship was sailing up the South Coast of NSW the *Anna* collided with a smaller boat the *Gazelle*, despite a call to stay overnight, the captain sailed on to Sydney, saying he feared for his ship, as he did not know the coast. The *Gazelle* passengers were rescued safely².

Peter was working outdoors as a joiner when he got sunstruck and left Sydney for New Zealand. He didn't stay long before returning on the *William Denny* on 25 August 1856. In his book 'The Four School Mates', available at the National Library Canberra, he mentions the need to wear a hat when out in the sun. Later Peter became a school teacher. His first posting (1863) was at St Mary's National School,³ where he used his carpentry skills to improve the school. Peter married Emily BOUCHER on 18 July 1863. She was a trained teacher. In those days, a female teacher was required at the school with the male teacher. Peter and Emily then moved to Dobryde (Ashfield) and Five Dock schools. Emily became ill shortly after their marriage and died at her parent's home. Peter rode his horse from Five Dock to Sydney to be with her at the weekends.

Emily's parents, James BOUCHER b1805 and Elizabeth DAVIES b1810, were living in Llanhennock, Monmouthshire, Wales, where James was a grocer.⁴ Three of James and Elizabeth's young children had died, and this may have prompted them to come to Australia with their three surviving children on the *Trafalgar* in 1853. James was working as a market gardener in Sydney when Hezakiah b1842, died from dysentery in 1856. He had been a patient in the Sydney Infirmary. The family then moved to 6 Domain Terrace, where the NSW State Library now stands. James worked at the Botanic Gardens. Harriet b1848, was a milliner at Five Dock when she died from TB in 1865. Emily b1844 was living with her parents when she died in March 1866. Emily was originally buried at Devonshire Street but was re-interred at Rookwood. James died of a stroke in September 1866. This meant Elizabeth was alone. She had a fruit and vegetable business in Macquarie Street for 10 years. Elizabeth died in 1874, the same year as Peter's mother. Peter was the informant at her death.

Peter met my relative, Elizabeth Emma DENING b1843, daughter of John Seymour DENING and Harriet Brooks BRAY. The DENINGs arrived as free settlers on the *Glenswilly* in 1841 with one son. They were market gardeners at Five Dock. Peter and Elizabeth married in December 1866 and Peter moved to Palmer Street Presbyterian School. He was Headmaster at Dowling Street School when 'Advance Australia Fair' was first performed as a Patriotic song. Peter also taught at Bourke Street School and Crown Street Boys School before

retiring in 1885. He was active in the Presbyterian Church and organised large choirs. Peter wrote other music, and poems, copies are at the Mitchell Library in Sydney. Peter and Elizabeth never had children. In 1883, Peter and Elizabeth voyaged to England and Scotland on *HMS Shannon*. Elizabeth would never have been on a large boat and only knew about England and Scotland from family stories and the newspapers. Peter died in 1916 and is buried at Rookwood. His grave, Presbyterian Section 4, Grave 125, has been preserved by the Bi-Centennial committee. Emma then lived with a married sister until her death 1928 and is buried at Rookwood with Peter.



2. Janet McCORMICK born on 20 Nov 1835 and baptised at Port Glasgow.⁵ Janet, age 15, a dress maker, was living at home in 1851 and still living at home in 1861. She was a map-colourer before her marriage to John WILLIAMS in October 1861. John was born in Wales about 1835 (no record of birth or baptism) and listed his parents as Ellis WILLIAMS, Timber Merchant and Mary JONES on his marriage. He was a Master Mariner in the Merchant Service. John and Janet's first son John McCormick WILLIAMS born 23 Nov 1864 at Tradeston, Glasgow was paralysed. I discovered this fact when reading Peter's book. In 1869 John and Janet immigrated to Australia. They had two more children

born here before having triplets, two girls and a boy, in 1873. The triplets were news in the *Empire* (a Sydney newspaper) on 4 August 1873 and copied by newspapers across the state. Sadly, the boy died age 3 months. Janet, John and family, with her mother Janet, were all living in Burton St, Surrey Hills. I visited this tiny house, now with a hairdressing business on the ground floor. I marvelled at the narrow steep stairs leading upstairs.



John's headstone gives a date of death as 1871. I was given a newspaper clipping about the accidental drowning of John WILLIAMS at Sydney Heads, with no date. I knew he was alive when the triplets were born so the headstone date is incorrect. Before TROVE, it was a day-by-day search of *The Sydney Morning Herald*, from 1873 until 2 May 1874. John and three other men were being lowered in a boat from a steamer to work on the dredge *Sampson*, when the forward tackle slipped. The other men were saved, but not John. His body was never found, so no death is registered at NSW BDM.

A trust fund was set up for Janet, who moved to Manly. Janet died at her daughter's residence in 1924 and is buried at Penrith Cemetery Kingswood.



3. John Liddell McCORMICK b1838 at Port Glasgow, immigrated to the USA sometime in 1856 or 1857.⁶ John worked as a clerk and purser on ships on the Great Lakes and met his wife Margaret REID at Goderich, Lake Huron. I have visited this tiny town, which was an active settlement in those years. Unable to find a marriage for John and Margaret in Canada, I discovered they had married in Williamsburg, Long Island, New York on 1 Jan 1861. By coincidence John and Margaret lived in Brooklyn New York City, close to where my daughter was living and a place I regularly walked during my visits. John worked as a letter carrier. It was easy to research at the New York Public Library and the Brooklyn Historical Society.

I discovered Margaret was fearful living in a large city, with the impending Civil War. John and Margaret moved to Canada. When John could not find work, they moved to Cleveland, Ohio. They had two children. John enlisted, rather than being conscripted, on 22 January 1864 in Company G, 67 Regiment of Ohio Volunteers and later transferred to Company C. After the Civil War ended John wrote a letter to his brother Robert in September 1866. Robert's descendant Ian FERRIER shared the letter with me. John was upset he was forced to continue in service after the war ended, it was expected there may have been trouble. Sadly, John caught TB and died in 1869. He was buried in Cleveland. His name, along with all soldiers from the area is engraved on a wall in the city.

Margaret remarried in 1884 and moved with her husband Walter N HOSSIE to Canada. Margaret died 1913.

4. Hugh McCORMICK b1840 was a traveller in hardware aged 21 on the 1861 Scottish Census. He worked as a ships steward in Glasgow and accompanied his mother to Australia. Hugh then worked on coastal ships as a steward. He never married and died 1908. He is buried at Rookwood Zone A Presbyterian Section 6D Grave 7873.

5. Robert Stuart McCORMICK b1843, baptised 1855, was the first to follow his brother to Australia. Robert had been a pupil teacher under Peter at St Marys and became Head Teacher when Peter left. Because Robert was unmarried, the school patron had to appoint a 'suitable married lady' to be assistant teacher. Robert taught at schools on the Hunter River, Upper Hunter and Sydney. Robert married Elizabeth Heugh SCOBIE in 1871. They had nine children which also included triplets. Their last child Arthur Scobie McCORMICK was born 1885 at Waratah, New South Wales. Arthur received a Military Medal in 1919 after serving in Egypt and France. Elizabeth Heugh SCOBIE died 1911 at Marrickville and is buried at Rookwood. Robert was living at Watsons Bay when he died in 1930. He was buried at Rookwood Zone A Presbyterians Section 5C Grave 8997.

After Peter died, 'Advance Australia Fair' did not fade away. While Peter had conservative connections, it was Labor governments who brought the song to recognition. Jack Lang played 'Advance Australia Fair' at his election rally⁷. Arthur Caldwell requested cinema owners to play 'Advance Australia Fair' to encourage a patriotic spirit. □ Gough Whitlam made 'Advance Australia Fair' the national anthem only to have it rescinded by Malcolm Frazer. □ Bob Hawke was the Prime Minister who designated 'Advance Australia Fair' as our National Anthem in 1984.

This is a brief capsule of the family story and the patriotic song. There is much more about Peter's life and the anthem I need to gather and continue with my book-writing. If you descend from one of Peter's siblings or wish to make contact my email is jb.international@hotmail.com.

End Notes

1. Personal information about Peter McCormick and his wife Janet and their children Peter, Janet and Hugh obtained from Ian Ferrier and Gillian Holt, descendants of Robert Stuart McCormick and personal research at the Mitchell Library Glasgow.

2 <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/12965967?searchTerm=Gazelle>

3 School details for Peter and Robert obtained from Museums of History New South Wales, Kingswood.

4 The Boucher family research in Wales at Gwent County Record Office, Ebbw Vale, Wales and State Library, Sydney NSW.

5 Apart from Janet's and Robert's first child born in Scotland, all of the children's details appear in the NSW Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages.

6 John Liddell McCormick, further research at Western Reserve Historical Society, Cleveland, Ohio, USA.

7 'Labor Daily' World's Best declares Lang. p7 23 Mar 1933 *The Labor Daily*.

8 'Advance Australia' p11 4 Dec 1943 *Sydney Morning Herald*.

9 'Australia reinstates "God save the Queen"' p31, 22 Jan 1976, *The New York Times*.

A Girl from the Bay Alma Asquith - 1921-2019

Beverley Richardson



At 97, Alma Rogie is still a beautiful woman. Nature had endowed her, at birth, with auburn highlights in the dark curls that framed her face. She had a high forehead and fine brows that arched over wide set blue eyes; as a grown woman, she would enhance her full lips with dark red lipstick. Her loveliness has been noted in the Asquith family history: the time she won Belle of the Ball in a white velvet dress at the Kurri Kurri Hospital Ball¹ and the moment her future husband, Raymond, noticed her, “beautiful hair,” while strolling through the Mayfield Flea Market.² But her fragile appearance was deceptive. At nine months old she could walk and scurry up the branches of trees like a possum. They called her Poss.

Today she is prepared for a photo shoot. Her hair, now silver, is washed and styled by the nursing home staff. Wearing her favourite slim black skirt teamed with a blue blouse and a pink cardigan, she is excited and follows my instructions: I am her recently discovered second cousin, come for information so that I can write a story, interested in her childhood, which was affected by two world wars and The Great Depression.

Our meeting has been organised by family, eager for her to meet the relative they found on social media. I appear as a ghost of times past, my fair skin and blond hair reminding Alma of my father, Maurice Asquith, who was her playmate when they were children living in Magnus Street, Nelson Bay.³ At our meeting I experience for the first time Alma's sweet nature. "Hello cousin," she murmurs, embracing me, her voice deep with emotion. In subsequent interviews, held each Friday, she is prepared, her memories clear and the joy she finds in reviving them evident in her face. She speaks no evil, a lesson learnt from her mother. And she is good at sharing...her cigarettes with the staff!

" I came north with my family from Sydney to live at The Bay. My father drove our Vauxhall car onto a punt that crossed from Newcastle to Stockton and then we travelled on a gravel road into a strange land on a journey that seemed like it would never end. Nelson Bay was a very small fishing village. Local women said, 'Oh! That's her...she's from Sydney!'"

- Ruth Asquith⁴

Alma was born on August 16th, 1921. Her mother, Susannah Rebecca Asquith, rode on a horse, along a sandy bush track, through a forest of Eucalyptus trees, from Nelson Bay to the home of her mother, Rebecca McPherson at nearby Anna Bay, for the birth of this, her eighth child.

Rebecca and her husband, Henry, had built a three bedroomed house to suit her position in the community as midwife, district nurse and postmistress. Featuring a hospital room, a parlour, a lounge room and verandahs back and front, it was cooled in the summer by a heavy fringe of grape vines. Rebecca was known to have offered a glass of wine in her parlour to neighbours when they visited on Christmas Day. Fortunately for Alma, her delivery, safe in the hands of her grandmother, was without complication; no need to lead a horse to fetch the doctor at Stroud,⁵ which was the established practice in the case of a difficult birth. She also escaped the fate of the stillborn, who were wrapped in a blanket and laid outside the front door for the father to collect for burial.⁶

When thinking of her childhood, Alma's memory turns first to her parents, her siblings and her first cousins, as well as the community of approximately 30 families, who were the first European settlers at The Bay.⁷ Her father, Thomas (Bowler) Asquith was inseparable from his twin brother, John (Tally) Asquith. The men, their wives and their many children lived a short

distance apart in Magnus Street; the twins fished from two sand spits in the middle of Port Stephens Harbour.

“Dad had one (island) and Tally, and his stepsons, Keith and Skeeter Archard, had the other. One had about 10 trees growing on it. Dad had two registered nets: a mesh net and a prawn net. They worked around 1 shot per night, 6 nights a week. You only caught enough fish for the amount of ice you had.”
- Charlie Asquith⁸

Life was hard, leading Alma to believe that The Great Depression influenced their lives immediately after World War 1, well before the official starting date of 1929. The isolation of the community meant that clothing and food was delivered by travelling ship. Fish was served at the long dining table in Susannah's house only when Bowler had made a good haul the night before but the catch was limited by the service of the Cambewarra⁹ which brought ice from Darks Ice Works in Newcastle three days per week. Poss's favourite dish was Steamed Taylor with Oyster Sauce, a meal fit for a princess but at nine years old she had no shoes and few spare clothes.

To supplement the family's income, Susannah cleaned at the Inner Lighthouse¹⁰ while Bowler ran Two Up games in the Billiard Room in Stockton Street, Nelson Bay. Early in life, Poss's brothers¹¹ joined their father, building fishing boats on the spare block beside Robert Asquith's home in Magnus Street. An early lesson for all Asquith children was that they should contribute, taking on more responsibility as they grew. Even Ivy Asquith, who had lost her leg in a childhood accident, and walked with the aid of a crutch, was allowed no slack.¹³ From an early age Poss, following the example of her female ancestors, contributed to the wellbeing of the family, at first, in the only way she could; running bare foot along bush tracks, to deliver messages, rushing past black snakes and goannas camouflaged in the leaf litter. She recounts one unforgettable errand:

“Mum asked us (Poss and her best friend, Madge Williams) to take a message to Mrs Payne. So I tucked the paper down my pants. On the way, we met Louis de Clerk, who had the night soil service. He offered us a lift, so we jumped up on the cart. But on the way the cart hit a bump and the shit came up over the top, all over us! ...Louis dropped us off home and took off! Mum ordered us to go straight down to the beach, and get ourselves clean. We were frozen! Word got out and at school we got the nick names Patty Pan Poss and Piddle Face Madge.”

Susannah took her “tribe of kids” out onto the land to gather food. A small shrub covered in green berries grew in the swamp behind Magnus Street. These the children picked and threw into buckets and bins; in the kitchen they were boiled and strained through a muslin cloth to make a slightly yellow, jelly like jam, delicious as a sweet and sour condiment on toast. Alma remembers her mother as a seasoned bush tucker cook. One of the family’s friends was a full blooded Aboriginal woman named Queen Nelly Barbour, whom everyone loved because of her generosity in bringing her bush medicine skills to help the sick.¹⁴

Recipe for Susannah’s Orange Jam

3 oranges, cut thin.

Soak slices overnight in water in an enamel bowl.

Place six 2 shilling pieces in the bowl.

These prevent the need for stirring.

Gradually add sugar after coming to the boil.

The orange slices emerge in perfect rings.

For 3 pence a week Poss carried newspapers from the ferry, Yoothapoon¹⁵ to the convenience store owned by Mrs Coach and she took advantage of Mrs Dalby, of Stockton’s, offer of a penny a bucket for anchovies for pickling. These the children caught in tins with holes in the base; 5 buckets full were the acceptable minimum. A child who loved nature, in her spare time, Poss cared for Takum, her pet koala.

In their preparation for married life, Susannah took her daughters out into the bush on the horse and cart to help her cut sticks, prune them, tie them into bundles and take them back to the yard where the men fashioned them into lobster pots. Christmas meant that they gathered Christmas Bush and Christmas Bells, formed them into mixed bunches and sold them to the florist in Stockton.¹⁶ They washed and sewed clothes and learned handcrafts and embroidery. On the wood fired Kookaburra stove, the young women made the breakfast porridge and the nightly meals, that ensured that family and visitors were satisfied.

For her formal education, Poss attended Nelson Bay Public School, where 20 or 30 students comprised the student body. They were taught to read and calculate by Mrs Palmer; later the principal, Mr Longworth, supervised their education by correspondence to the Intermediate Certificate. Poss learned to write using a pen and nib, drawing ink from the ink wells set into the desks. The

pupils built the tennis courts and enjoyed competitive games such as quoits, rounders, and cricket: at festival times they danced the maypole. Four posts marked out the shark free area where the children swam after school, free to play and learn on the white sand beaches of The Bay.

Alma's childhood rests in her memory as a time of happy innocence, when she lived in a natural paradise supported by the love of an extended family.



This time and place was shattered by World War 11. Little Poss faded into the background, to be replaced by a strong woman, a machinist, called Alma Asquith, who moved to Newcastle to work in the munitions factories. Many of the young men who had been her childhood friends, including her first cousin, my father, Maurie, or "Snow" Asquith, left to fight in Africa or in The Pacific. The Bay was invaded by Joots, (the Joint Overseas Operational

Training School), Australian, American and New Zealand troops¹⁷ who practised their marine exercises, driving their amphibious vehicles onto the beaches, sailing their ships into the harbour, flying their planes overhead, bedazzling the young women with money and invading the shops, pubs and cinema. From their centre of operation at Gan Gan near Anna Bay,¹⁸ they planned war games in the sand dunes, where live ammunition was used.

The days were gone forever when:

"At Christmas all the families would come together. Next to the house was a grapevine with two long tables underneath that would sit a couple of hundred people. The cousins would come from Stockton, Wallsend, Raymond Terrace and Bob's Farm. We'd have a big meal and play cricket in the afternoon, go down to the main beach for pippies for tea. We'd put them on the campfire. Granny Mac would make her own beer."

-Charlie Asquith.

References:

1. The Kurri Kurri Hospital balls were held regularly throughout the 1920's and 1930's to raise money for hospital equipment. Kurri Kurri is an industrial town in the Hunter River Valley.
2. Mayfield is an industrial suburb of the city of Newcastle, New South Wales. Alma relocated to Mayfield seeking work at the beginning of WW11.
3. Nelson Bay is situated in Port Stephens, about 60 Kilometres north east of Newcastle, New South Wales.
4. Alma Asquith's brother, Robert, married Ruth Frances Cook in 1929. Interview with Ruth conducted 9/10/2020.
5. Stroud is a country town, approximately 40 kilometres north west of Anna Bay. Former headquarters of the Australian Agricultural Company.
6. Ibid 4.
7. Alma remembers the Glovers, the Blanches, the Thompsons, the Delridges, the Archards the Presburys, the Reeds, Sproules, Lambournes, Davis's, and the Bagnalls.
8. Charlie Asquith is Alma Asquith's 94 year old brother. Interview conducted 21/5/2020.
9. The Cambewarra was a supply vessel owned by the Korsman family. Pioneers and History of the Myall River and Lakes. Janis Wynn. Page 81.
10. The Inner Lighthouse was situated inside Port Stephens Harbour, adjacent to Fly Point. John "Stinker" Clarke writes of it in Fish. Port Stephens, page 130.
11. Alma's brothers were William, Frederick (Ping), Robert and Herbert Charles Asquith.
12. The Ilma Dale, the Seal, The Andanna, The Swallow, The Duck, The Farewell and the tourist craft, The Tamboi Queen, were built by Robert Asquith and his brothers.
13. According to Charlie Asquith Ivy fell between 2 planks of wood at school, scraping her leg. The wound turned septic: amputation was essential to save the girl's life.
14. Tony Trienen, past member of the Port Stephens Historical Society, writes of an Aboriginal tribe, led by King Billy Ridgeway in his document A Glimpse of the History of Port Stephens. (1967). They lived at Soldiers Point. Nellie Barbour was possibly related to this tribe.
15. Ibid 8, page 27.
16. Stockton was also known as Newcastle's "North Shore".
17. The Australian War Memorial website.
18. Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate, Saturday, June 18th, 1953, page 9.

Success at Last

Grahame Thom

In late 1979 I wrote three articles that were published in our journal titled John and Margaret MANNING, *Ancestral Searcher* - Vol 2 No 6, December 1979 pp 120-125, and Vol 3 No 1, March 1980 pp 3-8. From time to time I wondered if John's statement at his trial at the Old Bailey, London, that he was the father of five children was true, or just said to gain sympathy.

From about 2000, when more family history data started to appear on the internet, I would search for Manning births in the 15 years before his departure from England in 1800. This year I again did searches on Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org for baptisms in London with a father John MANNING, and I am reasonably satisfied that I have found the correct family. All the locations recorded are close together in the older area of London. So here is a time line of family events for convict John MANNING, including his time in Sydney, New South Wales.

The Time Line of John MANNING

1768, 28 August Baptism, St Mary, Whitechapel, London
1787, 28 November Marriage, St Mary, St Marylebone London, spouse Martha Jones

Children born in London, all baptized St Selpulchre: John (born 1788), Charles (born 1791), Joseph (born 1793), Mary Ann (born 1794), and Martha (born 1797).

1798, 9 June Caught stealing, Oxford Street, London.
1798, 12 September Convicted at the Old Bailey, London, to be transported.
1798-1800 Held in Newgate Prison, London.

1799 Exact date unknown, daughter age 8 years admitted to the care of the Philanthropic Society, London - most likely Mary Ann.

?1799 Conception of daughter Esther late November while John was in Prison. So long as the convicts remained within the prison, John could receive visits from his relatives who could bring money, clothes, food and drinks; Esther born August 1800.

1800, 1 April Placed on board the convict ship *Royal Admiral*

John arrived in Sydney on the 20 November 1800. His future partner Margaret BEYNON (convict, nee LLEWELLYN) arrived in Sydney on the convict ship *Nile* on 14 December 1801. I assume that in 1802 both John and Margaret

were residents of an inn called 'Sign of the Compasses', at 14 South Row, later named 'O'Connell Street', Sydney. John MANNING and Margaret BEYNON did not marry as both had spouses in Britain, but within ten months of Margaret's arrival, they had their first Australian child. Their six children were Mary (born 1802), Margaret (died 1805), Eliza (born 1808), James (born 1811), my ancestor Charlotte (born 1813) and Charles (born 1815).

John had many occupations, including carpenter, wine and spirit licensee, builder, and upholsterer. There is a reference to the possibility they had two other children who probably died as babies. His common-law wife Margaret died in December 1849, "wife of a gentleman" aged 75. John died soon after in July 1850. Both are buried in St Peter's Church, Camperdown.

Comments

I am not aware that there was any contact by John senior with his family in London. It is interesting that John and Margaret in Australia gave different given names to most of their children when compared to John's London born children. Their last Sydney child was named Charles, a repeat of the second child in London. Is that an indication that John senior became aware of the death of his first child Charles? I have searched websites Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org and a general search of the internet, but found nothing to connect the two families.

I have checked my DNA matches on AncestryDNA and FamilyTreeDNA. I have 136 Manning matches on AncestryDNA but I don't have an Ancestry subscription to check further. I am now tempted to take out a subscription.

I have one important message for fellow researchers. Your family history is never complete. So it is important to regularly review your past research. Recently I asked a friend in London who has a UK newspapers subscription to do a search. He found one small advertisement in 1803. This took my research several generations back. But that's another story.

Online - Ancestry.com, marriage and baptisms, St Mary, Whitechapel, London, St Sepulchre, Newgate, London and St Andrew, Holborn, London, copies of original registers

Online - Old Bailey Court Records for 1798, copies of original records

Online - AJCP original convict records

NSW baptism and burial certificates held by author

How to Find a Vanishing Man

(Surnames have been omitted to
protect the living)

Jo Callaghan



I was an introverted obedient child who was quite happy to be seen and not heard. But occasionally, when a conversation was interesting, I was quite clever at surreptitiously *not* being seen *or* heard. Sometimes my elders talked about their Uncle Bob, aka my Great Uncle Bob. Sometimes they talked about him with great fondness. They would gesticulate wildly when telling tall tales about his brilliant card nights. They would reminisce about his generous hospitality and their tummies grumbled when they recalled his wife Anna's delicious Italian cooking. But sometimes they spoke about Uncle Bob in hushed tones, using grown-up words and concepts that I didn't understand. Their stories usually ended mysteriously, most commonly with the words "and then he vanished." The very idea of a vanishing man was a tantalising treat for the vivid imagination of a small girl who was executing her own vanishing act by listening from behind the couch.

Quite recently, I was looking through my father's photo album and unexpectedly found a photograph of Uncle Bob. He was wearing a suit and was standing

next to a beautiful dark-haired European-looking woman who was wearing a striking fur around her shoulders. With them were two children, a teen-age girl, and a slightly younger boy. They had the appearance of being guests at a wedding. As I stared at the picture, I started thinking about Bob's disappearance and realised that I had a lot of questions but now that I'm old enough to be both seen and heard, there's no one left that I could ask. And so, with my 'family historian' hat planted firmly on my grown-up head, I decided to examine his records to see if I could perform some kind of magic trick and make a mysterious vanishing man re-appear.

Uncle Bob was the youngest of five children who were born in Redfern, Sydney between 1905 and 1913.¹ He was just a baby when his father died a hideous death in Callan Park Mental Hospital.² By the time he was three years old, his mother re-married and according to family stories – the type that tended to start with "I overheard Mrs Smith telling Mrs Jones..." – Bob's stepfather was a dreadful rogue whose family sent him money to stay away. Bob grew up in an environment where his Wicked Stepfather spent every available penny at the pub, regularly pawned everyone's belongings, bought everything back on payday, and the cycle would begin again before the next stay-away-allowance arrived... or so their stories went.³

In 1934, 21-year-old Bob married an 18-year-old laundry hand named Eileen, at St David's Anglican Church in Arthur Street Surry Hills.⁴ He recorded his father's name and profession as 'unknown', and I imagine this reflected the societal stigma surrounding the nature of his father's death. The witnesses were the bride's father and brother, giving an on-paper impression of a forced marriage but by the time their son Graham was born, years had passed, emphatically ruling out a shotgun wedding.

Eileen divorced Bob in 1941, saying that he had been absent for at least three years, was out of work and didn't pay maintenance for his son.⁵ By 1943 Eileen was re-married and she and Graham were long gone. Meanwhile, Bob was working as a salesman and living at his sister's home in Redfern.⁶

The following year Bob was working as a hospital attendant when he married ward's maid named Rita at the Registry Office at the Paddington Town Hall.⁷ This time Bob recorded his father's name and occupation, but he might have guessed his father's middle name because it wasn't right. Later that year, Bob and Rita's daughter Maureen was born.⁸

The next time that Bob appeared in the records was in 1957, when he sought to divorce Rita on the grounds of her desertion - and his own adultery. □ Bob explained that they were living quite happily until Rita,

“... began to drink and keep company with undesirables... when I complained about the child being neglected and the house not properly looked after she just packed up her things and left...”¹⁰

It was 1949 when Rita walked out the door, and thus Bob became the sole parent of five-year-old Maureen. He was working at the hospital, so he sent Maureen to what he described as “a boarding farm especially for children... near Liverpool.” There she met a young boy named Victor whose mother’s name was... Anna! She had arrived in Australia from Italy in 1949, along with her Latvian husband and young son Victor; they were a family displaced after the Second World War.

Bob and Anna’s children were fond of each other, and Bob and Anna eventually became close. In 1954 they bought a house in Woollahra where they lived together as a family. My elders must have been going to their home in Woollahra, where they enjoyed Bob and Anna’s generous hospitality, Bob’s amazing card nights and Anna’s memorable Italian cooking. Bob and Anna sought their divorces concurrently, intending on marrying each other. In 1958 their divorces were finalised but there is no record of them subsequently getting married... well, not to each other.¹¹

At about the time that they received their Decrees Nisi, Bob’s presence in the records became a little hazy. He was still alive in 1963 because he was the executor of his brother’s New South Wales estate, but his name didn’t appear in the New South Wales Electoral Rolls. Complaints from his brother’s beneficiaries about the slow pace of his attending to his executor duties suggested that either he wasn’t particularly interested in getting the job done, or perhaps he wasn’t conveniently available.

In 1972, a man named Victor placed an advertisement in the Sydney Morning Herald under the heading ‘Missing Friends’.¹² Victor was seeking to know the whereabouts of a man he referred to as the father of Graham, Maureen, and himself. I don’t know whether Victor received any replies and now I was asking the very same question. Where was this mysterious man, the father of Graham, Maureen, and Victor?

The answer came not from New South Wales or even Australian records but from another country entirely. In 1969 Bob died of a heart attack in a New Zealand hospital. The informant was the funeral director, who recorded that Bob had been in New Zealand for eight years, that he was working as an airport attendant, that he had married Heather in New Zealand and that he

had been married before. But in the space where the names of Bob's parents should have been, all that appeared was Bob's surname.¹³

If Bob's wife Heather didn't know Bob's family, perhaps, just perhaps, therein lies truth behind the mystery of the vanishing man.

1 New South Wales Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages, Birth Index; Sydney Anglican Parish Registers, 1818-2011, [ancestry.com](#)

2 New South Wales Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages, Death Index; Museums of History New South Wales NRS-4984 Admission files, NRS-4994 Medical Case Books, NRS-4995 Registers of Patients and Admission Books

3 Family records, oral histories

4 New South Wales Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages, Marriage Index; Sydney Anglican Parish Registers, 1818-2011, [ancestry.com](#)

5 Museums of History New South Wales NRS 13495, Divorce papers

6 New South Wales Government, Electoral Rolls, 1903-1980, 1943, Cook, Redfern, [ancestry.com](#)

7 New South Wales Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages, Marriage Index

8 Family records, oral histories

9 Museums of History New South Wales, NRS-13495 Divorce papers

10 *ibid*

11 New South Wales Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages

12 National Library of Australia, Trove online newspapers, The Sydney Morning Herald

13 New Zealand Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Death Index

Discovering the relative of a relative of a relative

Elaine Gifford

In 2021, my second cousin Lorna wanted to know more about her great-grandfather, so I researched English-born Herbert WOODGATE who in the 1870s settled his family in Terowie in South Australia's mid north.

One day, wanting to understand more of Herbert's context, I searched Trove newspapers for 'woodgate AND terowie'. An 1887 paragraph in *The Terowie Enterprise* caught my attention. Among snippets about kangaroo hunting, railway timetable changes and school building additions was this item:

LADY BRASSEY AT TEROWIE.- On Saturday morning last Lady Brassey accompanied by her daughter, the Hon. Miss Mable [sic] Brassey breakfasted at Mr Woodgate's residence, and spent an hour or two with the family. Lady Brassey is a relation of Mr Woodgate.¹

An hour or two at breakfast I understood, for since 1880 when the broad gauge rail reached Terowie from Adelaide, all passengers, goods and stock had to be transferred to the narrow gauge system before continuing north. Nor was the name BRASSEY in itself a huge surprise, for Herbert WOODGATE, proud of his Kent and London family links, had already used ALLNUTT, BRASSEY, HOOKER and WEST among the twenty forenames he and Marie DUNEMANN had given their five young children. But who, I wondered, was this visitor who needed no introduction in rural Terowie?



Main Street, Terowie, 1884. State Library of South Australia B+32938, detail

I knew that by 1887, both Terowie and the WOODGATE family were growing apace. But for now I still had much to learn for my Woodgate project, so Lady BRASSEY had to wait.

At last, a few months later, there was time. Thanks to Trove and the internet, I was soon on a roll. In the same month as the breakfast report, I was amazed to see several hundred BRASSEY references in South Australian newspapers. No wonder Lady BRASSEY's name was known in the mid-north!

Yet I, who had grown up in South Australia, had not come across this name among governors or explorers, or towns or streets named after important people. Who was this person?

Lord and Lady Brassey

Reading a selection of those newspaper articles, I learned that Lord and Lady BRASSEY with their son and daughters were staying at Government House in Adelaide, and there were daily reports of their movements. One day, for example, the Governor arranged an excursion for them and other guests to his summer residence in the Adelaide hills, where the whole party was treated to luncheon. On the return journey in the viceregal coach I wonder how much afternoon tea they could eat at a private home in Morialta?

The next day the BRASSEYs were to visit Mrs PENFOLD's vineyard before having lunch with the mayor at "The Acacias", Marrayatville. In the afternoon Lady BRASSEY and her daughters were to leave by train for Broken Hill, returning three days later. Whoever Lord and Lady BRASSEY were, this was no laid-back holiday.

Privileged travel, 1880s style

One newspaper article covered the whole trip to Broken Hill, or 'The Barrier' as it was often called, in great detail.² What follows here is only an outline.

Leaving Adelaide at 4.45pm in the viceregal carriage, the party dined at Riverton on the way north. At the change of [rail] gauge at Terowie 'they were provided a comfortable sleeping car'. In the morning they had to alight at the border of New South Wales where the South Australian rail line ended in the small settlement of Cockburn. Awaiting them was Mr WILSON, manager of the Broken Hill Mine. After 'breakfast laid on for them in the railway shed' Lady BRASSEY's carriage led a convoy to Broken Hill with a stop along the way to change the horses,

passing on the way a kangaroo and a long-tailed wallaby.

One might expect that after being 'very cordially received by Mrs and the Misses WILSON' in the township of Broken Hill, Lady BRASSEY would have taken the opportunity to recover from her overnight journey. But clearly this was not her style.



Sketch of Broken Hill's main street in 1888 from the Pictorial Australian. Copied in 2018 from the Broken Hill Historical Society Facebook page. Lady Brassey commented that she had never seen 'such an entirely new place of the size before'

'Her Ladyship descended McCulloch's Shaft at a point where the mine is 216 feet deep, and was interested in examining the various kinds of ores. After dinner she went over the smelting works.' The next day included a different kind of shaft, the assaying offices where she saw a testing demonstration, travel to Silverton where she found 'much interest in the town' and after a change of horses the 'long dreary drive' [30 kilometres] back to Cockburn for meals prepared for them by Mrs WILSON. Only then could Her Ladyship retire to rest once more in the railway car.

An early breakfast

It was when the party reached Terowie soon after 4 am that Lady BRASSEY was taken to the WOODGATES for breakfast before resuming the journey in 'the ordinary train' at 6 am. 'They eventually reached Adelaide a few minutes after noon, very tired, but highly pleased with their trip.' The report concludes: 'Her Ladyship was cordially welcomed everywhere.'

That same day (I felt tired as I continued reading) Her Ladyship and the Hon. Misses BRASSEY accompanied the Governor to the opening meet of the Hunt Club, afternoon tea at Glenelg, Government House for dinner with plans being made for multiple events two days later - on which day the 'distinguished

visitors' were escorted to the viceregal carriage attached to the express train [to Melbourne] in order for them to meet up with Lord BRASSEY in Ballarat - but not before a stop in Murray Bridge involving several escorted visits and outings before they took up quarters in a 'boudoir car specially connected with the express train'.

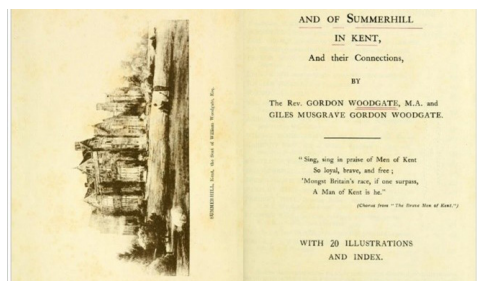
The Sunbeam?

I was forming a picture of a charming, curious, energetic person. Her Ladyship was clearly gifted too. One evening, an Adelaide meeting of the St John's Ambulance Club received a letter from Lady BRASSEY enclosing a pamphlet on ambulance work, compiled by herself. They decided to place her name on the list of honorary members. But who was she, and what was the *Sunbeam* in which Lord BRASSEY sailed from Port Adelaide to Melbourne with a 'favourable gale', and which Adelaide people had been invited to inspect? And I had yet to discover the connection with the WOODGATES.

Gradually I pieced together both the story and the relationship.

The family connection

Fortunately, I did not find it difficult to learn how Lady BRASSEY and Herbert WOODGATE were related. When scouring the internet as part of my earlier exploration of Herbert's English forebears I had come across a goldmine of information in the Internet Archive. This was *A History of the Woodgates of Stonewall Park and of Summerhill in Kent, and their Connections*, by Rev Gordon WOODGATE, MA and Giles Musgrave Gordon WOODGATE, 1909³.



Title page of the WOODGATE History (and a typical family dwelling)

Now, the key for me was in the title of the book – 'and their connections'. Included in the substantial book were a number of fold-out charts, images of stately homes, reproductions of portraits, extracts of family letters - and most helpfully, chapters on a number of well-to-do families who socialised and intermarried over more than a century.

It was in the ALLNUTT chapter that the search facility led me to the marriage of Anna ALLNUTT to Thomas BRASSEY. Charts and stories showed that Herbert WOODGATE and Anna shared an ALLNUTT great-grandfather, so were second cousins. With the WOODGATES and the ALLNUTTs moving freely between houses in London and in Kent and Herbert and Annie (as she was known) being born only about a year apart, they were likely to have known each other from childhood. Annie married in 1860 when she was twenty-one. This being the year before Herbert left England for Australia, it is easy to imagine that he was at her wedding.

Portrait of Mrs Brassey in 1864 by Edwin Henry Landseer and Francis Grant, Hastings Museum & Art Gallery, HASMG:2004.43.4 accessed Jan 2024



Even across the world the families were good at keeping in touch by letter or telegram, so it was not surprising that Annie, by now Lady BRASSEY, was able to let the WOODGATES know that she was going to be in Terowie on a certain date. There was, however, still the question of her title, so I needed to find out more about her husband.

The story of my quest will continue in a second instalment.

- 1 Lady Brassey At Terowie (1887, June 10). *The Terowie Enterprise* (SA : 1884 - 1891), p. 2. Accessed 10 Jan 2022, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article210504464>
- 2 A Glimpse at the Australian Bush. (1887, June 6). *Evening Journal* (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), p. 3 (Second Edition). Accessed Feb 2024, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article199153151>
- 3 https://archive.org/stream/ahistoryofwoodga00wood/ahistoryofwoodga00wood_djvu.txt Accessed 18 Dec 2021

Out of the Shadows

Sandra Barnbaum

“MUM, why are YOU making DAD’S school lunch?”

Caught unawares, I stumbled a reply, “because – I have for the past thirty years!”

I was simply following the conventions of the time. Women had been discouraged from pursuing a career outside the home for much of the twentieth century.

More than thirty years later, I still remember that innocent question from my daughter, and while turning the pages of the album she helped prepare for our sixtieth wedding anniversary, I found myself reflecting on the remarkable changes in all our lives. I cannot help but marvel at the opportunities available to most young women. What follows is, in part my family’s history.

One hundred years ago my mother was fortunate to be educated at the local Girls’ Grammar School in Queensland when schooling beyond the Primary level was not freely available.

I was astonished to read in our school’s foundation history that:

a great deal of education lavished on girls is comparatively useless, it would be desirable the mothers of future generations of colonists should be taught to sew, to wash, to cook & to keep a house tidy.

The city fathers of the late nineteenth century then voted to discontinue plans for a grammar school for girls. Fortunately, by the twentieth century and with the departure of so many men to the battles of World War 1, women were needed to take their places and girls were allowed to continue their education. A local newspaper’s editorial took the view that if a mother was educated, then her children would be ‘bright and beautiful’.

In my mother’s case, regardless of what dreams the youngest daughter of a very musical family might have, she was encouraged to study bookkeeping, shorthand and typewriting and to leave school at age fifteen when a secretarial position with the local town council became available. Over the following ten years, she rose to be secretary to the mayor but was compelled to resign upon marrying.

This was not the only obstacle my parents had to overcome. My grandfather had forbidden my mother to marry until my father had fully paid for their future home. Theirs was a lengthy engagement of eight years.

Women in government positions were affected until the 1980s by a law requiring their resignation when marrying. In my regional city, the law was challenged in court by the female city librarian who won the right to retain her position.

I was born during World War 2 when many women, including our grandmothers were widowed and had to use their domestic skills to survive. My grandmother took lodgers into the family home; my husband's grandmother was housekeeper for doctors at the Leprosarium on Peel Island near Brisbane.

Sixty years ago it was possible for women to become doctors, lawyers, scientists or politicians. Regrettably there is still a minority of men who resent women who are surgeons, priests, pilots and prime ministers (for example). When the majority of medical doctors were of the male gender, many were not sympathetic to women's conditions such as menstruation and menopause. Their symptoms then were often diagnosed as 'nerves' or their headaches attributed to 'women's troubles'.

In her middle age, my mother's body was wracked with the inflammatory pain of Rheumatoid Arthritis. For the remainder of her life she was subjected to an increasingly damaging regime of treatments, involving medications which harmed her stomach lining, injections, hot wax immersions and surgery, culminating in kidney failure and her early demise. Three of my mother's direct descendants have since been diagnosed with an inflammatory autoimmune disease. There is still no cure, but I believe doctors are now trained to consider the whole person, and patients are encouraged to understand the condition from which they suffer.

Diet, exercise and mental health are now regarded as equally important as medication and invasive surgery. So-called 'invisible' conditions are now being recognised, as their effects on our bodies can be seen on scans taken of our brains and other organs. My father passed away two years after my mother. He was diagnosed with an aggressive lung cancer. For three months he was treated for bronchitis and other chronic conditions. Only in his last week of life did a young doctor mention 'cancer'. Thankfully communication between doctor and patient has greatly improved in the twenty-first century.

By the 1970s I had met my husband-to-be, married, and had two young sons. I returned to teaching part time in 1974 when female activists were becoming increasingly heard. They demanded more freedom in their work participation and spoke out for the first time about violence to women in their homes. Previously this subject had not been discussed publicly.

Women were not protected by law then. Men, as heads of the household,

controlled their own and their partner's finances and property. Laws were passed in 1975 to punish violence in the home, but even now women are often fearful of retribution if they speak out.

Blissfully unaware of what some other women were suffering, I took my pay cheque to our bank and confidently asked to open a new account in my name. The teller referred me to his superior, who frowned, and sternly asked whether my husband knew of my intention? As my husband was away on an Army Reserve bivouac at the time, I left – feeling humiliated.

Shortly after, I successfully opened an account in my own name with my respectful husband's approval. Men in the 1970s were generally reluctant to relinquish the power they had over their wives' spending.

I joined a worldwide women's organisation in 1977. Although its goal was to improve the welfare of families, I was disturbed to find that they had only recently agreed to admit women who had been divorced. These women had to suffer the shame of their marriage breakdown even when they were not at fault. Determined to redeem this reputation, this group of mothers were pioneers in establishing the first women's shelter in regional Queensland, including furnishing it and stocking the pantry. When the project to help those affected by domestic violence was announced, a disapproving voice declared, "Good luck with that!" This remark only increased other members' determination.

The need for support had sadly not diminished by the early 2000s, when I was tasked with contacting the local police to ask their views on how best to help women escaping violence. I nervously explained the reason for my call, but was interrupted by, "I'll fetch Sergeant Jo – she's the one you need to speak to". When Jo responded, she was clearly overwhelmed to find that there was a women's group in the community offering help. She explained that when attending domestic violence incidents, there was little police could do to help the victim in the long term.

Within weeks, a meeting attended by town councillors, members of the police force, social workers and women's organisations was convened to promote awareness of the situation and plan long term help for victims of violence in the home.

The key to eliminating violence in our homes is accepting that every individual deserves respect. The tide is turning but will take some time yet for perpetrators to learn that violence is not OK.

My personal knowledge of First Nations people was certainly based on fear and ignorance. In the Queensland country town where I was born and educated, First Nations people were hidden in plain sight. They were there – quietly in the background, existing, but mostly unnoticed.

Decades later, when my daughter was a toddler, my attention was gained instantly when she unexpectedly let out a startled cry! She pointed a tiny finger in the direction of a passer-by who was carrying a dark-skinned, curly-haired baby in her arms. I was shocked by her reaction but she was noticing, not judging.

As a child I was shielded from contact with the local Aboriginal and South Sea Islander communities. They had been made to sit in the backseats of buses, and only in the very front rows at the picture theatre. They stood back in shops until white people were served and slipped silently into the back pews in church.

Sixty years ago when I was teaching in a western Queensland country town, First Nations people camped at a creek outside the town. They had no piped water or electricity. They had poor clothing, no shoes and no ability to do homework without books or lighting and little was done to make education accessible, welcoming and culturally safe for these communities. History was my favourite subject at school, but Australian history then recorded only the heroic journeys of the early explorers and exciting accounts of the discovery of gold. Only recently did I search the early history of settlement in the area of my birth, and was astounded to read that the firm intention of the early settlers was the ‘extinction of the native race’.

I now understand the deep and enduring mistrust many First Nations folk have of their whiteskinned invaders (and descendants). When complete elimination of their race was unsuccessful, their children were forcibly removed. This cruel practice continued for many decades. In the second half of the nineteenth century Pacific Islanders were being kidnapped by opportunists in a practice called ‘blackbirding’. These Islanders were brought to Queensland and enslaved in cane fields and other agricultural areas where pale-skinned Englishmen found the temperatures unbearable (and likely the Pacific Islanders too, had their opinions been sought). Claims that the Islanders came willingly were mostly untrue. One writer described their treatment as being similar to that given to a white settler’s horse: ‘branded’, so that they could not be stolen by neighbouring property owners.

The countless women, First Nations people and Islanders, those with disabilities and refugees, who have excelled in professions, the arts and in sports, have done so in spite of the many obstacles they still face today. Researching my

ancestors' lives I have found strong women – Laura, who took the Temperance pledge, supporting women's suffrage, and great aunt Jemima, a philanthropist of the 1920s. I am heartened that my daughter and granddaughters are showing similar strength of spirit and are working to end injustices where they encounter them.

The most urgent challenge in the twenty-first century is to try to reduce and hopefully reverse the damage caused by climate change. I hope that women, as they have in time of war and other disasters, will step out of the shadows to call for positive action by every man, woman and child, or life on this planet will soon become unbearable for our children and grandchildren.



Looking to the Future: My family in 1945. Jeffery, Dad, Me (the author) and Mum

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From Black Sheep to Hero

- Thomas Morton

Margaret Clough

When heavy rain makes work impossible John MORTON abandons the fence he's repairing and heads for the house. Better to spend the afternoon under cover in the shed, repairing the harnesses. But first, he'll have some lunch in the house.

John steps into the warm cottage. His son, Thomas, is reclining in his father's armchair by the fire, his stockinged feet up on the hearth, one big toe poking rudely out. He's chatting and laughing with Margaret, his sister, as she sizzles onions into the cooking pot. Tom leaps to his feet, backing away from the chair.

'Aw, Pa. You're soaking wet. Get that wet coat off! Come and sit down in the warm.' Tom moves to help him with the coat, but John pushes him away, roughly. *'Would'a been done well before the rain If I'd had a hand from me son! I see you're up, finally. Best part of the day gone already.'*

'Sorry, pa. Rough night, last night. Woke with a real head on me.'

'You'll get no sympathy from me, boy. You bring it all on yourself! You promised to give it all up. After the accident. Damn near killed yourself on that bridge, and damn near killed your father with worry, thinking I'd lost another son. Not the first time you've been silly with the drink. Bringing shame on the family again.'

'Aw, Pa. Ran into me old mate Harrison and we shared a jar or two. Time got away from me.'

"The unfortunate man, Thomas MORTON, who is the school teacher at Yarpurk, and who fell from his horse on Saturday evening, while crossing the Dennington Bridge, is still unconscious. MORTON was admitted to Warrnambool hospital last Sunday, and was found to be suffering from concussion of the brain, besides a broken collarbone. During this week he has been unresponsive, and he is yet in a critical condition but on Thursday evening he appeared to be a little better." (Camperdown Chronicle, Saturday 11 March, 1893)

With a steaming plate of stew inside of him, and young Rosie rubbing his arthritic

shoulders, the old man mellows a little, and Thomas thinks it might be a good time to raise something that's on his mind. 'I've been thinking, Pa. That spot of teaching didn't suit me, you know. I'm not cut out for it. And seeing as you've got things under control here and good old James to help, I might head off for a bit. There's a load of talk, in town, over this new find of gold over in the West. Keeps on turning up, all over the place, they say! Under houses, in the creeks. Just sitting there. Shining and twinkling in the sun. All a man has to do is get there, dig about a bit, and Bob's your uncle. Make a bloomin' fortune, just like that.'

'Oooh, gold? Truly?' asks Rosie, her eyes shining with excitement. 'Maybe we should all go, Pa. Make our fortune, come back and you could build a grand house an' all. Fine clothes, a servant or two for the drudgery.'

'What rubbish. The lot of it. All talk, it is – and madness! I saw it all last time. When I bought this land, way back in the fifties, I set out for an honest life of good, hard work. Don't think I didn't see them all. Crawling back from Bendigo, Ballarat, up north from the goldfields. Half-starved they were, their shoes more mud than leather, whining and begging. Can you spare us a few bob? Can you give us a job? Where was their fortunes then, eh? Damn fools, the lot of 'em!'

'I don't think so, Pa. I've seen with my own eyes. It's in the newspapers. It's all there, pictures even. They call it the Golden Mile! Listen.' Tom pulls a crinkled scrap of paper from his pocket. 'Listen to this.'

"The word 'gold' seems to ring in one's ears all day. For every part of the district, even the very ground the houses are built upon, appears to be teeming with the precious metal." (The Evening Star, Boulder, undated.)

'I've been thinking, Pa, and I mean to go there. It's my best chance at a good life. To get away from here and make my own fortune.'

John's face has been growing redder as the talk builds up. 'Enough!' he roars, thumping his fist on the table. Rosie tries hard to suppress a giggle as plates and cups bounce and rattle. 'It's all rubbish! I'll not have one of my sons ruining their life that way. I forbid it! You'll do no such madness! Fortune? A man makes a fortune with good, honest work. Here, where you're needed, right enough, if you'd stop all that drinking nonsense and put in a decent day's work. Filling the girls' minds with rubbish. You're a right fool! You'll stop right here! And that's the end of it.'

Tom loses his cool now, too. He leaps to his feet and stands defiantly. 'My mind's made up, Pa. You can't keep me here. I'm a grown man. A fortune here, you

say? Oh, ho, ho, ho! Look at it, ladies! He's made his fortune here! Just look around you, ladies? Do you see his riches?' Tom grinned cheekily and held his arms out wide to mark out the humble shack, the struggling farm. 'Killed your son, Archie, sending him out in all weathers to dig the spuds, coughing an' all. Wore your wife to death, our dear mother, God bless her!' We'll see who's the fool, in time. And it won't be me, I swear it!

'Enough,' roars John, pushing back his chair so violently that it crashes backwards. 'How dare you, you drunken wastrel! GET OUT! And don't show your face around here again. Ever. You're not my son. Not any longer. Get OUT!' John picks up Tom's boots, opens the door, and flings them into the rain. 'Pack your stuff, right now. I'll not put up with this madness a minute longer. Any more and you'll kill me.'

Margaret clutches at his sleeve, 'But Pa? Where will he go?'

Ignoring her, John storms out and heads for the shed. His son's words have cut him to the quick. For all those years and years of hard work, he has a working farm, right enough. But no fortune. Many another has done better than he, starting at the same time. He knows that, in his heart. But not for his own son to rub it into his face. And to bring up dear Mary, and Archie, like that. There's no room in this family for a fool like Thomas. Better to let him go, and learn the hard way. And never come crawling back. Ever!

'Best leave him alone for a bit,' advises Margaret, back in the house. He'll calm down in time. But Tom, you should never have said that bit. About Archie. And specially about Mum. It's not true, and you know it.'

Thomas shrugs his shoulders. 'He'll get over it. He always does. No, sis, I'm off. Really. I get no respect from him, ever. I'm sick and tired of it. I've made up my mind, though I would've sooner gone with the old man's blessing. I've set some money aside for the journey. They tell me ship's the best. I'll write, soon's I get there, and tell you everything.'

Thomas was right. Gold *had* been discovered, in June 1893, near Mt Charlotte, a short distance from what is now the City of Kalgoorlie/Boulder. The find unearthed one of the richest goldfields in the world, the famous Golden Mile. Young men and opportunists from all over the country dropped their tools and headed to the new goldfields. Thomas MORTON was one of them.

There is no further news of the hot-headed young adventurer for years. Perhaps he made a fortune and then lost it again, but there are no signs of a great fortune in the years to come. After the goldrush, Thomas found work in the Kalgoorlie

area as a labourer and sometime miner. But the family breakup was a further tragedy for John MORTON, having already lost his wife and four of his eleven children. Years later his impetuous son will make a name for himself, if not a fortune, but John, sadly, will not be there to see it. On his deathbed in November 1904 John MORTON dictates his will, sharing out a reasonable inheritance for six of his seven surviving children, but for Thomas, there is no forgiveness. Thomas MORTON inherits a token five pounds sterling.

Ten years later, and within a month of the announcement that Australia will send troops to the new war in Europe, the estranged Thomas returns home to Yarrturk, near Warrnambool, and enlists, on 16 September 1914. On the enlistment forms he states his age as 42, well over the accepted age range of 19 to 38 years. In fact, he is 50. Tom must have presented himself well as the ideal soldier, fit, bronzed and passionately loyal to the mother country. In the absence of accurate birth records lying about age was quite common, but usually by impatient young adventure-seekers adding a year or two in order to enlist early. Four of his nephews, his brothers' lads, were to enlist too, but in their teens or early twenties.

Thomas embarked as 212 Sergeant T. MORTON with A Company, 16th Division, on HMAT *Ceramic* on 22 December 1914, after only three months training. After six months in the trenches, on 10 September 1915, he was hospitalised in Gallipoli with haemorrhoids, and then evacuated to Alexandria on the Hospital ship HT *Formosa*. He re-joined his unit on 10 November and fought again until the evacuation from Gallipoli on 19-20 December that year.

Thomas's unit then went to Egypt and on to the bloodiest battle of the war, the disastrous Battle of Fromelles in France, on 19 July 1916, where more than 5,500 men were injured and 470 captured by the Germans. A week later, on 26 July 1916 he was promoted to Lance Corporal, and later Corporal. His unit moved immediately to the Somme, attacking the German trenches around Pozieres for more than six weeks, with massive casualties. It was there that Thomas demonstrated outstanding courage, going over and above his duty. His bravery at Pozieres was recognised later in Britain when King George reviewed a large force of Australian troops and invested 11 officers and men with decorations earned in Gallipoli and on the Somme. At the time Corporal MORTON was hospitalised and his award presented later by the Duke of Harefield. His citation states:

“During the recent operations between 8-30 August 1916 north of Pozieres, he (Thomas MORTON) served with great distinction. He was

in charge of all stretcher-bearers operating between the first aid post and the front line. Time and time again in order to render first aid and to remove men to places of comparative safety he has deliberately and with the utmost coolness and courage, gone into the enemy intense barrage which usually occurred when operations were being carried out in the particular area.” (The Sydney Mail, July 4, 1917)



Corporal Thomas Morton receiving the Military Medal for Bravery from the Duke of Connaught at Harefield Hospital, outside London U.K.

DR. MITCHELL'S SERVICE.
Duke of Connaught at Harefield Hospital.
He is decorating Corporal T. Morton, an Australian soldier, with the Military Medal.

How sad that Thomas' father – and long deceased mother, Mary – were not there to greet him on his return to Yarrpturk later in 1917. Sad that John MORTON could not swell with pride at the triumphant return of his son, Thomas, now a war hero, and the two men finally make their peace.

Write yourself into history

Lynda Carmody, National Library of Australia

Since the 19th century, the published works of Australia have been collected and kept for future generations. In this article, I want to highlight the National Library of Australia's most comprehensive method of collecting legal deposit, as well as its history, and why it should matter to you.

As a member of Family History ACT, you've almost certainly discovered the wealth of the National Library's collections through our reading rooms or through Trove, or have explored the collections of state and territory libraries. You may be less aware that legal deposit is the way in which the heart of these collections has been built.

Legal deposit, under the Copyright Act, provides for the creation of a living collection of all published books, newspapers, magazines, community newsletters, self-published works, government publications, maps, sheet music, and more that have been made available to the public for free or for sale in Australia. It means that one copy of everything published electronically or in print is to be given to the National Library and to the state or territory library in which it was published. Australia's publishers and authors have been active participants in building these collections over time.

Legal deposit ensures that local histories are preserved for generations to come and continue to be accessible to future researchers. From our earliest holdings of local historical publications, such as *A visit to Blundell's Farmhouse* edited by Patience Wardle and published by the Canberra & District Historical Society Inc. in 1972 through to the most recent electronically deposited works such as *The Ancestral Searcher* published by The Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra Inc. in 2023 - the National Library ensures that these stories are not lost to time.



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Write yourself into history. We're looking forward to receiving and caring for your work.

Find out more by searching legal deposit at nla.gov.au or using this QR code





Join Family History ACT for the following events as we celebrate The Canberra and Region Heritage Festival:

Annual Father Brian Maher Lecture – 7 pm Tuesday 2 April 2024

Join Cheryl Mongan, president of Yass and District Historical Society, for more stories and connections of Father Brian Maher a dedicated Catholic priest and family historian, and learn more about his influence in our region.

Torchlight Tours of St. Johns Churchyard Reid – various evenings

St John’s Churchyard predates Canberra, as far as we know. See the headstones of the early pioneers by torchlight and hear some remarkable stories of those buried here. A low level of fitness is required due to some uneven surfaces. Share a cuppa afterwards in the St Johns Schoolhouse Museum.

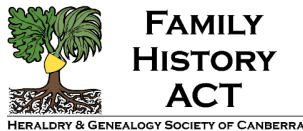


Library Open Day – 2 to 5 pm Saturday, 27 April 2024

Come and visit our library, enjoy our resources and let your family history adventure begin! Sit down for a short consultation with one of our experienced family historians who can start you on your journey.

Address: Cook Community Hub, 41 Templeton Street Cook, ACT 2614

For further information, visit our website - <https://www.familyhistoryact.org.au/>



Please refer to the official Guide to Canberra Region Heritage Festival for the dates of the Torchlight tours.

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 FCER 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

* Matilda NICOLLE, widow of Thomas NICOLLE, died at Kapunda in 1920. She was born at Guernsey, Channel Islands in 1839 and arrived in South Australia with her parents Mr and Mrs John SARRE in 1847. She was survived by her son, Mr T.H.S. NICOLLE and two daughters Mrs L HORNER and Mrs S.A.B. OATS (according to an obituary in The Observer dated 17 Jul 1920). La Société Guernesiate FHS Summer 2023 v37 n1 p3 (electronic journal).

* Daniel LE POIDEVIN was born at Guernsey, Channel Islands in 1826 and died at Morphett Vale, South Australia in 1918, at the residence of his son-in-law John McCLOUD. According to an obituary in The Adelaide Observer dated 9 Nov 1918, he had spent 68 years in South Australia and left a large family, including three sons and four daughters. La Société Guernesiate FHS Winter 2023 v37 n2 p24 (electronic journal).

* Harry PRIOR, son of Felix and Catherine PRIOR, of Darlington, migrated to Australia sometime after the 1911 England Census. He enlisted in the AIF in 1914 and served with the 8th Australian Battalion. He was killed in action in Jun 1915 at Anzac Cove and is buried at Beach Cemetery. Cleveland FHS Oct 2023 v15 n8 p49 (NYo9/60/14).

CANADA

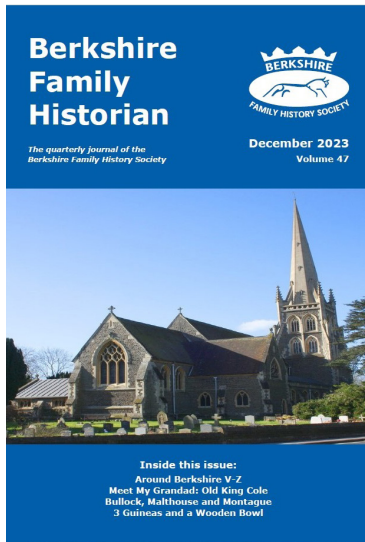
* Farnham DOTY, Oscar HENDERSON, Everett MacDOUGALL, Henry NICKERSON and Percy CROSBY, sea captains of five vessels from Nova Scotia, were in Newcastle, Australia at the same time in 1904. The occasion was recorded with a photograph taken at the Oliver Godfrey studio there. The Nova Scotia Genealogist Fall 2023 vXLI n2 p94 (electronic journal).

ENGLAND

* John ABELL, son of Edward ABELL and Esther TIMS of Marcham, Berkshire was convicted of passing a forged banknote and sentenced to transportation for life. He arrived in VDL on the *Lord Bentinck II* in 1838. He married Charlotte ROE in 1844 and they had 12 children born in Tasmania and Victoria. John died at Talbot, Victoria in 1880. Berkshire Family Historian Dec 2023 v47 p14 (electronic journal).

* James CLARIDGE was transported to VDL on the *Blenheim* in 1850, after being convicted for forging a cheque. He left behind his wife and two children. James committed more crimes at Hobart. He drowned at Ringarooma in 1880. The Manchester Genealogist 2023 v59 n4 p348 (electronic journal).

* Edward CRANE, his wife and three children, of Chalfont St Peter, applied to the Amersham Board of Guardians for assistance to emigrate. Edward had just been released from prison for the third time and had received outdoor relief several times. The parish guardian strongly recommended the application be granted so the family would leave the country (published in *The Age* (Melbourne) on 23 Mar 1871). *Origins* (Buckinghamshire FHS) Winter 2023 v47 n3 p143 (electronic journal).



* Sir Charles GOODE was born at Hinton in 1827 and died at Adelaide in 1922, aged 95 years (drawn from a death notice in the *Hereford Journal* dated 11 Feb 1922, with corrections from other sources). *Herefordiensis* Jan 2023 vXV n8 p224 (electronic journal).

* Thomas HEDDINGTON was convicted at the Abington Assizes of stealing three guineas and a wooden dish. He was sentenced to seven years transportation and arrived at Port Jackson on the *Alexander* on 26 Jan 1788. He was later granted land on Norfolk Island where he died in 1798. Berkshire Family Historian Dec 2023 v47 p11 (electronic journal).

* John PINNER, baptised in 1805 in Essex, was convicted and sentenced to transportation for life for receiving stolen goods (a lamb). He arrived in NSW in 1840, leaving his wife Jemima and two children behind. They ended up in the Maldon Union Workhouse, where Jemima died in 1851. John fared much better, living to the age of 87. According to an obituary published in the *Maitland Mercury* in 1891, he was an old and respected resident of the Liverpool Plains.

Hillingdon FHS Dec 2023 n144 p8 (electronic journal).

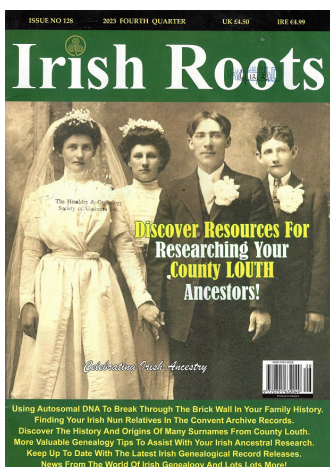
* John ROADS, son of George ROADS and Elizabeth (nee HARPER), was baptised at Twyford in 1825. He was one of the emigrants who embarked on board the *Cressy* bound for Port Adelaide in 1847. Other passengers identified in the Bucks Herald dated 1 May 1847 were John BENNETT, John HOWARD and family, Phillip RIDGWAY and family, Ann BARKER, William TURVEY, John RIDGWAY and Jos HUMPHREY and family. Origins (Buckinghamshire FHS) Winter 2023 v47 n3 p136 (electronic journal).

* William WARD held Primitive Methodist meetings in his cottage at Edwinstowe in about 1801. His family later migrated to Australia, building a chapel and settlement including a school at Cootamundra. Nottinghamshire FHS Jan 2024 v17 n9 p10 (electronic journal).

* Peter William WILSON (Tasmania) has traced his family back to his ancestor Isaac WILSON baptised in Sep 1789 at StAlban'sAbbey, Hertfordshire. Isaac's mother was Ann WILSON but his father's name is unknown. Ann's father was William WILSON. Peter is looking to find out about William's parents. Hertfordshire People Dec 2023 n167 p34 (electronic journal).

GENERAL

* Peggy Homans CHAMPMAN: Book review - "Family History, Historical Consciousness and Citizenship: A New Social History" by Tanya EVANS, an Australian historian. The book examines family history research in Australia, Canada and Britain, with the stated goal of convincing academic historians of the benefits of working with non-academics in research that includes family history. The Nova Scotia Genealogist Fall 2023 vXLI n2 p122 (electronic journal).



IRELAND

* Jennifer HARRISON: "Australian Irish Connections - Irish-Australian Threads Among the Gold" names Paddy HANNAN (1840-1923), Thomas FLANIGAN/FLANAGAN (1832-1899) and Daniel SHEA/O'SHEA (1871-1901) as being instrumental in detecting gold at Coolgardie and prompting the ensuing rush. Irish Roots 4th Qtr 2023 n128 p26 (R9/60/04).

* Dr Mary HATFIELD: "Catholic Convent Schools - Finding Irish Teachers and Students in the Convent Archives". Irish Roots 4th Qtr 2023 n128 p6 (R9/60/04).

* Sean O MURCHADHA: "Surnames of County Louth". Irish Roots 4th Qtr 2023 n128 p22 (R9/60/04).

* Nicola MORRIS responds to a query about Charles BRENNAN, born between 1863 and 1867 at Trim, Co Meath, who was a Christian Brother thought to have arrived in Australia in about 1920 and to have died in the 1970s. Irish Roots 4th Qtr 2023 n128 p28 (R9/60/04).



* James G RYAN: "Local Resources for Family History Research - County Louth". Irish Roots 4th Qtr 2023 n128 p10 (R9/60/04).

SCOTLAND

* James COCKBURN, his wife Mary Crawford CAMPBELL and their eight surviving children left Plymouth in Oct 1861, arriving at Brisbane in Jan 1862. James initially worked as a smith in Brisbane, before setting out, with one son, for Gympie. Mary decided to join her husband, the arduous journey taking her some three weeks. James ran a blacksmith

shop and Mary was one of the first midwives on the Gympie goldfields. James died in 1886 and Mary in 1902. Tron@Ayrshire FHS Winter 2023 n100 p20 (electronic journal).

* Mary CRICHTON, daughter of John CRICHTON and Mary (nee BRUCE), was born in 1868. She married John Gunn FALCONER at Edinburgh in 1889. They migrated to Australia in 1910, with their daughter Florence marrying Albert SMITH at Bathurst in 1916. Florence died in 1923. John and Mary died in 1935 in NSW. SIB Folk News (Orkney FHS) Dec 2023 n108 p21 (electronic journal).

* William NORQUAY and his wife Barbara (nee STEWART) from South Ronaldsay migrated to Australia in 1883, at the age of 68 and 59 respectively. William and Barbara had six children: Barbara, William, John, James, Alexander Stewart and Elizabeth Stewart. Parents William died in 1887 and Barbara in 1906. Both are buried in Waverley Cemetery, Sydney, as is John, their son, who died in 1891. Barbara, William and James also died before their mother. SIB Folk News (Orkney FHS) Dec 2023 n108 p21 (electronic journal).

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. Our thanks to members who have provided donations.

AUSTRALIA:

NEW SOUTH WALES

Colonial ladies: lovely, lively and lamentably loose: crime reports from the Sydney Morning Herald relating to the Female Factory, Parramatta 1831-1835 - Judith DUNN - AN7/14/16

They were here: the people of Newcastle: residents and property owners of Newcastle Council and Water Board Rate Books, 1885, 1892 & 1898-1900 - AN5/12 CD1608

QUEENSLAND

Index to persons arrested and victims of crime, Queensland: Volume 1, South-West Qld 1889-2004 - Judy WEBSTER - AQ5/50/02

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Leader Deaths 1918-2000: Obituaries and other reports of death appearing in "The Leader" newspaper at Angaston, South Australia - AS5/12 CD1609

INTERNATIONAL

The complete book of heraldry: an international history of heraldry: an international history of heraldry and its contemporary uses - Stephen SLATER - L1/10/68

A dictionary of Heraldry: and related subjects - A G PUTTOCK - L1/60/12

Your DNA guide: step-by-step plans to connect you with your family using your DNA - Dianah SOUTHARD - L2/17/18

GREAT BRITAIN

Coats of Arms - Andrew STEWART - M1/10/20

An outline of Heraldry: in England and Scotland - Robert INNES-SMITH - M1/10/19

Royal Heraldry: Beasts and badges of Britain - J P BROOKE-LITTLE - M1/10/18

ENGLISH COUNTIES:

DEVON

Dartmoor and West Devon genealogy index: Tavistock, Whitchurch, Lifton, Okehampton - NDev5/12/CD1605

INDIA

The Indian Army - Boris MOLLO - VSo7/82/01

Last Post: an Indian Army Memoir - E W ROBINSON-HORLEY - VSo4/ROB/01

IRELAND

The Hedge Schools of Ireland - P J DOWLING - R7/45/01

FAMILY HISTORIES

Cathie HUMPHRIES - From Bedfordshire to Braidwood ...: the NAVA, ALBONE, GILMORE, WHALAN, and related families from England, Ireland and Italy, to Australia and beyond - A4/NAV/01

Barbara MOORE - The salt of the earth: a story of Henry COUSEMACKER and Janet BERRY, ancestors of Mary COUSEMACKER - A4/COU/01

Barbara MOORE - The wandering musician: a story of great-grandfather Joseph MCGUINNESS - A4/McG/08

Pam BODY - Dragooned to South Australia: the story of the Stuckeys at Mucheiney and of John STUCKEY, the life and times of an origin settler - A4/STU/04

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 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 or in the newsletters. Contact 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 (awaiting convenor)

Writers SIG

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

APRIL 2024

- 2 7:00 pm **Monthly Meeting:** *Annual Father Maher Lecture*
- 4 7:30 pm **Scottish SIG:** *The Lowland Clearances*; convenors Clare McGuinness and Mae Mulheran, scottish.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 5 9:30 am **Reunion & Mac Support:** convenor Danny O'Neill
ram.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 6 10:00 am **India SIG:** *Envoy to the South of India*; convenor Prof. Peter Stanley, india.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 10 7:30 pm **Convict SIG:** *Conviction Politics, speaker A/P Tony Moore*; convenor Michele Rainger, convict.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 11 10:00 am **Family Tree Maker UG:** *Reviewing the People and Places Workspaces in FTM*; ftm.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 13 2:00 pm **TMG Down Under:** *Researching Australian military rolls and indexes*; convenor Lyndsay Graham, tmg.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 18 10:00 am **Legacy UG:** convenor Julie Hesse
legacy.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 18 8:00 pm **Heraldry SIG:** *Heraldry on the Market*; convenor Chris Lindesay
heraldry.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 19 10:00 am **Coffee and Chat:** coffee.chat@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 20 11:00 am **Writers SIG:** convenor Jo Callaghan,
writers.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 21 10:00 am **Pauline's Parlour:** Round table support; convenor Pauline Ramage
parlour@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 30 11:00 am **Pauline's Parlour:** Round table support; convenor Pauline Ramage,
parlour@familyhistoryact.org.au

MAY 2024

- 3 9:30 am **Reunion & Mac Support:** convenor Danny O'Neill
ram.sug@familyhistory.org.au
- 7 7:00 pm **Monthly Meeting:** *Glass Making in England*
- 9 10:00 am **Family Tree Maker UG:** *Reviewing the People and Places Workspaces in FTM*; ftm.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 11 9:30 am **Irish SIG:** *Have Irish Genealogy Blogs helped you find your ancestors?*; convenor Barbara Moore irish.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 11 1:00 pm **DNA SIG:** *Mitochondrial and YDNA - practical uses in Genetic Genealogy*, convenor Cathy Day dna.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 12 2:00 pm **Australia SIG:** *The Romani in Australia Part 2*; convenor Pauline Ramage, australia.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au

- 16 10:00 am **Legacy UG**: convenor Julie Hesse
legacy.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 16 7:30 pm **English and Welsh SIG**: *Brick walls*; convenors Floss Aitchison and Nina Johnson english.welsh.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 17 10:00 am **Coffee and Chat**: coffee.chat@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 18 10:00 am **Writers SIG**: convenor Jo Callaghan
writers.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 19 11:00 am **Pauline's Parlour**: Round table support; convenor Pauline Ramage, parlour@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 26 2.00 pm Australia SIG: Romani in Australia Part 2; convenor Pauline Ramage australia.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 28 11:00 am **Pauline's Parlour**: Round table support; convenor Pauline Ramage parlour@familyhistoryact.org.au

JUNE 2024

- 1 10:00 am **India SIG**: *Tracing Charles Brown*; convenor Prof. Peter Stanley india.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 4 7:00 pm **Monthly Meeting**: *The Australian Womens Register*
- 6 7:30 pm **Scottish SIG**: *Coalmining & Lowland Counties*; convenors Clare McGuinness and Mae Mulheran, scottish.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 7 9:30 am **Reunion & Mac Support**: convenor Danny O'Neill
ram.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 8 2:00 pm **TMG Down Under**: *Citing Sources with Jenny Joyce*; convenor Lyndsay Graham, tmg.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 12 7:30 pm **Convict SIG**: *Unusual Convict Arrivals*; convenor Michele Rainger convict.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 13 10:00 am **Family Tree Maker UG**: *Show and Tell what you have done using FTM in 2023*. ftm.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 15 10:00 am **Writers SIG**: convenor Jo Callaghan
writers.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 16 10:00 am **Pauline's Parlour**: Round table support; convenor Pauline Ramage, parlour@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 20 10:00 am **Legacy UG**: convenor Julie Hesse
legacy.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 20 8:00 pm **Heraldry SIG**: *World Tour of Heraldry*. convenor Chris Lindesay heraldry.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 21 11:00 am **Coffee and Chat**: coffee.chat@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 25 11:00 am **Pauline's Parlour**: Round table support; convenor Pauline Ramage, parlour@familyhistoryact.org.au

Services for Members

Photocopies

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Members \$24 certificate, \$16 PDF

Non-members \$27 certificate \$17 PDF

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Translations available for the following languages:

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

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The FHACT library is registered as a Library Affiliate with the LDS FamilySearch Organisation. This enables members using the FHACT 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 FHACT 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. A concession membership is available to Australian residents please check with our Membership Co-ordinator. Amounts are shown for one year.

Individual	\$ 84.00*	Joining Fee	\$ 20.00
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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 (excluding postage).

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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.*