

# THE ENDEAVOUR



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**BOTANY BAY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC**  
*Discovering Your Heritage*

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# BOTANY BAY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

## *Discovering Your Heritage*

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Sutherland NSW 1499

### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2019-2020

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Vice Presidents	Carole Goodyer	Rowan Morrison
General Secretary	Lilian Magill	
Treasurers	Shirley Walker	
Ordinary Members	Jackie Butters	Jean Campbell
	Pamela Heather	Maree Kirkland
	Phillip Lewis	

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	Maureen Murray	Kate Anderson
Webmaster	Pat Fearnley	
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Public Officer	Doug Parkes	
Research Centre Coordinator	Jean Campbell,	
	<a href="mailto:jeanhcampbell47@gmail.com">jeanhcampbell47@gmail.com</a>	

### Meetings

Held on the first Wednesday of the month (excepting January) at the 'Tradies', The Kingsway, Gympie, commencing at 7.30pm

### Library and Research Centre Messages and Bookings Only: 02 9523 8948

Port Hacking Community Centre 184 Gannons Road (south) Caringbah NSW 2229  
Open: Mon, Wed & Fri: 10am-4pm; Sat: 10am-2pm. For bus route 978 & timetable, see <https://www.transdevnsw.com.au/services/timetables/south-southwest/>

### Fees

Annual fees from 1 Jul 2019: single membership – \$40; family membership – \$55; Joining fee – \$10; Membership renewals due 1 July each year, late fee - \$10

### Research

Volunteer members of the Society will research family history relevant to the Sutherland Shire for non-members: minimum fee of \$20 (first hour) and \$20 per hour thereafter.

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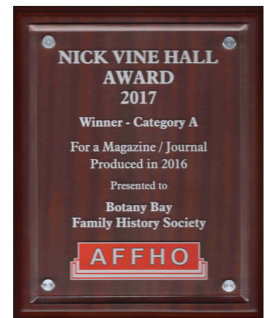
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# CALENDAR

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The calendar is as it stands at 20 May 2020, the Research Centre and Library is closed until at least the end of June. Whether the activities listed go ahead will depend on circumstances as the Covid-19 situation develops. Keep an eye on your BBFS Email News when it arrives in your email inbox.

2020

- Jun 3 Meeting – 7.30 pm Zoom. Speaker – Allan Murrin  
*Passing the Baton*
- Jul 1 Meeting – 7.30 pm Zoom. Speaker – Mel Hulbert  
*DNA Basics and Developments for more Experienced Users*
- Jul 7 Legacy Computer Group – 2 pm BBFHS Research Centre
- Jul 11 English Interest Group – 2 pm BBFHS Research Centre
- Jul 23 Writers Interest Group – 1.30 pm BBFHS Research Centre
- Jul 25 DNA Interest Group – 1.30 pm BBFHS Research Centre
- Aug 1 Scottish Interest Group – 2 pm BBFHS Research Centre
- Aug 5 Meeting – 7.30 pm Tradies. Speaker – to be advised
- Aug 11 Family Tree Maker Group – 1.30 pm BBFHS Research Centre
- Aug 15 Australian Interest Group – 2 pm BBFHS Research Centre
- Aug 22 Irish Interest Group – 2 pm BBFHS Research Centre
- Sep 1 Legacy Computer Group – 2 pm BBFHS Research Centre
- Sep 2 Meeting – 7.30 pm Tradies. Speaker – to be advised
- Sep 5 English Interest Group – 2 pm BBFHS Research Centre
- Sep 11-13 **NSW & ACT FH Assoc'n Conference, Newcastle**
- Sep 19 DNA Interest Group – 1.30 pm BBFHS Research Centre
- Sep 24 Writers Interest Group – 1.30 pm BBFHS Research Centre

Please check the Events Calendar on our website ([www.botanybayfhs.org.au](http://www.botanybayfhs.org.au)) to confirm the meeting details and to view a speaker profile.

**Botany Bay Family History Society is a member of:**

- The NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies
- The Australasian Federation of Family History Societies
- The Family History Federation in the United Kingdom

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# PRESIDENT'S PAGE

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How quickly life has changed since my last report in February 2020. At that time, we were actively preparing ourselves for the annual Heritage Fair at Tradies along with several other functions. However, in the second week of March, I made the call on temporarily closing the Research Centre from 16 March as a result of the escalating situation regarding COVID-19.

The health and safety of Botany Bay Family History Society members, volunteers and visitors was paramount to this decision and, following lengthy discussion at the March committee meeting, it was also decided to cancel the April Tradies meeting and the Heritage Fair booked for May.

After the announcement, I received grateful support from many of our members applauding our commitment and, within a matter of days, several other societies followed suit and then on 25 March, Sutherland Shire Council announced the closure of all their community centres until the end of June.

With government restrictions put in place on self-distancing and the closure of cafés, restaurants, clubs and hotels we soon saw many shops closing as well, and families and friends unable to physically meet together.

Life as we knew it came to a dramatic stop. However, most of us believe the closure of so much is nothing compared to what our ancestors went through during both World War I and II, the Great Depression or the Spanish Flu epidemic.

Looking back over the past two months, many of us have found time to dig deeper into their family history, get stuck into those gardening jobs that have always taken a second-seat or catch up on jobs around the house we keep putting off. We have also learned to communicate with family and friends through digital technology.

The introduction of Zoom technology (and, would I have liked to have had shares in that company pre COVID-19) I feel has been a benefit for BBFHS.

Currently we are holding the monthly meeting (ex-Tradies) on Zoom with a guest speaker on the first Wednesday night of the month, but I am also hosting a second meeting on the third Wednesday of the month as a general chit-chat.

There are some members who cannot drive at night or prefer not to go out at night but are happy to attend Zoom meetings from the comfort of their home. Once BBFHS resumes the monthly Tradies meetings I hope to continue the third Wednesday of the month Zoom meetings as an unofficial get-together, swapping ideas, research problems and general chit-chat.

Along with the Wednesday night meetings, the BBFHS Writers Interest Group, DNA Interest Group and Family Tree Maker Interest Group have also held their meetings via Zoom.

Jennie Fairs

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## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

by John Levy (Editor)

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With the problems of Covid-19, we are not producing a print copy of our June journal this quarter but will send a digital copy to all those members for whom we have an email address. Our membership officer, Carole **Goodyer** has telephoned the eight members for whom we did not have an email address. Three members have now provided us with one while the other five understood our situation and chose not to give us an alternate address of a family member, and elected to miss this copy. When the Covid-19 situation has to a greater or lesser extent, normalised, we will review this situation.

Many other BBFHS activities are on hold, as you will see from our abbreviated or missing reports from our regular contributors. Members will be advised via our regular Email News from Jean **Campbell** and Stephanie **Bailey** as to what is happening at BBFHS. Please take the time to review it when it arrives in your mailbox.

Need a jigsaw to fill in some time? Check the BBFHS website where Pat **Fearnley** has an online Jigsaw of the Week ([www.botanybayfhs.org.au](http://www.botanybayfhs.org.au)).

With regard to the NSW and ACT conference at Newcastle in September (see page 6) their website at [www.ridingthewavesofhistory.com.au](http://www.ridingthewavesofhistory.com.au) has the latest news. As at 23 March (and still current at 20 May), they write:

Our Conference Venue, Wests New Lambton, is closed until the end of August at this stage. So far, all is still well for September. We will update this information as it comes to hand. At this stage we will shortly begin to offer Early Bird Registrations. Should the 2020 Conference be cancelled at a later date a full refund of fees (with the exception of the booking fees) will be given.

Thank you to those members and ex-member who have contributed articles for this edition. Perhaps other of our members may be able to find some time in isolation to submit an article – no matter how short or long – for our next edition.

As restrictions relax, please maintain your social distancing and keep safe. Best wishes to all.

# BOTANY BAY FHS NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Botany Bay Family History Society Inc will be held on Wednesday 2 September 2020 at 'Tradies', 57 Manchester Road, GyMEA. Only financial members can vote. Any financial member may be nominated for election to the Committee by any two other financial members. Nomination forms are available from the Secretary at [botanybayfhs@yahoo.com.au](mailto:botanybayfhs@yahoo.com.au). If Covid-19 precautions are ongoing, members will be notified of other arrangements.

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## BBFHS RESEARCH CENTRE AND LIBRARY

by Jean **Campbell** (Research Centre Coordinator)

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The Research Centre and Library has been closed for our members research since 16 March. Then, on 21 March, Sutherland Council, which owns the building, closed the whole building down. At that time, Council said it might be opened on 30 June.

With the Covid-19 virus pandemic, decisions are being made every week, so there is no definite date for when we will be open again.

Please read your BBFHS Email News or BBFHS Facebook, to see if there is any announcement about the building being opened. A roster for Centre Volunteers will have to be put out first.



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# *Save the Date*

NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc

## Annual Conference 2020

Date: **Friday 11 to Sunday 13 September**

Theme:

# Riding the Waves of History

Hosted by: Newcastle Family History Society

[www.nfhs.org.au](http://www.nfhs.org.au)

supported by the Maitland and Beyond Family History Group

[mdgs.org.au/](http://mdgs.org.au/)

Location: Wests, New Lambton, Newcastle

<https://www.westsnewcastle.com.au/clubs/wests-new-lambton>

Conference website: [www.ridingthewavesofhistory.com.au](http://www.ridingthewavesofhistory.com.au)



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# GRAND PINES TOURIST PARK

by Leonie Bell (Member)

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Many local residents will remember that St George and Sutherland Shire once had a number of suburban caravan parks, which have mostly disappeared as the land became desirable for redevelopment.

The Grand Pines Caravan Park at Ramsgate was tucked away behind The Grand Parade, at number 289, with a vehicular entrance around the corner at 112 Alfred Street. The 7,429.5 m<sup>2</sup> site was irregular in shape, comprising a central rectangular portion with regular lots either side, fronting both 40 m of vehicular access to Alfred Street and 13.46 m of pedestrian access to The Grand Parade. It featured a second plot of land on the southern edge at 295 The Grand Parade, which had formerly been a petrol service station. Residential housing filled the area between 289 and 295.

The business owner was Ramsgate Beach Caravan Park Pty Ltd, which registered as a company in 1958, owned by Albert and Caroline **Weir**.<sup>1</sup> Popular with both tourists and its permanent residents since the late 1950s, the park offered accommodation in 33 on-site cabins, 12 caravan/camper sites and 20 caravan sites, and inexpensive access to the pleasures of the seaside. The park's advertising promoted its proximity to swimming pools, sailing, picnic areas and fresh sea air.

It also briefly housed one of our most famous cricketing sportsmen. Fast bowler Glenn **McGrath** (b.1970) lived at the caravan park for 13 months when he first arrived in Sydney. The 19-year-old boy from Narromine's Backwater Cricket Club was invited to join the Sutherland District Cricket Club by Steve **Rixon**, after Doug **Walters** had seen him play in an exhibition country match in Parkes.

Following an earnest discussion with his mum on the practicalities and financial implications of taking up the offer, Glenn and his mother purchased a caravan, which his mother set up in Ramsgate ready for his arrival in the big smoke. The choice was an economic one, as it only cost \$18 per night, but also a practical one in that it was the mid-point between his Caringbah Oval training ground and the State Bank at Hurstville, where Glenn had arranged a transfer for his job as a bank teller. It was a lonely life, coming home from the camaraderie of the workplace and the cricket pitch to a solitary walk along the beach, prior to retiring to his cosy van each evening, to cook a simple meal. In his biography, Glenn asserted, 'What kept me going during the hard times was that I'd tell myself I was here to play cricket and I had that dream to play for Australia.' His time in Ramsgate built his mental stamina. His persistence, talent and hard work paid off. The rest as they say, is history.<sup>2,3</sup>

Many lovers of the great outdoors viewed with dismay the rampant development taking place up and down the coast of NSW, with the consequent loss of family-friendly, inexpensive holiday campsites. Echoing their sentiments, John **Osbourne** of the Camperhome and Motorhome Club lamented in 2005, 'It's going to be a sad day when Australia no longer has any caravan parks on the coast.'<sup>4</sup>

Developers were eager to snap up this priceless piece of vacation land. After 47 years of operation, the Weirs were nearing retirement and eager to sell. Consequently, Strata Development Pty Ltd lodged a development application (DA) with Rockdale Council on 4 April 2005, proposing demolition of the caravan park and requesting re-zoning to facilitate housing construction.

After consideration by the Design Review Panel, coupled with a public forum, it was initially rejected. Albert Weir presented the case for the caravan park, in person, at the council on 7 December 2005, with local resident Edward **Smith** objecting. Additionally, Rockdale Council received 87 individual submissions and three separate petitions containing 88 signatures, opposing the redevelopment for a variety of reasons including parking problems, loss of privacy, noise, overshadowing, loss of mature trees and the adverse effect on local tourism.

The proposal was to build 54 dwellings on the site, consisting of four villas, 20 townhouses, and two three-story buildings each with 15 units. The park was partially zoned for low density residential housing and partially for villas and townhouses. Although existing zoning did not allow for this type of construction, it was claimed that existing land use rights superseded the zoning.<sup>5</sup> Ramsgate Beach Caravan Park Pty Ltd sold the caravan park for \$7,020,000 in November 2007.<sup>6</sup> The former owners voluntarily liquidated their company in December 2008 and it was de-registered in March 2009.

The site was sold but experienced a temporary reprieve from demolition. However, with Sydney land prices skyrocketing, particularly for housing near the waterfront, its fate was inevitable. In July

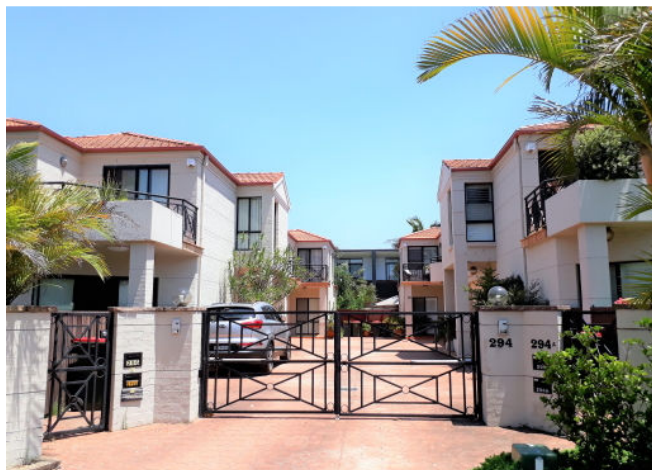


South Beach, the former vehicular entrance to The Grand Pines Tourist Park, at 112 Alfred Street (photo: Leonie Bell)

2008 Barua Pty Ltd (a company established in 1978)<sup>7</sup> submitted another DA to council, halving the number of properties by dropping the idea of constructing unit blocks. They requested permission to subdivide the grounds into 22 strata titles, and build nineteen three-bedroom townhouses, a three-bedroom villa and a two-storey attached dual occupancy, each with three bedrooms. Councillors supported the application 11 to 3, under conditions imposed by a 20-page document.<sup>8,9</sup>

Barua revised its plans in 2011, fractionally increasing the strata subdivision to 26 lots in the Alfred Street section of the park. They now wished to construct 23 townhouses, a single storey villa, an attached dual occupancy and ground-level car parking. Anthony **Betros** presented their case, and council was willing to support the revision, although uncompliant with the Rockdale Local Environmental Plan 2000, which would require a variation. The plan was approved (with councillors voting 13 to 1), provided one townhouse was replaced with open space.<sup>10</sup>

The NSW government was concerned that local councils were obstructing the construction of essential infrastructure. The Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 was seen to be complex and focused on the approval process rather the achievement of positive outcomes for building major projects. They enacted



Site of the former Grand Pines Tourist Park, 295 The Grand Parade, now subdivided into 294 and 296 The Grand Parade, omitting number 295 (photo: Leonie Bell)

the Infrastructure NSW Act 2011, with the object:

‘To secure the efficient, effective, economic and timely planning, co-ordination, selection, funding, implementation, delivery and whole-of-lifecycle asset management of infrastructure that is required for the economic and social well-being of the community.’<sup>11</sup>

In July 2012, the government released the Green Paper: ‘A New Planning System for New South Wales’. A White Paper was being prepared, ‘focussed on facilitating the economic and employment growth of the state in an environmentally and socially sustainable manner,’ coupled with the formation of

Regional Planning Panels and Independent Hearing and Assessment Panels. New planning laws were being drawn up.<sup>12</sup> There was talk of the NSW Government acquiring the power to override council objections for large-scale projects. Perhaps this inspired Barua to a bolder vision for their project.

In October 2012 Barua Pty Ltd again submitted plans to Rockdale Council for a substantially increased development worth \$11.8 million. It consisted of 52 townhouse and duplex homes, with 70 basement car parking spaces. Their spokesman, Eugenio **Sanhueza**, argued that it was well under the allowed floor space ratio and local streets would experience significantly less impact from residential traffic than from the caravan park's customers. Local residents still disagreed, citing the same concerns as before, over loss of privacy, traffic flow and parking.<sup>13</sup>

The following year Anthony Betros presented a case to the council in a public forum, with a revised plan to demolish the caravan park structures and construct a strata townhouse development containing 51 dwellings within a landscaped setting, with basement car parking for 70 vehicles. Finally, the motion was unanimously approved, with twice the number of townhouses that Barua had initially proposed to build. Ironically, this was a similar number of dwellings to the unsuccessful Strata Development Pty Ltd DA in 2005.<sup>14</sup>

The uncertainty of the tourist park's future, with eight years wrangling in the council chambers, was reflected in the lack of investment and decline in its recreational facilities. Although the cabins and amenities blocks were clean, by this time, the once delightful and popular park was looking battered, old and tired. There were none of the usual facilities such as BBQs, games rooms, inflatable bouncing pillow, kiosk or pool, nor the type of organised activities expected in today's competitive caravan park market. Despite this, some were sad to see it go, as they remembered many pleasant holidays by the bay.<sup>15</sup> By the end of November 2013, a handful of tourists continued to rent the aging cabins, but the developers had already placed signage on the site advertising luxury apartments for sale off the plan.<sup>16</sup>



Former site of The Grand Pines Tourist Park, 289 The Grand Parade (photo: Leonie Bell)

The tourist park site was ultimately divided into three properties. Today, the site of 289 The Grand Parade boasts an ultra-modern two-story glass and concrete house which sold in 2017 for \$2.5 million.<sup>17</sup> Number 295 has disappeared, to be replaced by four contemporary townhouses, numbered 294, 294A, 296 and 296A The Grand Parade, which today are worth between \$1 - \$1.8 million each.<sup>18</sup> For the remainder of The Grand Pines site, sleek apartments set in beautifully landscaped grounds, accessed from 112 Alfred Street, rented for around \$700 per week in 2018. Clearly there was much more money to be made from property investment than in running one of Sydney's last urban caravan parks.<sup>19, 20</sup>

This is an extract from my larger research work titled *The Grand Parade: Real Estate and Recreation*. The full text is at Bayside Council Library's website: [https://www.bayside.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-09/2019%20Bell\\_Leonie.pdf](https://www.bayside.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-09/2019%20Bell_Leonie.pdf)

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## NEW MEMBERS

We offer a warm welcome to the following new Society members. Please take advantage of your membership by attending meeting nights, classes and the Research Centre (please ask for help if you need it).

1831	Ken Campbell	Kirrawee
1832	Catherine Fisher	Jannali
1833	John Lunney	Caringbah South
1834	Cheryl Daly	Granville
1835	Paul Vernon	Caringbah South
1836	John Glendinning	Gynea
1837	Denise Glendinning	Gynea
1838	Anne Small	Oyster Bay
1839	Sue Sommerville	Sutherland
1840	Pam Mills	Woronora Heights
1841	Ann Cale	Peakhurst
1842	Peter Unwin	Eaton, WA





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**Allen John Tollis.** It is with sadness that I report that Allen Tollis passed away peacefully in hospital on 13 April 2020. A private service has been held. Allen and Molly were a great help to me in setting up and running the DNA Interest Group. On behalf of BBFHS, I offer our condolences to Molly and to Allen's extended family.

**An SBS Documentary – *Archaeology at the Big Dig*** is available to stream from SBS On Demand. It explores the historical archaeology of early colonial Sydney's past at The Big Dig site in The Rocks: <https://tinyurl.com/yd6dsslj>

**The Chinese Australian Historical Society** is appealing for information for an exhibition with the working title of *Chinese migrant culture in the Georges River, Sydney* 30 July - 10 October 2021 [dates to be confirmed]. This exhibition intends to uncover the identity and stories of people and places in the Georges River area, associated with Chinese migration history, incorporating historical material, personal stories and artist's interpretations, visualising stories of place and migrant experience.

The focus on the urban environment of Hurstville and surrounding suburbs celebrates the long association with Chinese culture in the Georges River area. The historical, social and cultural context for the migration of the Chinese community to this area will be reflected in the exhibition through material culture, objects, documents, stories and oral histories, ranging from the 19th century to more recent migration in the 2000s. The exhibition aims to highlight less well-known aspects of Chinese migrant experience and stories of place for the broader community.

They are currently seeking information, stories, details of private collections and objects, contacts and individuals who may be interested to assist with the development of this exhibition, have knowledge of Chinese migration history and families, including businesses, organisations, communities, etc associated with this aspect of past and contemporary history in the Georges River area, for possible inclusion in the exhibition.

Please contact the Exhibition Curator, Claire **Baddeley** via email at: [cbaddeley@georgesriver.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cbaddeley@georgesriver.nsw.gov.au)

**E.M. Fletcher Writing Competition**, an initiative of the Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra (HAGSOC), is now open. It is a great opportunity for family historians to share their writing and is a forum to foster the preservation of family history research through stories. The judges will select the best short story (1,500 - 2,000 words) on a family history/genealogy theme. The genre of writing is not limited and the broad theme allows plenty of scope for creativity. The closing date

is 15 July 2020, and there is a chance to win \$1,000 and special HAGSOC member prizes. The HAGSOC website at <https://familyhistoryact.org.au/index.php> has information about the competition, including Terms and Conditions and an Entry Form. Enquiries to [writingcompetition@familyhistoryact.org.au](mailto:writingcompetition@familyhistoryact.org.au).

**Nancy RICHMOND (nee TAAFE)** was born 11 November 1922 died aged 97 on 4 May 2020 in Brisbane. Known locally as Sister Taafe, she was owner and Matron of San Gerard Private Hospital, Engadine – a ten bed private maternity hospital that operated from 1946 to 1971. As resident midwife, Nancy delivered thousands of Sutherland Shire babies, particularly before Sutherland Hospital opened. From seven years of age, Nancy lived in Engadine with her parents and the Taafe family was amongst the pioneering families of Engadine.

## COPY DEADLINE

Copy for the September 2020 journal should be submitted as soon as you have it available but the deadline is **Wednesday 5 August** – preferably by email to the Editor at [bbfhs\\_eds@yahoo.com.au](mailto:bbfhs_eds@yahoo.com.au) . Copy may also be left in the Editor's folder at the Research Centre, handed to the Editor or a committee member at a monthly meeting or posted to **PO Box 1006 Sutherland NSW 1499**. Please affix your name and date of submission to the copy and indicate if you want any materials returned.



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All journal contributions – large or small – are welcome. Email your input to [bbfhs\\_eds@yahoo.com.au](mailto:bbfhs_eds@yahoo.com.au), leave it at the Research Centre or hand it to the Editor or any Committee member at our monthly meetings. Please add your name and contact details.



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# YOU HAD TO BE TOUGH TO SURVIVE IN THE EARLY YEARS OF THE 19TH CENTURY

by Doug Rickard (Member)

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When tracing my family history, I do not want to only discover my forebears' names, their dates of birth, marriage and death and where they lived. I want to find out more about them; what they did for a living, something about the places where they lived and what their lives would have been like at the time. The vast majority of folk didn't live in the worlds portrayed so well in *Downton Abbey* and *Pride and Prejudice*. They were ordinary folk, usually illiterate and scratching out an existence in the villages and towns scattered across the countryside. Well, at least mine were! So, let's take a brief look at what life would have been like for the working class and poor in England in the early years of the 19th century.

If your forebears were living in England in this period, it is almost certain that life for them would have been tough. The rural and urban poor had much in common: unsanitary and overcrowded housing, low wages, poor diet, insecure employment, the dreaded effects of sickness and old age, and with the dark shadow of the workhouse looming large over the unemployed and destitute. But these were only part of their problems.

At the turn of the century the Napoleonic wars were still raging across Europe and England was under threat of invasion by the French. This threat was only removed following Wellington's victory at Waterloo in 1815. But the post-war years were ones of depression and great social unrest. The cost of living was rocketing up while at the same time the standard of living of ordinary folk was falling. With the end of the Napoleonic wars 300,000 men returned home to an uncertain future in a country that already had massive unemployment. To make matters worse, with the war over, the Government stopped buying vast quantities of goods to provision the army and navy and this triggered a nationwide recession. On top of this, 1816 became known as 'the year without a summer.' Crops failed and livestock died resulting in the worst famine of the 19th century. One outcome of these events was that many men who had been gentleman farmers in 1815 were agricultural labourers or even paupers by 1821.

All this was going on just as the first effects of the Industrial Revolution were beginning to bite. Workers were now flooding into the new industrial centres. In 1801 only about 20% of the population lived in towns, but by mid-century that figure had risen to over 50%. Many goods that had previously been made in cottage industries and small workshops were now pouring out of the new factories. A good example can be found in the production of textiles. For centuries all the processes involved in the manufacture of cloth had been carried out by cottage

industries. The invention of the spinning jenny and the spinning mule, both of which were driven by water power, meant that by the late 18th century weavers were assured of a plentiful supply of yarn. The 1790s became the golden age of handloom weaving, when work was plentiful and wages high. But this was not to last. The steam engine invented by James **Watt** provided greater and more reliable power to drive the spinning machines and the new weaving looms which now could produce cloth far cheaper and in far larger quantities than could be made using the old methods. But this increased production meant that more and more people were needed to operate and maintain the machines and to provide the support services. The obvious places for businessmen to build the new factories to house these machines were places where there was a good supply of labour. This was in the towns – particularly in towns near a source of the coal needed to feed the boilers that generated the steam that powered the steam engines. As a result, the textile industry became concentrated in the towns near the coalfields of northern England. With the promise of steady work, these towns sucked in huge numbers of people from the countryside.

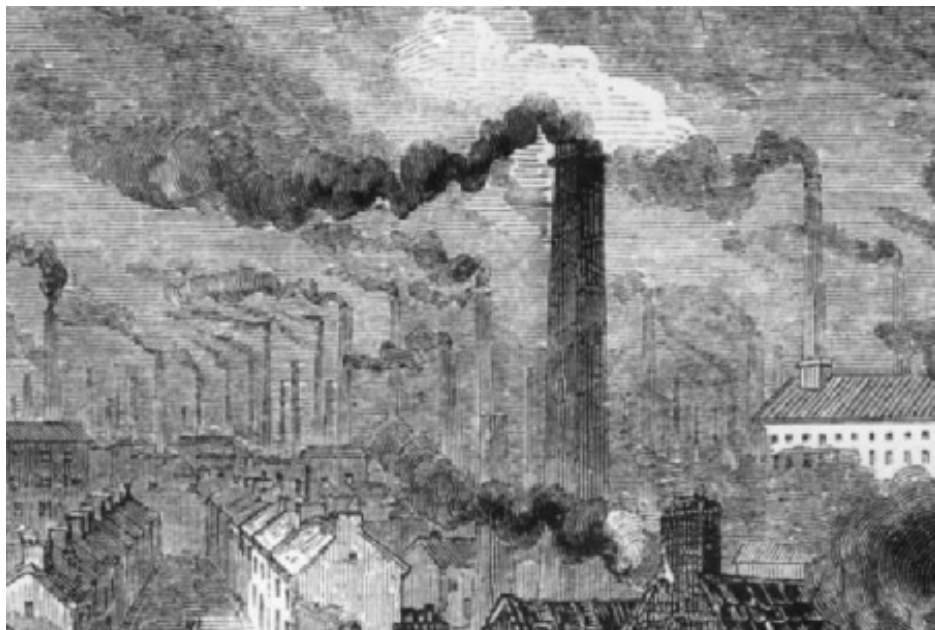
Large quantities of iron, steel and other metals were needed to build the boilers, steam engines and the new machines as well as the new railways and many of the manufactured goods now made possible by the Industrial Revolution. This led to a proliferation of steel works, foundries and machine shops, most of which were also built in the fast-growing towns near the coalfields in the North and Midlands.

The problem of employment in the rural areas was not just confined to the textile industry. One of the biggest employers of labour in the countryside was the harvesting and threshing of the annual grain crop. This had always been done manually and provided seasonal work for tens of thousands of labourers. The introduction of the new reaping and threshing machines meant that these tasks could now be carried out by far fewer men.

The mass movement of workers from the villages into the towns led to a building boom. With no building regulations, builders tried to put as many houses as possible onto every available piece of land. The living conditions of the poor had always been bad, but now, with more and more houses crammed together in a small area, it got a lot worse. Most these worker's houses were small, damp, badly built and had only two or three rooms. To save on building materials and to pack even more houses onto the site, many were built back-to-back. It was common for two or more families to be crowded into each of them. Very few poor people had much in the way of furniture and many slept on straw or rags spread on the floor.

For a good description of what slum living was like, read the works of Charles **Dickens**, particularly *Bleak House* and *Oliver Twist*. In 1839 in *Sketches by Boz* Dickens described one London slum in the following words: 'Wretched

houses with broken windows patched with rags and paper: every room let out to a different family, and in many instances to two or even three... filth everywhere – a gutter before the houses and a drain behind – clothes drying and slops emptying, from the windows; girls of fourteen or fifteen, with matted hair, walking about barefoot, and in white great-coats, almost their only covering; boys of all ages, in coats of all sizes and no coats at all; men and women, in every variety of scanty and dirty apparel, lounging, scolding, drinking, smoking, squabbling, fighting, and swearing.’



A sunny day in Manchester in the mid-19th Century

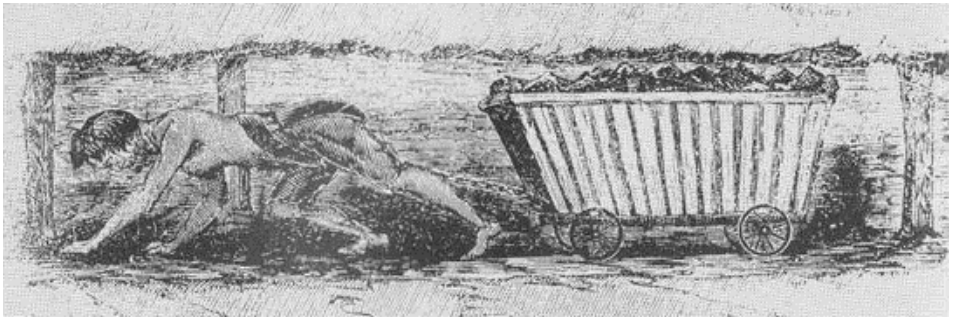
The towns and cities were dirty, unsanitary, vermin infested and overcrowded. Many streets were unpaved and, as there were no drains, they became quagmires of mud and filth as soon as it rained. Rubbish was not collected and it was allowed to accumulate in piles in the streets. People threw their dirty water and emptied their chamber pots into the streets causing stinking stagnant pools to form. Toilets were usually no more than buckets that were tipped into cesspits that were not emptied regularly and often overflowed. Where privies were built there was often only one or two serving a whole block of houses, and most of them were no more than a simple shed with a couple of planks over a cesspit. Human effluent as well as industrial waste from the factories that didn't just soak into the ground, flowed unchecked into the streams and rivers and leaked into the wells. People got their drinking water from these polluted sources. It was common for them to let the water they collected stand for a day or two so that the worst of

the solid particles, filth and pollution sank to the bottom before they skimmed off the ‘cleaner’ stuff at the top to drink. So, it’s no surprise that there were repeated outbreaks of cholera, typhoid and many other diseases. It was estimated that the cholera outbreak of 1831 alone was responsible for the deaths of over 16,000 people. However, this number pales into relative insignificance when compared with the outbreak of 1848 which caused the deaths of over 80,000.

In the early 19th century people did not associate water pollution and untreated sewage with the spread of disease. It was believed that bad smells or ‘miasmas’ caused disease. To them it was obvious; in poor districts, the air was foul and the death rate high, but in the prosperous suburbs and country estates there were no foul smells – therefore there was little or no disease! If a person had a pleasant smell it signified that he or she was from the middle or upper classes, and if they had an unpleasant smell, they were working class. At that time the middle and upper classes used soap to wash themselves and their clothes, but many working-class families still used urine to sanitise and disinfect their clothes and when they washed, they just used polluted water.

If the water didn’t kill you, it is likely that the air you breathed would. The new factories belched thick black smoke from their chimneys, and it was common for the air in the towns to be filled with smoke, dust and noxious gases. London was notorious for its ‘pea soup’ smogs. It is no wonder that life expectancy was short and the infant mortality high – up to 50% in many towns.

Generally, throughout this period food prices were high, so the poorer classes were underfed, had a poor diet and therefore were more likely to be stricken by contagious diseases.



Girl pulling a wagon in a coal mine in 1840

In the new factories in the early 19th century people, including women and children, worked very long hours - often 12 hours a day or more. It was not until 1833 that children under nine were banned from working in textile mills, and not until the Miner’s Act of 1842 were children under ten and women banned from working underground in mines. In ‘sweated industries’ such as the rag trade and

making matchboxes, the workers worked in their own homes and were paid piece rates. They often had to work from dawn to dusk just to make even a meagre living. If you lost your job through ill health or had no income at all, you had to enter the workhouse. The workhouses were feared and hated by the poor. They were meant to be as unpleasant as possible to deter poor people from asking the state for help.

In the early 19th century most workers had Sunday off to go to church (which only about 30% of them did), but there was no such thing as annual holidays. Workers had to wait another hundred years until 1939 before one week's paid annual leave was introduced.

In the first part of the 19th century the country was still being run by landowners and increasingly by the new industrialists for the sole benefit of the landowners and the new industrialists. These men were amassing vast fortunes from the efforts of the underpaid working class toiling away under atrocious conditions. So, it is not a surprise that the great unwashed were up in arms! There were increasing demands for reforms but reforms were slow in coming as only landowners had the vote and could sit in Parliament. The situation began to change in 1832 when the vote was given to more men and the boundaries of the constituencies were redrawn so that, for the first time, many industrial towns and the growing middle class were represented in Parliament. Following these changes, it was not only the landowners who had a say in government policy. However, the working class were still excluded from any decision-making.

The thinking of the ruling class at the time was that it was not the government's responsibility to provide public services such as clean water, sewerage, paved roads and health services – they were to be provided by private enterprise. As the private sector could make far more money building and running the new factories, little was done to improve the lot of ordinary folk. Despite the inertia of the government, the living conditions of the working class slowly improved during the first half of the 19th century. But it was not until the latter years of the century and the first decades of the 20th that major reforms were introduced, significantly improving the lot of the average worker.

It was in the first half of the 19th century that England became by far the richest country in the world. But we should not forget that this wealth was only gained by subjugating the working classes to conditions not much better than slavery. To that must be added the accumulation of the vast profits that were made from the slave trade and the exploitation of the peoples of the Empire.

If your folk lived in England, and particularly if they lived in the slums of London or the industrial towns and cities of the North during the first part of the 19th century, and they survived, they must have been a pretty tough lot.

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# BBFHS INTEREST GROUPS

by Barbara **Barnes** (Interest Groups Coordinator)

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**M**embers are invited to attend one or more of our Interest Groups. No bookings are required; simply turn up at the Research Centre at 184 Gannons Road, Caringbah. Wear your name badge and bring your own questions, brick walls and stories and your ears willing to listen to similar from other participants.

Sessions are usually two hours each at a cost of \$5 for a member or \$10 for a visitor. For the computer software programs groups which organise and store your family history data (Legacy, Reunion for Mac and Family Tree Maker for Windows and Macs) it is helpful to bring a laptop or tablet but certainly not necessary.

The coordinators of the groups are:

Writers Interest – Leonie **Bell** (0403 952 762, [LNBell@iinet.net.au](mailto:LNBell@iinet.net.au))

English Interest – Sue **Hewitt** (9524 2540, [suehewitt54@gmail.com](mailto:suehewitt54@gmail.com))

Irish Interest – Barbara **Wimble** ([wwimble@iinet.net.au](mailto:wwimble@iinet.net.au))

Scottish Interest – Jean **Campbell** ([jeancampbell@optusnet.com.au](mailto:jeancampbell@optusnet.com.au))

Australian Interest – Patricia **Jarvis** (9521 1375,

[patricia\\_jarvis@optusnet.com.au](mailto:patricia_jarvis@optusnet.com.au)

Legacy – Sue **Jones** ([scjones@optusnet.com.au](mailto:scjones@optusnet.com.au))

Family Tree Maker for Windows and Macs – Pam **Heather**  
([pamheather@gmail.com](mailto:pamheather@gmail.com))

Reunion for Mac – Pat **Fearnley** ([patfearnley@bigpond.com](mailto:patfearnley@bigpond.com))

DNA for Family History – John **Levy** ([j.levy@bigpond.net.au](mailto:j.levy@bigpond.net.au))

## UPCOMING PROGRAM – COVID-19 PERMITTING

<b>WRITERS INTEREST:</b>	Thursday 23 July 1.30 – 3.30 pm Thursday 24 September 1.30 – 3.30 pm
<b>SCOTTISH INTEREST:</b>	Saturday 1 August 2 – 4 pm
<b>IRISH INTEREST:</b>	Saturday 22 August 2 – 4 pm
<b>ENGLISH INTEREST:</b>	Saturday 11 July 2 – 4 pm Saturday 5 September 2 – 4 pm
<b>AUSTRALIAN INTEREST:</b>	Saturday 15 August 2 – 4 pm
<b>REUNION FOR MAC:</b>	No meetings in this period
<b>LEGACY:</b>	Tuesday 7 July 2 – 4 pm

Tuesday 1 September 2 – 4 pm

**FAMILY TREE MAKER  
FOR WINDOWS & MACS:**

Saturday 11 August 1.30 – 3.30 pm

**DNA FOR FAMILY HISTORY:**

Saturday 25 July 1.30 – 3.30 pm

Saturday 19 September 1.30 – 3.30 pm



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## **BBFHS EDUCATION PROGRAM**

by Jean **Campbell** (Research Centre Coordinator)

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**W**ith the closure of the Research Centre, there have been no activities there. However, our President Jennie **Fairs** has introduced us all to Zoom! There were Society and Committee meetings in May via Zoom and a wonderful members' Zoom meeting on 3 June where Jill **Ball** presented a talk on *Geneagoogling* to 54 members who signed in.

Rowan **Morrison** has organised two more speakers via Zoom for our June and July Meetings. They are:

- Wed 4 June: Allan **Murrin** – Passing the Baton.
- Wed 1 July: Mel **Hulbert** – DNA (covering DNA basics for family history and also developments for more experienced users).

Please make sure you keep the exclusive BBFHS Zoom Login. (It's in Email News No. 12 if you can't find it.)

Some Interest Groups have had a Zoom meeting. Please read your BBFHS Email News to stay up to date, which is being sent out every week, with thanks to Stephanie Bailey. As well as weekly news and links worldwide (free), a useful information series titled RESOURCES ON THE INTERNET is published every fortnight. Resources so far cover:

- ANZAC Military
- ALL Australia
- CONVICTS
- NSW ... and after that, the other states.

Coming editions will cover Gateway Sites, New Zealand, United Kingdom, England and Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Europe, Canada and the United States.



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# A CHILDHOOD SNAPSHOT – MY DAD’S CONTRIBUTION TO THE WAR

by Jim Farrow (Member)

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In 1942, my dad and grandfather had a butcher’s shop in King St (now Princes Highway), Tempe. Just as my dad got his call up, my grandfather died. Because the shop was classed as an essential service, dad did not have to go.

At that time, dad was also an air raid warden and on the night that the Japanese midget submarines attacked Sydney harbour, he went out to do his ‘Put That Light Out!’ bit. Mum and I pushed a table across to jam the door, put a mattress on top and got under the table. After the ‘All Clear’ the wardens had to report to their headquarters for a debriefing. Dad received a commendation – for in his haste to get on the job, the first pair of shoes he grabbed was a brand new pair of white tennis shoes. ‘You are able to be seen by pedestrians’, his commander said. And from then on, all wardens in his sector were asked to wear white shoes.



**Editor’s Note.** In our December journal, Doug **Rickard** suggested that I ask members to write a short article for our journal – to jot down a brief snapshot of something that they remember from their childhood. The length of the submissions should be limited to 200 words or so – perhaps with a picture if relevant.

Jim has responded with this article. I hope to get a flood of similar memories from our readers.

**Editor’s Apology and Correction.** In introducing this childhood snapshot idea in December, I mistakenly credited Doug **Parkes** rather than Doug Rickard.

## RESEARCH CENTRE OPENING TIMES

**The Centre is currently closed. Members will be advised via the Email News regarding re-opening and procedures to be followed regarding Covid-119.**



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# SIMON MCKENZIE OR MCKAY, AN EXILE

by Lilian Magill (Member)

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Simon was fifteen in 1843 when he first faced the court for stealing. Court records show that he was living with his mother, Margaret McKenzie in Friars Lane, Inverness, no father is mentioned.<sup>1</sup>



Map of Inverness showing Friars Lane and the Castle, where Simon was tried. Published by Ronnie Hazley, 7 October 2016.

On 9 January 1843, Simon along with one John **McDonald** were charged with three counts of stealing; first from Mr Joseph **Mitchell**, Esquire, Inspector of Highland Roads and Bridges, on or about November or December 1842 – a large jar (a greybeard), a small cask or keg, a pair of drab trousers, a pair of gaiters and a bagpipe chanter<sup>2</sup>, also a flute, a whip thong and a pair of gaiters belonging to John **McLennan**, servant to Mr Mitchell. Second, from Alexander **Munro**, spirit dealer, on 24 December 1842 – 25 common glass bottles, a pair of new shoes, a pair of boots and a pair of worsted stockings. Third, from Mr James **Falconer**, teacher, on 7 January 1843 – two legs of mutton, weighing in total 17¾ pounds (8.1 kg) and a hare, by breaking the lock on a meat safe door.

When apprehended, sleeping in the hay loft of Mr Mitchell’s coach house, Simon was wearing the boots stolen from Alexander Munro. In Simon’s statement<sup>3</sup> he gave the names of the people he and John sold the items to and stated that with some of the money they purchased whiskey. When questioned about the mutton, he told the police where it could be found. His statement and the statements from witnesses saw him and John McDonald sent to stand trial on 15 April 1843. They were found guilty and sentenced to eighteen months goal in Perth, 119 miles (192 km) from Inverness.<sup>4</sup>

Released from Perth Gaol on 21 October 1844, they were apprehended two months later in December 1844, in Inverness, for stealing from Alexander **Watson**, meal dealer – one blue greatcoat, a wooden snuff box and a pair of cotton gloves.<sup>5</sup> Simon and John were again found guilty and sentenced to 10 years imprisonment in Van Diemen’s Land. They were taken to Millbank Prison to await transportation.



Bollard marking where the Millbank Prison stood beside the River Thames, London (photo: Lilian Magill, July 2019)

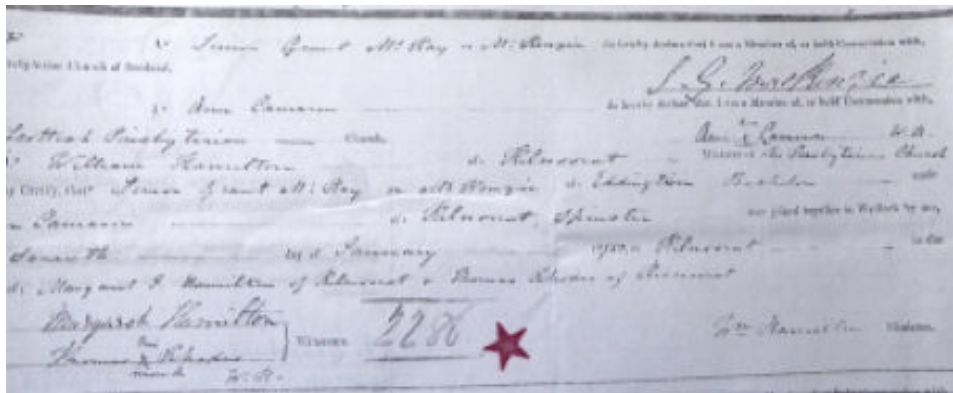
In the Millbank Prison Register<sup>6</sup>, Simon is described as 17 years old, single and able to read and write well. The specific description of the crime reads, ‘theft and poor character.’ On 26 May 1846 he was taken on board the *Maitland*, which

left England on 29 June 1846. After 129 days at sea and stopping at Van Diemen's Land to disembark eight convicts, the ship arrived in Port Phillip on 6 November 1846.<sup>7</sup>

Known as Exiles, these 291 men were granted their pardons on arrival, with Queen Victoria giving approval on '10 day of June 1846 in the Ninth year of our Reign.'<sup>8</sup> In his talk *The Exiles – a different class of Victorian*.<sup>9</sup> given to the Port Phillip Pioneers Group on 10 March 2007, Scott **Brown** gives a good description of what was expected of them. They had to have had a period of solitary confinement to reflect and show remorse. They undertook training in various trades. It was not compulsory for them to accept help but if they refused, they had to fend for themselves.

The ship's Dispersal List does not show who employed Simon on his arrival, with the comment 'not specified'<sup>10</sup> given, other than it was to be for a period of one year.

I have no information on Simon from his arrival in 1846 until his marriage, as Simon Grant McKenzie or McKay on 10 January 1850, to Ann **Cameron** at Kilnoorat, near Camperdown, Victoria.<sup>11</sup> This is the first recorded use of the name Grant.



Marriage certificate of Simon and Ann – Birth, Deaths and Marriages, Victoria, 2286/1850. Copy owned by Lilian Magill

Simon and Ann settled in Ballarat and had six children; James McKenzie, 1850 - before 1892 (only child to be given the surname McKenzie), Margaret, 1852/53 – 1928, Maryann, 1856 – 1858, drowned, Maryann, 1859 – 1912, William Alexander, 1864 – 1945 (known as Alexander) and Jessie Elizabeth, 1868 – 1946. He gave his occupation as a miner on several of the children's birth certificates.<sup>12</sup>

Simon seems to have led a quiet life, with no mentions in local papers, no police reports, apart from his Deposition given at the inquest into Maryann's death

in 1858.<sup>13</sup>

An elderly man named Simon Grant dropped dead at his residence, Sweeney street, yesterday morning, and a magisterial enquiry surrounding the circumstances of the death was held before Mr George King at the Town Police Court. The deceased had been ailing for some time past, and had not taken any food since last Monday week. Early yesterday morning Mrs Grant went to call her husband, and receiving no answer, entered the house, and found the deceased lying prostrate on the floor, life being extinct. Dr Salmon made a *post mortem* examination of the remains, which showed that death was due to syncope supervening on an attack of chronic pneumonia. The verdict of the enquiry embraced the testimony given by the doctor, and the usual order for burial of the remains was given.



Article about Simon's death. *Ballarat Courier*, 19 January 1892. Copy obtained 1998, at the Ballarat Courier office, Ballarat.

Simon's unmarked grave. (photo: Lilian Magill, Mother's Day, May 2018)

Simon died on 18 January 1892, collapsing in the early hours of the morning, at his home in Sweeny Street, Ballarat East. Due to the nature of his collapse and that he had complained of a pain in his chest an inquest was convened by Mr G **King** J.P. later that day.<sup>14</sup> A verdict of chronic pneumonia was given.

Simon was buried in the Ballarat General Cemetery, New Cemetery, Section 9A, No.33, Denomination Presbyterian, on 20 January 1892 at 2.30pm.<sup>15</sup> No headstone marks his grave.

Simon was my great-great grandfather, on my maternal side. I have no documents that explain why Simon started using the surname Grant. He had dropped the McKay before he married. My thought is that maybe he took the name Grant from the police officer, Alexander Grant, who arrested him twice. Simon also used Alexander as a middle name for his last son William Alexander, who went by Alexander.

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PLEASE MENTION *THE ENDEAVOUR* WHEN CONTACTING

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# CASEY ORIGINS – PART 1

by Jennie Fairs (member)

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**W**ith genealogy, there are two attributes you need more than anything else ... **patience and persistence!**

Searching one's family tree is nowhere near as easy as the *Who Do You Think You Are?* TV series and the many *Ancestry.com* advertisements depict. Instead, it is only through patience and persistence that you eventually break down the brick walls of your research. And these two attributes are even more important if you are researching Irish ancestors.

As early as 1992 when I undertook my first trip to Ireland, I knew that the Casey line originated in Cork, Ireland. What I was not able to ascertain was whether it was the city of Cork, or the county of Cork – until my fourth visit there in 2013.

Daniel Casey arrived in Sydney, Australia, in the 1880s per the steamship *Potosi*. He had paid for his passage in steerage (third class) which meant that, unlike government assistant immigrants, there is no information recorded on the passenger list regarding his birthplace or parentage.

In 1887 Daniel, a pastry cook resident in Pitt Street, Sydney, married the 21-year-old Mary Jane **Cushley**, a domestic servant living at St Johns Road, Glebe. Daniel recorded his age as 25 years and listed his birthplace as Yorkshire, England.<sup>1</sup>



Liverpool Asylum (hospital) c1876 (photo: Wikipedia Commons)

After welcoming their only child in 1888, Daniel succumbed to tuberculosis and died on 22 September 1891 at Liverpool Asylum. Asylums were the precursor to today's hospitals as we know them and were used for many years to care for destitute and infirm persons.

*The Register of Inmates for Liverpool Asylum* stated that Daniel Casey was: [aged] 30 years; a Roman Catholic; born in Bradford; came out 8 years ago on SS Potosi as a passenger; married with one child; a cook last employed by the Sydney Catering Co. 3 months ago; been living at 277 Liverpool St; suffered from Phthisis [Tuberculosis]; had a brother, J Casey (address unknown) living in Australia; and died 22 September 1891.<sup>2</sup>

Further information gleaned from the hospital register stated he was married with no property, had been in the Sydney Infirmary 22 days prior to admission at Liverpool Asylum, and had worked for the Sydney Catering Co. for 12 months.



Sydney Infirmary 1870 (photo: Charles Pickering, State Library of NSW SPF / 176)

Tracing backwards, Daniel was born 20 March 1859 at 2 Craven Street, Bradford, Yorkshire – the second son, and fifth of seven children, born to Daniel and Maria **Casey** (nee **Dempsey**). His father, Daniel Casey Snr, was recorded on his son's birth certificate as being a power loom/worsted weaver.<sup>3</sup>

The first English census held following Daniel's birth was that for 1861 and the two-year-old Daniel was easily found living with his family at 2 Craven Street.

Also enumerated on the census schedule was an elder, married, brother of Daniel Snr named Joseph. This census schedule recorded the first evidence that the Casey family originated in Cork, Ireland.<sup>4</sup>

Name and Surname of each Person	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of		Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born
			Male	Female		
Daniel Casey	Head	Mar	51		Worsted Weaver	Ireland Cork
Maria Do	Wife	Mar		40	Worsted Weaver	Cork
Margaret Do	Daughter	Un		9		York Bradford
Elizora Do	Daughter	Un		8		Bradford
Jessie Do	Daughter	Un		6		Bradford
Calvine Do	Daughter	Un		4		Bradford
Daniel Do	Son	Un		2		Bradford
Joseph Do	Brother	Mar	66		Worsted Weaver	Ireland

Part of the 1861 UK Census Schedule showing the 2-year-old Daniel Casey living with his family at 2 Craven Place, Bradford, Yorkshire.

Ten years later, the 12-year-old Daniel Casey was recorded in the 1871 census as working as a worsted spinner along with several of his siblings.<sup>5</sup> The place of birth recorded for Daniel's father, Daniel senior, was only listed as Ireland, so a definitive place of origin in Ireland was still not known.

By the 1881 census Daniel Casey was no longer living at home; his father had died, and his widowed mother was recorded as being head of the household.<sup>6</sup> Maria Casey recorded her place of birth as simply, Ireland.

Daniel was eventually found in the 1881 census, at Weymouth in Dorset where he was recorded as being a private with the 1-14th Regiment.<sup>7</sup> At some stage, Daniel had obviously decided that a life in the army had to be better than that of a worsted mill worker. More research needs to be done on Daniel's life in the army, but for his stay at Weymouth we can assume he was housed at the Red Barracks. And perhaps it was from his military life that Daniel learned the occupation of pastry chef.

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5. The National Archives (UK): 1871 England Census Schedule RG10/4460/58/27
6. The National Archives (UK): 1881 England Census Schedule RG11/4449/107/33
7. The National Archives (UK): 1881 England Census Schedule RG11/2104/19/31



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# INFORMATION FROM AN UNUSUAL SOURCE

by Peter **De Low** (Former Member)

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**M**y family tree on Ancestry is a pretty standard affair – more likely convicts than dukes but overall an interesting mixture. My mother was a **Trigg** and her mother a **Tilbury** – names that seem to go back quite a long way in England.

As much of my family information is drawn from the family trees of other people, I keep mine as an open tree (that is, not private) so that others can have the same opportunity I had. Up to date, any contact from other people has been in the form of a request of some sort. But not this time. Read on!

I received this message in my Ancestry in-box:

Dear Peter,

I am a freelance historical researcher. My special project is to give faces to the brave airmen who were killed during WWII and buried in the cemetery at Rotterdam-Crooswijk. So I also investigated the crash in which Basil Kidd was killed. Because an exact date of birth was unknown, I requested a copy of the birth certificate of him at the General Record Office of England. Basil Kidd was born on Feb. 20, 1910. I can provide you with a copy of his birth certificate if you want.

Kind regards,

**Corin Gelderblom**  
Hoogvliet, Holland

I have often noticed the number of families, particularly in England, that have sons and husbands with the place of death listed as a battlefield. The sadness of it all struck me and the dreadful moment when the message is received, more particularly. Corin Gelderblom was offering to put a face to a name for me.

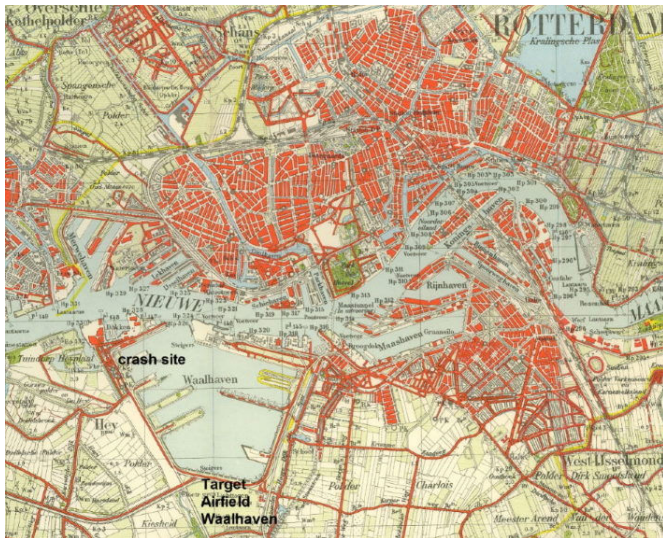
Basil Arthur **Kidd** was born in Norwood, Surrey on 20 February 1910. His mother's single name had been Sybil Rosa Trigg – thus the connection to me. Basil is my third cousin once removed.

Corporal Kidd was Air Gunner in a Bristol Blenheim flown by the leader of the British raid, Squadron Leader James **Wells**. The other crew member was Navigator John **Davis**. On 10 May 1940, six Bristol Blenheim planes left Manston in Kent with the objective an attack on Waalhaven airfield in Rotterdam. Descriptions of the ensuing battle suggests the British were at a distinct disadvantage borne out by the fact that only one aircraft made it back to England.

Basil Kidd's plane was badly damaged but the captain managed to keep it aloft long enough for Navigator John Davis to bail out. The plane crashed near the village of Pernis killing Squadron Leader Wells and Basil Kidd.



Aerial photo of Rotterdam docks. The crash site is near the centre of the photo – see Rotterdam map below. The target, Waalhaven airfield is also shown on the map



Life was not kind to Basil's mother. Her husband committed suicide at Tulse Street Station in the month following Basil's birth, and Basil's sister Audrey died in 1927 at the age of 19. The loss of her son must have been a crushing blow.

Corin Gelderblom has indeed put a face to a name and caused me to find out much more about my family member. Corin placed a photograph and a poppy on

Basil's cemetery headstone. He has also provided, courtesy of the Foundation Archive Historical Heijplaat, photographs of the crash scene and the memorial constructed by the local citizens.



Aircraft wreckage at the crash site

What a wonderful project Corin is involved in and how lucky am I that he took the trouble to contact me. For those interested, Mr Google has a lot more information on the raid on Waalhaven.



The photo above is the memorial at the crash site. The inscription on the wreath states: 'For those who fell for the Netherlands'. The photo at the right is Basil's headstone – note the insert poppy and photo of Basil.

The photos in this article are courtesy of Corin Gelderblom and the Foundation Archive Historical Heijplaat.



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# ***EAST COAST ENCOUNTERS 1770, REFLECTIONS ON A CULTURAL CLASH***

by Sutherland Shire Historical Society

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Sutherland Shire Historical Society is pleased to announce the publication of *East Coast Encounters 1770, Reflections on a Cultural Clash*. It looks back on the first recorded contact between the Aboriginal people of Kamay Botany Bay and Europeans. Unlike many traditional histories, the book presents, from several perspectives, a new assessment of these extraordinary events that took place 250 years ago.

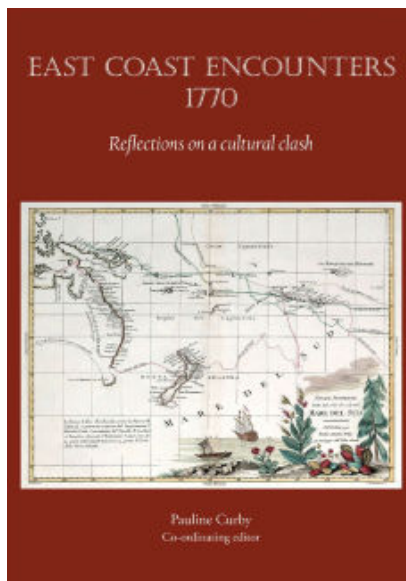
Consisting of a compilation of ten articles by different authors, this publication is referenced and refereed. It is not an academic tome, but one that will attract a general audience. Some of the contributors are local residents, while others are academics who are recognised authorities in their field. Our aim is to bring awareness of

these largely unknown perspectives to the general community and to debunk the various myths that either hero-worship or vilify **Cook**.

The articles – accompanied by a number of lively images – explore an eclectic selection of themes, ranging from Cook’s early life, the botanical collecting of Joseph **Banks** and Daniel Solander to the ‘view from the shore’, as Aboriginal contributors consider the impact of James Cook’s eight-day visit to Kurnell in 1770. In the final article we are transported to north Queensland to consider the interactions of the Endeavour crew with the Guugu Yimithirr people.

*East Coast Encounters 1770* may be ordered online or purchased in retail outlets. Further information is available at <https://www.shirehistory.org>. To order books online, email your request to [shirehistory@gmail.com](mailto:shirehistory@gmail.com). The price is \$35 per book plus \$10 for postage and handling – for up to five books. Payment may be made electronically to the Sutherland Shire Historical Society’s IMB account: BSB: 641-800 and account number: 200798393.

**Editor’s Note:** BBFHS member and our Email News editor Stephanie **Bailey** is one of the contributors.



This article lists the new Library accessions. We remind members that there is a wealth of family history information accumulated over some 36 years in our Library. **Not everything is online!** Check out our library catalogue at <http://www.botanybayfhs.org.au/library--research-centre.html>. You may be very surprised at what you find! **Come to the Research Centre and have a look.** Thank you for the donations from those members who are ‘downsizing’.

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Compiled by Janette **Daly** (Librarian)



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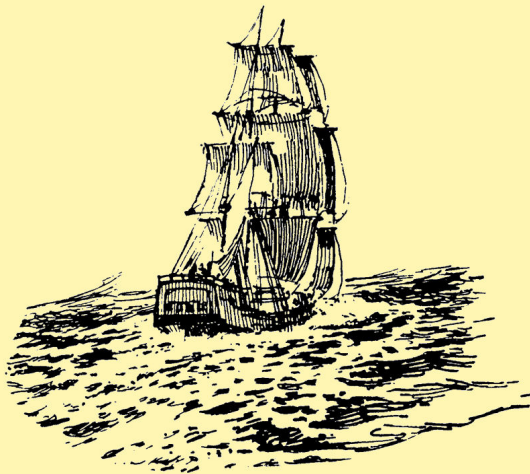
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