

# THE ENDEAVOUR



Published quarterly by the

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

**PRICE \$6.00**

No. 145  
December 2020

ISSN 0814-9828 (Printed)  
ISSN 2208-3278 (Digital)

# BOTANY BAY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

*Discovering Your Heritage*

**Internet:** <http://www.botanybayfhs.org.au> **Email:** [botanybayfhs@yahoo.com.au](mailto:botanybayfhs@yahoo.com.au)

**Mail Enquiries:** The Secretary  
Botany Bay Family History Society Inc  
PO Box 1006  
Sutherland NSW 1499

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2019-2020

President	Jennie Fairs	
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	

## OTHER OFFICE BEARERS 2019-2020

Editor	John Levy, <a href="mailto:bbfhs_eds@yahoo.com.au">bbfhs_eds@yahoo.com.au</a>	
Assistant Editor	Maree McKinley	
Librarians	Janette Daly	Pamela Heather
	Maureen Murray	Kate Anderson
Webmaster	Pat Fearnley	
Education Team	Jean Campbell	Barbara Wimble
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.

---

# CONTENTS

---



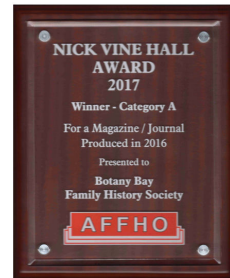
	Page
From the Editor's Desk.....	4
Rev. Archibald Wright Murray (1811-1892).....	5
My Ancestor – John Willie Gothard. A Commemorative Address. ....	10
The DNA Discoveries that Sidetracked Me.....	14
Your Big Opportunity! FamilySearch's On-line RootsTech Conference. ....	18
Where the Irish Settled in Australia.....	19
Help Wanted – Harwood School, Parramatta Road, Burwood.....	25
How the Spanish Flu Affected the Entertainment Industry .....	26
Ann Roberts, <i>Northampton</i> , 1815.....	29
Northumberland – a Short History and Some Family History Resources .....	30
An Unfinished Tale of a Walking Stick.....	37
BBFHS Website – Member Only Access to Our Digital Exchange Journals ..	42

## Regular Features

Calendar.....	2
President's Page.....	3
New Members.....	9
BBFHS Interest Groups.....	12
BBFHS Research Centre and Library.....	24
Library Acquisitions .....	34
Web Watch .....	36
Notes and News .....	40
Diggings.....	46

## Advertisements in this Issue [PLEASE MENTION *THE ENDEAVOUR* WHEN CONTACTING]

Martins Green Thumb Gardening Services .....	28
Joy Murrin – BDM Transcription Services .....	45
2SSR 99.7FM Sound of the Sutherland Shire .....	36
Australian Federation of Family History Organisations – Congress 2021 .....	47



---

# CALENDAR



**Calendar as at 15 November 2020. Many activities are not listed and will depend on the COVID-19 situation. Many will be held on ZOOM – check the Events Calendar on our website ([www.botanybayfhs.org.au](http://www.botanybayfhs.org.au)) or see your BBFHS Email News when it arrives in your email inbox.**

## 2020

- Dec 1** Reunion for Mac Computer Program Group – 10 am Centre  
**Dec 2** **Meeting – 7.30 pm. Christmas Meeting on Zoom**  
**Dec 5** Scottish Interest Group – 2 pm BBFHS Research Centre  
**Dec 11** Last day that BBFHS Research Centre and Library is open

## 2021

- Jan 18** BBFHS Research Centre and Library re-opens  
**Feb 3** **Meeting – 7.30 pm. Monthly meeting on Zoom – Speaker to be advised**  
**Mar 3** **Meeting – 7.30 pm. Monthly meeting on Zoom – Speaker to be advised**



*Merry Christmas, One and All*

Image by [Angeles Balaguer](#) from [Pixabay](#)

---

# PRESIDENT'S PAGE

---

As we look ahead to a brighter future, it has been great to see the Research Centre open again. The booking system is working well and it is wonderful to physically see members using the Centre. Why not spend some time there, not just for research but to benefit by interacting with people. A definite mood lifter!

By now many of you should be aware of the new Member Only Access area of our website. Pat **Fearnley** has been working hard to get it up and running and over time many more records will be added. With time this will become an important part of your membership. For now, working with John **Levy**, the four latest editions of the Australian and International exchange journals we receive have been uploaded – check out the article on page 42.

The Committee has also begun the process of switching to the NBN and we hope that this will be carried out by Telstra sooner, rather than later.

Following the recent member's survey, we hope to have some new Interest Groups next year, with strong support for groups covering Military, Continental European and Scandinavian topics. If there are any members willing to take on a convener's role, I would like to hear from you. If it sounds too daunting, then perhaps roles could be shared. For example, the Military Interest Group could perhaps have three or four members sharing the convener's role, each specialising in the various conflicts – one for pre-World War 1, another for World War 1, another for World War 2, and maybe someone takes on post-World War 2. A similar format could also apply for Continental Europe and Scandinavia.

The use of Zoom for our Wednesday night meetings now makes it possible for us to have interstate and international guest speakers for next year. I know that Rowan **Morrison**, our Guest Speaker organiser, is currently putting together a terrific mix for 2021.

It has also been great to see many of you stepping up and presenting on Zoom. And not just for BBFHS – there have been several of our members presenting on the Society of Australian Genealogists Friday afternoon Zoom hangouts.

As this will be the last President's Report before Christmas, I would like to wish all our members a happy Christmas and a healthy New Year. Don't forget that the first Wednesday night Zoom meeting for December will be our festive Christmas night and I'm looking forward to many Christmas tales from members on the night.

Jennie Fairs

---

# FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

by John Levy (Editor)

---

Welcome to our December/Christmas edition. Normally this edition would be packed with wonderful photos and comment about the NSW & ACT Annual Conference at Newcastle – unfortunately a non-event due to COVID-19. The 2021 Conference is planned to be a virtual conference run by Port Macquarie Family History Society, on Saturday 11 September from 8.30 am to 5.00 pm – see <https://www.pmdfhs.org.au/2021-nsw---act-conference.html>.

I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to Maree **McKinley**, who has retired as Assistant Editor of *The Endeavour*. When I became editor some thirteen years ago, Maree had already held this role for some years and was a great help to me as a new editor. As well as her eagle eye for my mistakes, her advice and friendship has contributed greatly to the quality of our journal. Thank you, Maree!

I want to thank all those members who have stepped up and supplied such interesting articles for this edition – without your content there can be no journal. Some of you are new contributors – thank you. And if other members are thinking about contributing, I am always happy to help and provide constructive feedback. So, I encourage all our members to contribute – quarter of a page, a photo, half a page, six pages, whatever! I am pleased to have enough material to fill our full 48 pages this time.

Many societies are doing it hard. A few have had to close down their journals. Bega Valley Genealogy Society with a small membership, have had their rent increased 800%, <https://bvgenealogy.webhive.com.au/save-our-courthouse/> threatening them financially. If you could help by protesting to their local councillors, send your email to them at [begagenealogy@bigpond.com](mailto:begagenealogy@bigpond.com) and they will gladly forward it on for you.

There is no separate Education Report from Jean **Campbell** in this edition because COVID-19 has stopped our **formal** education activities. Nothing has changed since the last report. The Email News continues to be produced and sent out every weekend. There is information about the Wednesday Discussion Group via Zoom, plus webinars, on-line conferences, new Internet sites for research and updates. Please take the time to review it when it arrives in your mailbox.

Our advertisers (Joy Murrin – BDM Transcription Services, Martins Green Thumb Gardening Services and 2SSR 99.7FM Sound of the Sutherland Shire) support us. Please support them when you can.

---

# REV. ARCHIBALD WRIGHT MURRAY (1811-1892)

by Maureen Murray (Member)

---

**M**any books have been written by Rev. Archibald Wright **Murray** and many about him, which have led in the direction of his birth, early childhood, family connections and missionary work for 40 years in the South Seas. Our present family knew little about him, except that my husband Bob remembers his father Stan Murray saying, ‘somewhere in the family is a person that was a missionary. There is a diary of this ancestor who sailed on the windjammers around the South Pacific.’ These small clues rang true as we read about his amazing life in his book *Forty Years Missionary Work in Polynesia & New Guinea 1835-1875*.

These pages are extracts from the original manuscript obtained in the Mitchell Library Sydney by Rev. Robert **Steel** DD PhD, written in about 1890 called *A. W. Murray of Samoa – Missionary Pioneering in Polynesia*.

\*\*\*\*\*

Archibald Wright Murray was born in the tiny village of Lanton, Roxburghshire, Scotland, 2 miles from the town of Jedburgh on 26 November 1811. His father was William Murray (1789-1861) and his mother died when Archibald was very young. He was raised by his grandmother Helen **Kerr**, known as Nellie. Archibald's grandfather, Archibald Murray, a cooper in Lanton, joined the Synod Relief Church of Jedburgh and later became one of its elders. His wife Nellie was also a woman of great piety and she taught young Archibald to pray. It was known that Nellie Kerr's mother was related to the sister of Mungo **Park**, the celebrated African explorer. Listening to Mungo's tales of adventure led the young Archibald to dream of travel and exploration.

Grandfather Archibald Murray died five months after young Archibald was born on 19 April 1812 and is buried in the small cemetery behind the Old Parish Church in Bedrule.

Archibald's father William Murray, a mason in Lanton, remarried in 1818 to Esther **Scott** and together they had seven children. On the death of his grandmother, young Archibald was taken home by his father and treated kindly by his step-mother. He went to school in the village of Lanton and learned basic spelling, writing and arithmetic. At the age of 16 years Archibald obtained a three year indenture with a grocer in Kelso – about 19 km NE of Jedburgh. He obtained accommodation there while he worked his indenture ‘night and day, holidays and weekends.’

At 18, he grew serious about the Christian faith and attended a parish church in Kelso, where he decided to become a missionary – a wish that grew into a passion. On completing his indenture, he resided with Rev. Stewart **Bates**, Kelso, who taught him all of his early spiritual learning over the next 20 months. In October 1833, he applied to the Directors of the London Missionary Society who asked him to come to London for an interview. Archibald sailed from Leith on 7 January 1834 and after many interviews was accepted on probation under various tutors. In 1835 he was selected by the Directors of London Missionary Society to join a party of missionaries to reinforce the Mission to the South Seas.

It was in Brighton, England that Archibald was ordained on 24 September, 1835 watched by his betrothed Ruth **Cobden**. It was in this old Parish church, St Nicholas, Brighton that he had met and married Ruth on 25 September 1835. It was a happy, loved and cherished relationship that lasted 45 years.

The farewell to the six missionaries and their wives was an emotional service conducted in Wycliffe Chapel by Rev. John **Williams**, who gave encouragement and advice to the Mission. They embarked on the *Dunottar Castle* – a small 180-ton ship chartered for the purpose. On board the accommodation was very cramped and the food poor and scanty. The voyage was tempestuous and dangerous especially off Cape Horn when violent storms drove the ship back four times. After eight months they reached the islands of Samoa (Navigator Islands) a group of eight coral islands, surrounded by many small islets about 4,300 km north east of Sydney. They are volcanic and the mountains rise from 600 to 1,500 m with extinct volcanoes, earthquakes, cyclones and tidal waves frequent.

Rev. Murray noted that *'the islanders are of Malay origin and live in fine houses with canoes and implements and are not cannibals. They practice shocking cruelties upon their enemies but affection to each other.'* He also noted that *their clothing is scanty, mainly of Ti leaves which were also weaved into mats for sleeping.* Several villages were united under one chief, they practiced polygamy and tattooing was used to initiate young men to adulthood at the age of eight or nine years. The men wore ornaments and their lank hair long and the women, no ornaments and hair short. The religion practiced was chiefly fear of the spirits of the dead and many things were taboo, with death caused by the evil eye or sorcery.

The missionaries were split into groups and Revs. Murray **Barnden** were appointed to Tutuila, 130 km distant from island of Savaii where Revs. **Hardie** and **McDonald** were placed. With opposing currents these islands were five days sailing from each other. As the ship entered the harbour of Pago Pago, Rev. Murray described *'high, broken and volcanic cliffs penetrates to the centre of the island. It was the grandest sight we had seen during the whole of our voyage.'* Rev. Murray learnt that the 4,000 villagers had heard the Christian message from an unexpected source – a foreign sailor named **Norval**, who had spoken of the Christian faith in



the years he spent there. Other foreigners lived there too, mainly escaped convicts from Australia. They did not like the idea of missionaries and plotted to get rid of them by poisoning the water used in cooking during the time of Christian worship, but one became remorseful and poured the poison to the ground. This man remained on the island to become the pilot to vessels entering the harbour. Other men, mainly whaling ships crew, when visiting the island tried to slander and lie about the missionaries to the natives. A captain of one of these ships, Captain **Morgan**, 'a God-fearing man', became captain of the missionary ship *Camden* and then *John Williams*, and used to take stores and missionaries, native preachers and others around the islands.

During his time in Tutuila, Rev. Murray learned to speak Samoan and conducted his first service in this native language on 1 January 1837, which increased the numbers of natives attending his sermons and they became more and more respectful. Many of the children were taught to read by Mrs Murray and during a visit by Rev. **Buzacott** and his wife, Rev. Buzacott helped to finish the Murray's dwelling. In 1838 the first of three converts were baptised and they in turn became native preachers. By end of 1839 many natives were seeking salvation and Rev. Murray noted that in Leone 2,000 were converted with much celebration, with 2,250 pigs killed and baked for the feast. By June 1840, all heathenism was extinct in Tutuila, *'and a great change came over the people.'*

It was nearly three years after they left England that the missionaries received their first letters from home. Two months later the mission ship arrived with Rev. John Williams and many new missionaries in November 1838. Rev. Murray and Mrs Murray showed their newly born son, William born on 8 November 1838 at Tutuila. Divine service was held and the missionaries sailed to Upolu for a conference for all missionaries and the settlement of their brethren.

In 1839, Rev. Williams set sail for the New Hebrides in *Camden* to help settle the new missionaries. Two were left on the island of Tanna and at the island of Eramanga, the natives attacked and killed Revs. Williams and **Harris** and their bodies dragged away into the bush for a cannibal feast. This news reached Pago Pago in March 1840 and *'a great sorrow fell over the Missionaries and their People.'*

During their work on the island, the health of Mrs Murray declined. In 1842 she was taken to Leone, but when she returned to her work her illness grew. In November 1846 their son William, aged eight, was sent to England to gain his education in one of the missionary schools. William did not return until he was 15 years old.

In 1849 their second child, Robert Ebenezer Murray died aged two years. He had been a delicate child from birth. Mrs Murray went to Sydney to recover for a

considerable time. She returned in 1854 and joined her husband in Upolu. It was there, they lived in Malua, about 19 km from Apia. Rev. Murray was appointed in sole charge of Apia. In July 1861 due to Mrs Murray's continued ill health they left for Sydney. Rev. Murray had been 25 years in Samoa.

Rev. Archibald Murray, like Rev. John Williams, had a passion for pioneering the Gospel amongst the heathen islands. The most effective way was to place native preachers on these islands, each volunteer selected carefully, suitably instructed and counselled. They negotiated with the chief on the islands, purchased sites for houses and deeds were made when purchases were agreed. No man was placed on reluctant islands. Islanders on the New Hebrides were very difficult to deal with and at Eramanga Rev. Murray found the preachers in great peril and nearly starving to death. The chiefs had been unfaithful to their promise to protect them. He rescued them with great difficulty and one was so feeble he sank to the ship's deck in a stupor.

On his second missionary voyage in 1845, accompanied by Rev. **Turner**, at the island Futuna no native canoes came to greet them which looked very suspicious. At the next island, Aneityum they found the teachers well, but grieved to learn the teachers on Futuna had been killed and eaten. No new teachers were placed on Futuna for 80 years. On the New Hebrides over the years many more teachers were to be rescued. Rev. Murray visited again in 1852 and 1861 and found more in peril for their lives. He visited the northern islands of New Hebrides but little could be done to get teachers and missionaries settled.

On his return to Sydney in 1861, Rev. Murray was invited to become pastor of the Baptist Church, Newtown where he worked for two years. He worked on his book '*Western Isles*'; and with the blessing of his wife, returned to Apia for seven years.

Rev. Murray went to the Ellice Group in 1865 where he found that Peruvian traders had seized and carried off 200 men to slavery in Peru. Only 100 people were left, mostly women and children. On these small, low islands of the Ellice Group, he found that a further 180 men had been captured and taken to South America. About 25 vessels were used in this terrible human trade.

By end of 1870 Mrs Murray's health required a change of climate and he was appointed to Lifu in the Loyalty Islands and they reached there in December 1870. Soon after, Rev. Murray was to accompany Rev. **Macfarlane** to New Guinea in the hope of establishing mission stations in this wild part of the world. He received a letter from London Missionary Society to administer New Guinea and he set up headquarters at Somerset, Northern Queensland, where he served for two years. He eventually felt his work was done and he returned to Sydney in January 1875 and retired after 40 years Missionary work. He took up residence in Marrickville and

preached regularly in Baptist Church Woolloomooloo. Mrs. Murray's health slowly failed and she died on 11 February, 1882 from pulmonary disease and was buried at Rookwood Cemetery with this engraved on the tombstone -

Sacred to the Memory of Ruth, the beloved wife of the Rev. A.W. Murray of the London Missionary Society, who died Feb 11th 1882 aged 68 years. She left her native land for the South Seas in 1835, and was identified with mission work till Jan 1875. The remainder of her days were spent in Sydney. She laboured zealously while health permitted. She was a great sufferer, but her peace of mind was unbroken and she departed this life in the hope of a glorious resurrection.

Rev. Murray met and married a widow Annie Winifred **Haydon** in Petersham, Sydney on 4 November 1885. In January 1888, Rev. Murray and a deputation were sent to the Samoan Islands by the London Missionary Society. Rev. R. **Wardlaw Thompson**, Foreign Secretary recognised Rev. Murray in these glowing words *'At his age a journey of this description was no slight undertaking; but his love for Mission work and his old associations with Samoa made, a time of real joy and intense satisfaction that he had again been able to serve Christ in that part of the world. His intimate knowledge of the language and the respect and love in which the people held him, made him invaluable to me as interpreter, especially in the conferences with our native pastors.'*

Archibald Murray himself was astonished at his fluency after absence of seventeen years and wrote *'I was especially surprised and thankful for the ease and fluency with which I was able to speak and preach in the native language. I felt almost as if there had been no break.'*

Rev. Archibald Wright Murray died in 1892 and is buried in Rookwood alongside his wife Ruth Cobden (1814-1882), his son William Archibald Murray (1838-1893) and his grandchild, Alexander Wright Murray (1876-1880) and great grandchild Ella Talbot (1887-1888).

## 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).

1844	Jenny Short	Stanwell Park
1845	Bev Connaughton	Woonoona
1832	Adele Oyston	Horsley

---

# MY ANCESTOR – JOHN WILLIE GOTHARD

## A COMMEMORATIVE ADDRESS

By Molly **Quinnell** (Members' granddaughter)

---

**J**ohn Willie **Gothard** was born on 13 March 1879 in Yorkshire and worked for a while as a coal miner like his father before him. However, on 2 March 1903 at 24 years of age, he left the mines and enlisted in the Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry (KOYLI), stationed at Pontefract Barracks, about 20 km southeast of Leeds. He became Private No 7323 and is said to have played the euphonium in the band.

On Boxing Day 1906 he married Martha Fritchley **Trout** in St Giles Church, Pontefract and set up a home in the Pontefract Barracks where their first child, Wilfred, was born on 29 August 1908. John left the Army on 22 September 1909 but remained in the Army Reserve. The family

moved to the mining village of Hoyland, Yorkshire close to where his mother and brothers lived and he went back to working in the mines. About 1913 the family of five moved around 400 km from Hoyland to Eythorne, near Dover in Kent.

On 3 August 1914, Germany declared war on France and marched into Belgium the next day. Germany refused Britain's demands to immediately withdraw and so Britain joined France in the war against Germany. At 35 years of age, with three young children, John was called back to his regiment which was stationed in Dublin. Having been in the band it was said he was appointed as the Company Bugler. The British arrived at Le Havre on 16 August and headed north east towards Belgium. After joining with French and Belgium forces, the armies met the advancing German army at Mons on Sunday 23 August 1914. By mid-afternoon the French and British commanders realised that they were in danger of being outflanked and ordered a retreat. The British First Corps headed south-west



John Willie Gothard  
(photo: Quinnell family album)

towards Le Cateau-Cambresis in northern France and during the entire journey they were being shot at by enemy guns. They reached Le Cateau-Cambresis on the evening of 25 August and settled down for the night in a field just west of the town. As an attempt to delay to incoming forces, they made a stand against the far superior enemy forces and the Yorkshireman, including John, occupied the right flank of the line just to the west of Le Cateau. Just after 6.00am the German artillery began firing on the British positions from east of Le Cateau. Despite the fact that the British army had very few machine guns, they managed to give the illusion of a huge artillery and the enemy was forced to retreat, however a huge number of casualties occurred on both sides. John's role during the battle was as a medical orderly and stretcher bearer and in that role he would have been exposed to both artillery and infantry gunfire. John and another man raced across the battlefield with a stretcher to save a wounded man, but John was shot before he could complete his goal. He was presumed dead and his remains were never found. It is possible that he is one of the many unnamed soldiers who lie in the International Cemetery at Le Cateau-Cambresis. John's wife, Martha, received John's medals including the 1914 Star, the British War Medal, the 1914-1919 Victory Medal and The Memorial Plaque, but she probably wished her husband was sent home instead.

**About the Author.** Molly Quinnell was in Year 8 when she delivered this address at St Patrick's College for Girls, Campbelltown, New South Wales, at a Remembrance Day ceremony, commemorating the Centenary of the Armistice, on Friday 9 November 1918. John Willie Gothard was her 2 x great grandfather. Molly is the granddaughter of members Peter and Sylvia Quinnell, who were in attendance.



Mollie Quinnell  
(photo: Quinnell family album)



---

# BBFHS INTEREST GROUPS

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

---

**L**ike many interests in our personal lives, 2020 became a challenge for BBFHS to be worked with, not overcome, with the arrival and continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Society Interest Groups were early victims with the closing of the Research Centre and eventually social distancing requirements meaning few people were able to be in the Centre at a given time.

Not to be daunted with the situation, the competency and ingenuity of the Interest Group coordinators came to the fore. Thanks to Jennie Fairs and Committee members, ideas were put forward to keep members connected which were quickly adopted by Interest Group co-ordinators and their assistants. Whilst all previous methods of the Society's social media network continued, ZOOM was added to the list!

Whilst adopting ZOOM has not appealed to all coordinators, and indeed all members, it has proved a boon in continuing this arm of the Society's education program. The whole membership can now attend a monthly meeting via ZOOM with a secondary chat session being held two weeks later. Some Interest Groups have adopted this option also – ZOOMing on their published calendar date, sometimes varying the time, and in the alternate months as well. Other coordinators opted to email out great and informative notes on their listed calendar date. Thank you to all coordinators who have worked out the best connecting method for themselves and their group and worked with its challenges and limitations.

The Interest Groups enjoyed by Society members are **Australian, English, Irish, Scottish, Writers, DNA** and the family history software groups: **Family Tree Maker, Legacy and Reunion for Mac**. As this *Endeavour* issue goes to print the Interest Group calendar for 2021 is still being formulated. Social distancing in the Research Centre will remain a major obstacle for face to face meetings. Therefore, the 2021 calendar will probably continue to be a mixture of ZOOM and/or email communications led by the coordinator.

Whether you are a long-standing or a new member of the Society who has not participated in Interest Groups previously, you may like to take part in one or more of the above groups in 2021. Home bound members appear to have taken to ZOOM with a relish. If you would like to be a (new) participant in any of the Groups, please feel free to contact me at 0402 814 837 or [barbbarnes@bigpond.com](mailto:barbbarnes@bigpond.com) and your details will be passed on to the Group co-ordinator. They in turn will contact you and welcome you to their Group.

As the Interest Group Co-ordinator for the Society I thank all our members who have participated in whatever way to the keep the Botany Bay Family History Society alive and functioning in 2020. I make a particular thank you to Stephanie Bailey and Jean Campbell for the weekly issue of the Society eNews. They gather notes and links pertaining to family history interests that form part of Interest Group information overall. May each of us accept we are living in strange times and acknowledge that group participation in a similar interest is one way to remain healthy and sane. I send Christmas and New Year greetings to all as we walk into the unknown challenges of 2021. **Please watch other Society media in the New Year for Interest Group dates and times in February and March.** COVID-19 restrictions at those times will determine how such meetings will take place.

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** ([jeanhcampbell47@gmail.com](mailto:jeanhcampbell47@gmail.com))

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))



## **RESEARCH CENTRE OPENING TIMES**

**Currently Monday and Friday – 10am to 1pm**  
**COVID-19 restrictions require bookings two days in advance at [botanybayfhs@yahoo.com.au](mailto:botanybayfhs@yahoo.com.au)**

Closed public holidays and after 11 Dec 2020, re-opens 18 Jan 2021

Phone 9523 8948 for computer and film reader bookings

**When researching, please ask for help if you need it – it is why the Centre assistants are there and they like to help.**



---

# THE DNA DISCOVERIES THAT SIDETRACKED ME

By Patricia **Jarvis** (Coordinator)

---

This is actually my fourth or fifth attempt at completing this message originally intended for the Australian Interest Group but events, both personal and public, have altered the topics I wanted to share. And now I am going to share my thoughts more widely.

My initial intention was to re-visit some favourite research websites to check out any new features, whether the sites were still available, had been moved or were just not worth visiting anymore. But then, something happened.

COVID-19 Lockdown + DNA = Forward Motion!

I'm not sure how many of us have done a DNA test. I understand that some have reservations concerning their privacy but, I think, typically of most Aussies, if you haven't anything to hide, why not? My husband, Ron, and I have had our results from Ancestry DNA for nearly three years. When you are trying to either break down a brick wall or prove a truly 'out there' scenario, there is really no other way to seek confirmation. Until recently, I have been underwhelmed with my DNA results but as with all family research, the more data that becomes available, the better your chances of finding that obscure link which will unlock a whole new chapter of your genealogy.

Of course there was satisfaction in proving the accuracy of most of my paper research into both my own **Fawcett/Gardner** family and Ron's **Jarvis/Arnott** family via DNA. Nothing too surprising had shown up and the shared DNA links were to people who were intimate family members, either people we knew personally or by a simple search of their available information to find the link which connected us, but as I said – no EUREKA moments. That was until earlier this year when Ancestry introduced Thrulines. Thrulines uses your DNA data, your family tree, the family trees of your DNA matches and the many Ancestry public member trees to suggest connections between you and your DNA matches and to suggest potential ancestors to add to your tree.

I should explain that my earlier research showed that my mother-in-law was of Aboriginal descent; a secret which I believe she carried to her grave. I had learned this many years ago thanks in part to Marilyn **Rowan**'s practice of connecting researchers who had purchased the same transcripts. The other researcher, a first cousin of Mum's, shared with me her vast collection of documents, hints on where to search for further details and sadly, memories of her hiding with younger siblings and cousins to avoid 'the welfare' scoops which



separated children and their parents. Before that I had been searching for Mum's great-grandparents, James **Sargent** (you wouldn't believe how many different ways you can spell Sargent) and Louisa **Caldwell**, both born in the Upper Hunter Valley c1830 – my only question then: convict or settler? The certificates showed that James and Louisa were both 'half-caste' and also described them as 'native born'. So, there I was with my nose pressed firmly at a brick wall when along came Thruelines! Although, not for James but Louisa. Ron's DNA linked him to descendants of Benjamin Singleton and according to the Ancestry profiles Louisa is one of his children. This revelation reminded me that on their children's birth records Louisa's maiden name is reported as either 'Single' or 'Singleton', the information was always in front of me! **Singleton**, son of a 2nd Fleet convict, was a prominent citizen and landowner, the Hunter Valley town named for him. Lesson learned: always study everything reported on a document!

Still with the DNA, Ron's ethnicity estimate confirmed my and another of his cousin's conclusions that they are descendants of a line of West Indian slaves. I've often stated that there is some hint of truth in a family legend, it might not be the actual truth, but when you evaluate it is usually helps you along.

Many years ago, (well, at least thirty) I met one of my husband's cousins, Margaret. You know the one, the daughter of a daughter, the one who always keeps up with aunts, uncles, cousins, etc. She remembered some interesting details which had been passed down to her through the old family myth grapevine. She recalled being told that her great great grandfather, George Brydon **Brandon** travelled to Melbourne from the West Indies with his wife, daughter and an old slave woman.

Subsequent research revealed that that 'slave woman' was in fact George's mother. She had been a slave, eventually being freed by legislation which ended slave ownership some years after the slave trade itself had been abolished in the British Empire. Fortunately for George and his family, his father had been a wealthy trader, from a long line of Jews who had settled in the West Indies during the 16th century where Judaism was not outlawed as it had been in Europe during the Spanish and Portuguese inquisition.

I guess you are wondering how these discoveries changed my original plan to highlight some local websites. Simple: the news, hourly, daily, the deteriorating situation in the USA, Black Lives Matter. I guess we were all watching with disbelief, the crises unfolding in the United States. I believe that the majority of BBFHS readers can remember watching the civil rights protests from the 1960s. Like those iconic scenes which are indelibly etched into our psyche: JFK Jr saluting his dead father's coffin; 'Napalm Girl' fleeing her Vietnam village in agony; the vision of the dogs being unleashed and the water cannons being used on the civil rights protesters. How could the events unfolding now in the USA have any impact on our own lives? I often caution new researchers of the following

truth – you never know what you will discover. Now I am sure that most of us celebrate each new discovery with pleasure and enthusiasm but when we analyse our findings, all too often we discover human sorrow and tragedy – infant mortality, parents dying and leaving orphans, desertion, even murder.

I realise that we in Australia have our own past to understand and address but apart from basic human decency, you have to wonder how things get so bad. Why did these events cause me such consternation? Well, George Brydon Brandon had three siblings, one migrated to Britain and two went to the USA. He was very fortunate, he was a man of means, after the death of his first wife he married the daughter of a prominent surgeon, they established a private girls' school in Melbourne and he was deeply mourned when he passed. Through him my husband and thus my daughters are descended from African slaves, one cannot help but muse how fortunate for his descendants that George chose to come to Victoria.

My 3xG grandmother, Ann **Maund** arrived in New South Wales in 1801 on the *Earl of Cornwallis* with her convict husband Joseph **Puckeridge**. They had been married in London in 1795 and records show that two children were baptised before Joseph was convicted. However, no records give any indication that these two children sailed for or lived in New South Wales. Sarah (b 1799) and James Puckeridge (b 1800) do not appear in any musters, victualling lists, census returns, church records or Colonial Secretary's correspondence. Over the years other descendants have assumed they must have died, but their names do not appear on any English burial registers of that time.

And along comes DNA! ThruLines have connected me to descendants of Sarah; some are here in Australia and others in USA. This shows that Sarah remained in England, married, had children, and her grandchildren migrated to Australia and America. So, on the one hand we have the tragedy of Joseph and Ann leaving their young children in England, perhaps with the intention to send for them when their lives were more settled and conditions in the colony were favourable. Whatever the intention, Joseph died in 1818 and was buried in the Sydney Burial Grounds, Sarah married in London a year later and Ann re-married another convict, John Snead in 1820.

Then, something else happened! A flood!

You know how it is at the moment? Wake up with a headache, scratchy throat and runny nose: you're going to take yourself to a COVID testing site. It wasn't until I was backing my car out of the garage that I noticed the water cascading from a pipe on my garage ceiling – cascading over the bookcase which contains a lot of my research! We called on family to help us move things out of the way of the water, but as it was a Sunday had to wait for a day before a plumber could come to fix it. That was when we learned it was waste water! AARGHH!

Two days and a negative result later, we were back in the garage along with a forensic cleaner sorting through the contaminated things. None of my primary documents were affected – they are all safe and sound upstairs in my walk in robe. What I was forced to dispose of was the ancillary things. I was consoling myself while I placed binders and documents into the bin that most of what I was losing is now easily accessible. Many documents which had been acquired and paid for after visiting State Records are now easily found on either *Ancestry* (to which I subscribe) or *Trove*. As I said to a neighbour, if I found it once I can find it again. I was also forced to throw out a Christmas tree (not my new one thank goodness), old books and Ron’s motor bike helmets. Ron wouldn’t fit in the bin!

But in keeping with 2020, Ron had been sloshing around in the garage while barefoot; naturally he cut himself, so he has an infection in his foot! 2020, don’t you just hate it?

Consequently, I haven’t really had the time to evaluate many websites for your research, but these are a few that I had tinkered with before my energy and interest was diverted:

- <https://www.cyndislist.com/australia/> an oldie, but a goodie, some links seem to be broken but still a good go-to site for beginners or advanced researchers.
- <https://www.carolbaxter.com/index.html> is Carol Baxter’s website. Sure she is promoting her books but she is always good value when she is a guest speaker at our meetings. Follow the links to her older newsletters, they are always good reading and contain lots of good advice.
- <http://www.judywebster.com.au/> for all things Queensland!
- <https://archives.sa.gov.au/> has digitised South Australian immigration records from 1845-1940 but you have to search by ship and view the passenger lists. Still, I might find one of my cabbage patch kids in here if I look closely!

Please let me know if you have any more interesting sites for us to look at [patricia\\_jarvis@optusnet.com.au](mailto:patricia_jarvis@optusnet.com.au).



**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**

---

# YOUR BIG OPPORTUNITY! FAMILYSEARCH'S ON-LINE ROOTSTECH CONFERENCE

by John Levy (Editor)

---



**W**ith COVID-19 stopping us from enjoying our State conference at Newcastle this year, FamilySearch is giving us a wonderful replacement opportunity to be involved with their major annual conference – RootsTech Connect 2021 – the world’s largest family history conference, which will be **on-line** and **free!**

This conference is known for incredible keynote speakers, the latest industry news, and inspiring classes to help you discover your family story. There are opportunities to interact with presenters, exhibitors and other attendees via live chat and question and answer sessions. Join them on **February 25–27, 2021**, as they uncover more about the story of you. Their webinars are viewable as they happen and are also recorded so that you can view them later at your convenience – big help with the difference in time zones.

For free registration and to receive ongoing email updates to keep you informed, scroll down at their website at <https://tinyurl.com/y4v4jnda>.

Some of our lucky members have been able to attend a RootsTech Conference in person and they all agree that it was a wonderful experience. I hope that all Botany Bay members will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.



---

# WHERE THE IRISH SETTLED IN AUSTRALIA

by Sylvia Quinnell (Member)

---

Since 1791, Irish people have immigrated to Australia. Emigration initiatives such as the Earl Grey scheme for orphan girls in the 1840s, and events such as the Irish Famine in 1847, saw different waves of Irish people arrive on Australian shores in the 1800s. Whether by choice or by situation, these pioneers went on to create a new life for themselves and their families, contributing to the Australia of today.



## New South Wales

The first Irish convict ship to New South Wales was the *Queen* which arrived at Sydney Cove on 26 September 1791. It sailed from Cork in April 1791 and was the first convict ship direct from Ireland. All convicts on board were Irish.

Once in New South Wales, some were involved in the 1804 Castle Hill convict rebellion. Other than convicts, most of the labourers who voluntarily immigrated to Australia in the 19th century were drawn from the poorest sector of British and Irish society. After 1831, the Australian colonies employed a system of government assistance in which all or most immigration costs were paid for chosen immigrants. The colonial authorities used these schemes to exercise some control over immigration. Most Irish immigrants to Australia were free settlers and the 1891 census of Australia shows 228,000 people were Irish born. A decade later this number had dropped to 184,035.

The Irish settler in Australia, both voluntary and forced, was crucial to the survival and prosperity of the early colonies demographically and economically. 300,000 Irish free settlers arrived between 1840 and 1914 and by 1871 the Irish were a quarter of all overseas born.

The year 1810 saw the start of the southward expansion of the Colony of New South Wales. This was under the governorship of Lachlan **Macquarie** (1810-1821) who promoted exploration. The Blue Mountains were crossed (1813) and the 'new' country around and beyond Goulburn was examined by an exploration party. This land proved to hold great prospects for grazing. To the Deputy Surveyor General for NSW, James **Meehan**, an ex-convict and veteran of the 1798 Rebellion in Ireland we can attribute the Irish influx to the southern district of NSW and their future success. He knew what land was promising and he knew when it would become available.

Few people know the story behind the modern city of Canberra and its environs. Did you know that Duntroon was the home of the wealthy **Campbell** family and had become a Scottish village and that Yarralumla was an Irish village? The story behind the modern capital city of Canberra is but one special case of many which could be told about the early days of settlement and the Irish origins of so many rural places of southern New South Wales. An ex-convict named Ned **Ryan** built up a grazing empire to the north west of Canberra between Binalong and Cootamundra. He promoted the emigration of his fellow townsmen from Tipperary. A glance through district cemeteries shows a significant proportion of the early immigrants to southern NSW have their origins in Counties Tipperary, Cork, Clare and Kilkenny.

My husband Peter and I have visited the cemetery at Gunning which contains graves of early Irish settlers. Unfortunately, a flood many years ago in the lower section partly destroyed the headstones and they were unreadable. We did have great success at Murringo Cemetery where we found many of Peter's **McInerney** ancestors from County Clare, including his great, great, Grandmother Bridget McInerney nee **O'Dea**, his great grandfather, James McInerney from Ballycally, County Clare also great grandmother Ellen McInerney nee **O'Keefe** from Limerick. There were many more by the name of O'Dea also other Irish names, all from the County Clare region in Ireland. One good thing about these old graves is the great information on the headstones. Many Irish settled in the areas of Gundaroo/Queanbeyan, Young, Boorowa, Koorawatha, Goulburn, Yass, Tumut, Cootamundra and Wagga Wagga.

In 1823 a Captain **Currie** and party reached the Maneroo (open treeless grazing country), later called Monaro. In 1824 the most famous explorer of all, the Irish Hamilton Hume led a party overland hundreds of miles to Port Phillip (Melbourne), opening up the famous Riverina district bounded by the Murray and

Lachlan Rivers In 1829 Captain **Sturt** followed the rivers west, which extended the settlement into the plains or level country. Thus, the stage was set for an unexpected rise to prosperity and freedom for many Irish people. However, the 1829 Census for the Goulburn Plains which embraced the modern Canberra district showed that there were 907 convicts (859 male, 48 female) out of a total district population of 1,141. Of these residents, approximately 450 were Catholics, which at the time would certainly have meant they were Irish, and none are listed as landholders. As the modern-day citizens of Canberra hurry along their busy highways, one might wonder whether anyone gives a passing thought to those pioneers who walked those same paths when it was a harsh unpromising land.

The New South Wales Government encouraged immigrants especially men to go to country centres such as Maitland, Newcastle, & Bathurst from where they would be hired by landholders.

Going north of Sydney we find Irish Immigrants in places like Morpeth in the Hunter Region and its surrounds. Again, Peter's relatives the O'Keeffes migrated from Askeaton, Limerick to New South Wales in 1876. They settled in Morpeth, travelling there by steamer from Sydney! Looking at numerous graves in the Morpeth Cemetery there seems to be a lot of O'Keeffes and many Irish Settlers in Maitland and the surrounding areas.

NSW was also responsible for the settlement of Irish Immigrants to the north and instigated immigration to Morton Bay, in Southern Queensland in 1848 with the arrival of the *Artemisia*. Sailing ships carried the majority of travellers.

## **Queensland**

With the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 and the signing of a mail contract, the Queensland Government, in conjunction with the British Steam Navigation Company inaugurated a regular steamer service. Instead of ships travelling the Great Circle Route via the south of the continent and then moving north along the east coast; the new route was via the Mediterranean and then the Canal to approach Queensland from the north. This meant that several ports along the eastern coast established reception depots for immigrants with the result that Queensland was the only colony to populate its territory from towns stretching along the entire eastern seaboard. Ports of arrival north included Thursday Island, Cooktown, Cairns, Townsville, Bowen, Mackay, Rockhampton, Bundaberg, Maryborough and Morton. All other colonies were restricted to ports near their capital cities.

## **Victoria**

A strong Irish network of Bounty Immigrants existed in Melbourne before 1850s. Then the Irish migrated in vast numbers, being the largest immigrant group

after the English from 1854 to World War 1. By 1871 when the community numbered 10,468 more than one in four Victorians had been born in Ireland. The Irish famine of the 1840s caused large numbers of people to migrate due to poverty and difficult living conditions. They worked in Victoria as whalers, fishermen and farm hands and in townships as labourers and factory workers. The Irish settled most densely in the inner city and for a time some of the poorer lanes of the central city such as Bourke, Gipps and Lonsdale wards sustained a conspicuous Irish population.

The 1850s remain the most significant decade for Irish Immigration to Victoria. In Melbourne for most of the 19th century, Hotham – northwest of Melbourne was the most Irish locality because of its proximity to the unskilled labour markets of the railway yards, warehouses and wharves. Between 1850 and 1890 most Irish arrivals to Victoria came as assisted immigrants, escaping cultural repression in Ireland and in contrast to many other groups they came in equal numbers of men and women. Major waves of Irish migration commenced during the reconstruction of Irish Agriculture after the 1840 famine and during the gold rushes of the 1850s after the discovery of gold in Victoria. Many sought their fortunes on the goldfields around the Ballarat, Bendigo and the Blackwood areas. My husband's great grandmother, Jane **Roach** from Kings County, (Offaly) daughter of Michaelis Roach and Joanne **Malone** married Italian Vincenzo **Cocciardi** (jumped ship) in Victoria on 27 December 1866. They settled on the goldfields in Blackwood, raised eight children and are buried in the Blackwood Cemetery. All around the Victorian Goldfields in places such as Bendigo and Ballarat one will find many graves of Irish migrants.

## **South Australia**

In 1836 the *John Pirie* and the *Duke of York* set sail for South Australia to establish the first settlers on Kangaroo Island. In 1884, 621 young Irish Orphan Girls were sent out to the young Colony of South Australia.

Kapunda is a town on the Light River, near the Barossa Valley, in South Australia. It is the oldest copper mining town in Australia. The miners were Cornish and the labourers and smelters were Irish. Many of the Catholic Irish settled at St Johns or Johnstown about 5 km to the south-west of the mine.

## **Tasmania**

The Irish helped to open areas such as Franklin and Cygnet in the Huon region and Deloraine and Latrobe in the north west. An Irishman James **Crotty** was influential in establishing the Mount Lyell Mining Company on the west coast.

Another story of Peter's is that of his 2 x great grandfather, Thomas **Sullivan** from Tralee. He joined the British Army in 1805 and served in the Peninsular Wars



and other conflicts. On his return to Ireland was stationed at the barracks in Athlone, County Roscommon there he married Maria **Coghill**. In 1823 his regiment was sent all the way to Tasmania! Thus Thomas and Maria who by now had 3 children, arrived in Tasmania where they remained until 1829. In a book *The Sullivan Soldiers* by Kevin **Davies** (my husband's second cousin) it states that Thomas and his family remained at Port Dalrymple (Launceston) for a number of years. In the Muster Rolls, we find that Thomas spent time serving in an area referred to as Clyde. The Clyde River is in central Tasmania. From the Clyde area he moved to Macquarie Harbour arriving there about 1825. The Macquarie Harbour Penal Station is on the west coast of Tasmania. The only access to Macquarie Harbour is a narrow channel called Hells Gate. The conditions were extremely hard for convicts, also very hard for the soldiers. Thomas served in many areas of Van Diemen's Land, but it is unlikely that his family were with him the whole time. We know that they were in Hobart Town in November 1826 as it is here that son Thomas was christened.

In 1829 Thomas Sullivan's regiment had to return to Ireland to be discharged. However, in 1848 Thomas and his family finally left Ireland and returned to Tasmania as free settlers, later settling in Victoria. Son, Thomas married Rosanne **Roach** from Ireland in Victoria on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1856. Rosanne (Rose Anne) was the elder sister of Jane Roach and they later settled in Deniliquin NSW, Thomas trading as a saddler.

## **Western Australia**

In the year 1826 a group of convicts, some of whom were Irish was sent to King Georges Sound (Albany) to help establish a settlement there. At that time the western third of Australia was unclaimed land known as New Holland.

Perth was later founded as the Swan River Colony in 1829 by British and Irish Settlers.

Irish immigrants who uprooted their lives due to hunger caused by the Great Famine settled in the South West between 1845 and 1852. One such immigrant who travelled to Western Australia during the Famine was a Bridget **Mulqueen** who settled in Bunbury. Another lady was Elizabeth **Carbury** who ventured to Dardanup.

Western Australia did not receive significant flows of immigrants from Ireland or elsewhere in the British Empire until the early 20th century.



Find us on  
**Facebook**

Follow BBFHS on Facebook at <http://tinyurl.com/nv2xclx>

---

# BBFHS RESEARCH CENTRE AND LIBRARY

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

---

**R**esearch Centre volunteers have been kept up to date regarding COVID-19 regulations and our Research Centre. We decided to re-open on Friday 9 October and on the Mondays and Fridays thereafter from 10am to 1pm. Ten volunteers offered to be rostered on duty.

Because of social distancing, only seven people are permitted in the Centre at one time. Members and guests are asked to book in through [botanybayfhs@yahoo.com.au](mailto:botanybayfhs@yahoo.com.au), as we would find it difficult to turn anyone away. One day we had seven people present and we stayed closed on two days because no one had booked in.

The Research Centre will be open in November, Monday and Friday, same conditions as already mentioned. Thank you to the members who have volunteered to be on duty during these months, giving their time and expertise. They clean and disinfect the room before leaving! It's understandable that many people cannot volunteer because of medical and other situations. We wish them all the best – stay safe and well.

The Centre will be open for three days in December; Friday 4th, Monday 7th and Friday 11th. We then close for the Christmas and the New Year period. We usually open about half way through January. At present, we are planning on opening **Monday 18 January 2021**. In the current circumstances it is impossible to foresee what lies ahead, so please keep reading your BBFHS eNEWS!

Some actions at the Centre:

- Because all the computers, printers, etc. had the electricity turned off in March, all the computer software had to be updated. There is a new router/switchbox, which has a fan that you can hear.
- The Internet is working and all subscription sites are up and running. We are investigating switching over to NBN. Ancestry needed a new login and password, as there had been a system update in USA.
- The Administration computer is the oldest (2011) and has had problems updating Windows, etc. A new computer is being built, with two hard drives to back up all the information. It is the 'workhorse' in the Centre and is needed for the computers which are all connected to the printers via the Admin computer.



---

# HELP WANTED – HARWOOD SCHOOL, PARRAMATTA ROAD, BURWOOD

by Lyn **Brunker** (Member)

---

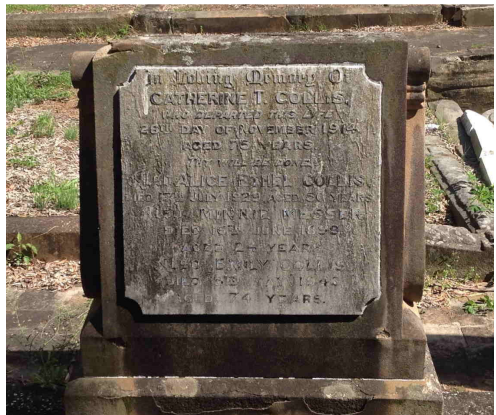
**W**hile researching information about my grandmother I found that she had been a student at Harwood School from 1924 to 25. I am hoping to connect with anyone who may have a photo of Harwood School, or its founder Emily Collis.

In 1883, Emily Collis was appointed on probation as a Pupil Teacher at Petersham School, aged 17 years. From there Emily moved on to Burwood School in 1886, leaving in 1888 as she was needed at home.

Some time later Emily opened Harwood School within the Collis family home, naming the school after her mother, Catherine Tupper **Harwood**.

I have found the school was listed in the directory in 1899, with the last mention in 1926. The location is confirmed by Sands' Directory as somewhere on Parramatta Rd between Ann's Lane (today Royce Avenue) and Acton or Alfred Street.

Emily Collis was born in Burwood, 16 July 1867 and died 9 May 1942 in Bankstown, aged 74. She was buried at the St Thomas Anglican church cemetery, Enfield New South Wales.



Collis gravestone (photo: Frank Fitzgerald, Australian Cemetery Index ©)

The inscription on the gravestone reads:

In Loving Memory Of CATHERINE T COLLIS, who departed this life  
26th day of November 1914 aged 75 years. Thy Will Be Done.

Also ALICE ETHEL COLLIS, died 17th July 1929 aged 50 years

Also MINNIE MESSER, died 16th June 1899 aged 24 years

Also EMILY COLLIS, died 9th May 1943 aged 74 years

(Note: Emily's year of death and age are incorrect on the gravestone)

If you can help, I can be contacted at [lynlibran@hotmail.com](mailto:lynlibran@hotmail.com).

---

# HOW THE SPANISH FLU AFFECTED THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY

by Leonie Bell (Member)

---

Historians have been drawing parallels between the COVID-19 pandemic and the Spanish Influenza outbreak of 1919, so it is interesting to look at the similarities between the situation today at theatres such as Sydney Opera House and The Capitol Theatre, and what befell theatres and theatrical companies back then. When it was established that the flu had spread to Sydney, the state borders were closed and on 28 January 1919, 'theatres, picture shows and places of indoor public resort' were closed until further notice.

Just as has occurred today, there was consternation in the theatrical world as to the consequences for performance, contracts and loss of income. Prominent theatre producers J.C. Williamsons lost £22,500 as a result of cancelled performances, along with numerous other companies, theatres and performers who were suddenly unable to travel to their next show or who simply had performances cancelled.

Five weeks later the theatres were allowed to re-open and venues attempted to retain public confidence by undertaking a variety of sanitary treatments of dubious efficacy. In an attempt to purify the air, The Strand installed a ventilation system to pump 3,000 cubic feet of air per minute into the theatre. Six times per day during the intervals the windows and doors were opened for fresh air and the theatre was sprayed with phenol antiseptic. At Paramount Theatres, staff sprayed scented disinfectant between the rows every 20 minutes, (a minor distraction to the performance perhaps?) while at the Lyric, 'lady attendants 'sprayed the audience with disinfectant on entering and exiting the theatre - a precaution somewhat more extreme than asking people to use hand sanitiser as we do today. We hope Sydney theatres don't add that to their COVID-safe plans when they resume performances!

By April there was a second wave of infection and again theatres were closed. Open-air meetings were prohibited, indoor gatherings ceased and masks were compulsory in shops, warehouses, and university classes. Theatres continued to be affected for most of the year, sometimes compulsorily closed and at other times voluntarily shut down by the owners, finally reopening for good in late September.

During the closures, some theatres chose to refurbish with Her Majesty's doing some redecorating and remodelling and installing a new sprinkler system (the Opera House is currently refurbishing the Concert Hall and undertaking multiple maintenance programs), while The Strand theatre created an artificial

garden on their stage, complete with white stone balustrades, urns of potted flowers and a green lawn with *'dainty garden walks'*. (an idea for the Capitol Theatre perhaps?)

Interestingly, churches were often exempt from health orders provided certain conditions were met. Typical of the state edicts is the Queensland Government's reaction in May, when it was declared by authorities that,

*'Every church, Sunday school, school or college, place of public amusement or resort, theatre, hall, dancing room, gymnasium, or other place or premises where persons regularly or occasionally congregate or assemble to worship, education, meeting amusement, entertainment, dancing, physical culture, or athletics, shall be closed to the public.*

*'Provided that this order shall not apply to churches under and subject to the following conditions*

- 1. That services are limited to three-quarters of an hour.*
- 2. That no overcrowding is permitted, and that every alternate seat only is allowed to be occupied.*
- 3. That no person suffering from a cold or coughing or any other sickness be allowed to, attend service.*
- 4. That regular disinfection is carried out.*

*'Provided further that this order shall not apply to any church service, Sunday school, school or college, .meeting, amusement, performance, entertainment, or any congregation or assemblage of persons in the open air or in any building without a roof, but no person suffering from a cold or coughing or any other sickness, shall be allowed to be present.'*<sup>1</sup>

And just as today, that unless they were bona fide Queensland residents,

*'No person shall enter the state of Queensland by land or sea.'*

Meanwhile, 'experts' from the United States, where theatres, churches and public buildings remained open, promoted ridiculous measures designed to curb the spread of disease,

*'Take more sleep than your usual amount, if possible a nap during the day also.....Drink as much water as possible, beginning with a large glass of hot water with a pinch of salt on arising in the morning... Keep the bowels [sic] in the best condition by taking a gentle laxative occasionally... Take every precaution against the disease, then forget it as much as possible. That is, avoid the continual discussion of it. Especially at meal hours prohibit the family talking of it.'*<sup>2</sup>

Vociferous debate was ongoing about the best way to tackle the problem. The arguments about mask wearing could have been written this week.

*'The wearing of masks in public causes but slight inconvenience, and the people as a whole would welcome it, if it were in some way to help exterminate this scourge. The confidence alone it gives people would be a great factor, but the individual will not consent to make himself conspicuous unless all do so, and this is only possible by compulsion. Either the wearing of masks was never necessary, and had no worth, or now is certainly the time to bring in once again this, to many minds, most efficacious measure.*

*Are our authorities incensed because Victoria has such a heavy death list, and desires that New South Wales shall go one better? If masks are not effective why were they made compulsory in the first place, and the public fined for not wearing them?'*<sup>3</sup>

Ah, it all sounds so familiar doesn't it?

#### REFERENCES

1. Advertising (1919, June 21). *The Telegraph (Brisbane, Qld. : 1872 - 1947)*, p. 5 (Second edition), <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article176081807>
2. THE "FLU" IN AMERICA. (1919, May 30). *The Riverine Grazier (Hay, NSW : 1873 - 1954)*, p. 4, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article141025210>
3. PRECAUTIONS. (1919, March 25). *The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954)*, p. 7, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article15831361>



**MARTINS GREEN THUMB**  
WE DELIVER WHAT YOU NEED  
**MARTIN PASSFIELD**  
GARDEN MAINTENANCE/MOWING/LANDSCAPING  
4/65 KAREENA ROAD  
MIRANDA 2228  
0438406228  
mpassfield5@optusnet.com.au  
Pensioner discount available

PLEASE MENTION *THE ENDEAVOUR* WHEN CONTACTING

---

# ANN ROBERTS, NORTHAMPTON, 1815

by Narelle Hitchcock (member)

---

**A**nn Roberts was born in Kent in about 1795. She was listed at the Kent assizes in 1814 as a servant aged 20. Convicted of larceny, she was sentenced to transportation for 14 years and arrived in the *Northampton* in January 1815 and was assigned to W. Cox Esq.



In 1815 at Richmond, New South Wales, Ann married John **Ablett** who had arrived as a convict on the *Earl Spencer*. During the following 13 years they had four daughters and two sons.

They were doing very well and by 1828 were living at Evan near Castlereagh and had land at Penrith. There were 80 acres cleared, 5 acres under cultivation, 4 horses and 12 head of cattle. They also had three labourers working on the farm.

In 1831 disaster befell the family. John, aged 42 years, died and then eight months after his death, his youngest daughter Emma was born. Ann's memorial letter to the Archdeacon of New South Wales stated that she was *pregnant with her seventh child and her property of household furniture and other articles will not realize sufficient by 100 pounds toward the liquidation of her late husband's debts, and that she herself will be compelled to go into service ... and afford her relief by admitting the two boys aged 8 and 6 into the Orphan School'* Ann's older girls aged 13, 12 and 11 were sent *out into service*.

Nine months later, Ann aged 35 years died leaving six children aged 14 years to 17 months. After much correspondence, young Emma was admitted to the Orphan school until *when the girl is of age to be placed out of school as an apprentice or servant*.

Ann's children were able to stay in contact with one another and were named as witnesses on each other's marriage certificates.

**Roses from the Heart:** a collection of bonnets made by BBFHS members in memory of the female convicts, including their ancestors, transported to Australia, and their unsung contribution to our nation..





---

# NORTHUMBERLAND – A SHORT HISTORY AND SOME FAMILY HISTORY RESOURCES

by Irene **Blackburn** (via Beryl **Bauld**)

---

**I**n the 7th century, the Kingdom of Northumbria stretched from the river Humber as far as Edinburgh. Northumbria was famed for its religious scholars including St Benedict Biscop and his famous pupil the Venerable Bede at Jarrow and Monkwearmouth, St Aidan, St Dunstan, St Cuthbert on Holy Island where the beautifully illuminated Lindisfarne Gospels were produced and which was the site of the first Viking raid on England leading to St Cuthbert's posthumous travels all over Northumberland and Durham before the founding of Durham Cathedral, where his remains were finally laid to rest.

By 1066 when the Normans invaded England, Northumbria was strong enough to resist the invader which is why Northumberland and Durham are not included in the Domesday Book of 1086. However, the Normans made their way north and built many castles including York, Durham and a place that became known as 'New Castle', that is Newcastle upon Tyne. Norman earls were appointed in Northumberland, and Durham was under the control of the Prince Bishops. One Bishop ordered the creation of the Boldon Book in 1183 which covered the Bishopric of Durham in the style of the Domesday Book of the previous century.

The ill-fated 1715 Jacobite Rebellion was plotted in Northumberland and afterwards many Catholic families practised their religion secretly but their names crop up in Dissenter Births which are often in the back of Baptism registers. The 1767 Return of Papists lists all adults in each parish known or believed to be Papists. Roman Catholic records were kept secretly for many years but they are patchy and not always easy to understand, partly because they are in Latin and also because after the French Revolution a French priest who sought sanctuary at Haggerston had difficulty transcribing names, some of the strangest are those of Irish soldiers from the garrison at Berwick who married local girls.

Bishops Transcripts for some parishes date from 1639, unindexed digital images have been available on FamilySearch for several years, and now Findmypast is indexing them and attaching the images. Marriage Bonds and Allegations, Wills before 1858 and other records for the entire diocese (excluding Hexham which belonged to the archbishopric of York) are also available on FamilySearch, some have been indexed but many are images that you have to browse through.



## Image-Only Historical Records



Can't find records for your ancestors when you search? Try our collections that haven't been indexed yet. Select a collection to start browsing the images.

---

<b>Birth, Marriage, and Death: Showing Top 5 - <a href="#">Show All 11</a></b>	Images	Last Updated
<a href="#">England, Durham Diocese Bishop's Transcripts, 1639-1919</a>	106,352	Jun 13, 2014
<a href="#">England, Durham Diocese, Calendar of Marriage Bonds &amp; Allegations, 1594-1815</a>	6,443	Mar 21, 2014
<a href="#">England, Essex, Bishop's Transcripts, 1779-1892</a>	40,634	Apr 28, 2017
<a href="#">England, Kent, Bishop's Transcripts, 1560-1911</a>	58,647	Sep 26, 2012
<a href="#">England, Middlesex, Westminster, Parish Registers, 1538-1912</a>	51,512	Oct 14, 2019

---

<b>Probate and Court: Showing Top 5 - <a href="#">Show All 15</a></b>	Images	Last Updated
<a href="#">England, Durham Diocese, Allertonshire Peculiar Administration Bonds and Inventories, 1670-1808</a>	921	Sep 26, 2014
<a href="#">England, Durham Diocese, Allertonshire Peculiar Stray Probate Bonds, 1732-1768</a>	66	Sep 26, 2014
<a href="#">England, Durham Diocese, Original Will Strays, 1743-1900</a>	6	Sep 26, 2014
<a href="#">England, Durham Diocese, Probate Inventories, 1676-1846</a>	193	Sep 26, 2014
<a href="#">England, Durham Diocese, Registered Wills 1526-1858</a>	36,903	Sep 26, 2014

---

Shute **Barrington** was Bishop of Durham from 1791; he liked details so baptisms from his period include date of birth, date of baptism, name, occupation and birth place of the father and maiden name and place of birth of the mother. Sometimes the mother's father is named. Burials gave date of death and burial and information about the family of the deceased and sometimes cause of death. Marriages have only the names of the couple unless of course it was by licence in which case the marriage bond and allegation contains more information. The new printed parish registers which began in 1813 ended the extra information.

Boundary changes continued to confuse matters. Until 1844 parts of what is now Northumberland were part of county Durham and known as North Durham, this included Islandshire (Holy Island, Ancoft and other adjacent parishes) and Bedlingtonshire (the town of Bedlington and surrounding villages). In 1844 they became part of Durham so on the 1841 census you may find people saying they were born in this county, but in 1851 they were confused as to whether they were born in Northumberland or Durham, several enumerators wrote down the county of

birth as Durham for people who had lived in what was then Northumberland, all of their lives.

The next major change was in 1974 when a new county Tyne & Wear was created, made up of south Northumberland and north Durham. Prior to that it was quite simple, north of the Tyne was Northumberland and south of the Tyne was Durham. A new record office was created and parish records were moved from one archive to another in some cases, in other cases they were just sent microfilm copies. However, it does mean that any records deposited since 1974 may be in Tyne & Wear archives and no copy given to Northumberland or Durham archives, so if you plan to visit check who has what. Parts of south Durham along with parts of North Yorkshire became part of a new county called Cleveland so some of those records may not be where you expect them to be.

The GENUKI pages ([www.genuki.org.uk](http://www.genuki.org.uk)) for Northumberland and Durham are excellent and have lots of links to related articles. Local newspapers are an excellent source of entertainment as well as research and most of them can be found on <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk>

The main industries in Northumberland and Durham were agriculture shipbuilding and mining: mostly coal but some lead mining east of the A68. Durham Mining Museum has an excellent website at [www.dmm.org.uk](http://www.dmm.org.uk) which includes information about mines, jobs and names of those who were killed or injured in the mines.

## In Memoriam

**Please note:** not all of the sufferers listed here are shown in the other tables - the disaster index only shows those accidents where 5 or more lives were lost. This page is a summary of the information we have in our database - check the listing for the specific colliery (click on the colliery link) - this may provide further information e.g. burial place, family information, cause of death.

### Quick Links

Link to web page on the accident



Link to Mines Inspectors Report



Link to Memorial page



Link to Individual page



see bottom of page for details



**Name**

**Age**

**Date**

**Where (Colliery or Mine etc.)**

**Cnty**

			Dace, Septimus	16	26 May 1873	<a href="#">South Brancepeth</a>	DUR
			Dack, Walter	19	11 Feb 1892	<a href="#">Boldon</a>	DUR
			Daddy, Nicholas	16	22 Nov 1880	<a href="#">Littleburn</a>	DUR
			Dagg, William	54	21 Jul 1902	<a href="#">Houghton</a>	DUR
			Daglish, -		02 Jun 1863	<a href="#">Walbottle</a>	NBL
			Daglish, George	34	26 Oct 1912	<a href="#">Browney</a>	DUR
			Daglish, James	23	06 Sep 1849	<a href="#">Percy Main</a>	NBL
			Daglish, James	13	05 Apr 1876	<a href="#">Usworth</a>	DUR

Another excellent website is [www.durhamrecordsonline.com](http://www.durhamrecordsonline.com) which includes Church of England, non-conformist, Catholic and civic cemetery records. There is an excellent collection of interesting articles in their library at <https://durhamrecordsonline.com/library>. They are very careful with their research and compare Parish registers and Bishops Transcripts and sometimes census or civil registration to check names. Parts of Northumberland are also included.

Because Northumberland is so close to the Scottish border, cross border marriages were fairly common so please remember to check Scottish records too.

There are also local family history societies: Northumberland & Durham Family History Society at [www.ndfhs.org.uk](http://www.ndfhs.org.uk) and Cleveland (including south Durham) at [www.clevelandfhs.org.uk](http://www.clevelandfhs.org.uk).

If you are fortunate enough to have someone marry in South Tyneside (South Shields and surrounding area) use the local registrar's website as it gives you the exact date of marriage and you can look up where it took place by clicking on the Marriage Index at <https://tinyurl.com/yyxtqagm>.

**Searching for cuthbertson on the marriages register in 1850 (+/-2) found 4 results**

Date	Name	Spouse	Register	Entry
06/05/1848	CUTHBERTSON, Elizabeth	BOWLT, William	C F5	299
13/03/1851	CUTHBERTSON, Anne	WILSON, Richard	C F6	261
01/01/1852	CUTHBERTSON, Mary	PRESTON, James	C F6	406
22/04/1852	CUTHBERTSON, Robert	CARR, Sophia	C G1	216



## COPY DEADLINE

Copy for the March 2021 journal should be submitted as soon as you have it available but the deadline is **Wednesday 3 February** – 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.

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’.

## AUSTRALIA

- George Augustus Robinson’s Journey into South-Eastern Australia, 1844 with George Henry Haydon’s Narrative of Part of the Same Journey [A.HIS.7.1LC]
- The Australian Journal of William Strutt 1862. Part 1 [A.HIS.1.52aLC], Part II [A.HIS.1.52bLC]
- Robert Louis Stevenson – His Association with Australia [A.HIS.1.53LC]
- Some Proposals for Establishing Colonies in the South Seas [A.HIS.1.51LC]
- A Chronology of Momentous Events in Australian History 1788-1841 [A.HIS.1.49LC]
- Some Fictitious Voyages to Australia [A.HIS.1.50LC]
- Odes of Michael Massey Robinson – First Poet Laureate of Australia (1754-1824) [A.HIS.1.55LC]
- Murray’s Guide to the Gold Diggings – Where They Are, How to Get to Them, With Letters from Settlers and Diggers Telling How to Work Them [A.HIS.10.7LC]
- Australian Gold Fields – Their Discovery, Progress and Prospects [A.HIS.10.5LC]
- A Short Account of the Late Discoveries of Gold in Australia with Notes of a Visit to the Gold District [A.HIS.10.8LC]

## NEW SOUTH WALES

- Memoirs of George Suttor F.L.S. Banksian Collector (1774-1859) [AN.HIS.1.25LC]
- Some Private Correspondence of the Rev. Samuel Marsden and Family (1794-1824) [AN.HIS.1.22LC]
- Alexander Dalrymple’s “A Serious Admonition to the Public on the Intended Thief Colony at Botany Bay” [AN.HIS.1.24LC]
- Fresh Light on Bligh – Some Unpublished Correspondence [AN.HIS.1.26LC]
- Some Letters of Rev. Richard Johnson, B.A., First Chaplain of New South Wales Part 1 [AN.HIS.1.23aLC], Part II [AN.HIS.1.23bLC]
- A New Song Made in New South Wales on the Rebellion [AN.HIS.1.27LC]
- Fourteen Journeys over the Blue Mountains 1813-1841 Part 1 [AN.HIS.7.3aLC], Part II [AN.HIS.7.3bLC] and Part III [AN.HIS.7.3cLC]

- Account of the Duel between William Bland and Robert Case – Report of the Trial [AN.HIS.37.8LC]

## QUEENSLAND

- The Discovery and Exploration of Moreton Bay and the Brisbane River (1799-1823) Part I [AQ.HIS.7.1aLC], Part II [AQ.HIS.7.1.bLC]

## TASMANIA

- Recollections of Life in Van Diemen's Land by William Gate Part I [AT.HIS.1.5aLC], Part II [AT.HIS.1.5bLC] and Part III [AT.HIS.1.5cLC]
- The Van Diemen's Land Warriors with an Essay on Matthew Brady [AT.HIS.37.1LC]
- Captain William Bligh's Discoveries and Observations in Van Diemen's Land [AT.HIS.7.2LC]
- Observations on the Coasts of Van Diemen's Land, on Bass Strait and its Islands and on Part of the Coast of New South Wales [AT.HIS.7.1LC]
- Michael Howe – The Last and Worst of the Bushrangers of Van Diemen's Land [AT.HIS.37.2LC]
- Narrative of the Overland Journey of Sir John and Lady Franklin and Party from Hobart Town to Macquarie Harbour 1842 [AT.HIS.1.7LC]
- The History of Van Diemen's Land from the Year 1824 to 1835 inclusive during the Administration of Lieutenant-Governor George Arthur Part I [AT.HIS.1.6aLC], Part II [AT.HIS.1.6bLC], Part III [AT.HIS.1.6cLC]
- Some Private Correspondence of Sir John and Lady Jane Franklin (Tasmania 1837-1845) Part I [AT.HIS.1.4aLC], Part II [AT.HIS.1.4bLC]

## GENERAL

- Notes of a Convict of 1838 by Francis Xavier Prieur [G.CONV.HIS.7LC}
- Slavery and Famine – Punishments for Sedition or an Account of the Miseries and Starvation at Botany Bay by George Thompson who Sailed in the Royal Admiral, May, 1792 [G.CONV.HIS.39LC]
- Journey of a Political Exile in Australia by Leon [Leandre] Ducharme [G.CONV.HIS.40LC]
- Letters from an Exile at Botany Bay to his Aunt in Dumphries [G.CONV.HIS.41LC]
- Governor Phillip in Retirement by Sir Frederick Chapman [G.BIOG.7.PHI.4LC]
- Shipwrecks and more Shipwrecks – Being the Historical and Authentic Account of Shipwrecks along the Victorian Coast from Cape Otway to Discovery Bay 1835-1914 [G.IMM-AV.HIS.2.2LC]
- Wrecks in Australian Waters – An Illustrated Survey of Shipwrecks, Fires, Collisions and Strandings on the Australian Coast from 1629 [G.IMM-SHP.A.2.16LC]
- Most Perfectly Safe – The Convict Shipwreck Disasters of 1833-42 [G.IMM-SHP.A.2.16LC]

- Wrecks on the N.S.W. North Coast [G.IMM-SHP.AN.2.5LC]
- Kangaroo Island Shipwrecks – An Account of the Ships and Cutters Wrecked Around Kangaroo Island [G.IMM-SHP.AS.HIS.2.1LC]
- Victorian Shipwrecks – All Wrecks in Victorian Waters and Bass Strait, Including King Island and the Kent Group [G.IMM-SHP.AV.HIS.2.1LC]
- Wrecks on the Western Australia Coast [G.IMM-SHP.AW.HIS.2.1LC]

**NOTE:** ‘LC’ indicates a loan copy, which can be borrowed; ‘MF’ a microfiche item.

Compiled by Janette **Daly** (Librarian)

## WEB WATCH



### BRITAIN

**Medway in Kent** offers some digitized Parish registers on their free site at <https://cityark.medway.gov.uk/>

**Historic maps of the British Isles** can be found at <https://maps.nls.uk/>

**Prison history** at <https://prisonhistory.org/> expands our knowledge of imprisonment in the United Kingdom between 1500 and the 1990s

### IRELAND

Historic mapping of Ireland is available at the Ordnance Survey of Ireland <https://familytr.ie/osireland>

### GERMANY

A database of place names of territories formerly belonging to Germany can be found at <http://ehemalige-ostgebiete.de/en>

Compiled by Kate **Anderson** (Member)



Tune into Your local Radio Station, 2SSR 99.7 FM  
for the best mix of Music, Shire News, Reviews and Interviews  
Totally operated by volunteers for the local community

Volunteers are always welcome for behind the scenes/admin work

PLEASE MENTION *THE ENDEAVOUR* WHEN CONTACTING

---

# AN UNFINISHED TALE OF A WALKING STICK

by Jennifer **Gibling** (Member)

---

A walking stick has been sitting in the corner of my bedroom since the 1990s. I always thought it belonged to my grandfather, John Alfred **Third** (or **Thyrd**). Now I am not so sure.

I recently injured my ankle and my new way of life involved a lot of sitting and waiting. One particular day I was doing just that, sitting and waiting in the car for my husband. The radio had turned itself off and I didn't have a book. The walking stick was with me to help with uneven ground. Idly, I picked it up off the floor of the car and looked at the small engraved plate near the top. I had never looked at it before, assuming it was the name of the maker. There was more information than I thought on that small plate: 'Tay Bridge, RELIC, 28<sup>th</sup> Dec 1879, A. Pinkerton'.

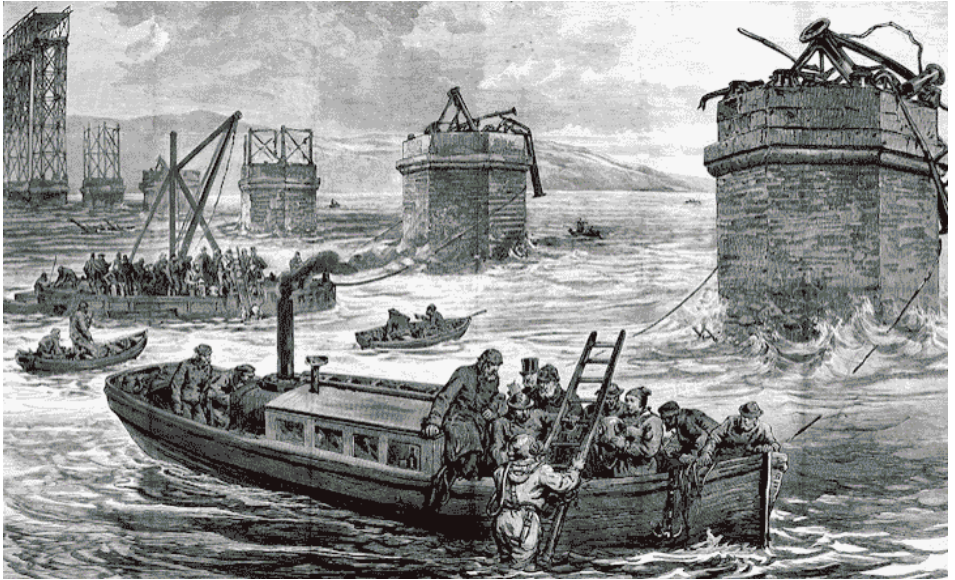
Returning home I googled Tay Bridge walking stick and discovered the story of the Tay Bridge Disaster on 28 December 1879 and relics that had been made from the debris.

The Tay Rail Bridge was opened in 1878 across the Tay River between Dundee and Wormit, a suburb of Fife. It was a lightweight lattice construction with a single track, built to replace the train ferry service. Concerns had been raised about its ability to withstand strong winds. On the night of 28 December 1879 during a gale, the bridge collapsed as a train carrying about 75 passengers was crossing. The train fell into the Tay River. Everyone was killed but not all bodies were found. The newspaper reported a detailed description of the people who had been identified. Sir Thomas **Bouch**, the engineer was blamed for his poor design of the supports in strong winds when a train was passing over the bridge. Queen Victoria had been on a train that had passed over the bridge only 6 months previously.



Plate on walking stick (photo: Jennifer Gibling)





Unbelievably the engine was recovered from the river, restored and was used by the North British Railway Company until 1908. It was suitably nicknamed *The Diver*. Timber from the wreckage was washed up and used for all sorts of items including knives and walking sticks. The remnants of the bridge piers can still be seen today in the Tay River alongside a second bridge. According to David **Swinfen** in his book *The Fall of the Bridge*, commemorative walking sticks were presented to the three off duty crew (driver, guard and fireman) who had missed the train because they were enjoying a drink in the local pub. I wonder if my walking stick is one of those?

An alternate theory to be explored is a possible family link to the train's driver, David **Mitchell**. My grandmother married three times. Her second husband was William Mitchell **Kidd**, whose father was Charles Kidd. The maiden name of Charles Kidd's wife was Mitchell and Charles Kidd was born in Dundee Scotland. Was the driver a relative? The accompanying photo shows Charles Kidd on the verandah of my grandmother's house at Abbotsford with her own father, Samuel **Lawrie**. Both men lived with my grandmother in their last years.

I further noted that the name on the stick was A. **Pinkerton**. Was there a connection to the famous detective agency or perhaps the maker? I emailed the Dundee transport museum about the stick. They held an exhibition about the Tay Bridge disaster in 2017. The reply was not encouraging:





Charles Kidd (left) and Samuel Lawrie  
(photo: Gibling family album)

*Relics from the smashed coaches and bridge were sold as souvenirs, as was commonplace for disasters at the time.*

*Your cane may or may not be made from wood from the disaster; it seems rather unlikely it would.*

*I speculate that yours was associated with the famous Allan Pinkerton, who was a carpenter and cooper and would have been an old man at the time of the Tay Bridge incident, and enjoyed travelling.*

Like many things museums and sources of information are closed in the UK. I have also emailed the Victoria and Albert Museum. I have not received a reply as yet. This will be one of those projects that are put on the side to be taken out and worked on occasionally.

The moral to remember is that good things may come from faulty joints.





---

**The Online Genealogical Index (OGI)** at [www.ogindex.org](http://www.ogindex.org) is a search engine for genealogical data sets found online only for England and Wales, indexed by place. If you know the place where your ancestor was born, married, died, or buried, OGI helps find sites that contain records for that place – records that could contain vital details of your ancestor. Using OGI enables researchers to avoid wasting time when looking at incomplete resources or by manually searching multiple sites to find the required records. All you need to do is enter a country, county, town and approx. year (the latter is optional).

**Family's VERY unusual wording on gravestone goes viral.** Great-grandmother Naomi Odessa Miller-Dawson died in June 2008, aged 86. Her family compiled a lovely dedication on her headstone to their “beloved mother, aunt, grandmother and great-grandmother” but it was an unusual additional feature that has attracted attention – a stone ‘recipe book’ on top of the headstone which features a recipe for Spritz Cookies. The late great-grandmother was famous for this particular baked treat, which is why her family chose to share it on her gravestone.

The gravestone was recently spotted at the historic Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn, New York, by a Reddit user. Since it was shared on the web site, the photo has touched thousands.

Said one: ‘Exactly the kind of humour my grandmother would’ve appreciated. At her funeral, we handed out little recipe books full of all her best dishes that she never

wanted to share.’ Said another: ‘I’d like to think it was her signature recipe, and when folks asked to have it she said, ‘Over my dead body!’”

**Log of Logs** is a 3-volume set, authored by Ian Nicholson, containing data about the sources of information for the ships which travelled into Australia and New Zealand and surrounding oceans between 1788 and 1998. It is a catalogue of logs, shipboard diaries, letters and all forms of voyage narratives. While it is available in book form at our Research Centre Library, it is now available in searchable form at <https://zenodo.org/record/6901#.X1cVUdZS8IJ>.



Ms Miller-Dawson’s gravestone (photo: Reddit)

*Tulle* was the journal of the Australian Society of the Lacemakers of Calais which ran from 1982 to early 2019 when the Society disbanded. Some members of the Society established another ‘loose’ group called Descendants of the Lacemakers of Calais who maintain a website under that name. The 141 issues of the Society’s journal in pdf format are freely available under the Resources menu on the website at <https://www.lacemakersofcalais.com.au>. The journal contains a wealth of material about individual lacemakers, the history surrounding their occupation, their lives in Nottingham and Calais, the reasons for their emigration to start new lives in Australia, related materials and research guides. While not an index, the Lander Directory, available on the website, is an excellent and searchable summary of the main stories contained within *Tulle*.

**Australian Jewish Historical Society - 180 years of Australian Jewish newspapers online.** In collaboration, the National Library of Australia, the National Library of Israel and the Australian Jewish Historical Society will digitise and open free digital access to Australian Jewish newspapers, including over 200,000 pages from Jewish communities across the continent. The new digital collection will be openly accessible and fully searchable through Trove, Australia’s free online research portal and the Historical Jewish Press Project, the world’s leading digital collection of Jewish newspapers and journals. The collection will allow scholars and the wider community to understand centuries of Jewish life in Australia.

The history of Jewish press in Australia goes back to 1842, when despite the very small Jewish population, a local edition of the London-based *Voice of Jacob* (which would later become *The Jewish Chronicle*) was published in Sydney. As the local communities grew and established themselves in the twentieth century, the number of publications and their variety grew immensely. Most of the publications were in English, but there were also some in Yiddish and Hebrew. With permission from the Australian Jewish News and their publisher, Polaris Media, all issues of *The Australian Jewish News* will be digitised, as will all other Australian Jewish newspapers published up to the copyright date of 1954.

**EMAIL REMINDER:** Any member wanting to be added to the BBFHS Email News Group, please advise Stephanie **Bailey** by email at [stephiib52@yahoo.com.au](mailto:stephiib52@yahoo.com.au) with your name, email address and membership number or access the BBFHS website home page at [www.botanybayfhs.org.au](http://www.botanybayfhs.org.au) and click on ‘BBFHS Email List’



---

# BBFHS WEBSITE – MEMBER ONLY ACCESS TO OUR DIGITAL EXCHANGE JOURNALS

by Pat Fearnley (Webmaster) & John Levy (Editor)

---

Botany Bay FHS is pleased to announce the commissioning of a private Member Only Access area on our website at <http://www.botanybayfhs.org.au/>. This new initiative provides a further service to members and allows them to access certain resources online that are usually only available at the Research Centre. We expect that this will be a big advantage to members in these COVID-distancing times.

You will need to register to gain access to the Member Only Access area, but it is easy to do. From the home page, click the **LOG IN/REGISTER** button at the top right hand corner and provide a name (optional), your email address and a password. A window called My Account will open – click on **Member Only Access** and that's it. The next time you want to visit the Member's Only Area you simply supply your email address and password and click on Member Only Access.

As our first major offering in this area, we are providing access to the **four most recent editions of our digital exchange journals**. The journals are listed alphabetically on the website and limited to four due to space considerations.

When researching your family history, Botany Bay FHS recommends that you check the journals from the locations where your ancestors lived, to pick up possible information about them. Even if your ancestors are not mentioned, these journals often give you a good feel for what the area was like in earlier times when your ancestors were there.

Botany Bay FHS has long-standing arrangements with many other family history societies to exchange our journal, *The Endeavour*, for theirs. While we still have hard copies from some societies in our Library, most societies now provide us with digital editions of their journal in pdf form. Since early 2017, these have been available on the computers at the Research Centre. The main folder is BBFHS Exchange Journals – Online with subfolders for each Australian State and one for Overseas journals. Sometimes, the journals go back some time. For example, the Sutherland Historical Society Bulletin goes back to 2009 and some indexes are also available.

The journals which we currently exchange are listed in the table below and negotiations are continuing to add more.

<b>FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY</b>	<b>JOURNAL NAME</b>
<b>AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY</b>	
Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra	The Ancestral Searcher
<b>NEW SOUTH WALES</b>	
Bathurst District Historical Society	Members Newsletter
Bega Valley Genealogical Society	Valley Genealogist
Berrima District Historical and FHS	Newsletter
Botany Bay Family History Society	The Endeavour
Burwood & District Family History Group	Ances-tree
Camden Area Family History Society	Camden Calling
Campbelltown District Family History Society	Ghostbuster
Casino & District Family History Group	Crossing Place
Central Coast Family History Society	e-Muster
Chinese Australian Historical Society	Newsetter
Clarence River Historical Society	Newsletter
Coffs Harbour District Family History Society	Genie Allergy
Colo Shire Family History Group	Family Ties
Cowra Family History Group	Eagle Eye
Dubbo & District Family History Society	Dubbo & District FHS Newsletter
Forbes Family History Group	Lachlan Valley Gold
Hill End & Tambaroora Gathering Group	Newsletter
Illawarra District Family History Group	Illawarra Branches
Inverell District Family History Group	Voices from the Past
Kempsey Family History Group	Cedar Branches
Lithgow & District Family History Society	Lithgow Pioneer Press
Maitland & Beyond Family	Maitland Reminiscences
Maitland & District Historical Society	Bulletin
Manning Wallamba Family History Society	The Fig Tree
Milton-Ulladulla Genealogical Society	Pigeon House Tidings
Moruya & District Historical & Gen. Society	Moruya Journal
Newcastle Family History Society	Newcastle FHS Journal
Orange Family History Group	Orange FHG Newsletter
Parramatta Historical Society	Parramatta Packet
Picton District Historical and FHS	Stonequarry Journal

Port Macquarie & Districts Family History Soc	Footsteps
Port Stephens Family History Society	Lemon Tree
Richmond Tweed Family History Society	The Cedar Log
Ryde District Historical Society & FH Group	The Ryde Recorder
Society of Australian Genealogists	Descent
Shoalhaven Family History Society	Time Traveller
Family History Society of Singleton	Patrick Plains Gazette
Sutherland Historical Society	Bulletin
The Tongarra Heritage Society (Shellharbour)	Newsletter
Wyalong District Family History Group	Mallee Stump
Wyong Family History Group	Tree of Life
Young & District Family History Group	Lambing Flat Leader

### QUEENSLAND

Cairns & District Family History Society	Origins
Central Queensland Family History Assoc'n	Genie-ologist
Cooroy-Noosa Genie & Historical Research	Missing Link
Genealogical Society of Queensland	Convict Connections, Chronicle
Gold Coast Family History Society	Rootes
Gympie Family History Society	Gympie Gazette
Ipswich Genealogical Society	Bremer Echoes
Maryborough District Family History Society	Forebears
Queensland Family History Society	Queensland Family Historian
Redcliffe & District Family History Group	Newsletter
Toowoomba & Darling Downs FHS	The Gazette
Tweed Gold Coast Family History & Heritage	Tracks

### SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Fleurieu Peninsula Family History Group	Relative Thoughts
---	-------------------

### VICTORIA

Family History Connections (ex AIGC)	The Genealogist
Mornington Peninsula Family History Society	Past Times
Sale & District Family History Group	Newsletter

### OVERSEAS

Aberdeen and NE Scotland FHS	Journal
Glasgow and West of Scotland FHS	Gallus



*joy in family history*  
**JOY MURRIN**  
family history services



Accredited  
NSW Transcription Agent  
Since 1995

PO BOX 278, OATLEY NSW 2223  
P: (02) 95851187 F: (02) 95851486  
E: [joy@joymurrin.com.au](mailto:joy@joymurrin.com.au)

Services include:

- ♥ New South Wales  
Births to 1912 Deaths to 1982 Marriages to 1962
- ♥ England/Wales
- ♥ Scotland
- ♥ New Zealand
- ♥ Victoria



Secure Online Ordering  
**[www.joymurrin.com.au](http://www.joymurrin.com.au)**  
Services | Knowledge Centre | Events

<http://www.joymurrin.com.au/>

PLEASE MENTION *THE ENDEAVOUR* WHEN CONTACTING

All journal contributions – large or small – are welcome. Email your input to [bbfhs\\_ed@yaho.com.au](mailto:bbfhs_ed@yaho.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.

---

# DIGGINGS

---



**D**igging is titles of articles in journals that we exchange with other societies. We do not list all articles appearing in that particular journal but those that are noted as articles unrelated to the journal's origins. We recommend that you read any journal which originates from an area in which your ancestors had connections.

Members may borrow from the collection of printed journals exchanged with other family history societies held at the Research Centre and Library for the years 2015 to 2019. Please ask a volunteer for the loan procedure. Online exchange journals are also available at the Research Centre and may be viewed on the computers (click on the *Resources on the Server* icon on the desktop).

## AUSTRALIA

### **Journal of the South Australian Genealogy & Heraldry Society Aug 20**

Tips for researching in Germany

Family History is more than Births, Deaths and Marriages

## BRITAIN

### **Family Tree Sep 2020**

Are you sitting comfortably? Determining who sat where in church explained

Three Pots of Gold: When census & property records coincide

Your DNA Workshop continues

My ancestor's illness – tracing medical histories

### **Family Tree Oct 2020**

The Mayflower story. Who were the Mayflower Pilgrims?

Mayflower modes. What did the Pilgrim father forebears wear?

British emigrants to America in the 1600s

Your DNA Workshop. Taken a DNA test? Now what?

African DNA

Genealogy without borders. Chris Paton examines the genealogy scene and diaspora

Time for a computer tidy up! Tips for organizing your family history files



Compiled by Kate **Anderson** (Member)



## **DISABLED ACCESS**

is available for Research Centre users.

Please phone the Centre on 02 9523 8948  
to make arrangements.





## **Australian Federation of Family History Organisations – Congress 2021 Norfolk Island, 1 – 5 August 2021**

Congress will include: a welcome function, a comprehensive lecture program, morning and afternoon teas, lunches and a banquet dinner. There will also be time built in for research at the Norfolk Island Museum Research Centre and visits to historic sites, which include the cemetery, the Melanesian Mission and the Kingston and Arthurs Vale Heritage Area, which incorporates the penal gaol and other noteworthy buildings and sites. Travel and accommodation packages will be developed from Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne.

Information is available on the Congress website at <https://affhocongress2021.com/> with a link to register. An early-bird price is available until 28 February 2021, if not sold out before.

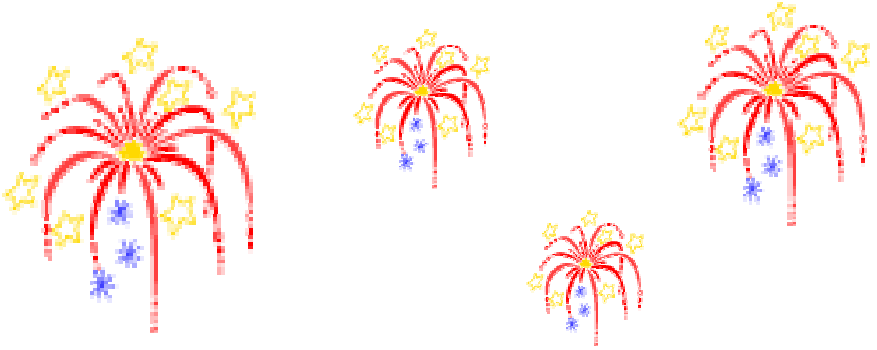


### **SEEKING READER'S IDEAS AND INPUTS**



Do you have a great idea for something you would like to see in future journals? Have you had a recent good luck story in breaking those genealogical brick walls? What about a tip for other readers – a genealogical clue? A photograph you cannot date? A great new website you have discovered.

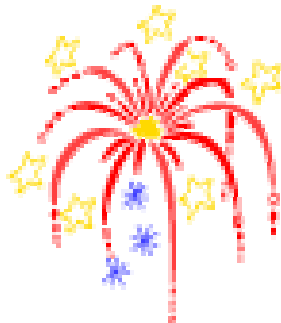
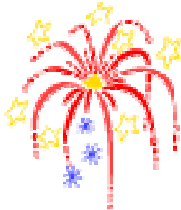
*Share with other readers!*



*Happy New Year*

 *in 2021* 

*to All Our Readers*



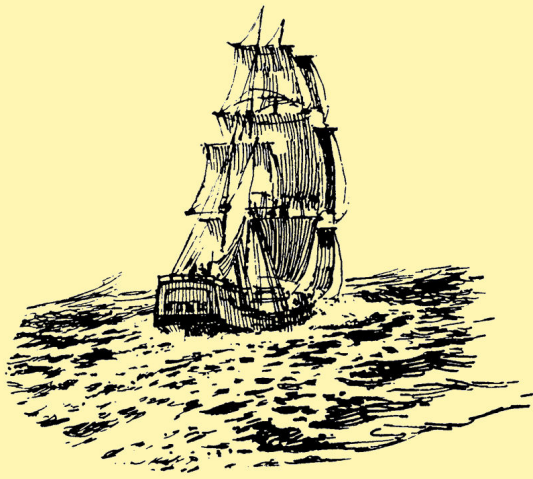
**FAMILY HISTORY AIDS – SALES TABLE ON MEETING NIGHTS OR AT THE  
RESEARCH CENTRE & LIBRARY ( Prices subject to change without notice)**

**Split catalogue – half this quarter alternating with half next quarter**

	<b>Price</b>
Land Research for Family Historians in Australia & NZ – Carole Riley.....	\$19.50
Lanyard & Plastic Holder .....	\$2.50
Locating Your German Ancestors – Eric Kopittke .....	\$16.00
London and Middlesex family history resources online .....	\$13.50
Migration to New Zealand – C. Clements .....	\$14.00
My Ancestor was in an Asylum – Shauna Hicks .....	\$13.50
Norfolk Island 1788-1844.....	\$11.50
Papers Past – New Zealand Newspapers – Coral Shearer.....	\$13.00
Pedigree Charts .....	7 generation tree - \$5.50, 9 generation chart - \$4.00
Pitfalls in Family History – Graham Jaunay .....	\$12.50
Research Companion (to record your research) – BBFHS.....	\$10.00
Researching German Civil and Church Records.....	\$14.00
Resource Directory for Victoria – Shauna Hicks.....	\$29.00
Scotland’s People – the place to launch your Scottish research.....	\$15.00
Scottish Research Guide – BBFHS.....	\$5.00
Service and Sacrifice – Marilyn Handley and Sue Hewitt.....	\$45.00
Sewerage Records – Suzie Zada .....	\$12.00
Social Media For Family Historians – Carole Riley .....	\$23.00
Some Early Residents of Sutherland Shire .....	\$15.00
That Elusive Digger – Tracing your Australian Military Ancestor.....	\$13.50
The Genealogy Do-over Workbook – Thomas MacEntee	\$15.00
The New FindMyPast.com.au	\$12.50
The Ones That Got Away – J Few .....	\$12.00
The War to End War – Neil Smith.....	\$17.00
Till Death Us Do Part – Causes of Death, 1300-1948 – J Few .....	\$10.00
To Trace or Not to Trace – Carol Baxter .....	\$15.00
Tracing Mining Ancestors – Shauna Hicks .....	\$15.00
Tracing Your English Ancestors – Shauna Hicks.....	\$16.00
Tracing Your European Roots – W. Daniel Quillen.....	\$17.50
Tracing Your WW2 Australian Military Ancestors.....	\$16.00
Trove: Discover Genealogy Treasures in NLA – Shauna Hicks .....	\$13.00
Understanding Australian Military Speak – Neil Smith .....	\$16.00
War on the Veldt Boer War 1899-1902 – Shauna Hicks .....	\$15.00
What Was the Voyage Really Like? – Shauna Hicks .....	\$9.00
Which Genealogy Program? – K. Farmer & R. Kopittke .....	\$18.00
Writing Interesting Family Histories – Carol Baxter .....	\$20.00
Your Family History Archives – Shauna Hicks .....	\$11.00

**ADVERTISING RATES**

<b>Size</b>	<b>Annually (4 issues)</b>	<b>Single issue</b>
Full page	\$160	\$49
Half page	\$80	\$29
Quarter page	\$40	\$19



*©2020 Botany Bay Family History Society Inc and the authors. No article or item from this Journal may be reproduced without written permission of the authors. This Society accepts no responsibility for statements made or opinions expressed by authors of the articles published in this Journal. The Society cannot vouch for the accuracy of offers of services or goods that appear in the Journal, or be responsible for the outcome of any contract that may be entered into with an advertiser.*

*The Editor reserves the right to edit articles.*

**Australia Post Print Post Number: 100001135**