

Generation

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND INC.

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Front cover image:



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 Jones children at Cloncurry c1908
 Ryan collection

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Generation

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Fees

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Society membership is available either as a single membership or as a family membership. Family membership is for two members of an immediate family living at the same address.

Affiliate membership is for groups with an interest in genealogy and/or family history. Corporate membership includes all other types of businesses/organisations.

Life Enduring is a once only payment for lifetime membership of GSQ.

The current fees (2024) are listed below:

Single 1 year \$90 – 3 year \$240
Family 1 year \$160 – 3 year \$430
Affiliate 1 year \$180
Corporate 1 year \$360
Life Enduring \$1460

DONATIONS

GSQ Library Fund donations of \$2.00 and over are tax deductible.

RESEARCH

For those members who reside 100km or more from the GSQ Resource Centre, whether in country Queensland, interstate or overseas, five (5) hours per member per year is available for Lookup.

Research at GSQ's Research Centre is \$66 for members and \$110 for non-members.

GSQ can provide transcriptions of Funeral Director's records or Catholic Parish Registers for a fee of \$20.

Full details can be found at:

www.gsq.org.au/what-gsq-offers/researchservices

Generation

Acknowledgement of Country

In the spirit of reconciliation, the Genealogical Society of Queensland acknowledges the Traditional Custodians throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea, and community. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present; and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people today.

GENERATION subscriptions

Non-Members:

A charge of \$40.00 applies to non-members who wish to receive *Generation* electronically

Print Copies

Within Australia: Printed and mailed \$60

International: \$130 for 4 editions printed and mailed

Members: Electronic copies of *Generation* are included in the cost of membership

General enquiries: info@gsq.org.au

GENERATION deadlines

The closing date for submissions is the 1st day of the month preceding publication – that is, copy must be submitted by 1 February, 1 May, 1 August, and 1 November. Articles for consideration can be submitted at any time but placement is at the discretion of the Editor.

GENERATION contributions

GSQ welcomes the submission of articles on family history topics for possible publication.

The Editor reserves the right to edit or abridge articles to meet space constraints and editorial considerations. Submissions should be the work of the author submitting the article and should not have been published elsewhere unless agreed. All material should be submitted in electronic format to:

editor@gsq.org.au.

Please submit text as a Microsoft Word doc or docx files. Images can be embedded in the text file but should also be sent as separate email attachments at high resolution JPG or TIFF files (minimum 300dpi if possible). Provide captions for each image in the text file.

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Contact Editor: editor@gsq.org.au for pricing.

from The Editor...

Well, I'm back working on *Generation*, after some time in hospital. Thanks to the team who took over and produced the last issue.

In this issue, we lead off with the winner of this year's Joan Reese Award, Kay Ryan, who tells the story of Alf JONES and his life and work in western Queensland. We also read the story of John SALE, and a first-hand account of trench warfare in World War I. The State Library of Queensland tells us of the historical tales coming to life from the transcription project of the Colonial Secretary's Correspondence and the interesting life of James Hardy VAUX.

Bev Murray tells us why she took on the role of Convenor of the Convict and Colonial Interest Group and we read why we are researching our family history.

We focus on the Scottish Interest Group with details of a project in which members of the Group are indexing the Scottish Register of Deeds. Alistair Henderson discusses how to research in the National Records of Scotland. In Queensland Towns, we look at the North Queensland town of Ayr, named after a Scottish town, the birthplace of a former Premier of Queensland.

In Spotlight on Resources in GSQ'S collection, we discuss the Queensland Muster Roll and the publication *Queensland – Pioneer Families 1859-1901* and include a selection of Scottish emigrants and their families. And we read the words of Scottish poet Thomas CAMPBELL. In a book review, we feature a genealogical novel by Nathan Dylan GOODWIN and we feature the affiliate group, the North Pine Historical Society.

In Tips and Tools, we feature some tips on all aspects of family history research and some of the tools necessary or just useful. If you have any suggestions or helpful hints or tips for research, do not hesitate to forward them on to me, so I can share them with other GSQ members.

And, finally, in The Last Word, I discuss the need to understand the health issues of our ancestors, a part of their life story.

The difficulties of producing *Generation* without the submission of suitable articles for publication and I make the plea for you, our members, to submit your family stories or your genealogical journeys to solve a mystery or knock down that 'brick wall'.

Once again, the editorial team would welcome any comments or suggestions about your journal, as well as your stories. Just send them to editor@gsq.org.au.

Russell

Presidential Lines...



Have you achieved all that you'd hoped to do with your Research so far in 2024? How fast is 2024 flying by!! I'm certain you're aware that GSQ is hosting the 17th Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry and the 5th History Queensland State Conference, Connections – Past, Present and Future, 21 – 24 March next year.

This date will be upon us all almost before we realise! It's going to be an absolutely splendid event. As I write this, the list of 42 Conference Speakers is being finalized. It consists of many well-known Speakers from throughout Australia and Overseas. Already, 3 Keynote Speakers have been announced namely, Judy RUSSELL JD, CG, GGL, Dr Nick BARRATT and Professor Hamish MAXWELL-STEWART. Six Master Classes are available as an optional extra. The Conference is being conducted at a purpose-built Conference facility, namely Brisbane Technology Park Conference & Exhibition Centre in Eight Miles Plains. It's being advertised as Australasia's premier event for

local and family historians, ancestry researchers and genealogists to uncover the past, celebrate the present and tap into the future. If you are planning to attend this wonderful event, please book before 30 November for the Early Bird Package – there is a considerable saving.

If you've been pondering the use of AI (Artificial Intelligence) in your Family History Research and feeling tentative about its use, coming to the Conference where one strand is firmly focused on the future of AI in Family History, could prove very beneficial. At a Symposium organised by FamilySearch earlier this year, one of the Speakers, and an authority on the use of AI, Ian JAMES, explained how FamilySearch is adapting its methodology for Indexing very successfully using AI to enable indexing at a much faster rate – and with a high degree of accuracy. Ian is to be FamilySearch's Delegate at the Conference and a Speaker not to miss.

I'm delighted that our Editor, Russell Fraser, is now well enough to continue the production of Generation. Welcome back, Russell – it's so good to know that your health has improved. We all look forward to many more editions of Generation with you at the helm.

Helen Veivers
President



KEY DATES FOR 2024

Saturday 31 August:

Open Day

Saturday, 12 October:

Seminar – Gone But Not Forgotten

Saturday, 2 November:

GSQ Annual General Meeting

Saturday, 14 December:

Holiday closing in Dec



**Call it a clan, call it a network,
call it a tribe, call it a family.
Whatever you call it, whoever
you are, you need one.**

Jane Howard

Welcome to New and Re-joined Members

Helen Veivers, GSQ President

The President and members of the GSQ Management Committee are delighted to welcome all our new and re-joined members.

As new members, please do not hesitate to talk with a Research Assistant if you need assistance. Now that you are a member of GSQ, you have a number of benefits – one of which is the opportunity to list your research interests/names on our website:

www.gsq.org.au

If you have any comments or suggestions as to how GSQ can enhance its services to members, or if you have a concern with how services are provided, please feel free to contact me at president@gsq.org.au



Your feedback is always welcome.

Kay Ryan

Debbie Littler

John Ellis

Stephen Brown

Kathleen Collins

Michael Monro

Dr Janis Hanley

Elaine and John Felstead

Reg Reeves

Wayne McDonald

Lisa Marie Clarke

Cairns & District FHS

Christine Bell

Kathleen Noonan

Jude Winter

Leanne MacDonald

Valerie Roe

North Pine Historical Society

Michael Houlahan

Russell Kelly

Rosemary Lynch

Susan Brown

Tanya Walters

Jodie Laman

Carol Elizabeth

Tasi Leota

Michael Martin



GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND Inc

Enriching family history

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The date of the AGM has been set as **Saturday, 2 November 2024 at 10.00am**

**Saturday
2 November 2024
at 10.00 am**

Location: GSQ, 25 Stackpole Street, Wishart, Qld

Nominations will be called for the positions of:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Up to 7 Management Committee members

Further information will be made available later.



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 Family History - Genealogy - Local History



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GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND Inc
Enriching family history



17th Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry & 5th Queensland History State Conference - Hosted by Genealogical Society of Qld Inc.

THE JOAN REESE MEMORIAL SHORT STORY COMPETITION ~ WINNING ENTRY ~

Move The Sun

Kay Ryan

When my husband retired from full time work, he started researching his family history. Through listening to family stories told by my late mother-in-law Mildred (known as Min to the family), we learned that her father Alfred (Alf) JONES was born in Victoria and had come to Queensland at some time before marrying Emma Caroline WAKENSHAW in Springsure. There were stories of Alf often being away from home, leaving his wife, Emma, to look after a growing family by herself, even to the point of her having to deal with the death of one of their children alone. It was said that at one stage, he went to Western Australia to prospect for gold. We heard that the family had overlanded from Longreach to Cloncurry, where Alf owned copper mines and also ran a hotel. For many years these remained just 'family lore', and we had all but given up finding any confirmation of these stories, until government documents and newspaper accounts were found which "filled in the gaps".

This is Alf Jones' story about his life and work in western Queensland.

Alfred (Alf) JONES was born in Merton, Victoria, on 25 December 1859 and was the fourth child in a sibship of nine.¹ His parents, John Jones and Letitia Jones (nee McMillan) were farmers near Merton, a small town situated equidistant between Mansfield to the southeast and Euroa to the north.



Alf c.1890

Alf had more than a passing interest in mining – any type of mining which might make him rich. Gold had first been found about nine miles (fourteen and a half kilometres) from his birth town of Merton in 1851 and there had been a "rush" of miners closer to town in 1868 when Alf was nine years old.² It was an exciting time for a small boy living and working on his parent's property

and everyone was agog when news of new strikes spread through the community. Gold had also been discovered in Clermont, Queensland in the 1860s and was still being mined there when Alf left Victoria for Queensland in 1879 to try his luck.

Unfortunately, he was unsuccessful in striking it rich. He was, however, an experienced bushman – an expert horseman, drover, fencer and shearer of sheep and when he met twenty-two-year-old Emma WAKENSHAW in 1890 at the Springsure picnic races, he was smitten. Alf was working as a stockman at Clermont at the time. They made a striking couple – he with fair hair and skin and the side whiskers then in fashion, sporting a three-piece suit and debonair outlook and she with her smooth unlined olive complexion, dark hair, slim erect build, and Victorian dress. They were married at her father's house called *Fulham* in Springsure with her brother and sister as witnesses and the celebrations went well into the night as befitted the marriage of the daughter of a divisional council overseer employed by the Bauhinia Divisional Shire Council.³

After the agonising stillbirth of her firstborn daughter, Emma had conceived easily and there followed seven more pregnancies within twelve years including two sets of twins. In the first few years after their marriage,



there was a downturn in the cattle industry and Alf travelled far and wide looking for work. Life was hard for Emma with Alf away and the economic depression that took hold of the country in 1893 added to the family's woes. Alf worked as a kangaroo shooter, dingo scalper, team driver, carrier, and shearer in and around Ilfracombe, Springsure, Clermont, Jericho, and Alpha – where his mother Letitia had settled – until he travelled to Western Australia seeking work and luck on the goldfields of Kalgoorlie in 1897, leaving Emma with their four children, Gladys (Tops), Henry Gordon (Gordon), and twins Doris and Jessie in Springsure.⁴



Emma c.1890

subsequently cancelled.⁷ With no other way forward, Alf petitioned the court for bankruptcy and was declared insolvent in November 1898.

Insolvency meant the selling of his possessions such as horses and their harnesses and any other items of value. Insolvency also brought social stigma to Alf and Emma and by extension to their wider families living in the district, resulting in the necessity for the family to leave Springsure.⁸ Alf spent some years working as a general station hand and following the shearing sheds, while Emma attended to looking after their

growing family which had welcomed three further children, Alice who died shortly after birth and another set of twins, Ted (Edward) and Daisy.

Alf returned on the death of his only son Gordon, with nothing to show for his adventures in Western Australia. On his return, he found there was a debt of twenty-one pounds sixteen shillings and five pence owed to AH SUE, the local storekeeper, and Emma had been forced to turn to her parents to help support her and the children, there being no form of government benefits at that time.⁵ That support however, came at a price and Emma would wash, iron, cook, and sew for her mother. Alf's mother Letitia – who had lived in Springsure for a time after also coming from Victoria – had moved to

live with her daughter in Alpha – so there was no immediate support from Alf's family. Emma and the children were living in a slab hut located across the creek from her parents' house, with plenty of gaps between the slabs while the floor was of beaten earth. The corrugated iron roof had no guttering and an imposing brick chimney at one end of the hut no doubt served the open fireplace used



Emma with Henry and twins Doris and Jessie, Springsure c.1898

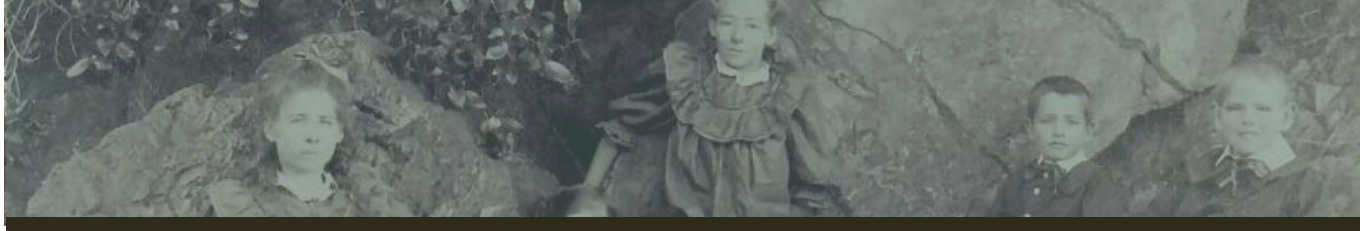
for cooking. Emma kept a loaded gun by the back door to scare off any Aborigines who would come to the hut and demand "baccy" from her, knowing Alf was away.⁶ Alf had been granted a one hundred and sixty acre land selection at Springsure in 1896, but was unable to meet the conditions of the lease and it was

Alf eventually found work as a dogger and dingo scalper on *Maneroo* station about forty kilometres to the west of Longreach, where he was paid a wage, supplied with traps and strychnine and received a bounty for every dingo scalp he collected. Emma and the family also lived on *Maneroo*, with Emma attending to cooking and cleaning for the station manager and his family. The station homestead served as the central hub for living and working and education for the children was provided

by itinerant tutors. At least on *Maneroo* the family was together and had a stable home for a number of years during which time Emma had given birth to two further children Les (Alexander Leslie) and Min (Mildred Lindsay) in Longreach.

It was at *Maneroo* that ten-month-old Daisy died of convulsions at the end of one of the hottest summers on record. Temperatures reached forty-six point

four degrees celsius in December 1901 and stayed above forty-six degrees for three days, while the 17th, 18th and 20th December 1901 recorded the highest minimum temperatures of thirty point eight degrees, thirty-three point one degrees and thirty-three point six degrees respectively.⁹ Emma had done everything in her power



to keep Daisy and her twin brother Les cool – hanging strips of wet blanket over their cot in the hope that any breath of wind would cool the air – to no avail. Daisy was laid to rest by the station manager on the station.¹⁰

But Alf had plans and was confident of the future. In 1904, shortly before Min's birth, Alf had successfully petitioned the court to have his bankruptcy discharged which restored to him the ability to own property and to operate a business in his own right.¹¹ He had heard of the growing demand for copper for use in producing electricity which was being used increasingly in homes, industry, street lighting and tramways in the big cities. At the same time, there had been a resurgence of interest in the copper fields near Cloncurry, and Alf wanted a part of it.

By 1906, Alf was ready to move on and with his confidence at an all-time high, he packed Emma and the family up, hitched their horse Duke to the covered wagon and headed east to Barcaldine, some sixty-six miles (117 kilometres) distant to earn some more money shearing to help finance their venture. After working the shearing sheds around Barcaldine, Duke was put back in the traces and the family headed north-west to the Cloncurry copper fields. As the wagon could only seat three or four at a time, the six children walked much of the distance, the younger ones taking it in turn to ride on the wagon to rest their weary legs.¹² It was about 356 miles (583 kilometres) from Barcaldine to Cloncurry and Alf estimated the trip would take about two and a half weeks.



Jones children at Cloncurry c.1908 L to R: Jessie, Min, Doris, "Tops" holding Beatrice, Ted, and Les

The family arrived in Cloncurry in the first half of 1907 and Alf immediately set about staking mining claims in the vicinity of the Argylla Ranges about thirty-seven miles (sixty kilometres) to the west of Cloncurry.

Lodgings were found in Cloncurry for the short term, during which time another daughter, Beatrice, was born on 2 November 1907. Alf and his oldest boys erected accommodation near his mining claims at The Springs – the site of a natural spring located a short distance from where the town of Ballara was to be surveyed in 1913.

Over the following ten years, Alf took up copper mining leases on his own behest, in partnership with others, and also in the names of Emma and his children.¹³ The first of these, registered in 1908, was called "The Tasmanian" which was located one mile west of The Springs. Alf also bought the Trafalgar Mine located at the top of the ridge from The Springs for next to nothing and then on-sold it for a bottle of whiskey!¹⁴ As appeared to be Alf's lot in life, the new owners successfully mined 1,000 pounds worth of copper before selling out to a mining company. This mine was the only double shaft mine in the area and, similar to the Wee McGregor Mine, had a tunnel through which ore was conveyed on a two-foot-wide tramway which continued to nearby Hightville.¹⁵



Mining shaft at Trafalgar Mine c.1912 State Library of Queensland

Alf transferred his half interest in The Havoc mine – situated next to the Trafalgar – to his mining partner George HOY on 21 May 1912. By December of that year, Hoy and his new partner MACGILLIVRAY had found good, oxidised ore at a depth of thirty feet, making the mine an attractive proposition for the large mining companies which had been buying up viable claims.¹⁶ Alf had again missed out.

Alf was nothing if not optimistic and he constructed a home of timber, tin, and canvas and opened the *Trafalgar Hotel* near to The Springs which flowed into the Corella River. The hotel was bungalow-shaped with separate men's quarters and was located about eight miles (twelve kilometres) from Ballara township and a "good horse ride" from where the Cobb & Co stage from Cloncurry passed through Kings Gap in the Argylla Range on the way to The Springs. It was two steps up at the front and higher at the back. Emma and the girls used



to do the washing underneath the back of the hotel. Alf was responsible for running the bar and Emma looked after the dining room. Water for use in the hotel was drawn from the spring every day and poured into a small water tank which was mounted on a sled pulled by a goat team. The miners and copper gougers were the main customers at the hotel and once a month on a Saturday night, Alf obtained a permit to hold a dance at the *Trafalgar* where Tommy Tame, a fiddler, concertina player, and step dancer, would perform.¹⁷ The hotel was the venue for the marriage of Alf and Emma's oldest daughter "Tops", to Alexander MCKINNON (son of the Trafalgar Mine manager) in 1913.



Alf Jones, Townsville c.1933

The family lived at The Springs until July 1916 when the hotel burnt to the ground. Alf was away working when the fire broke out in the kitchen. Emma and the children escaped the burning building with only the clothes they wore.¹⁸ Everything was destroyed and twelve-year-old Min lamented the loss of a silver brush and comb set she had won in a foot race. Accommodation was found in Ballara, where Emma and the children lived while Alf and his two oldest sons Les and Ted headed north to the Gulf looking for work. Money was very tight, and Alf sold his half share in the Mt Douglas Mine for eighty pounds. Described after the sale as "one of those great big blows from which big things might be expected", Alf and Emma again missed out on an affluent life.¹⁹

Alf was back at Ballara for Christmas 1917 and the family, along with copper gougers, miners, and their families from around the district, attended the Ballara Boxing Day picnic sports. Alf won his choice of a hat or trousers and a pipe for winning the "old buffers" race and Emma came away the winner of the Christmas cake raffle. The children also were successful in their races. Surplus monies raised on the day totalling twenty-one pounds fourteen shillings and four pence were donated to the Ballara hospital building fund.²⁰ Despite this happy interlude over the Christmas period, Alf found that his debts were again mounting. Unable to divest himself of the Australian Flag mine, he offered to donate the mining lease to the Ballara District Hospital. As this was outside the hospital's "sphere of business" his offer was declined.²¹

Alf's fortunes continued to wane, and when the demand

for copper declined sharply after the end of World War One, his debts far outweighed his assets. Emma's twin daughters Doris and Jessie along with Min tried to persuade Alf to take Emma to Townsville where Emma would be relieved of the harsh living conditions she had been subject to for the whole of their married life. They moved first to Cloncurry, where, faced with debts totalling three hundred and ninety-nine pounds, twelve shillings and eleven pence, Alf again petitioned the court and was adjudged insolvent on 9 April 1919.²² After nearly thirty years of marriage and life in the bush, Alf finally agreed to move to Townsville. Doris, Jessie, and Min were all working in Townsville and Jessie collected a portion of their wages each week to

help their parents. Alf and Emma moved first to Cook Street, North Ward and then Talbot Street, Rosslea Estate, where they lived until Alf's death on 22 December 1934 at age 74 years 11 months and 22 days. He spent his last days resting on the verandah where he would call out to Emma for anything he wanted, including that she "move the sun" as it was shining in his eyes!²³ Alf died an undischarged bankrupt.

¹ Victorian Register of Births 21946/59

² David Bannear, "North East Victoria Historic Mining Plots 1850 – 1982", Heritage Victoria, p. 2, <https://www.heritage.vic.gov.au_data/assets/pdf_file/0022/S1226b>

³ Queensland Marriage Register 1971 of 1890.

⁴ Queensland State Archives (QSA), ID ITM3477221.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Interview with Geoff Jones, September 1994.

⁷ QSA, ID ITM3674714.

⁸ QSA, ID ITM3413940.

⁹ "Longreach Weather in 1901", <<https://www.extremeweatherwatch.com/cities/longreach/year-1901>>, accessed 28 January 2024.

¹⁰ Interview with Geoff Jones, September 1994.

¹¹ QSA, ID ITM3413940.

¹² Interview with Mildred Ryan 19 October 1994.

¹³ QSA ID ITMS9128.

¹⁴ Interview with Geoff Jones, 15 May 1995.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ QSA ID ITMS9128.

¹⁷ Interview with Geoff Jones, 15 May 1995.

¹⁸ "Cloncurry Notes", Northern Miner, Saturday 8 July 1916, page 7.

¹⁹ "Cloncurry District Notes", Evening Telegraph, Thursday 1 November 1917, page 3.

²⁰ "Ballara Notes", Northern Miner, Saturday 19 January 1918, page 7; "Ballara District Hospital", Townsville Daily Bulletin, Wednesday 23 January, 1918, page 6.

²¹ "Ballara District Hospital", Townsville Daily Bulletin, Wednesday 23 January 1918, page 6.

²² QSA, ID ITM3477221.

²³ Interview with Mildred Ryan 19 October 1994.



A New Convenor

Beverley Murray

Having read that a new convenor was needed to take over the role from retiring co-convenors, Val Blomer and Lyn Caldwell, I decided that this was an opportunity I could not resist. Aware of my short comings, I proceeded anyway, to express my interest and willingness to 'have a go!' Much to my surprise, my offer was accepted and on Sunday 11 February, I was introduced to the members of the Colonial and Convict Special Interest Group as the new convenor.

Whilst I am thrilled about this development, I am aware of the magnitude of the task ahead of me, therefore I am delighted to have the assistance of the very talented Kate Peters. I am also aware of the wonderful work that has been done by both Lyn and Val over the preceding 30 years. During this time, they have maintained a network of genealogical contacts with a focus on convict history and heritage. They have produced a fascinating booklet entitled the "Chronicle" three times every year for circulation to other genealogical groups and many individuals. There is an impressive library financed by the sale of a selection of 'convict' merchandise items. For anyone with convict ancestors, and the required evidence, it is possible to apply for a 'Certificate of Proof'. They have conducted informative meetings at the GSQ library, enabling those interested to learn and share with others. I would like to thank them for their dedication and hard work. I know they have gained an impressive knowledge base along the way and had a lot of fun as well.

Thirty years ago, family history research was centred around microfilms and microfiche, which required travelling to State and Interstate Archives, and Libraries. The resulting research findings would be reported back to local family history groups and shared with other members. Today, of course, thanks to the world wide web, we can all participate in research, often from within the comfort of our homes. This poses the question; do we still need to meet as members of a special interest group? In my opinion, it is imperative that we meet in person or via Zoom, to find out how to proceed with our research and to answer questions. Perhaps we

are relatively new to family history research and need guidance to help locate the right sources. Maybe we are struggling with a 'brick wall' and need the expertise of more experienced researchers. Or perhaps, we have lost the 'passion'. Being a member of an interest group will solve all these issues and more. I recommend that if you are not a member of the GSQ or one of the interest groups, please do so.

Our Colonial and Convict Connections group provides a forum for the exchange of information and experiences for the mutual benefit of everyone. It provides the opportunity to learn, to do further research, to gain new skills and mix with like minded people. I encourage you to come along to our meetings. The dates for meetings (always held on a Sunday) for the rest of this year are as follows: 13 October, 8 December.

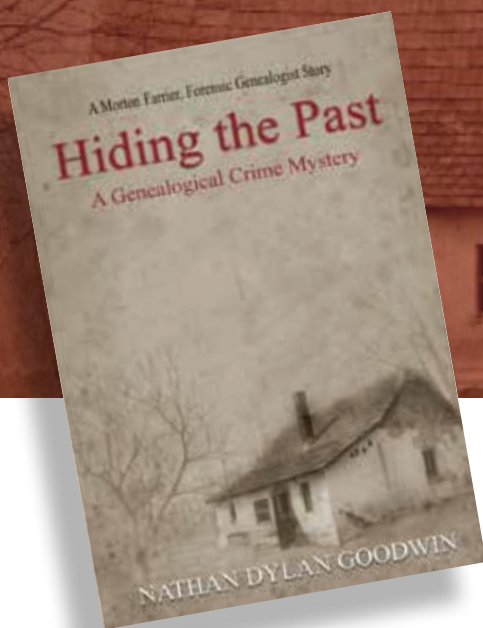
It is not imperative that you have a convict. An interest in Australian colonial history is the only pre-requisite. If attendance at the GSQ library is not possible, we also provide the option of a Zoom meeting. Please contact convictconnections@gsq.org.au.

Despite a life-long fascination for family history, my research has been spasmodic over many years. However, I joined the GSQ in 2010, my objective being to research my paternal family history and to write a book. After several years of rewarding research, I published the book in 2019. During Covid, I completed the popular Diploma of Family History through the University of Tasmania.

I have been a member of the Writing Group since 2010. In 2020 I started as a GSQ Blogger, a challenging and rewarding privilege. Currently I am working on my maternal family history that includes 2 intriguing convicts and I look forward to the opportunity of leading the Colonial and Convict special interest group. I have so much to learn!



BOOK REVIEW



HIDING THE PAST BY NATHAN DYLAN GOODWIN

PUBLISHED IN 2022 IN VARIOUS FORMATS
AVAILABLE FROM [AMAZON.COM](https://www.amazon.com)

Marg Doherty

The book I am reviewing this *Generation* is *Hiding the Past*, by Nathan Dylan GOODWIN. It is the first book in a fiction series popular with genealogists featuring Morton Farrier, a forensic genealogist. First published in 2013, in paperback or e-book format, *Hiding the Past* remains relevant to today's readers. The publishers donated the book to GSQ for the Society to review.

Before reading the book, I watched a webinar by the author, Nathan Dylan Goodwin, who is a genealogist. On the webinar, Nathan spoke about writing genealogical mysteries and illustrated his knowledge of genealogical techniques and his familiarity with archives. After watching this webinar, I felt reassured that there would be a solid family history background and commenced reading the book.

Hiding the Past has three stories that the author has cleverly integrated. The first is set in present-day England. It focuses on Morton's professional engagement in an intriguing and valuable commission, which includes murder, as expected. The second story is set during World War II in England. The author has seamlessly interwoven the war years and the present day in a non-jarring way. Sometimes, authors ineffectively use two timeframes, but this did not happen in this book. The last story is the background or the family history of Morton and his life. Morton's life is that of his parents, although his mother is deceased, his brother and his girlfriend.

The murder mystery was very complex, and I did not guess the murderer or see any other facts the author revealed as the book concluded.

I felt there were two very minor faults in the publication. One was that Morton's girlfriend was a Police Community Liaison Officer, and the abbreviation PCLO was applied throughout. The occupation was not written in full anywhere, which I felt was required for a book published worldwide or in the English-speaking world.

Another factor I felt was grating was describing the older woman archivist in terms that inferred she was an old-fashioned spinster. This was my reaction to this character; maybe others will not feel the same way I did.

Hiding the Past is an excellent start to a genealogical mystery series. It introduces the main character and situates him within a family with a girlfriend. The initial characterisation provides a fertile field for further character development in future books. To date, there are nine volumes in the series. A short story, *the Deserter's Tale*, will be distributed in June, and GSQ will receive a copy to review. So be warned, another review will be published shortly.



A cursive challenge:

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY'S CORRESPONDENCE

State Library of Queensland

A pardoned English convict stows away on a ship, making his way to Dublin only to be caught circulating forged banknotes and transported to the colony of New South Wales for a third time.

In an 1831 letter, James Hardy VAUX pleads with Colonial Secretary Alexander MACLEAY to spare him from a stint in the penal colony of Moreton Bay. 'By my imprudence I have forfeited the Emancipation which I acquired by 10 years good conduct and am now in the same unhappy situation as on my arrival in 1810 – namely a prisoner for Life ...,' Vaux writes in a letter recently transcribed as part of a State Library of Queensland project.



James Hardy Vaux

The conman, thief, forger and likely bigamist goes on to blame his 'foolish elopement from the Colony' on his wife, 'so habitual a drunkard that I became weary of my existence'. Vaux tells of surviving on food smuggled to him and his accomplice by the ship's cook, presenting to a 'much displeased' captain, and absconding in a canoe upon reaching Rio de Janeiro.

Vaux had risen to notoriety as author of a dictionary of 'the flash language' – the underworld language used by British convicts – which is regarded as Australia's first dictionary. He also penned a memoir in 1819.

The travels of 'Flash Jim' are among the many historical tales coming to life for volunteers who are transcribing the Colonial Secretary's Correspondence (1822–60). The State Library of Queensland collection comprises more than 42,000 pages of communication between the New South Wales government and the Moreton Bay penal settlement in what became known as the colony of Queensland in 1859.

From pen and ink to computers

Margaret WARREN, Director, Content Management at State Library, says the collection is one of the most significant information sources about 19th century Queensland.

'Everything that had to be approved or undertaken in the colony went through the Colonial Secretary's Office,' Margaret says.

Making the letters accessible to the public has been a decades-long pursuit, starting in the 1980s when State Library made microfilm copies from originals held by the Archives Authority of New South Wales. The letters were then indexed, digitised, and artificial intelligence used to transcribe them.

For almost a year, a core group of over 100 volunteers has been reviewing and correcting machine-generated transcriptions using the From the Page online platform.

Machine learning – producing transcripts that are roughly 70% accurate – has helped to make a dent in a mammoth task. However, deciphering and understanding 19th century penmanship of varying quality is a distinctly human task and there is much more work ahead. So far, only 10 of the 52 reels of digitised microfilm have been corrected.

'This is where people add value to what machines can do,' Margaret says.

Volunteers completed 3,482 hours of transcription work in 2023–24. Five of the volunteers have devoted over 200 hours each to the project and one worked over 1,000 hours. The volunteer group has grown to 320 but more are needed.

The State Library is progressively making the corrected letters available online. 'Our next step is to make it searchable in a much more informed and intuitive 21st century way.'

Queensland Library Foundation is raising \$100,000 to develop a digital interface to make this heritage treasure more accessible. Donor support will enable researchers,



Moreton Bay 1835

historians, and students to discover and contextualize the collection.

'We want to have themed pathways, so you don't need to know what's in there to begin exploring.'

'We will look at issues like women convicts and First Nations peoples so students and researchers can go on a journey through the correspondence. When the machine transcription is fully corrected, it will be the best possible user experience, which is why our volunteers are so important.'

Truth-telling and the collection

In the 1820s and 1830s, re-offending convicts were punished with exile to Moreton Bay. The penal colony closed in 1839, and the area was declared open to free white settlers in 1842.

The records of the Colonial Secretary hold valuable information for truth-telling and building a deeper understanding of Queensland's history. They document the frontier violence and dispossession of First Nations peoples that accompanied European colonisation.

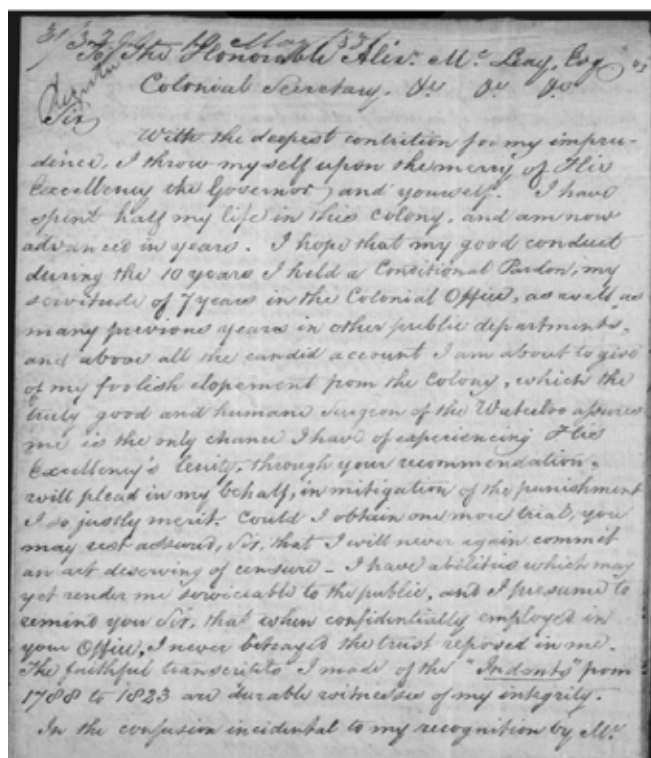
'The more confronting context, around first interactions with First Nations peoples, is sometimes distressing to read,' Margaret says.

'There was no sense of being treated equally or even being treated respectfully in the language that was used about First Nations people. In terms of truth-telling, it gives us pause to think about the experiences of First Nations ancestors.'

As a memory institution and custodian of Queensland's documentary history, State Library is committed to ensuring access to historical material in support of the truth-telling process.

Rich resource for genealogists

The breadth of the business that crossed the desk of the Colonial Secretary means the letters are of immense value to family history researchers.

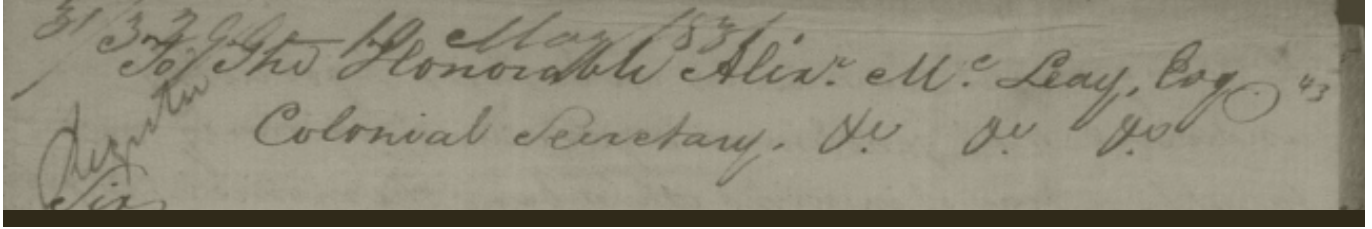


'The content could include anything to do with convict matters, things like asking for your sentence to be commuted or reduced, disciplinary action against convicts, asking to be moved from Moreton Bay to one of the other colonies because your husband or wife was there, or for them to be moved to Queensland,' Margaret says.

'You might find details about your family member who came to Moreton Bay and into the broader parts of Queensland if they corresponded with the Colonial Secretary or were in reports. It could be that they were building a pub, a road, or were in hospital. If they came on a ship, they might be on a list of passengers in some of the correspondence. There's also a lot about exploration. There are weather reports, and references to trials of plants in the botanical gardens.'

Transcribers through the ages

The community of transcribers poring over the Colonial Secretary's Correspondence share an interest in history



and handwriting. 'They enjoy the stories they find in the letters and the sense of achievement in solving a tricky puzzle,' Margaret says.

To get involved, all you need is a computer, an internet connection and an inquiring mind. Volunteers become adept at distinguishing the elaborate curlicues of 19th century handwriting and recognising the abbreviations and language quirks of the time.

'These letters are written by different people. You've got a wide variety of hands and some of them are beautifully neat, and some are scribble, worthy of a doctor's handwriting.'

In his neatly inked letter, the recidivist convict VAUX presents as evidence of his integrity the faithful transcripts he made while serving for 7 years in the Colonial Secretary's Office no less – irony not lost on his 21st century transcriber.

Ultimately, Vaux spent just a month at Moreton Bay, Commandant James CLUNIE ordering he be moved to Port Macquarie.

How you can help

Volunteer: slq.qld.gov.au/get-involved/volunteer

Donate: slq.qld.gov.au/donate

From The Page: fromthepage.com/slqld/colonial-secretary-s-correspondence

Language used in the correspondence reflects the creator's attitude or that of the period in which they were written and is now considered inappropriate or offensive.

Image captions

- Image of a Henry Boucher Bowerman watercolour painting of Moreton Bay, 1835, from John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland.
- Portrait of James Hardy Vaux, originally published in Knapp & Baldwin's New Newgate Calendar, 1825.
- James Hardy Vaux letter to Colonial Secretary Alexander Macleay, 10 May 1831.

Scotland, Ireland, England & DNA

Take your research further with leading experts *Chris Paton* and *Mia Bennett*, featured speakers on our 18th **UNLOCK THE PAST** cruise (Southern Australia) in December 2024. We are planning land seminars with them in Brisbane for 2 days Thu 12 and Fri 13 December 2024 at Geebung RSL Club, Corner Newman Road & Collings Street, Geebung

Brisbane costs: pre-book by 5 December 2024 to be in the draw for several hundred \$\$\$ in prizes.

- two days - pre-booked \$150 on the day \$170
- one day - pre-booked \$95 on the day \$110

For more information and to see the program for the 2 days, see <https://www.gould.com.au/chris-paton-mia-bennett-down-under-brisbane/>

FEATURED SOURCE

Alistair Henderson

Researching in the National Records of Scotland

Introduction

The National Records of Scotland (NRS) is a department of the Scottish Government whose purpose is to collect, preserve and produce information about Scotland's people and history and make it available to inform current and future generations. It was established in 2011, following the merger of the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) and the National Archives of Scotland (NAS).

Visiting the National Records of Scotland (NRS) in Edinburgh is one of life's joys. These archives are housed in a magnificent 18th century Robert Adam building in central Edinburgh, with transport connections right on its doorstep. Old records are housed in a circular structure topped by a magnificent dome, all recently refurbished and a delight to walk through on the way to the Historical Search Room. Even that room retains its ancient wood panelling and high ceilings that have seen so many famous genealogists searching for answers over the centuries. Unfortunately, there are also a few traps for the researcher, and it pays to prepare well for a visit, particularly if short of time away from a long-awaited family holiday.

Preparation

Like many archives, the NRS operates on a Reader's Ticket system, and you will not be permitted to view any records until you have been issued with one. Currently (2024) the issuing system is a slightly antiquated hard copy arrangement that needs two passport photos and two official documents with your address confirmation (Australian driver's licence plus passport acceptable), so do not walk in on your first day without these.

Since its recent renovation, the NRS has also moved many of its important records to its remote site on the edge of Edinburgh, and production of these can be quite slow. Therefore, it is extremely important to search the NRS online catalogue (www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/catalogues-and-indexes) before your visit and to pre-order records that would not be on site.

Within the building, there are three different search rooms with different classes of records in each. The ground floor currently has the ScotlandsPeople Centre,

for which you pay a daily fee and then have complete access to all the civil and OPR records, plus the census records. Even a half day in this room can be well worth the fee. Further around is the digital search room, where you can search and view digitised Virtual Volumes, particularly sasines. On the upper floor is the Historical Search Room, where you would go to view original hard copy records. This area also contains many indexes and summaries to assist searching the relevant record series. It is quite feasible to move among all three areas, but most cost effective to try to complete your searches of the BMD and census records within one day.

Record Types Available

Church Records

The majority of interesting church records are the Old Parish Registers of the Church of Scotland, but NRS holds records of many of the non-establishment churches as well. One of the benefits of visiting Edinburgh is the ability to book a local seat in the ScotlandsPeople Centre, and to browse and view all of its records without paying extra for downloads. All civil, census and Church records can be viewed, along with the Lord Lyon pedigrees and the testaments from the Commissary Courts. Each parish in Scotland had a local **Kirk Session**, the church court responsible for discipline offences such as drunkenness, fornication, absence, and swearing. The records are useful for finding the parents of illegitimate children, but also other births, and particularly deaths. All are now digitised on Virtual Volumes, and many can be viewed on the ScotlandsPeople site.

Testaments

Until 1868, Scottish people could only bequeath movable property through a testament (or will), and so many did not bother about making one. After death, an executor could prove a testament through the relevant commissary court as either a testament-testamentary (made by the deceased) or a testament dative (intestate deceased). The records usually include an inventory, which is always of interest. The testaments are easily searched through ScotlandsPeople.

Inheritance Records

These are important records for a genealogist, and more so in Scotland where all real property, of any size, could only be inherited through primogeniture until 1876. The primary records of interest are:

- **Retours** or **Service of Heirs** -records of inheritance through families, following an inquest to document an heir's relationship to his ancestor, after which the result was sent ("retoured") to Chancery for payment of the relevant fees. Indexes to these from 1544 to 1859 are available at GSQ, and later ones at NRS. The inherited property could be quite small, so do not ignore these records just because it appears that the family had little wealth.
- **Tailzie ("taille")** – this was a direction by a property owner of how the land was to descend through the family if he had no direct heir, for example to the son of a particular daughter or to a natural (illegitimate) son. NRS holds a register of these from 1689 to 1925.

Property Records

Because Scottish land tenure was heritable by primogeniture until 1876, and feudal until 2004, property transfers generated a number of documents, records of which are held at NRS. The most common, and important, was the **Instrument of Sasine**, which usually included good ancestral information and was recorded in the **Register of Sasines** from 1617. Only some indexes are published, and held at GSQ, but most searches must be conducted at NRS. After 1780, the Register has been digitised and indexed electronically, but it does not cover any of the 66 Royal burghs at all. As it is quite likely that your ancestor would have lived in one of these towns, you would need to search the local index from 1809, and minute books for earlier records. The burgh records are often kept off site, so pre-ordering is advisable for them.

Another useful set of property records available at NRS is the **Valuation Rolls**. These records of property values, owners and tenants were kept from the early 18th century, but not consistently. From 1855 onwards, they were taken annually, and so are very useful for tracing the movement or death of ancestors. The rolls for every 10th year are published on ScotlandsPeople, but the annual rolls must be viewed at NRS.

Another source of information is the estate records of large landholders, many of which are deposited in NRS under the **Gifts and Deposits (GD)** series. These donated records often contain information about rentals and tenants, and a catalogue of them is held at GSQ, with detailed abstracts in the online NRS catalogue.

Legal Records

The most useful legal record held at NRS for most families is the **Register of Deeds**. This is a vast holding of copies of legal dealings, and was used to provide guaranteed enforcement of a contract. It runs from 1554 through to the current time, and contains items such as bonds (loans), settlements, marriage contracts,

and apprenticeships. The registers were kept by burgh courts, county sheriff courts, and the national Court of Sessions, and all existing copies are at NRS, although the burgh records are off-site. Some paid web sites and Family History Societies in Scotland have started to index the Sheriff and Burgh deeds, but the main Register of Deeds is only indexed from 1780 onwards in manuscript indexes kept in the Historical Search Room.

The decisions or judgements (decreets) of the various courts resulting from litigation are also kept at NRS, and are slowly being indexed. The lower Sheriff Court cases are interesting as they can provide the father's name in alimentary cases, where an illegitimate child was born and the mother sued for financial support, which was particularly frequent in Scotland.

Occupational Records

After the Union of 1707, Scotland retained many separate government functions, even if they performed the exact same roles as their counterparts in England. The staff records of these departments and boards are held by NRS, not the National Archives in London. Some examples are Customs and (separately) Excise officers, prison officers, lighthouse keepers, and railway staff. Many of these people were moved about frequently, and their pay records will often show where they were stationed. These records are primarily kept off-site and must be pre-ordered.

Research Strategies

Archives like the NRS are prime repositories of genealogical information, and most of that information is not on-line, so a visit can be particularly rewarding. With recent cutbacks and loss of staff after the pandemic, the service at NRS has slowed, and the delivery of off-site records is now particularly limited. The archive staff are friendly, but unable to help with your research at all, so you must know the documents you want to see. The online catalogue takes some work to find the ways to get the detailed record numbers for ordering, and plenty of practice searching it is recommended. The printed references below are available in the library or from the GSQ Bookshop, and studying these will help to make your visit both enjoyable and rewarding.

References

- Durie, Bruce. *Scottish Genealogy*. 4th ed., The History Press 2017
- National Records of Scotland. *Tracing Your Scottish Ancestors*. 7th ed., Birlinn 2021
- An introductory video to the Research Guides and how they can help with your research can be found on the NRS YouTube channel. See the following sites for more information on searching Scotland's historical records.
- <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research>
- <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>



How to book

Calendar of events

GSQ web site:

Go to www.gsq.org.au and select Events

Use the Events Calendar to find the event and then select the number and type of ticket (Member/Non-Member).

Add your event to the Cart and proceed to the Checkout page adding in all details and selecting the payment type.

In person:

Come into GSQ and have a library assistant help you fill out the online registration form for your chosen event.

By post:

Post in a cheque nominating the event for which you wish to book. The cheque must be received by GSQ at least 5 days prior to the event.

By phone:

Telephone GSQ on 07 3349 6072 during opening hours for EFTPOS credit card payments.

Payment types

Credit card:

Can be used online, in person at GSQ or via telephone.

Direct Bank Transfer: Transfer the funds to GSQ using GSQ's bank details provided at the time of booking. Payment must have been received at least 2 days prior to the event.

Cash: In person at GSQ

Cheque: By post or in person at GSQ

Once payment has been confirmed, a ticket will be emailed to you. If you do not have an email address, it can be posted or provided to you on the day of the event.

Remember

For most courses, bookings are essential, especially for computer courses as these are limited to 10 attendees.

Also, please note that the GSQ education program is prepared many months in advance. Occasionally, changes need to be made due to circumstances which are out of GSQ's control.

Please check the GSQ website www.gsq.org.au/gsq-events/ for up-to-date information and for booking to attend sessions.

Date	Day	Event + Special Interest Groups [SIG]	Time
September 2024			
1	Sun	Scottish Group	10am
8	Sun	Family History Technology Group	10am
14	Sat	Presentation -What's new at FTM	9am
15	Sun	Chinese Research Group	10am
15	Sun	Scandinavian Group	1pm
21	Sat	Presentation – Women Teachers in early Brisbane	9am
29	Sun	German Group	10:15am
October 2024			
5	Sat	Presentation - Undertakers Records	9am
6	Sun	English/Irish/Welsh Group	10am
12	Sat	Seminar – Gone but not Forgotten	9am
13	Sun	Colonial & Convict Connections	10am
20	Sun	Writing SIG	10am
27	Sun	DNA Group	9:30am
30	Wed	DNA Clinic	7pm
November 2024			
2	Sat	AGM	10am
3	Sun	Scottish Group	10am
5	Tues	Presentation – Walls come tumbling down	7pm
10	Sun	Family History Technology Group	10am
16	Sat	Presentation – The National Archives (Kew)	9am
17	Sun	Chinese Research Group	10am
17	Sun	Scandinavian Group	1pm
24	Sun	German Group	10:15am
30	Sat	Presentation - Hardscrabble Lives	9am
December 2024			
1	Sun	English/Irish/Welsh Group	10am
8	Sun	Colonial & Convict Connections	10am
14	Sat	Presentation – Legacy Family Tree 10	9am



• **Events and Special Interest Group Meetings are held at GSQ:**
25 Stackpole Street, Wishart, Qld. (Current restrictions considered)

Due to unforeseen circumstances, some of these events may be cancelled or re-scheduled. **Please check GSQ's website for up-to-date information on the education program.**

EDUCATION PROGRAM 2024

WATCH THE GSQ WEBSITE OR E-NEWS FOR INFORMATION ON DATES, LOCATIONS AND TOPICS AS THEY MAY CHANGE.

ALL paid events need to be booked online via the GSQ web site.

September - October - November

Presentation (Virtual platform)

Find Out What's New at FTM [Family Tree Maker]:

WHEN: Saturday 14 Sept @ 9am – 10:30m AEST
PRESENTER: Mark Olsen
COST: Free to Members

Presentation (Virtual platform)

Undertakers Records: Making the most of GSQ's Collection

WHEN: Saturday 5 October @ 9am – 11am AEST
PRESENTER: Dr. Hilda Maclean
COST: \$21 Members \$31 Non-members

Presentation (Virtual platform)

Walls Come Tumbling Down

WHEN: Tuesday 5 November @ 7pm – 9pm AEST
PRESENTER: Dave Annal
COST: \$21 Members \$31 Non-members

Presentation (Virtual platform)

Hardscrabble Lives:

WHEN: Saturday 30 November @ 9am – 11am AEST
PRESENTER: Helen V Smith
COST: \$21 Members \$31 Non-members

Presentation (Virtual platform)

Women Teachers in Early Brisbane

WHEN: Saturday 21 September @ 9am – 11am AEST
PRESENTER: Sharyn Merkley
COST: \$21 Members \$31 Non-members

Seminar (Virtual platform)

Gone but not Forgotten: Forgotten Women and Children

WHEN: Thursday 15 October @ 9am – 5:30pm AEST
PRESENTER: Various
COST: Early bird (14/09/24)
\$60 Members \$75 Non-members
Full \$70 Members \$85 Non-members
Information: Page 22 *Generation*

Presentation (Virtual platform)

The National Archives (Kew England):

WHEN: Saturday 16 November @ 9am – 11am AEST
PRESENTER: Helen V Smith
COST: \$21 Members \$31 Non-members

We hope you enjoy the education program for 2024. Remember to look on the GSQ website for up to date events & times.



Brisbane
City Council

GSQ in your local BCC library : Throughout the year, GSQ presents topics at your local Brisbane City Council Libraries. These presentations are free, but you need to book at the library. The Council pays GSQ a fee for presentations so tell your friends about them as Council monitors the popularity of the presentations and decides how many will be offered.

The topic: Queensland Family History Online

Annerley Library: Saturday 14 September 10am to 12noon
Contact 3403 1735

DNA Clinics

The clinic help sessions are available to all GSQ members only and will be in your home with a one-on-one virtual meeting through Zoom or GoToMeeting. The clinics are held on the 5th Wednesday of the month, and the next clinic will be on 30 October.

If you'd like to make an appointment, please email dna@gsq.org.au **by the Wednesday prior to the session**, stating you would like an appointment and set out your DNA problem.

The appointments will be for approximately 30 mins each on that Wednesday evening between the times of 7pm – 8:30pm. A virtual meeting link will be sent to you the day before the DNA Clinic with your appointed time and the name of the person who will be assisting you.

SIG Meeting Dates 2024

Special Interest Groups for 2024 are full of bright ideas and tips. All members of GSQ are welcome to attend. Watch the GSQ website or eNews for information on dates, topics, and any event changes.

<https://www.gsq.org.au/gsq-events/list/>



Colonial & Convict Connections • 10:00am – 2:30pm



13 October, 8 December
• Second Sunday, even numbered months

German Research Group • 10:15am – 2:30pm



29 September, 24 November
• Last Sunday, odd numbered months

DNA Group • 9:30am – 12:00pm (2:30pm even months)



27 October
• Fourth Sunday, even numbered months

Scandinavian Group • 12:30am – 2:30pm



15 September, 17 November
• Third Sunday, odd numbered months

English/Irish/Welsh Group • 10:00am – 2:30pm



6 October, 1 December
• First Sunday, even numbered months

Scottish Group • 10:00am – 2:30pm



1 September, 3 November
• First Sunday, odd numbered months

Writing Group • 10:00am – 2:00pm



20 October
• Third Sunday, even numbered months

Family History Technology Group • 10:00am – 12:00pm



8 September, 10 November
• Second Sunday, odd numbered months

Chinese Research Group • 10:00am – 2:00pm



15 September, 17 November
• Third Sunday, odd numbered months

Our Special Interest Groups hold meetings at GSQ, 25 Stackpole Street, Wishart or online via Zoom. Members of GSQ are welcome to attend.



GSQ MEETINGS



Following the COVID-19 pandemic, GSQ has instituted a number of virtual meetings using Zoom. These meetings provide support for members' research, and discussion about resources available and interesting topics.

Check the Events Calendar on the GSQ website for further information and confirmation.

GONE BUT NOT
FORGOTTEN

12 Oct

9:00am - 5:15pm

AEST

via ZOOM

Forgotten Women & Children Seminar

Program

- Shauna Hicks - *The why, how and the where of homeless women in Colonial Queensland.*
- Joanne Seccombe - *Where are the Children? Children and the public record in Queensland.*
- Daniel Loftus - *Trials and tribulations: Mother and Baby Homes.*
- Dr Dot Wickham & Dr Frank Golding - *Refuge Rescue Reform: Voices of Suffering and Survival.*
- Dr Cate O'Neill & Dr Kirsten Wright - *The Find and Connect web resource: documenting the histories of Australian institutions for women and children.*
- Dr Janet Few - *Marginalised Women.*
- Jan Richardson - *Silenced and forgotten: women and children at Dunwich and Woogaroo asylums.*

All sessions will be recorded and available for one month after the event to registered attendees.

Bookings & payment

Early Bird Price if booked by

1 October 2024:

GSQ/QFHS Members \$60

Non-members \$75

Price from 15 September 2024:

GSQ/QFHS Members \$70

Non-members \$85

Book online at: www.gsq.org.au/events/

Payment may be made by:

Credit card (online, by phoning GSQ

07 3349 6072 or at GSQ)

Cash (at GSQ)

Bank transfer (note details at time of ordering)

Genealogical Society
of Queensland



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www.gsq.org.au/events/

John's War:

A FIRST-HAND ACCOUNT OF TRENCH WARFARE IN WWI

Charlotte Sale

John Caruthers SALE (John) was born on 27 April 1877 in the vicarage of Skendleby, Lincolnshire, where his father was the vicar.¹ He was the fifth son of ten surviving children born to Reverend Thomas Walker SALE and his wife Emma Grace née LITTLE.

John qualified as a Physician and Surgeon at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London in 1901 but life as a country doctor did not suit him.² He came into an inheritance in 1910 so decided to join his brother William Wykeham SALE (Bill, the author's grandfather, 1868-1929) as a grazier in central western Queensland.

John was 33 when he arrived in Brisbane on the *Orvieto* on 12 December 1910 and travelled to his brother's property *Summer Hill* to look for opportunities.³ In 1911 he bought *Weeumbah* and, soon after, an adjoining block *Lovat Park* – both near the village of Stonehenge south of Longreach.⁴ He also registered as a Medical Practitioner with the Queensland Medical Board.⁵

When war broke out in 1914, John felt the call to return "home" to England to offer his services as a doctor. John's neighbour Colin Basil Peter BELL (Bell, 1867-1934) of *Westland* had become a good friend and John wrote to him regularly during his military service. Bell kept John's letters and they have been passed on to his descendants.⁶

John sailed for England on the S.S. *Egypt* in February 1915, writing to Bell of receiving news when in Suez of the death of his brother-in-law near Ypres. "My poor sister has 3 small kiddies & it will nearly kill her – when it gets as close as that it brings it home to you what hundreds & thousands of others must be going through."⁷

He was appointed Temporary Lieutenant in the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) on 15 April 1915.⁸ By 9 May he wrote to Bell that he expected to be in France in a week in a Cavalry Field Ambulance unit attached to the 9th Brigade 1st Cavalry Division of the British Expeditionary Force. "Our lot comprises of 6 officers & 120 men, and we have 7 motor ambulances & 3 light horse ambulances... I think we are likely to have a lively time... The Australians seem to have done thunderingly well at the Dardanelles... I wonder how any man of fighting age can have the face to hang back & yet you see dozens still serving in shops."⁹



In June 1915, John wrote: "I have had my first experience of war and it is simply ghastly – it is impossible for anyone to realise what it means from a description... the gas is an unpleasant affair but we now have respirators... I was in the gas for about

3 hours & did not get my chest & throat affected at all but it gives your eyes hell... I was using a...ruined house as a dressing post & the place was under fire all day long. We got the wounded into motor ambulances there and sent them...to the main dressing station about 4 miles further back...all the hoods of the ambulances had holes in them by the end of the day but not a driver flinched. I had to go out with the stretcher bearers to get in some of the wounded from the trenches & we had a very lively time. We had a few minutes rifle & machine gun fire at one time & 26 HE shells came just over us as we lay down in a shell hole & all landed with a bang about 20 yards behind us. I began to think my chances of seeing *Weeumbah* again were very blue - & that sort of thing puts the fear of God in you right through."¹⁰

A letter dated 17 October 1915 mentioned being "right up to the line at Loos". He was to be posted to an infantry regiment for a month on probation, as there was "no lack of doctors & there is a shortage of infantry officers."¹¹

His letter of 27 October identified that he was now attached to the 2nd Battalion York & Lancaster Regiment and had recently had three days' leave. He delightedly told his friend of his engagement to Miss Olive BARROW, and that they actually had been engaged since May but told no one "in case I got knocked out". He had received no training for his new combatant role "but this trench warfare has to be experienced to be taught." The rain was incessant: "...the trenches are in a filthy condition of mud. You go about in boots up to the knees & are plastered in mud from head to foot, washing is infrequent and then in dirty water only. Drinking water is brought up each night in petrol tins. The work of repairing & strengthening trenches is all done at night. There is a constant sniping going on all night on the



chance of getting one another's working party & shells & other wind objects are flying about most of the day. The Germans have a couple of unpleasant trench mortars opposite which throw over a few big bombs every day – they explode with a huge crash but don't seem to do much damage...Of course there is a very good chance of getting hit if you are up here for long & I don't at all want to peg out just now – but personal reasons must come second."¹²

John's concern that the cold and wet would bring on an old complaint, muscular rheumatism, proved well founded. His next letter was dated 9 November and said "We have just come out of the trenches...the water was halfway up my thighs in rivers & devilish cold. We were wet through all the time & as you can't take your clothes or boots off while you are in the front line you may imagine the state of muddied filth we were in by the end... I am afraid I won't be able to stick it out as a combatant...after Australia for 5 years the wet & cold is very trying." He also mentioned visiting Ypres and "the heaps of bricks, which were once houses, have now nearly all been carted away to make roads."¹³

By December John was back with the RAMC now attached to the 11th Essex Regiment. "We go up again tonight to a salubrious health resort in the front-line trenches." It was still raining, "I wish I could send a few inches over to you". He regretted having to give up his combatant status "but of course I now have opportunities of occasionally getting dry which makes a vast difference".

John's letter of 7 February 1916 was in reply to Bell's congratulatory one, in reply to his of 27 October, giving an idea of the time letters took to reach and return from Australia. After seven days leave after Christmas, John was again working at the frontline 15 days out of every 20. "We get plenty of shells & other missiles every day but even they get monotonous after a time if they don't hit you". He was anticipating being made Captain shortly, after 12 months' service with the RAMC. His letter ended on a wistful note: "I met a Queenslander from Chinchilla, a Tommy, the other day & talked to him for a few minutes. When I was going, instead of saluting he said 'Well so long!'. I thought of you and smiled."¹⁴

John's luck slipped in May 1916 when, near Ypres, he received a gunshot wound in his right shoulder which fractured his scapular. He was admitted to Queen Alexandra's Military Hospital, Millbank, Westminster from 11-13 May then transferred to Mrs Thal's Hospital at 17 Upper Grosvenor Street, Mayfair until 30 May.¹⁵ He made light of his injury in his 4 June letter to BELL "it was a bit unpleasant at the time but I am now out of hospital with a month's sick leave & am going to be married on Thursday". Marriage meant a new will, so John asked

Bell to act as his executor in Queensland, along with his brother Bill, "if anything happens to me".¹⁶

In a letter of 30 June, John congratulated BELL on the arrival of a daughter and mentioned "I was married on June 8th & have made such a rapid recovery that the War Office are sending me out to France again in 3 days' time...I wish it was all over & I was on my way back to Queensland".¹⁷ John was next attached to a Battalion of Royal Fusiliers, "a very good lot, too". His letter of 18 September was determinedly cheerful, full of reminiscences of life in the west and news of his wife's work at a canteen in a camp in Yorkshire.¹⁸

On 25 Nov 1916, Temporary Captain R.A.M.C. was gazetted as having received the Military Cross "For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He rescued many wounded men under intense fire by carrying them on his back, displaying great courage and coolness. He set a splendid example throughout the operations".¹⁹

In John's letter to BELL of 11 April 1917, thanking him for his congratulations, he tells him of receiving a Bar to his M.C. "for work in some very hot fighting we had in February. It was certainly overall the worst day I have yet been through. It was the last hard fighting before the Boche started to retire. I had my one bit of pleasure out of the war that day. I made 4 Boche officers carry one of our wounded men down & when one of them who could speak English objected that it wasn't officers work I kicked him very hard on the part meant to receive kicks & no more objections were made".²⁰

And sure enough, John's Bar to his Military Cross was gazetted on 17 April 1917: "Temp. Capt. John Caruthers SALE, M.C., R.A.M.C., attd. R. Fus. For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He displayed great courage in collecting and dressing the wounded in the face of a very heavy hostile barrage. He set a splendid example to all ranks".²¹

On 27 August 1917 John wrote "This summer's offensive has quite surpassed last summer's in intensity of artillery fire & general unpleasantness. It can't go on very much longer I think as neither side can last out men at this rate but of course we still have the Americans to come in and give us a hand...I got another bit of a wound at the beginning of this month but it was quite slight and I did not go off duty with it".²²

Letters are missing from the correspondence; John's next surviving letter was from 10 October 1918. There had been no replies to mail home for some time, John wondered if the ship carrying it was sunk. Nonetheless he continued to receive regular rainfall cables from Dalgety & Company from Australia. In his correspondence John often commented on the rain, or lack of it, at *Weumbah*



as well as local events he would have attended with BELL had he still been there. His October letter also reported "We have had a devil of a lot of fighting...a solid 2 months fighting ending with [a] burst through the Hindenburg line. I have been rather lucky on the whole, once I was talking to a man when a machine gun was turned on us & he was hit through the head but I escaped, & another time a shell pitched not 3 yards from me & was a "dud". There is a lot of luck in this game.

Perhaps he wasn't yet aware of another honour coming his way. John's Distinguished Service Order was gazetted on 26 Oct 1917 for T./Capt. John Caruthers SALE, M.C., R.A.M.C. (no detail given).²³ It was not long before John received the Bar to his Distinguished Service Order. It was gazetted on 15 March 1918: "T/Capt. John Caruthers Sale, M.C., R.A.M.C. For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during an attack. He collected the wounded over a large tract of country exposed to heavy fire, and continuously went out by night in advance of the front line searching for the wounded, many of whom he brought back over most difficult ground and under heavy fire. His coolness and determination were a splendid example to his stretcher-bearers".²⁴

Armistice Day finally arrived. Much of John's letter of 6 March 1919 deals with terrible bush fires that had been raging across his and neighbouring properties. He continued "I am still in France...there are far more medical officers out here than anyone needs & yet they won't let us go. I am now commanding my field ambulance – shortly before the fighting stopped I was transferred to another one as Major & 2nd in command. They can't keep me after April 14th... after that...waiting for a berth to Australia. I don't think I shall have any chance of leaving England before June at earliest, which would mean getting out [west] in August. Practically all the boats are now going via the Cape not Suez...I think England is avoided for the next few years by anyone who has a job outside it...I shall really be very glad to get back to the West again...I shall have to get a car when I come out...since the armistice I have been learning – on a motor ambulance – to drive a motor car – I haven't done any serious damage to Government property at present. I'm afraid I shan't be out in time for the Arrilalah Amateur Victory Race Meeting".²⁵

John soon took his wife Olive to live at his sheep station *Weeumbah* where they became part of a busy local community. In 1920 John was elected to the Longreach Shire Council. A son, John Richard (Dick, 1921-1941) and a daughter, Elinor Joan (Sally, 1924-2023) joined them before John sold up in 1928.²⁶ They sailed from Sydney for Vancouver on the RMS Aorangi on 31 May 1928, en route to England.²⁷ John was 87 when he died in Lincolnshire on 13 October 1964, having outlived all

his siblings.²⁸

For four years John shared the horrors of the western front with thousands of others. His first-hand account demonstrates his 'head down, get on, get through this' attitude that helped him survive and helped him help so many others to survive as well. It has been a pleasure to uncover the details of his war service and share them.

¹TheGenealogist, Education records, Marlborough College Register 1843-1933, p364.

²TheGenealogist, Education records.

³Ancestry, Fremantle, Western Australia, Passenger Lists, 1897-1963, database with images (<https://www.ancestry.com.au/search/collections/5378/>), entry for Mr J C Sale. Original data: National Archives of Australia, Inward passenger manifests for ships and aircraft arriving at Fremantle, Perth Airport and Western Australian outports from 1897-1963, Series Number: K 269; Reel Number: 32.

⁴"Longreach and District." The Western Champion and General Advertiser for the Central-Western Districts (Barcaldine, Qld.: 1892 - 1922) 25 February 1911: 10.

⁵Queensland Government Gazette, 1911, vol XCVI, p1455

⁶Sally McCall, *The Sally Chronicles: a collection of memories* (Grahamstown, South Africa: privately published by Thomas Shone, 2014).

⁷J.C. Sale (Port Said) to "Dear Bell" [C.B.P. Bell], letter, 23 March 1915, copy held by author.

⁸Supplement to the London Gazette, 10 May 1915, p. 4521, entry for John Caruthers Sale. <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/29158/supplement/4521>.

⁹J.C. Sale (McGrigor Barracks, Aldershot) to "Dear Bell", letter, 9 May 1915.

¹⁰J.C. Sale (no location) to "Dear Bell", letter, 6 June 1915.

¹¹J.C. Sale (no location) to "Dear Bell", letter, 17 October 1915.

¹²J.C. Sale (attached 2nd Battn York & Lancaster Regt, BE7) to "Dear Bell", letter, 27 October 1915, copy held by author.

¹³J.C. Sale (no location) to "Dear Bell", letter, 9 November 1915, copy held by author.

¹⁴J.C. Sale (no location) to "Dear Bell", letter, 7 February 1916, copy held by author.

¹⁵Findmypast, "British Armed Forces, First World War Soldiers' Medical Records" ([findmypast.com.au](https://www.findmypast.com.au); accessed 2 Dec 2018) entry for JC Sale. Original data: The National Archives, MH 106/1771, 1916 Apr. 11-May 31.

¹⁶J.C. Sale (c/o Dalgety & Co) to "Dear Bell", letter, 30 June 1916, copy held by author.

¹⁷J.C. Sale (no location) to "Dear Bell", letter, 7 February 1916, copy held by author.

¹⁸J.C. Sale (no location) to "Dear Bell", letter, 18 September 1916, copy held by author.

¹⁹Supplement to the London Gazette, 25 November 1916, p. 11544, entry for John Caruthers Sale. <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/29837/supplement/11544>.

²⁰J.C. Sale (no location) to "Dear Bell", letter, 11 April 1917, copy held by author.

²¹Supplement to the London Gazette, 17 April 1917, p. 3678, Military Cross, entry for John Caruthers Sale. <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/30023/supplement/3678/data.pdf>.

²²J.C. Sale (no location) to "Dear Bell", letter, 27 August 1917, copy held by author.

²³Supplement to the London Gazette, 27 Oct 1917, p. 30355, entry for John Caruthers Sale. <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/30355/supplement/11108>.

²⁴Supplement to the London Gazette, 18 March 1918, p. 3417, entry for John Caruthers Sale. <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/30583/supplement/3417>.

²⁵J.C. Sale (no location) to "Dear Bell", letter, 6 March 1919, copy held by author.

²⁶For Dick's birth: Wisden Almanac, Obituaries during the war, 1941, online archive (<https://www.espnricinfo.com/wisdenalmanack/content/story/229836.html>); For Sally's birth: Sally McCall, *The Sally Chronicles: a collection of memories*, 15; For departure: "SALE OF WEEUMBAAH." The Longreach Leader (Qld.: 1923 - 1954) 16 March 1928: 28.

²⁷"SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE AND WEATHER" The Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW: 1883 - 1930) 31 May 1928: 17.

²⁸Ancestry, England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1966, 1973-1995 (<https://www.ancestry.com.au/search/collections/1904/>), entry for John Caruthers Sale.

FEATURED SOURCE

Alistair Henderson



The Register of Deeds Indexing Project

The Register of Deeds contains copies of original documents, most commonly, wills, leases and minutes of agreement. It is of immense interest to family and local historians with Scottish research interests, as it spans the activities of the full breadth of society over some 500 years. However, it has remained relatively inaccessible to researchers outside of Scotland due to a lack of published or on-line finding aids and calendars.

To improve this situation, a co-operative effort has started between Scottish genealogists *Scottish Indexes (Graham & Emma Maxwell)* and the GSQ Scottish Group to transcribe and index the records for future generations to use. This project has become possible by the use of high-resolution digital imaging and high bandwidth communication to bring readable images to our volunteer team of Gayle Albert, Lynne Cavanagh, Robyn Dean, and Richard Silcock for transcription.

We are working on the latest totally-unindexed years of the Register, starting with 1769, as a manuscript index exists at NRS from 1770. Within each year, there are three (3) different sets of deeds, corresponding to the clerk in charge of an office (DALRYMPLE, DURIE & MACKENZIE). We are working initially with the minute books kept by each clerk with key details of each deed, although we do have the full images of all the deeds for reference. Already we have found a few genealogical treasures, particularly where people described their full ancestry to define a relationship in a deed or marriage contract.

So far, the team has transcribed the details of just over 1300 deeds from the MACKENZIE office (the most prolific in that year), and we are doing final checks before these records go off to Scottish Indexes to be published for free on their web site. We have plenty more images to transcribe, and welcome additional transcribers if you would like to assist with this project. If you have Scottish ancestors, you are likely to find them somewhere in this record.



Event Report



MARRYING FAMILY HISTORY AND LOCAL HISTORY

In a virtual presentation on 6 July, Pauleen CASS discussed the value of marrying family and local history by which we can gain a much better understanding of the community in which our families lived, and their interactions within it. Learning about friends, associates and neighbours (FANS) can be enlightening and add value to both types of history.

Using the Lockyer Valley locality of Murphy's Creek, and her KUNKEL family as examples, Pauleen discussed indigenous life in the area, followed by the integration of industry, such as farming, quarrying, building, and the construction of the railway as well as schools, churches, military service, and social life in building a community

of both men and women.

The life of the community declines and expands with natural disasters and life changes. You need to look at the nearby towns and facilities to see where your ancestral families may have migrated or where they may have been hospitalised or buried. What transport lines connect them?

Pauleen finished her presentation by providing a comprehensive list of sources for the marriage of family and local history and a bridge to the past.



WHY SHOULD YOU DIVE INTO RESEARCHING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY?

Here's why you should embark on the journey of researching your family history.

Blog Posted: **June 27, 2023 - Family History Association of North Queensland**

In today's digital age, where we're constantly connected to the world around us, it's easy to overlook the treasures of our past. But there's a wealth of knowledge and stories waiting to be uncovered in our family histories.

Uncover Hidden Treasures of Your Past

Every family has its tales – stories of challenges faced, lost loves, and incredible adventures. By researching your family history, you can discover these hidden gems. Imagine finding out that your great-grandmother was a renowned artist or that your ancestors were pioneers in a foreign land. These stories offer a unique perspective on your own life and can be a source of inspiration.

Connect with Your Roots

In a world where we're often lost in the hustle and bustle, understanding where we come from offers a grounding experience. It provides a sense of belonging and helps us appreciate the sacrifices and decisions made by our ancestors that led us to where we are today.

Advanced Tools Make It Easier Than Ever

Gone are the days when researching family history meant sifting through dusty archives and handwritten letters. Today, there are advanced online tools and databases that make the process more accessible. Websites like Ancestry.com and FamilySearch provide vast collections of records, from birth and death certificates to census data. Plus, local libraries often offer free access to these resources, making it even more convenient.

Strengthen Family Bonds

Researching your family history is not just a solo endeavour. It's an opportunity to connect with living relatives, share stories, and build stronger bonds. You might find cousins you never knew existed or discover shared interests with distant relatives.

Personal Growth and Understanding

Diving deep into your family's past can offer insights into your own identity. It can help you understand certain family traits, values, and even medical histories. This knowledge can be invaluable in shaping your future and making informed decisions.

It's a Fun and Rewarding Challenge

For those with a curious mind, researching family history is like solving a fascinating puzzle. Each piece of information, each record, and each story adds a piece to the puzzle, making the journey as exciting as the destination.

Conclusion

Researching family history is more than just a hobby; it's a journey of self-discovery, connection, and appreciation. So, if you're in your 20s or 30s, now is the perfect time to start. Dive into the archives, talk to your relatives, and uncover the treasures of your past.

GSQ Special Interest Groups • e-News - <https://www.gsq.org.au/what-gsq-offers/enews/>

N@WS

The Genealogical Society of Queensland publishes a monthly electronic newsletter about Society news and upcoming events. All are welcome to download and read it.

For information on the activities of all our Special Interest Groups, see GSQ's monthly newsletter & E-news.



Ayr is a rural town located 88 kilometres south of Townsville and 1270 kilometres north of Brisbane on the Bruce Highway. It is situated on the north bank of the Burdekin River delta. With a population of 8600 in 2021, it is the administrative centre of the Burdekin Shire Council.

The town is part of the Biri language area which extends throughout the North and Central Queensland regions. Several British exploration voyages travelled up the river and had interactions with the local indigenous people. The first exploration of the area occurred in 1839, when Captain WICKHAM travelled 10 miles up the waterway initially known as the Wickham River, but later named after Thomas BURDEKIN, a sponsor of a later expedition led in 1845 by Ludwig LEICHHARDT.

George Elphinstone DALRYMPLE led an overland expedition to the area in 1859, and again in 1862, looking for land acquisitions. The area was opened up to pastoral squatting leases in 1861 and in that year, Edward ANTILL arrived in the region to take up land. In 1862, he selected a large area of land along the lower Burdekin River for a sheep station. Groups of armed settlers and Native Police tried to force the Aboriginal people off the land around this time.

A township, named Wickham, was formed in the region in 1864 but was destroyed in 1870 during a flood. Robert GRAHAM formed a run in 1876 and in 1881 the township of Ayr was laid out. Ayr was named after the Scottish town of Ayr, south of Glasgow, and the birthplace of nineteenth-century Queensland Premier, Sir Thomas MCILWRAITH.

Large scale cultivation of sugarcane began in the region in 1879 with the partnership of local landholders Robert GRAHAM and Archibald MACMILLAN. Their plantation and sugar mill were called Airdmillan. South Sea Islanders were kidnapped to work as labourers on the plantation. Many of these islanders died in the first year after being shipped in. In the 1890s, Airdmillan was subdivided and today much of the town of Ayr is located on what was once part of the Airdmillan estate. Other colonists also

established plantations and mills in the region during the 1880s.

Lots of land were sold in Ayr in 1882 and a local government division was formed in 1888, when the town was established. Cyclone Leonta destroyed much of the town in 1903. By 1930, several low-level road-rail bridges had been built to connect the town with Home Hill. But these bridges were plagued by flooding, so a high-level road-rail bridge, over a kilometre long, was built to the south of Ayr on the Bruce Highway, known as the 'Silver Link'. Since its construction in 1958, it has ensured that the town has not been cut off by the floods which occur on the Burdekin River most wet seasons. However, in 2019, nature managed to deliver so much rain to the area that Ayr was cut off both from Home Hill, on the southern side of the Burdekin River, and Townsville, to the north.

Many of the mills established in the 1880s are still operational. Ayr is at the heart of one of the most productive sugarcane-growing areas in Australia.



The Silver Link

Sources

- Aussie Towns - <https://www.aussietowns.com.au/town/ayr-qld>
- Wikipedia - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ayr,_Queensland
- Queensland Places - <https://queenslandplaces.com.au/ayr>
- Burdekin Shire Council - <https://www.burdekin.qld.gov.au/history>



EMIGRATION

Russell Fraser

Australia is a nation of immigrants; some left their homes in search of opportunities, others because their homeland could no longer support them. This included the Fraser family who left their Scottish homeland in 1863 to travel to the new colony of Queensland. The lines from Thomas Campbell record what they must have felt as they set out for the far side of the world. Of course, it perhaps should read 'Scotland's or Ireland's shore' and 'Queensland', but the sentiments are the same. Their homeland could not provide for them, but perhaps there was an element of opportunism.



*On England's shore I saw a pensive band,
With sails unfurl'd for earth's remotest strand,
Like children parting from a mother, shed
Tears for the home that could not yield them bread;
Grief mark'd each face receding from the view,
'Twas grief to nature honourably true.
And long, poor wand'ers o'er th' ecliptic deep
The song that names but home shall bid you weep;
Oft shall ye fold your flocks by stars above
In that far world, and miss the stars ye love;
Oft, when its tuneless birds scream round forlorn,
Regret the lark that gladdens England's morn.
And, giving England's names to distant scenes,
Lament that earth's extension intervenes.*

From 'Lines on the Departure of Emigrants for New South Wales' - Thomas Campbell (1777-1844)

familytree
MAGAZINE
101 BEST WEBSITES



Family Tree Magazine

With so many genealogy websites available for your family history quest, how do you know which sites are the best? Leave it to our genealogy experts! We constantly scour the web for great resources, and once a year, whittle those down to our annual list of

the 101 Best Genealogy Websites. Here, we've compiled our picks into a handy directory that makes it easy to find the top sites for your family history goals: Just choose the category that matches your interests to see the best sites to visit. See their website at: <https://www.familytreemagazine.com/best-genealogy-websites/>

Queensland Muster Roll

The Muster Roll is a biographical register of over 25,000 pioneers who were resident in the colony of Queensland between Separation in 1859 and Federation in 1901, an important period of Queensland's history, when it had its own unique identity, neither part of the colony of New South Wales nor a state in the Australian Federation.

Originally created as a Bicentennial project in 1988, the Q150 (2009) project updated the existing register, and additions were made through contributions from GSQ members and other family historians.

The register contains birth and family details; occupations, businesses, and properties; death details and names of spouses and children, as well as other known facts about individuals.

The register has resulted in a publication entitled *Queenslanders – Pioneer Families 1859-1901* which tells the stories of those Queenslanders who opened up the colony; told in the words of their descendants.



The Scottish Diaspora Tapestry

The Tapestry is a project in the small East Lothian town of Prestonpans to involve communities around the world in celebration of Scottish heritage and culture which connect Scotland to its global diaspora. Scots have migrated all over the world: from Australia to Zimbabwe, from Brazil to China, and have often had a profound impact on the areas where they settled. More than 30 million people [six times the population of Scotland] across the world proudly claim and celebrate their Scottish descent, and each has a tale to tell as to

how their families made their journeys to the far corners of the earth and made new lives.

This project brought together stories from these communities, documenting their Scottish connections in more than 300 embroidered panels. Prestonpans recently celebrated the 10th anniversary of the project with a multi-venue exhibition in East Lothian. For more information, see <https://www.scottishdiasporatapestry.org/>



GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND Inc
Enriching family history

Our GSQ Facebook page is continuing to draw in both members and non-members. If you're a member of Facebook, then you can search for GSQ Genealogical Society of Queensland in the search box and our page will come up. Or click the Facebook icon on our home page. Ticking 'Like' on that page will ensure that our posts feed into your Facebook.

GSQFB is a private group, so only members of the group can see what you post. Here you can ask questions, share your genie successes and frustrations. You don't need to be a GSQ member to join the group.

If you have any questions about the GSQFB Group, then please email Rhoda Copeland on gsqfbgroup@gsq.org.au. To join the group, click on the link below and answer THREE questions. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/548139069596908>

FOCUS ON

In each issue of *Generation* we will focus on one of GSQ's Special Interest Groups. For the dates and times that each of the Special Interest Groups meet, mostly every second month, check out the GSQ website or the dates elsewhere in *Generation*.

GSQ SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS SCOTTISH GROUP



If you have Scottish ancestry, you are most welcome to attend meetings of the GSQ Scottish Interest Group. The group was formed in the early days of GSQ with the aim of offering mutual support and assistance to any member researching in Scotland, to inform and enlighten about Scottish history and culture, and to obtain records for the library to further family history research. The collection of Scottish resources available at the Society is among the strongest in Queensland.

The Scottish Interest Group meets on the first Sunday of every odd numbered month at the GSQ Resource Centre, 25 Stackpole Street, Wishart or virtually by Zoom. The Centre is opened at 9.30 am and there is a short official meeting commencing at 10 am. This is followed by a presentation or a round table discussion. Group members have been volunteering to outline the history and genealogical research resources for a Scottish county of their choice.

Occasionally there is an audio-visual presentation on an ancestor's life story in Scotland and journey to Australia. The meeting generally finishes around noon. Members are encouraged to bring their lunch and stay on to make use of the library facilities for their own research. The Centre closes at 2.30 pm.

The group is a member of the **Scottish Association of Family History Societies**.

Contact the group by writing to Scottish Interest Group, Genealogical Society of Queensland, PO Box 1467, Carindale, QLD 4152 or by email to the Convenor, Alistair Henderson – scotgroup@gsq.org.au

Web Links – Useful Websites

- The ScotlandsPeople website is the official Scottish Government site for searching government records and archives. <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>
- ScotlandsPlaces is a free resource that lets you explore thousands of records about Scotland simply by searching for a place name or clicking on a map. <https://scotlandsplaces.gov.uk/>
- Electric Scotland is a comprehensive site on the history and culture of Scotland and the Scots at home and abroad. <https://electricScotland.com/>
- The Statistical Accounts of Scotland 1791-1845 is a source detailing the history of Scottish parishes. <https://stataccscot.edina.ac.uk/static/statacc/dist/home>
- The National Library of Scotland is known for its map collection, among the largest in the world. <https://www.nls.uk/>
- The National Records of Scotland is a Department of the Scottish Government whose purpose is to collect, preserve and produce information about Scotland's people and history and make it available to inform current and future generations. <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/>
- The Scottish Archives Network enables researchers to search a single catalogue across 52 Scottish Archives. <https://www.scan.org.uk/>
- Scottish Indexes is a business based in central Scotland which indexes records, enabling researchers to trace their Scottish family tree from anywhere in the world. <https://www.scottishindexes.com/>
- Old Scottish provide a range of genealogical, family and local historical research services and packages for family historians, companies and societies. <https://www.oldscottish.com/>
- Scotland's Family is a Scottish genealogy portal designed to help you explore your Scottish family tree. <http://www.scotlandsfamily.com/>
- GenUKI provides a virtual reference library of genealogical information for Scotland. <https://www.genuki.org.uk/big/sct>
- Cyndi's List has a comprehensive list of resources for Scotland. <https://www.cyndislist.com/uk/sct/>



SHORT *Tales*

QUEENSLANDERS – PIONEER FAMILIES 1859-1901

JOHN MCFADZEN

Les McFadzen

John MCFADZEN, the youngest child of John McFadzen and his wife Jean Williamson, arrived in Moreton Bay as a 20-year-old on the *Queen of the Colonies* in October 1865. His father was a farmer in Wigtownshire, Scotland, near the village of Glenluce.

John moved to the township of Elphinstone in Central Queensland. It was there he married the 17-year-old Esther Ann Nelson (nee DAWKINS). While returning from shearing in the west, John discovered copper ore at Mt Flora.

While John operated the Mt Flora copper mine with his partners, Esther became a noted midwife in the Nebo district while raising five children of her own. John died in Mackay in 1902, and Esther died at Nebo in 1930. The mine ceased operating in 1906 with the collapse in the world price for copper.

JANET MILLER

Beth June Trost

At St John's Church, Brisbane in 1847 Janet MILLER married Henry TUCKER. Janet had emigrated from Perth, Perthshire, Scotland some years earlier, probably with her brother Robert and his family. Five years later she was widowed, left with two small children. Janet remarried, at North Brisbane, Moreton Bay in 1853. Janet Tucker married John TURNBULL, one of the earliest settlers on the Dawson River. John had previously been in partnership with her brother Robert on 'Kinnoul Station'.

John and Janet (known as Jessie) made a return journey to Scotland in 1857, to visit both their families. Their son, James was born in Brisbane in 1859. Eleven years later Jessie was again a widow. Forced to leave the leasehold property held in her late husband's name, she took up a selection on the Albert River, East Moreton district. A letter from Jessie written in Townsville, June 1871, states that she had been unable to support herself and family on this property. Jessie entered into her third marriage. In October 1875, in Rockhampton, Queensland, she married William Cooke CLEMENTS, a widower with eight children, the youngest only three years. It appears Jessie was a keen gardener, exhibiting a 'greatly admired cockscomb' at the Fitzroy Pastoral and Agricultural Show

held in Rockhampton in 1878. Jessie CLEMENTS, nee Miller, died in Rockhampton in 1905, aged seventy-seven years.

DAVID PETRIE

Beth June Trost

The MACGREGOR clan of Scotland was outlawed in the 17th century and a ban on their surname was not lifted until 1784. As a result, the scattered groups of MacGregor adopted many spts, Petrie being one of them.

David PETRIE was childless and widowed in January 1862 living at 170 High Street Perth Perthshire Scotland. He was a printer and clerk, but some of his ancestors were shoemakers. He married Isabella Landell SMITH on 5 December 1862 at Orchardneuk Perth. Three years later they boarded the ship *Samarang* in Glasgow, arriving in Moreton Bay on 24 July 1865. David was family of well-known Brisbane identity Andrew PETRIE. He lived in Ipswich and Fortitude Valley to work and died 1874 in Brisbane aged 41 years and is buried in the Presbyterian cemetery now Lang Park.

JAMES ISBISTER

May Hampton

James ISBISTER was fascinated with pictures and description of Australia, so decided to go there. He was born in Harry, Orkney, Scotland in 1864, and married Isabella MUNRO in Gympie in 1887. Isabella was born in Kirkwall, Orkney, Scotland. James left Orkney at the age of 17 on the ship *Shenir* arriving in Maryborough in 1883. Isabella travelled on the *Maulesden* arriving in Hervey Bay in 1883. They initially settled in Bauple, Queensland and later in the sugar areas of Mossman and Mackay. Initially, he worked in farming, milling and building sugar mills. In his early years in Queensland, James spent his nights studying by candlelight to better his situation. His studies lead to a position as a fitter then engineer within 14 years of his arrival. He quickly advanced to Chief Engineer at Sugar Mills. Both died in Mackay, James in 1942 and Isabella in 1946.



Tips & Tools

TIP #5 – Keep Records and Be Organised

As your research progresses, you will amass a lot of information. You will need to be organised so you can find what you need.

- Avoid writing notes on scraps of paper and the backs of envelopes (unless you immediately transfer them to your record keeping system).
- It is important to keep your system up to date, so you are not faced with a large pile of unfiled documents.
- Use standard tools such as pedigree charts and family group sheets to record your information.
- You might consider acquiring a specialised family history software package which will provide most of the tools you need.

Tips For Safeguarding Your Family's Historical Documents

Published on: 3 November 2023 by Progeny Genealogy Blog - <https://progenygenealogy.com/blogs/>

Preserving and safeguarding your family's historical documents is crucial for maintaining a connection with your heritage. Here are some tips to help you protect these valuable pieces of your family history:

1. Store Documents in a Safe Location:

o Choose a cool, dry, and dark place to store your historical documents. Avoid areas with fluctuating temperatures or high humidity, as these conditions can damage paper and ink.

2. Use Archival-Quality Materials:

o When possible, use acid-free folders, boxes, and sleeves for storing documents. Archival-quality materials help prevent deterioration and yellowing of paper over time.

3. Handle with Clean Hands:

o Wash and thoroughly dry your hands before handling historical documents. Oils and dirt from your fingers can transfer to the documents, leading to damage over time.

4. Avoid Sunlight and Harsh Lighting:

o Exposure to sunlight and harsh artificial lighting can fade and damage documents. Store them in a place where they are shielded from direct sunlight, and use

low-intensity, non-UV lighting when examining them.

5. Digitize Documents:

o Create digital copies of your historical documents. This serves as a backup and allows you to share the information with other family members. Use high-resolution scanning equipment and save the files in a secure, accessible location.

6. Label and Organize:

o Clearly label and organize your documents. Create a system that makes it easy to locate specific items and maintain a record of what each document contains.

7. Handle with Care:

o When handling documents, be gentle and use proper support. If possible, use cotton gloves to prevent direct contact with the paper. Avoid folding or creasing fragile documents.

8. Protect Against Pests:

o Store documents in pest-resistant containers or use archival-quality pest control methods. Insects and rodents can cause significant damage to paper and other materials.

9. Consider Climate-Controlled Storage:

o If you have valuable or irreplaceable documents, consider investing in a climate-controlled storage facility. These environments help regulate temperature and humidity levels, providing optimal conditions for document preservation.

10. Create a Disaster Preparedness Plan:

o Develop a plan for unexpected events, such as floods, fires, or other disasters. Consider keeping copies of important documents in a separate, secure location, or use fireproof and waterproof storage containers.

11. Share Information with Family Members:

o Ensure that other family members are aware of the importance of preserving historical documents. Encourage a sense of shared responsibility for maintaining and safeguarding the family's heritage.

12. Consult Preservation Professionals:

o If you have particularly delicate or valuable documents, consult with preservation professionals or archivists. They can provide guidance on proper storage, restoration, and handling techniques.

By taking these precautions, you can help ensure that your family's historical documents are preserved for future generations, allowing them to connect with their roots and appreciate the rich tapestry of your family's history.

Affiliate group members



North Pine Historical Society Inc.
PO Box 290, Petrie Qld 4502
Email: nphsi@hotmail.com

Organisations which espouse objectives similar to those of GSQ may affiliate as a group with GSQ. An affiliate group member has certain rights and benefits:

- Receive two membership numbers.
- Receive a copy of GSQ's journal and newsletter.
- Conditional access to GSQ resources and MyGSQ.
- Attendance at meetings of Special Interest Groups.

Over the next few issues of *Generation*, we will feature some of our Affiliate Group Members.

The North Pine Historical Society Inc. was formed in 1994/95, as the Petrie Historical Society, by a group of local people coming together to record the history of the area and its' people with stories and photographs. This information is kept at the Strathpine Library. In March 2006, the Society became incorporated, took control of its own destiny and expanded to take in a wider area of the Pine Rivers area.

The Society seeks information on local families, local buildings, places of interest and early settlement. Items

such as maps, books photographs, etc pertaining to the Pine Rivers District may be donated to the Society and would be greatly appreciated.

The Society meets once a month on the second Monday of each month (except public holidays). All Visitors and New Members are welcomed, so come along to our next meeting. You will need to contact us for Meeting Places. Phone: 3285 7213 or P.O. Box 290, Petrie Qld 4502. See <https://www.northpinehistorical.com.au/> for more information.

A ten-generation family history research record book with pedigree charts

Robert Boyd Publications (UK) is pleased to announce the release of the 3rd Edition of 'My Family History Record Book' and the appointment of the **Genealogical Society of Queensland** as its sole distributor for Australia, New Zealand, and their territories.

My Family History is an efficient and attractive method of recording and displaying the results of family history research. It can be used as a presentation document to family members and as a handy *aide memoire* to carry around when researching.

**GSQ - EXCLUSIVE DISTRIBUTOR:
AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND**

Retail and trade orders available from:
Genealogical Society of Queensland

Email: shop@gsq.org.au
Retail price: \$A 28.00 plus postage
Wholesale price: available on request.

Please remember the Society in your will...



After you have provided for loved ones, why not support the other things in life that gave you joy?

By leaving a gift to the Society in your will, you are helping to ensure that its work and unique facilities can be continually improved and extended for future generations, perhaps even for your own descendants.

Legacies play a vital part in the Society's fundraising. They allow the Society the financial freedom to invest in crucial improvements and updates that would otherwise be unattainable.

The Society has been helping people to research their family history for over 40 years. We want to ensure future members will be celebrating the Society's centenary.

Leaving a gift in your will, you can be part of the Society's future as well as its past.

All gifts, whether large or small are immensely important to the Society.



For more information or to discuss leaving a gift to the Society in your will, please contact the President, at president@gsq.org.au or by mail to PO Box 1467, Carindale, QLD 4152 Website: www.gsq.org.au

DGR status: 46 025 286 168
ABN: 46 025 286 168

Further information about the types of bequest

- **General purpose:** your gift to GSQ is used for general purposes, depending on our needs at the time.
- **Specific purpose:** you specify the purpose of your gift in your will.
- **Specific bequest:** a specific amount.
- **Residual bequest:** this is the remainder of your estate after the other terms of your will are satisfied.
- **Proportional bequest:** a percentage of your estate is gifted to GSQ.

Please note

As estate planning is a complex area, we recommend that you seek professional legal and taxation advice to ensure that you are appropriately informed of your options and so that your Will operates in the exact manner that you intend it to.



BLOG BEAT

Snippets from GSQ's Blog | www.gsq-blog.gsq.org.au/

June - July - August 2024

3 June – Pauleen Cass "Grab & Go" or "Go Slow"

Pauleen discusses the difference between the strategy of getting information from commercial genealogy sites and the strategy of thorough research on online or offline sources.

10 June – Karyn Walker

Sandemanians – Searching for traces of my Nonconformist ancestors in London

Karyn tells of the research carried out during a trip to London in the search for her Nonconformist Ancestors.

17 June – Christine Leonard

Ada Baker – From Genility to Domestic Service in the Colony

Christine relates the story of Ada Baker who lived with her family in a comfortable London residence with her family before immigrating to Queensland and a different life.

24 June – Geoff Doherty

Joseph Guidice: An Enigma wrapped in several mysteries: An electronic records investigation

Geoff tells of research into the reasons why a Canadian enlisted in the Australian Army in World War One.

1 July – Andrew Redfern

Getting Started with AI in Family History

Andrew discusses the use of Artificial Intelligence in Family History.

8 July – Charlotte Sale

A Soldier's Tale

Charlotte tells the story of Horace Davies and his service in World War One.

15 July - Bobbie Edes

The Neville Family Myth: False, true, or maybe

Bobbie tells of the research required to prove or disprove a family myth of a Royal connection.

22 July - Shauna Hicks

Why? Why? Why? Question everything and learn the full story

In researching the Guy family, Shauna discusses the strategy of questioning everything; the things you know and the things you don't.

29 July – Yvonne Tunny

Convict Tattoos

Yvonne questions the meaning of tattoos on Irish convict, James Harrison and discusses the book Convict Tattoos by Simon Barnard.

5 August – Mia Bennett (guest blogger)

A Genealogist Explores St. Kilda, Scotland

Mia tells of her research into the people of the now deserted island of Hirta in the archipelago of St. Kilda off the west coast of Scotland.

12 August – Christine Leonard Connecting to a Forgotten Past

Christine makes the point that 'delving into the human stories behind the records is often where the real gold lies' as one does not know what will be revealed.

19 August - Bobbie Edes

Digging deeper into the Neville family: my brick wall

Bobbie discusses the processes in her search for that one generation further back in the Neville family.

26 August – Pauline Williams

What to keep and what to leave behind

Pauline discusses the issue of what to keep if you had to leave the house suddenly, and the need to tell the stories behind them.

FEATURED BLOGS



Family History Across the Seas

Pauleen Cass describes herself as 'an avowed family historian with a determination to learn firstly who my ancestors were, then to learn more about their lives and the places they lived, and from that to tell their stories'. Her blog discusses her family history in Australia and overseas; and related migration research.

<https://cassmobfamilyhistory.com/>



Geni Rambles

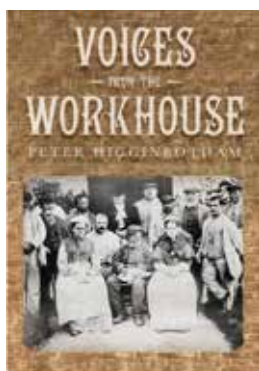
Shauna Hicks is a former librarian and archivist and currently runs her own research and consultancy business. She has been researching her own family since 1977. A regular presenter on a range of specialist topics for family history conference and societies, she is also a regular guest blogger on GSQ's blog.

<https://www.shaunahicks.com.au/my-blog>



Accession Highlights

After a trip to Scotland, Scottish Group Convenor, Alistair Henderson, returned with almost 50 items which have been added to GSQ's catalogue. Many of them contain vital records for counties in the north of Scotland. To view these items, search the Society's catalogue.



Voices from the Workhouse

Peter Higginbotham

This book tells the real inside story of the workhouse - in the words of those who experienced the institution at first hand. UK/105/006

East Anglia: Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, and Suffolk – National Index of Parish Registries Patrick

Palgrave-Moore (Society of Genealogists). UK/310/031



TITLE	CALL No.	ITEM
German residential records for genealogists: tracking your ancestor from place to place in Germany	GER/310/027	Book
150th anniversary 1873-2023 : The Gap Pioneer Cemetery and Uniting Church	QLD/220/061	Book
Companion guide : Family Tree Maker : for Windows	WW/307/005	Book
East Anglia : Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk	UK/310/031	Book
History of shipbuilding on North River	USA/620/002	Book
In the wake of the Lord Melville	NSW/853/003	Book
Leaving Højer: the Horn family's remarkable migration from Denmark to Australia	525/HOR/003	Book
Mona Vale cemetery	NSW/820/102	Book
My life	530/PEA/002	Book
Pictorial history : Warringah	NSW/205/095	Book
Scots law for administrative, commercial and professional students	SCT/105/016	Book
Stokenham occasional papers. Book 1	DEV/205/006	Book
The Cumledge chronicle: a history of a family and a home in the Scottish Borders over several centuries	BEW/525/001	Book
Transcription of the register of the Percydale State School, Victoria No 1042, 1874-1942: including a brief history of the locality and its school	VIC/865/001	Book
Voices from the workhouse	UK/105/006	Book
Wallumetta : a history of Ryde and its district, 1792 to 1945	NSW/205/112	Book

GSQ Catalogue

The GSQ Library contains thousands of resources, unique records and publications.

The library is updated on a regular basis and is a valuable source of information, especially for those records which are not yet online. The Catalogue can be searched by the title of the publication, its author(s), keyword or ISBN and can be accessed from the Society's webpage at: www.gsq.org.au/library-catalogue/

SNIPPETS – NEWS AND INFORMATION



Old News

MyHeritage has developed a new website, OldNews.

com, which allows users to explore millions of historical newspaper pages from around the world. Covering everything from historic headlines to small-town gossip, historical newspapers can provide rich information and unique insight into your ancestors' lives.



A New Partnership

FamilyTreeDNA has announced an expanded partnership with MyHeritage with the use of their family tree tools. FamilyTreeDNA will retire its current tree builder in September 2024, and all trees not connected to the new tools will become read-only.

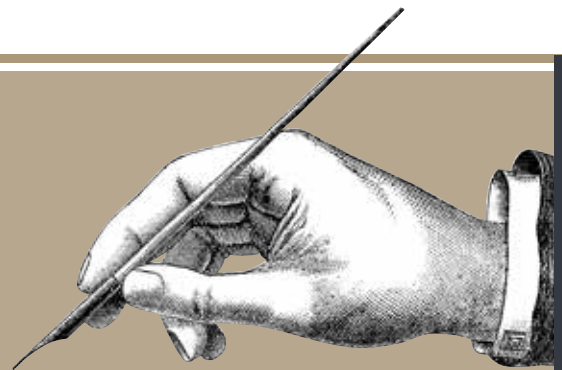
Congratulations!



Shauna Hicks OAM

Regular GSQ blogger and presenter. Shauna HICKS was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for her service to community history as part of the Kings Birthday Honours 2024. Congratulations, Shauna!

THE LAST WORD. [GSQ • THE EDITOR]



HEALTH AND FAMILY HISTORY

Having recently spent three months in hospital, I've had time to reflect on the health of our ancestors. It is necessary for family history researchers to understand health issues of their families and their causes of death. After all, it is part of their life story which every family historian should be trying to tell.

In the middle ages and later centuries, when little was known about the causes of disease, society tended to regard illness with a degree of resignation, when it was more important to save the soul of the patient than to cure their illness. Patients were cared for by family or the community, leading to further spreading of disease. They approached the local 'wise woman' or apothecary for natural remedies.

In the early 19th century, diseases such as smallpox, cholera, typhoid, and tuberculosis reached unprecedented levels. Mid-19th century saw improvement of medical knowledge and technology, and an understanding of the sources of disease and the means of controlling it. Public actions were taken to establish hospitals and register deaths to produce Death Certificates. For more on Death Certificates and medical terms, see a book entitled *Death certificates and archaic medical terms* written by our own Helen V. SMITH.

Family historians should understand whether their ancestor's illness was caused by their lifestyle or, alternately, how their working life and community participation was impacted by their illness.

Their health is part of their life story!

Russell Fraser



Get the most out of your

GSQ MEMBERSHIP

The members' only section of our website allows you access to databases such as:

- Funeral Directors Records index and images
- Cemetery Records Index
- Pedigree Charts index
- Unrelated Certificates index and images
- QLD communal settlers index
- Generation journal
- Catholic records index
- Research interests of other members

Other member benefits include:

- Access to GSQ's Resource Centre which includes a large library of books and magazines from Australia and the rest of the world, plus thousands of microfilms, microfiche, DVDs, etc
- Free access to world-wide Library subscriptions to Ancestry, Find My Past, Family Search, and the Biographical Database of Australia as part of your annual subscription fee
- GSQ's monthly eNews and quarterly journal *Generation* (emailed to members for no charge). Printed copies for members \$45 (Australia) and \$65 (overseas). Printed copies for non-members \$55 (Australia) and \$75 (overseas)
- Special interest groups which meet monthly or bi-monthly
- Education courses and workshops with reduced rates for members and secure online booking via the Events Calendar or GSQ Shop
- Access to overseas and interstate certificate ordering

GSQ members have access to MyGSQ

To log into MyGSQ, select MyGSQ on the Home page and **enter your GSQ user name and password**. If you do not remember your password, you can request that it be reset.

- Discounts on GSQ products such as genealogical books, magazines, etc
- Limited free research for members who reside more than 100km from GSQ
- Free publication of research interests in MyGSQ section of website
- Reciprocal visiting rights to other family history societies – see full list at: <https://www.gsq.org.au/what-gsq-offers/reciprocal-arrangements/>

Member's interest areas:

One of the advantages of membership of GSQ is to be able to contact other members who may be researching a surname and/or place of interest to you.

Log into MyGSQ and access the Member's Interest Areas to search for a surname or place.

Members are encouraged to submit their interests. Just contact GSQ and list the surnames that you are researching, together with location and period details. Your email address will allow other members to contact you.

Try this out. You could find someone who can help with your research. Or, you might find a new cousin!

Now there's even more to your family story



With millions of new records added every year and new discoveries to be made with AncestryDNA, it's little wonder Ancestry is the world's favourite family history resource.

At Ancestry we're constantly working on new and innovative features that will transform the way you can discover and tell your story.

Plus with AncestryDNA, a simple saliva-based test is all it takes to discover your genetic ethnic origins and find and connect with distant relatives.

Discover your story at ancestry.com.au

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