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ISSN 0811-3394

# QUEENSLAND FAMILY HISTORIAN

Journal of the Queensland Family History Society Inc.

February 2024

Volume 45 Number 1



Print Post Approved  
100003846

Price: \$6.60 Incl. GST

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We acknowledge the traditional owners of Country and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to the people, their cultures and Elders past, present and emerging.

## AIMS AND OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY

*To bring together those people who are interested in the study of genealogy, heraldry, family and local history, and to assist and encourage members in their studies. To encourage the preservation of historical records, to acquire and maintain a reference and research library and to collect and preserve material bearing on the families of the people of Queensland.*



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JOURNAL OF THE QUEENSLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

ADDRESS: PO BOX 78, GEEBUNG QLD 4034

Editor: Lyndal Cosgrove

ISSN 0811-3394

FEBRUARY 2024

VOLUME 45 NUMBER 1

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## COVER PHOTOGRAPH

*North Street cottages in Bradford Abbas, Dorset. From a watercolour by D.M. Barber provided to the Bradford Abbas Online Parish Clerk for promotional purposes.*

Photograph provided by Jan Swift. See story on p.4.

*Despite making all reasonable efforts to do so, the Queensland Family History Society has been unable to trace the copyright holder of the image used on the cover. If anyone reading this can prove they are the owner of the copyright or related rights and believe that the use of the image infringes their intellectual property or any other rights, would they please contact the Society, so that proper acknowledgement may be given.*

## LOOKING FOR JAMES CHANT, AND HOW WE FOUND HIM

By Jan Swift

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My three-times great-grandfather **James Chant**, was baptised on 13 August 1809 at St Marys church in Bradford Abbas in Dorset, England. Today, tall hedgerows grow along the outskirts of the village, mimicking the twists and turns of the approach roads which all of a sudden reduce in height to reveal neat rows of thatched-roofed cottages and a 15th century church; a vista reminiscent of what you would find painted on the lid of an expensive box of chocolates.

Of course, it didn't look quite like that when James was growing up. The village had only eight streets back then and aside from one cobbled pavement, they were just dirt tracks. The only grand house was the vicarage, and the cottages the villagers called home were no more than hovels.

The Bradford Abbas estate had been greatly subdivided into leased agricultural holdings that ranged from cottage allotments to one-acre farms and farms as large as 40 or 50 acres; and as long as the rents were paid, the owner paid little attention to the day-to-day village activities. Outdated farming practices prevailed and there was little education, investment or guidance provided by the landlord.

With most of the villagers spending their leisure time in the four village beer shops, Bradford Abbas became known as a place where gross immorality, drinking, rick burning and sheep stealing prevailed. It had the reputation of having the worst, degraded, and vicious peasants in the county; and Dorchester Gaol was rarely without a Bradford man.

Coming from a family with a strong Baptist background, it was heartening to see in church and census records, that James had found work as an agricultural labourer. At Christmas in 1834, he married **Rhoda Moore** in the village church and their first child, **Edward**, was baptised there three months later.

Another five children were born to the couple, one every two years, and despite the influences that surrounded him, everything

seemed to be going well for the family. Then in 1851 everything changed.

James was not listed with the family in the census and it was Rhoda who was listed as the married head of the household. She was taking in work as a glove sewer and is also noted as being a pauper. Where was James? The children were growing up to become solid citizens and their eldest boy Edward, was already apprenticed to a local stone mason. In 1861 Edward married and he noted that his father was James Chant, a labourer – present tense.

The 1861 census is even more revealing. The younger boys are also working as masons or as apprentices in this trade and even their youngest child – **Lydia** – is working as a glove sewer... all upstanding and respectable. But Rhoda is now noted as being a widow!

When their second son **Walter** married in 1863, he listed James as his father but that he was deceased. So, James did die after all. But where? When? How?

Let us now travel back to those days of family history research that took place before the internet and Ancestry changed our methodology forever. There were letters written to local historical societies and libraries, and professional researchers were engaged at great expense. Plus, there was the agonising wait for any response to arrive in the letterbox.

But no one could find James despite having a fairly narrow window of when his death supposedly occurred. This is the roadblock I inherited when older cousins had given up on ever finding him. The main family researcher chuckled when he heard I had taken up the task, as he felt nothing more could be uncovered. But then, I had a different approach to research. I also had access to the internet and all the new online repositories and it wasn't long before clues started to surface... but not where you might think.

My office job had moments of intense urgency interspersed with quiet time and luckily came with the need to search the

continued

internet for products and services. This allowed me to keep an Ancestry and Google screen available to pop in variations of the same inquiry until a match was found. It was a Google search result which took me to an Ancestry chat room called Roots Chat that I never knew existed.

It was here that a U.S. Chant descendant commented that her mother (who was a great-granddaughter of James) had told her that he had come to Australia to search for gold or opals. Well, we in Australia all know what that really means! Typing James Chant into Ancestry and this time looking at criminal records opened up a whole new world. Combining this with records held by Findmypast and their vast newspaper collection, I teamed up with our reinvigorated family history researcher, and we were able to prove that our good Baptist history did not start with James, but with the next generation.

James, it seems, had fallen in with the behaviour seen in the rest of the village. He was first arrested and gaoled for larceny in 1840 and had been released in time to appear in the 1841 census. In February 1848, not long after the birth of his youngest child, he was again arrested for larceny. As this was a second offence, his sentence was transportation.

But James was not the only Bradford man to appear before the court that day and newspaper reports leave you with the impression that this merry gang of thieves were what we would refer to today as “the usual suspects.”

This turn of events would account for Rhoda using the term “widow” in 1861, as seven years had passed since James had gone to prison. James was then shuffled between English prisons until the authorities figured out what to do with him. With different records found on Ancestry, Find My Past, and from snippets in the local English newspapers, a picture was built of his time in the English prison system which included proof that Rhoda and the children were listed as dependants to enhance any petition for parish relief.

At the end of May 1849, James walked down the steps of Millbank Prison and onto the waiting exile ship the *Mount Stuart Elphinstone* bound for Moreton Bay, Australia.

Now turning to the State Libraries of New South Wales, Queensland and the digitised newspapers of the National Library (TROVE), we can visualise his voyage through the diaries of the on-board surgeon, reverend and an Irish state prisoner.

With four other exiles, James was hired as a shepherd by squatter **James Ewer** to work on his large property on the Darling Downs. An Intestate Estates list published in the *Sydney Morning Herald* in July 1857 led to the discovery that James Chant drowned in the Condamine River on or around 5 January 1856 at a well-known river crossing point at Tieryboo (near Condamine).

I'm glad James was finally found. It was a merry chase that took multiple sources, established facts, family folklore, a team effort, fresh eyes and luck to achieve. It is also a lesson that even a family of good Baptists might descend from someone who was a little dodgy and had a reputation with the local constabulary as being one of their usual suspects.



*Original Chant family researcher Maurice Wells (L), his wife Beverly (R), and author (middle)*

*Source material: As stated and*

*Bradford Abbas: The History of A Dorset Village by Eric Garrett.*

*(Photographs provided by the author) ■*

## FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Members were advised in December that the QFHS application for the Brisbane City Council (BCC) community facility at 46 Delaware St Chermside had been successful. We are grateful to all who contributed testimonials in support of our application - in particular, to those members of the Management Committee who created a coherent and compelling case for QFHS as a worthy tenant for the facility.

One of the requirements in the application was to demonstrate the value we offered to the community. There is no doubt we offer value to our 900+ members through our member services and programs.

We also actively invite the community into the community facility via special events and our FamilySearch Affiliate Library status. However, an important way QFHS adds value to the community is by **providing opportunities for members to volunteer.**

Studies have shown that volunteering contributes significantly to the health and wellbeing of the individual.<sup>1</sup> Volunteering opens the door to life satisfaction. Individuals feel happier and healthier. Helping others triggers the reward pathway in the brain and releases 'feel-good' neurotransmitters.

Volunteers feel a sense of belonging and, working with others, develop 'emotional contagion' and infect others with positivity.

Volunteering allows us to embrace our passions.

"There is something about giving to others that adds enjoyment to life. Finding the organisation or cause which engages your heart and mind, and contributing to it in ways that are meaningful to you and valuable to others, is a great gift to uncover."<sup>2</sup>

In addition, the social and community value of volunteering must not be ignored - there are significant spin-offs for the community.<sup>3</sup> Volunteers are:

- more likely than non-volunteers to have attended a community event recently

- 30% more likely to believe that most people can be trusted - 62% (volunteers) compared to 49% (non-volunteers)
- significantly more likely to be 'delighted, pleased or mostly satisfied' with their lives
- more likely to provide assistance to others outside their own household than are non-volunteers.

I'm sure that our ability to articulate the value of our volunteers and show that QFHS has in excess of 80 regular volunteers and at least 20 more who volunteer for special one-off tasks or projects showed the organisation is not only of value to our members but is an asset to the wider community.

New volunteers are always needed: existing volunteers retire, or relocate, or gain extra caring responsibilities, and members would benefit from the expansion of existing or development of new programs.

If you are not already a volunteer at QFHS, please consider the value you can add to your own life, to the Society, and to that of the wider community by offering us your time and interest.

There are a number of roles and teams in need of additional hearts and minds. While your interest cannot possibly be quantified, the time required is variable, dictated by the task and by the individual volunteer – we can make equally good use of two hours a week or two hours a month. Please visit our website for more information: <https://www.qfhs.org.au/join-us/volunteers/>.

### Sources:

<sup>1</sup> *Sydney University '7 surprising benefits of volunteering' 3 May 2017, accessed 7 September 2023, <https://www.sydney.edu.au/news-opinion/news/2017/05/03/7-surprising-benefits-of-volunteering-.html>.*

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> *Volunteering Australia The value of volunteering' 2019, accessed 7 September 2023.*

Best wishes to all,

Allana O'Kane

[president@qfhs.org.au](mailto:president@qfhs.org.au) ■



## QFHS INC. AWARD FOR SERVICES TO FAMILY HISTORY

*Nominations are called each year for the QFHS Inc. Award for Services to Family History, which is reserved for QFHS members only, and in 2023 the Award was announced at our Volunteers' Morning Tea on 4 December. The nominations are considered by previous awardees as designated by the Management Committee and they form an ad hoc committee for this purpose each year.*

The nomination accepted for 2023 was **Rosemary Gall**, Member Number 4634. All services mentioned have been voluntary.



*Rosie receiving her award from President Allana*

Rosie Gall joined QFHS in August 2007. She demonstrates many of the qualities we value in our volunteers – steadfastness, good humour, compassion, thoughtfulness, professionalism, an enquiring mind, innovation – the list goes on.

Rosie is qualified as a Librarian and Careers counsellor, obtaining her Bachelor's Degree in History at Monash, then completing her Grad.Dip. in Education at Deakin, following up with a Grad.Dip. Librarianship at RMIT, and just recently a Diploma of Family History through the University of Tasmania.

In August 2014 Rosie wrote a very helpful article for our journal on the *Biographical Index of South Australia 1836-1885*, edited by Jill Statton. She describes it as the first port of call and a gold mine for South Australian family history researchers, of which Rosie is one.

During her time with QFHS Rosie has devoted her many hours of volunteer time to the Family History Research Centre, firstly to the Journal Loan Scheme, with Rosie assisting Cecily Stevenson. She took over the JLS when Cecily moved to care and passed away in 2019. In the February 2023 *Historian* she wrote about the end of the Journal Loan Scheme,

which had operated since the 1980s to benefit country members with access to journals, urging members to log on to our website to read the subscription journals now online.

After the JLS was wound up Rosie moved to assessing and accessioning donations, including writing heartfelt thank you letters to all our donors. This is a not inconsiderable task as so many of our members are at an age where de-cluttering is all the go and of course, they are also incredibly generous. A little bit like Sisyphus, Rosie has her work cut out for her.

Despite the demanding nature of her labours she has time to think about what we could do differently and was a keen supporter of a lending library at QFHS – one of our more unique features. In the February 2021 *Historian* she wrote about the Queensland Family History Book Award Books, when they were separated from the main library and became available as a discrete collection in their own right, and part of the Lending Library, with the collection focusing on 'winners' and 'highly recommended' categories. Other Award entrants remain in the Print Library but are available for loan.

Rosie gave time to the QFHS Management Committee from June 2019 to December 2020. Anyone who has served on the MC knows the time commitment and energy this requires. It also demonstrates her deep concern and commitment to an organization which supports family historians in all their endeavours. Rosie is about to become a grandmother which will no doubt provide a very welcome distraction from her QFHS duties. Don't forget us will you Rosie?

### CONGRATULATIONS ROSIE

*Nominated by Lyndal Cosgrove and Alex Daw  
(Photograph provided by Alex Daw) ■*



## SKILLED HANDS

### The Life of a Watchmaker – John Brownbill, 1738-1802

By Jon Kehrer

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My great x5 grandfather, **John Brownbill** was born into anonymity, and subsequently baptized on Sunday 30 July 1738 at St. Michael's Anglican Church in the village of Huyton, Lancashire. He was the eighth of the nine children born to **Jonathan Brownbill** and **Ellin** née **Barton**, namely: **Elizabeth** in 1720, **Mary** in 1722, **Martha** in 1725, **Margery** in 1727, **Jonathan** in 1729, **Margery** in 1732, **Mary** in 1734, **John** in 1738 and **James** in 1742.<sup>1</sup> Two of his sisters, Mary and Margery did not survive childhood.

The family moved in stages to Liverpool and settled in Chapel Street, where John's father, Jonathan took up the trade of cabinetmaker.<sup>2</sup>

John himself was trained as an apprentice watchmaker, and qualified as a journeyman specialising in watch movements<sup>3</sup> by working under a master watchmaker in Liverpool. He appears to have been a private apprentice, as stamp duty was never paid on his apprenticeship.

In due course, John proposed to one **Ellen Barker**, and they had their marriage banns published each Sunday from 13 to 27 November 1757 at St. Thomas' Anglican Church in Liverpool.<sup>4</sup> They were subsequently married on Tuesday 29 November 1757 at that church, and lived in Chapel Street<sup>5</sup> near family. In 1758 they lost their twin Boys, **John** and **Michael**,<sup>6</sup> but in 1759, another son, **Jonathan** was born.<sup>7</sup> Ellen died shortly afterwards, presumably from post-natal complications, and was buried on Wednesday 26 April 1760 at St. Peter's Anglican Church, also in Liverpool.<sup>8</sup>

Ellen's death was followed the following year by that of John's younger brother James, who may have been living with them. He was buried on Thursday 16 April 1761 at St. Nicholas' Anglican Church, also in Liverpool.<sup>9</sup>

Having a young baby boy, John quickly found a wife for himself and a mother for his young son. He applied for a marriage licence on Thursday 23 July 1761 for himself and one **Mary Richardson** on which there was 9d.

stamp duty. The £200 bond required was guaranteed by himself and **Thomas Harold**, who was a sawyer and a rather generous neighbour. The licence was granted the same day for celebration at St. Peter's Anglican Church,<sup>10</sup> where the couple was married on Friday 24 July 1761. They went to live at a residence at 6 Prussia Street,<sup>11</sup> where he had recently established his own watchmaking business.<sup>12</sup> He was 22 and she was 23.

John and Mary had seven children, namely: **Ellen** in 1763,<sup>13</sup> **Matthew and James** in 1765, **Betty** in 1767, **Molly** in 1770, **Jenny (aka Jane)** in 1772 and **John** in 1775. Molly died as a babe in arms.<sup>14</sup>

Initially John continued to specialise in watch movements,<sup>15</sup> but rapidly established himself as a watchmaker in his own right,<sup>16</sup> and continued in that trade and in his own business near the corner of Prussia and Plumb(e) Streets for the rest of his life.<sup>17</sup> The premises expanded over the years to include other shops and their residences, but always in Prussia Street, even after the Liverpool railway station was established and resumed some of these properties.

In the meantime, John may have taken on **Robert Simpson** as a private apprentice,<sup>18</sup> as stamp duty was never paid on this apprenticeship. Robert married John's daughter Jenny (aka Jane) by licence at St. Paul's Anglican Church on Sunday 14 October 1792.<sup>19</sup> This time it was John who joined Robert to guarantee the £200 bond required.<sup>20</sup> The couple and their two children eventually moved in 1796 to Poulton-le-Fylde in Lancashire where Robert established his own watchmaking business and raised his family.<sup>21</sup>

John took on another apprentice, **John Crookall**, whose apprenticeship commenced on Friday 11 May 1792, and then another apprentice, **George B. Booth**, whose apprenticeship commenced on Wednesday 6 August 1794. Each apprenticeship ran for

continued

6 years, for which a training premium of fifteen guineas was paid, and stamp duty of 2½% was levied for the registration of their indentures by **William Poole**<sup>22</sup> (b.1696, d.1779), who was the *Receiver-General of the Stamp Office*, and located in the county town of Lancaster at that time.

John's wife, Mary died and was subsequently buried on Friday 24 November 1797 in the churchyard of St. Nicholas' Anglican Church in Chapel Street.<sup>23</sup> She appears to have shared the grave of her father, but without any addition to the inscription on its gravestone.

John and his now much reduced household continued to live in his residence near the corner of Prussia and Plumb(e) Streets, where they were recorded by the first national census on Tuesday 10 March 1801, which survives in the library of the *Athenaeum of Liverpool*.

In this census, the household was recorded as a single family of three males and one female living in a freehold residence in Prussia Street, with John Brownbill as its head with two males in trade,<sup>24</sup> presumably that of watchmaker. It would seem likely that John was living with one of his sons, and that son's wife and son. John died ten months after the census on Monday 4 January 1802 at the age



of 63 and was subsequently buried on Thursday 7 January 1802 in the churchyard of St. Nicholas' Anglican Church in Chapel Street.<sup>25</sup> He shared the grave of his wife and her father, with an addition to the inscription on its gravestone simply reading "John Brownbill"<sup>26</sup> – a not quite anonymous end.

An example of his work has survived in Edinburgh, which was auctioned by *Lyons and Turnbull* on Wednesday 2 September 2020. This example was sold for £1500, which included a 25% buyer's premium, and was described in their illustrated catalogue as:<sup>27</sup>

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GEORGE III MAHOGANY  
LONGCASE MOONPHASE  
CLOCK,

JOHN BROWNBILL,  
LIVERPOOL,

LATE 18TH CENTURY

The broken arch pediment with brass finials and rosettes, above an arched dial with moonphase and silvered Roman numeral chapter, subsidiary seconds dial and date aperture, twin winding holes, flanked by reeded corner columns, above a shaped trunk door and reeded quarter columns, moulded plinth and ogee bracket feet, the eight-day movement striking a bell.

234cm high, 56cm wide

£1500-2500.

## SKILLED HANDS (Cont.)

**Endnotes:**

<sup>1</sup> *Baptismal Register*, Michael's Anglican Church, Huyton, 1720-1742.

<sup>2</sup> *Baptismal Register*, St. Peter's Anglican Church, Liverpool 1777. See Baptism of Thomas Brownbill of 26 January 1777.

<sup>3</sup> *Marriage Bonds and Allegations – Cheshire*, Cheshire Records Office, Chester 1761. See marriage bond of John Brownbill and Mary Richardson 1761.

<sup>4</sup> *Banns Register*, St. Thomas' Anglican Church, Liverpool 1757.

<sup>5</sup> *Wedding Register*, St. Thomas' Anglican Church, Liverpool 1757.

<sup>6</sup> *Burial Register*, St. Peter's Anglican Church, Liverpool 1758.

<sup>7</sup> *Baptismal Register*, St. Nicholas' Anglican Church, Liverpool 1759.

<sup>8</sup> *Burial Register*, St. Peter's Anglican Church, Liverpool 1760.

<sup>9</sup> *Burial Register*, St. Nicholas' Anglican Church, Liverpool 1761.

<sup>10</sup> *Marriage Bonds and Allegations – Cheshire*, Cheshire Records Office, Chester 1761.

<sup>11</sup> *Wedding Register*, St. Peter's Anglican Church, Liverpool 1761.

<sup>12</sup> *Oriorau (Patent Lever)*, Yr Amsereau, Liverpool, 20 May 1857, p.1a.

<sup>13</sup> *Baptismal Register*, St. Peter's Anglican Church, Liverpool 1763.

<sup>14</sup> *Baptismal Register*, St. Nicholas' Anglican Church, Liverpool 1765-1775.

<sup>15</sup> *Baptismal Register*, St. Peter's Anglican Church, Liverpool 1763. See Baptism of Ellen Brownbill of 24 March 1763.

<sup>16</sup> *Liverpool Directory for the Year 1767* by John Gore, Liverpool 1767, p.154.

<sup>17</sup> *Burial Register*, St. Nicholas' Anglican Church, Liverpool 1802, and *An Account of the Population of Liverpool taken in pursuance of an Act of Parliament – March 1801* by Liverpool Town Corporation, Liverpool 1801. See Prussia Street in central Liverpool.

<sup>18</sup> *Marriage Bonds and Allegations – Cheshire*, Cheshire Records Office, Chester 1792. See the marriage bond of Robert Simpson and Jenny Brownbill in 1792, and *Baptismal Register*, St. Paul's Anglican Church, Liverpool 1795. See the baptism of Mary Simpson

22 May 1795, and

*Liverpool Directory for the Year 1796* by John Gore, Liverpool 1796, p.155.

<sup>19</sup> *Wedding Register*, St. Paul's Anglican Church, Liverpool 1792.

<sup>20</sup> *Marriage Bonds and Allegations – Cheshire*, Cheshire Records Office, Chester 1792. See marriage bond of Robert Simpson and Jenny Brownbill 1792.

<sup>21</sup> *Baptismal Register*, St. Paul's Anglican Church, Liverpool 1795. See baptism of Mary Simpson 22 May 1795, and

*Baptismal Register*, St. Chad's Anglican Church, Poulton-le-Fylde 1797. See baptism of John Simpson 26 May 1797.

<sup>22</sup> *National Archives: IR1/35-36 Board of Stamps: Apprenticeship Books 1710-1811*. See entries for John Crookall of Liverpool for 11 May 1792 and George B. Booth of Liverpool for 6 August 1794.

<sup>23</sup> *Burial Register*, St. Nicholas' Anglican Church, Liverpool 1797.

<sup>24</sup> *An Account of the Population of Liverpool taken in pursuance of an Act of Parliament – March 1801* by Liverpool Town Corporation, Liverpool 1801. See Prussia Street.

<sup>25</sup> *Burial Register*, St. Nicholas' Anglican Church, Liverpool 1802.

<sup>26</sup> *Memorial Inscription*, St. Nicholas' Anglican Church, Liverpool 1802.

<sup>27</sup> *Five Centuries (Sale LT609) – Including Property of the Earls of Crawford and Balcarres* by Lyons and Turnbull, Edinburgh (Scot) 2020. See Lot 114. ■

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## QUEENSLAND PRE-SEPARATION GROUP PRESENTATIONS

At our 18 October 2023 Members' Presenting... meeting, **Ann Swain** and **Jenny Davidson** provided a certificate for the Queensland Pre-Separation Group members approved throughout 2023. Jennifer O'Dempsey and Annette Simpson were present via zoom and spoke briefly about their pre-separation family. Certificates to acknowledge Jennifer and Annette's memberships were presented to them at a later date.

#349 Dr Jennifer O'Dempsey (QFHS Member 6457) is descended from:

(1) **Enoch Death** and his wife **Maria Death (née Cooper)** who arrived in Moreton Bay on 17/8/1854 on the *Monsoon* with their son **John Death**, aged 12 when they arrived.

(2) **Francis Harrington** and his wife **Catherine Jessy Harrington (née Roberts)** who arrived in Sydney on 18/5/1838 on the *Orontes*, then later travelled to the Darling Downs, and their daughter **Kitty Harrington** born 25/1/1853 in Drayton.

#350 Annette Simpson (QFHS Member 5547) is descended from **Robert Bell** and his wife **Margaret Elizabeth Bell (née Pitkin)** who married in Armidale on 20/5/1848, and travelled overland in 1855 to settle in the Gladstone area, where their children included a son (born 9/4/1858) and Annette's ancestor Rachel (born 12/2/1863).



Jenny Davidson (L) and Ann Swain (R) presenting Dr Jennifer O'Dempsey her certificates



Jenny Davidson (L) and Ann Swain (R) presenting Annette Simpson her certificate

## WELCOME TO OUR 2023 NEW MEMBERS

(Photographs provided by Tony Swain) ■



## 'THE MOST MAGICAL AND OVERWHELMING FEELING' VICTORY JAPAN [V-J] DAY CELEBRATIONS IN KINGAROY

By Chris Griffiths

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These words were my mother's, **Dorothy Rae Griffiths [néé Dawson, 1926-2017]**. She was reminiscing about her experiences of 15 August, 1945, during the 50th anniversary celebrations of V-J Day in 1995.

The town of Kingaroy had made a considerable effort to mark the anniversaries of both V-E Day, 8 May, and then V-J or V-P [Victory Pacific] Day in August. The flying exhibition team from the RAAF, known as 'The Roulettes', were the centre piece of the anniversary celebrations. More importantly, the celebrations triggered the memories of many locals and former residents who had returned for the occasion; stories of suffering, sacrifice and joy were recounted over the week-end back in 1995.

Preparations for celebrating final victory in World War II were well in hand long before the war ended. A document entitled 'Kingaroy Shire Council-Victory Celebrations' was produced in September 1944 [copy supplied by Kingaroy Heritage Museum]. The document reflects the attitude of the time by referring to the enemy as 'The Japs'. The town's powerhouse whistle was to blow and the town's church bells to ring out once the official word was given. The Commonwealth Government had declared 15 and 16 August public holidays. The Council planning gave highest priority to a Public Thanksgiving Service by the Ministers Fraternal at the Stone of Remembrance in the town's Memorial Park.

The council had not overlooked the provision of more lively celebrations. The Club Hotel 'will be available for dancing' with Mrs. McGuire's Orchestra supplying the music. 'The Club' as it was known, was filled every Friday and Saturday night during the war by the servicemen and women from the town and district. It was the place to meet. The main street, Kingaroy Street, was closed, loud speakers installed and singing and dancing arranged. Even the town's children weren't overlooked. An afternoon sports meeting was arranged at the Showgrounds.

Of course, my mother and her friends had ideas for their own celebrations. Mum had started work in the Commonwealth Bank in July 1942 as a stenographer. She recalled how shocked she felt when news of the bomb dropped on Hiroshima came out.

Anticipation was building over the week-end of 11 and 12 August with reports of the Japanese surrender offer. The Kingaroy R.S.S.A.I.L.A. had held street celebrations on Monday after that news. A great sense of relief was building in anticipation of the final surrender announcement.

The news of surrender came through on Wednesday mid-morning. The bank staff closed the doors, quickly balanced up, locked up and went out into Kingaroy Street to join the throng. Leaving the crowds in the street, mum joined a group on the back of the Penneys' truck and headed out to the RAAF base where a fighter squadron was reforming for another tour of duty.



*Penneys truck*

Mum's brother, **Owen Dawson [1923-1986]** was in the RAAF Bomber Command stationed in England. Owen had completed his initial training with 3 ITS [Initial Training School] in 1942 in Kingaroy. Mum held the RAAF in high regard because of her brother's experiences.

The scene at the Kingaroy airfield was of excitement and relief. The RAAF personnel had played a large part in the celebrations. An overcrowded RAAF truck, decorated with Allied flags, and with a drum beating enthusiast, drove along the various streets in town. Adding to the noisy excitement were

continued

motor cycles dashing around town with kerosene tins banging and clattering behind.

Back on the streets, people gathered in groups to wave flags and sing patriotic songs. Decorated cars and trucks started making their appearance, every one of them crowded with people tooting horns, cheering and shouting as they drove past equally jubilant pedestrians. The party continued into the night as the full realisation took hold. Peace was here at last.



*Kingaroy citizens celebrate.*

*Dorothy Dawson front row, second right with the tooter.*

The people of Kingaroy had done their share towards the war effort and final victory.

Mum had joined the Volunteer Air Observers Corp and worked a shift on Sunday afternoons plotting aircraft movement across the region. Others were ARP wardens, Red Cross cafe staff and volunteers at the Australian Comfort Fund canteen at the RAAF base. The town's population had dramatically increased during the war with the 3ITS, six fighter squadrons resting and reforming, three operational base units, communications, medical and stores units as well as an air ambulance unit stationed in town.

Plenty of people with a lot to celebrate.



*Dancing in the streets*

Owen returned from England and married in December 1945. Mum's family were reunited and life returned to normal in Kingaroy. Mum said, "It's a day in my life I will long remember and I count my blessings I am here to celebrate this joyous 50th anniversary".

V-J Day, a day to remember all those who took part in that war.

**Sources:**

*Charlton, P. South Qld WWII 1941-1945, Boolarong Press, 1991.*

*Kingaroy Herald and Nanango News, 16 August, 1945. [courtesy of SLQ].*

*Kingaroy Heritage Museum.*

*South Burnett Times, Friday, 18 August, 1995, p.10 [provided by the author]*

*South Burnett Times, Tuesday, 15 August, 1995, p.6 [provided by the author].*

*(Photographs supplied by the author). ■*

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## LITTLE KNOWN OUTBACK LIVES

By David Huggonson

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**Cliff Nissen** was 20 years of age when he made his way working as a drover to Dajarra, and from there along the Georgina River to Urandangi and Camooweal in 1929. He had grown up on Boonara Station, near Goomeri, where his father worked as head stockman.<sup>1</sup> He loved horses and attended Boonara State School until he was aged 13 years. He then worked full time on pastoral stations in the district.

Cliff was the youngest of ten children born to **Frederick and Mary Anna Nissen (née Kost)**.<sup>2,3</sup> He was seven years old when his eldest brother, **Leslie**, was killed at Mt Stanley Station in 1916, while training a horse to compete in show jumping at the forthcoming Kilcoy Show. His mount struck the hurdle with both forelegs and the horse fell on top of his head, killing him almost instantly. Leslie Nissen is buried at Moore Cemetery. He was 24 years old when he died.<sup>4</sup>



*Seven of the Nissen's ten Children:  
Leslie, Neville, Estella Myrtle (Mollie), Irene Olive  
(Rene), Clifford, Reginald and Vera.  
Taken at Boonara Station near Goomeri  
in 1912 or 1913.  
(Photo from Vera Huggonson née Nissen's  
collection)*

The Nissens had lost their first-born daughter, **Adelaide**, to typhoid fever which was rampant on the Eidsvold goldfield because of a drought and poor sanitation. When Adelaide died she was seven years old and she is buried in Eidsvold Cemetery in an unmarked grave. Her father was working on Boogal Station when she became ill. Adelaide's younger siblings, namely **Idalia**,

**Leslie, Vera** and baby **Eva**, survived the fever.<sup>5</sup>

Cliff's older brothers, **Reg** and **Neville**, also worked in the pastoral industry most of their lives. Reg Nissen was a champion horseman, particularly in the camp-drafting event. He represented Queensland at the Wild Australian Stampede against the Americans during the Melbourne Centennial Celebrations in 1934. The Stampede was staged at Olympic Park on 20 October 1934 and although 40,000 people attended, heavy rain washed out the show and the subsequent matinees. The other two Queensland representatives were **Owen Perrett** (buckjumping) and **Jack Owens** (bullock riding).<sup>6</sup>

Later, Reg Nissen and his wife **Daisy** managed Augustus Downs Station on the Leichhardt River (1944-1961). His entire workforce was Aboriginal. Reg had a good rapport with his stockmen, as he worked along side them and provided good rations. It must be remembered that during this era Aboriginal wages were paid in trust accounts and their money could only be withdrawn from their accounts with the approval of the local protector of Aborigines, who were generally the local police sergeants. It was not until 1966 that the Australian Workers' Union, with the assistance of **Dr Christopher** of the Equal Wages for Aborigines Committee, finally managed to have "full-blooded" Aborigines included in the Queensland Pastoral Industry Awards.<sup>7</sup>

Cliff's older sisters all married farmers in the Burnett District. The newly constructed weatherboard church of St David's at Boonara was the venue for their weddings. The first was in 1914 when Idalia Nissen married **Oscar Sidney Wallace**, who later became the Chairman of Murgon Shire Council. The five Nissen sisters maintained contract with each other throughout their adult lives by a system of chain letters, which they exchanged among themselves.

Cliff had gained experience in every aspect of station work from splitting hardwood posts

*continued*

for fencing to mustering and droving cattle. He was particularly good at breaking horses and training them for stock work. Soudan Station in the Northern Territory was in severe drought when Cliff was employed there in 1927 to shift cattle day and night to where water and feed were available.<sup>8</sup> Times were grim as the worldwide Great Depression had begun to bite in Australia and the prices of the country's primary exports were hit hard. In 1932 he moved to Avon Downs to work as a stockman.<sup>9</sup>

Already at Avon Downs was **Jessie Ning**, who arrived there as a 13 year old in 1929. She worked for board and clothes for Mrs McDonald who was the station's bookkeeper. Jessie minded the two McDonald children and did the family's washing and ironing. Mrs McDonald was a kind person and encouraged Jessie to do correspondence school lessons, alongside her sons. Jessie had little formal education in her past life. Mrs McDonald also taught Jessie to sew and to make her own clothes.

At 15 years of age, Jessie found employment at Synott's General Store in Camooweal, working for lodging and food. She worked in the store, did housework and milked the family's herd of goats. Later Jessie was paid her first real money wages of ten shillings a week at the Camooweal Hotel. The township of Camooweal had been proclaimed on the Georgina River in 1884 as a customs outpost between the Colony of Queensland and the Colony of South Australia's Northern Territory. Queensland charged a tariff of £3 per head on cattle crossing the border to reach east coast markets. In 1890 the customs office collected £33,375 from cattle entering Queensland. A post office opened in Camooweal in 1885 and by the end of that year, it had two hotels, two butcher shops, a boarding house, a blacksmith, a saddler, a Chinese garden and several houses. A police barracks was also under construction. Synott's General Store was constructed in late 1885 using a timber frame and corrugated iron cladding.<sup>10</sup>

At 17 years of age, Jessie returned to her beloved Avon Downs Station to work as a

housemaid for the manager's wife. There she met the 25-year-old stockman, Cliff Nissen, who was taken by her cheerful disposition and her exotic looks. Jessie was of Chinese/Aboriginal descent.



*Jessie Nissen and baby Clifford Jnr with Jessie's sisters Nancy and Anne Ning, July 1936  
(Photo supplied by Mary Dack née Nissen)*

Jessie Ning was born at Wood's Lake near Burketown on 13 October 1916 to **Bessie Ah Sam** and the Canton-born **Tommy Ning**. The family moved to Louie Creek near Lawn Hill Gorge when Jessie was still a babe in arms. Her mother, Bessie, had been born at Louie Creek (Chinese Garden) in 1897; she was one of nine children born to **Minnie Ah Sam née Myboogundji**, who was a Waanyi woman, and a Chinese gardener named **Tommy Ah Sam**.

Louie Creek at the turn of the century was a thriving market garden and rest area. It was then a gathering place for the Chinese population of the Gulf region and the western areas. Many other people enjoyed the hospitality of the owners, **Sam** and **Opal Ah Bow**. Because of the large number of Chinese people who came to the gardens, Louie Creek was given the nickname of Hong Kong Downs.



**LITTLE KNOWN OUTBACK LIVES (Cont.)**

A Chinese man named **Tim See Too** first established the garden. He grew a large garden and a Banana plantation. He also built a horse-driven whim to lift water in buckets to his gardens. After selling the leases, Tim See Too married **Annie Ah Fat** on 26 September 1910. They had four children: **May** in 1911, **Violet** in 1912, **Alfred** in 1915 and **Charlie** in 1917. Tim See Too died in June 1940.

**John Ingram** had purchased the Louie Creek leases on 19 June 1906 but he apparently died within six months. His brother sold the land to Sam Ah Bow for £70 in August 1907 but no record of the lease transfers exist; however, for 25 years until Sam's death in May 1932, the Ah Bows paid the annual lease fee. They operated a market garden and opened their home to all travellers. Many women of the district gave birth at Louie Creek as **Opal Maginmarm** was a well-known midwife. She was a Waanyi woman who had married Sam Ah Bow on 5 May 1898.

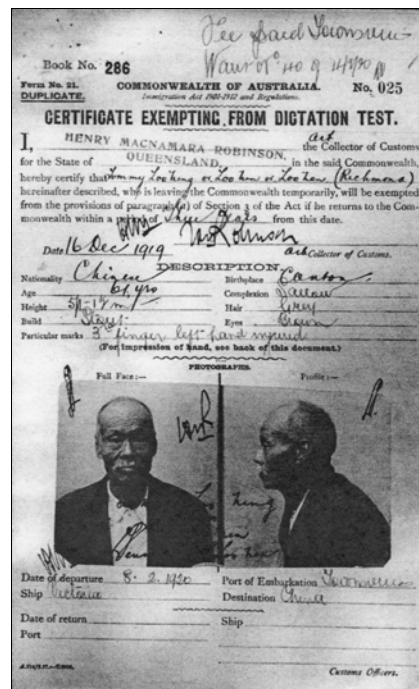
The produce from the market garden was sold to the many miners and people on the region's stations. Sam Ah Bow also bred horses and sold them to local stations as buggy horses. Sam and Opal had seven children, two of whom died young and three were sent back to China to assist the family there.<sup>11</sup>

Two of their daughters married and stayed in Australia: **Dolly Ah Kup** and **Lorna Lee On**. After Sam Ah Bow passed away, Dolly and her husband took over the garden. However, because the leases had not been transferred to her family's name and they had no legal documentation to support their claim to the property, they left the area about 1938. Sam Ah Bow was buried at Louie Creek, but the gravesite is no longer known. Opal and Lorna are buried in Camooweal. Records show that Opal died on 9 August 1941 and Dolly most likely died in Mount Isa where she lived in her latter years.

Minnie Ah Sam's death certificate dated 15 October 1943, shows she had died at Wood's Lake via Burketown. She was aged about 85 years. She had 5 children still living

when she died: **Sarah**, Bessie, **Lora**, **Janie** and **Maudie**. The informant was her married daughter, Lora Yamaguchi of Woods Lake who signed with her mark. Lora Ah Sam had married the Japanese-born **Rinzo Yamaguchi** on 30 December 1919. He died on 28 April 1956 aged 66 years. Wood's Lake was a market garden area supplying Burketown and nearby pastoral stations with fruit and vegetables. The Chinese and Aboriginal residents were buried in a separate graveyard to the white population of Burketown.

In November 1916 Tommy Ning, Jessie's father, registered as an Alien under the Commonwealth's War Precautions Act. He stated that he had entered Australia on 25 March 1870 when he was ten years old. The registration application form said he was a Chinese gardener at Louie Creek, Lawn Hill. It must be remembered that Chinese and Aborigines were banned from receiving the aged pension, which the new Commonwealth Government had introduced for its citizens in 1908.



*Tommy Ning's 1919 Certificate Exempting from Dictation Test. (Supplied by Mary Dack née Nissen)*

*continued*

In December 1919 Tommy Ning was granted a Certificate Exempting him from a Dictation Test for three years. This certificate allowed him to freely re-enter Australia after a visit back to China. He left for this trip from Townsville on 8 February 1920. He returned from China after seeing his family because in 1923 the Ning family decided to move to the copper mining centre of Cloncurry. There, Tommy worked in the market garden on the Cloncurry River, west of the town. The river is not a permanent flowing stream and often shrunk into large water holes during the dry season or droughts.

Tommy Ning moved to the mining town of Kuridala to assist **Charlie Hing** who was married to his wife's elder sister, **Emma**. Copper was discovered at Mt Elliott in 1884 and the town of Kuridala grew as the mine, the ore-crushing mill and the smelter developed. Kuridala was a 'hard place' of relentless heat with little water and few amenities. Most of the miners' houses were built out of corrugated iron so were extremely hot in summers and cold during the winter mornings. All cooking was done on wood stoves, which added to the heat in the houses if the kitchens were not built separately from the sleeping quarters.



*Kuridala Mine and Smelter 1916*

*State Library Of Queensland Negative No 40360*

Tommy Ning died in Kuridala on 27 April 1924, and assuming accuracy of records, his age was 64 years. He left his wife Bessie with four small children, Jessie aged 7, Anne aged 5, Nancy aged 3 and **Alex** aged 1 year. With four young children in tow, Bessie had few options but to find another husband quickly.

She married stockman, **Francis Ernest Augustus Trindle** on 1 January 1925, when she was 28 and Francis was 49 years of age. They had six sons: **Francis, Don, Dave, Ben, Stanley** and **Fred**.

Bessie travelled with her husband on droving trips across the Barkly Tablelands into the Northern Territory and Western Australia. While travelling on the road Bessie drove a wagonette called a drover's wagon, which generally had a high driver's seat in the front with a tool compartment under the seat and hinged tailgate, which doubled as a bench for making food for the droving team. The wagonette transported flour and other foodstuffs along with cast-iron camp ovens, pots for boiling water and other cooking utensils. The young children, who couldn't fit on the driver's seat, travelled on top of the load. Bessie was renowned for her cooking skills, which greatly benefited her husband in attracting drovers to his team. Using camp ovens in fire pits she was able to produce bread, cakes and desserts as well as savoury stews, casseroles and curries.

With Francis's death in 1951, Bessie married her third husband, **Raymond Turner**, who she remained married to for the next 20 years until his death in 1972.

Bessie died on 14 December 1988 in Mt Isa Hospital and is buried in Cloncurry Lawn Cemetery with her third husband Raymond Turner. This photograph was taken shortly before she died, aged 91 years. One can only marvel at her tenacity and life skills.<sup>12</sup>



*Bessie Turner née Ah Sam shortly before she died. She had 3 husbands, 16 children and 53 grandchildren. Photo published in North-West Star newspaper, Mt Isa, 2 July 2015 with a story by one of her descendants, for a family reunion*

## LITTLE KNOWN OUTBACK LIVES (Cont.)

**Updates:**

Jessie Nissen née Ning died on 25 September 1989 and is buried in Katherine cemetery alongside Cliff Nissen, who died 25 August 2002, born 15 October 1909.

Nancy Ning (in the photo with Jessie Nissen holding baby Clifford Jnr. and her other sister Anne) changed her name to Dorothy Edith Strong before marrying Kevin John O'Regan. Recently using "Find a Grave" I found she died on 6 January 1992 and is buried at Bowen General Hospital. She had three children. It appears Anne Ning never married.

Cliff Nissen supplied details of his career before he died. I met him in Elliott (NT) in 1995 and talked of his life. I have a photo of him aged about 90 years of age and another of him as a younger man working as a station ringer. This meeting sparked my desire to write about him and Jessie.

I have been unable to contact any of the Trindle brothers. I was hoping for photographs of their lives when Bessie and Frank were working as drovers.



Map provided by Prof Charlotte M Allen,  
QUT Gardens Point Campus, Brisbane

**Endnotes:**

<sup>1</sup> *Dulcie Logan*, Where two Rivers Run: History of Kilkivan Shire, published by Kilkivan Shire Council, 1988.

<sup>2</sup> *David Huggonson*, From The Rhineland To Gayndah: The Life And Times Of George Kost, 1831-1916, *Queensland Family Historian Vol.43 No.2*, May 2021, p.50.

<sup>3</sup> 19-year-old Mary Anna Kost married 32-year-old stockman Fred Nissen in Gayndah on 25 May 1887.

<sup>4</sup> Press clipping of Leslie Nissen's death notice supplied by Leigh and Margaret Phair of Samford.

<sup>5</sup> *Sid and Idalia Wallace's unpublished biography*, supplied by their daughter Olive Beardmore in 1999. Sid Wallace (full name, Oscar Sidney Wallace 1893-1954) married my grandmother's sister, Idalia Nissen in 1914. Their daughter Olive Beardmore supplied an article on Sid's Local government career. He broke his neck stepping off a moving train too early in 1954.

<sup>6</sup> Letter and press clippings supplied by Reg Nissen of Tully, 17 December 1988 including Age newspaper article, 22 October 1934, p.15.

<sup>7</sup> *David Huggonson*, Aboriginal trust accounts in Queensland: how 'protection' became 'oppression', *The Australian Quarterly* Volume 62, No4, 1990.

<sup>8</sup> *J C Foley*, Droughts in Australia: Review of records From Earliest Years of Settlement to 1955, *Commonwealth Bureau of Meteorology, Bulletin No 43*, 1957, pp 106-115.

<sup>9</sup> Information on Cliff and Jessie Nissen's lives was supplied by their daughter Mary Dack (née Nissen) of Emu Park, Queensland in a series of letters from 2002 until 2021. Mary Dack is still alive and line dancing aged 85. She provided the bulk of the family history information contained in the article.

<sup>10</sup> *Lilian Ada Miller*, The Border and Beyond: Camooweal 1884-1984, self published 1999 and *Walter Fernie*, Days to Remember, Mimoso Press, 1984.

<sup>11</sup> *Pat Carrington*, How many Grids to Gregory? a historical record with selected recipes, *Queensland Country Women's association, Gregory Branch*, 1977.

<sup>12</sup> See *Gathering of Clan to remember pioneer*, North-West Star, Mt Isa newspaper 2 July 2015.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

(photographs provided by the author.) ■

## ARTICLE OF THE YEAR: MEMBERS' CHOICE AWARD 2023

Since November 2021, we have conducted an annual **Journal Article of the Year: Members' Choice Award**. Conceived as being 'in the style of' the Archibald's Packing Room Prize, we wanted to show support for our wonderful volunteer authors and allow QFHS members to express their appreciation for articles that captured their interest or launched them on new avenues of research and discovery during the year.

Again in November 2023, members were asked to cast their minds back over the articles they'd read in the *Queensland Family Historian* during the year and nominate the journal article that resonated most with them.

As expected, reasons for choosing a particular article were as varied as the respondents and the articles themselves. The interest of some members was captured by a particular writing style or by the insight authors gave to their creative process. Others appreciated the use of sources, or the detail of an iconic journey. Participants' comments included:

- Strong research, setting the family story in the historical context and good use of sources.
- [the author] brought a small historical incident to life by creatively using his research on the physical surroundings and social conditions of the time.
- An example of honest research busting a myth and painting a more interesting and more informative tale than the acceptable one.
- ... it gave a detailed description of what the country was like and the difficulties faced on the journey.
- Brilliantly written. Full of drama. The background research was equally fascinating.
- A fascinating story. Thoroughly enjoyed it & found the familial relationships described clearly.

While all articles were of particular interest to someone in our community, the four most chosen stories were *The Mad Dash* by Ludij Peden, *A Drovving Story - Showing where family history research might lead* by Pam Garfoot, *Two Brothers: the story of our Jamaican DNA* by Lesley Huxley and *What's in a Name?* by Lou Muller.

Our congratulations go to **Pam Garfoot** whose article was chosen most often by our members. Pam has received a commemorative certificate and a Gift Voucher of \$75 in recognition of the interest and appreciation of our members, and her article featured on the QFHS website and our Facebook page.

All participating members were placed in a draw for the prize of a Gift Voucher for an Education event of their choice. The random draw was conducted at the Volunteers Thank You Morning Tea on 4 December 2023. **Christopher Robertson** was the delighted winner.

Congratulations to the prize winners. Congratulations, also, to the team of volunteers who publish and distribute the QFHS journal four times per year – we are grateful for your interest and dedication.

And thank you to all member participants. We do appreciate receiving your feedback.

In 2024, we will consider surveying members after each issue of the journal rather than at the end of the year to better capture members' impressions at the time of reading.

We look forward to your continued interest.

***A O'Kane, S Reid and L Cosgrove for the QFHS Management Committee. ■***

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Gray, James M  
*American Civil War veterans buried in Australia - New Zealand : statistical data*, Gray, James M, Qld, 2009.

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Gray, James M  
*Australasian Confederates : veterans statistical data 1861 1865*, Gray, James M, Qld, 2011.

#### [A3 4 177](#) **Donated by James Gray**

Parker, Roy W  
*Civil War veterans in Australia*, Self Published, Wetherill, N.S.W., 2000.

#### [A3 4 178](#) **Donated by James Gray**

Gray, James M  
*Queensland's forgotten veterans of the American Civil War, 1861-1865*, Gray, James M, Loganholme (Qld), 2006.

#### [A3 4 179](#) **Donated by James Gray**

Gray, James M  
*New South Wales veterans of the American Civil War*, Gray, James M, Loganholme (Qld), 2012.

#### [A3 4 180 Vol 1](#)

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Gray, Heath C M  
*Australasian American Civil War veterans buried in or from Australia and New Zealand Vol 1*, Craker Publications, Brisbane (Qld), 2009.

#### [A3 4 180 Vol 2](#)

**Donated by  
James Gray**

Gray, Heath C M

*Australasian American Civil War veterans buried in or from Australia and New Zealand Vol 2*, Gray, James M, Loganholme (Qld), 2009.

#### [A3 35 16](#) **Donated by Chris Gibbs**

Thompson, John  
*Documents that shaped Australia : records of a nations heritage*, Murdoch Books, Sydney (NSW), 2010.

#### [A3 44 23](#) **Donated by Jann Niven**

Daniels, Kay  
*Convict Women*, Allen & Unwin, St Leonards (NSW), 1998.

#### [A8 54 4 MapRm](#) **Donated by Dorothy Jeffrey**

*Readers Digest Atlas of Australia*, Readers Digest Services, Sydney (NSW), 1977.

### TASMANIA

#### [D4 35 1](#) **Donated**

Fenton, James  
*Bush Life in Tasmania fifty years ago*, Hazell, Watson & Viney, London (Eng), 1964.

### QUEENSLAND

#### [H3 5 10](#) **Donated by Bettine Douglas**

Johnson, Eileen B  
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## MY COUSIN WAS A "SIFFLEUR" Leo Elliott/Kelvedon/Kelvin 1890-1965

Australian vaudeville siffleur, bird and animal mimic, songwriter,  
female impersonator, painter, and baritone. (Extract of Biography)

By Mike Vincent

e: [mikevincent122@yahoo.com.au](mailto:mikevincent122@yahoo.com.au)

I can clearly remember being told by my grandmother, **Maud Aylward née Hurley** 1886-1962, (when I was about 10 years old and recuperating from a severe bout of chicken pox), that as a 16 year old, her cousin **Leo Elliott** was "mad about horses", had been "horsewhipped for stealing one", and had "run away with a circus". I know not why she told me this, nor why I have remembered it for so long. However, fast forward 60 years, and that long buried memory enabled me to solve a family mystery that had persisted for 109 years.

The following is an extract of an extensive biography I have written of lost "cousin" Leo Elliott. A *siffleur* is a professional whistler.

**Thomas Leo Elliott** was born on 19 April 1890 in Ipswich, Queensland to **Thomas James Elliott Jnr.** (1854-1913) and **Emily Theresa (Venetia) née Murphy** (1865-1944).<sup>1,2</sup>

December 1900, Leo Elliott, at Christian Brothers' School, Toowoomba, wins a prize for general proficiency.<sup>3</sup>

October 4, 1904, Leo enrolled at Toowoomba South Boys School; left November 1904.<sup>4</sup>

August 1905, Leo Elliott, schoolboy, "carrying a sugarbag", ran away to Laidley and Brisbane, "to sell newspapers"; "description - fair skin, fair hair, tall for age, 15 years; in company of **Frank Lewis**."<sup>5</sup> Found in Tiaro (south of Maryborough, Qld.) before 1 November 1905.<sup>6</sup>

With grandma's clue, and using Trove, I searched for circuses in Toowoomba 1905 to 1909, and came up with Wirth Brothers' Circus at the Toowoomba Show 6-10 August 1907.<sup>7</sup> This led to finding Wirth's Circus performing in Albert Park, Brisbane, and leaving on the steamer *Konoowarra* late Friday night, 16 August 1907, arriving in Sydney three days later. On board, "working passage", were Leo Elliott, **J Kelly** and

**E Wilson**, with the extended **Wirth** and **St. Leon** circus families.<sup>8,9</sup>

October 8, 1908, parents T J Elliott, Post Master, and Venetia enrolled as residing in the Post Office residence at Childers, Qld.<sup>10</sup>

### 1909 Leo began performing career

In October 1924, in a New Zealand court case, as **Leo Kelvin**, said "he had been on the stage for about 15 years."<sup>11</sup>

July 6, 1909, Leo Elliott in court Brisbane, for travelling from Sydney to Brisbane on ship *Innamincka*, with unpaid passage; age 18 years, height 5 feet; with **Walter Martyn**; fined £2 or 14 days jail.<sup>12</sup>

July 19, Leo released from Brisbane jail. Description of tattoos – man's head right wrist; horse's head, jockey's cap, ring and scroll, rising sun inside left forearm.<sup>13</sup>

### Leo begins his gypsy lifestyle

December 31, 1910, Launceston, Elton's Garden Theatre; newcomers **Leo Kelvedon**, "the Komic King" and **Jack Desmond**, comedian and dancer, arrival by the SS *Loongana* that morning. Leo Kelvedon, (Leo's first stage name), "in a hobble skirt song, being decidedly humorous."<sup>14,15</sup>

June 2, 1911, Geelong, Pagden's Minstrels at Mechanics' Institute, "including Leo Kelvedon (comedian)" and **Joe Lashwood** [father of **Hal Lashwood**]<sup>16,17</sup>

August 26, 1911, Horsham Police Court. Members of failed strolling dramatic show, Pagden's Minstrels, from Adelaide, Leo Kelvedon, comedian, age 21 from Childers, Qld.; and **Charles Irwin**, juggler, age 19 from Brisbane, plead guilty to vagrancy and fraud. Sentence three months Ballarat goal. Tattoos on Kelvedon - man's head right wrist; horse's head; jockey's cap.<sup>18,19,20</sup>

February 27, 1912, Open air concert at Colac, Vic. "A member of Pagden's minstrels who have had a run of success in Melbourne and

continued

Geelong of late, has been engaged to provide comic sketches and these are guaranteed to please."<sup>21</sup> Most likely Leo.

### Back to Queensland

April 10, 11, 12, 1912, in Warwick, Waites Vaudeville including "Mr Geo. Kelvedon--- --Comedies and Whistler"[sic]<sup>22</sup>

May 17, 18, 20, 1912, in Maryborough at The Bungalow, "Leo Kelvedon, Australia's foremost female impersonator, comedian and whistler."<sup>23</sup>

June 15 and 17, 1912, Martoo's Olympia, Ipswich, "Leo Kelvedon, female impersonator and comedian, highly pleased the assembly."<sup>24,25</sup>

September 26, 1912, Rockhampton, Theatre Royal, Leo Kelvedon, in first appearance there, "impersonator, comedian, and whistler."<sup>26</sup>

December 21, 1912, Ipswich, Carroll's Continentals at Martoo's Olympia Theatre; picture and vaudeville programme. Leo Kelvedon, "presented a delightful turn."<sup>27</sup>

April 19, 1913, Tivoli Picture Theatre, Racecourse Road, Hamilton, Brisbane, Leo Kelvedon female impersonator, comedian and whistler, "late of Rickard's Opera House Melbourne."<sup>28</sup>

Saturday November 27, 1913 sudden death of Leo's father, T J Elliott, at Childers Post Office.<sup>29</sup>

August 15, 1914, at Martoo's Olympia, Ipswich, Carroll's Continentals from America; with Leo Kelvedon imitator, comedian and whistler.<sup>30</sup>

April 29, 1915, "Elite Theatre, Toowoomba, new programme this evening, Leo Kelvedon, sketch artist, made his first appearance. He gave some clever bird impersonations. He is also an excellent whistler and gave a very pleasing rendition of Oh, Oh."<sup>31</sup>

September 22, 1915, "A concert at Alstonville, NSW; local musical comedy company; Mr Leo Elliott as stage manager and female impersonator was a host in himself; all takings donated to Red Cross Society" of Lismore/Ballina district.<sup>32</sup>

### A new stage name

December 11 and 18, 1915, Saturday nights, Lyric Theatre Melbourne. "Another versatile artist specially engaged" ... "is Mr **Leo Kelvin**, an exceptionally clever imitator, comedian and whistler. He is direct from Clay's Theatre Sydney and is making his first appearance at this theatre."<sup>33</sup>

New year's night 1916, a newcomer, Leo Kelvin to perform at the Temperance Concert Hall, Melbourne.<sup>34</sup>

January 29, 1916, Tamworth, NSW, Leo Kelvin, "Australia's master imitator of Australian birds and animals, and expert whistler" from Rickard's Circuit, Melbourne Opera House.<sup>35</sup>

August 1, 1916, Leo Thomas Elliott, artist, 26 years 4 months, 5 ft. 4¾ ins., enlists in AIF; residence given as 244 Castlereagh St., Sydney; rejected for "old dislocation left hip."<sup>36</sup>

September 9, 1916, Leo Kelvin, photo in *Sydney Mirror* (see below), advertising Hean's Essence (influenza "cure"); tells of stage performances as siffleur and imitator of birds and animals on country tours.<sup>37</sup> This is one of only two known photos of Leo (see 1919). This is very strange considering his performing career of 21 years. Perhaps deliberately avoiding photographs, being estranged from his family in Brisbane, Sydney and Ipswich.



MR. LEO KELVIN,  
Siffleur and Australian mimic of  
birds and animals.

October 6, 1917 Saturday, Leo Kelvin in afternoon matinee, Martoo's Olympia Theatre, Ipswich, Qld.<sup>38</sup>



**MY COUSIN WAS A "SIFBLEUR" (Cont.)**

November 12, 1917, School of Arts, Grafton, Leo Kelvin, "the original Charlie Chaplin impersonator, who appeared at the Magnetic Theatre, Brisbane, for several months; he will sing his latest songs."<sup>39</sup> [Should be Majestic Picture Theatre, where Charlie Chaplin films were showing throughout 1917. Leo probably did his Chaplin impersonation for publicity].<sup>40</sup>

December 19, 1917, Leo Kelvin speaker for No Conscription Campaign in Sydney.<sup>41</sup>

November 13, 1918, arrival in Sydney on *Nikko Maru* from Yokohama of "Mr L. KILVIN".<sup>42</sup> No further details found. Probably Leo; see below.

February 5, 1919, at Odell's Picture Theatre, Manilla, NSW, "direct from Rickards Tivoli Theatres and Fuller's Theatre", Leo Kelvin, "whistling, juggling, imitator of birds of the Australian bush, Indian jungle and African forest. Also a Charlie Chaplin Competition."<sup>43</sup> See picture.



March 13, 1919, Leo Kelvin at Ike Beck's Vaudeville, Singleton "this week."<sup>44</sup>

**To South Australia**

August 23, 1919, Saturday, Leo Kelvin performing at Central Theatre, Adelaide; "recently returned from tour of India; vocal numbers and imitations of calls and noises of birds and animals; a Chaplin impersonation competition will be held."<sup>45</sup>

November 8, 1919, Port Adelaide Town Hall, "Leo Kelvin actor vocalist - direct from leading theatre."<sup>46</sup>

November 15, 1919 Adelaide, "Harding's Pictures and Vaudeville, Central Theatre tonight; Leo Kelvin actor-vocalist and bird mimic will appear. Matinee today."<sup>47</sup>



December 4, 1919, at Angaston, SA, Leo Kelvin "the great comedian just returned from a tour through America, Japan, China and South Africa."<sup>48</sup>

December 26, 1919, Marriage of Leo Thomas Elliott to **Thelma Elsie Marie Jones**, (1900-1961), Methodist Manse, Payneham, Adelaide.<sup>50,51,52</sup> For one "estranged" from his family, the newspaper announcement of this event seems overly revealing. viz. "Leo Thomas Elliott, only son Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Elliott, late postmaster Childers, Queensland."<sup>53</sup>

December 27, 1919, Saturday, Leo Kelvin, in *Sleeping Beauty* Christmas pantomime matinee, at Tivoli Theatre, Adelaide.<sup>54</sup>

May 13, 14, 15, 1920, Goulburn Lyric Theatre. Thurs, Friday, Saturday nights, "Kelvin and Kelroy". "Leo Kelvin a recognised clever bird and animal mimic, and the possessor of an excellent baritone voice, and he will sing his own songs. **Mdlle. Kelroy**, a lightening sketch artist and oil painter."<sup>55,56</sup>

July 15, 1920, Thursday night, Tighe's Pictures, Newcastle, Leo Kelvin and Mademoiselle Kelroy starring.<sup>57</sup> See below.

**Lashwood and De Car's Big  
Vaudeville and Revue Co.**  
HEADED THIS WEEK BY  
**LEO KELVIN AND MDLLE. KELROY.**  
In a Novel Pot-pouri Act of Songs, Oil Paintings, and  
Sketches, Bird and Animal  
Mimics. Something New and Novel

January 8, 1921, advertisement in Port Pirie *Recorder*, SA. "First Class painter and Decorator just arrived from Adelaide. Start at once Leo Kelvin."<sup>58</sup>

April 27, 1921, Leo, "toured extensively over Aussie", now commissioner at Majestic Theatre, Adelaide.<sup>59</sup>

continued

March 29, 1922, Mail for Leo Kelvin held at Sydney office of the magazine "Everyone's Variety and Show World".<sup>60</sup>

June 21, 1922, Leo Kelvin and **Boston Castles**, pianist, in a vaudeville combination, have toured extensively in NSW country towns.<sup>61</sup>

July 5, 1922, Leo Kelvin, Chaplin impersonator, in Newcastle, will promote the Chaplin film "Circumstance", in several country towns. It has been doing "big business".<sup>62</sup>

July 24, 1922, Strand Theatre, Newcastle, Leo Kelvin doing "publicity stunts" for the Chaplin film, "The Kid".<sup>63</sup>

August 9, 1922, Leo Kelvin conducted Chaplin impersonation competitions in Newcastle, "which met with unstinting support". Further events at Hamilton, Stockton, Charlestown and Cardiff theatres.<sup>64</sup>

April 18, 1923, Leo Kelvin working backstage, at Dan Clifford's "New Theatre", Norwood, Adelaide.<sup>65</sup>

"For some time," before October 1923, Leo employed in signwriting and painting trade in Adelaide.<sup>66</sup>

November 7, 1923, Leo Kelvin and **Winifred Carmen**, mezzo soprano, playing theatres in Melbourne.<sup>67</sup>

### To New Zealand

Early January 1924, Leo Kelvin at Albermarle Hotel, Wellington, NZ, interviewing for female assistant.<sup>11</sup>

January 1924, Leo Kelvin and Winifred Carmen playing picture houses in New Zealand, including Empress Theatre Wellington.<sup>68,69</sup>

February 27 and 28, March 1, 1924, Empire Theatre, Te Awamutu. Comedy sketches, by Winifred Carmen and Leo Kelvin, late producer of Musgrove's Tivoli Frolics. He possesses "an excellent baritone voice", and will "run a Charlie Chaplin competition."<sup>70,71</sup>

September 24, 1924, Leo Kelvin, alias Elliott, wanted by New Zealand police for "sending through the post an indecent letter to **Doreen McKenzie**." Kelvin "about

5 ft. 4 in., painter and comedian, ... usually well dressed and poses at theatre-entrances as Charlie Chaplin."<sup>72</sup>

October 3, 1924, Leo Kelvin, "actor", in Wellington Magistrate's Court; charge of "indecent by mail", dismissed this day; has been on stage for 15 years (since 1909). Prosecution claimed that in early January he had interviewed (ballet and elocution exhibition) the 16 year old girl, (who said she was 20), for "a costume comedy company of nine members".<sup>11,68,73</sup>

### Where's Leo?

January 20, 1925, advertisement in *Adelaide Advertiser*, searching for Leo Elliott/Kelvin. Contact B.S.A.<sup>74</sup> [Who is B.S.A.? Not found.]

April 2, 1925, *Auckland Star*, NZ, whereabouts of Leo Kelvin/Elliott sought by B.S.A, Box 644, Adelaide.<sup>75</sup> Also *Daily Telegraph* Sydney, April 1, 1925.<sup>76</sup> Perhaps his wife Thelma Elsie Marie is searching for him for a divorce.

April 26, 1927, Prince Edward Theatre, Auckland. Tonight only "Leo Kelvin, comedian, and bird and animal mimic."<sup>77</sup>

### Back to Australia

May 25, 1927, at Ballarat, Victoria, Church of England, marriage of Thelma Elsie Marie Elliott to **Hurtle Milford Gold Biggs**. Says she is a widow [incorrect], and has no children by former marriage.<sup>78</sup>

June 21, 1927. Leo advertises in Rockhampton for lady singer to assist in travelling vaudeville act.<sup>79</sup>

January 10, 1928, Leo in Grafton; advertises for young lady "pianiste" or singer, to assist in vaudeville act.<sup>80</sup>

January 24, 1928 Leo, in Coff's Harbour, advertises for young lady to "assist in games; to tour country shows, long engagement, good salary."<sup>81</sup>

May 18, 1928, Truck crash with Leo Kelvin and **Royal Hawaiian Troop**, travelling from Bonalbo Show; admitted to Casino Hospital with minor injury.<sup>82</sup>

June 6, 1928, Royal Hawaiians and Leo at Lismore.<sup>83</sup>

**MY COUSIN WAS A "SIFFEUR" (Cont.)**

June 8, 1928, Hospital Benefit, Casino, Royal Hawaiians and Leo.<sup>84</sup>

July 13, 1928, Royal Hawaiians and Leo Kelvin in Newcastle.<sup>85</sup>

August 31, 1928, West Wyalong, NSW, Leo advertises for "young lady to assist entertainer, travel, long engagement".<sup>86</sup>

November 7, 1930, Tasmania, advertisement for "vaudeville lady assistant; long engagement; apply Leo Kelvin, immediately, show grounds Devonport."<sup>87</sup>

November 14, 1930, Vaudeville show, Leo. Kelvin, animal impersonator; "Longford tonight, Fingal to-morrow; St. Helens Monday, St. Marys, Tuesday, Derby, Wednesday; Ringarooma, Thursday; and Lilydale, Friday."<sup>88</sup>

1933 Son born to **Thelma Marie Biggs**, formerly Elliott.<sup>89</sup> Son's name not known, has not been found, but living in 1961.<sup>52</sup>

1933-34 Thomas Leo, sign writer, and **Eleanor May Elliott**, home duties, Alderley St., Rangeview, Toowoomba.<sup>90</sup> "On roll 20 September 1933, off roll 1935 not voted erased."<sup>91</sup> No earlier or later information on this couple has been found.

**Missing 1931-1944**

May 4 & 12, 1945, *Newcastle Morning Herald*. "For sale, horse, harness, four wheeled covered waggonette, excellent condition, £40 the lot." ...."cash only, worth more." "Apply Leo Elliott, camping Speers Point Park 259."<sup>92,93</sup>

March 20, 1947, *Newcastle Morning Herald and Miner's Advocate*. "Spring cart, horse and harness. Write for interview Leo Elliott, 13 Main Road, Speers Point 3739."<sup>94</sup>

**Missing 1947-1953**

1954-1963 Leo Thomas Elliott, residing Jubilee St., Maitland East, NSW, "no occupation."<sup>95, 96, 97</sup>

**The end of the road**

March 22, 1965, Death of Leo Thomas Elliott, labourer, at Maitland Hospital; "parents unknown; age unknown; born Ipswich, Qld."; residence 70 Church St. Maitland.<sup>98</sup>

**FUNERALS**

**ELLIOTT.**—The friends of the late **LEO THOMAS ELLIOTT**, of 70 Church Street, Maitland, are respectfully invited to attend his funeral, to move from St. John's Pro-Cathedral, Maitland, to-morrow, Wednesday morning, immediately after Requiem Mass, commencing at 9.30 o'clock for the Catholic Cemetery, East Maitland.

Requiescat-In-Pace

**FRANK T. MEIGHAN  
PTY. LTD.  
N.D.F.D.A.**

Funeral Directors

**Funeral notice in Maitland Mercury, March 23, 1965.**<sup>99</sup>

March 23, 1965, Funeral arrangements and account for Leo Thomas Elliott; age 76 years; casket 5'3" x 18"; Commonwealth Bank Book No. 72877, credit £13.<sup>100</sup>

March 24, 1965, Burial at Campbell's Hill Cemetery, Maitland, RC, Section D2, Plot 72.<sup>101</sup> No headstone.

Leo's family may not have been aware of his lifestyle, but now his descendants may appreciate his busy, gypsy-like and entertaining life. The large gaps in this biography leave much scope for further research and detective work, to keep this family historian fully occupied in retirement.

**References:**

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- <sup>5</sup> QPG 1-9-1905, p 351, No. 2022, Leo Elliott.
- <sup>6</sup> QPG 1-11-1905, p 434, No. 2522, Leo Elliott.
- <sup>7</sup> Darling Downs Gazette 5-8-1907, p 5.
- <sup>8</sup> Passenger List, "Konoowarra", Sydney, Inwards, 19-8-1907, Leo Elliott.
- <sup>9</sup> Brisbane Courier, 17-8-1907, pp 4, 11.
- <sup>10</sup> QER, 1911, p 1335, Elliott.
- <sup>11</sup> NZ Truth, 11-10-1924, p 6.
- <sup>12</sup> Brisbane Courier, 7-7-1909, p 2.
- <sup>13</sup> QPG 1909, p 306, Prisoners Discharged.
- <sup>14</sup> Examiner, Launceston, Tas., 31-12-1910, p 8.
- <sup>15</sup> Examiner, Launceston, Tas. 2-1-1911, p 6.

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- <sup>16</sup> *Geelong Advertiser, Vic., 2-6-1911, p 4.*
- <sup>17</sup> *Newcastle Morning Herald and Miner's Advocate, NSW, 25-6-1954, p 2.*
- <sup>18</sup> *Huon Times, Tas., 26-8-1911, p 6.*
- <sup>19</sup> *Victoria Police Gazette 25-11-1911.*
- <sup>20</sup> *Argus, Melbourne, 21-8-1911, p 9.*
- <sup>21</sup> *Colac Herald, Vic., 26-2-1912, p 2.*
- <sup>22</sup> *Warwick Examiner & Times, 10-4-1912, p 1.*
- <sup>23</sup> *Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay & Burnett Advertiser, 17-5-1912, p 5.*
- <sup>24</sup> *Qld. Times, Ipswich, 14-6-1912, p 1.*
- <sup>25</sup> *Qld. Times, Ipswich, 18-6-1912, p 2.*
- <sup>26</sup> *Morning Bulletin, Rockhampton, 26-9-1912, p 2.*
- <sup>27</sup> *Qld. Times, Ipswich, 23-12-1912, p 4.*
- <sup>28</sup> *Daily Standard, Brisbane, 19-4-1913, p 2.*
- <sup>29</sup> *Qld. Times, Ipswich, 29-11-1913, p 14.*
- <sup>30</sup> *Qld. Times, Ipswich, 158-1914, p 2.*
- <sup>31</sup> *Darling Downs Gazette, 30-4-1915, p 3.*
- <sup>32</sup> *Northern Star, Lismore, 27-9-1915, p 3.*
- <sup>33</sup> *Weekly News, Yarraville, V., 11-12-1915, p 3.*
- <sup>34</sup> *Labor Call, Melbourne, 6-1-1916, p 8.*
- <sup>35</sup> *Tamworth Daily Observer, 29-1-1916, p 8.*
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- <sup>41</sup> *Sydney Morning Herald, 19-12-1917, p 16.*
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- <sup>48</sup> *Advertiser, Adelaide, SA, 23-8-1919, p 2.*
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- <sup>50</sup> *SA BDM MC Jones/Elliott 1919/281.*
- <sup>51</sup> *SA BDM BC T M Jones 1900, 667/267.*
- <sup>52</sup> *SA BDM DC T M Biggs 1961, 922/2549.*
- <sup>53</sup> *Advertiser, Adelaide, 31-12-1919, p 4.*
- <sup>54</sup> *Advertiser, Adelaide, 27-12-1919, p 8.*
- <sup>55</sup> *Goulburn Penny Post, 11-5-1920, p 2.*
- <sup>56</sup> *Goulburn Penny Post, 1-5-1920, p 2.*
- <sup>57</sup> *Newcastle Morning Herald and Miner's Advocate, 13-7-1920, p 8.*
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- <sup>60</sup> *Everyones, 29-3-1922, p 22.*
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- <sup>67</sup> *Everyones, 7-11-1923, p 33.*
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- <sup>85</sup> *Newcastle Morning Herald and Miner's Advocate, 13-7-1928, p 12.*
- <sup>86</sup> *West Wyalong Advocate, 31-8-1928, p 1.*
- <sup>87</sup> *Advocate, Burnie, Tas., 7-11-1930, p 7.*
- <sup>88</sup> *Examiner, Launceston, Tas., 14-11-1930, p 7.*
- <sup>89</sup> *Advertiser, Adelaide, 29-3-1939, p 8.*
- <sup>90</sup> *QER 1933, 1934 Thomas Leo Elliott.*
- <sup>91</sup> *QER 1933, 1934 Eleanor May Elliott.*
- <sup>92</sup> *Newcastle Morning Herald & Miner's Advocate, 4-5-1945, p 9.*
- <sup>93</sup> *Newcastle Morning Herald & Miner's Advocate, 12-5-1945, p 9.*
- <sup>94</sup> *Newcastle Morning Herald & Miner's Advocate, 20-3-1947, p 10.*
- <sup>95</sup> *AER 1954 Maitland East, L T Elliott*
- <sup>96</sup> *AER 1958 Maitland East, L T Elliott.*
- <sup>97</sup> *AER 1964 Maitland East, L T Elliott.*
- <sup>98</sup> *NSW BDM DC 1965, Leo Thomas Elliott.*
- <sup>99</sup> *Maitland Mercury, NSW, 23-3-1965.*
- <sup>100</sup> *Letter from, John Warby, Meighan's Funerals, Newcastle, 26-10-2015.*
- <sup>101</sup> *Maitland City Council, Burial Register, L T Elliott, 1965.*

(Photographs & illustrations provided by the author) ■

## WEB LINKS

### COUNTY KILDARE, IRELAND'S GRAND JURY PRESENTMENT AND QUERY BOOKS DIGITISED

More than 6,000 pages of [Grand Jury Presentments and Query Books](https://www.wildapricot.org/page-18080/13257880) have been digitised by Kildare County Archives, and are free to download in pdf format. See details, at <https://www.wildapricot.org/page-18080/13257880>. You can read more in the irishgenealogynews web site at <https://www.irishgenealogynews.com/2023/09/county-kildares-grand-jury-presentment.html>.

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### FREE IRISH WEBSITES TO HELP YOUR RESEARCH

A list of websites is available at [https://www.irelandxo.com/ireland-xo/news/researching-your-irish-ancestry?utm\\_source=Ireland+Reaching+Out](https://www.irelandxo.com/ireland-xo/news/researching-your-irish-ancestry?utm_source=Ireland+Reaching+Out).

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### THE STORIES OF IRISH IN BRITAIN TOLD IN NEW ONLINE AND IN-PERSON ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

“Look Back to Look Forward: 50 Years of the Irish in Britain” is available to view as an [online exhibition](https://www.wildapricot.org/page-18080/13275912). See details at <https://www.wildapricot.org/page-18080/13275912>.

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### SCOTTISH PRISON INDEXES

Search Over Half a Million Prison Register Entries on [scottishindexes.com](https://www.scottishindexes.com), refer to <https://eogn.com/page-18080/13283799>.

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### REMEMBERING THE FALLEN

There are more than 1.6 million newly released records on TheGenealogist, see <https://www.wildapricot.org/page-18080/13277983>.

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### FINDMYPAST MILITARY RECORDS

There are millions of New Military Records to explore on Findmypast, refer to <https://www.wildapricot.org/page-18080/13277862>.

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### ONE MAN'S MISSION TO RECORD ALL OF BRITISH FOLKLORE

An amazing undertaking. Refer to <https://www.wildapricot.org/page-18080/13277877>.

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### CELEBRATE CANADIAN STORIES ON FINDMYPAST

[Canada, Military Honours and Awards Index](https://www.findmypast.com/uk/canada-military-honours-and-awards-index), this new set from Library and Archives Canada contains over 113,000 transcriptions, taken from a variety of medal award collections. The collection spans over 150 years, from 1812 to 1969. [Canada, Courts Martial of the First World War Index](https://www.findmypast.com/uk/canada-courts-martial-of-the-first-world-war-index), also new is an index of court martial records, recounting members of the Canadian Expeditionary Forces who were accused of military and civilian offences. For further information refer to <https://eogn.com/page-18080/13285723>.

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### FIND YOUR ANCESTOR'S PLACE OF REST

[National Burial Index for England & Wales](https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/project/national-burial-index-for-england-wales), from Family History Federation on FMP, these records are for the county of *Herefordshire*. They span 1539 to 1840. [Kent Burials - Medway](https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/project/kent-burials-medway), with over 14,000 new records for Medway in Kent covering 1981 to 2020. [Kent Burials – Dunns Funeral Directors Registers](https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/project/kent-burials-dunns-funeral-directors-registers), 1,478 records from the town of *Bromley* are added to FMP's collection of Kent Burials. Taken from two local parishes, these new additions span 1803 to 1839. See more at <https://eogn.com/page-18080/13283170>. Refer also to NBI3 at <https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/projects/nbi> (also held in the QFHS library catalogue.)

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### THOUSANDS MORE RECORDS FOR N W ENGLAND

[Cumberland Baptisms](https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/project/cumberland-baptisms), spanning over four centuries, they may help you find an ancestor's name, baptism date and place. [Cumberland Marriages](https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/project/cumberland-marriages), there are 68,211 new records to explore, covering 1547 to 1975. [Cumberland Burials](https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/project/cumberland-burials), with 62,746 new burials covering 1566 to 1992. Refer to <https://eogn.com/page-18080/13281579>.

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### FURTHER WEBSITES RE LEGAL DEPOSIT (OPPOSITE)

The NLA has just updated their fact sheet to include hyperlinks, see [www.nla.gov.au/legal-deposit](http://www.nla.gov.au/legal-deposit). Also refer to the State Library of Queensland's legal deposit page at <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/get-involved/contribute-collections/publishers-and-authors>. ■



# Write yourself into history

Deposit your book today

[nla.gov.au/legal-deposit](http://nla.gov.au/legal-deposit)



## Write yourself into history

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

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

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

Legal deposit ensures that local histories are preserved for generations to come and continue to be accessible to future researchers. From our earliest holdings of local historical publications, such as [The history of the Woodford Green United Free Church](#) by [R.L. Galey](#), published in

association with the Woodford Historical Society in 1968, through to the most recent electronically deposited works such as [Bingil Bay Botanist : The Story of Norm Byrnes & His Arboretum](#), published by Mission Beach Historical Society in 2023, the National Library ensures that these stories are not lost to time.

As researchers you may have written or be writing a history or family story that you are considering publishing and making available beyond your immediate family in the form of a book. By making this work available to the public for sale or for free, such as through your society library, it is considered to be published. You can ensure your research will be preserved and kept accessible over time by depositing it with the national and state or territory collection, helping to build and preserve Australia's published history.

You don't need to have an ISBN, and your work can be available in print or electronically. You can deposit electronic publications through the [National edeposit service \(NED\)](#) which is quick, easy, and free, and the preferred format of the National Library. If you are making your publication available to the public for free or for sale it should be given to the National Library and the State Library of Queensland through legal deposit.

Write yourself into history. We're looking forward to receiving and caring for your work. Find out more by searching for legal deposit on our website [nla.gov.au](http://nla.gov.au) or by scanning this QR code. ■

We're looking



## QFHS NOTICES

### BEREAVEMENT NOTICES



We extend our deepest sympathy on the following bereavements:

**Geof Runge**, member #227, late of Rangeville, Toowoomba, who passed away on 10 October 2023, aged 80 years.

Expressions of sympathy have been conveyed to his family on behalf of the President and members of the Society.

### Finding your family: the fundamentals of research



#### A six week course

Commences: Monday 12 February 2024

Time: 7.30 pm – 9.00 pm

Location: Online event

Cost: Members \$60, non-members \$90  
Only 10 people per course

Content: Sources, methodology, organisation, repositories, DNA and much more.

Details:

<https://www.qfhs.org.au/events/learn-qfhs/finding-your-family-the-fundamentals-of-research/>

### LEARN@QFHS

Further courses will be held as follows:

**Topic:** **Finding your Qld Country Women's Association History**  
**Date:** FRI 9 February 2024  
**Time:** **10.00 am to 11.30 am** (online)  
**Presenter:** Jeni Bush  
(Limit 25 people)

**Topic:** **Talking About –researching a biography**  
**Date:** WED 28 February 2024 (free)  
**Time:** **10.00 am to 12 noon** (online)  
**Facilitator:** Nancy Edwards  
(Limit 25 people)

**Topic:** **Photogenealogy: An Introduction**  
**Date:** THU 7 March 2024  
**Time:** **7.00 pm – 8.30 pm** (online)  
**Presenter:** Ann Larkham, UK  
(Limit 40 people)

**Topic:** **Talking About –everything automobile related**  
**Date:** WED 27 March 2024 (free)  
**Time:** **7.30 pm – 9.30 pm** (online)  
**Facilitator:** Nancy Edwards  
(Limit 25 people)

**Topic:** **Vital issues for researchers: Ethics, Privacy and Copyright**  
**Date:** FRI 12 April 2024  
**Time:** 10.00 am to 11.30 am (online)  
**Presenter:** Pauleen Cass  
(Limit 25 people)

**Topic:** **When 'life story' becomes 'life history' – an oral history approach**  
**Date:** WED 8 May 2024  
**Time:** 10.00 am to 11.30 am (online)  
**Presenter:** Dr Maree Ganley  
(Limit 25 people)

**Topic:** **Talking About –What is Descendancy Research and what is its purpose?**  
**Date:** WED 22 May 2024 (free)  
**Time:** **10.00 am to 12 noon** (online)  
**Facilitator:** Nancy Edwards  
(Limit 25 people)

*"Follow" QFHS and be advised as soon as these events are listed with*

continued

[www.eventbrite.com.au/o/queensland-family-history-society-inc-4629298833](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/o/queensland-family-history-society-inc-4629298833)

**Cost per presentation/hands-on mode:**

\$15/\$20 members (QFHS and GSQ) and  
\$25/\$30 non-members

**Cost per Talking About** - free

**CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE EVENTS**

Bookings are required – you are invited to register to secure your place for these events through [www.qfhs.org.au/events/learn-qfhs/](http://www.qfhs.org.au/events/learn-qfhs/).

**QFHS INC. FAMILY HISTORY BOOK AWARD 2024**

The Society invites entries for this Award which will be presented at the Annual General Meeting 2024 to the person or persons producing the best history of a Queensland family published in book form within the past five years.

Full guidelines, conditions of entry and entry forms are available on the website at <http://www.qfhs.org.au/about-us/awards/>.

Please check the guidelines. In brief, these include:

- It must be the story of a family, not an individual, and have significant Queensland content.
- It should have an index.
- Desirable features include charts and tables, illustrations, maps, references, and a list of source materials.

Further information is available from:

Hon Secretary  
QFHS Inc  
P O Box 78,  
Geebung Qld 4034

or

Gayle Thomsett  
Unit 16  
43-46 Taylor Street  
Woolloongabba Qld 4102.



Entries close **30 November 2024**.

The Award is open to members of the Society and to the general public. For further information email [fhaward@qfhs.org.au](mailto:fhaward@qfhs.org.au).

**CENTRAL EUROPEAN  
SPECIAL INTEREST  
GROUP**

**40TH ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATIONS**



*Brandenburg Gate, Berlin*

**WHERE:**

Family History Research Centre,  
46 Delaware Street, Chermside  
(at intersection of  
Delaware St & Waring St, Geebung)

**WHEN:**

**Saturday 1 June 2024  
10:00 am - 3:00 pm**

Watch the QFHS website and Snippets for more details to follow.

Recognition of people who have made important contributions to the formation and running of the Central European Interest Group.

Celebrate your Central European heritage and culture with music, food and family friendly activities.

Contact Eric Kopittke, convenor of the Central European Special Interest Group at [centraleuropean@qfhs.org.au](mailto:centraleuropean@qfhs.org.au) to register your interest in the day's activities.



**QFHS NOTICES (Cont.)**

**Irish Research Day**



**Researching Irish ancestors?**

The next Irish Research Day is  
**Thursday, 14 March 2024**  
**10.00 am to 3.00 pm**

at

QFHS Family History Research Centre,  
 46 Delaware Street, Chermside.

(at intersection of Delaware St & Waring St)

A great opportunity to spend the day on your Irish family history research. Come and work alongside others and help each other as required. Bring your lunch or food to share.

To get the most out of your time, we recommend you prepare by:

- Reviewing your current research and bringing what you need with you
- Try to specify clear research questions or goals to focus your work

There will be friendly, helpful and experienced people available to assist each other.

Please register early as places are limited.

Contact Dale Fogarty, Irish Research Group at [irish@qfhs.org.au](mailto:irish@qfhs.org.au) with your QFHS membership number.

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**

When your Membership is due for Renewal you will receive an email reminder. If you're not sure, please contact our Membership Secretary, email at [membership@qfhs.org.au](mailto:membership@qfhs.org.au), before making payment. Also don't forget to let us know if any of your contact details change so that we can update our records.

**IRISH MINI SEMINAR WITH  
 ULSTER HISTORICAL FOUNDATION**

**15 FEB  
 9:00 AM  
 AEST  
 In person @ GSQ  
 &  
 via ZOOM**

**Irish Mini Seminar with  
 Ulster Historical Foundation**

**Program**

- Using landed estate records tracing families in the 18th & 19th century.
- Using the Registry of Deeds an important source for 18th century research.
- Newspapers as a source for Irish research.
- The Ulster Plantation and sources for finding 17th century families in Ireland (not just Ulster).
- All sessions will be recorded and available for one month after the event to registered attendees.

**Bookings & payment**

Early Bird Price if booked by 11 December 2023  
 GSQ/QFHS Members \$40  
 Non-members \$50  
 Price from 12 December 2023  
 GSQ/QFHS Members \$50  
 Non-members \$60

Book online at [www.gsq.org.au/events/](http://www.gsq.org.au/events/)  
 Payment may be made by  
 Credit card (online, by phoning GSQ) 07 5599 6272 or at GSQ  
 Cash (at GSQ)

Bank transfer (note details at time of ordering) DR  
 Cheque by post GSQ, PO Box 1667,  
 Chermside, QLD 4023.

**About the UHF**  
 Ulster Historical Foundation has been helping people to trace their Irish and Ulster ancestors for 55+ years, and is one of the most experienced, long established and highly reputable organisations in Ireland in the field of Irish family history.  
 Staff from the Ulster Historical Foundation – Fíona Mullen and Gillian Hunt, will present a seminar on Irish and Scots-Irish genealogy for beginners and active family historians.

Genealogical Society of Queensland |  | [education@gsq.org.au](mailto:education@gsq.org.au)  
[www.gsq.org.au/events](http://www.gsq.org.au/events)

Check our website for information on  
**QFHS SEMINAR ON 16 FEB 2024,**  
**9 am – 1 pm.**

**L.A. CONSULTATION AND TRAINING SESSION**

**Monday 15 April 2024**  
**10.00 – 12.30 pm**



To be held as a hybrid meeting, using our state-of-the-art Meeting Owl.

Contribute to the Strategic Plan for our service in the future as well as learning about operational updates and opportunities for upskilling.

**CHRISTMAS THANK YOU**

A heartfelt thank you to all who contributed to the Christmas hamper which was delivered to the Salvation Army for distribution to needy families at Christmas. We very much appreciate your generosity. ■



## QFHS INC. NOTICE OF MOTION TO SET FEES

The Management Committee has recently reviewed the Society's membership and associated fees and recommends that members approve the following fee schedule, to take effect from 1 May 2024:

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Joining Fee (for new and lapsed members)                                   | \$10.00    |
| Single Membership (p.a.)   | \$80.00    |
| Dual Membership (p.a.)   | \$120.00   |
| Associate Membership (p.a.)  | \$120.00   |
| Single Life Membership   | \$1,200.00 |
| Dual Life Membership   | \$1,800.00 |
| Journal only subscription (incl. postage) (p.a.)                           | \$40.00    |
| Journal only Overseas Subscription (incl. postage – no GST payable) (p.a.) | \$40.00    |
| Non-Member Visitor Fee Daily   | \$20.00    |

It is five years since fees were last increased, and your Management Committee must provide for past and future cost increases in ongoing expenditure, such as insurance and electricity costs. Our budget for 2024 also proposes necessary increased spending on IT infrastructure replacement and development to provide a reliable and enhanced service delivery to members. Some further expenditure on the Society's new Chermside premises is also required. We are proposing to cover these additional expenditures with a modest fee increase, complemented with cost reductions where possible. In considering the Society's 2024 finances, your Committee is proposing to deliver a balanced budget in order to preserve the Society's equity for future needs and contingencies.

**Notice is hereby given** that at the General Meeting of the Queensland Family History Society Inc. to be held online on **Tuesday 26 March, 2024 at 7.30 pm**, members present will be asked to vote on the following motion:

***That, until otherwise determined, and effective from 1 May 2024, membership and associated fees be as set out in the schedule above.***

*Note: Authority to amend membership conditions is provided in Clause 6(1) of the Society's Rules:*

*The membership fees for each class of membership shall be such sum as the members shall from time to time at any general meeting so determine.*

Only current financial members will be eligible to vote, voting entitlement being ONE vote per membership, i.e. Dual or Associate Members have one vote only.

Members are reminded that our Constitution, under Clause 23, allows proxy votes. The Clause also details the required proxy format. The Constitution and proxy vote format can be viewed and downloaded from the bottom panel of the Society's website and completed forms must be received by the Secretary at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

***John Young, Treasurer, QFHS Inc. ■***

## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

**PLEASE NOTE SOME OF THESE MEETINGS HAVE BEEN CHANGED. PLEASE CHECK THE QFHS WEBSITE**

### FAMILY HISTORY WRITING GROUP



This group meets online via Zoom on the **third Saturday** of **odd-numbered** months at **9.00 am**. The next meeting dates are:

**16 March 2024**      **18 May 2024**

If you are interested in joining us, please email [fhwriters@qfhs.org.au](mailto:fhwriters@qfhs.org.au).

**Sue Reid**  
(Convenor)

### IRISH RESEARCH GROUP



The Irish Research Group meets online via Zoom usually on the **second Saturday** of **even-numbered** months from **10.30 am** until **12.30 pm**. The next meeting dates are:

**10 February 2024**      **13 April 2024**

For further information, please email [irish@qfhs.org.au](mailto:irish@qfhs.org.au).

**Dale Fogarty**  
(Convenor)

### ENGLISH WEST COUNTRY GROUP



This group researches the counties of Cornwall, Devon, Somerset and Dorset. The Group meets online via Zoom on the **fourth Thursday** of **odd-numbered** months at **noon**. The next meeting dates are:

**28 March 2024**      **23 May 2024**

For further information, please email [englishwestcountry@qfhs.org.au](mailto:englishwestcountry@qfhs.org.au).

**Jenny Davidson**  
(Convenor)

### SCOTTISH INTEREST GROUP



This group meets online via Zoom and in our new Family History Research Centre (hybrid) on the **second Saturday** of **odd-numbered** months (except January) at **10.00 am**. The next meeting dates are:

**9 March 2024**      **11 May 2024**

If you are interested in joining this group, please email Chris on [scottish@qfhs.org.au](mailto:scottish@qfhs.org.au).

**Chris Schuetz**  
(Convenor)

### WELSH INTEREST GROUP

The Welsh Interest Group meets online by Zoom and in person (i.e. hybrid) in our new Family History Research Centre on the **third Sunday** of **odd-numbered** months from **10.00 am** until **noon**. The next meeting dates are:

**17 March 2024**      **19 May 2024**

For further information please email [welsh@qfhs.org.au](mailto:welsh@qfhs.org.au).



**Charlotte Sale**  
(Convenor)

### CENTRAL EUROPEAN GROUP (DATES CHANGED)

This group aims to encourage, educate and assist members in their family history research in the Central European area. The Group meets online via Zoom (or in our new Family History Research Centre) on the **first Saturday** of **even-numbered** months from **10.00 am** to **noon**. The next meeting dates are:

**3 February 2024**      **6 April 2024**

A \$2 donation goes towards purchasing relevant records.

For further information email Eric at [kopittke@tpg.com.au](mailto:kopittke@tpg.com.au).

**Eric Kopittke & Noel Bergman**  
(Convenors)



### FAMILY TREE MAKER USER GROUP

If you are using the Family Tree Maker™ program, or just want to learn more about it, this enthusiastic group is for you.

The group meets online (Zoom only) on the **first Friday** of **even-numbered** months and Hybrid on the **first Saturday** of **odd-numbered** months (not January) at **10.00 am**. The next meeting dates are:

**Fri 2 February 2024**  
**Sat 2 March 2024**  
**Fri 5 April 2024**  
**Sat 4 May 2024**



For further information, please contact Geoff Morgan on email [familytree@qfhs.org.au](mailto:familytree@qfhs.org.au).

**Geoff Morgan & Joe Greaves**  
(Convenors)

continued

**DNA INTEREST GROUP (DATES & TIME CHANGED)**

This group seeks to share information on aspects of genetic family history. The group meets on the **fourth Saturday** of **each** month (except December) online via Zoom and in our new Family History Research Centre at **10.00 am to noon**. The next meeting dates are:

|                         |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>24 February 2024</b> | <b>Experienced</b> |
| <b>23 March 2024</b>    | <b>Beginners</b>   |
| <b>27 April 2024</b>    | <b>Experienced</b> |
| <b>25 May 2024</b>      | <b>Beginners</b>   |

For further information contact Chris Schuetz or Ann Swain on email [dna@qfhs.org.au](mailto:dna@qfhs.org.au).

**Chris Schuetz & Ann Swain**  
(Convenors)

**COLONIAL INDIA AND THE FAR EAST GROUP**

We welcome you into our friendly, collaborative group to explore the ever-increasing resources available to research Colonial India and the Far East. Our meetings share information, ideas and short presentations about this fascinating time and place. The group meets online via Zoom at **10.30 am** on the **second Sunday** of **even-numbered** months. The next meetings will be held on:

**11 February 2024**      **14 April 2024**

For further information please email [indiafe@qfhs.org.au](mailto:indiafe@qfhs.org.au).

**Dette Glenday & Wendy Angliss**  
(Convenors)

**FAMILY HISTORIAN USER GROUP**

Family Historian - simplicity for the newer user, but still the ultimate 'power tool' for experienced family historians. To find out more, join our group's meetings via Zoom on the **first Sunday** of **each** month at **1:00 pm** for approximately 2 hours. The next meeting dates are:

**4 February 2024**  
**3 March 2024**  
**7 April 2024**  
**5 May 2024**

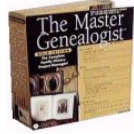
For further information please email [familyhistorian@qfhs.org.au](mailto:familyhistorian@qfhs.org.au).

**Malcolm Kingston**  
(Convenor)

**THE MASTER GENEALOGIST (TMG) USER GROUP**

The group caters to the needs of all users, from novice to advanced, and meets online via Zoom on the **third Thursday** of **most** months (except December) at **7.00 pm**. The next meeting dates are:

**15 February 2024**  
**21 March 2024**  
**18 April 2024**  
**16 May 2024**



For further information contact Kevin Haley or Peter Frederick at [tmg@qfhs.org.au](mailto:tmg@qfhs.org.au).

**Kevin Haley & Peter Frederick**  
(Convenors)

**QLD PRE-SEPARATION GROUP**

Did any of your ancestors arrive in Queensland prior to separation from New South Wales On 10 December 1859? If so, you may become a certificate member of this group. The group also welcomes anyone interested in pre-separation families and history to its periodic meetings and activities. Meetings are usually held quarterly online via Zoom on the **second Saturdays** of **March, June, September** and **December** at **1.30 pm**, or sometimes by excursion. The next meetings will be held on:

**Sat 9 March 2024**  
**Sat 8 June 2024**

For further information please email [presep@qfhs.org.au](mailto:presep@qfhs.org.au).

**Ann Swain & Jenny Davidson**  
(Convenors)

**PRE-SEPARATION GROUP TOUR OF THE  
COMMISSARIAT STORE, BRISBANE  
8 DECEMBER 2023**



## DATES TO REMEMBER, INCL. MEMBERS LOUNGE

| DATE                 | ACTIVITY   | VENUE                       | TIME             |
|----------------------|--|-----------------------------|------------------|
| <b>FEBRUARY 2024</b> |  |                             |                  |
| Thursday             | <b>1 Members Lounge – What's New?</b>  | Online                      | 7.30 – 8.45 pm   |
| Friday               | 2 Family Tree Maker User Group (See p.34)  | Online                      | 10.00 - 11.30 am |
| Saturday             | 3 Central European Group (See p.34) (NEW DATE)   | Online                      | 10.00 am – noon  |
| Sunday               | 4 Family Historian Software User Group (See p.35)  | Online                      | 1.00 - 3.00 pm   |
| Friday               | 9 Learn@QFHS: <i>Finding your Queensland Country Women's Association History</i> (See p.30)  | Online                      | 10.00 - 11.30 am |
| Friday               | 9 VOLUNTEERS TRAINING SESSION  | Hybrid                      | 10.00 am - noon  |
| Saturday             | 10 Irish Research Group (See p.34) (TIME CHANGE)   | Online                      | 8.30 - 10.30 am  |
| Sunday               | 11 Colonial India and The Far East Group (See p.35)  | Online                      | 10.30 am - noon  |
| Monday               | 12 Finding Your Family course Week 1 (See p.30)  | Online                      | 7.30 - 9.00 pm   |
| Thursday             | 15 The Master Genealogist (TMG) User Group (See p.35)  | Online                      | 7.00 - 8.30 pm   |
| Friday               | 16 Ulster Historical Foundation Australian Tour – Queensland Mini Seminar (See p.32)   | Kedron-Wavell Services Club | 9.00 – 1.00 pm   |
| Saturday             | 17 New Members' Welcome & Orientation Session (See p.38)   | Research Centre             | 9.30 – 12.30 pm  |
| Wednesday            | 21 <b>Presenting...</b> <i>Family history and the big picture</i><br><i>Speaker: Dr Gaye Wilson (Evening)</i>  | Hybrid                      | 7.30 – 9.30 pm   |
| Saturday             | 24 DNA Interest Group (See p.35) (NEW DATE & TIME)   | Hybrid                      | 10.00 am - noon  |
| Monday               | 26 <b>Members Lounge – Book Club</b>   | Hybrid                      | 10.00 am - noon  |
| Wednesday            | 28 <b>Talking About</b> – <i>researching a biography</i> (See p.30)  | Online                      | 10.00 am– noon   |
| <b>MARCH 2024</b>    |  |                             |                  |
| Saturday             | 2 Family Tree Maker User Group (See p.34)  | Online                      | 10.00 - 11.30 am |
| Sunday               | 3 Family Historian Software User Group (See p.35)  | Online                      | 1.00 - 3.00 pm   |
| Thursday             | 7 Learn@QFHS: <i>Photogenealogy: An introduction</i> (See p.30)  | Online                      | 7.00 - 8.30 pm   |
| Thursday             | <b>7 Members Lounge – What's New?</b>  | Online                      | 7.30 – 8.45 pm   |
| Saturday             | 9 Scottish Interest Group (See p.34)   | Hybrid                      | 10.00 am – noon  |
| Saturday             | 9 Pre-Separation Group (See p.35)  | Online                      | 1.30 – 3.30 pm   |
| Thursday             | 14 IRISH RESEARCH DAY (See p.32)   | Research Centre             | 10.00 - 3.00 pm  |
| Saturday             | 16 Family History Writing Group (See p.34)   | Online                      | 9.00 am - noon   |
| Sunday               | 17 Welsh Interest Group (See p.34)   | Hybrid                      | 10.00 am- noon   |
| Wednesday            | 20 <b>Presenting...</b> <i>'We, the undersigned...', Petitions in the National Archives.</i><br><i>Speaker: Eve Terry of National Archives Australia (Day)</i> | Hybrid                      | 1.00 - 3.00 pm   |
| Thursday             | 21 The Master Genealogist (TMG) User Group (See p.35)  | Online                      | 7.00 - 8.30 pm   |
| Saturday             | 23 DNA Interest Group (See p.35) (NEW DATE & TIME)   | Hybrid                      | 10.00 am- noon   |
| Sunday               | 24 New Members' Welcome & Orientation Session (See p.38)   | Online                      | 9.30 – 12.30 pm  |
| Tuesday              | 26 <b>Bi-annual General Meeting</b>  | Online                      | 7.30 – 9.00 pm   |
| Wednesday            | 27 <b>Talking About</b> – <i>everything automobile related</i> (See p.30)  | Online                      | 7.30 - 9.30 pm   |
| Thursday             | 28 English West Country Group (See p.34)   | Online                      | noon - 2.00 pm   |
| 29/03 - 1/04         | <b>EASTER - RESEARCH CENTRE CLOSED</b>   |                             |                  |
| <b>APRIL 2024</b>    |  |                             |                  |
| Thursday             | <b>4 Members Lounge – What's New?</b>  | Online                      | 7.30 – 8.45 pm   |
| Friday               | 5 Family Tree Maker User Group (See p.34)  | Online                      | 10.00 - 11.30 am |
| Saturday             | 6 Central European Group (See p.34) (NEW DATE)   | Online                      | 10.00 am – noon  |
| Sunday               | 7 Family Historian Software User Group (See p.35)  | Online                      | 1.00 - 3.00 pm   |

continued

|                 |    |   |                 |                  |
|-----------------|----|---|-----------------|------------------|
| Friday          | 12 | Learn@QFHS: <i>Vital Issues for researchers: Ethics, Privacy and Copyright</i> (See p.30)   | Online          | 10.00 - 11.30 am |
| Saturday        | 13 | Irish Research Group (See p.34)   | Online          | 10.30 - 12.30 pm |
| Sunday          | 14 | Colonial India and The Far East Group (See p.35)  | Online          | 10.30 am - noon  |
| Monday          | 15 | LA TRAINING & CONSULTATION SESSION (See p.32)   | Hybrid          | 10.30 am - noon  |
| Wednesday       | 17 | <b>Presenting...</b> <i>'Captives of the Spanish Lady'</i><br><i>Speaker: Duncan Richardson (Evening)</i>   | Hybrid          | 7.30 – 9.30 pm   |
| Thursday        | 18 | The Master Genealogist (TMG) User Group (See p.35)  | Online          | 7.00 - 8.30 pm   |
| Saturday        | 20 | New Members' Welcome & Orientation Session (See p.38)   | Research Centre | 9.30 – 12.30 pm  |
| Monday          | 22 | <b>Members Lounge – Book Club</b>   | Online          | 7.30 – 9.30 pm   |
| Thursday        | 25 | <b>ANZAC DAY – RESEARCH CENTRE CLOSED</b>   |                 |                  |
| Saturday        | 27 | DNA Interest Group (See p.35) <i>Experienced</i>  | Hybrid          | 10.00 am - noon  |
| <b>MAY 2024</b> |    |   |                 |                  |
| Thursday        | 2  | <b>Members Lounge – What's New?</b>   | Online          | 7.30 – 8.45 pm   |
| Saturday        | 4  | Family Tree Maker User Group (See p.34)   | Online          | 10.00 - 11.30 am |
| Sunday          | 5  | Family Historian Software User Group (See p.35)   | Online          | 1.00 - 3.00 pm   |
| Monday          | 6  | <b>LABOUR DAY – RESEARCH CENTRE CLOSED</b>  |                 |                  |
| Wednesday       | 8  | Learn@QFHS: <i>When 'life story' becomes 'life history' - an oral history approach</i> (See p.30)   | Online          | 10.00 - 11.30 am |
| Saturday        | 11 | Scottish Interest Group (See p.34)  | Hybrid          | 10.00 am – noon  |
| Wednesday       | 15 | <b>Presenting...</b> <i>The Railway Jubilee of 1914 - When Steam Trains Made Their Way Into King George Square in February 1914</i><br><i>Speaker: Greg Hallam, Queensland Railways Historian (Day)</i> | Hybrid          | 1.00 - 3.00 pm   |
| Thursday        | 16 | The Master Genealogist (TMG) User Group (See p.35)  | Online          | 7.00 - 8.30 pm   |
| Saturday        | 18 | Family History Writing Group (See p.34)   | Online          | 9.00 am - noon   |
| Sunday          | 19 | Welsh Interest Group (See p.34)   | Online          | 10.00 am - noon  |
| Wednesday       | 28 | <b>Talking About</b> – <i>what is Descendancy Research and what is its purpose?</i> (See p.30)  | Online          | 10.00 am – noon  |
| Thursday        | 23 | English West Country Group (See p.34)   | Online          | noon - 2.00 pm   |
| Saturday        | 25 | DNA Interest Group (See p.35) <i>Beginners</i>  | Hybrid          | 10.00 am - noon  |
| Sunday          | 26 | New Members' Welcome & Orientation Session (See p.38)   | Research Centre | 9.30 – 12.30 pm  |

Management Committee meetings are usually held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.00 pm online via Zoom. If you would like to attend, please contact the Secretary.

Dates and participation methods correct at the time of printing. Always check the QFHS calendar.



### Book Club

<https://www.qfhs.org.au/events/members-lounge/book-club/>



### Talking About...

<https://www.qfhs.org.au/events/members-lounge/talking-about/>



### Presenting...

<https://www.qfhs.org.au/events/members-lounge/presenting-monthly-guest-speakers/>



### Socials

<https://www.qfhs.org.au/events/members-lounge/members-lounge-socials/>



### Trout Game

<https://www.qfhs.org.au/events/members-lounge/trout-game/>



### What's New?

<https://www.qfhs.org.au/events/members-lounge/whats-new/>

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS of QFHS INC.

Membership numbers 6665 – 6681 including members who joined up to 31/12/23:

BLAKE Thom, Ashgrove, QLD  
 BOLTON Anne-Marie, Mount Annan, NSW  
 BRETT Nicole,  
 COCKS Stephanie, Brompton, SA  
 DAHLKE Susan, Carseldine, QLD  
 DYER Glen, Taigum, QLD  
 FERNAN Annette, Bridgeman Downs, QLD  
 HARPER Wendy, Coorparoo, QLD  
 HAUSLER Gregory, Gaythorne, QLD  
 LOVEDAY Sonya, Carindale, QLD  
 MOOR Julie, Maroon, QLD  
 PATTERSON Alenna, Rolleston, QLD  
 PEACOCK Ian, Aspley, QLD  
 WATKINS Sandra, South Brisbane, QLD  
 WESTON Elizabeth, Cronulla, NSW  
 WILSON Jacinda, Chermside, QLD

### Welcome back to the following members who are rejoining:

CAMERON Lyn, Banyo, QLD  
 DEERING Rose, Innes Park, QLD  
 FARQUHARSON Claire, Wavell Heights, QLD  
 GALLAGHER Peter, Burpengary, QLD  
 HILDER Anne, Wooloowin, QLD  
 SPENCER Helen, Gaythorne, QLD  
 WHITEMAN Helen, Boyne Valley, QLD ■

## NEW MEMBERS' WELCOME & ORIENTATION SESSIONS

Beginning in 2024, New Members' Welcome and Orientation Sessions are to be held on the **third Saturday** of **even-numbered** months and **fourth Sunday** of **odd-numbered** months, all from **9.30 am – 12.30 pm**. The next meeting dates will be:

**Sat 17 February** at Research Centre  
**Sun 24 March** Online  
**Sat 20 April** at Research Centre  
**Sun 26 May** at Research Centre  
**Sat 15 June** Online  
**Sun 28 July** at Research Centre

**(NOTE: DATES HAVE BEEN CHANGED)**

Enjoy an overview of research material and facilities available in the Family History Research Centre. We invite you to attend a New Members' Welcome and Orientation session when you join the Society or at any time you would like a refresher.

### BOOKINGS: *Essential*

Numbers have to be limited in each session to ensure that everyone is able to participate fully in the program. Sessions are usually fully booked, with a waiting list, so please advise the organisers as soon as possible if you book and find you are unable to attend.

**Ann Swain & Anne Long**  
**Convenors**

[welcome@qfhs.org.au](mailto:welcome@qfhs.org.au). ■



## QUEENSLAND PRE-SEPARATION GROUP APPROVAL

*The following member has been approved to become a member of the QFHS Inc. Queensland Pre-Separation Group:*

#351 Sylvia Bannah (QFHS Member 3542) is descended from **James Lee** who arrived in Sydney in 1849 and **Ann Lyon** who arrived in Moreton Bay on 13/8/1850 on *Emigrant*; they married in Brisbane on 2/2/1852, and their daughter **Martha Lee** was born on 8/5/1856 in Fortitude Valley, Brisbane. ■

## ABOUT THE SOCIETY

Please refer to our website for the most current information.

### BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

Members may:

- Have free access to the Society's Family History Research Centre, Subscription Websites, useful weblinks, and journals from Australian and overseas FH Societies;
- Receive our *Queensland Family Historian* either by mail or email, and our e-newsletter *Snippets*;
- Submit two free *Help Wanted* queries in the journal per year; and a list of research interests for publication in the *Queensland Family Historian* and on our website;
- Use our AskQFHS, Look Up and Extended Research services available to members and non-members at [www.qfhs.org.au/about-us/research-service/](http://www.qfhs.org.au/about-us/research-service/);
- Country members (living more than 50 km from Brisbane GPO) can use the Research service, see [www.qfhs.org.au/join-us/country-members/](http://www.qfhs.org.au/join-us/country-members/);
- See other benefits of membership at [www.qfhs.org.au/join-us/benefits-of-membership/](http://www.qfhs.org.au/join-us/benefits-of-membership/).

### CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS JOURNAL

The Society is pleased to accept articles of interest to members for publication in this journal — family stories, stories relevant to family history, articles about historical social conditions, research tips, lists, certificate prices and availability, etc. The Editorial Committee reserves the right to decide whether articles are suitable and when they will be published, apart from *Help Wanted* and *Members' Interests* which normally will appear in the journal following their receipt. Alterations in *Help Wanted* or *Members' Interests* will not normally be made without prior consultation with the contributor. Articles for publication should be submitted by email as an attachment. Scanned photographs and images should be attached as high quality \*.jpg or \*.tif files. Receipt of articles will be acknowledged by email, and any photographs posted to support the text will be returned. Contributors should indicate if copy is being distributed to other family history society journals or family history magazines. The Journal is produced using Microsoft Office (for Windows). The preferred formats for files submitted are MSWord (\*.doc or \*.docx) or Rich Text (\*.rtf). The closing dates for the Journals are **15 March, 15 June, 15 September** and **15 December**. The Editor reserves the right to make alterations in submitted text in regards to grammar, spelling, clarity and length. **It is imperative that contributors supply in writing all necessary authorisation obtained in respect to copyright for use of photographs, attachments, etc.**

### VISITORS'/RESEARCH CENTRE USAGE FEES

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Members:     | Free  |
| Non-members: | \$8.50 per hour or part thereof or \$17.00 per day (incl. GST). |

### MEMBERSHIP FEES/SUBSCRIPTIONS (incl. GST)

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Joining Fee (for new and lapsed members)                                  | \$14    |
| Single Membership (p.a.)  | \$70    |
| Dual Membership (p.a.)  | \$105   |
| Associate Membership (p.a.)   | \$105   |
| Single Life Membership  | \$1,050 |
| Dual Life Membership  | \$1,575 |
| Journal Only Subscription (incl. postage) (p.a.)                          | \$35    |
| Journal Only Overseas Subscription (p.a.) (incl. postage; no GST payable) | \$35    |

Renewal subscriptions for existing members as at 1 April 2016 and who maintain continuous membership are due on 1 July each year. From 1 April 2016 new memberships are for 12 months from the first day of the month of a member's admission to the Society.

Dual members are two members with one registered address. Dual members receive one journal only, sent to the registered address, and have one vote only at General Meetings.

Associate members are family history societies and allied groups. At any time, two members of a current Associate Group may use the resources and facilities of the Society free of charge.

Journal only subscribers receive the Society's quarterly journal, the *Queensland Family Historian*, but no other benefits or entitlements.

### RESEARCH CENTRE HOURS (ALL AEST)

|                                  |              |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays: | 10 am – 3 pm |
| Third Wednesdays                 | 10 am – 1 pm |
| Saturdays:                       | 12.30 – 4 pm |
| Sundays                          | Closed       |

The Research Centre is **closed on Fridays** (except for special meetings) and on all **Public Holidays** except **Exhibition Wednesday**.

### INFORMATION FOR ADVERTISERS AND PUBLISHERS

Authors and editors of other publications are requested to quote only the full name of our Society and our mailing address and phone number. Do not quote fees for membership or services, or Research Centre hours, but direct readers to telephone the Research Centre or email the Secretary or the Editor. If authors or editors consider further information is necessary they should submit a copy of their intended script to the Editor for approval before publishing.

### ADVERTISING RATES

Non-members may submit *Help Wanted* advertisements (100 words) for \$8.80. The advertising rate for 1/10 page (approx. 5 lines in 1 column) is \$18.00. For larger advertisements, please contact the Editor regarding rates and also space availability. Please remit in Australian dollars, either by cheque, Visa, MasterCard, or direct credit to the Society's account, see Inside Front Cover. All fees quoted include GST.

### DISCLAIMER

Views expressed by contributors in this publication are not necessarily those of the Editorial Committee or of the QFHS Inc. Management Committee. ■



## MONTHLY MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETY



Each month, February to November, a Guest Speaker is invited to address topics of interest to family and local history researchers in Queensland and beyond. Presentations are arranged for the **third Wednesday of the month** and alternate between 1.00 pm and 7.30 pm to allow as many members as possible to attend. Members and visitors may attend either in person at the Family History Research Centre, 46 Delaware St, Chermside, or via Zoom. Those unable to attend in person but unfamiliar with Zoom may contact the Secretary [secretary@qfhs.org.au](mailto:secretary@qfhs.org.au) for assistance. Bookings are essential and may be made via the QFHS website and Eventbrite. For the dates of the meetings of the different *Special Interest Groups*, please refer to *p.154* or *Dates to Remember* on *p.156* of this issue.

### **Presenting...MONTHLY GUEST SPEAKERS**

#### **2024**

#### **February 21 (7.30 pm)**

#### **Presenting... *Family History And The Big Picture***

Dr Gaye Wilson earned a doctorate in Egyptology after many years of studying the ancient world. Due to the lack of jobs world-wide in that field, she has now turned her attention to more modern historical pursuits, centred around Australia and her local area. Gaye came to family history in 2020 when her family-historian sister died unexpectedly. She rapidly learned the ropes and is currently trying to make sense of the 40 years of research her sister left behind. A Master of History degree at the University of New England in Armidale gave Gaye more historical skills, leading to expertise in Australian cemetery studies and military history. As a professional editor and personal coach, she is passionate about getting research out there for others to see and use. Tonight she is sharing her perspective on family history and where it fits into the bigger picture of historical research.

#### **MARCH 20 (1.00 pm)**

#### **Presenting... *'We, the undersigned...' petitions in the National Archives***

Eve Terry from National Archives Australia, back by popular demand, will speak about the National Archives collection which includes a wide range of petitions relating to a number of areas for change including land rights for First Australians, equal voting rights, the deportation of South Sea Islanders and the internment of enemy aliens. Not all petitions relate to the big issues, with some asking for change around postal services and others penned by school students about matters that affected them.

#### **APRIL 17 (7.30 pm)**

#### **Presenting... *'Captives of The Spanish Lady', The Flu Quarantine In 1919***

The disease known as the Spanish Flu, was sometimes called 'The Spanish Lady'. Despite the 100th anniversary of the flu epidemic coming around in 2019, the realities of the event are still little known. Duncan Richardson first learned of the border closures from a display in the Tenterfield Railway Museum around 2005. A photo shows the tents erected to house hundreds of Queenslanders who arrived at the station on the train from Sydney, to be told they were now quarantined for seven days. Having expected a day's rail journey, the passengers were faced with at least a week of waiting and anxiety. The people of Tenterfield too, were taken by surprise; 700 extra mouths to feed and billet. Masks appeared. They were all told it would be just a week. A week that grew. Ten days... Fourteen... But who was going to pay for the food and other supplies needed to keep these visitors?

#### **MAY 15 (1.00 pm)**

#### **Presenting... *The Railway Jubilee of 1914 - When Steam Trains made their way into King George Square in February 1914***

Greg Hallam, Queensland Rail Historian, back by popular demand, brings us a glimpse of Brisbane in 1914, when Queensland Railways commemorated the 50th anniversary of the beginning of construction of the first section of railway line in Queensland. This section of line from Ipswich to Bigges Camp (today's Grandchester, west of Ipswich) opened on 31 July 1865. Two massive locomotives were brought to King George Square and crowds certainly turned out to see them.

Your Society has for sale an extensive range of publications of interest to the family historian, our own publications, those from other societies and authors, books, charts and forms. As new publications become available they will be advertised by flyers included as inserts in our journal. All *QFHS Inc. CDs*, *Archive CD Books Australia*, and *Unlock the Past guidebooks* are available for sale on the Society's website at [www.qfhs.org.au/shop/shop-catalogue](http://www.qfhs.org.au/shop/shop-catalogue).

Printed by JT Press, Redcliffe, Qld.