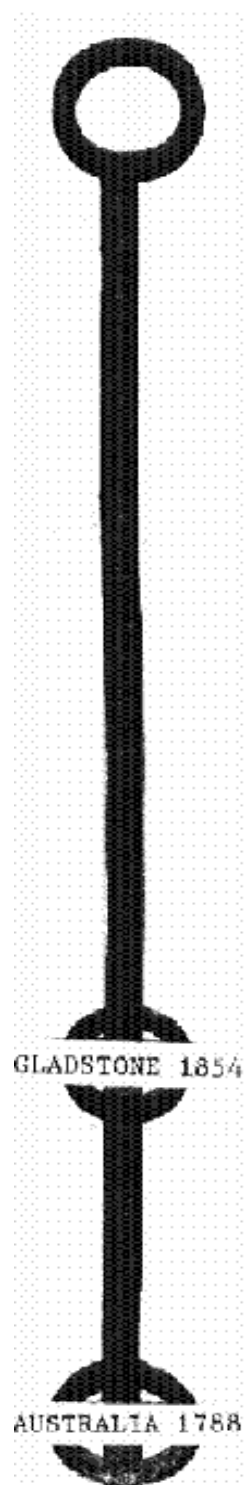
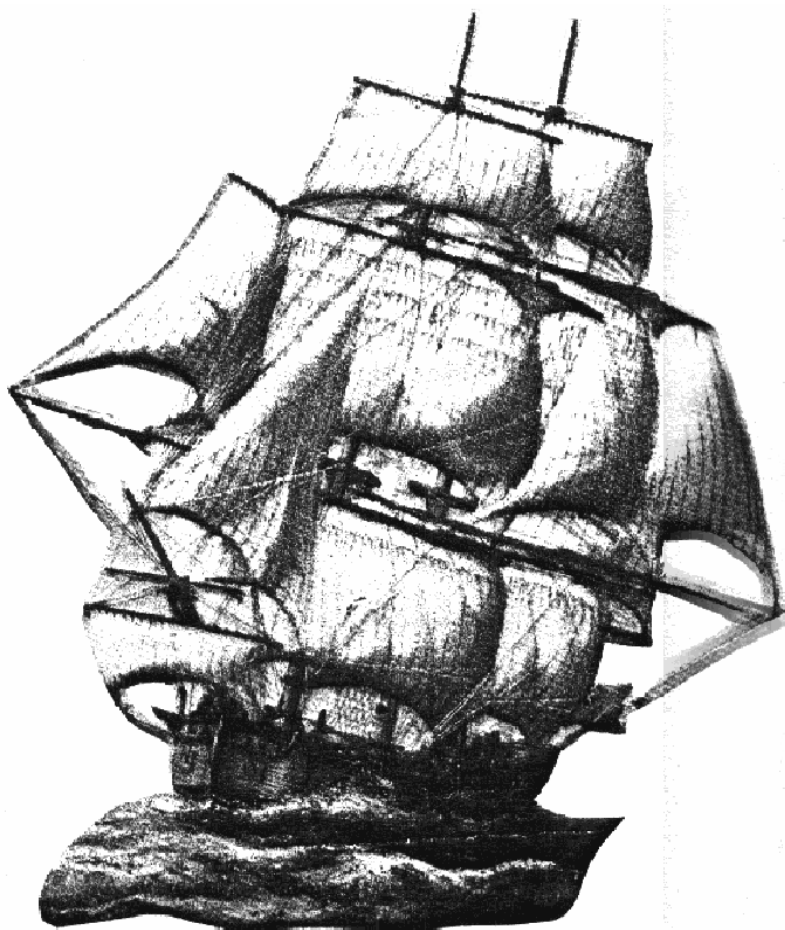


TIME LINE



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Library Hours Tuesday and Thursday 9:30am to 2pm

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We are incredibly grateful to our sponsor "Dreamtilt" who provides us with a "static" internet connection which enables us to use the extensive resources of the FamilySearch Affiliate Library and GSQ

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Many thanks to [Glenn Butcher](#) MP Member for Gladstone (ALP), His Gladstone Electorate office has kindly printed this Timeline journal. Glenn is the Shadow Minister for Police & Crime Prevention & Corrective Services, & Sport. Glenn is a Member of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee.

Webpage <https://www.glennbutchermp.com.au/parliament> Email: gladstone@parliament.qld.gov.au

Phone: [\(07\) 4904 1100](tel:(07)49041100).

Our journal, "Timeline" is produced in May, August and November each year.

We distribute it by email to many societies in Australia and to many others around the world.

Acknowledgement of Country

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Email enquiry@bga.org.au

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Contact <https://www.gfhs.com.au/contact/> Email secretary@gfhs.com.au

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Webpage <https://rgs.net.au/>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/redlandgs>

Email: redlandgs@gmail.com

Opening Times: Tue 9.30 -12.30pm, Thu 9.30 – 12.30pm, Sat 12.30-3.30pm (Except Public Holidays & during the Christmas Break).

Toowoomba & Darling Downs Family History

452 South Street within the grounds of the Toowoomba and Drayton Cemetery. The building faces South Street, and the entrance is directly off South Street .

Webpage tddfhs.org.au

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/TDDFHS>

Email: admin452@gmail.com Phone: 07 4634 7377 during library hours

Opening Times: Mon-Fri 10am – 3pm

Reciprocal Rights are extended to all members of family history societies who visit the rooms to do research. Proof of current membership is required. The daily fee will be \$2.50, rather than the \$10.00 charge for visitors.

Here is a list of members who may be able to assist you in your research:

Judy Spencer -Central QLD, Victoria, Irish, Scottish Lowlands, central England.

Jan Koivunern- Australia including Convicts

Paulette Flint - Local history and general genealogical research assistance

Yvonne Cooper - New South Wales, Scotland, computer research, Australia including Convicts

To contact these members for assistance, send an email to gladgen@hotmail.com

Districts in the Gladstone Region (1929)

Beecher, Benaraby, Bororen, Boyne Valley, Burua, Calliope, Glassford Creek, Iveragh, Littlemore, Many Peaks Miriam Vale, Mount Jacob, Mount Larcom, Nagoorin, Norton, Raglan, Targinnie, Ubobo, Yarwun.

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**"Wedding Bells"****Ellen Shultz and Robert Stitt**

From "The Gladstone Observer" 15th March 1933.



Bowls of white roses and gerberas formed a quiet decoration in St. Andrews Presbyterian Church Gladstone, on Wednesday night February 15, when the marriage was solemnized by Rev. MacAllister of Robert, third son of Mr. and Mrs. P. Stitt, Gladstone, and Ellen, youngest daughter of Mr. John H. Shultz, Benaraby, and the late Mrs. Shultz, Calliope.

The bride, who was given away by Mr. W. Soppa, chose white satin and bridal lace for her frock cut on smart lines, showing a bowl necklace caught on one shoulder with a posy of Lily of the Valley, and long tight-fitting sleeves, pointed at the wrists and an over sleeve of silk lace slightly puffed above the elbows.

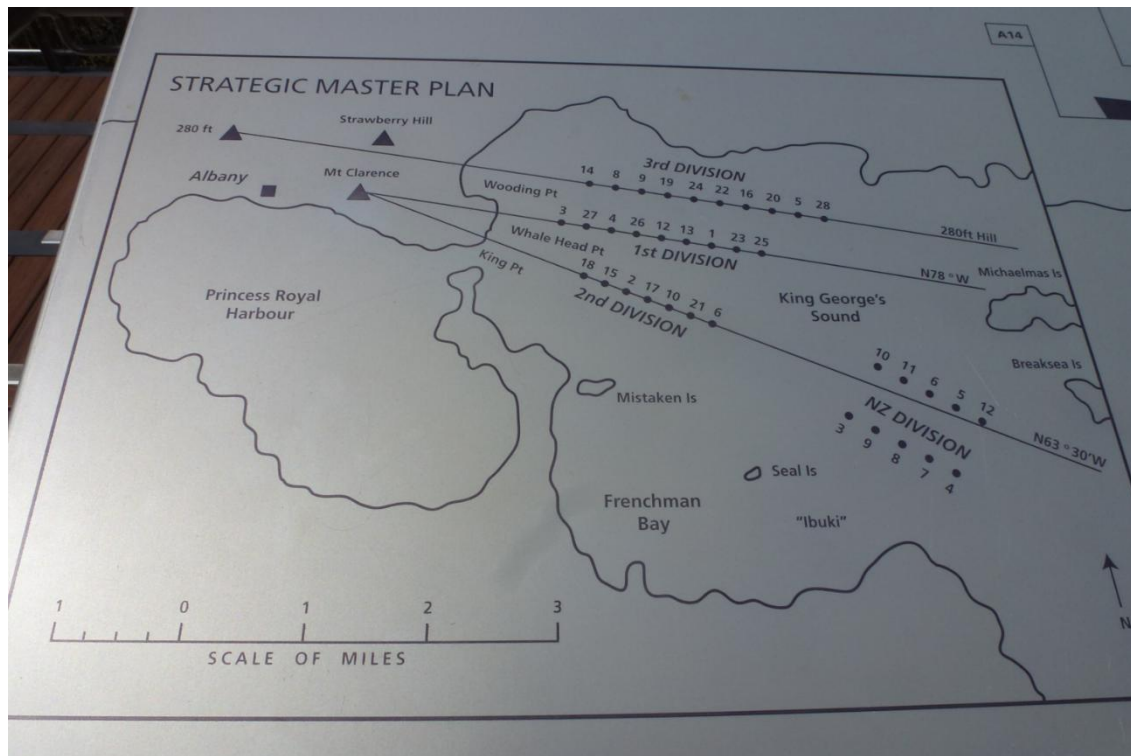
The ankle-length skirt was fully flared. A beautiful hand silk veil was worn off the face and caught across the back of the head with a bandeau of orange buds and Lily of the Valley Euchariste lilies. Frangipanni and roses veiled in fern and caught with a bow of peach pink tulle and pleated holair formed the bouquet.

Miss Dulcie Roebuck was bridesmaid and was frocked in an ankle-length frock of pink taffetas. The cross over bodice revealed a vest of pink mariette kilted. The skirt also showed godlets of kilting and was worn with a wide brimmed hat of pink silk straw with silk. The under brim was finished with flat velvet flowers giving bandeau effect and completed a pretty ensemble.

The bouquet was composed of pink gerberas, roses and Hydrangea set in Eau-de-nil tulle and an Eau-de-nil tulle bow. Mr. John Smith was the best man.

After the ceremony a reception was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W Soppa where the rooms had been tastefully decorated, and a sumptuous wedding tea was served.

ANZAC Convoy World War 1



Albany Western Australia October 1914

The positions of all the troopships from Australia and New Zealand in the 1st convoy to WW1.

Photo taken September 2022 from the information board at the
National War Memorial in Albany Western Australia.



Photo of King George Sound, Albany, Western Australia, Sept 2022

In August 1914 Australia and New Zealand committed to sending troops to defend Western Europe from the Central Powers (German Empire, Austria-Hungary). New Zealand organised 10 troop ships and Australia 26. These merchant ships were requisitioned by the Australian and New Zealand Governments for conversion into troopships.

Three of the New Zealand troopships were requisitioned from Dunedin's Union Steam Ship Company – *Limerick*, *Maunganui*, and *Tahiti*. The other seven were "Home boats" i.e. merchant ships that regularly plied the seas between New Zealand and Britain and were crewed by British sailors. The "Home Boats" as part of New Zealand's 1st convoy were *Arawa*, *Athenic*, *Hawke's Bay*, *Orari*, *Ruapehu*, *Star of India*, and *Waimana*. The convoy's flagship was *Maunganui* (HMNZT3).

Due to the presence of German Navy cruisers known to be in the Pacific North-East of Australia, as part of the German East Asiatic Squadron, the first troops were sent as an escorted convoy.

New Zealand organised the country into four main centres for the recruiting and training of troops. These were Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch (Canterbury Regiments), and Dunedin (Otago Regiments).

The Troop Ships congregated in Wellington where they were met by the escort ships, HMS *Minotaur*, HIJMS *Ibuki* (from Japan), HMS *Philomel*, HMS *Psyche*. The ten New Zealand troopships were recorded as HMNZT 3, HMNZT 4, HMNZT 5, HMNZT 6, HMNZT 7, HMNZT 8, HMNZT 9, HMNZT 10, HMNZT 11, and HMNZT 12.

The names of the ships were *Maunganui*, *Tahiti*, *Ruapehu*, *Orari*, *Limerick*, *Star of India*, *Hawke's Bay*, *Arawa*, *Athenic*, and *Waimana* respectively. HMNZT 5 (*Ruapehu*) and HMNZT 9 (*Hawke's Bay*) were the two troopships assigned for the Otago Regiments.

Auckland troops were on HMNZT 8 (*Star of India*), and HMNZT 12 (*Waimana*); Canterbury troops were on HMNZT 4 (*Tahiti*), and HMNZT 11 (*Athenic*), Wellington troops were on HMNZT 3 (*Maunganui*) plus the Headquarters Staff, Wellington troops were also on HMNZT 6 (*Orari*), HMNZT 7 (*Limerick*), and HMNZT 10 (*Arawa*).

The contingent, escorted by HMS *Minotaur*, HIJMS *Ibuki* (from Japan), HMS *Philomel*, HMS *Psyche*, sailed from Wellington Harbour New Zealand on 16th October 1914 for Hobart Tasmania Australia and on to Albany West Australia where they joined the Australian Imperial Force.

The Australian Troopships were conveying troops from Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, and South Australia. The Australian ship's names were 1st Australian Division: A3 *Orvieto*, A13 *Katuna*, A27 *Southern*, A1 *Hymettus*, A4 *Pera*, A23 *Suffolk*, A26 *Armada*, A25 *Anglo-Egyptian*, A12 *Saldanha*;

2nd Australian Division: A18 *Wiltshire*, A17 *Port Lincoln*, A10 *Karoo*, A21 *Marere*, A15 *Star of England*, A6 *Clan Maccorquodale*, A2 *Geelong*;

3rd Australian Division: A14 *Euripides*, A22 *Rangatira*, A8 *Argyllshire*, A16 *Star of Victoria*, A9 *Shropshire*, A20 *Hororata*, A19 *Afric*, A5 *Omrah*, A24 *Benalla*, A28 *Militiades*.

On 1 November 1914 the convoy sailed from King George Sound lead by the escort ships HMAS *Melbourne*, HMAS *Sydney*, and HMS *Minotaur*.

The Australian troop ships were next, followed by the New Zealand troopships, and lastly by HIJMS *Ibuki*. The convoy was joined two days later by another two ships with troops from South Australia and Western Australia, *Ascanius* and *Medic*, having departed from Freemantle.

The convoy was heading to Britain via Colombo in Ceylon now Sri Lanka, and the Suez Canal. As they passed the Cocos Islands on 9th November 1914, they received an S.O.S. message about an unidentified ship near the Cocos Islands.

HMAS *Sydney* was dispatched from the convoy to intercept the unknown ship. HMAS *Sydney* fought a battle with the ship, which was recognised as the German cruiser, SMS *Emden*. HMAS *Sydney* defeated the German ship SMS *Emden*, which was wrecked on the island. The sound of the battle would have been heard from most of the troopships.

In the battle of the Cocos Islands, 4 crew from HMAS *Sydney* died and 12 were wounded. Of the German ship, SMS *Emden*, 124 crew died, 65 were injured and 157 captured. The German prisoners were distributed among the troopships when they arrived in Colombo. The German prisoners were transferred to the Royal Navy ship *Hampshire* when the convoy arrived at Port Said, Egypt on 1 December 1914.

The troopships left Colombo on 17 November 1914 and arrived in Aden, Yemen on November 25th. The troops were expecting to disembark in England and go from there to France. However, due to insufficient accommodation in England for all the troops, they were instructed to stop in Alexandria, Egypt, where they disembarked on 3 December 1914.

In mid-April 1915, many of the troops boarded ships and took part in the dawn landings at Gallipoli. The Australian and New Zealand troops were supposed to land about 2 miles south of where they went ashore. The 3rd Brigade of the Australian Imperial Force (containing Battalions from Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, and Tasmania) were the first of the Australia and New Zealand Army Corps to land at Gallipoli at dawn on 25 April 1915.

The majority of the Otago Infantry Regiment landed during the afternoon of 25 April 1915. The Otago Mounted Regiment stayed in Egypt for further infantry-style training and went to Gallipoli in early May 1915 without their horses, along with all the New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade.

The New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade was a combination of Mounted Riflemen from Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch districts; Otago Mounted Regiment was always a separate brigade.

The Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) were involved in the campaigns on the Gallipoli peninsula until they were evacuated between 15th and 20th December 1915.

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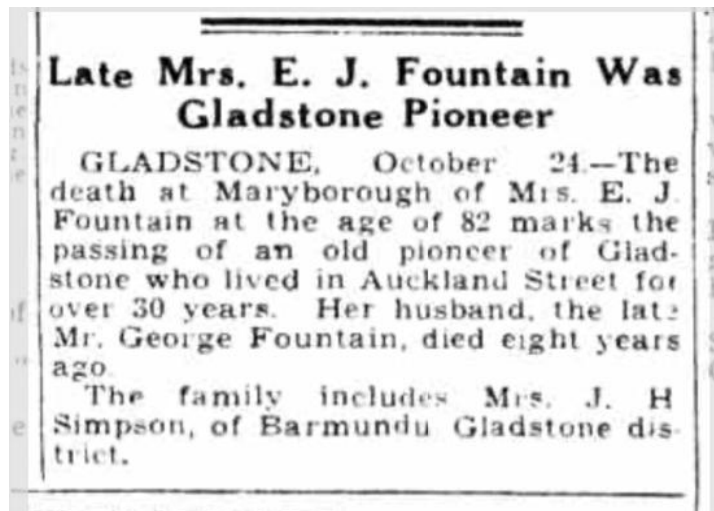
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by Dianne HONAN

Many thanks to Dianne Honan for providing this very informative and interesting article.

Tragic Life of a Gladstone Pioneer - Eleanor Jane Fountain (nee Stevens)



In 1858, on 29th June, Eleanor Jane STEVENS was born in Ipswich, when Queensland was still part of New South Wales. Her parents were married on 31st July 1857, in Ipswich at the Church of England School house according to the rites of the Church of England. Her father, William STEVENS, was a widower and an overseer, he signed his name. Ann Jane "CARLIDE" illegible, was a widow and a laundress and signed with her mark. No parents were listed.

On Eleanor's birth certificate, her father William Stevens was 47 and a supervisor born in Somerset England. Ann Jane gave her name as Ann Jane (formerly HAMILTON) and (later CUPPAGE), aged 24 and born in Ireland. Eleanor used CUPPAGE as a middle name for one of her sons.

In 1877, on 31st December, Eleanor Jane STEVENS married George Clifford FOUNTAIN in Gladstone. Anyone could be forgiven for thinking that the Fountain family of Gladstone was cursed.

In all, George Clifford FOUNTAIN and Eleanor Jane STEVENS had ten children together, including a set of twins, all born between 1878 and 1896. By the time Eleanor FOUNTAIN died in 1940, six of her children had predeceased her.

In 1892, on 5th January, their fifth child, George, was swimming in a creek with his eldest brother Joseph, as well as some of Joe's friends. Everyone had exited the water except for George, who said that he was going to look for shells. When his body was found, it was ascertained that he had become stuck in the mud and slowly drowned. George was only five years old.

In 1896, on 12th March, four years after the death of George, they had another son, their last, and named him George Cuppage FOUNTAIN after his deceased brother.

In 1898, on 28th November, their fourteen-year-old daughter, Martha Ann FOUNTAIN, became very ill while in the employ of Frederick and Emily STITT. Martha had worked for them as a domestic servant for just over a fortnight. The couple had gone out for a walk and when they returned around 9pm, they found Martha seated on their veranda retching.

Martha went to bed but spent the whole night vomiting and when she was still sick the next morning, Mrs. STITT sent for Martha's mother to collect her after breakfast. Mrs. FOUNTAIN arrived shortly after 5 o'clock that afternoon to attend to her daughter. Martha complained of stomach pains and leg cramps. Eleanor Fountain rubbed her daughter's legs before leaving Martha with her employer and returned home.

Around an hour later Martha's mother sent word for the girl to be returned home. Mrs. STITT walked the girl part of the way home but was forced to stop because Martha was too weak to continue. Stopping at Harry FRY'S, the teenager asked for a drink of water. The Commercial Hotel buggy came along, and Mrs. STITT placed Martha aboard to travel to the Fountain residence.

Once she arrived home, Martha was sent to bed where she remained under her mother's care for the following week. The girl continued vomiting. Her mother tried several times to give her castor oil and whisky, but she would immediately regurgitate the home remedies.

At no time did Eleanor send for the doctor as she believed that Martha was suffering from a virus, stating that her sister and her children had been affected by gastroenteritis, and she felt that Martha had been as well. It was Martha's older sister Polly who would finally reveal her secret. She took her brother Joe aside and told him that "Martha is in the family way". Joe went to Martha's bed and asked her if it was true. The young girl cried and refused to answer him. He asked repeatedly until she responded, finally admitting that it was true.

Moreover, to save the family from shame, she had purchased a box of "Rough on Rats" from Monteith's chemist and had taken it to end her life. The rat poison was made entirely of arsenic trioxide with a small amount of charcoal to make it a grey colour. Joe asked Martha who was responsible for her condition and she told him, swearing her brother to secrecy.

In 1898, on 5th of December, Eleanor with the help of Edwin VALLIS, took her daughter to Gladstone hospital. She was inspected by Dr. Charles THORP who knew Martha as his patient for a number of years. He found that her stomach and bowel was severely inflamed but no other issues (meaning that she was not pregnant) and kept her in hospital for observation. At this stage, none of the hospital staff knew that she had taken "Rough on Rats" and Dr. THORP prescribed her medication for the inflammation.

The wardsman at the hospital was George CRANK, a friend of the Fountain family. He spoke openly with Martha from the time she was admitted. George noticed that she did not continue to weaken once prescribed the medication from Dr. THORP and even felt that she was improving. At lunch time he asked if she could think of anything that might have caused the inflammation, but she denied having taken anything.

Around 4 p.m. George CRANK said that he was quite certain that she had taken something, Martha finally admitted that she had taken the poison. George asked how much; she replied "half of a teaspoon" but then corrected herself to claim more than a teaspoon. She admitted that she had become nervous since she had not had a period for four months. After purchasing the "Rough on Rats", she had taken it when the Stitts went out for their walk and started vomiting an hour later.

In 1898, Around midnight her condition weakened before it stabilised again up until twenty to four in the morning, when she became quite restless. Nurses Bessie FRY and Edie THOMPSON attended to her, but ten minutes later she suddenly died. Her death is recorded as **6th Dec 1898**.

Eleanor FOUNTAIN claimed in her statement to police "She had a comfortable home and was well treated. I was a bit strict because she was bit headstrong, she was a bit fast. I never allowed her to go out at night when she was home... I never noticed anything peculiar about her. She never gave any reasons why she wanted to commit suicide. I cannot account for her doing so."

In 1907, on 27 June, their 2nd son, Robert FOUNTAIN, born 14 Sep, 1880, fell while jumping aboard the southern mail train as it left the Stanley Street station in Rockhampton. He had caught the handle and swung between the last car and a wagon, being dragged some distance before the train was stopped. He died from his injuries the following night, aged twenty-six.

In 1915, on 4th March, their son George Cuppage FOUNTAIN enlisted in the A.I.F. in Gladstone aged 19 and gave his occupation as a labourer. He was given number 1164 and assigned to the 2nd Light Horse. He embarked on 16 August 1915 and was returned to Australia on 16 May 1919. He served for 45 months, that is, for most of the First World War and was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War medal and the Victory medal.

In 1919, on 29th September, after George had returned home from WW1, he married Isobel Violet Helen GRAHAME at St. Saviours church in Auckland Street, Gladstone. Together they had two daughters, before Isobel left him for his business partner, Jack HILSDON. George believed that he and Isobel could reconcile but she vehemently refused.

In 1922, on 31st July, Queensland became the first part of the British Commonwealth to abolish the death penalty.

In 1926, on 7th June, Eleanor told him that she was pregnant with Jack's child, George asked to see her.

In 1926, on 6th September, George travelled to Isobel's parents' house in Bundaberg and, as soon as he saw her, he began shooting with a 32-calibre revolver. He mortally wounded their two daughters, Jean and Dorothy, along with his father-in-law, Henry Hamilton GRAHAME. He also shot and wounded his wife, Isobel and Jacob CHRISTENSEN, a science master at the Bundaberg Technical College.

In 1926, on 5th November, he was sentenced to life imprisonment with hard labour.

In 1952, on 10th April, George was released from the Boggo Road Gaol, in Brisbane.

In 1958 on 10th May, died in Brisbane and his body was cremated.

In 1940, on 17 Oct, Eleanor FOUNTAIN died at the General Hospital, Maryborough, Queensland. Her husband, George Clifford FOUNTAIN had died 8 years earlier.

Their daughter, Martha was buried in an unmarked grave, located in the south-east corner of the Gladstone Cemetery. Robert's impressive headstone, which is over-2-metres-tall, is located ten plots away from his sister.

Many thanks to member Peter Lynch for finding this interesting story.

**Boyne Valley Cemetery Index:
Includes Nagoorin, Builyan/Many Peaks, Norton burials in cemeteries.**



This Boyne Valley Cemetery Index was put together by Life Member, Paulette Flint, from death records originally held at Gladstone Court House and extracted by Life Member, Melva Bensted.

This index incorporates burial records for the three cemeteries in the Boyne Valley district of Gladstone Regional Council, **Nagoorin** Cemetery, **Norton** Cemetery and **Builyan/Many Peaks** Cemetery.

All these cemeteries are now closed for burial. Nagoorin Cemetery received a facelift in 2018 with new fences and a plaque listing burials placed in the cemetery. The Norton Cemetery is not maintained by Gladstone Regional Council.

The **Many Peaks** Cemetery is erroneously entitled **Builyan Cemetery** both on the signage at the cemetery and on the Gladstone Regional Council website. Originally, it was the Many Peaks Cemetery, although some burial records in the index state Builyan Cemetery.

It should be more correctly named, **Builyan/Many Peaks Cemetery**, or **Many Peaks/Builyan Cemetery**. It is situated in the Builyan locality.

Some 186 burials are listed in the index which was taken from the original death records of the Gladstone District Court House. The records include **Surname, First Names, Sex, Age, Occupation, Death Date, Death Place, Burial Place and Parents' names**.

Parents' names were taken from the Queensland Birth Death and Marriage Index online and thus may include their transcription errors. Where no parents were mentioned, the records annotate "Unknown" or "Unnamed". It also includes: The whole index in PDF format, plus available photographs of the remaining headstones and some other cemetery photographs, stories taken from newspaper articles, a map of grave locations in Many Peaks Cemetery, information about each Cemetery and some death certificates, all on a USB stick.

Postage of a USB stick is much cheaper than the cost of a printed copy.

It is \$20, plus postage and packing.

Enquiries: Email gladgen@hotmail.com

Five Classic Mistakes to avoid when starting your Family Tree – from Geneanet.

<https://en.geneanet.org/genealogyblog/post/2026/05/5-classic-mistakes-to-avoid-when-starting-your-family-tree>

Posted by Jean-Yves on May 11, 2026

Every year, hundreds of thousands of people embark on a quest to trace their ancestors. Yet, going back in time is no easy feat: between namesakes, incomplete records, and family legends, it's easy to get lost at the beginning of your research. Here's a list of 5 classic mistakes to avoid when starting your family tree!

Genealogy is a discipline akin to scientific investigation: it demands rigor, method, and, above all, a healthy scepticism towards seemingly obvious truths. To help you build a solid and reliable family tree, we've listed the five most common mistakes made by beginning genealogists.

No.1 Neglecting oral sources and family archives

Many beginners rush to the internet before even exploring their attic or talking to family members. However, ideally, one should start by taking stock of their own family treasures before delving into online resources.

(a) The importance of elders' family stories

Collecting family stories is an important step in your genealogy research. It is all the more crucial because every death takes with it entire sections of family history that have never been recorded in writing. A grandparent can give you details that no official document will ever mention, such as:

Nicknames

The real reasons for someone leaving the country

Memories of distant cousins or extinct branches of the family...

Structure this factfinding like a real interview, using open-ended questions that encourage detailed answers. With the participants' consent, don't hesitate to record the conversation using a voice recorder or smartphone. In a few years, you'll realize how fortunate you are to be able to listen to these stories again.

(b) "Private" documents

Before going further back in time, collect any family documents you have at home or among your relatives. These sources allow you to overcome the barriers of the 20th century, which are often more difficult to access online due to privacy restrictions. Study and digitize these various documents to ensure their preservation and build the foundation of your family tree.

Family Bibles or record books

Captioned photographs (or photographs to be captioned by elder family members)

War correspondence or notarial deeds (contracts, wills)

No.2 Blindly trusting online trees

Online family trees are valuable sources of information, but they can sometimes contain errors. A typo in a first or last name, a mistake in parentage, or a confusion between homonyms can render an entire branch of your family tree inaccurate.

The golden rule: an online family tree without sources should be considered a hint to be followed up on and not an established truth.

No.3. Not systematically noting sources

Avoid copy-pasting without verification and support your research with archival documents, excerpts from books or newspapers, photos, etc. By illustrating your family tree in this way, you improve its reliability and make it much more enjoyable to share.

This is the mistake all genealogists regret after two or three years of practice. At first, you think you can remember where the information comes from. With 500 ancestors in the tree, it becomes impossible.

(a) Why is sourcing crucial?

If you find a contradiction later (for example, two different birth dates for the same person), you should be able to go back to the original source to check which one is the most reliable.

(b) The rigorous method - For each piece of information entered in your family tree, note:

The type of document (parish registers, military records, etc the municipality and the precise date

The archive reference or call number

The nature of the record (original, collated copy, or simply a mention in another document, for example)

No.4. Wanting to “go back as far as possible” too quickly

Genealogy is not a short sprint, but a long-term activity. Haste inevitably leads to skipping a generation in error.

The temptation of nobility or mythical or tribal origins

Many beginners frantically search for a link to a noble family or a famous historical figure. The danger: Skipping a generation to connect to a branch with a similar name without proof of direct lineage.

Working in concentric circles

A good method is to exhaust all the information in one generation before moving on to the earlier one. This includes studying brothers and sisters (collateral relatives). Their marriage or death certificates often contain the missing clues needed to confirm the parents' lineage.

No.5. Ignoring the historical and geographical context

Surnames and dates form the skeleton of a family tree. To bring it to life, it's important to study the historical and geographical context surrounding your ancestors. Documenting the history of their villages or regions and learning about epidemics, famines, or wars will allow you to make sense of the dates you find.

Changing borders and names

- (a) Borders have often changed over time. An ancestor born in Nice in 1850 was not born in France, but in the Kingdom of Sardinia. An Alsatian ancestor may have changed nationality four times in their life without ever moving.*
- (b) Surnames were not fixed either, and their spelling could vary considerably. A “Lefebvre” could be written “Lefèvre” or “Le Fèvre” in the same register, depending on who was writing the document. Names could also be changed intentionally or by mistake as a result of migrations.*
- (c) Regional specificities**
- (d) Studying local law or how inheritances work helps to understand why an ancestor left their parish or why they are not mentioned in a will. In some regions, only the eldest son inherited the land, forcing younger sons into exile, military service, or the Church. In others, equal division of land fragmented it, leading to numerous notarized deeds of sale and exchange. The status of women could also vary considerably.*
- (e) Conclusion: Patience, the genealogist's best ally**
- (f) Starting your family tree is a fascinating intellectual adventure that connects us to history. By avoiding these five common mistakes, you can ensure you build a solid foundation for your research. Never forget that an “anonymous” but well-documented ancestor is far more valuable than a prestigious one added to your tree simply by speculating.*
- (g) So, are you ready to discover the history of your ancestors?**

Jean-Yves (2026, May 11). 5 classic mistakes to avoid when starting your family tree. Geneanet.

<https://en.geneanet.org/genealogyblog/post/2026/05/5-classic-mistakes-to-avoid-when-starting-your-family-tree>

**On Saturday 16th May 2026, Judy Spencer was awarded a Life-Membership of the Genealogical Society Gladstone District Inc.
The Life Membership badge was presented by Councillor Leanne Patrick, our Patron.**



Congratulations to Judy Spencer who was presented with her Life-Member badge on Saturday 16th May 2026 by our new Patron, Councillor Leanne Patrick.

Judy has been a member for nearly 30 years and during that time had held various positions including President, Minutes Secretary and Librarian and room monitor.

Judy is very knowledgeable about the history of the people and places of the Gladstone District.

She is always available to help members and visitors and research officers.

Judy is an invaluable member of our society and a wonderful and dedicated librarian.

We are also very grateful for her family's assistance and for their continued support. They have provided a safe storage location for that portion of our collection that we are unable to have at our current location.

We would also like to acknowledge the wonderful service given to us by Gail Mary Sellers AOM, who has been our Patron since 2004 - 21 years! Check the government "It's an Honour" website and you will see how well she has served our community.

<https://honours.pmc.gov.au/honours/search?searchText=Gail%20sellers>



ZONTA'S 2026 LIVING TREASURE AWARD

With thanks to Zonta Club and Jennifer McGuire for allowing the content of the presentation speech to be used

Living Treasure Paulette Flint

Nominated for all she has done for our community and for women through her volunteer work. Her love of history and research includes seeking out stories from Gladstone's history. One of her biggest challenges is finding stories about Gladstone women because their histories are largely undocumented.



The Zonta Living Treasure Award for 2026 was awarded to Genealogical Society Gladstone District Life Member, Paulette Flint at their annual International Women's Day breakfast held at the Yaralla Club in March.

The Zonta Award is a Club-based recognition for a person who demonstrates the following personal qualities and attributes:

- The capacity and capability to achieve and/or a record of achievements
- The capacity to inspire and/or influence others by one's achievements
- The capacity to bring about change that is positive for a group, community, town, city or region in one or more of the following areas:

Social - Environmental – Economic - Cultural - Educational – Political - Business - Professional – Sporting – Spiritual

- And finally, the capacity to share, empower and/or lead others by one's achievements and skills

The Zonta Living Treasure Award is open to Women aged 16 years and over, who live in the Gladstone Region. The key element is the quality of the Woman's capacity to bring about real and meaningful change to a community, because it is the Zonta Club of Gladstone's belief that making a tangible and valued difference to a community is vital for our social fabric.

Here is what Zonta's Jennifer McGuire spoke about Paulette as she went to the stage to accept the award.

Paulette Flint has a love of research and history. Her passion extends so far that she holds a membership card from each state archive facility in Australia. With painstaking attention to detail Paulette seeks out stories from Gladstone's history. One of her biggest challenges is finding stories about Gladstone women because their histories are largely undocumented.

Paulette is a trained primary school teacher and, during her teaching career, worked in several schools in the Gladstone region. For some years she worked as the Head of Special Education at Kin Kora State School. She continued to teach until 2023.

In 1992 Paulette joined the Gladstone Genealogical Society and, after stints as President, Secretary, Publicity Officer, Research Officer and Library Monitor was awarded a Life Membership in 2021. She met many like-minded people in the Genealogical Society and after exhausting her family history turned to researching Gladstone local history.

Paulette has written two books – *What's in a Name?* and *Meet me at the Café!* which respectively chronicle the stories behind Gladstone's street names and Gladstone café owners. Scattered throughout her books are tantalising glimpses of notable and impressive Gladstone women – such as Mrs BUCK, who ran a café and prospered despite the efforts of her less than satisfactory husbands;

Mary Jane HETHERINGTON, who the Gladstone community successfully lobbied the government for her appointment as the town's first female postmaster after her husband (the postmaster) died in an accident in 1870. Mrs HETHERINGTON successfully carried out the role of postmaster until 1892. Paulette struggled to find out Mrs HETHERINGTON'Ss first name during her research.

There was also Mrs Lucy BYRNE, Gladstone's first councillor who was elected in 1949 and wore a skirt to conceal her outrageous shorts when pursuing her love of gardening in public areas around the town, is another of Paulette's favourite historical female characters.

When speaking to local audiences Paulette picks out stories about women to ensure that their stories are told. She delves deep into archives and interviews locals to accurately preserve our history, particularly from the perspective of the early female residents of Gladstone.

She has presented at and run workshops for Q150 celebrations, Friends of Gladstone Library, Our Priceless Past University of the 3rd Age, our Zonta Club of Gladstone, Gladstone Rail Heritage Group, numerous schools, Genealogical Society Gladstone District and Gladstone National Seniors. She also conducted cemetery walks with the Genealogical Society and focussed on speaking about the women buried in the Gladstone Cemetery.

In addition to her books, Paulette has written thousands of articles for local newspapers and publications. She is often requested to research booklets to commemorate milestones in our local history. Paulette, with her husband Ray, have raised their 3 daughters as caring and educated women.

Paulette was recognised as the Arts & Culture Award winner at the 2025 Gladstone Regional Council Australia Day Awards.

Paulette's voluntary roles have comprised:

- Writing articles and popular columns for local newspapers, associations and to commemorate events;
- Publicity officer for Gladstone Eisteddfod Association;
- Membership and board roles for Genealogical Society Gladstone District Inc.;
- Membership and board-elect roles for Rotary Club of Gladstone Midday;
- Membership of Regional Arts Development Fund Committee.

Zonta Living Treasure, Paulette Flint with Mayor Matt Burnett



These 3 books by two of our members can be purchased at the Gladstone City Library in Goondoon Street.

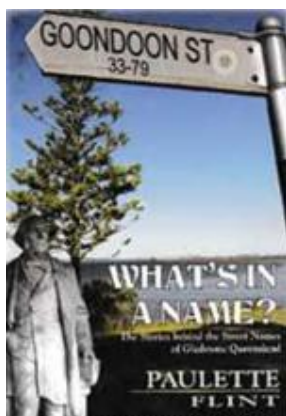
Also available from the authors

Paulette Flint, Email: pauletteflint25@gmail.com www.facebook.com/gladstonehistoryinc,
Purchase price \$30 (AUD) plus postage & packing.

Jan Koivunen, Email: janoki@hotmail.com Purchase price \$20 (AUD) plus postage & packing

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

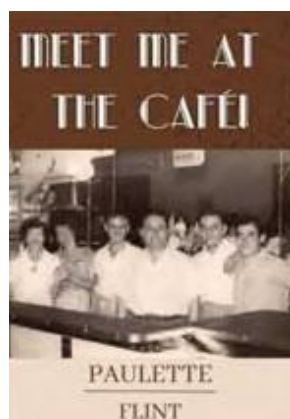
*The Stories behind the Street
Names of Gladstone
Queensland
by Paulette Flint*



"What's in a Name?" affords a fascinating glimpse into the stories behind the street names of the city of Gladstone. From the untimely death of Richard Hetherington, the first Mayor and highly esteemed Postmaster, who stumbled into the hold of the 'SS Queensland' when delivering the mail at night, to the downfall of William Edward Hilliard, the Sub collector of Customs, these stories open up windows to the past and give the reader a unique insight into what Gladstone was like in the early days.

MEET ME AT THE CAFE!

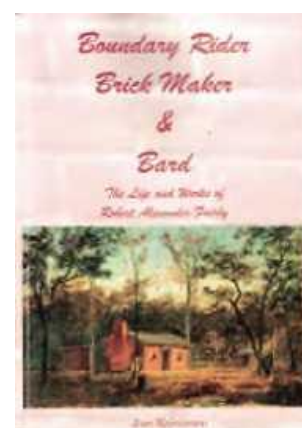
*The stories behind the cafes of
Gladstone 1900-1970
by Paulette Flint 2022*



"Meet me at the Cafe!" combines photographs and stories of the cafes, tea rooms and milk bars in the town of Gladstone from a time before television, computers and online dating. Nothing compared to a hearty burger from Mick Corones at the Niagara Cafe, or a cold milk shake with shards of ice from Percy at the California Grill Bar. After a night at the local picture theatre, young people would meet at the local cafe to turn on the juke box and jive to the latest tunes.

BOUNDARY RIDER, BRICK MAKER & BARD

*The life and works of Robert
Alexander Fairly.
Compiled by Jan Koivunen*



Australian Bush Poetry from the late 1800s by poet, Robert Alexander Fairly who lived for a time on the Milton gold field at Norton, via Gladstone Qld, then at Burua near Gladstone, where he is buried.' Fairly's verse is varied and often humorous, but his obvious forte was in the mode of the bush ballad in which he conveys an optimistic spirit. (This Review was written by Robyn Sheahan-Bright, Kookaburra Shells 2006).

Genealogical Society Gladstone District Inc.
Postal Address: POX 1778, GLADSTONE, QLD, 4680

RESEARCH REQUEST FORM

Please fill in as much information as possible, with all SURNAMES in capitals. If dates are known, please use the following date format: DD / MMM / YYYY.

What do you want us to do?

Name of ancestor: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Place: _____

Date of Marriage: _____ Place: _____

Date of Death: _____ Place: _____

Name of Father: _____

Name of Mother: _____

Name of Spouse: _____

Details of Children: _____

Please undertake the above research on my behalf. I understand that any research undertaken by the Genealogical Society Gladstone District Inc. will become available to any other researcher at our library. I enclose payment of \$25.00 for initial fee and understand that further research will cost \$25.00 per hour and 30c per photocopy. I acknowledge that I will be advised if additional payment is required.

Payment can only be made by one of the following methods:

By Cash or Card: At our Research Library, **Calliope Library Meeting Room, Calliope QLD 4680**, during our opening hours

by Cheque or Money Order: please post payment, with this form, to **GSGD. Inc., PO Box 1778, Gladstone QLD 4680**

By Direct Deposit: Please use your name as Reference. **Bendigo Bank BSB 63300**

Account number 160147419

Form must be emailed to gladgen@hotmail.com if a direct deposit has been made.

Your Name: _____

Your Postal Address: _____

Your Email: _____

Your Phone: _____

Date: _____ Signed: _____

Office use only

Date Received..... Date reply sent.....

Notes.....