

Descent

MAGAZINE OF THE SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIAN GENEALOGISTS



JUNE / WINTER 2025

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Editor

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Acknowledgment of Country

We acknowledge the First Nations peoples and we pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging. The Society acknowledges the Gadigal people of the Eora nation, the traditional custodians of the land on which Richmond Villa stands.

Editorial Committee

Danielle Tebb, Ruth Graham, Pauline Weeks,
Tracey Grady, Heather Garnsey, Philippa Shelley Jones,
Janette Pelosi

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President's Message

PHILIPPA SHELLEY JONES

As we move into the cooler months of 2025, I reflect on the progress we have made and the promising developments that lie ahead for the Society of Australian Genealogists. Our collective dedication continues to shape a brighter future for both our organisation and the genealogical community at large.

A key moment for us in recent months occurred at our general meeting on 2 April, where we achieved a significant milestone: the successful adoption of our new constitution. This important step is a reflection of our ongoing commitment to modernising our governance structures and ensuring regulatory compliance. It underscores our focus on the next steps of enhancing our operational efficiency and ensuring that we are better equipped to serve our growing membership in the years to come. Thank you to all our members, especially those involved in the feedback and drafting stages, for your assistance in developing a robust framework within which to move the Society forward.

In March, I had the privilege of attending the inaugural New South Wales History Symposium at The Mint, hosted by Professor the Hon. Bob Carr, Chair of Museums of History NSW. This remarkable event brought together a diverse group of representatives and influential figures from across the state's heritage and history sector. The symposium created an invaluable space for dialogue, collaboration, and the sharing of ideas. I look forward to seeing how these partnerships evolve in the months ahead.

As this issue is being put together, we are preparing for the annual general meeting of the Society, where we will consider the reports covering the 2024 year and declare elected our newest Directors, Gay Hendriksen, Chris Hingerty and Andrew Redfern.

The Board's main focus in the coming months will be on strategic planning to ensure the Society remains on a sustainable path, equipped to meet the challenges and opportunities of an ever-changing landscape. A key part of this process involves refining our business model, ensuring that we are not only growing but also remaining relevant and agile. We are grateful to the students from the University of Technology Sydney who are participating in the Industry Innovation Project, and also to those members and friends who completed

the students' survey over the Easter long weekend. Their fresh perspectives and innovative ideas will help support our business development and marketing initiatives going forward.

At the heart of all our efforts is a commitment to fostering a culture of mindfulness and balance. We recognise that our volunteers, staff and members are the lifeblood of the Society, and it is crucial that we create an environment where everyone feels supported and valued. In this spirit, we continue to emphasise the importance of work-life balance and constructive feedback. By ensuring our teams are not overworked or unduly criticised, we can achieve better outcomes and a more sustainable future.

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the leadership of Alison Wolf and her teams, whose tireless efforts have supported the Society's MIDAS collection in recent decades. We are at a pivotal time of considering our collection policies and access opportunities in the future.

Looking ahead, we are in preparation mode around National Family History Month in August. This annual celebration provides an opportunity for all of us to engage in the joys of genealogical discovery and reflect on our shared heritage. The month-long activities will offer something for everyone, from beginner genealogists to more seasoned researchers. It is a wonderful time to connect with fellow members and celebrate the diversity of family histories that make our community so special.

And finally, my thanks to all those who have submitted entries for the 2025 Croker Prize for Biography. We have been pleased by the depth, creativity and heartfelt storytelling demonstrated in response to this year's theme, *My Relative's Journey*. Your contributions enrich our collective understanding of the diverse pathways that shape family history. The judging process is now underway, and we look forward to announcing the winner in the next issue of *Descent*. All submitted entries will be preserved in our digital archive, ensuring that these important stories continue to inspire future generations.

Directors' Report for Year Ended 31 December 2024

Context for this report

The Society of Australian Genealogists (SAG) is incorporated under the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth) as a company limited by guarantee. SAG is also registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) as a charity. The ACNC is SAG's main regulator.

Due to the interplay between the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth) and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (Cth), a company incorporated under the Corporations Act but administered as a charity under the ACNC Act is not required to meet the reporting requirements under the Corporations Act but is required, under the ACNC Act, to meet the accountability to members requirements under the ACNC Governance Standards and the financial reporting requirements in the ACNC Regulations. While the content of the financial reporting is covered by the ACNC Regulations, how a charity addresses its accountability to members is a matter for the charity within broad parameters outlined in the Governance Standards.

This Directors' Report is provided to members, and to the public, as a key communication element from the Directors as part of accountability to members' requirements under the ACNC's Governance Standard 2. In preparing the Directors' Report, the Directors have elected to follow the comprehensive reporting requirements of section 300B of the Corporations Act which specifies the content of a Directors' report for a company limited by guarantee that is reporting to its members and to the public under the requirements of the Corporations Act.

Additional communications to members and to the community include the annual financial statements and the Annual Information Statement to the ACNC, both freely available on the ACNC website and SAG's website. Additional accountability to members will include the upcoming Annual General Meeting.

Principal activities during the 2024 year

2024 was marked by a focused commitment to enhancing our operations at the Society of Australian Genealogists and we made strides across various areas to serve our members better and preserve our heritage.

Governance & Strategic Initiatives

- **Code of Conduct** – In February, we successfully introduced the Society's Code of Conduct, which reinforces expected behaviours alongside our established Code of Ethics. The Code is accessible on our website at <https://www.sag.org.au/Code-of-conductand-protocols>.
- **Constitution Review** – The latter half of the year saw a thorough review of our Constitution, aimed at aligning it with contemporary legal standards and the Society's evolving needs. We express our gratitude to members and external consultants who contributed significantly to this effort.
- **Strategic Planning** – We made progress on the development of a new strategic plan grounded in member-led initiatives. Director Darryl Low Choy played a crucial role in facilitating this process through gathering insights to formulate a long-term vision for the Society.
- **Research Collection Development Policy** – Another pivotal achievement was the Board's approval of the Research Collection Development Policy (2023). This strategic framework addresses modern collection management approaches, ensuring our archives are relevant and robust.

Education

Our Education Program thrived throughout the year, delivering an impressive 758 hours of live content, including webinars, workshops, and conferences. Particularly noteworthy months included May, August and November, with increased participation from our members. New courses — such as the NSW Land Records and the Historical Land Records Viewer from Jeff Madsen, and Digital Skills for Family Historians offerings from Andrew Redfern — enhanced engagement. Moreover, advancements in genetic genealogy education, particularly in Y-DNA analysis, were led successfully by Chris Hingerty and the Genetic Genealogy Advisory Group.

Our Certificate in Genealogical Research and Diploma in Family Historical Studies remain popular, attracting consistent enrolment. While virtual conferences on topics such as convict history and artificial intelligence were successful, in-person events such as the Ulster Historical Foundation Lecture Tour and the Family Tree Maker event faced challenges in profitability due to venue and catering costs as well as low member support. The low attendance at in-person events points

to members, and our wider audience, having preference for online education, particularly when recordings are available. Strong volunteer engagement has ensured that our special interest groups continue to thrive and staff regularly meet with their enthusiastic leads.

Collections

- **Archives (Challenges and Progress)** – Despite a tumultuous year marked by substantial flood damage at Richmond Villa in April 2024, key priorities for the year included evaluating our archives collection for digitisation and disposal. We made significant strides in assessing Series 4, comprising over 25,000 files, while concurrently working to reduce our physical footprint through digitisation.
- **Library Services (Member Engagement)** – The Family History Research Centre and Library sustained steady member engagement despite the challenges posed by the ongoing closure of Richmond Villa. With an average of 5–6 member visits per opening day, we are exploring potential adjustments to Saturday hours in 2025. The Library hosted a variety of events throughout the year, including workshops and Family History Connect sessions.

IT Infrastructure

During 2024, the public computers in the library were replaced with 16 refurbished machines as part of grant funding secured through Good Things Foundation. InfoXchange, an external company that works predominantly in the not-for-profit sector, was engaged to conduct a review of our existing IT infrastructure. Recommendations from that company were to move to a cloud based (Microsoft 365) environment, taking advantage of the various free and/or cost-effective measures offered to not-for-profit organisations, also eliminating the need to replace aging on-site physical servers. This transition will be completed in 2025.

Membership, Community & Volunteer Engagement

We were delighted to celebrate the awarding of the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) to former Executive Officer Heather Garnsey as part of the King's Birthday Honours. Additionally, we acknowledged the contributions of our dedicated volunteers, notably Yvonne Masters for her pivotal role in the updates to the Certificate in Genealogical Research assessment process.

The deaths of eighteen members were advised during 2024 and have been notified to members in *Descent*. The number includes former SAG volunteers Alan Day, Kay Shaw and Gillian Iles.

The Society actively participated in external stakeholder consultations, providing valuable insights on topics affecting family historians, including the UK Ministry of Justice’s storage and retention policies and various reforms in NSW cemeteries. Comprehensive feedback on these initiatives is available on our website.

Bequests & Fundraising

We express our gratitude to members including the Society in their wills, ensuring our ongoing work is supported into the future. In November, we launched an ambitious fundraising campaign targeting \$15,000 for digitisation projects; the campaign exceeded expectations, raising \$16,061 in total (amount based on early and final 2025 figure). This funding will accelerate our collection management efforts in 2025, enhancing resource accessibility for our members and the broader community.

As we reflect on the achievements and challenges of 2024, we recognise the unwavering commitment of our staff, volunteers, and members. We are particularly grateful for the generosity of our donors and sustaining members.

Partnerships

There were no changes in contractual linkages during the year, including arrangements with:

- First Solutions
- NSW Resource Descriptions & Access (catalogues)
- NSW State Library
- National Library of Australia/Trove
- National Archives UK/Discovery
- British Newspaper Archive
- MyHeritage
- Ancestry
- Findmypast
- The Genealogist
- Biographical Database of Australia

plus the family history societies with which SAG has reciprocal rights and which were a part of our Affiliate Program.

Staffing

In April 2024, Dr Alexandra Mountain resigned her full-time role as Archives Project Manager, though she continues to support the archives on a casual basis. There were six members of staff employed from April to December, three of whom were working on a part-time basis.

Membership

Membership is an indication of the community’s commitment to SAG and of SAG’s effectiveness in communicating its purpose to the community in a way that is relevant to the community.

Year ended 31 December	2023	2024
Members:		
Total at year end	3,390	3,294
Members who joined	415	374

Directors

Details of Directors

The names of each person who has been a Director, and hence a responsible person under the ACNC Act, at any time during year to 31 December 2024 and to the date of this report are listed below.

Name	First appointed	Last elected
Melissa Hulbert	10 Jun 2015	27 May 2024
Janette Louise Pelosi	14 Jun 2012	27 May 2024
Kerry Farmer	14 Feb 2018	20 May 2023 Resigned 10 Mar 2025
Philippa Ann Shelley Jones	11 May 2019	27 May 2024
Darryl Charles Low Choy	1 May 2021	20 May 2023
Cheryl Wright	1 May 2021	20 May 2023
Keith Willoughby Roberts	12 May 2021	7 May 2022 Term ended 27 May 2024
Sonya May Russell	11 Aug 2021	27 May 2024 Resigned 13 Oct 2024
Helen Hickson	13 Feb 2023	20 May 2023 Resigned 10 Mar 2025
Dianne Snowden	13 Feb 2023	20 May 2023
Andrew Redfern	16 Sep 2024	
Christine Hingerty	9 Dec 2024	
Gay Hendriksen	17 Mar 2025	

Changes to Directors

Keith Roberts was not re-elected at the 2024 Annual General Meeting. Sonya Russell, Kerry Farmer and Helen Hickson resigned as Directors. Andrew Redfern, Christine Hingerty and Gay Hendriksen were appointed to fill casual vacancies. Following Melissa Hulbert’s five-year presidency, Philippa Shelley Jones was elected as Board President, with Melissa transitioning to Vice-President alongside Janette Pelosi.

Company Secretary

Ruth Graham was appointed Company Secretary during the year but in that role is not a responsible entity under the ACNC Act.

Continuing Directors: Qualifications, special responsibilities and experience		
Name & Special Responsibilities	Qualifications	Principal Expertise & Experience
Philippa Shelley Jones President Finance, Risk, Governance & Compliance Committee Convenor Croker Prize Selection Committee Premises Working Group	BA LLB GradDipEd	Writer, editor, curator and publisher of family histories Legal background and editorial background in the NFP sector
Melissa Hulbert Vice-President Finance, Risk, Governance & Compliance Committee Genealogical Ethics and Standards Advisory Group Genetic Genealogy Advisory Group Education Program Premises Working Group	BSc (Hons)	Probate Genealogist Education specialising in tertiary (Swinburne University, St George & Sutherland Community College and online astronomy and genealogy courses) Experienced in editing and publishing

Continuing Directors: Qualifications, special responsibilities and experience (cont.)

Name & Special Responsibilities	Qualifications	Principal Expertise & Experience
Janette Pelosi Vice-President Diploma & Certificate Course Committee Diploma Supervisor	BA (Hons) DipMLib DipMArchAdmin MinfoStud (Lship) ASAAP MPFA	Archivist
Cheryl Wright Honorary Treasurer Chair Finance, Risk, Governance & Compliance Committee, IT Committee	BEd DipFamHist (UTas) FCPA	Finance and accounting executive
Christine Hingerty Chair, Genetic Genealogy Advisory Group Education Program	BA, Dip. Ed., Grad. Dip. Teacher Librarianship, MEd (Research Methodology & Computer Education), MA (Theological Studies)	Teaching and educational leadership
Darryl Low Choy Strategic planning Diploma Supervisor Premises Working Group	AM MBE BA MBitEnv PhD GCertHigEd GDurb&RegPlan MPIA (Fellow) FEIANZ	Professor Emeritus Griffith University MajGen (Rtd) Academic career in town planning Military career in Royal Australian Engineers
Andrew Redfern Education Program IT Committee Premises Working Group	BEd Primary Education, Grad Cert (Educational Leadership)	IT consultant, teacher and educational leadership
Dianne Snowden AM Diploma & Certificate Course Committee Diploma Supervisor	AM PhD (History), BA (Hons), DipEd., DipFHS, MAAGRA	Historian, genealogist and author with experience in adult education, and President of the peak-body Australasian Association of Genealogists and Record Agents

Meetings of Directors during the reporting period (calendar year 2024)

	Number of meetings					
	Eligible to attend:			Attended:		
	Board Standard	Board Additional	FRGCC [^]	Board Standard	Board Additional	FRGCC [^]
Philippa Shelley Jones	9	7	1	8	5	1
Melissa Hulbert	9	7	2	7	4	2
Janette Pelosi	9	7	0	9	7	0
Kerry Farmer	9	7	0	7	5	0
Helen Hickson	9	7	0	4	4	0
Darryl Low Choy	9	7	0	7	6	0
Keith Roberts	4	0	1	3	0	1
Sonya Russell	6	6	0	5	5	0
Dianne Snowden	9	7	0	9	5	0
Cheryl Wright	9	7	2	7	4	2
Andrew Redfern	4	2	0	4	2	0
Christine Hingerty	1	0	0	1	0	0

The “Board Standard” meetings refers to monthly or bimonthly scheduled meetings February to December, the “Board Additional” meetings were arranged on an ad hoc basis for matters such as the Constitution review.

[^]FRGCC: Finance Risk Governance & Compliance Committee

Note: Other committees in 2024 were operational committees.

Members’ guarantee

Society of Australian Genealogists is a company limited by guarantee. If the company is wound up, the constitution states that each current member or member within the previous 12 months is required to contribute a maximum of \$10 each towards meeting any outstanding obligations of the company.

Operating results

The surplus of the company after providing for income tax amounted to \$135,694 (2023 – deficit of \$325,327). A full copy of the Society’s audited 2024 financial statement is available on the website.

Indemnification & insurance of officers & auditors

During the year, the company has paid premiums in respect of an insurance contract to indemnify officers against liabilities that may arise from their position as officers of the company. Officers indemnified include the Directors and executive officers participating in the management of the company.

This Directors’ Report for Society of Australian Genealogists for year ended 31 December 2024 is consistent with Part 1.6 and section 298 of the *Corporations Act 2001*, and regulation 45.10 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013. In the opinion of Directors, the report gives a true and fair review of the state of affairs of the Company at the date of signing and has been prepared consistent with section 300B of the Corporations Act. In accordance with a resolution of the Directors, the report is signed on behalf of all Directors.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors:



Philippa Shelley Jones
President
29 April 2025



Cheryl Wright
Honorary Treasurer
29 April 2025

Johann Wilhelm Albrecht Sudholz (1821–1903)

ALLESANDRA FABRO

Johan Wilhelm Albrecht Sudholz (1821–1903), South Australian pioneer farmer, chaff merchant, politician and media proprietor, was born in Kirchdorf, Hanover on 17 May 1821, the youngest child of Anton Sudholz and Maria Sophia, nee Stelloh.

Sudholz's father died the year after he was born and, following the death of his mother in February 1846, the 24-year-old farmer decided to try his luck abroad, travelling steerage in the single mens' quarters on the ship *Heerjeebhoy Rustomjee Patel* to Australia. After a four-month journey from Bremen, Sudholz and around 250 other German immigrants arrived in Adelaide on 29 October 1846.

On 27 February 1849 Sudholz married 21-year-old Catharine Gehlken who, along with her parents and siblings, had also arrived in the colony in 1846; they sailed from Bremen on the ship *George Washington*. Over the next 17 years the couple had 11 children including 10 daughters, two of whom died in infancy.

Sudholz was naturalised on 9 October 1849, and by 1850 he was farming approximately 40 acres in Gilles Plains; eventually his holdings would increase six-fold. Early on, he saw a need for quality animal feed in the growing colony, and went on to establish what would become the largest hay farm and chaff mill in South Australia.

A committed Lutheran, Sudholz was active in Adelaide's Bethlehem congregation, holding multiple roles including churchwarden, trustee and building committee chair. He was instrumental in the construction of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Flinders Street, the foundation stone for which was laid in July 1871 after extensive community fundraising.

As a significant landholder in Gilles Plains, Sudholz had an obvious interest in the development and running of the region, and was elected to the district council of Yatala South in the late 1860s, a position he held until March 1875 when he successfully ran for the House of Assembly seat of Barossa in the Eighth Parliament of South Australia.

However, his state parliamentary success was short-lived. R.C. Baker, a previous member who had run third in the 1875 poll, petitioned the parliament to have Sudholz's election declared invalid, alleging bribery and corruption. The matter was referred to the Court of Disputed Returns, which found Sudholz's agents had induced votes by, among other things, holding an open bar at the New Inn

at Angaston, and employing pony traps to ferry electors to the polling stations. Sudholz was ordered to pay costs of £120 and ejected from his seat. Despite the guilty verdict, the president of the court noted that although Sudholz had fallen foul of the law, the court did not believe it was intentional, and more than one contemporary commentator opined that there were many other current or would-be politicians who should take note of the behaviour that led to the verdict.

Later the same year, Sudholz backed the publication of a new German language newspaper, the *Neue Deutsche Zeitung*, but the project was largely unsuccessful and the paper was absorbed into the *Australische Zeitung*, a rival paper published by Martin Basedow, in 1876. However, Sudholz and Basedow ended up in court over the terms of the sale, with litigation continuing until 1880.

Meanwhile, the completed Bethlehem Church had been holding services since June 1872, but a remaining debt of almost £3,000 on the building's construction threatened to cripple the congregation. In 1878 a public appeal was launched to clear the debt, with Sudholz offering to provide £1,000 towards the debt if the remainder was raised within six months.

His fortunes reversed when poor South Australian harvests in the late 1880s combined with economic depression in the 1890s took their toll on the wheat sector, and Sudholz was forced into bankruptcy in October 1892. The entire farming enterprise including almost 250 acres of land, a 10-room house, offices, chaff mill, accommodations for 80 workers and stables for 50 horses, were auctioned in January 1893, with Sudholz's creditors eventually receiving just one shilling, six pence in the pound.

Undaunted, Sudholz made another attempt at state politics in April 1893 aged 71, this time running unsuccessfully in the seat of Yatala.

Sudholz died on 7 November 1903 in East Adelaide, aged 81, leaving behind his wife, eight children, 42 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. He was buried under what remains the tallest monument in the Wesleyan Cemetery in Walkerville, and his residual estate was valued at £25. Sudholz Place, a laneway alongside Bethlehem Church, and Sudholz Road, a major thoroughfare traversing Gilles Plains, are named in his honour.

SAG runs a Certificate in Genealogical Research to assist members to hone their research skills and explore areas of study they may not be familiar with. The course also functions as a prerequisite to our Diploma in Family Historical Studies. One exercise is to write a biography of an ancestor between 500 and 750 words in the style of an *Australian Dictionary of Biography* entry. In each issue of *Descent*, we feature one such biography.



IN SEARCH OF ...

ALL AT SEA: SHIPPING & IMMIGRATION

by Ruth Graham

I am delighted to introduce a theme that is deeply woven into the fabric of Australian history — migration, immigration and shipping. Whether through the early waves of convicts and free settlers arriving in the colonial period or the waves of migrants seeking a new life in the 20th and 21st centuries, the story of immigration is the story of change.

Family historians often find the roots of their ancestors stretch across borders. For those researching Australian family trees, immigration records serve as vital keys to unlocking the past. The journey of individuals and families from their homeland to Australia is filled with stories of hope, hardship, courage, and determination — each of which leaves behind records that continue to resonate through generations.

In this issue, we will delve into the topic of immigration from its very beginnings through to the present day, considering how records, diaries, ships' logs, newspaper reports, social histories, and weather reports have played a pivotal role in uncovering the stories of those who embarked on long, uncertain journeys to our shores. These records not only provide critical evidence of arrival but also reflect the broader patterns of social, political and economic change that have shaped the face of modern Australia.

Early Immigration to Australia: Convicts, Free Settlers, and the Impact of Shipping Records

Australia's history of colonial settler immigration dates to the 18th century, beginning with the transportation of convicts from Britain, Ireland, and other parts of the then British Empire. This wave of transportation continued for decades, lasting until 1868. Convict transportation formed the foundation of the Australian penal colonies, with hundreds of ships carrying men and women sentenced to terms of imprisonment or exile.

For family historians researching convict ancestry, shipping records are among the most valuable resources. These records can reveal not only the names of those transported but also lead to details of their convictions, the nature of their sentence, and life aboard the ships. Such records are essential for tracing the movement of individuals between continents and often provide insight into the personal circumstances that led to their transportation.

Immigration to Australia was also fuelled by free and assisted settlers who arrived seeking new opportunities and adventure. These immigrants contributed to the rapid development of the Australian colonies and the Pacific region. Shipping records from this period provide essential documentation of these early settlers, often revealing details about the social and economic conditions of the time.

20th Century Immigration: Waves of Change

The 20th century marked a new phase in Australian immigration, especially following World War II. The post-war years brought significant changes to immigration policies,

with the Australian government actively encouraging selected migration to help boost the country's population and workforce while also limiting non-white migration through discriminatory policies stemming from the 1901 Immigration Restriction Act, which remained in place until the 1970s.

Arrival records from the early to mid-20th century can often be found in the form of passenger lists, immigration documentation, and airline passenger manifests and as family historians we move from the collections of our state archives for 18th to 19th century holdings to those of the National Archives of Australia.

Contemporary Immigration: The Changing Face of Australia

Immigration to Australia has continued to evolve, with the late 20th and now 21st century witnessing a shift toward skilled migration, with a focus on attracting workers in industries such as technology, healthcare and engineering. Australia has also continued to accept refugees and humanitarian entrants, primarily from regions such as the Middle East, Africa and Asia.

The recent trend of skilled migration has led to a new focus on temporary visas and work permits, creating new challenges for family historians. Unlike earlier eras, where shipping records and passenger lists were the primary means of tracing immigration, modern records include complex systems of immigration visas, work permits and citizenship applications. As these records become part of our research materials in the future, it is increasingly possible for genealogists to trace not only the immigration experience but also more precise professional and personal journeys of individuals and families who have made Australia their home.

10 WEBSITES FOR SHIPPING & IMMIGRATION

Shipping and immigration records are vital tools for family historians, providing invaluable insights into the personal and historical contexts of our ancestors' journeys. Below are ten key websites, spanning both Australian and international collections, that will assist researchers in exploring maritime voyages and immigration histories.

1. FamilySearch Wiki on Australian Emigration and Immigration https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Australia_Emigration_and_Immigration

The FamilySearch Australia Emigration and Immigration wiki page offers information on historical migration to and from Australia. It covers significant migration periods, important routes and the impact of events such as convict transportation, the gold rush, and assisted immigration schemes. This page also provides guidance on utilising immigration records for genealogical research, making it an essential resource for anyone delving into Australian immigration history.

2. National Archives of Australia

<https://www.naa.gov.au>

The National Archives of Australia (NAA) is a key resource for those researching 20th-century Australian immigration. Its Passenger Arrivals index (1898–1972) is a searchable database by name, vessel or year. More localised or recent records are housed in state and territory offices. The NAA's fact sheets offer helpful advice on searching these invaluable records.

3. Naval Historical Society of Australia

<https://navyhistory.au/>

This website serves as a dedicated platform for preserving Australia's naval history. It features a wide range of materials, including historical accounts, archival resources, art and information on naval tours. The site explores the Royal Australian Navy's evolution, pivotal naval engagements, technological advancements and the stories of sailors who served.

4. Captain Phill Reviews

<https://www.youtube.com/@captainphillreviews/videos>

"Captain Phill" offers insightful and entertaining reviews of various ship classes. His videos provide detailed analysis of available texts and maritime history, making them a fun and informative resource for those interested in learning more about ships and maritime heritage.

5. State Library of South Australia

<https://collections.slsa.sa.gov.au/find/ships>

The State Library of South Australia holds a rich collection focused on Australia's maritime history. Its database contains images and information about early Australian ports, shipping notices and shipwreck records, offering valuable resources for genealogists researching maritime links to early Australia.

6. Index to Lloyd's List Marine News (1740–1837)

<https://registers.cityoflondon.gov.uk/applications/lloydslist/>

Lloyd's List, established in the early 18th century, is one of the oldest continuously running maritime journals. The City of London's digital archive provides access to historical shipping data, including ship movements, trade reports and maritime incidents, offering a treasure trove for those researching maritime history or tracing seafaring ancestors.

7. New Zealand Society of Genealogists (NZSG) Shipping Project

<https://genealogy.org.nz/NZSG-Shipping-Project/11427/>

The New Zealand Society of Genealogists is compiling an extensive shipping project that documents passenger lists for ships travelling to New Zealand from the 19th century onward. As the project continues to develop, it will become an indispensable tool for those tracing ancestors who immigrated to New Zealand.

8. Royal Museums Greenwich – Collections and Research Guides

<https://www.rmg.co.uk/collections>

Royal Museums Greenwich offers a comprehensive digital gateway to over 2.5 million items documenting more than 500 years of maritime history. With holdings ranging from ship models and fine art to manuscripts and scientific instruments, this resource is for anyone interested in maritime history and its influence on global trade and migration.

9. Ellis Island Passenger Search Database

<https://www.libertyellisfoundation.org/passenger>

Ellis Island, one of the most famous immigration stations in the United States, processed millions of immigrants between 1892 and 1954. This site provides access to passenger records, including names, places of birth and ports of embarkation. It is an essential resource for those with ancestors who arrived in the U.S. during this period and offers detailed search capabilities by name, year and other criteria.

10. Kerry Farmer's Australian Immigration to Australia Site

<https://kerryfarmer.info/courses/AustImmigration/index.htm>

Kerry Farmer, a Society Fellow and former Director, offers her expert take on resources on Australian immigration history. Her website provides detailed information on immigration records, as well as tips on how to use them effectively in genealogical research. Additionally, Kerry's book *Arrivals in Australia from 1788* is available in both print and ebook formats, serving as an essential resource for anyone researching their ancestors' immigration journeys to Australia.

These websites offer a diverse range of records and resources that will aid uncovering the immigration and maritime experiences of their forebears. Whether tracing the journey of a convict or exploring the passenger lists of early 20th-century immigrants, these sites will provide context and records to enhance your research.

The Housekeeper: Mary Eades

by CJ Eddington

Mary Eades¹ is named as Dr O'Connor's housekeeper in the 1806 New South Wales muster², having arrived in Sydney on the *Surprise* in 1790. While there is no record of her baptism in England, her year of birth is generally recorded as 1785.

Her parents, Joseph and Catherine, were married in May 1783 in Birmingham, Warwickshire and Mary's sister Ann was baptised in December 1783.³ Her brother Joseph's 1789 date of birth was recorded on his military enlistment.⁴ So, if Mary was on the *Surprise* as a child (and not born in the colony) as the muster record indicates (Figure 1), her birth likely fell between her brother and sister's births — hence 1785.

Mary travelled with her mother, Catherine, and siblings Ann and Joseph, when they accompanied her father, Joseph Eades, a Private in the New South Wales Corps⁵ to his Sydney posting as part of the Second Fleet. Two more children were born to this couple prior to Joseph's untimely death in 1796.

The NSW Corps was formed in England in 1789 as a permanent regiment to relieve the marines who had accompanied the First Fleet. In Sydney, however, officers of the Corps soon became involved in the corrupt and lucrative rum trade within the colony, eventually resulting in the Rum Rebellion of 1808. And although it is not clear why Joseph joined the Corps in 1789, it was likely because the regular wage offered security for his family.

The Second Fleet was a convoy of ships carrying convicts, soldiers and their families, and supplies destined for NSW, but the voyage was ill conceived from the beginning. The firm of Camden, Clavert & King, previously involved in transporting slaves to North America, won the contract to provide three of the ships. They were paid 17 pounds, 3 shillings and 6 pence per head, whether dead or alive. Of the 1,038 convicts embarked, 273 died during the voyage (26 per cent) and 486 landed sick.⁶ Another 124 died soon after landing.

Captain William Hill of the NSW Corps commanded the guard on the *Surprise*. In July 1790, he wrote to Mr Wathen⁷ telling in part some of the misery of the voyage. He considered the *Surprise* too small a ship to undertake so long a journey,

moreover, its construction caused it to ship water: "that, from the Cape, the unhappy wretches, the convicts, were considerably above their waists in water, and the men of my company whose berths were not so far forward, were nearly up to the middles."⁸

And he had damning comments to make about the use of irons on the convicts:

The irons used upon these unhappy wretches were barbarous. The contractors had been in the Guinea trade, and had put on board the same shackles used by them in that trade, which are made with a short bolt instead of chains that drop between the legs and fasten with a bandage about the waist, like those at the different gaols; these bolts were not more than three quarters of a foot in length so that they could not extend either leg from the other more than an inch of two at most; thus fettered, it was impossible for them to move but at the risk of both their legs being broken.⁹

When the news got back to Britain there was outrage but no one was successfully prosecuted. There was a widely held view expressed by Captain Hill that: "the more they can withhold from the unhappy wretches the more provisions they have to dispose of at a foreign market, and the earlier in the voyage they die, the longer they can draw the deceased's allowance to themselves ..."¹⁰

Mary Eades and family endured these conditions on the *Surprise* for 158 days. Another family on the Second Fleet, on board the *Scarborough*, was John and Elizabeth MacArthur of merino sheep fame.

Between 1788 and 1792, convicts and their jailers made up the majority of the population. Within one generation, however, a population of emancipated convicts who could be granted land began to grow. Life in Sydney in these early years was tough — there were few horses and even river travel was controlled by the military authorities, with the private ownership of boats not allowed and government boats guarded.¹¹



Figure 1 Extract from 1806 NSW muster Eades/O'Connor



Figure 2 Justinian & Surprise standing into Sydney Bay. Norfolk Island 23 August 1790, by William Bradley Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales <https://archival.sl.nsw.gov.au/Details/archive/110316551>

Even for the MacArthurs, houses were basic and, according to Kate Grenville, Elizabeth Macarthur's first home was "a low mean house with a roof of palm thatch ..."¹²

In 1796, when Mary was about 11, her father Joseph drowned while collecting rushes in Sydney Harbour. The rushes were probably to replenish the roof of his house. Catherine, Mary's mother, married Private James Brackenreg soon after and went on to have four more children before her death in 1804.

On 21 August 1806, Mary Eades gave birth to Eliza[beth] Eleanora O'Connor;¹³ Bryan O'Connor MD was the father — Mary's employer.¹⁴

Mary herself died in September the following year, aged 22, and by 1814 Bryan O'Connor had returned to Ireland.

It is probable that Mary was buried in the Old Sydney Cemetery, as it was the principal burial ground from 1792 to 1820.¹⁵ Mary died less than 20 years after white settlement began in NSW, but except for the fact that her daughter, Elizabeth O'Connor, became the matriarch of a large Australian family, Mary would have just been another young woman who migrated to a new country and died without leaving her mark.

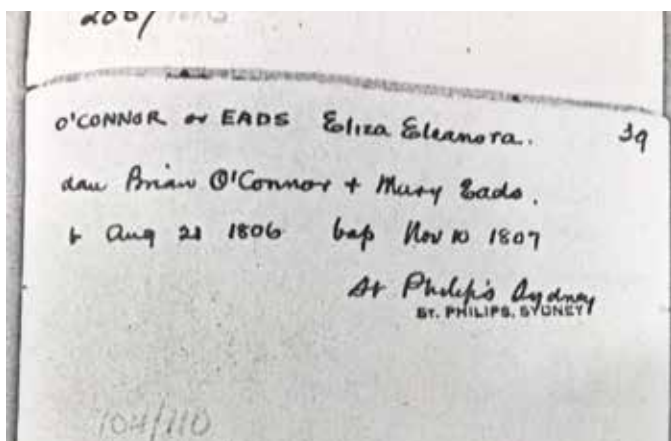


Figure 3 Birth registration from Mutch index. NSW State Library from microfilm at Western Australian Genealogical Society

- 1 Also known as Eads.
- 2 New South Wales and Tasmania, Australia Convict Musters, 1806–1849.
- 3 Baptism registration for Ann Eades 21 December 1783. Deritend, St John the Baptist, Warwickshire, England. Birmingham, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538–1812.
- 4 Statham, P. (ed) *A colonial regiment – New Sources in the New South Wales Corps 1789–1810*. (ANU Tech: Canberra ACT, 1992).
- 5 Statham, *A colonial regiment*.
- 6 Tench, Watkin; Flannery, Tim 1788: *comprising a narrative of the expedition to Botany Bay and an account of the settlement at Port Jackson* (Melbourne: Text Publishing, 1996, Reprint with index), 131.
- 7 Likely Samuel Wathen of Woodstock, sheriff of Gloucester.
- 8 *Historical Records of New South Wales. Volume 1, Part 2 – Phillip*. <https://archive.org/details/historicalrecord1pt2sidnuoft/page/366/mode/2up> Sydney: Charles Potter, Government Printer. 1892, 367 [accessed 7 April 2022].
- 9 *ibid*.
- 10 *ibid*.
- 11 The history of Sydney. *River transport*. <https://www.visitsydneyaustralia.com.au/history-6-early-col.html> [accessed 7 April 2022].
- 12 Grenville, K. *A Room Made of Leaves*. (Text Pub. Co. Australia, 2020).
- 13 *The New South Wales pioneers index, 1788–1888: an index to birth, death and marriage records on CD-ROM*.
- 14 Bryan O'Connor was an Irish convict, part of the United Irishmen, transported on the *Minerva* in 1799 for treason. He was pardoned in 1809 and returned to his wife Jane McCarthy in Ireland sometime prior to 1814.
- 15 Murray, Lisa, *Death and dying in nineteenth century Sydney*, Dictionary of Sydney, 2013, https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/death_and_dying_in_nineteenth_century_sydney, viewed 12 March 2025.

Carolyn Eddington was born in Tasmania but raised in Western Australia. Her ancestors migrated from Britain in the days of sailing



ships, and building on her parents' research using internet resources has uncovered a bigamist, a traitor and several publicans. She has completed the University of Tasmania Diploma of Family History to better equip herself, particularly with convict records. Using DNA has both confirmed her documented family tree and found new branches for it. She has written the stories of her 22 migrant ancestors and published them on her blog fromoaktogumtree.wordpress.com

The Jacksons: Story of a £10 Pom Family

From Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, England to Sydney

by Tony Jackson



The Sitmar Line TSS Fairsky

The story started in early 1959 with a question from my father, Cliff Jackson, over the dinner table at our council house in Bury Green Road, Cheshunt. He had spotted adverts in local newspapers: How would we like to live in Australia, a land of opportunity?

My parents had originally thought about both Australia and Canada, but decided on the former with its better weather. My father applied to Australia House in The Strand, London for Assisted Passages under the United Kingdom and Australian Government Agreement.¹ Under the Assisted Passenger arrangement, family members over 19 paid £10, while those under 19 travelled free. The original application form listed four children, but my youngest brother, who was born in June 1959, was added later by another hand. The Notification of Acceptance was sent in August 1959 and this letter outlined what was required and what we were entitled to. My parents had to pay a total of £22; they would get the extra £2 back on arrival in Australian currency which worked out at £2 10s.

We were all required to have medical examinations; my parents both had to have chest X-rays, while the children had general examinations. During the check-up at Australia House it was discovered that I needed glasses. My two sisters had 6/6 vision in both eyes, I had 6/12 and 6/18, while my younger brothers were too young for the eye test.

People travelling to Australia under the provisions of the Migration Scheme did not require passports. Instead, they were issued with Documents of Identity, which my parents kept and I have inherited.

One of the migration requirements was that my father had a job waiting in Australia. He was a machinist/toolmaker and the job was with Scripto Pens. In the end, however, he started working for Parker Pens, presumably it was a better offer.

The last paragraph of the Acceptance Letter stated: "Your attention is drawn to the declaration you signed when completing your Assisted Passage Application. Those persons who have benefited under the Assisted Passage Scheme are required to repay the Government contribution towards the cost of their fare should they leave Australia before completing two years' residence."

Our departure was delayed due both to my youngest brother's age and the ship needing repairs from its previous voyage. We were due to leave on 31 December 1959, but did not sail until Tuesday, 12 January 1960; dates I confirmed from the shipping records on FindMyPast. It was an auspicious day for a future cricket-lover; Gary Sobers and Frank Worrell completing a 399 stand for the fourth wicket in the West Indies v England Test. We were originally scheduled to depart from Southampton, but the delay forced us to sail from Plymouth, which was a much longer train trip from Cheshunt. The ship was the Sitmar Line TSS *Fairsky*, which had seen important war service with the Royal Navy. The shipping line was Italian-owned, one of the many companies carrying immigrants to Australia. On board were 1,486 passengers, mainly English and Scottish. It was on this trip that we were introduced to Italian food, a big deal in those days. I remember spaghetti bolognese and lots of pasta.

The trip should have been an adventure for a nine-year-old, but my memories of the time are few. There were games for the children and the water level in the swimming pool was occasionally lowered for the children. The only photo I have from the voyage shows my father with three of my siblings. Mum, Violet Jackson, was probably still in her cabin suffering seasickness, and my eldest sister and I were elsewhere on the boat.

The ship sailed across the Mediterranean, stopping at Port Said in Egypt, and through the Suez Canal to Aden,



A typical advertisement for Australian migration.²

then a British Crown Colony. We were not allowed to leave the ship at either port. We then sailed across the Indian Ocean to Fremantle, the first place where we were allowed to disembark. From there we sailed to Melbourne, where those passengers who were migrating to Victoria left the ship, and we were again allowed off for the day. We entered through Sydney Heads at 5.30am on Saturday, 6 February 1960, with a temperature of 85° Fahrenheit (29°C). One of the news items we received on the ship was the story of a little boy lost in the New England ranges, which inspired the 1960 Johnny Ashcroft song *Little Boy Lost* and the 1978 film of the same name.

Accommodation was available to each family immediately on arrival in Australia and in our case it was at the Heathcote Road Migrant Hostel at East Hills, opposite the Holsworthy Army Camp. The hostel consisted of Nissan huts of half round corrugated iron construction. Each hut consisted of three rooms, two bedrooms with double bunks and a lounge/ dining room with a small kitchenette. We had half a hut, with Mum and Dad sleeping on a sofa bed which they had to make each night. The camp had a dining room for meals, or you could cook your own meals in the kitchenette. Each group of four huts had a toilet, shower and laundry block with clothes lines between the huts. I enjoyed our stay at the hostel, where I spent a lot of time exploring the surrounding bush, including venturing into Holsworthy Army Camp, despite it being strictly off-limits.

Heathcote had been a military camp both during and after the war, and I have not been able to locate any aerial photos of the site. The photo below gives some indication of the arrangement of the Nissan huts and the map shows the overall layout of the camp, with our half-hut marked in red.

After 16 months, we moved to a rented house at Leura in the Blue Mountains, but that is the start of another story. The family of seven that landed that day in 1960 has grown to 61 with at least two more due this year. Unfortunately, both Mum and Dad have passed away, but they have left a lasting legacy in Australia. Most family members still live in Australia, mostly in Queensland, while one grandson and his family now reside in England.

1. A copy of the original application form was obtained from the National Archives in Canberra along with medical reports in 2005 – National Archives of Australia, Series A1877, Item 06/01/1960 Fairsky Jackson C R J. Title Migrant Selection Document.
2. Hertfordshire Newspaper, Daily Herald Tuesday, 13 February 1959.
3. Map courtesy of the East Hills and Heathcote Road Migrant Hostels Facebook Group.

Tony Jackson was born in England but was raised from the age of nine in Australia. He has been interested in family history for over 40 years and has been able to trace two family lines back to the mid-1500s. He is also very interested in Military History and has lectured on that topic for both SAG & The Oaks History Society. He is currently working on a project to photograph all the WWI Australian graves on the Western Front and in England. For the last 12 years he has worked as a Library Assistant at SAG.



Images from top:

On board the Fairsky: my father, one brother and sister, with the other brother in the pram.

The Jackson family under a tree in sunny Fremantle, Dad took the photo w- family photo..

My father's first car in front of some Nissan huts – family photo.

Layout of Nissan huts in Heathcote Road Migrant Hostel.³

A study of the Royal Navy Careers of the Linzee, Giles, Holmes and Best Families

by E. C. Best

This abridged article concentrates on the Linzee, Giles and Shea families.¹

The earliest known Giles ancestor was Leonard Giles who, with his wife Mary, had a total of six children, all christened in the parish of Maker, Devon (now Cornwall). One son, Samuel Giles, christened on 29 October 1749, later a mariner, married Sarah Pearce (daughter of Samuel Pearce, born 1751 in Maker), by licence, at Maker on 31 January 1776. The couple lived at Kingsand and they also had six children, one of whom was another Samuel Giles, christened on 2 September 1778.

The younger Samuel was a paymaster and purser in the Royal Navy; being appointed paymaster on 1 August 1800. He retired as a commissioned officer with the rank of paymaster and purser on 10 June 1843. He lived at Kingsand, Stoke Damerel, Devonport and Plymouth, later at Deal, Kent and Portsmouth and finally at Chelsea, London. He married Rebecca Linzee Smith (1781–1860)² of Stoke Damerel Parish at Stoke Damerel, Devon, on 6 January 1802, when he was purser of H.M.S. *Astrea*, and the witnesses were Richard Smith (Rebecca's father) and Dinah Smith.

Samuel's younger brother, Stephen Giles, who was christened 3 August 1787 at Maker and married Elizabeth Oree on 20 March 1810 at Stoke Damerel, also had a naval career: appointed Captain, Royal Marines on 27 January 1829 and later Lieutenant-Colonel on 27 July 1847. He was at the Royal Marines Barracks, Chatham, Kent in the 1851 Census. He was Colonel and 2nd Commandant, Royal Marines, at Plymouth until he retired on 14 March 1854. Colonel Stephen Giles was also Knight of the Tower and Sword, having served his country for just over 50 years. He died on 28 May 1854 at Newton Abbot, near Exeter, Devon.

His son, Henry John Giles, born 3 December 1810, at Devonport, Devon entered the Royal Navy on 2 April 1824, was appointed Lieutenant on 14 December 1841, was promoted to Commander, (retired) on 1 July 1864, and remained on the Royal Navy Lists until December 1869. He also held a service medal for the Battle of Navarino, 20 October 1827. Retired Commander Henry John Giles, R.N., of Millbrook, Maker, died at St Germans, Cornwall, on 14 January 1876 and his will was proved at Bodmin, Cornwall the same year.

(Rebecca) Mary Smith, née Linzee, Samuel's mother-in-law, was baptised 21 July 1745 at Portsea, Hampshire, the daughter of John Linzee (1717–1787) and Rose, née Guisage. John was employed in the Royal Naval Dockyards at Devonport and Plymouth from c.1750 to 1787,

apprenticed in 1755, and became Superintendent of the Ropewalk in the Plymouth Royal Navy Dockyard. He died 8 November 1787, Stoke Damerel.

Her brother, John Linzee (1743–1798), was involved in the American War of Independence and the Battle of Bunker Hill. Captain John Linzee died 8 October 1798 at Milton, Massachusetts. He was the founder of the American Linzee family.

An elder sister of (Rebecca) Mary Linzee, Susanna(h), married Captain John Shea, Royal Marines on 13 July 1780 at Stoke Damerel. He was Captain of Marines aboard the *Scarborough* with the 1788 First Fleet. John Shea was born c.1754, the eldest son of Lieutenant Richard Shea (c.1725–1789), Corps of Marines and his wife Margaret. Richard was killed in action at the Battle of Bunker Hill, Boston, USA, in the American War of Independence on 17 June 1775, while serving with the 1st Battalion of the Marines.³

John Shea's family was at Stoke Damerel for the baptisms of their children on 30 March 1787 — this group baptism was common if the children were unbaptised and their parent was going abroad. They appear to have resided in Stoke Damerel from 1780 to 1787 from the parish registers; Captain John Shea's widow, Susanna Shea, née Linzee, another "disconsolate" widow, was living at Portsea, Hampshire from 1791–2.⁴

According to Admiralty records, Captain John Shea made a voluntary tender of his services to embark as captain of the detachment of marines going to Botany Bay aboard the *Scarborough*.⁵ The First Fleet arrived at Botany Bay on 18 January 1788 and at Port Jackson (Sydney Cove) on 26 January 1788. On 11 February 1788 at Port Jackson, Captain John Shea went shooting and bagged a kangaroo. "On Thursday 6th March 1788, Capt[ain] Shea went to Botany Bay and he said that 'the French ships are ready to sail ... The Frenchmen say that they have often been obliged to fire on the natives, for that they are become most daring and troublesome'".⁶

During 1788, Captain John Shea was a member of the first Criminal Court, sitting under the presidency of Judge Advocate, Captain David Collins and was also President of a Court Martial Court for the disobedience of two privates on 11 September 1788.

John Copley in *Sydney Cove* gives the details of the death of Captain Shea in Sydney "On Monday, 2 February 1789: 'this night at 10 o'clock Captain John Shea of the Marines departed this life after a long illness of a Consumption'⁷ [consumption]. On Tuesday, 3 February 1789 Captain Shea 'was buried ... in Military form, very Neat and handsome'.

The Governor and all the officers of the settlement were present. The burial was recorded in the Reverend Richard Johnson's register".⁸

In Keith A. Johnson's "Sydney's Earliest Burial Grounds",⁹ the writer explains that in September 1792 the George Street Burial Ground, known later as the Town Hall Cemetery, Old Burial Ground or Cathedral Close was opened. This was the ground formerly cultivated by the late Captain John Shea of the Marines, who "was buried in the centre of his garden at his own request and away from the settlement. This no doubt influenced the Governor and Chaplain to choose his farm as the site of the future burial ground in September 1792". It is now the site of the Sydney Town Hall and Church of England Cathedral, and graves have been found under the buildings there during excavation in recent years.

Captain John Shea and his wife Susanna Shea, née Linzee had at least four known sons. One of them, Charles Shea, born 24 February 1787, baptised 30 March 1787 at Stoke Damerel, Devonport; died 1886, Hyde Park, London:

On 23 May 1816, when he was residing at 8 Catherine Place, Greenwich, London, Charles Shea, claiming to be the only surviving son and heir of the late Capt[ain] John Shea, wrote to the Home Office and to Governor Lachlan Macquarie, Sydney, claiming a grant of 500 acres, said to have been made to his father at the place where the principal cemetery was afterwards located (now the site of the Sydney Town Hall). No grants had been made at the time of Capt[ain] Shea's death, 1789, and as the claim was within the city area which was reserved from alienation, the claim was not allowed. It is unlikely that Capt[ain] Shea's garden would have been 500 acres, but Charles stated that "in a short time he cleared sow'd wheat that he carried from England and reaped it". He also claimed that his father had received a second grant, and that "the principal part of the Town of Sydney is erected on that ground, denominated Shea's Farm"; Charles asked for a copy of the Grants. Governor Macquarie replied on 1 April 1817 "that I do not find that there are any Grounds for his claim which appears to be altogether unfounded and chimerical" and that "the Son has not even a shadow of a Claim to them". In fact, any leases granted, at expiration, reverted to the Crown and were again at the disposal of the government.¹⁰

Captain Charles Shea was one of a small number of nineteenth century sunspot observers. He made 5,538 historical sunspot drawings from his observations between 1847 and 1866, which are now in the Royal Astronomical Society library archives at Burlington House, Piccadilly, London.

In the 1851 Census, Charles Shea was living at 31 Connaught Square, Hyde Park, London, with his wife Anna Maria Shea, nee Boxley (1786–1864). Charles was described as a "Captain" in the Honourable East India Company, "late maritime service". In the 1861 Census he is described as "late Commander", not Captain, this means that he was a Captain of an East India Company Ship and

a Commander of an East India Company Station. Charles Shea died at 31 Connaught Square, Hyde Park, London on 19 May 1866, aged 79 years and was buried at All Souls' Cemetery, Kensal Green, London, on 24 May 1866, joining Anna Maria who had been buried there two years earlier. They evidently died childless.

1. The full article is lodged in the SAG archives at 04/2936.
2. Samuel's wife, Rebecca Linzee Smith was baptised at Stoke Damerel, Devon, on 11 April 1781, the daughter of Rebecca Mary Smith, née Linzee, (known as Mary) and Richard Smith of Stoke Damerel, Devon. The Linzee family is notable for the role its members played in Royal Navy history, especially at Plymouth and Portsmouth.
3. "Lieut. Richard Shea, though only a Lieutenant, was really a veteran, so slow could promotion be in those days". Col. C. Field, R.M.L.I., *Britain's Sea Soldiers, A History of the Royal Marines Vol 1* (Liverpool, Lyceum: 1924), 158–9. According to Lieut. Clarke, R.M., who wrote a 'Narrative' on the Battle of Bunker Hill, Lieutenant Richard Shea had served for 36 years in the Marines at the time of his death.
4. "Lieutenant Richard Shea of the Marines has left nine children, the eldest [John], a Lieutenant in the same Corps, now on his passage to Boston, the remainder with his disconsolate widow at Plymouth". *The Scots Magazine*, July 1775, 381. No other details of Lieut. Richard Shea or of his family are known.
5. A detailed account of the *Scarborough* voyage was written by one of Captain Shea's men: *Memorandum of the Transactions of a Voyage from England to Botany Bay, 1787–1793, A First Fleet Journal* by John Easty, Private Marine (Sydney, 1965).
6. John Cobley, *Sydney Cove 1788* (London, 1962)
7. Cobley, *Sydney Cove*.
8. Mollie Gillen, *The Founders of Australia, A Biographical Dictionary of the First Fleet* (Sydney: Library of Australian History, 1989).
9. *Descent*, Volume 4 Part 3 (1969), 106.
10. Gillen, *The Founders of Australia*, 326; *Historical Records of Australia*, Series I, Vol. IX (Commonwealth Parliament, 1917) and *New South Wales Governor's Despatches*, Vol. 2, 1817–1818, 161–164, for details of Charles Shea's claim.

Evan C. Best, OAM, holds a B.A. (Hons) (Tas) and M.A. (Syd) and is a retired schoolmaster. He is a Past-President, Fellow and Honorary Member of the Society and edited *Descent* from 1978–2012.

MINING THE DESCENT ARCHIVES

by Danielle Tebb

Descent articles are an under-utilised resource and the following list of articles relating to the theme of shipping and immigration will allow you to navigate directly to the article of interest. Members will need to log into our website:

www.sag.org.au and navigate to the Member area, then to Publications | Past issues of *Descent*.

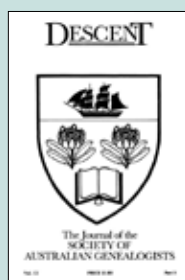
While some of the earlier articles may contain outdated instructions for locating and obtaining records, their methodology, interrogation of the records and general scholarship stands the test of time.

It has long been the Society's practice to index and make available sets of records otherwise difficult to access. In the early days of the Society, Miss Pickering¹, Miss Osburne-Lilly² and Miss Lorna Blacklock³ were each instrumental in transcribing and compiling various shipping lists, which then formed a considerable and valuable set of records for SAG members to use.

Various snippets relating to shipping and immigration also appear throughout both *The Australian Genealogist* and *Descent* to assist members in their research, such as the following:

Before the Bounty Scheme of immigration began in 1832, many earlier free arrivals had actually been assisted to the extent that they were virtually sponsored by the government. From January 1793, when the *Bellona* arrived with the first volunteer free settlers, small groups of similar settlers arrived with the approval of a British government now desirous of turning the penal settlement into a more regular colonial outpost of the Empire. To this end, they offered inducements to the "right kind of settler"—free passage, free land, free convict labour, and free stores for a period. There are no "shipping lists" as such for these early arrivals, but the names usually appear in government despatches, on which is based Series I of the *Historical Records of Australia* (1787–1848). The Mitchell Library holds the "Havard Index" to the entire HRA series, but each volume has its own index which includes ships, if not individual settlers' names. Permission to come as free settlers to the colonies was necessary for at least the first 35 years, and applications for permission, together with references, may be found in the Colonial Office Series 201 among PRO reels at the Mitchell Library. As always, some applications are missing from the correspondence.⁴

A First Fleet ship appears on the Society's shield, chosen to "suggest settlement by immigration ... The choice is intended to encompass pre-European immigration and is not a form of First Fleet exclusivism". First Fleet ships have appeared on the cover of *Descent* since 1961.⁵



"Pioneers of Sydney Cove who Arrived by the First Fleet" by Herbert J. Rumsey *The Australian Genealogist*, Vol. II Part 1, January 1936, 7–10 & Vol. II Part 2, April 1936, 20–24.⁶

"Some Sea Captains who became Settlers, Part 1", *The Australian Genealogist*, Vol. IV Part 3, July 1942, 35–38.

"Some Sea Captains who became Settlers, Part 2", *The Australian Genealogist*, Vol. IV Part 4, October 1942, 47–47.

"They Were Married by the Captain" by Captain Brett Hilder, *The Australian Genealogist*, Vol. V Part 10, October 1948, 152–153.

"Sydney's Last Convict Ship" by Philip Geeves *Descent* Vol. 3 Part 2, 1967, 56–59.

"A German Migrant's Family" by Marjorie Graham, *Descent* Vol. 4 Part 2, 1969, 56–61.

"Quong Tart: A Study in Assimilation Part 1" by E. J. Lea-Scarlett *Descent* Vol. 4 Part 3, 1969, 81–101.

"They Came by Convict Transport" by Vaughan Evans, *Descent* Vol. 9, Part 4, December 1979, 126–129.

"Friendship (2)" by Reg Wright, *Descent* Vol. 16 Part 3 September 1986,

"The NSW Immigration Deposit Journals 1853–1900" by Pat Stemp & Aileen Trinder, *Descent* Vol. 18 Part 1, March 1988, 2–7.

"First Fleet Victualling List" by David T. Hawkings, *Descent* Vol. 18 Part 3, September 1988, 117–119

"Friendship (2) Revisited" by Reg Wright, *Descent* Vol. 18 Part 3, September 1988, 120–126.

"Transportation Records, Ireland to Australia, 1788–1868 Report on the gift from the Government and People of Ireland to the Government and People of Australia" by Jan Worthington & Keith Johnson, *Descent* Vol. 18 Part 3, September 1988, 127–129.

"Poor Law Emigration to Australia" by Mr A. B. M. James, *Descent* Vol. 19, Part 4, December 1989, 158–165.

"Burton, J. and the 'Eurasian Experiment'" by Bob Hay, *Descent* Vol. 23 Part 3, September 1993, 101–106.

"Another View of Early Swiss Migration to the Colonies through the eyes of a Family Historian" by Jan Ross, *Descent* Vol. 23 No. 4, December 1993, 143–147.

"Friendship (2) Revisited 'Revisited'" by Craig Smee, *Descent* Vol. 26 Part 3, September 1996, 123–125.

"Researching Chinese immigrants and the Chinese-Australians in NSW at the Australian Archives" *Descent* Vol. 26 Part 3 September 1996, 147–148.

"Scottish Emigration to Australia 1788–1939" by Peter Gibson, *Descent* Vol. 30 Part 2, June 2000, 81–88.

"The Peculiar List of Surgeon Smyth Labelled 'Children Brought out and born on Board' The Ship Lady Penrhyn" by Dr C.J Smee, *Descent* Vol. 30 Part 3, September 2000, 92–96.

"Shipping Records are a Good Primary Source of Information – Aren't They?" By Bill Trenwith, *Descent* Vol. 31 Part 1, March 2001, 8–9.

"The Immigrant Railway Workers" by D. D. Hagarty *Descent* Vol. 31 Part 2, June 2001, 84–89.

"Were Bounty Immigrants Good or Bad for the Colonies?" By Leone Huntsman *Descent* Vol. 31 Part 4, December 2001, 174–179.

"The Children of the Sir Edward Parry" by Anthony Watson, *Descent* Vol. 34 Part 1, March 2004, 2–6.

"Japanese Trade Records Link Families to the Past" by Pam Oliver, *Descent* Vol. 35 Part 2, June 2005, 69–71.

"Hello Australia: The Story of a Postcard From a Ship" by Dawn G. Springett, *Descent* Vol. 41 Part 4, December 2011, 164–169.

"The Story of John Breen: A Convict reunited with his Family" by Anthony Watson *Descent* Vol. 42, Part 2, June 2012, 58–64.

"They Came per Washington Irving: The Story of One Migrant Ship" by Graham Brookes, *Descent* Vol. 43 Part 1, March 2013, 15–30.

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Misled by my own Misinterpretations

by Brian Edward Milton

Over 10 years ago I completed, or thought I had, the family histories of the antecedents of my four grandparents and published *Four Immigrant Families to Australia: Milton, Roach, Parfitt, Hitchcock arriving in the period 1840 to 1860*.¹ I started this research in about 1965 at my mother's prompting, as I was about to spend time in the UK when it was so much easier to locate the necessary certificates. This was well before indexes and digital copies of certificates became widely available on the internet.

By the early 2000s, I was able to trace Richard and Elizabeth Milton, my great-grandfather's parents. Elizabeth gave her surname as Goard at their marriage, but after a considerable period of searching, I was unable to progress further. Eventually, I discovered that Elizabeth had been a widow at the time of the marriage to Richard, with the maiden name Hurford.

Elizabeth had married George Goard (sometimes spelt Gourd or Gord) on 4 January 1798, and their first child, Mary, was born soon afterwards in February 1798. A son, George followed in July 1799. George Senior was buried on 22 October 1801, with the cause of death unrecorded. While I do not have a birth entry for George Junior, apprentice records supplied by the Devon Family History Society show that eight-year-old George Goard, with parent Elizabeth Milton, was apprenticed to William Evans on 18 June 1807. Similarly, on 5 February 1810, eight-year-old John Goard, with parent Elizabeth Milton, was apprenticed to Henry Baker. Both William Evans and Henry Baker were yeomen of Burlescombe.

I concluded that George Goard and Elizabeth had three children: Mary, George and John, the latter born either just before or just after his father died. For Elizabeth, this must have been a very difficult time.

This allowed me to confirm that Richard and Elizabeth were indeed my family, especially as their third son, Thomas (my great-grandfather),² transported to Tasmania for stealing a sheep, used the middle name *Hurfitt* on many of his records, a near match in those days of less pedantic spelling. His

sentence at long last allowed me to identify where he came from: Burlescombe, Devon. After receiving his ticket of leave, Thomas spent a short time in the Victorian goldfields before returning to England. After only a year in London, he married my great-grandmother before immediately returning to the colonies and settling in NSW. Together, they had a constructive life raising a large and successful family in the Oberon area as sheep farmers, then later with Thomas as a goldminer, in Hargreaves. Further proof that the Thomas Milton from Burlescombe is my ancestor is that, in Australia, Thomas and his wife Mary Ann nee Salveson, named their youngest son Arthur *Hereford Salveson Milton*.

However, trying to find earlier Burlescombe generations with the surname Milton prior to Richard proved fruitless. My mistake was in assuming that Richard Milton's family was from Burlescombe and Elizabeth's family was from another village. That is, I assumed that it was more likely that Elizabeth had moved to Richard's village where earlier Miltons would be found. Wrong. It is likely that the reverse

was very often the case. Recently, with the help of the Devon Family History Society, I was provided with a copy of Richard and Elizabeth's 1802 marriage certificate. On it, Richard, age 38, is described as a "sojourner", Elizabeth, age 24 as "widow, of this parish", (i.e. Burlescombe). Her birth year could then be estimated as

being about 1778. But where was sojourner Richard from?

His burial information states that he was aged about 73 in 1838, hence born around 1765 (which turned out to be only slightly inaccurate). He was therefore in his late 30s when he married, which fits with the marriage entry. Searching Devon baptism records, I could find only one close match, that of a Richard Milton born in 1767 to Richard and Betty Milton in Culmstock, some five miles south-east of Burlescombe. *Culmstock Chapters*,³ presented to me when I visited the village around 2019, contains a note that there were many families named Milton in and around that village. One of them was a Richard Milton who married Betty Clist from Dunkeswell, a further four miles south-east of Culmstock



on 4 April 1766. Their first son was Richard, born in 1767 and he, with a high degree of certainty, is my antecedent. A daughter, Sarah, was also born to the couple and was baptised on 25 February 1770.

On realising at last that it was Elizabeth, not Richard, who was from a Burlescombe family, the Hurford search became easier. Again, with the help of the Devon Society, I obtained the Burlescombe marriage entry of James Hurford, "of this parish", and Mary Harding, "sojourner" on 4 December 1776.

Mary Harding (1754 –1816) was born at Dunkeswell, about five miles south of Churchstanton, to John Harding and Hannah Cawley. I have been unable to determine John Harding's village of origin, with most sources suggesting north-west Devon, which is a considerable distance away. The nearest Cawley families that I could find at that time were from Monkton, another five miles south-east of Dunkeswell. Why James and Mary married in Burlescombe instead of Dunkeswell is unknown. My belief now is that more marriages at the time took place in the bride's village, even if they moved soon afterwards. Perhaps Mary was also working in Burlescombe, as John certainly was. Mary died in Burlescombe in 1816 aged 62. Their children are recorded as Miriam and James, twins born in 1777, Elizabeth (1778), George (1780), Mary (1782), another James (1782), another Mary (1786) and John (1788). All were baptised in Burlescombe and likely the older James and Mary died as infants.

While Elizabeth's father, James Hurford (1749–1825) was, from the marriage certificate, clearly a Burlescombe resident prior to his children's births, his own birth record reveals his family was from nearby Clayhidon, where his mother, Miriam Summerhayes, was born in 1722. His father, George Hurford, was born in Luppitt in 1717. However, George's father, John Hurford (born 1682) is also recorded as a Clayhidon resident, while his mother, Armanell Dommett (born 1684) was from Churchstanton. Clearly, the Hurford family had a continuous link to Clayhidon over at least several generations. Other links, however, are not so clear.

Both Milton and Hurfitt families had some association with Dunkeswell. These villages, all in the east and central Devon, are up to seven miles (11 kilometres) apart, revealing there was considerable movement for marriage at the time over a moderately-sized area of villages, the husband to the wife's village at least as much as the wife to the husband's village. This was so in both the Milton and Hurford families.⁴

1. Available via electronic resources in the SAG Library at A6/MIL/CD.1.
2. Brian Edward Milton, "Searching for Thomas", *Descent* 50/4 (2020), 98–102.
3. Margaret Bromwich, *Culmstock Chapters* – a digital copy is available at www.blackdownarchives.org.uk/2024/08/culmstock-chapters-2/
4. 1. Burlescombe to Luppitt ~ 7 miles SE.
2. Clayhidon to Luppitt ~ 5 miles S.

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Identity Crisis: Am I really a Gledhill?

by Chris Hingerty

Experienced and long-time family historian and SAG member, Lloyd Gledhill, set up The Gledhill Genealogy website www.gledhillgenealogy.info in 1997 as a repository and reference centre for material relating to the Gledhill family, the Gledhill name, and family trees.

The website documents the extensive research undertaken by Lloyd and others in the years both prior to and after its establishment. It includes historical articles on the Gledhills and their homelands in the West Riding of Yorkshire, as well as 30 family trees. The website has long acted as a point of contact for Gledhills across the world, with Lloyd assisting many “cousins” to find their Gledhill links.

In 2019, however, after all those years of research, Lloyd started to doubt that he was really a Gledhill.

What caused him to doubt his heritage and to muse that maybe he had wasted many years researching a family name that was not actually his?

The simple answer is DNA, or more precisely, a lack of DNA matches with his Gledhill “cousin” in the USA (USA Cousin A), with whom he had been sharing research for many years, and with whom he believed he shared three times great-grandparents, Joseph and Jane.

Their traditional research indicated that Humphrey (who emigrated to Australia) and Walter (who emigrated to the USA) were sons of Jane France and Joseph Gledhill and were therefore brothers. **See Figure 1.**

Lloyd had taken autosomal DNA tests (atDNA). These are the DNA tests offered by companies such as Ancestry, MyHeritage and 23&Me which test your 23 autosomal chromosomes and match you with “cousins” across both your maternal and paternal lines.

No atDNA matches had been found between Lloyd and USA Cousin A, nor any other descendants of Walter.

There were atDNA matches between Lloyd and other descendants of Humphrey and between the descendants of Walter in the USA, but no matches that brought the two “brothers” Humphrey and Walter together.

While there was one atDNA match linking Lloyd to his three times great-grandmother Jane France, there were no atDNA matches linking back to Joseph or his parents. **See Figure 2.**

In addition to his atDNA tests, Lloyd had taken a Y-DNA test at FamilyTreeDNA (FTDNA) back in 2005. Only males have Y-DNA (it is what makes them genetic males), so only males on the direct patrilineal line of interest can take the test.

In Anglo culture, surnames are passed down along the direct patrilineal line, so Lloyd expected some Gledhill matches to appear in his Y-DNA match list — especially since he had established a Gledhill Surname Project at FTDNA which had 22 members, 10 of whom were Gledhill (Glidewell, Hill) males who had taken a Y-DNA test at FTDNA (though none had been from Walter’s USA line).

Lloyd had NO Gledhill matches in his Y-DNA match lists.

He did not even match any of the other Gledhill, Glidewell or Hill testers in his project.

There was no one in the FTDNA Y-DNA database with the surname of Gledhill with whom Lloyd shared a direct common patrilineal line ancestor.

Given this lack of Gledhill related matches from both atDNA and Y-DNA testing, the following questions emerged:

- Were Walter and Humphrey really brothers?
- Was Joseph the father of Humphrey and Walter?
- Were Lloyd and USA Cousin A related as they supposed?
- Was Lloyd really a Gledhill?

Figure 1

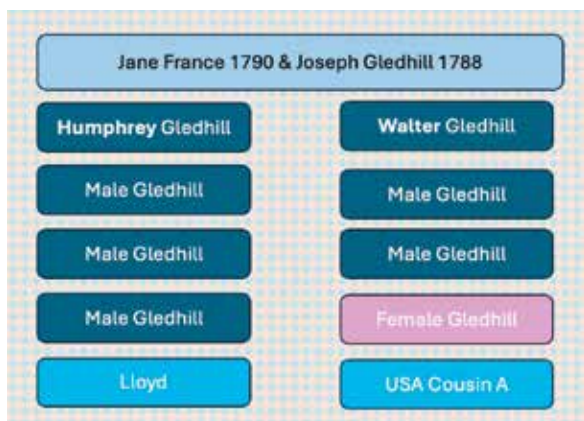
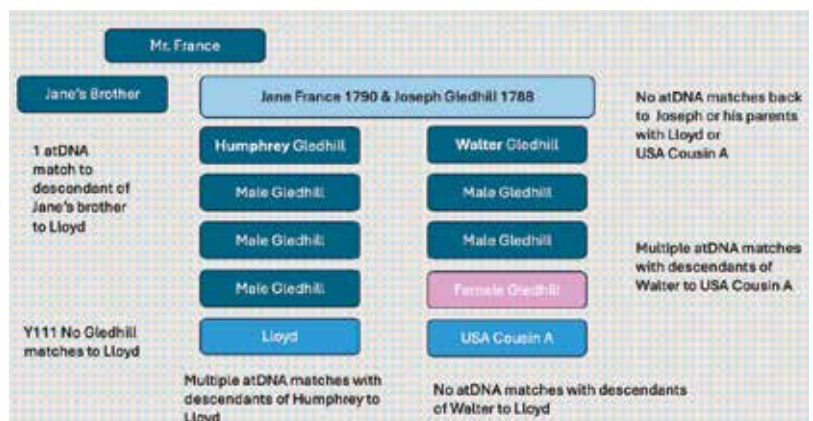


Figure 2



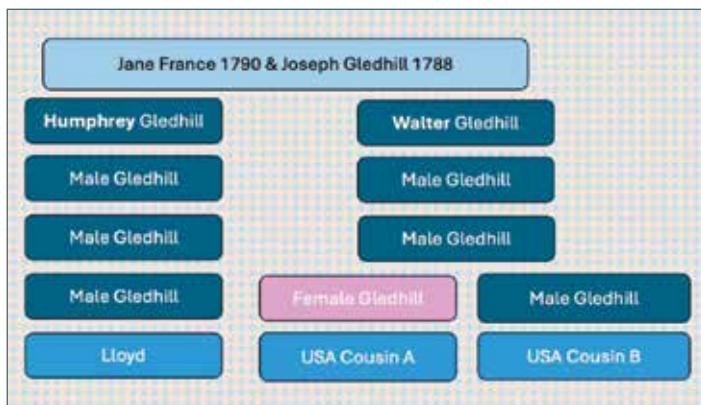


Figure 3

Where to Next?

Lloyd and USA Cousin A were very invested in proving their Gledhill connection.

Y-DNA and surnames are passed along the patrilineal line. The assumed connection was along a patrilineal surname line. Y-DNA testing was selected as the best tool to use in this instance.

Given that USA Cousin A was connected to the Gledhill line via his mother (a female Gledhill), it was of no value to have him take a Y-DNA test since he did not carry Gledhill Y-DNA. It was therefore necessary to identify a direct Gledhill male on Walter's direct patrilineal line to take the Y-DNA test, i.e. a Gledhill male who had a direct father/father/father/father/father connection to Walter.

A suitable candidate (USA Cousin B) was recruited, and he took a Y37 test at FTDNA. **See Figure 3.**

The Y37 test is the cheapest Y-DNA test available and is sufficient to indicate relatedness (or lack of relatedness).

To the great relief of Lloyd and his USA cousins, the Y-DNA test results showed that Lloyd and USA Cousin B were a match, i.e. they shared a common direct male ancestor.

See Figure 4.

Note: Lloyd and USA Cousin B could only match at Y37 and not at the higher levels of Y67 and Y111 as USA Cousin B had only tested to Y37.

Their Genetic Distance at Y37 was estimated to be 1 Step. Clicking through to the Time Predictor at FTDNA indicated that Lloyd and USA Cousin B shared a direct common male ancestor who was estimated to have been born around 1750. **See Figure 5**

Joseph Gledhill was born in 1788 which makes him a very likely candidate to be this shared ancestor, although, given the date range of the Time Predictor, the common ancestor

Figure 4

Name	Markers Tested	Genetic Distance	Big Y STR Diff	Y Haplog
USA COUSIN B Gledhill	1 to 37	1 step Link on Family Tree	Not Available	R-M269

could be his father or grandfather. Nonetheless, the match shows the connection between Lloyd and USA Cousin B on their direct Gledhill patrilineal line. Humphrey and Walter were brothers, Lloyd and his USA cousins do relate as they predicted, and they are indeed Gledhills.

Why then had there been no atDNA matches between the descendants of Humphrey and the descendants of Walter?

Due to the effect of random recombination, atDNA's effectiveness for cousin matching has an outer limit of about 5–7 generations from the tester.

As 4th cousins, Lloyd and his USA cousins are just at the edge of the usefulness of atDNA. They are cousins, but they just didn't randomly inherit the same segments of DNA from their three times great-grandfather Joseph. With no identical segments of DNA inherited, they couldn't match on an atDNA test.

Y-DNA does not have this limit as it is passed directly from father to son with no recombination. It stretches back further than atDNA, indeed all the way back to Y-DNA Adam in ancient Africa. It is therefore very useful if the research question/brick wall is on the direct male line just beyond the reach of atDNA.

Having been reassured that he was indeed a Gledhill, Lloyd wondered what else Y-DNA could tell him about his Gledhill surname.

One question that had been floating around from the time Gledhill family research had begun, was: Are all Gledhills descended from a single male ancestor?

Early Gledhill researchers and publications indicated that all Gledhills had descended from the one male ancestor in the West Riding of Yorkshire.

Attempts to make the connections across the various Gledhill family trees had all failed due to the lack of documentary evidence for the relevant time period and the time period being beyond the upper limit for atDNA.

The question remained unanswered and continued to be the source of much conjecture.

After years of Gledhill research, Lloyd doubted the single male ancestor proposition. He held that the Gledhill surname had multiple origins but needed more evidence to support his hypothesis.

The evidence he needed was sitting in his Gledhill Surname Project at FTDNA.

Figure 6 lists the male Gledhill, Glidewell and Hill members of the Gledhill Surname Project who had taken a Y-DNA test, showing the most distant known ancestor detail (tester supplied), level of Y-DNA test taken and Y haplogroup for each tester who is a member of the Gledhill Surname Project at FTDNA.

A search of Lloyd's Y-DNA match lists for each of these project members showed that, of the Gledhill, Glidewell and Hill Y-DNA testers who had joined the project, only the recruited descendant of Walter from the USA, (USA Cousin B) matched Lloyd, and therefore shared a

common direct male ancestor with his line.

None of the other project members matched Lloyd and therefore, did not share a common direct male ancestor with him. Their direct male ancestors were not direct male ancestors of Lloyd.

Therefore, their Gledhill family lines had different patriarchs to Lloyd's Gledhill family line. Having the same surname, even in the same county, did not guarantee that these various family lines shared one common ancestor or patriarch.

It would therefore follow that there was no single common direct male ancestor who began the Gledhill family tree. The Gledhill surname must have begun, not with a single male Gledhill but with multiple (unrelated) male Gledhills.

Y-DNA data stretches back further than the available documentary evidence and, in the case of the surname Gledhill, genetic evidence has replaced conjecture and speculation in relation to the single ancestor hypothesis.

In summary:

- Targeted Y-DNA testing was able to reassure Lloyd that he was really a Gledhill and confirm his relationship to his USA Gledhill cousins.
- His Gledhill Surname Project at FTDNA along with the 10 Gledhill males who Y-DNA tested and joined the project, provided the evidence he was looking for in relation to the single male ancestor hypotheses.
- Neither of these two important questions could have been answered by atDNA and/or traditional research alone. Y-DNA was needed to be added into the mix.

Next Steps?

Having disproven the single male Gledhill ancestor theory, Lloyd is now turning his attention to his own Gledhill line and its beginnings.

Lloyd's Gledhill family line hails from Dewsbury in Yorkshire and there are still Gledhill families connected to the area today. Do Lloyd's Gledhills and the Gledhills currently connected to Dewsbury share a common direct male ancestor? If so, within what time frame and what is their relationship to Lloyd's family line? Further traditional research and the identification of suitable Dewsbury-connected Gledhill Y testers may well be able to answer these questions.

FTDNATIP™ Report			
Most Recent Common Ancestor Time Predictor based on Y-STR Genetic Distance			
Genetic Distance ①	Y-12 TMRCA ①	Y-25 TMRCA ①	Y-37 TMRCA ①
0	1600 CE (950 - 1950 CE)	1750 CE (1400 - 1950 CE)	1800 CE (1600 - 1950 CE)
1	1100 CE (300 BCE - 1850 CE)	1550 CE (1000 - 1900 CE)	1750 CE (1450 - 1900 CE)
2		1300 CE (400 - 1800 CE)	1650 CE (1250 - 1850 CE)
3			1500 CE (1000 - 1800 CE)
4			1300 CE (650 - 1750 CE)
5			

Figure 5

Name	Paternal Ancestor Name	Country	Haplogroup	Test
Gledhill 1		United Kingdom	R-M269	Y-DNA37
Gledhill 2	James Gledhill, 1669, Elland, Yorkshire, U.K.	England	E-Y17357	Autosomal Transfer Unlock
Gledhill 3		Unknown Origin	R-M269	Y-HAP-Backbone
USA Cousin B	Joseph Gledhill, 1788	England	R-M269	Y-DNA37
Lloyd Gledhill	Joseph Gledhill, 1788	England	R-FTD16140	Big Y-700
Gledhill 4	Richard de Barksland 1200	United Kingdom	R-M269	Y-DNA37
Hill	Edward hill 1889, Glasgow	Ireland	R-U152	Autosomal Transfer Unlock
Gledhill 5	John Gledhill B: 1816, D: 1890	United Kingdom	R-M269	Y-DNA37
Gledwell	Charles Gledwell b. 1745? Mary Hart, Buckingham?	England	R-FTB23471	Big Y-700
Gledhill 6	Richard Gledhill or Gledhill, b 1748	England	R-FTB23471	Big Y-700

Figure 6

By testing living Dewsbury Gledhill males, Lloyd will be able to determine if they share a common direct male ancestor and the approximate year of his birth. If they match and therefore share a common ancestor, this will indicate that they are from the same family line and how far back this line extends.

A longer-term project would include the extension of the Gledhill Surname Project to recruit at least one direct male on each of the family lines in the 30 Gledhill trees currently on the Gledhill website to take a BigY700 Y-DNA test at FTDNA. Their combined results would produce a genetic tree showing if and when each line was (or wasn't) connected to each other Gledhill line. A genetically correct whole world Gledhill tree/s would become a reality!

Stay tuned for the next exciting chapter in the Gledhill surname story ... To find out more about Gledhill Genealogy, visit the website at www.gledhillgenealogy.info

To find out more about the power of Y-DNA to assist your family history research, sign up for the three-part webinar series *Understanding Y-DNA* (available as recordings and/or Zoom webinars)

<https://sag.org.au/event-6070348>

Royal United Service Institute for Defence and Security Studies – NSW

by David Deasley

A lesser-known resource for genealogists is the library of the Royal United Service Institute for Defence and Security Studies – NSW. The Library is situated inside the ANZAC Memorial, Hyde Park South, in Sydney. The Institute is the oldest Defence think-tank in Australia, having been founded in 1888 by Major General John Soames Richardson who became its first president. It was modelled on the RUSI UK founded by the Duke of Wellington in 1831. Its initial charter was to provide professional education for officers of the NSW Defence Force.

One of the core assets of RUSI NSW is the Ursula Davidson Library¹ consisting of 25,000 items collected since 1888, including books, periodicals, pamphlets, and an extensive map collection. The collection has been assessed as being of national importance. Since its move to Hyde Park several years ago, the library has been open to the public, generally from Monday to Friday 10am–4pm.

Both genealogists and family historians should see the library as an important secondary source of genealogical information for those searching military ancestors, or those impacted by campaigns. While one may get lucky and find specific references to an ancestor, it is best to see the material as filling out the ancestor's story. Before starting on this resource, you should have identified your ancestor and in most cases identified the unit(s) in which they served. At this point, the library can be of immense use. It holds, for example, Graham McKenzie Smith's, *Unit Guide: Australian Army 1939–1945* which lists and traces every unit that served, name and formation² changes, and a very brief history of its work. From there a researcher can look at specific unit or campaign histories to find out what an ancestor was doing. Once armed with that information a researcher can check to see if there is map coverage of the operations.

Visitors are always welcome but if you wish to spend time researching it is advisable to phone ahead and book.

The Institute's website at <https://www.rusinsw.org.au/> is also a rich trove, holding monthly newsletters, quarterly journals and monographs, some of which will deal with history of military affairs. It also holds videos of past lunchtime lecture presentations, generally held on the last Tuesday of the month.

1. Ursula Davidson was librarian of the Institute 1942–2005.
2. A military formation is a brigade, division, corps, etc.

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We are delighted to announce that, in partnership with Ancestry.com, we have been able to make available on our website an index with digital images of selected records relating to immigration, currently covering the years 1838–87.

The records in the index may provide additional information to that found in passenger lists. This includes payments for passage, information about an immigrant's employer in the colony, or their destination on arrival.

Records included are:

- NRS-5244 Register of applications for assisted passages to NSW, 1884–87
- NRS-5268 Remittance list refunds, 1855–68
- NRS-5277 Payments from employers to Colonial Treasurer, 1854–55
- NRS-5324 Persons authorised to import migrants, 1838–42
- NRS-5269 Papers re persons proceeding to the colony under remittance regulations, 1856–58

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APPRENTICESHIP REGISTERS INDEX

We are pleased to announce that a new index with more than 185,500 entries is now available online.

The index covers 17 volumes of apprenticeship registers dating from 1924 to 1970. These registers were created by the Department of Labour and Industry, which was responsible for monitoring the working conditions of apprentices under the *Apprentices Act 1894*.

Details provided include apprentice name and registration number, and in some cases trade, home address, and employer name and address. The records are frequently used to seek confirmation of a person's employment or start date, and are also a great resource for family and social history research.

This has all been made possible by the work of our wonderful MHNSW Volunteers, who have painstakingly indexed and checked each entry over the past three years. We cannot thank them enough.

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Our new index to Registers of Appointments is now available to search online, with more the 18,300 entries thanks to our dedicated MHNSW Volunteers.

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<https://mhnsw.au/indexes/professions-and-occupations/registers-of-appointments-civil-service-board/>

COLLECTIONS ON TOUR

We're on the road again with our annual program *Collections on Tour*, sharing stories through items in our collections with the people of regional NSW.

From missing wages to disputes between neighbours, the Courts of Petty Sessions (now known as the Local Court) were long a place where communities sought justice. From 1846, the courts settled claims for debts of up to £10, and their Small Debts Registers document countless cases.

As part of our *Archives for Everyone* project (<https://staging.mhnsww.au/news/archives-for-everyone/>), we've partnered with NSW community groups to digitise and index these valuable records.

Join us at our events in Port Macquarie, Wagga Wagga, Armidale and Newcastle for a unique opportunity to view these original documents and gain insights from our archivists. Featuring material from Museums of History NSW's State Archives, Caroline Simpson Library and museum collections, this talk will uncover fascinating histories of local communities in NSW and the people who shaped them.

Learn more: <https://mhnsww.au/collections-on-tour/>

FINDING MIGRATION IN UNEXPECTED PLACES: FAMILY BOOKS IN DIVORCE CASE PAPERS

Stories of migration in the archives can be found in the most unexpected places, including our series of NRS-13495 Divorce and matrimonial cause case papers. Several of these case papers include what was known as a "family book". These books were issued to a bride and groom, and provided legal certification that a marriage had taken place. They were also used to records the births of children, and in some cases deaths of the family.

These family books can not only provide us with wonderful information about the family, but also offer an insight into the writing, typescript, and graphic design of their native countries. This is the case for the Kuilenburgs, who immigrated from the Netherlands in the early 1950s and divorced soon after their arrival. The family book enclosed in their divorce case papers is striking in its colourful geometric design.



MHNSW-StAC:
NRS-13495-22-304-
3294/1954

NATURALIZATION IN THE NSW STATE ARCHIVES COLLECTION

Naturalization is the means by which aliens (non-British subjects) gain the privileges and rights of citizenship held by British subjects or people born in New South Wales. Any person born outside the British Empire and who wished to vote or own land needed to become naturalized. The NSW State Archives Collection holds records relating to naturalization up to 1903. This includes the original applications within the correspondence of the Colonial Secretary, which often contains more information than the certificates themselves. This is the case for Michelangelo (or Michelangiolo) Monteagresti, whose New South Wales naturalization application in 1880 includes a certified copy of his previous naturalization certificate from the colony of Victoria, dated a decade prior.



NRS-905 [1/2488] 80/5126

Search the index by name, subject or description here:
<https://mhnsww.au/indexes/colonial-secretary/colonial-secretary-letters-received-1826-1896/>

EXHIBITION

Seeing Sydney, Knowing Country

Museum of Sydney

17 April – August 2025, 10am–5pm, free entry

Today, Sydney is known for its iconic harbour, scenic foreshores, bushland reserves, and ever-growing urban and suburban areas. But how were its landscapes experienced and understood in the past?

This exhibition depicts the development of the NSW colony through a selection of historical maps, plans, sketches, artworks and objects. Inscribed over this colonial perspective is an innovative artistic intervention, led by Dharawal and Yuin artist and designer Alison Page, with input from the Sydney Coastal Aboriginal Women's Group, that layers First Nations understandings of Country. Traditional owners' knowledge of Country, developed over 60,000 years, offers a way to gain a deep appreciation of the landscapes we encounter in Sydney today.

Plan your visit:

<https://mhnsww.au/whats-on/exhibitions/seeing-sydney-knowing-country/>

Subscribe online to Collection eNews

Be the first to find out about our latest news, exhibitions, events and special offers.

To stay up to date with the NSW State Archives Collection, Caroline Simpson Library Collection and Museums Collection at Museums of History NSW simply select **Collections** as one of the options you'd like to hear about.

Join our mailing list at:

<https://pages.wordfly.com/sydneylivingmuseums/pages/Subscribe/>



OUR SAG COMMUNITY

Out & About BY DANIELLE TEBB

SAG CEO Ruth Graham, Education Manager Vanessa Cassin, Library Services Manager Gemma Beswick, and Membership Officer Danielle Tebb took the opportunity to attend the 17th Australasian Conference on Genealogy and Heraldry held at Brisbane Technology Park, Eight Mile Plains, Brisbane, on Friday, Saturday and Sunday 21–23 March this year.

The conference themes, “Diaspora – Migration in all its forms”, “Looking ahead – what are the opportunities” and “Local History and its impact on our research” ensured that there were sessions of interest for everyone, both new and experienced attendees, and combining the 5th History Queensland State Conference gave the conference a uniquely Queensland flavour.

With a program of 48 sessions over the three days, in addition to keynote speakers Judy Russell, the Legal Genealogist; Dr Nick Barratt, author, broadcaster and historian; and Hamish Maxwell-Stewart, heritage and digital humanities professor at the University of New England and CEO of Digital History Tasmania, there was plenty to keep us busy. Each of us relished time to sit down and man the SAG conference table,



often shared with one of the SAG board members also in attendance, to field queries from delegates about the Society.

In addition to the Book launch of *One Free Woman – The True Story of Convict Hannah Rigby* by Toowoomba author, editor, and librarian, Jane Smith on the Friday afternoon and the Conference dinner Saturday evening, we enjoyed the chance to wander around the conference tables and catch up with industry friends and make new contacts.

All four of us agreed it was a worthwhile investment of our time and finances and thoroughly enjoyed the chance to further our individual interests, as well as catch up with colleagues both local and interstate.

The next Congress will be in Wellington, New Zealand in 2027.

Some of the SAG members attending the Congress.



Digital skills for family historians

by Andrew Redfern

As family historians, we often focus on the records we uncover—but how we manage and interact with those records matters just as much. Whether you're organising files, using apps, or exploring AI, building your digital confidence can make your research more efficient, shareable, and enjoyable.

This regular column explores tools, tips and techniques that can help you improve your digital literacy and make the most of technology in your family history journey.



Getting Organised: Why These Skills Matter

Good folder organisation isn't just about tidiness—it's about retrieval. The true purpose of organising your family history files is to help you quickly find what you're looking for when you need it. Whether it's a scanned certificate, a photo, or a death notice, knowing where to find your files saves time and frustration.

"Folder organisation is about retrieval, not storage."

Building strong foundational skills—like renaming files, creating folders, or moving documents—empowers you to structure your digital workspace in a way that supports your research and makes your work easier to navigate. Use the checklist below to track your progress and identify areas where you might grow your digital confidence.

File & Folder Skills Checklist – Can you?

1. Rename a file
2. Create a folder
3. Rename a folder
4. Move a file into a folder
5. Copy a file and rename it
6. Delete a file
7. Create a sub-folder
8. Delete a folder
9. Delete or rename any "New Folder" created by mistake

Have a question?

Each column aims to support learners of all levels—from beginner to more advanced—so implement what's relevant to your situation.

If you have a digital dilemma or a tech question related to family history, send it to admin@sag.org.au for possible inclusion in a future column.

Let's keep learning together.



In Your Pocket: The Ancestry® App

Your family history doesn't have to stay at your desk. The Ancestry® App brings your tree, records, and DNA results to your phone or tablet—making it easy to explore and update your research wherever you are.

"It's a mobile world—for your family history too."

Imagine being at a family wedding, and someone asks, "*When did Nan and Pop get married?*" With the Ancestry App, you can look it up instantly. You can even add new details on the spot—names, photos, and memories—before they're forgotten. It's also perfect for those moments when a relative suddenly mentions a name you don't recognise. A quick search might reveal a new branch to explore.

The app connects to the same tree you access on your computer, so your updates are always in sync—no duplication, no confusion. Whether you're using an iPhone or a Samsung, the app is free and available on both the App Store and Google Play.

Key features include:

- Viewing and editing your family tree
- Reviewing hints and attaching records
- Uploading photos and adding stories
- Accessing DNA results, ethnicity maps, and matches
- Messaging matches and users and being able to read messages on the go

While not every desktop feature is available in the app (such as some advanced editing tools, enhanced shared DNA matches), the core tools make it incredibly useful. It's a great way to keep your family history close at hand—ready to answer questions, spark conversations, or capture discoveries as they happen.



Custom GPTs: Tailored Tools for Genealogists

You've probably heard of ChatGPT—but did you know you can create or use customised versions of it that focus on specific tasks? These are called custom GPTs, and they allow you to access AI tools that have been tailored for particular purposes—no technical knowledge required.

Think of a custom GPT as a chatbot with a specialty. It knows the context of a task and responds in ways designed to suit that need. For family historians, this opens the door to some powerful, time-saving tools.

Here are a few custom GPTs designed especially for genealogy:

- **Obituary Analyser**
Paste in a newspaper obituary and receive a summary of key details—names, relationships, dates, and places—all neatly extracted for your records.
- **Will Analyser**
Upload or paste the text of a historical will, and the GPT identifies people mentioned, relationships, property details, and any unusual clauses that might affect interpretation.
- **Pedigree Chart Surname Extractor & Comparison**
Input screenshots from one or more family trees or charts, and this GPT helps highlight patterns, surname overlaps, and potential areas for further investigation.

These tools don't replace human analysis—but they do accelerate the groundwork, freeing you to focus on deeper research.

You can find and use these tools via the ChatGPT app (available on web and mobile). Accessing them is as simple as clicking *Explore GPTs* and selecting the one that suits your task. And don't forget to investigate the vast library of existing GPTs as you may find something that has already been developed.

LIBRARY NEWS



BY KARLIE FRELINGOS

This is a selection of books, pamphlets and other format items accessioned from February to April 2025.
The information provided is the title of the record, library classification number, format and donor's name.
All items are in our Family History Research Centre & Library at 2/379 Kent Street unless otherwise noted.
Consult the Library Catalogue at www.sag.org.au and click on the "Using our Collections" button to locate full details of the items included in this list.

AUSTRALIA

Australia's ancient Aboriginal past: A global perspective by Murray Johnson. (2020). A3/4/8 (Book) [Donated by Mark St Leon]

Living is giving: the volunteer experience by Laurie Smith. (2001). A3/65/23 (Book) [Donated by Jennie Fairs]

All will be revealed: What our ancestor's probate records are telling us by Vanessa Cassin. (2024). Thesis A6/BAT/CD.1 (Electronic Resource) [Donated by the author]

Olivia Gascoigne and the last Baronet by Helen Styles. A6/GAS/3 (Book) [Donated by the author]

People and Places Series No. 13, An extended family at Amphion Clarence Oswald Kreibig 1923–1992 by L. J. Fisher. (2025). A6/KRE/2 (Book) [Donated by Laurel & Ian Fisher]

Searching for my pimpernels: Using contemporary social context and historical perspective as complementary tools to available documentary evidence and references, to uncover the identity, character and life of three male LATTO ancestors by Rochelle Bradley. (2024). Thesis/A6/LAT/4 (Book) [Donated by the author]

Telacon and Catherine Lloyd of Wagga Wagga by Brian Walsh. (2025). A6/LLO/4 (Book) [Donated by the author]

Work of heart: Jane Preshaw nee Norgate, 1839–1926: A life of courage, determination and compassion by Cynthia L. I. McCaughan. (2024). A6/PRE/7 (Book) [Donated by the author]

Arthur Charles Franklin Reeves: b 1909 Coogee NSW Australia, lived mainly in Gympie, d 1981 Norah Head NSW Australia by Rosalind Torrent. (2024). A6/REE/10 (Book) [Donated by the author]

They came to Trunkey Creek: William and Harriet (Mills) Young's story by Catherine Tisdell. (2024). A6/YOU/7 (Book)

NSW

Walibree to Moripo: Hastings River, New South Wales 1836 to 2024 by Rob Tickle. (2024). B3/4/3 (Book)

Road's end: Building the Great North Road from Mt. Manning to the Hunter River 1824–1836 by Ian Webb and Dharug and Lower Hawkesbury Historical Society. (2000). B3/4/4 (Book) [Donated by Brian Walsh]

Pathfinders: A history of Aboriginal trackers in NSW by Michael Bennett. (2020). B3/11/8 (Book) [Donated by Mark St Leon]

People of the River: Lost worlds of early Australia by Grace Karskens. (2020). B3/11/9 (Book) [Donated by Mark St Leon].

What the colonists never knew: a history of Aboriginal Sydney by Dennis Foley, Peter Read. (2020). B3/11/10 (Book) [Donated by Mark St Leon]

Gudyarra: the first Wiradyuri war of resistance – the Bathurst war, 1822–1824 by Stephen Gapps. (2021). B3/11/11 (Book) [Donated by Mark St Leon]

Pictorial history Hornsby Shire by Mari Metzke. (c2004). B4.077/1/4 (Book) [Donated by Andrew Redfern]

Kildonan & the cafe: making a place in Muswellbrook by Robert James Smith. (2022). B4.333/10/1 (Book) [Donated by the author]

TASMANIA

Truganini: journey through the apocalypse by Cassandra Pybus. (2020). D3/11/5 (Book) [Donated by Mark St Leon]

NT

Darwin 1869: the second Northern Territory expedition by Derek Pugh. (2018). G4.800/5/1 (Book) [Donated by Mark St Leon]

QUEENSLAND

The South Sea islanders and the Queensland labour trade by William T. Wawn. (1973). H3/45/2 (Book) [Donated by Mark St Leon]

WORLD & INTERNATIONAL

Tracks in the sea: Matthew Fontaine Maury and the mapping of the oceans by Chester G. Hearn. (c2002). L3/21/26 (Book) [Donated by Mark St Leon]

BRITAIN

Politics and political culture in Britain and Ireland, 1750–1850: Essays in tribute to Peter Japp by Ulster Historical Foundation, edited by Allan Blackstock and Eoin Magennis. (2007). M3/80/3 (Book) [Donated by Mark St Leon]

IRELAND

A history of County Wexford by Nicholas Furlong. (c2003). S4.25/1/11 (Book) [Donated by Mark St Leon]

Soldier, sailor: an intimate portrait of an Irish family by Eliza Pakenham. (2007). S5/90/14 (Book) [Donated by Mark St Leon]

The making of the Irish Protestant ascendancy: the life of William Conolly, 1661–1729 by Patrick Walsh. (2010). S6/CON/1 (Book) [Donated by Mark St Leon]

The Irish Zorro: the extraordinary adventures of William Lamport (1615–1659) by Gerard Ronan. (c2004). S6/LAM/1 (Book) [Donated by Mark St Leon]

A directory to the gentlemen's seats in Ireland 1814 by Ambrose Leet; edited by Harry and Louise McDowell; with an introduction by Stephen Ferguson, Assistant Secretary, General Post Office, Dublin; illustrations compiled by Tim Smyth. (2016). S8/5/2 (Book) [Donated by Mark St Leon].

EDUCATION@SAG

BY VANESSA CASSIN

As we head into the winter months of the year here in Australia, the darker evenings and cooler weather present the perfect opportunity to evaluate our progress towards fulfilling our 2025 family history research goals.

As many of the Society's educational events are offered in the evenings, why not take advantage of the opportunity to settle down with a warm drink and learn something new that may help you break through a brick wall or chip away at one of your long-term research challenges.

Coming up in July and August we have several courses and research group meetings designed to assist you in the different stages of your research journey. A selection is outlined below, and a full list of upcoming events can be viewed at www.sag.org.au/events. Check back regularly as we add new events almost every week!

On the technology front we are excited to be launching a new five-part webinar series designed to introduce members to the WeAre.XYZ (<https://weare.xyz/>) platform. You can find out more about this series by clicking on this link www.sag.org.au/event-6176543.

In addition to this new offering, and in response to ongoing demand, SAG Board Member and well-known genealogy educator Andrew Redfern will be presenting his popular three-part Digital Skills for Family Historians program. New dates for both online and in-person versions of this course are now available on our website. In-person programs are run at Level 2/379 Kent St, Sydney. These programs are perpetually popular, and book out very quickly so don't leave it too long to register! A wait list will be available once all current spaces are booked. Please use this facility so we can contact you if a space becomes available or new dates are added.

For those of you with convict ancestry, we are delighted to welcome back Dr Damian Gleeson for a presentation about his new book *Irish Bigamy* on Saturday 28 June. Dr Gleeson's book is the first work to explore a side to relationships and marriages of Irish convicts in Australia given little attention in the past. Taking account of over 100 case studies in late 18th and early 19th century of bigamy amongst Irish and English couples in Australia, the Sydney-based historian believes the book may well change how we view both Irish and convict history. In addition to previously providing presentations for SAG members, Dr Gleeson has also contributed a number of articles to *Descent*. You can read his most recent article: "The Genealogy of Father John Joseph Therry: Some Unanswered Questions" in *Descent* Vol. 54 Part 1, March 2024, 16–17. To find out more about this event or to download an order form for the book please click on this link www.sag.org.au/event-6175294

Our amazing volunteer group leads and course presenters have been working hard this year to bring interesting and informative sessions together for our members. There have been some amazing presentations and stories shared so far. Thank you to all the volunteer group leads who bring so much

passion to their topics of interest. Thanks to the initiative of a SAG member who pitched an idea and offered their assistance to bring it to life, we are hoping to build on the wide geographic areas already covered by interest groups by launching a new South Asian Interest Group in collaboration with colleagues from the family history community. Please keep an eye out for more news around this group, particularly as we head into National Family History Month in August.

Last, but certainly not least, congratulations to the SAG members who completed their final assessment for SAG's Certificate in Genealogical Research in early June. The next intake for this popular program will be in August this year. You can find out more here: www.sag.org.au/event-5987984.

If you would like to undertake the Certificate Program but are unsure if you are ready, why not start by enrolling in the 2025 Intermediate Research Methods course, with a view to joining one of the 2026 Certificate cohorts. The final Intermediate Research Methods course for 2025, presented by professional genealogist Danielle Lautrec, commences on 15 August and you can read all about what is included here:

www.sag.org.au/event-6084048

As always, happy ancestor hunting.

I would like to acknowledge all the people and organisations who have presented at an event in April, the vast majority on a voluntary basis. Those assisting since the end of April will be acknowledged in the next issue of *Descent*. We could not bring our busy schedule of events to members without their contributions. Any omissions from this list are purely accidental.

Presenters: webinars, Book Club, Let's Talk About

Gail Bryant, Patrice Connelly, Charles Hewat, Danielle Lautrec, Jeffrey Madsen, Anna Wilkinson, Veronica Williams

Presenters & Assistants: Courses

Danielle Lautrec, Allyson Luders, Jeffrey Madsen, Andrew Redfern

Conferences

Patrice Connelly, Ruth Graham, Dr Michael Lea, Robert Nash, Yvonne Masters

Presenter: Family History Connect

Christine Hingerty

Presenters & Leads: Groups

Lee Boehm, Sibyl Cameron, Elizabeth Capelin, Linda Combe, Elizabeth Gordon, Lorraine Luks, Brian MacLachlan, Bronwyn Macleod, Deborah Martin, Vicki Murphy, Kristine Newton, Diana Pecar, Catherine Philips, Emily Purser, Andrew Redfern, Sharon Shelley, Sally Skulte, Jane Van Balen, Pauline Weeks

Thank you
✂

DNA CORNER

BY CHRISTINE WOODLANDS

DNA testing: Managing privacy and sensitivity from the start

Taking a DNA test is an exciting step into your family's past. Whether you've tested with AncestryDNA, 23andMe, MyHeritage or FamilyTreeDNA, you're using a powerful tool that can uncover your family history, break down brick walls, and connect you with unknown relatives.

As of March 2025, more than 53 million DNA kits have been processed by the four major testing companies. That number includes repeat testers and people who have uploaded their results to more than one platform — especially MyHeritage and FamilyTreeDNA, which accept transfers. By contrast, AncestryDNA and 23andMe include only those who have tested directly with them.

Once your results are in, you could match with thousands — even tens of thousands — of genetic relatives. I currently have just under 17,000 matches at AncestryDNA. Here's the catch though — we don't know in advance who's in the database, who we'll match with, why they tested or who they might share their results with. Most matches are complete strangers. That's why we all need to think carefully about privacy and sensitivity and manage it ourselves. Don't assume your matches will do it for you.

1. Your DNA results may affect other people

When you test, you're not just learning about your own past. You may also uncover information about biological relatives — parents, siblings, cousins, or grandparents — who aren't expecting to be found or who have chosen not to share certain parts of their history.

DNA can reveal:

- unknown or misattributed parentage
- previously undisclosed siblings or children
- donor conception
- past adoptions or other sensitive events.

It's important to recognise that your test may affect others in ways you didn't anticipate and they didn't choose. That's why we should be thoughtful about how we use and share information about our family that might be sensitive or deeply personal.

2. Privacy is in the tester's hands

All major testing companies offer settings that allow you to control how visible you are to others. **But those settings only work if you choose to use them.** This includes:

- choosing what profile details are visible to DNA matches
- choosing if your match is visible to your DNA matches
- controlling who can see your family tree (if any)
- opting in or out of research programs
- downloading or deleting your raw DNA data.

Even if you haven't contacted any matches, you might still be identifiable through shared matches, your display name or family trees linked to your account. Take time to review your settings and adjust them to match your comfort level.

3. Case study: Privacy in practice

Recently, I was approached to assist someone who had tested with AncestryDNA. As soon as he shared his results, I could immediately identify him as a well-known public figure — just from the name and profile photo he used when setting up his test.

When we spoke, he explained that he'd been adopted at birth and was looking for information about his birth family but didn't want contact at this stage. His adoptive parents were still living and his attached family tree listed their deceased parents.

He had many close matches, including half-siblings, half-nieces and nephews, and first cousins on both maternal and paternal sides. When he set up his test, he hadn't reviewed Ancestry's privacy settings or read their Privacy Statement.

After talking through the implications, he decided to:

- anonymise his name and profile image
- delete his family tree
- keep match visibility on.

These small changes gave him the level of privacy he wanted and control over whether and how to respond to any contact.

The takeaway? Even simple decisions during setup can have far-reaching effects. Privacy doesn't happen by default — it's something we manage ourselves.

4. Matches deserve respect and caution

Discovering a close match can feel exciting. But not everyone is ready for contact, especially if the connection is unexpected. If you decide to contact a match:

- keep your message friendly, neutral and low-pressure
- avoid assuming or stating the relationship if it could be a surprise
- be prepared for no response or a polite decline.

Being matched doesn't mean someone needs to respond. It's their choice.

5. Think twice before sharing

It's tempting to share exciting or unexpected discoveries with family members or in public trees. Before sharing a new discovery, pause and ask — could this affect someone else who is still living?

6. Be informed before encouraging others to test

If you're asking a parent, sibling or cousin to test, help them understand what might happen next. DNA testing isn't just a fun way to explore ethnicity — it can lead to emotional and unexpected discoveries. Before they test:

- explain what kinds of results might emerge
- discuss privacy settings and match visibility
- make sure they feel free to say yes or no.

7. Keep an eye on the bigger picture

Consumer DNA testing is still evolving. Companies may change ownership or business models. Privacy policies shift. The way data is used or stored may not always stay the same. Stay informed by:

- reviewing your privacy settings regularly
- reading updates to terms of service and privacy statements
- following trusted sources that monitor changes.

Conclusion:

Managing your DNA test starts with you

DNA testing is a powerful tool for discovery. It can help us connect, understand and honour our histories. But as in all family history, it raises questions about privacy and how we handle sensitive information.

The bottom line ...

- » Take the lead because your DNA is personal and powerful.
- » Think about what information you want to share with your DNA matches.
- » Don't rely on your matches to protect your privacy or sensitive information.



Photo by Frank McKenna on Unsplash

Deaths

The deaths of the following members and former members were notified to the Society between February and April 2025. We extend our sympathies to the family and friends of them all.

Ernest William Dobbin

Coomababah, Qld
2 June 2024

John Lachlan Macpherson

Bowral
10 March 2025

Harry Thomas Irwin

Epping
13 December 2024

Elizabeth Waight

Concord West
13 July 2024

Malcolm Paul Mackenzie

East Gosford
16 July 2023



Exploring Australia's Colonial Past with the Colonial Australian Research Group

by Andrew Redfern

The Colonial Australian Research Group (CARG) is one of the many active and engaging interest groups supported by the Society of Australian Genealogists, bringing together family historians who research the lives and experiences of those who arrived in Australia between 1788 and 1901.

Meeting quarterly, CARG provides a welcoming space to share discoveries, swap stories, and deepen understanding of Australia's colonial foundations. Each two-hour session includes a mix of familiar highlights and fresh insights: book reviews by Lorraine Luks, a light-hearted "Quirky Corner" from Sharon Shelley, and a themed quiz compiled by Andrew Redfern. Our discussions are expertly facilitated by Kristine Newton, with a strong emphasis on member contributions and collaborative learning.

Sessions often feature presentations from experts in the field, adding depth to our thematic focus. Past themes have included *arrivals*, *gold*, *diggers*, *robbers and getters*, and most recently, our March 2025 meeting, *Girt by Sea*, which explored Australia's maritime heritage. The upcoming June meeting will explore Colonial Buildings and Architecture, opening up new avenues for understanding how our ancestors lived, worked, and built community.

Valuable resources available through the Society's library and archives are also highlighted around the particular theme, encouraging members to make the most of SAG's collections.

In 2025, CARG meetings will be held on:

- Saturday 21 June, 3–5pm – *Colonial Buildings and Architecture*
- Saturday 20 September, 3–5pm – *Fantastic Feats*
- Saturday 15 November, 3–5pm – *Creating Community*

CARG welcomes researchers of all experience levels. If this quiz inspires you, consider joining us — you may find a new lead, a fresh perspective, or even a kindred researcher.

Colonial Australia Research Group QUIZ

Test your knowledge of Australia's colonial past. Choose the best answer from the options below.

1. What was the name of the largest alluvial gold nugget ever found?
A. Welcome Home
B. Welcome Stranger
C. Welcome Friend
D. Welcome Hand
2. Who was the Irish-Australian ballad *The Wild Colonial Boy* originally written about?
A. Jack Donohoe
B. Dan Morgan
C. Ned Kelly
D. Ben Hall
3. What was one of Bendigo's former names?
A. Sandown
B. Sandhurst
C. Sandover
D. Sandringham
4. Twofold Bay, near Eden, NSW, has always been synonymous with ...
A. Forestry
B. Shipwrecks
C. Whaling
D. Convicts
5. The First Fleet was comprised of how many ships?
A. 13
B. 12
C. 11
D. 10
6. What is special about the convict transport *Emu*?
A. There was no such ship.
B. It carried only children.
C. It sunk, killing all on board.
D. It was captured by pirates.
7. Where was the first gold rush in Australia?
A. Geelong, Victoria
B. Kalgoorlie, Western Australia
C. Gympie, Queensland
D. Ophir, NSW

8. What year was the first simultaneous census of all the Australian colonies conducted?
 - A. 1828
 - B. 1841
 - C. 1881
 - D. 1901
9. Which one of these was NOT an immigration scheme?
 - A. Assisted Immigrant Scheme
 - B. Convict Family Reunification Scheme
 - C. Bounty Immigrant Scheme
 - D. Early Grey Orphan Scheme
10. The practice of luring, tricking and kidnapping Pacific Islanders to work on plantations in Australia is known as ...
 - A. Blackbirding
 - B. Forced migration
 - C. Repayment Scheme
 - D. Deception Bay Immigration
11. Who was appointed by Governor Macquarie to construct a road across the Blue Mountains to Bathurst?
 - A. William Cox
 - B. George Bass
 - C. John Macarthur
 - D. Gregory Blaxland
12. What tall ship, originally built in 1874, has been restored to full sailing condition at a cost of \$30 million?
 - A. The *Endeavour*
 - B. *James Craig*
 - C. The *Bounty*
 - D. The *Supply*
13. Approximately how many female convicts were sent to Australia?
 - A. 20,000
 - B. 100,000
 - C. 50,000
 - D. 10,000
14. Which capital city was originally called *Tarntanya* (Red Kangaroo Place) by the Kaurna people?
 - A. Melbourne
 - B. Perth
 - C. Adelaide
 - D. Brisbane
15. In 1814, Governor Macquarie introduced 40,000 coins from where to make holey dollars?
 - A. England
 - B. France
 - C. Portugal
 - D. Spain
16. By 1901, the Chinese were the third largest migrant group in Australia after the British and Germans.
 - A. True
 - B. False
17. What term refers to a person whose passage was subsidised or paid for through one of the several assisted immigration schemes?
 - A. Assisted Immigrant
 - B. Bounty Immigrant
 - C. Ten Pound Pom
 - D. Migrant Settler
18. During the 1860s how many police officers were killed by bushrangers in NSW?
 - A. 6
 - B. 11
 - C. 15
 - D. 21
19. On 1 July 1841 which of the following was separated from the Colony of New South Wales and made a colony in its own right?
 - A. Queensland
 - B. Tasmania
 - C. New Zealand
 - D. South Australia
20. The Swan River Colony received 234 male juvenile convicts between 1842 and 1849. Once in the colony, the boys were pardoned on two conditions, one of which was ...
 - A. Didn't reoffend within 2 years
 - B. Apprenticed to local employers
 - C. Had enough money to survive
 - D. Had only committed petty crimes



Answer Key

Answers

ARCHIVES REPORT



BY BARBARA REEN

The Harrison Collection

The Harrison Collection (accession #12005) comprising 169 items in 26 archive boxes, was donated to the Society of Australian Genealogists in 2014 by the family of Betty Monica Harrison, nee Marsh, the great-granddaughter of John Augustus Milbourne Marsh (1819–1892) and his wife Grace Elizabeth Marsh, nee Pinnock (1822–1897). They are the central figures in this remarkable collection, demonstrating their commitment to preserving family history over many centuries.

Milbourne Marsh, as he was generally known, and Grace were first cousins. Their respective mothers, Frances Elizabeth Marsh, nee Grant (1798–1819) and Charlotte Anna Caroline Lee Pinnock, nee Grant (1802–1870) were sisters. The Grant and Pinnock families were plantation owners in Jamaica, and Milbourne's father, John Milbourne Marsh (1787–1826) was Postmaster-General of Jamaica.

The collection contains many original documents: indentures, wills, birth, death and marriage certificates, family trees and charts, diaries and memoirs, artwork, letters and photographs. They also include 15 bound, handwritten diaries kept by Milbourne Marsh, written between 1838 and 1890. As an acute observer of people, their activities and the environment, these diary entries give a detailed picture about Milbourne's life and the lives of his family, friends and acquaintances in both England and Australia.

The family connection to Australia dates from the early years of the colony, when Sir Francis Forbes (1784–1841) arrived in 1824 aboard the *Guildford* to take up the position of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New South Wales. His wife was another of the Grant sisters, Amelia Sophia Grant (known as Sophie) (1795–1886) and they were accompanied on their journey to Australia by their two sons, Francis William Forbes (1817–1849), aged 7, David Grant Forbes (1819–1901), aged 5 as well as Milbourne Marsh's sister, Frances Lucy Mary Anne Marsh (known as Fanny) (1817–1895), aged 7.

Milbourne Marsh arrived in Sydney on 20 August 1840 aboard the *Mary Anne*. His diary covers the ship's journey from 18 May until 8 June and he describes Captain Bolton, the first and second mate and the other three cabin passengers, but is scathing in his comments about the 270, mostly Irish, bounty immigrants on board. The diary entries document the latitude, weather conditions as well as some of the onboard activities.

Milbourne Marsh made two subsequent return trips to England. On 1 March 1847 he sailed to England on the ship *Sir George Seymour* under the command of Captain Underwood, arriving in England on Monday 14 June. Here he married his first cousin, Grace Elizabeth Pinnock, on 26 January 1848 and their only child, George Augustus Milbourne Marsh (1848–1932) was born on 2 December aboard the ship *Walmar Castle* during the voyage back to Australia. Also aboard were Grace's mother Charlotte, her brother George Pinnock (1824–1901) and her sister Charlotte Mary Anne Pinnock (1831–1873). They joined their brother Philip Pinnock, who had emigrated in 1843. In 1884, Milbourne Marsh and Grace went to England again aboard the *Ganges* and made the return trip to Sydney on the *Carthage* in October 1885.

These diaries, with their wealth of detail, along with journals and letters of other Marsh family members, have been transcribed and can be accessed online at both www.jjhc.info/home and www.michaelheathcaldwell.wordpress.com hosted by Jeremy James Heath-Caldwell and Michael Heath-Caldwell respectively.

One story that has attracted the attention of the online community is that of Elizabeth Crisp, nee Marsh, (1735–1785) describing her capture by Barbary pirates. She published her story in two volumes: *The female captive: a narrative of facts, which happened in Barbary, in the year 1756*. Written by herself, 1769: Vols 1 & 2 by Mrs Crisp. They can be accessed online at: www.archive.org/details/bim_eighteenth-century_the-female-captive-a-na_crisp-mrs_1769_1 and www.archive.org/details/bim_eighteenth-century_the-female-captive-a-na_crisp-mrs_1769_2 with a transcript of her story available at: www.jjhc.info/crispelizabeth1785manuscript.

The wealth of information available online, particularly about the Marsh family, is due to the keenness of family members to document, share and sometimes publish their stories. Memoirs by both Grace Marsh and her brother George Pinnock about their childhood in Jamaica¹ can be found at: www.thelastgreatgreathouseblog.wordpress.com/2015/05/ The Centre for the Study of the Legacies of British Slavery at University College London (UCL) also contains information about the lives of Grant and Pinnock family members in Jamaica: www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/

*Family of George
Augustus Milbourne-
Marsh (1848–1932)
Helen left of the
woman in the centre,
Grace to the right.
Harrison Collection,
Item 05/10049_11,
Manuscript &
Image Collection,
Society of Australian
Genealogists.*



The documents that can be accessed online, however, represent just a fraction of the contents of the Harrison Collection. There are over 300 handwritten letters that were exchanged between family members, their friends and business associates. The greatest number of letters were exchanged between Milbourne Marsh, Grace Marsh and their aunt Lady Mary Anne Meek, nee Grant (1786–1870). Many of the letters are fragile, and some are difficult to decipher. There are also many photographs, postcards and *carte de visite*. The earliest date recorded in the collection for the Marsh family is 1326, found in the two bound volumes entitled *History of the ancient family of Marsh* by Joseph Green 1903², which also contain information about the family that is not available elsewhere. More recent items in the collection are the World War I diary and letters of George Augustus Milbourne Marsh Jnr (known as Jack) (1877–1950) and the photographs taken in Egypt and Palestine during the same conflict by Edward Dudley Marsh (1885–1957), who were two of the five sons of George Augustus Milbourne Marsh Snr and his wife Amy Gertrude Marsh, nee North (1853–1915).

This is just a brief introduction to some of the riches that are contained in the Harrison Collection that the Society of Australian Genealogists is fortunate to have been given the privilege of preserving in the archives.

The Society of Australian Genealogists needs your help to bring the past into the present. We are working to digitise our extensive collection of archival materials, making them accessible, not only to our members, but also other genealogists and researchers, as well as the wider public. By preserving these invaluable records, we can uncover the stories of our ancestors and deepen our understanding of our heritage. However, we cannot achieve this without your generous contribution. Your donations will enable us to digitise fragile documents, photographs, and maps, ensuring their longevity and greater accessibility for future generations. Together, let's unlock the treasures of our past and preserve them for a brighter future.

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- 1 Ros Russell, "What's in a Name" *Descent* 53/3 (September 2023), 95–97.
- 2 *History of the Ancient Family of Marsh* by Joseph J. Green, Archivist and Genealogist, 1903, revised to date by Wm Ernest Marsh, of Marston, Bromley, Kent, 1912.

RETRO RESEARCH ...

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BY GEMMA BESWICK



Maritime & Migration Library Resources

Maritime activities and migration are fundamental to the study of family history, offering valuable insights into how and why families moved across regions and continents. These movements and voyages allow us as family historians to trace family lines, uncover ancestral connections, and explore the stories of resilience and identity that have shaped and anchored generations. For many families, migration across the seas represents a pivotal turning point and situates individuals in the broader historical context.

The Society's Library holds a treasure chest of resources to help uncover the maritime history of your ancestors. Whether your family arrived as convicts, settlers, or refugees, our collection of maritime and migration-related materials can illuminate their experiences.

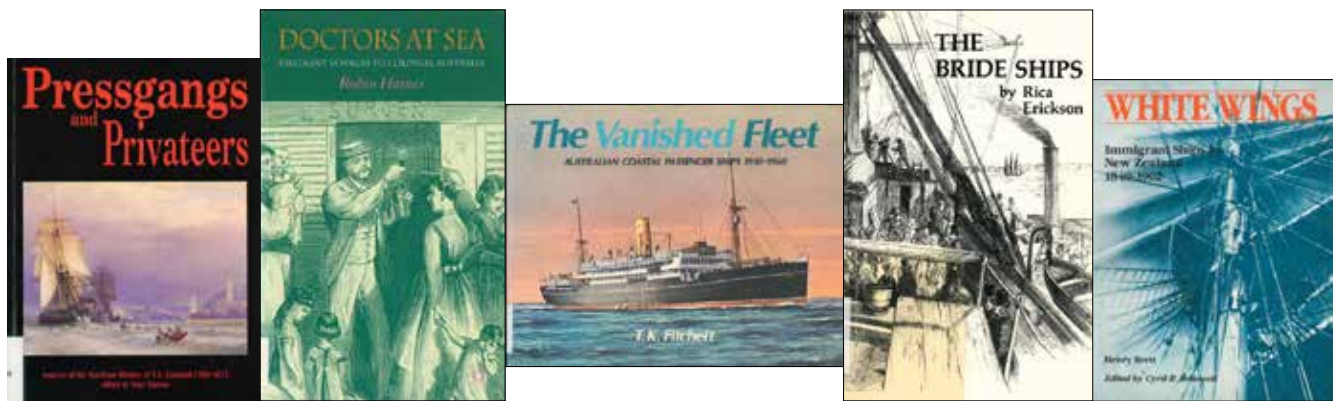
Let us assist you in navigating these rich, sometimes turbulent waters, and help you chart a course through your family's maritime story to understand what pushed your ancestors towards new shores. Ready to embark on your research adventure? The wind is in your sails!

NB. The list below is a small selection from our library collection. Search our catalogue at www.sag.org.au/Using-our-collections to "sea" what else we have.

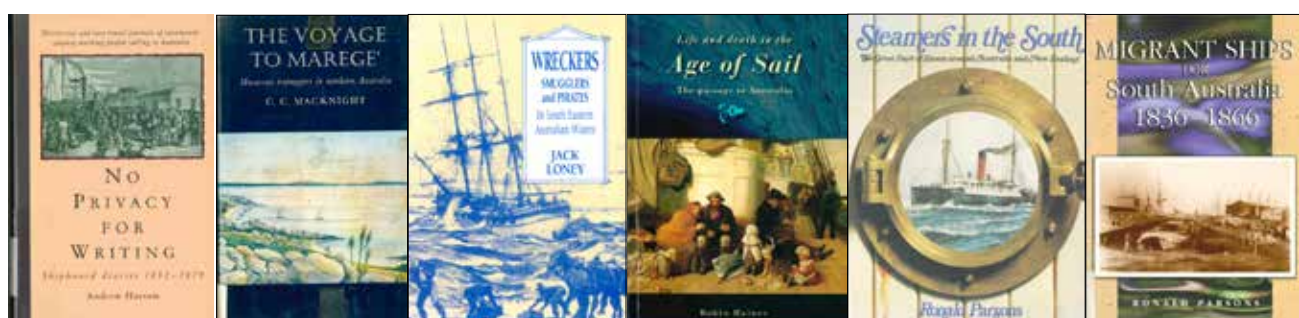


Special thanks to SAG Volunteer, Jean R for all the wonderful help compiling items for this article.

Title	Author/Publisher	Call No.	Timeframe	Region
How to find shipping and immigration records in Australia	Cora Num	A2/10/34		Australia
Trying to find a seafaring ancestor	Ronald Parsons	A2/10/Pam.6		Australia
Arrivals in Australia from 1788	Kerry Farmer	A3/9/18	1788	Australia
Sailing to Australia: Shipboard diaries of nineteenth-century British immigrants	Andrew Hassam	A3/20/78	1788–1880	Australia
No privacy for writing: Shipboard diaries, 1852–1879	Andrew Hassam	A3/20/86	1840–1900	UK / Australia
Women under sail	Basil Greenhill & Ann Giffard	A3/20/93	1815–1840	Various voyages
Angels and arrogant gods: Migration officers and migrants reminisce 1945–85	Harry Martin	A3/20/103	1945–1985	Australia
The merchant's women	Elizabeth Rushen & Perry McIntyre	A3/20/123	1833	Australia
Doctors at sea: Emigrant voyages to colonial Australia	Robin Haines	A3/20/136	1848–1885	Australia
Australian coastal shipping	Barry M. Pemberton	A3/21/10		Australia
Ships of the inland rivers	Ronald Parsons	A3/21/21	1853	NSW and Victoria
Steamers in the South: The great days of steam around Australia and New Zealand	Ronald Parsons	A3/21/34	1840s–1970s	Australia / New Zealand
Sailing ships and emigrants in Victorian times	Alison Grant	A3/21/39	1851	Australia
Life and death in the age of sail: The passage to Australia	Robin Haines	A3/21/43	1815–1840	Australia
Wreckers, smugglers and pirates in south-eastern Australian waters	Jack Loney	A3/21/57		Australia
The vanished fleet: Australian coastal passenger ships 1910–1960	T.K. Fitchett	A3/21/61	1900–1950	Australia
Australian ships: Over two centuries of our maritime heritage	Ross Gillett	A3/21/62	1788–1988	Australia
Scuttled and abandoned ships in Australian waters	Ronald Parsons & Geoff Plunkett	A3/21/Pam.26		Australia
The ship thieves	Siân Rees	A3/23/62	1815–1840	Tasmania
Certificates of competency: Masters and mates: Colonial Trade: 1872–1921: Part 1 New South Wales 1872–1921	Janet Robinson	A8/12/5(a)	1872–1921	NSW



Title	Author/Publisher	Call No.	Timeframe	Region
Shipping arrivals and departures Sydney 1841–1844. Volume III	Graeme Broxam & Ian Nicholson	B2/12/A5	1841–1844	Sydney, NSW
The wreck of the Hazard & other true sea stories of Broken Bay	Jim Macken	B3/22/4	1805–1817	NSW
The Mosquito Fleet: Hawkesbury River trade and traders 1794–1994	Jean Purtell	B4.756/1/12	1790–1815	NSW
Free passengers and crew on convict ships into Sydney: 1830–1840, parts 1 & 2	Grafton Family History Centre	NSW-SHP-IMM:21	1815–1840	NSW
Coastal passengers to Port Philip, 1841	Compiled by Ian A. Hughes	C7/50/6,7,8,9,10,12	1840–1900	Victoria
Immigration to Victoria, inward passenger lists, British Ports 1852–1879	Public Record Office Victoria	VIC-SHP-IMM:27	1852–1879	Victoria
Migrant ships for South Australia, 1836–1866	Ronald Parsons	E2/12/1	1836–1866	South Australia
Reconnoitring voyages and travels, with adventures in the new colonies of South Australia	W.H. Leigh	E3/1/15	1836–1838	South Australia
The bride ships: Experiences of emigrants arriving in Western Australia 1849–1889	Rica Erickson	F3/20/1	1840–1900	Western Australia
Lonely graves of Western Australia and burials at sea	Yvonne & Kevin Coate	F7/11/3	1800s, 1900s	Western Australia
The voyage to Marege: Macassan trepangers in northern Australia	Charles Campbell MacKnight	G3/11/5	1700–1907	Australia
Assisted immigrants arriving at Queensland ports 1848–1915: also passengers and crew 1860–1869		QLD-SHP-IMM:1	1840–1900	Queensland
White wings: immigrant ships to NZ 1840–1902	Henry Brett	K3/21/9	1840–1900	New Zealand
Tracing births, deaths and marriages at sea	Christopher T. & Michael J. Watts	M2/10/109		UK
My ancestor was in the Royal Navy	Ian Waller	M2/10/155		UK
Tracing your merchant navy ancestors	Simon Wills	M2/10/162	1700s onwards	UK
Mercantile navy list and maritime directory, 1888	Robert Jackson	M8/11/1888	1888	UK
Pressgangs and privateers: Aspects of the maritime history of N.E. England	Tony Barrow	N3/21/1	1760–1815	North of England
Cornish Masters and Mates: An index	The London Cornish Association; The National Maritime Museum Cornwall, Cornwall Family History Society	N8.7/11/CD.1	1790 onwards	Cornwall, UK



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Lorraine Turtle has conducted courses in family history for U3A and regularly visits NSW State Archives for research.

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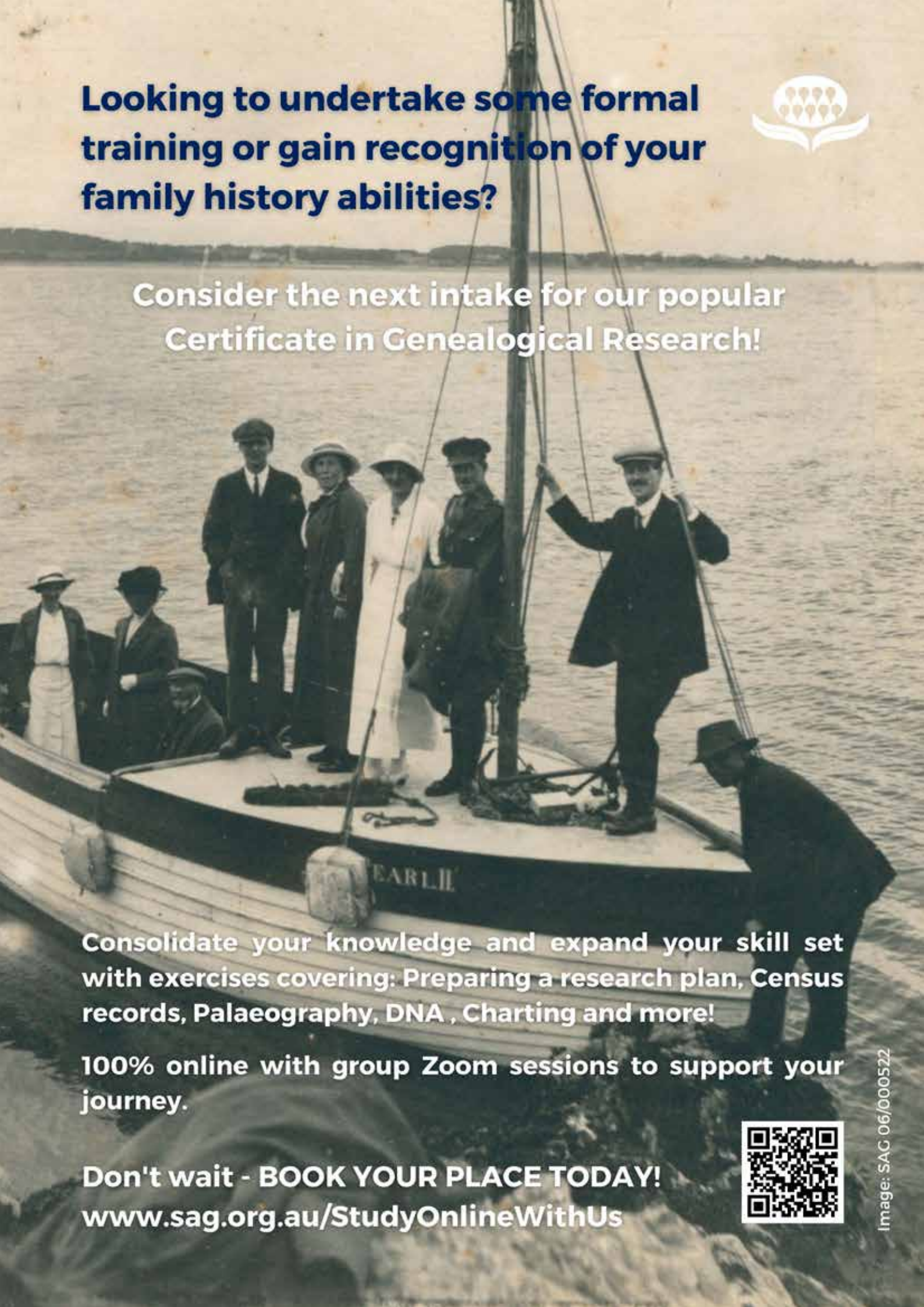
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