



THE ANCESTRAL SEARCHER



Family History ACT

Vol. 48 No. 2 June 2025

FAMILY HISTORY ACT

***Family History ACT is a business name of
The Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra Inc. founded in 1964***

Member of the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations;

NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies;

Associate Member of Scottish Federation of Family History Societies; Family History Federation.

Patron

Professor Peter Stanley F.A.H.A.

Honorary Life Members

S.G. Cameron*, W.T Crocker*, T. Davey, D.J. Davies*, A. Dziedzic, E.M. Fletcher*, J.D. Hayhurst*, R.M.A. Heggen, W.H. Marsh*, P. Mayberry, C. McGuinness, R. Middelman*, J.F. Penny, P.A. Pickering, K.S. Pinkerton, D.G. Rymer*, R.D. Stevens, G.E. Taylor, G. Tooke.

Fellows

G.A. Burkhardt, M.C.N. D'Arcy*, E.M. Fletcher*, W.N. Gunson*, R.A. Kerr*, W.H. Marsh*, B. Moore, D.R. Mountain, C.M. Num, P.A. Pemberton, J.F. Penny, P.S. Procter, P.M. Ray, N. Reddan, R.M. Rodgers,* G.R. Thom.

Honorary Fellows

Colonel Iain Swinnerton* (Retd), Heather Garnsey

** Indicates Deceased*

Honorary Office Bearers 2024-2025

President: Michele Rainger president@familyhistoryact.org.au

Vice-President: Susan Pillans vice-president@familyhistoryact.org.au

Secretary: Margaret Nichol secretary@familyhistoryact.org.au

Treasurer: Cheryl Bollard treasurer@familyhistoryact.org.au

Councillors: Floss Aitchison

Janette Lindesay

Mel McNamara newlsetters@familyhistoryact.org.au

Howard Viccars computermgr@familyhistoryact.org.au

Marie Wensig

David Wintrip facilities@familyhistoryact.org.au

Non-Committee Posts

Archivist: June Penny 0429 411 942

Bookshop Manager: Anne Beasley and Francine Morrison
bookshop@familyhistoryact.org.au

Computer Manager: Howard Viccars computermgr@familyhistoryact.org.au

Editor: Clare McGuinness editor@familyhistoryact.org.au

Education and Events: Susan Pillans and Michele Rainger
registration@familyhistoryact.org.au

Education Room Bookings: Robyn Coghlan roomhire@familyhistoryact.org.au

Membership Co-ordinator: membership@familyhistoryact.org.au

Public Officer: June Penny 0429 411 942

Research Manager: Jenny Higgins 0429 704 339

Serials Librarian: Susan Mann tims@familyhistoryact.org.au

Translation Service: Jenny Higgins translation@familyhistoryact.org.au

Webmaster: mjadministrator@familyhistoryact.org.au

Front Cover: Arthur B. Parker c.1900, Reynolds family collection

Society Library and Headquarters:

ABN: 50 317 924 321

41 Templeton Street, Cook, ACT

Telephone: 02 6251 7004

The Secretary, FHACT, PO Box 152 Jamison Centre ACT 2614

e-mail: secretary@familyhistoryact.org.au

Webpage: <http://www.familyhistoryact.org.au>

THE ANCESTRAL SEARCHER

Quarterly Journal of Family History ACT*

June 2025

ISSN 2206-5598

Vol. 48 No. 2

C O N T E N T S

Articles

Chapmans of George Street, The Rocks	Jill Armstrong	87
My Family's Connections Through Music	Sandra Barnbaum	92
Connectedness of Families	Alma Burg	98
Ann Crew b.1796	Jenny Burgess	101
We're All in This Together	Fleur Creed	104
My Road to Ballagharahin: Goodfellow and Fitzpatrick families	Diana Heins	107
A Work of Art	Gillian Kendrigan	112
The Nixon family of Bateman's Green	Robert Nixon	115
Robert Cooper: A Life in Exile, Enterprise and Enduring Legacy	Sue Pillans	119
Boer War Memorial Truro Cathedral	Nick Reddan	124

Regular Articles

From the President	Michele Rainger	84
From the Editor's Desk	Clare McGuinness	85
E. M. Fletcher Writing Competition	The Committee	86
Bradford Family History Society		103
From Our Contemporaries	Pauline Bygraves	132
Society Education and Activities		137
Services for Members		141

**Family History ACT is a business name of The Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra Inc.*

From the President

Michele Rainger

Hello to all our readers. I was most intrigued when our Journal Editor Clare McGuiness told me of her plans to have the theme of “Connectedness” for this edition of *The Ancestral Searcher* for connection is applicable to family history on so many levels.

Connection to our families, our ancestors and the broader family history community is integral to the very essence of genealogy and family history. We all do our family history research with the intention of learning more about our forebears, and through this, developing a better understanding of their lives. And that connects us to them so much more closely. I know in my own research that I have developed quite a soft spot for several of my ancestors either because of the adversities that they overcame or because they seem like fascinating, and in some cases eccentric, characters. Even though I never met any of these people, I have developed a genuine sense of connection to them through what I have learned about them and what I now know about their lives.

As we research our own families, we also develop deep and, at times, very long-standing connections to the family history community around us. We connect with groups such as our local family history societies to meet like-minded people and to learn and gain inspiration from them. Some of us even take that connection a step further by volunteering for roles where we can then help others to connect and develop their passion for family history. These connections can often grow into strong bonds of friendship that in turn can help to carry us through our own times of adversity.

Family History ACT, like many other family history groups, is also connected far beyond our local area. We are active members of a number of bodies that support family historians across Australia and internationally. These connections build expansive networks and allow us to participate in events like the very successful Congress held in Brisbane earlier this year or the NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies Conference that will be occurring at Fairy Meadow (near Wollongong) in September. These are always wonderful opportunities not just to learn more about family history but to connect with others who share our passion.

I hope that you will enjoy reading all the stories in this edition that show so many other ways in which family history leads us to connect.

From the Editor's Desk

Clare McGuinness

You are receiving both the digital and the print version of TAS a bit late this month due to my excellent holiday in Scotland, em, I meant research trip! My apologies to those so addicted to our journal that you were suffering any distress. I was very pleased to receive such a wide range of interpretations of 'connectedness'; indeed one author provided a definition. It is not immediately obvious at times how several articles fit the theme. In the case of 'Anne Crew b.1796' the connection is the author's involvement in maintaining FindAGrave entries, when communication about an entry led to finding the evidence about a query. Similarly, the article on Robert Cooper, was sparked by the author's interest in material found in our very own Father Maher Collection. It is a story that highlights colonial connectedness across the seas as well.

There are articles on the presentation of connectedness. As expected there is an old, beautiful family chart, but also a much newer embroidery displaying many family lines, an article on displaying types of relationships and one on publishing the final volume in a series of publications about each of four grandparents. There are articles on a Boer War memorial, music and migration. Congratulations to two first-time contributors.

You'll note that I have removed capitalisation from the articles, to improve readability, but not "From Our Contemporaries" where a quick skim is likely. Any comments on this decision?

There is but one more journal to prepare for 2025, given that December will feature the short listed stories from the E.M. Fletcher competition. Look out for information about the upcoming publication of stories from the 2024 competition. And this is a timely reminder that this year's competition closes on 15 July.

I offer the topic of MYSTERY as a theme to stimulate your writing. Next year will feature the themes of biography and DNA again, so please get writing.

Feel welcome to send me all articles on this, or any topic, at any time, noting that attaching files to the Contact Page of our website does not work. Email them to me directly at editor@familyhistoryact.org.au

Authors may have provided their email addresses to encourage feedback and queries. If not, I can forward your comments. Readers of the print version are reminded that they can zoom into images on the website.

Happy reading.

Every family has a story – write yours now!

2025 E.M. Fletcher Writing Competition

Competition closes 15th July 2025

The Award is named in honour of Society Fellow Eunice Fletcher

- 1500 to 2000 words on a family history theme.
- Prizes of \$1,000 for best short story, \$500 for runner up, and a bonus \$100 prize for FHACT members.
- Open to individuals over 18 years.
- Entry fee of \$20.00 for FHACT members and \$30.00 for non-members.
- No limit on the number of entries.
- Terms & Conditions and Entry Form available at familyhistoryact.org.au or by email from writingcompetition@familyhistoryact.org.au



2025 Judges

- **Dr Rachael Weaver:** Rachael is an ARC Future Fellow in the School of Humanities, University of Tasmania, and a 2024-25 Visiting Scholar at the State Library of New South Wales. Rachael has edited and authored several books, most recently *Colonial Adventure* (Miegunyah/MUP, 2024).
- **Susan O'Leary:** Following a career in research, Susan has developed her passion for family history research in retirement. She has been inspired to publish family stories through her blog: www.historysnook.com
- **Chris Oyston:** After joining the Navy at 15, Chris spent 25 years as a Naval engineer, culminating in roles researching and arguing the government case on environmental issues related to the development of ADF facilities projects. This gave Chris a taste for turning his family history research into interesting stories that captivate and entertain readers.

Contact Details

Family History ACT
41 Templeton Street, Cook, ACT
PO Box 152, Jamison Centre ACT 2614

Website: familyhistoryact.org.au

Telephone: 02 6251 7004
secretary@familyhistoryact.org.au

Writing Competition Committee
writingcompetition@familyhistoryact.org.au



FAMILY
HISTORY
ACT

Chapmans of George St, The Rocks

Jill Armstrong

My convict William Chapman was an enterprising man who showed initiative and resilience in his short 44 1/2 year life. He was industrious; coming under the umbrella of “convict royalty” according to some historians.

He was born in London in 1765 to James and Mary Chapman and baptised in the Parish of St James, Piccadilly, Middlesex, England. When 25 years old (23 years on court record) he is brought before the Old Bailey on the charge of theft, dressed smartly in long coat and clean shirt. On the 21 and 22 of January 1791 he and a mate had lied to gain access to the roof of St Dunstan’s Church, Stepney. They were given a key to the church on the pretext of repairing a leak in the roof. They removed 400 pounds weight of lead, were later recognised by local workers and found guilty. William was sentenced to transportation for 7 years.

His transport was the *Pitt*, departing Yarmouth on 17 July 1791 sailing after the Third Fleet to Sydney Cove across the seas. It was a large ship of 775 tons loaded with 408 convicts, salted pork and beef and the frame of a 40 ton boat to assemble in the fledgling colony. Also on board was Major Grose in command of a company of the NSW Corps. The voyage was troubled by illness, deaths and the lack of water as well as being becalmed for a month in the doldrums. Upon arrival on 14 February 1792, 51 souls were buried in the Clarence St Cemetery.

The next document relating to William is found in a treasured Playbill housed in the National Library of Australia and now added to the UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Register. It is the earliest surviving document printed in Australia. The Playbill was found in Canada and believed to have been taken by Philip Gidley King on his return to London in 1796. It was printed on a small wooden press by George Hughes and promoted the plays *The Tragedy of Jane Shore*, *The Wapping Landlady*, and *The Miraculous Cure*, for the evening of 30 July 1796. William performed as Gloster in *Jane Shore* and a week earlier as Charles in *The Busy Body*. The “well behaved” convicts were given permission to adapt the front room of a home and later in 1796 a short-lived public playhouse called *The Theatre* was opened. The ticket price ranged from one shilling to three shillings and sixpence. A small problem was that while

patrons were being entertained their vacant homes were being robbed.

In 1799 he established a home with common law wife Ann Marsh on High Street, The Rocks. She has three children aged 3, 2 and 1, then together they have six children. High St was an aboriginal walking track along the shoreline. It was made into a road for the first settlers and renamed George St on arrival of Governor Macquarie. A small sample of the brick surface has been preserved. William works as a plumber, glazier and painter while Ann establishes "Marsh's Passage Boat" taking persons and packages between Sydney and Parramatta – a slow trip by oar and small sail. In December 1803 Governor King grants him the lease of land, now 73 George St in the Township of Sydney. The terms are 14 years at annual rent of 10 shillings. The industrious pair used their home as a bakery, butcher shop, retail shop and were licenced to sell liquor.

Coming before a magistrate in June 1804 he gave a satisfactory explanation of how he was to offer a cask of oil for sale. The master of the sloop *George* had suspected that it had been taken from his ship when he was absent.

Newspapers were used for promotion, noting that initially the letter f was used to replace the letter s. *The Sydney Gazette* of 2 December 1804 reads "NOTICE. The inhabitants of the Town of Sydney are respectfully informed the excellent and well-constructed Mutton Pyes are ready for iffue at the fhop of William Chapman of High Street, every day at twelve precifly; fuperior excellence of which, fhall, it is hoped, maintain a decided preference. Also New-made Sausages &c confidently supplied." William was one of six men licenced to kill and vend animal food 1804-1805.

In 1805 he advertised from "near the Hofpital Wharf" for a man of good character who "underftandf the baking bufineff throughout" and who "muft make himfelf ufeul in a family".

The Sydney Gazette and NSW Advertiser of 13 April 1806 lists *Bakers approved by the Bench of Magiftrates and recommended to His Excellency to be licenfed for the Township of Sydney; all of whom were accordingly directed to provide the fecurity, for the due obfervance of the Reftrictions contained in laft week's General Orders.* William is included.

This notice from 29 June 1806 gives an insight into the currency of the day. "LOST. About three weeks fince a Promiffory Note of hand, No.371 drawn and fighned by Henry Kable for 10 pound copper coin, and made payable to William Chapman." (A twenty shillings reward is offered).

Life is a challenge when raising a family in Sydney Town. The newspaper reports that *on 23 August 1807, between the hours of 12 and 2 o'clock, a*

quantity of property was taken out of the shop window of Wm Chapman, in the High Freet. Goods included filk handkerchiefs, cotton ftockings, knives and ciffars, amounting to upwards of 30 pounds.

He advertises his work in the *NSW Advertiser* 26 February 1809. *William Chapman, Painter, Plumber and Glazier respectfully acquaints those who formally favoured him with their commands in the above branches, that he has it now in his power to enter into any engagement, for the performance of which he pledges himself, with punctuality and on the most moderate terms.*

Being on the shore-line of Sydney Harbour was an ideal place to establish licenced premises. Sailing boat crew would be keen to spend their pay and to drink on solid ground. William and later Ann traded under the name 'The Kings Head Tavern'. A replica of their 'Kings Head' was built at the tourist attraction Old Sydney Town near Gosford. The site in George St has had several uses over the years, although it remained a licenced hotel until 1909. It had major additions in 1849, in 1911 it was the Salvation Army's Naval and Military Home, and in 1927 the Circular Quay branch of the Civil Ambulance & Transport Brigade. In 1994 renovations for shop and residence saw Ken Duncan Gallery in situ and it is currently a Gelatissimo. Brass plaques in the footpath mark the site of 'State Heritage Significance'.



Map of George St, Sydney Town 1810

Sugar of lead was used by William to expediate the drying of paint and unfortunately this was consumed by Ann mistaking it for salts. Her life was saved by the gentlemen at the General Hospital and William expressed his appreciation in the *Sydney Gazette*.

Sadly, in the early hours of Saturday 16 June 1810, William died "leaving a widow and nine children to lament his loss". He was buried in the Devonshire Street cemetery. Written in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of 7 February 1901; *The oldest grave apparently in the cemetery is near the Garden-road gates, it is covered by a slab which is flush with the surface of the ground and displays the following battered inscription: 'Sacred to the memory of Mr William Chapman, plumber and glazier, who departed this life June 15, 1810, aged 45 years, and has left a disconsolate widow and 9 children'*. This cemetery was closed in 1867 for the site of the future Central Station. 30,000 remains and monuments were relocated to Bunnerong Cemetery in Matraville (now Eastern Suburbs Memorial Park). Here he is remembered on a headstone with his family, a strong currency generation who also contributed to early Sydney and NSW life.

The youngest son James Chapman born 1810, took up commercial interests like his father. He was only two months old when his father died and was placed in the Male Orphan School before being apprenticed in ship-building. He opened a butchery on Princes Street in the 1830s. When land on George Street was subdivided, he bought two lots and was able to open a shop at 87 George Street. He maintained slaughter yards at Blackwattle Bay and was a large cattle buyer at Smithfield market.

On land adjoining the shop, at number 89, he built a three-story residence of ten rooms which, when licensed, became the Marine Hotel. The residence was one of the most valuable on George Street North on its completion, according to the council assessor, with every convenience on its first entry in the rates books for Gipps Ward in 1845. James died in 1856 and the building was sold to James Kelly in 1859. With a succession of publicans changing the name it eventually became the Orient Hotel in 1885. The property occupies a prominent corner position and was added to the NSW State Heritage Register on 10 May 2002. It is owned by Property NSW, an agency of the Government of NSW.

Continuing the association the son of James, James Edward born 1836, obtained a Publican license in May 1858 for the Marine Hotel. Then in the early 2000s a 2nd cousin of mine was the licensee of the Orient Hotel. Though not a direct descendant of the original Chapmans, he is nonetheless a leaf on

the same family tree.

Over two centuries there has been a connection of occupation and location in the The Rocks area of Sydney.



The Orient Hotel 87-89 George St, Sydney

E: jill14845@gmail.com

My Family's Connection Through Music

Sandra Barnbaum

I can hear a beautiful horn solo playing on the radio. It inspires a shiver of delight to ripple through my body. My father played a tenor horn and the sound of its mellow tone stirs pleasant memories.

I have been excited to find that music has been a constant theme in the lives of both my husband's and my ancestors' lives for many generations. Although emigrating from England, Wales, Ireland and Moldova during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries – from vastly different cultures and speaking with a variety of accents – they shared the gift of music.

During the industrial revolution, manufacturers in the north of England organised brass bands in their factories to encourage their employees to occupy their leisure time positively. Upon arriving in Australia, my ancestors found that joining or creating groups to play or sing helped them to feel 'at home' in their new country.

My paternal grandfather, Egbert Boreham, was an organist and teacher of music. To supplement his income he played a theatre organ during the screening of the 'new' silent movies. He needed the skill of improvisation to match the music to the action on the screen. Danger, drama, chases, and romantic moments could all be expressed in music. Sadly, I never heard Egbert play, as he suffered from diabetes and died from an infection in 1928, before the discovery of penicillin.

Egbert's wife, my grandmother Elizabeth Williams, had migrated from Glamorgan in Wales as a child in the 1880s and took every opportunity to sing – as the Welsh do. As children we gathered around her piano for Sunday evening community singing. She belonged to church and city choirs, and I recall watching her take part in a production of Gilbert & Sullivan's 'Mikado'. It was music and the fellowship it brings that sustained her through her many years of widowhood.

My father, Stanley Boreham, joined his father playing in the City Band when he was just seven years of age, and remained a member for the rest of his life. I believe that playing in an ensemble assists a musician's progress as they listen and learn to 'tune in' to those more experienced. It is also more enjoyable than merely having a music lesson, due to the convivial camaraderie experienced by like minded music lovers.

Already a musician at eleven years of age, Stanley was offered a six year Piano Tuning and Restoring Apprenticeship. His father encouraged him to accept the



Stanley Boreham in his post WW2 band, pictured at right of front row.

offer, for in 1920 education beyond primary school was not available without cost. By the 1930s, Stanley had joined the voluntary Militia (an interwar, part-time force), and played in the 42nd Battalion Band. Married to my mother Ormeay Trott in 1938, he signed up to active service and was posted to New Guinea in 1942, just before I was born. My mother was an accomplished pianist, accompanist, and chorister before she married, but like most women at this time, gave it all away for a life of household drudgery. I remember her singing the popular war time songs like 'Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree' as she did her daily chores.

My father's years in New Guinea provided an unexpected musical experience with the arrival of internationally renowned pianist, Isador Goodman. When World War 2 broke out, Goodman, who had been teaching at the NSW Conservatorium, was determined to contribute to Australia's victory using his gift as a musician. He enlisted in the Australian Army's Education Division, then insisted on being sent to New Guinea, where he raised the spirits of thousands of Australian soldiers. My father was excited to be chosen to travel with Goodman in order to

keep his piano in playable condition while it made its way through dense jungle and 'roads' that were merely tracks. Stanley often spoke fondly of this Jewish immigrant, who had volunteered to travel to war zones to cheer the soldiers fighting in dreadful conditions.

Like many other soldiers, Stanley contracted malaria in New Guinea. He suffered significant hearing loss, but fortunately his ability to tune pianos and other instruments to perfection was not affected. For the remainder of his life he was busy preparing pianos for eisteddfods and concerts, as well as tuning brass bands for their championship contests. His leisure time was spent restoring pianolas and organs.

My brother and I were encouraged to begin piano lessons when about six years of age – something I felt was a great honour. A German Lipp piano, made in Stuttgart in 1896, was purchased for my mother when she began piano lessons – and it remains my most treasured possession.

When I was older I would accompany my father to concerts given by the visiting Queensland Symphony Orchestra. Before each concert, he made sure the concert grand piano was in peak condition for the soloists, who were often of international fame.

One of these visiting performers was my age, an Argentina-born Israeli pianist named Daniel Barenboim. We have since learned that Daniel Barenboim is part of my husband's extended family from Moldova. My husband's grandfather's passport shows his surname to be 'Barenboym'. On his arrival in Australia in 1911, officials spelt his name 'Barnbaum'. My husband (Max) family's use this spelling unchanged to this day.

Hailed as a musical prodigy at age eleven, Daniel is accepted as one of the very few true maestros of the 20th century and renowned as a pianist and great conductor. With the academic Edward Said, he founded the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra whose members are drawn from Israel, Palestine and other Middle Eastern countries – all playing in perfect harmony.

No more than twenty years after my great-grandfather, Charles Boreham, and his family arrived in Queensland from Staffordshire, my maternal great-grandparents, the Trotts, left Scarborough in Yorkshire and disembarked in Maryborough, Queensland in 1882. They settled in Gympie, two hour's travel north of Brisbane.

Although great-grandfather Thomas Trott's trade was that of a joiner, his family appeared to have been very musical. Great-aunt Alice taught singing, while great-uncle Henry conducted the Gympie Symphony Orchestra. Great-uncle

Arthur, who started out as the bugle player for Company B of the Wide Bay Regiment, later taught violin, mandolin and trumpet, when not working in the Gympie gold mines. The family were well known in the district as The Trott Family Glee Singers, who entertained at concerts and community events. These groups were very popular before the advent of radio and television.

My maternal grandfather, William Boyes Trott joined the Postmaster General's Department soon after its establishment. After a transfer to Rockhampton, he married Martha Ann Mary Sealy, whose parents had arrived from County Cork, Ireland during the 1860s.

Apart from his day job as a telegraphist, I learnt from my mother that her father had formed a 'Black and White Minstrel Band'! They gave performances at the local Palais Royale Theatre. This style of group would not be deemed acceptable in 2025! My memories of my dignified and strict grandfather were of his singing along in his rich bass tones, while listening to a recording of Peter Dawson on his wind-up gramophone. Knowing how popular the 'Black and White Minstrel Show' was when television first aired in Australia, I believe the attraction was the catchy folk tunes like "Camptown Races" and others composed by Stephen Foster.

Sixty-two years ago my surname changed from Boreham to Barnbaum when I married Max, whose grandfather and young family had made a courageous escape from Kishinev (then in the Russian Empire, now Chishnau in Moldova). In the early 1900s, Russian Cossacks had been terrorising Jewish communities. Upon their arrival in Australia, they worked tirelessly to become true 'Aussies' and obtained Citizenship as soon as they were able.

Max's father Abe had no opportunity to play a musical instrument, especially after suffering severe burns while fighting a bush fire on their Glasshouse property on the Sunshine Coast. Instead, Abe discovered a love of opera, both its grand musical style and fantastic themes.

When young, my husband Max began piano lessons, but like most young lads he preferred outdoor recreation over repetitious practice of scales.

Music can not be silenced, so from continuously whistling, he progressed to playing a harmonica. His Brahms' Hungarian Rhapsody was impressive!

Eventually, as a secondary school teacher, Max found his true vocation when he joined the high school musical production team. Over the next 25 years he taught drama and trained the singers. He enthusiastically accepted cameo roles on stage when an 'older' actor could not be found. At the peak of his career he played the Major General in Gilbert & Sullivan's 'Pirates of Penzance'. This

part required extremely fast 'patter' singing accompanied by agile, and very quick dance steps - which he thoroughly enjoyed! He had heard stories from his grandmother Laura Gilbert of her famous cousin in England.

When each of our sons turned seven, my father presented them with a cornet and took them along to Brass Band practices where they thrived. My husband Max, having driven his sons to the practice, found his fingers itching to play along, and with the help of a tutor soon found himself sitting next to a very competent 12 year old in the Junior band.

After retiring from Army Reserve and a teaching career, Max taught himself to play the piano and joined two choirs.

When I met Max in 1962 I was practising diligently for a Diploma of Music. He was patient, understanding that this was important to me. However, he was keen to announce our engagement on the day after the exam. This took place during the Annual 42nd Battalion Ball where we had just danced the Cumberland Reel!



Max Barnbaum as Major General in Pirates of Penzance

Music is meant to be shared. I have enduring friendships with a number of my piano duet partners. We are always 'in tune' with each other. For the following fifty years I played for kindergartens, conducted school choirs, accompanied soloists at eisteddfods and brass championships, and taught piano and theory of music lessons just for the joy of it!

My two sons, now past middle age, play their guitars in amateur bands. Marc also enjoys composing cinematic music using keyboards and electronic devices. Garth has crafted his own guitar using Huon pine. He has recorded albums of his own compositions, accompanied by his own tuneful vocals. His voice was discovered when he played the lead part of 'Pippin' in his school's musical performance. Both of my sons have the gift of improvising, or playing by ear, of which I am envious.

Our daughter is also a 'natural' musician, effortlessly passing piano exams and impressing adjudicators at Eisteddfods with her emotionally charged playing and singing. Naomi has a warm alto tone, delightful to listen to. She has also had experience in amateur musical productions.

Our three precious grandchildren were all chosen to play saxophones of various sizes in their school bands. Saxophones are a very versatile instrument suitable for classical or jazz playing. Ila and Adam are also proficient at playing piano or keyboard. Petra plays my Uncle Reg's violin. I have memories of his gypsy style of playing. It was very rhythmic and pleasant to the ear. I know that my grandchildren will in time pass on their enjoyment of music to their offspring.

There is another family 'connection' that is entirely unwanted. All female members from five generations have contracted various forms of inflammatory immune diseases. Rheumatoid Arthritis has not prevented my niece, formerly a violinist, from now attending ballet performances, where she can dream of moving to wonderful music. We can all still enjoy singing, if only in the shower. In spite of numbness in my fingers, I still look forward to playing my piano every day. I find it very fulfilling.

Music enhances our memories and lifts our spirits. Above all, it is not the level of virtuosity that matters. It is the expression of our feelings through music.

Music is the bond that has connected our family for at least 150 years.

Email sbarnbaum1@bigpond.com if requiring further information.

Connectedness of families

Alma Burg

Connectedness - a feeling of belonging to or having affinity with a particular person or group. (Oxford Languages Online)

That definition has an appropriate place in our family story, having been triggered by events late last century, which started a new hobby and resulted in interesting discoveries which have developed through the years, along with three family connections.

In 1988, to mark the bicentennial year, we were invited to a weekend family gathering/reunion to be held in Maitland organised by a distant relative of my husband.

We knew the family name Burg was German, but knew nothing more about his ancestry. Our curiosity was aroused as, before the event, we were sent occasional pieces of information about the family's background, probably in an effort to generate interest and we found them very interesting.

After sharing some of the details of the upcoming event with my parents, my mother suggested I ask the organiser how he had gathered the information, as she too came from a German background, her maiden name being Hoffman. Perhaps I could do the same for my side of the family? I was keen to take up that challenge.

As the weather upset lots of plans for the main day, some documents and photos couldn't be displayed, due to a change to a smaller venue. When we showed interest and asked a lot of questions, we were invited to visit the home of the organiser, Andrew Burg, a few days later.

The family had come aboard the *Parland* in 1849, as part of the second group of bounty immigrants from along the Rhine River, brought to NSW by Wilhelm Kirchner, the so-called 'German Consul' – who had connections to several prominent NSW families. Permission had been granted by Governor Fitzroy, following requests from large landowners in the colony who wanted trained vinedressers and coopers to set up the vine industry in NSW, as such skills weren't available locally.

We didn't know it at the time, but later learned that a lot of former Rhine immigrants had settled in the Hunter Valley and a number had anglicised their names. It had never occurred to us that families we had both grown up with,

were, like us, people with German ancestry.

During the visit, I asked about tracing my maternal great-grandfather, Franz Hoffman, who was believed to have arrived as a baby.

Much to my amazement, I was shown the 1849 shipping list for the *Parland* and saw the Hoffman family – Jacob, Catherina and baby Franz on that same ship as my husband's ancestors. We had a connection!

The Burg family were from Eltville-am-Rhine and the Hoffmans from Rauenthal, on the slopes of the Tannus Range, inland from Eltville.



They would have met on the ship and got to know each other during the long voyage. Perhaps some teenage girls in my husband's family might even have helped Catherina Hoffman with baby Franz.

As the families were assigned to two different areas of the Hunter Valley and given the distance between them, the Burgs to near Hinton, the Hoffmans to Glen William, it is unlikely their paths ever crossed again.

It took 119 years until our marriage in 1968 for these two families to be re-connected, this time in a permanent way.

Some years later a second connection from the same ship came to light. My husband's brother was also married to a descendant of a *Parland* family,

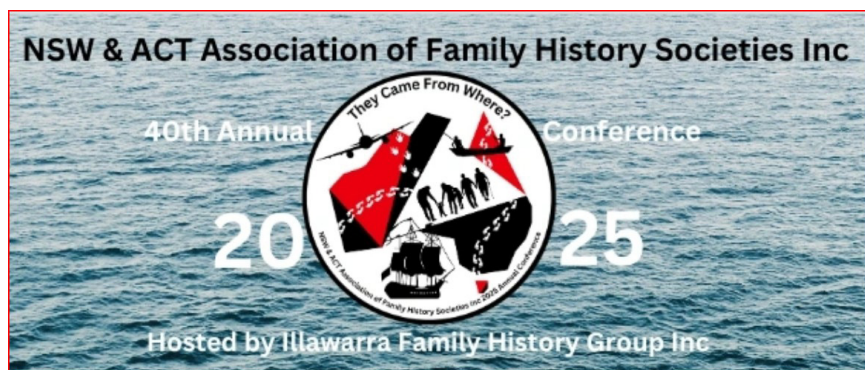
whose family name Bieck had been Anglicised.

A third connection happened when their son married a Hoffman descendant.

As we threw ourselves into research and, with the use of FHACT records, we found there were several more German ancestral families to be traced, fellow researchers to be contacted and information exchanged, as well as numerous convicts to delight in and family mysteries to solve. We enjoyed an overseas trip to meet distant relatives, and visited sites of interest to both of our families.

After my husband's death, I made a second journey to continue searching and again meet relatives.

It took a family reunion to discover our families' early connections and set us on the path of a wonderful research journey and shared love of family history, a passion I still maintain today.



This years NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies conference will be held on 12-14 September at The Fraternity Club, 11 Bourke St., Fairy Meadow in New South Wales. Attendance will be in person and by Zoom. Find more details at <https://familyhistoryconference2025.org.au/>

Ann Crew b1796

Jenny Burgess

Is Ann Crew b1796 the Ann Woodford who died 4 August 1857 in Wilberforce? When I received a suggested edit to have the FindaGrave memorial for Ann Shannon Woodford¹ attached as the mother of Sarah Rose² 1813-1813, daughter of Thomas Rose and Ann Crew, I declined the suggestion. Conversations followed about why I declined. One reason was that Ann was Crew not Shannon. This led to some serious searching with a cousin, who also had no proven death date for Ann Crew.

Information to assist in settling this confusion is available at Museums of History NSW, in the record set *Convicts Permission to Marry*.

Ann was born in Concord New South Wales on 23 March 1796³ to parents William Crew (alias Williams) arrived per *Admiral Barrington* 3rd fleet in 1791, and Mary Cassidy an Irish Convict arrived per *Kitty* in 1792. William and Mary had another daughter Mary, born in 1798⁴. William Crew died shortly before his daughter Mary was born, and Mary Cassidy married John Yeomans.

Thomas Rose (baptised 10 May 1778) arrived with his parents, Thomas Rose and Jane Topp from Dorset as free settlers per *Bellona* in 1793. Thomas Rose had married Jane Jones in Sydney on 24 May 1800⁵. Jane, aged nine, arrived with her mother, convict Elizabeth Evans on the *Lady Penrhyn* in 1788. Thomas and Jane had two children, before Thomas Rose and his brother Joshua returned to England. When Thomas returned to the colony his wife had begun another relationship.

Thomas met Ann Crew, and while they were unable to marry because Jane Jones was still alive, they had 14 children between 1813 and 1838. Sarah mentioned above, was their first child.

Hundreds of Ancestry family trees have Ann Crew marrying Isaac Woodford in 1843 at Windsor, New South Wales⁶, this despite the fact that Thomas did not die until 1869. Many trees have Isaac marrying Mary Ann Shannon at the same time he married Ann Crew. These same trees have Ann Woodford's death, on 4 Aug 1857 attributed to Ann Crew or Mary Ann Shannon.

Are these trees incorrect?

If researchers had checked the *Convicts Applications to Marry*, available at

Museums of History NSW, they would have found:

Applicant: Isaac Woodford age 31 arrived per *Lady Lyndock*, Ticket of Leave

Applicant: Mary Ann Shannon age 33 born in the Colony, Free

Permission was granted 17 July 1843.

Isaac Woodford and Mary 'Ann' Shannon married in St Matthews Church Windsor on 7 September 1843.⁷ From the application we see that Mary Ann Shannon was born circa 1810, therefore she cannot be Ann Crew whose first child Sarah Rose was born only three years later in 1813. The woman's identity mistakenly assumed to be Ann Crew seemed to be solved.

Ann Woodford died in Wilberforce on 4 Aug 1857⁸ and is buried in Wilberforce Cemetery. There was an inquest into her sudden death, which was reported in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 8 August 1857 (page 5).

There is also another Mary Ann Woodford, who died in Glebe in 1865⁹, giving rise to Ann Woodford with two different death dates in family trees. Isaac Woodford died in Queensland in 1891.¹⁰

That was the end of this story which seemed to prove Mary Ann Shannon married Isaac Woodford, but we wanted to know more about Ann Woodford.

Another TROVE search uncovered an Estate Notice for Benjamin Crew (Ann Crew's brother), which mentioned Thomas Rose and Ann Woodford and their early children.¹¹ We pondered the question, why would Thomas Rose be with Ann Woodford aka Mary Ann Shannon a year before Ann Woodford died?

A thorough search of baptisms for an extended period around 1810 gives no baptism for a Mary Ann Shannon. It was possible a baptism had not been recorded.

A death transcription was ordered for Ann Woodford. As a first surprise, Ann Woodford was aged 61 at death. Mary Ann Shannon was 47 in 1857.

A second surprise, the parents of Ann Woodford were John Yeomans (Ann Crew's step-father) and Mary Cassidy.

There is no doubt that Ann Woodford is Ann Crew and Mary Ann Shannon never existed.

I wish we could go back in time and ask Isaac and Ann why they submitted a false name and age for the bride, and the reason for this unlikely marriage

between a 31-year-old groom and a 47-year-old woman with 13 children.

References

1. Find a Grave memorial 155623909
2. Find a Grave memorial 234046239
3. NSW Birth 500/1796
4. NSW Birth 899/1800
5. NSW Marriage 475/1800 V1800475 3A
6. NSW Marriage 254/1843 V1843254 27C
7. Museums of History NRS 12212 [4/4514 p.037]; COD 15; Reel 715; Fiche 800-802
8. NSW Death 4702/1857
9. NSW Death 1650/1865
10. Queensland Death 1891/C/3106
11. *Sydney Morning Herald* 14 May 1859

Bradford (UK) Family History Society has asked to advertise their zoom meetings, which are open to members for a cost of two pounds (via Paypal). Their website is www.bradfordfhs.org.uk. Lynn Norton, a member of both societies offered to make us aware of their meetings. The following list of meeting topics indicates the sorts of areas covered.

THURSDAY - Tea/coffee and 'help' from 10 a.m. with the formal meeting from 10.30 a.m. These are Hybrid meetings (ZOOM and face to face).			
9	Jan	Ripleyville - an estate of model houses for the working classes in West Bowling, Bradford	Janet Senior
6	Feb	Commonwealth War Grave Commission Archives	Elizabeth Smith
6	Mar	Dad's reminiscences of Bradford in the 1920s and 1930s.	Malcolm Cowburn
3	Apr	Low Moor Train Depot & Bradford	Granville Dobson
1	May	Flicks in the 50s	Geoff Twentyman
5	Jun	The Fulneck Moravian Settlement	Jackie Depelle
4	Sep	One Place Studies	Janet Barrie
2	Oct	Some West Yorkshire Epidemics	John Brooke
6	Nov	Back-to-Back Houses in Bradford with a look at sanitation and clearances	Jude Rhodes
4	Dec	Any more fares please - Stories of Bradford from my father's book.	Mary Twentyman
MONDAY - Start at 7 p.m. with the formal meeting from 7.30 p.m. These are all ZOOM only meetings.			
20	Jan	Scandal! - Local cases before the bawdy courts 1516-1848	Anne Mealia
17	Feb	Heroes & Ghosts - How scandal and shame affect genealogical research	Michael Hallett
17	Mar	Domestic Sanitation with links with Bradford	Chris Herd & Linden Milner
28	Apr	AGM followed by Researching History from Newspapers	Denise Bates
19	May	A 'Shelf' of old Photos	Ben Stables
16	Jun	The Walmsleys of Robin Hoods Bay, Father and Son - Artist & Writer. With ties to Shipley and Bradford	Jane Ellis
15	Sep	Mines and the Mining Community of Greenhow Hill, North Yorkshire	Malcolm Street
20	Oct	Open Evening - Bring along your questions, queries and stories	Sue Steel
17	Nov	Patchett - A canal family from Shipley	Sue Steel
Please note the talks may vary due to unforeseen circumstances. Our website will provide up to date information on all talks.			

We're All in this Together

Fleur Creed

Since I started doing family history research, I have learnt a lot about my family. I have discovered facts about births, marriages and deaths, and where they lived, but I have also discovered some interesting details that have recurred in my family line. I have also made contact with living relatives who have had similar life experiences to my own.

In my earlier working life, I was a relationship counsellor who used genograms to portray family behaviour to help clients understand patterns they could choose to break. Symbols are used to portray alcohol or drug use, broken relationships, children born out of wedlock, violence, etc. Although we do not use these in our family tree diagrams, my own would be littered with these symbols, and they would be useful for us to interpret, at a glance, what has happened across the generations.

A pattern that has perpetuated in my family is the dispute between siblings over family wills. This has occurred as the parent has left the property to the child who lived closest, regardless of the circumstances of the other children. Some of my generation are determined to break this pattern because we have recognised it.

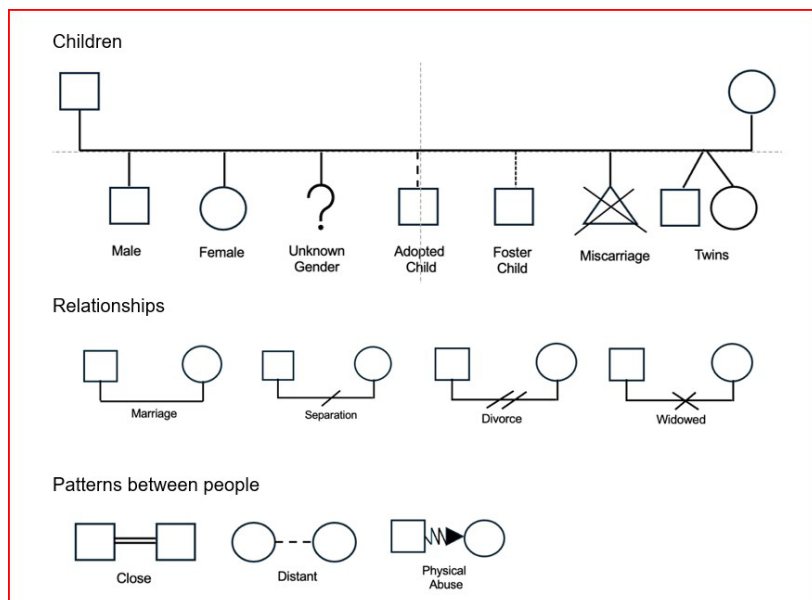
I grew up with the story that my father had left home very young, as he was the eldest child in a large family, and was expected to work to help support them. My grandfather was a hard man, and we rarely saw him before his death. Through my research, I discovered that my grandfather had also been forced to run away from home as a young teenager, as his father (my great-grandfather) had tied him in a chaff bag and threatened to drown him because he caught him smoking! Fortunately, my father chose to break that pattern!

Since having contact with first, second and third cousins as adults, I have discovered similar interests (in family history, of course), but also in faith, creative skills, and friends in common (although we live in different states and move in different circles).

In some cases, it may be similar life experiences. A female second cousin and I were both married to men who suffered sexual abuse when young. They both suffered throughout their lives due to this, culminating in suicide attempts. Both are deceased, leaving behind now adult children to struggle with the consequences.

Another second cousin and I have both had sons who experienced similar mental health challenges. We have not found an ancestral genetic link, although there are probably no historical records for this type of illness.

Although our past and that of our ancestors does not necessarily determine our future, it can be interesting to look at the relationships, behaviours and experiences of those who went before us, using the insight given in a genogram. While many symbols are used, these are some of the more common ones.



There are many other symbols, including those for other relationship and familial issues, interactional patterns, mental and physical health issues and alcohol and drug problems.

For those interested in learning more about genograms, there are programs available, such as <https://genopro.com/>, and more detailed resources regarding their value in understanding how family interactions in the past may affect us in the present. https://venngage.com/blog/genogram-example/#What_is_a_genogram <https://www.therapistaid.com/therapy-guide/genograms>

While not all information used in genograms is applicable in a family tree, some of the understandings gained from genograms of our families could perhaps help us to understand both them, and us, a little better!

The more I learn about my ancestors, the more connected I feel to them, not only because I know I have their DNA, but also because of the interests and skills I have inherited from them. As I make contact with relatives, near and far, learning about them and their lives, I realise that our family connection is strong. I used to think I had a small family, but now I know I am part of a huge family all over the world, connecting across continents and centuries, and there is never a time I don't have family to catch up with (even if some of them are brick walls in my family tree)!

Ed: The April edition of Who Do You Think You Are (UK) has a Tech Tips exploration of a program for creating genograms for family history wingeno.org. The program works on all platforms, and can get accessed at wingeno.org/WinGenoSetup.exe

This magazine is in our Library (I think), but also all public ACT libraries.

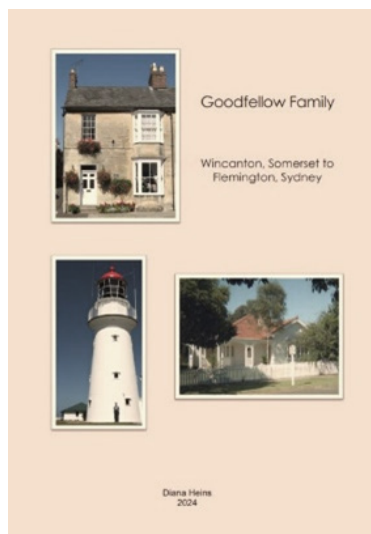
My Road to Ballagharahin: Goodfellow and Fitzpatrick families

Diana Heins

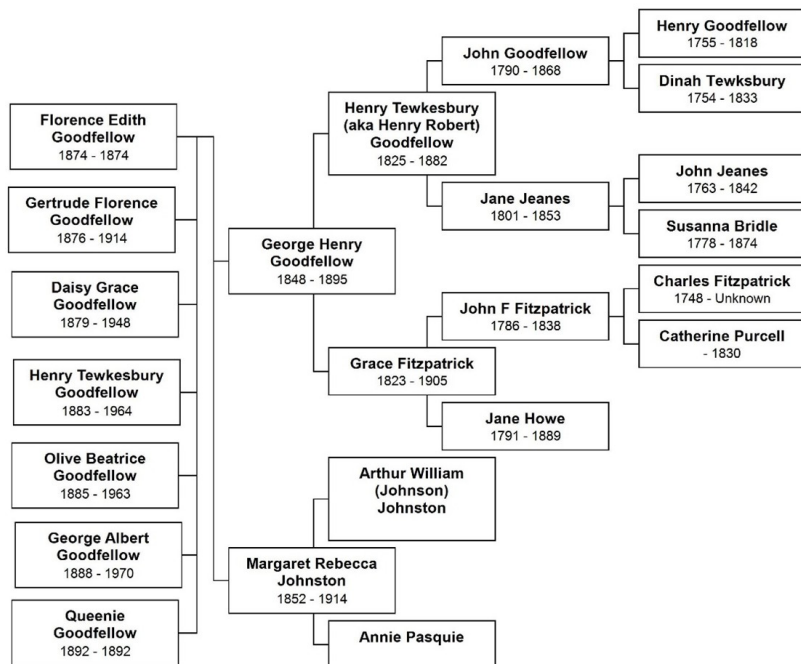
Researching my grandmother's family included meeting my Uncle Neville and reading his stories; exchanging emails with cousins; searching English and Irish records for people and property; involvement in Family History ACT Irish, Blogging and Family Tree Maker groups; travelling to family places; discovering histories of Somerset, County Laois and the Fitzpatrick Clan; communication with the Fitzpatrick List members, and improving presentation of charts, reports and maps.

In November 2024 my Goodfellow family history booklet was printed: the fourth history about my grandparents' ancestors. It has a smooth cover; the pale red is for my English family. There are photos of family places on the front cover: school house, lighthouse and timber house. My grandmother, Daisy Grace Goodfellow married Frederick Placette Murphy in Auburn, Sydney, in 1905. Fred built their timber home in Tavistock Road, Flemington, where he operated his timber mill until his death in 1946. Their sons were Vincent (my father), Neville and Harold. In the booklet, I included extracts from Neville's stories about their family life in Flemington. Daisy Grace Murphy died in 1948.

Four generations of my grandmother's Goodfellow ancestors are in the chart on the back cover. The booklet was donated to the Family HistoryACT Library in December 2024. Printed copies were posted and the electronic pdf version was emailed to cousins.



Daisy Grace Goodfellow's Ancestors



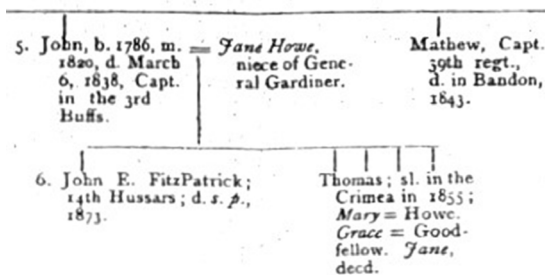
This project began in 2010 with email communication with descendants of my grandmother's sisters. Their research contributed birth, marriage and death records for the Goodfellow family in Australia and in Somerset, England. My grandmother, Daisy Grace Goodfellow, was born in Brisbane in 1879. Between 1886 and 1889, the family lived at the isolated Bustard Head lighthouse, south of Gladstone, where her father was the assistant lightkeeper. In 1934, her son, Neville rode his motorbike from Sydney to the lighthouse. The story he wrote from his diary inspired my trip to the Bustard Head lighthouse in 2010.

Daisy Grace's parents, Margaret Johnston and George Goodfellow, migrated to Brisbane in 1874. Margaret recorded her birth as "Paris, France". George was born in 1848 in Glastonbury, Somerset, England. His parents Grace Fitzpatrick and Henry Goodfellow were married in Wincanton in 1847. In 2019 the opportunity came to walk in my Goodfellow family's places in Wincanton

and Glastonbury. Photographs from these travels became illustrations in the booklet. The Goodfellow family moved to London in the 1850s, where Grace was a schoolmistress. Finding family places in Charles Booth's London Poverty Maps 1898 and Census records, informed Family Tree Maker maps showed their residences over decades.

The Goodfellow research stalled as I completed booklets for my Murphy convict ancestors in 2018 and 2020 and for other grandparents: green Tipperary Murphy booklet in 2021; orange Tyrone Edwards booklet in 2021 and blue Donegal McConnell booklet in 2023.

Meetings of the Family History ACT Blogging Group in 2023-24 combined aspirations to return to the Goodfellows and to create an online family history. See <https://somersetgoodfellowfh.blogspot.com> Each blog post contained a story about a person, a place or a research discovery. The blog pages gave structure to the family tree, with links within the posts. During 2024, the content was re-organised by family group into a Word document for the booklet, beginning with my grandmother, then each generation back to her parents, grandparents, great-grandparents and x2 great-grandparents. Each generation began with a Family Tree Maker chart for their parents and children, information about their marriage, children, home and work, then back to their parents and history of their places. The booklet concluded with sources and a seven-generation Family Tree Maker ancestor report.



An exciting revelation was my cousin's DNA contact, who sent a complex Fitzpatrick family tree, ending with 'Grace = Goodfellow'. A snippet from this chart is shown above.¹ Grace's parents, Jane Howe and John Fitzpatrick were married in London in 1820.

I joined the online Fitzpatrick List, where communications by text and images, confirmed my x3 great-grandfather's military service. I sent a poster to the

Fitzpatrick Gathering in Kilkenny in October 2024.

The family tree continued back, with John's parents, Catherine Purcell and Charles Fitzpatrick 'of Ballogh', revealing some contested family connections back to 1622 in Ballagharahin townland, County Laois. On this land is a 1600s tower house, "Ballagh Castle".

Irish family land records were in the Tithe Applotment Books, Griffith's Valuation, Registry of Deeds, Chancery Deeds and publications by the Fitzpatrick Society: <https://fitzpatrickssociety.com/>, <https://www.fitzpatrickclan.org/> and <https://fitzpatrick.one-name.net/>



Valuable background came from Feehan's Laois: an environmental history 1983, Fitzpatrick research by Prendergast 1868, Shearman 1878, Carrigan 1905 and the Irish Folklore Commission, Schools' Folklore Collection 1937-39 www.duchas.ie

Also useful was searching Goodfellow, Johnston/Johnson, Fitzpatrick and Howe names in Ancestry and FamilySearch, the British Newspaper Archive and the *Irish Catholic Parish Registers*. Somerset town maps and directories showed the location of schools and neighbours' names.

Still intriguing are the ancestors of the Ballagharahin Fitzpatricks and their connections to other Fitzpatrick families in Laois, especially Kilcoke townland, and the 1776 Survey of the manor of Ballagharahine by Bernard Scalé. Mysteries remain about whether Margaret Johnson, my grandmother's mother, was really born in Paris, France, and what were her father's origins.

Several themes emerged from these families: migration, education, working at home, military service and creative crafts. Henry Goodfellow's parents, Jane Jeanes and John Goodfellow, were married in Wincanton in 1823. Jane was a schoolmistress and ran the Berlin wool depot. Several Jeanes and Goodfellow women worked at schools.

Tangible connections with my grandmother are the two tablecloths which she embroidered. Given to me by my cousin, they created the link to our present family interests in creative crafts. Illustrations of my granddaughters' flower



painting, basket weaving, 3D Eiffel Tower jigsaw and 3D-printed house model create a connection between them and their Goodfellow ancestors.

Reference

1. Fitzpatricks of Ballogh, J.F. Shearman, The Early Kings of Ossory, 1878, after p.408, extract.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Neville Murphy, Judith (Murphy) Zappacosta, Glenda Edwards, Joanne Hope-Murray, Carol Ann Burr, Suzanne England and contributors to the Fitzpatrick List.

Source

Diana Heins, Goodfellow Family: Wincanton, Somerset to Flemington, Sydney. Isaacs, Canberra, 2024.

A Work of Art

Gilliam Kendrigan

I really enjoyed reading the various short-listed entries in the E.M. Fletcher competition. Each of the authors put a great deal of effort and thought into the composition of their family story which makes for such engaging reading. So I ask myself why, after numerous attempts, am I unable to produce a short article about some of my unusual and meticulously researched ancestors that would make an interesting and well written story for my own family, let alone for any writing competition. Perhaps it harks back to when I was nine and was required to write a composition on the topic 'your summer holidays'. Asked to read our efforts aloud I was told to 'sit down' despite being only halfway through my somewhat boring narrative about a plane making an emergency landing on the beach where my family was sitting. So rather than rewriting my stories multiple times I looked for inspiration in another form, and there it was – quietly sitting in my craft cupboard awaiting rediscovery and a brainwave.

I enjoy doing cross-stitch and have some well framed beautiful works including whales, lorikeets, and teddy bears, each one bearing the name of a grandchild on the back who has asked if they can have it when I'm 'gone'. My late mother worked a picture of her beloved London's buildings using many intricate wool-worked embroidery stitches for which there will be a bit of competition after my demise. Similarly, the minutely cross-stitched small portraits of Beethoven and Mozart worked by my mother-in-law have already had multiple requests for future ownership. Sadly none of my descendants seem to be particularly interested in their ancestral history and I can see the massive amount of knowledge and pictures I have accumulated over the years being lost or unable to be accessed with the frequent updating of data storage devices or the likely possibility of the cloud in which it resides being lost in a thunderstorm.

As well as cross-stitching, I collect small cat memorabilia from around the world and at a craft fair many years ago I purchased the Dimensions Cross Stitch 'Frederick the Literate'¹, featuring a tabby cat lying in a bookcase filled with 25 old style volumes with cat themed titles worked on a black background. My brainwave was to retitle each book with various ancestors, years, places and special occasions in my own life.

It wasn't as easy to redesign the chart as I had first thought and necessitated rearranging some books, the cat and the colours. There was limited room for

any quirky titles as I tried to squeeze in my ancestor's name, lifespan, and movements. Occasionally I unpicked a whole section when I thought of a better title or the contrasting colours didn't look right. Once finished and framed I attached to the back of the work an insect-proof, plastic pouch containing seven A4 sheets of paper illustrating my family tree and detailed information on each of the people and events featured in the books.

Among the twenty-five titles were:

Ancestral lines:

Jesson Family of London, six generations listed down the spine Nanthan'l, John, Isaac, Richard, John, Walter and my mother Mary, spanning the 17-20th Centuries.

Küsel forebears Lütje, Sam, Sam, Eddy and my father Ken in a similar style.

Multigenerational skilled occupations:

Baines, Kith and Kin, Chairmaker's, 17-19th Centuries of Rutland.

Searle men of Essex, Blacksmiths

Skelton, Ship Draughtsmen of London

Those who had travelled far from their birthplace:

Lütje, Kusel, Kampe, Ottersberg, Germany to London, 10 May 1795, Sugar Boiler, whose German Bible I inherited.

Henry & Sarah Chapman's journey from England to Kansas, USA in 1851.

Castel Felice from London to Sydney in 1958, my own migration with my mother and sister.

Significant events in my family's lives:

Maria Cane, Shadrach My Convict Brother recording the surprising discovery about my 2xgreat grandmother's brother.

Stepfather-Difficult Days, with a name and dates, a hidden battle and a long-held secret.

Eliza Gillard, Strong Woman-A Hard Life, 1849-1924. A similar but much longer battle fought by my great grandmother.

It took a few years but I finally finished my cross-stitch in 2022 with one book commemorating Covid, World In Crisis, Global Pandemic, during which the majority of the work was completed, even now an event almost forgotten by

some.

Thus, I now have another cross-stitch work combining my three hobbies which I hope might find its way down a few more generations of my family, much like needlepoint embroidery samplers created in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. My work may well eventually languish in a spare room, a garage, an old chest or even finally be discarded. In the event of the latter perhaps someone will search the internet and find one of those many ‘cousins’ online with whom I share some very unusual surnames.



The Nixon family of Bateman's Green

Robert Nixon

In August 2020 in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, I was contacted for the first time by my fourth-cousin from Wales - we have the same Nixon great-great-grandparents, Joseph Nixon (c1788-1839) and Hannah Nixon nee Millington (c1795-1864).

The ensuing email exchange turned out to be intense, interesting, entertaining and fruitful. My cousin was very generous with his information and provided numerous photographs, a chart, birth, death and marriage certificates, and other miscellanea – some of which were extremely significant.

One of the first items he sent to me was a chart entitled The Nixon Family of Bateman's Green in the Parish of Kings Norton in the County of Worcester. This was particularly exciting as I knew of this chart's existence from a book by a third cousin¹, as well as from a note written by my second-cousin.² It was one of those items that one hears about and cannot quite pin down its location, like "it is with a cousin in America", which was the supposed fate of a family bible that later popped up unexpectedly from Tasmania. It was gratifying to see this significant Nixon chart at last.

A framed landscape wall chart about 760 by 550mm, it is hand drawn with a coat of arms, photos, maps, drawings, a family tree and text. The chart sketches a family history of Stephen Millington Nixon, his wife Alice Allsop and their descendants, centred on the area from Bateman's Green to Wythall and north to Birmingham, England. Stephen is the paternal uncle of my father's paternal grandfather David Nixon.

The chart was so unique in my view that it prompted the production of a book.³ So what is so special about the chart?

The Nixon Family of Bateman's Green chart was compiled in 1958-1961, a time well before personal computers existed. In 2024 it is difficult to appreciate just how challenging family history research was in this earlier time unless you

Then and now, initially you rely on people telling you family details. You have to communicate with them either in person, on the telephone or using a mail service. In 1960 there was no email, or text messaging on a mobile phone, there were no mobile phones!

Libraries could help you find relevant documents, but the repository with the document might be hundreds of miles distant – you had to visit to view it.

Finding newspaper items meant eyeballing hundreds of physical copies at the library. These items might exist and, even if they did, you could still miss them. Occasionally there would be a (paper) index to the newspaper. No searchable databases existed.

Research was recorded with handwriting or a typewriter. Corrections used 'liquid paper'. There were no word processors. Photocopying was a very new and expensive process. Photographs meant using cameras with film and a delay before you saw the results - when the opportunity to try again may have passed. Professional replication of family photographs was expensive. Digital photography did not exist.

Scanners and printers were not to be found, there was no personal software for photo enhancement, no family tree charting software, and storage was in boxes or a filing cabinet, not on digital drives. Home computers did not exist.

Finding what information was available, where it was, getting access, searching for, copying and recording relevant data in 1960 was much more onerous than in 2021. There was no global search engine.

Family history research could just be too hard and overwhelming. A long drive to the library and a full day of tedious searching might find nothing. It was slow, laborious and uncertain.

Despite the myriad of difficulties family history research could be and was done. In 1960 family history was a slow, hard grind, but there was no option. The grind remained until the advent of personal computing, the development of the internet and software for family history use, the expansion of genealogy websites such as Ancestry, the ease of digital photography, and easy communication using email and mobile telephony. In contrast to the time when the Nixon family chart was compiled, it is now possible to find information, easily, without even leaving home, with facsimile views of original documents, rapid access to overseas repositories and a plethora of online sources.

So, in 1958-1961 when the chart was researched and created, all the technology we now use frequently did not exist. Just drawing up the chart by hand, without stuffing up, would be complex and tedious. Even for a professional the project

would not have been simple, reflected in the fact that the chart appears to have taken three years to complete.

I attempted family history research in this pre-digital age. When I view The Nixon Family of Bateman's Green chart in its historical context, with my own lived experience, I hold it in some awe. Not only is it an impressive example of what could be done, but it is a relevant example, containing an intriguing background to my family's history, perhaps reflecting the social views of the time. It is a tribute to the art and handicraft of another era.

This is not to say it is perfect, far from it. Indeed there are a number of errors and omissions. The limitations of, and errors in, the information it contains are partially a reflection of its time.

It is also not to say that family history is now a trivial or easy process. It is still necessary to actually visit an area to fully appreciate that it is flat, hilly, green, dry or remote and to converse with people to collect stories, documents, photographs and other relevant material. While the sources remain the same, not all are online, so often one still needs to visit institutions such as libraries, archives, land registries, family history groups, historical societies, cemeteries and war memorials, both in Australia and overseas. These conversations and visits can now be organised and undertaken with much more certainty about availability and access. Moreover, much can now be achieved from the comfort of home. However, one still never knows what may be found.

References

- 1 Wise, ML. Not the sons of 'Saint' Nicklaus: a Nixon family history, unpublished manuscript, 1998 with annotations in August 2002.
- 2 Earl Ewers viewed a copy of The Nixon Family of Bateman's Green chart in 1990. Earl made notes about the chart and obtained a photocopy but this was later lost.
- 3 The Nixon family of Bateman's Green in the Parish of Kings Norton in the County of Worcester, 2022 by Robert Nixon with Les Nixon. Copies are held by the State Libraries of South Australia, NSW and Victoria, the National Library of Australia, the Port Fairy Historical Society, and the family history groups of Deniliquin, Canberra, Temora and Warrnambool.

Robert Cooper: A life in Enterprise, Exile, and Enduring Legacy

Sue Pillans



In the intricate web of early Australian colonial history, few figures stand out with such colour and consequence as Robert Cooper (1776-1857). A man of enterprise and contradictions, Cooper's journey from the bustling taverns of London to the commercial heights of Sydney paints the picture of a resilient, opportunistic and, above all, profoundly human character. His life offers a rich narrative not only for genealogists tracing family connections but also for historians exploring the social fabric of colonial New South Wales.

From Publican to Prisoner: A London Origin

Born in London in 1776, Robert Cooper was the son of Robert and Eliza Cooper. In his early adulthood, he established himself as a successful businessman, running two thriving public houses: the White Swan on Ratcliffe Highway and another in Piccadilly. His business turnover – £17,000 annually – was no small

feat in early 19th-century England, demonstrating both commercial acumen and ambition.

Yet it was this very success that led to his downfall. In October 1812, Cooper was convicted of receiving stolen goods – raw silk and ostrich feathers worth £3,000. In an unusual defence, Cooper argued that the goods had been smuggled rather than stolen, even producing witnesses to testify to his prior prosecutions for smuggling. The presiding judge was unimpressed, famously remarking on the peculiarity of presenting guilt in one crime as evidence of innocence in another. Sentenced to fourteen years' transportation, Cooper embarked for New South Wales aboard the *Earl Spencer*, arriving in October 1813.

New Beginnings in New South Wales

Transportation, while a punishment, also offered Cooper a chance at reinvention. Like many convicts, he used his commercial instincts to thrive in the fledgling colony. His first enterprise was a general store in George Street, Sydney, situated directly opposite the Town Hall. His rise was rapid and broad: by 1822, he was a part-owner of the trading vessel *Campbell Macquarie*, doing business with Van Diemen's Land. He also held an auctioneer's licence and expanded into flour milling and bread baking. But his biggest financial success was Coopers Gin.

By the late 1820s, Cooper's business ventures had proliferated to include a distillery, a brewery, and investments in cedar cutting, cloth weaving, and even gunpowder production. Significantly, he became one of the major shareholders in the Bank of New South Wales, affirming his place among the colony's economic elite.

Despite his origins as a convict, Cooper's financial success allowed him to participate in society in ways typically reserved for free settlers. His reach was not limited to commerce – he ventured into politics and public life with varying degrees of success.

A Foray into Politics: Principles and Pitfalls

In 1843, Cooper entered the political arena, nominating himself for one of the two Sydney seats in the newly formed Legislative Council. His campaign rhetoric, aimed at Sydney's working classes, was refreshingly direct. "They wanted something more than high flown nonsense," he said, "they wanted something to be done to give them meat and drink and work".

He was not content to rely solely on words. Cooper built forty cottages for his tenants, thereby ensuring they met the property qualifications to vote. His unorthodox methods and his criminal past made him the target of the conservative press, and despite his populist appeal, he finished at the bottom of

the poll. Nevertheless, his campaign reflected his commitment to the social and economic welfare of ordinary citizens. He renounced further political ambitions but continued to engage with issues of public interest – most notably proposing, in response to economic distress, that the colony's courts be closed for six months to relieve financial pressure.

Cooper also appeared before the Legislative Council in 1845 during tariff discussions, humorously revealing some of the 'trade secrets' of illicit distillation – one of many occasions his name graced the courtrooms, not as a defendant, but as a businessman walking a fine line between legality and ingenuity.

Family Ties and Domestic Life

Robert Cooper's personal life was as eventful as his business and political ventures. His first marriage, to Mary Ann Cowley in 1802 at St Andrew's, Holborn, produced six children. Sadly, she died while he was awaiting transportation. In 1818, following his conditional pardon and certificate of freedom, Cooper arranged for the emigration of his children – Mary Ann, Robert, James Alexander, George Leonard, and Francis – arriving aboard the *Friendship* in January 1818 and they quickly became involved in his expanding businesses.

Soon after, Cooper married Elizabeth Kelly at St Philip's, Sydney. Their union was brief; she died in childbirth in July 1821, leaving behind one surviving son, William and a daughter Frances. Not long after, in January 1822, he married for a third time – this time to Sarah May, daughter of Lawrence May of the Hawkesbury River district. This marriage was long and fruitful, producing twelve living children: Thomas Henry, Georgina Sarah, Caroline May, Alexander Edwin, Elizabeth Louisa, Emma, Herberta Charlotte, Frederick, Sarah Julia, Laura Agnes, John, and Henrietta.



Sarah May

In all, Cooper fathered at least twenty-five children (five died in infancy). His approach to family life appeared grounded in affection and practicality. In 1838 he embarked on a lengthy tour of Europe with Sarah and nine of his youngest children, while the elder sons took care of his businesses. Many of his descendants continued to make their mark in various fields. The family's affluence and social standing enabled frequent visits back to England, and many descendants carried on Robert's entrepreneurial spirit.

Willeroo: A Legacy of Land

Among Robert Cooper's many assets, one property held special significance: Willeroo, near Lake George. Although he himself never visited this property, it played a central role in the lives of his sons – particularly James Alexander, George Leonard, and later Francis Cooper. Originally granted to Robert in 1825 by Governor Sir Thomas Brisbane, the 2,000-acre station was developed under James Alexander's stewardship and thrived under Francis and his descendants.

The property remained in the Cooper family for nearly a century, symbolising not only the prosperity the family had achieved but also their contribution to the Australian pastoral industry. It was eventually sold in 1914 following the death of Robert Crawley Cooper, passing to the Osborne family who are still involved in the area today.



Willeroo today

A Complex Character: “Robert the Large”

Cooper was affectionately nicknamed “Robert the Large” by his contemporaries – a name that captured more than his physical size. He was known as a stout, kind-hearted man, described as “lusty” and full of life. While his early life bore the mark of infamy, his later years were dominated by generosity, family devotion, and an indefatigable entrepreneurial spirit.

One of his sons, Frederick Augustus Cooper (1834-1908), epitomised the upward mobility that Robert had worked so hard to make possible. Frederick became a barrister and later served in the legislatures of both New South Wales and Queensland, a remarkable achievement for the child of a convict.

His descendants, many of whom retained strong ties to both Britain and Australia, provide fertile ground for research into migration patterns, economic mobility, and familial networks in the 19th century. The survival and prosperity of his children, particularly those from his first marriage, demonstrate the resilience of convict families and the importance of kinship in building a new life in a strange land.

Robert Cooper died in Paddington on 25 May 1857, aged 80. His widow, Sarah, outlived him by six years, passing away in 1863. Together, they left behind not just a large family, but a legacy that speaks to Australia’s complex origins – a blend of punishment and opportunity, shame and success, survival and celebration.

Written by ChatGPT on information supplied to it by Sue Pillans from many sources, including:

Old Bailey, Times (London), 31 Oct 1812, p 2, 2 Nov 1812, p 3 and 3 Nov 1812, p 2

Sydney Morning Herald, 23 Jan, 11, 25 Feb, 14 Apr, 14, 16 June, 29 Nov 1843

Sun and New South Wales Independent Press, 6 May 1843

Australian, 10 May, 14 June 1843.

Australian Royalty Website

Australian Dictionary of Biography

Boer War Memorial Truro Cathedral

Nick Reddan FFHACT

While touring last year in Cornwall I stumbled upon an interesting memorial in Truro Cathedral dedicated to Cornishmen who died in the Boer War. One of the names mentioned was of a Major G.R. Eddy of the Victorian Contingent. Given Family History ACT maintains a website of memorials to Australians who died in the Boer War, I followed up the reference.

The reference in our database is to Major George *Albert* Eddy. Thus, I started some digging.

Background to the memorial

In the British Newspaper Archive (available for free in our library) I found this published letter:

Cornishman – Thursday 23 October 1902

“CORNISH SAILORS’ AND SOLDIERS’ RECOGNITION FUND.

Sir.—Two or three weeks ago you were good enough to publish a letter from us asking for the names of any sailors or soldiers being Cornishmen who had died in the South African campaign. By Cornishmen it is meant men (1) born in Cornwall or (1) [sic] permanently resident in the county before the declaration of war; or (3) serving in the D.C.L.I. [Duke of Cornwall Light Infantry]

In answer to our appeal we have received as yet the names of six men, though fortunately Colonel Foster had from time to time noted a few men, but of some of these we have not all details required. These numbers do not include men coming under No. 3 heading. The particulars required are rank, Christian and surname, name of ship, regiment, or corps, date and place of death, and parish to which deceased belonged.

We hope that before the end of the month we shall receive the large number of names which we believe should be included, as it will be very

much to be regretted if any names are omitted.

The names already received are:

Major-General Sir W. Penn-Symons, Saltash

R.A.- Major G. H. Moor, St. Clements C.

C. Regiment.- Major G. R. Eddy, St. Just.

R.H.A.- Lieut. J. B. Grylls, St. Neot; Bombadier J. J. Cowling, St. Ives.

R.E. - Sapper R. H. Michael, Falmouth; Sapper R. Burrow, Lanlivery.

2nd Devon Regiment.- Corporal Macdonald, Penzance.

R.A.M.C.- Private Joseph Southey, Redruth; Private C. Southey, Redruth.

Rhodesian Horse.- Lieut. C. Grenfell, C.Parish.

Thorneycroft's Mounted Infantry - Sergeant E. C. Little, Hoyle: Trooper Crichton Fawens; Trooper Hunt, Camborne.

Town Guard Kimberly - Trooper J. Glenyas, Constantine; Trooper A. J. May, Camborne.

Imperial Yeomanry - Trooper G. R. Doble, Camborne; Trooper C. Tarbutt, Camborne; Trooper R. Painter, Leo; J. White, Lostwithiel; 25th Company, Private J. White, Lanlivery.

Ambulance Bearer Co. - Private Thomas Clifton, Camborne.

Armoured Train - Sergt. John Gill, Liskeard.

Brabant's Horse - Trooper A. L. Sata, Redruth.

Kitchener's Horse - Trooper Martin Stephens, Helston.

Railway Pioneer Regiment - Trooper R.White, Madron.

Marshall's Horse - Trooper Frederick Charles Dover, Falmouth.

George J. Smith, chairman of committee.

Lewis C. Foster, hon treasurer.

Gilbert H, Chilcott, hon. secretary.

Truro, October 18th"

The appeal for names was supported by an appeal raising money for the monument. Less than three years later the memorial was opened.

The Cornish Telegraph – Thursday 09 February 1905

The Monument to Cornishmen who died in the late South African War is to be un-veiled by the Lord-Lieutenant in Truro Cathedral on 7th March, at 2.30.All persons entitled to the Medal for that war; also the Parents,

Widows, or Children of the deceased men will have tickets admitting them to the ceremony sent to them if they give notice of their desire, not later than 14th February. Part of the Cathedral will be reserved for the public without tickets.

Gilbert H Chilcott,

Hon. Sec.

15 St Mary Street, Truro, 1st February 1905.

The memorial

The memorial is tucked away to the right of the main entrance to the cathedral. It is impressive being over two metres high and over three wide. Its lettering is either raised on a gold background or gold.

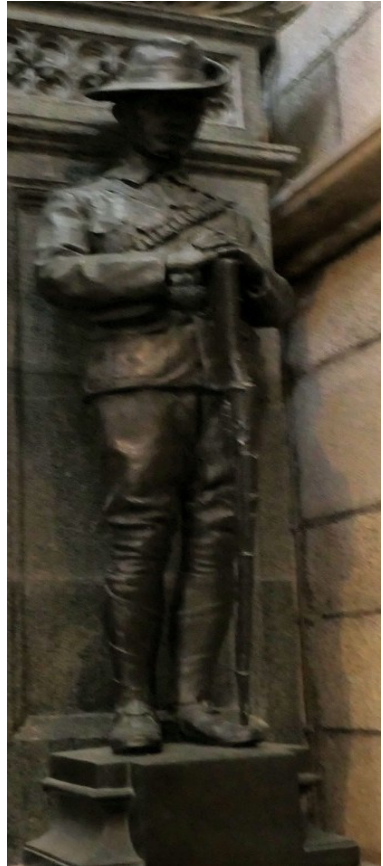


In the centre of the panel is a shield of Cornwall with the following words beneath:

Sacred to the memory of the officers and men of the county regiment and all

Cornishmen who died for their country in South Africa 1899–1902.

There are statues supporting each side of the memorial. The officer on the left holds a sword and looks calmly at the observer. The soldier on the right holds a rifle pointed to the ground.



The main interest for me was the mention of a Victorian Forces officer in the

colonial forces part of the memorial.

The Colonial Forces part of the memorial

Colonial and Local Forces	
Victorian Contingent Maj G R EDDY¹ – St Just New Zealand Contingent Scout T S HICHENS – Madron Brabants Horse Tr A L SARA – Redruth Imperial Light Horse Tr W L CHAMPION – Penzance Kitchener's Horse Pte M STEVENS – Sithney Pte W EDE – Penzance Loch's Horse Sgt-Maj M P WEVILL Launceston Marshall's Horse Tr F C DOWER – Falmouth Rhodesian Horse Lieut C GRENFELL Redruth Robert's Horse Lieut P CROWLE Lannep S A Light Horse O M Sgt J J TRECONING Scoprier Tr B S C JULYAN – St Austell Tr B LEAN – Redruth Kimberley Light Horse Pte J BOLITHO – St Just Thorneycroft's Horse Capt H MANN – St Issey Staff Sgt J C HILL – Landevednack Sgt E C LITKIE – Hayle Pte C FAWCUS – Budock Pte F J HUNT – Redruth Cape Mounted Police Pte H A BARTLETT – Curv	Diamond Field Horse Pte J REYNOLDS – St Just Pte J H HOCKING Railway Pioneers Pte R White – Madron Pte T B VARKER – Truro Pte M MAGOR – Truro Rhodesian Volunteers Sgt J GILL – Liskeard Rand Rifles Pte W T JENKIN – Cunnislake Pte J THOMAS – Illogan Namaqualand Town Guard Pte S RICHARDS – Camborne Police Volunteer Force Pte W LAWRENCE – Redruth Kimberly Town Guard Pte J CLUYAS Constantine Pte A J MAY Owennap Johannesburg Mounted Rifles Pte C CARDELL St Eph St John's Ambulance Pte T HARRIS – St Pinnock Ambulance Bearer Brigade Pte T CLIFTON – Camborne Kaffrarian Rifles Tr J R POWNING – Illogan Imperial Light Infantry Pte W DADDOW – Illogan A S C Pte G E HASKING – Pool

All the additional names appearing on the memorial are now included in the Boer War sub-site on the Society's webpage. These include members of the Regular Forces, Militia Yeomanry and Volunteers, and the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry.

Major Eddy

As indicated above this Major Eddy was George Albert Eddy. His death was reported in Victorian papers accessible from Trove, including the *Gippsland Times* on 22 February 1900:

I. CO. RANGERS.

Head Quarters, Victorian Rangers,
Langwarrin, 20th February, 1900.

Regimental Order, No. 16/00. – The officer commanding announces with the deepest regret the death of Major G. A. Eddy, 2nd in command Victorian Rangers, killed in action at Rensberg, South Africa. on 12/2/00. A thorough soldier and a tried and trusted comrade, his loss will be deplored throughout the regiment.

A. E. OTTER, Colonel

Commanding Vic. Rangers.



Above is a portrait of Major George Albert Eddy.²

Another report of his death and aftermath was in the *Kyneton Observer* on 8

March 1900:

Major Eddy

The body of Major G A Eddy, second in command of the Australian Regiment, was recovered after the disastrous fight at Malder's Farm, near Rensberg, and buried on the field, an army chaplain reading the funeral service.

His obituary in "In memory of the gallant officers and men of Victoria who died in defence of our Empire in the Transvaal War, 1899–1900", states that he was born at Castlemaine on 11 May 1860.

It also states that his military career started at Ballarat in July 1885 when he joined the Third Battalion of Militia as a lieutenant. He was promoted to Captain in 1887. He was made a permanent officer on the staff of the Victorian Rangers in 1890. He was further promoted to Major in 1897 and was second in command to Colonel Otter. He spent some time in England in 1898–1899 attached to the Devonshire Regiment.

Confusingly his birth does not seem to have been registered in the Victorian civil registration system although several of his siblings were. He married Cecilia Wilson on 7 June 1893 near Sale, in Gippsland. On the marriage certificate he gives his birthplace as Strathloddon, Victoria and his parents as Henry Edmonds Eddy, deceased and Mary Rogers. The marriage was performed by Walter John Eddy a relative of the groom. Cecilia died on 28 October 1938.³

The children of this marriage were:

Jack Rylot Eddy born in 1894. He was a Captain in the Australian Field Artillery and killed in action on 4 October 1917 in the Great War and buried at Reninghelst New Military Cemetery, Belgium (IV. C. 4).

Mary Isabel Flowers Eddy born in 1895. She died in 1949.

Allen George Eddy born in 1895.

Keith Edmond Eddy born in 1897.

Mary Rogers and Henry [Edmonds] Eddy married at Camborne Parish Church, Cornwall on 9 June 1853 by licence. Both were aged 31 years. Their fathers were recorded respectively as John Rogers, builder and Peter Eddy, deceased miner. Henry's given occupation was gentleman.

The children of this marriage were:

Harry Gatenby Eddy whose death was registered in 1865 with his age given as 11 years.

Edith Rogers Eddy who was mentioned in her brother, George's will. She married Thomas Downie in 1908 and died in 1939.

Walter Lawrence Eddy born on 25 August 1855 at St Kilda. On his birth

certificate his parents' birthplaces as Cornwall. It also noted there was one living child of the marriage. He married Sarah Kate Mapson in 1887 and died in 1925.

George Albert Eddy.

Louisa Rosalie Eddy born on 6 January 1862 at German Gully, Fryer Creek. Usefully, this certificate gives Henry's birthplace as St Just, Cornwall and Mary's as Camborne, Cornwall. It also noted there was four living children of the marriage. She married Thomas Foristal in 1911 and died in 1937.

Mary Isabel Flowers Eddy born at Clunes in 1866.

Henry Edmonds Eddy does not seem to be recorded in the 1851 census in Cornwall. There is a Henry E Eddy who appears as an immigrant to South Australia in 1848. One could speculate he made good money in South Australia and returned to Cornwall with some resources. Regardless, he was a miner in the Castlemaine and Fryers Creek area of Victoria in the 1860s.

Henry Edmonds Eddy died in 1884. The index indicates his parents were Peter Eddy and Mary Edmonds. Mary Rogers died in 1890. The index indicates her parents were John Rogers and Margaret Thomas.

Conclusion

Having the names on the memorial provided by public submission might introduce some errors.

While George Albert Eddy was born in Victoria he must have had strong links to Cornwall, in particular to St Just his father's birthplace. The memorial was dedicated to "men of the county regiment and all Cornishmen". Thus, even though he was an Australian, he was, nevertheless, considered a Cornishman.

Gathering names by public submission increases the likelihood of some errors. If you see something interesting take some photos and analyse these later.

References

1. He died at Rensburg 12 February 1900. His name was actually George Albert EDDY, in Australian records and other sources.
2. G A Osboldstone Major George Albert Eddy. Digital portrait from "In Memory of the Gallant Officers and Men of Victoria in Transvaal War, 1899-1900". Image used under licence (Attribution Non Commercial Share Alike 3.0 Unported Creative Commons) from Federation University Australia Historical Collection.
3. *The Argus* 29 October 1938 – The death occurred yesterday in a private hospital at Armadale of Mrs. Cecilia Eddy of Arthur street, South Yarra. Mrs. Eddy was the daughter of the late Major J. R. Wilson, of Sale, and the widow of Major G. A. Eddy, who was killed in the South African War...

From Our Contemporaries

Pauline Bygraves

The items selected for this column are taken from some of the many overseas journals received by the Society – they usually mention Australia in some form or may be of general interest to Australian researchers. If you have an interest in a particular country or location, there will often be other relevant material – recently received journals are on display at the front of the Library.

E-journals are accessible on the computers in the main room. Open the FCER icon on the desktop and click on the link to “Electronic Journals” under “Electronic Resources”. If you have any comments or suggestions, please email editor@familyhistoryact.org.au.

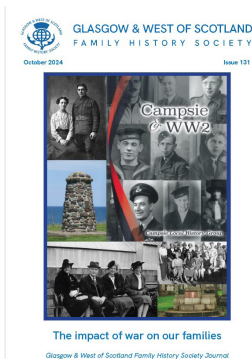
AUSTRALASIA

* William ABEL was 15 when he was convicted of larceny at the Warwick Assizes and transported on the Pitt in 1791. He was sent to Norfolk Island, before being relocated to Van Diemen's Land (VDL). He and Mary Ann MOREY had 12 children. Between 1817 and 1825 William did well as a farmer with government contracts to supply meat. In 1825 he also held a liquor licence for the King's Head Inn. He died in 1850, aged 74. Other families linked by marriage are HIBBINS and EDDINGTON from Norfolk Island. The Midland Ancestor (Birmingham and Midland SGH) Mar 2025 v20 n9 p538 (electronic journal).

* Ishbel BLAIR is looking for information about Susan BROWN and her brother James who are believed to have migrated to NSW, and possibly lived at Newcastle, prior to 1886. Their parents were Robert BROWN and Susan CROOKSTON, both born in Ireland. Their sibling Robert married Isabella WATSON at Glasgow in 1883 and they arrived in NSW as assisted immigrants in Jul 1886. Glasgow & West of Scotland FHS Oct 2024 n131 p41 (electronic journal).

* Dr Thomas RAE, born in 1835, was a young Scottish doctor who arrived at Colac, Victoria in 1859.

He married the widow of the previous surgeon, Mrs Agnes NANKIVELL (nee PETER) in 1861. The couple had eight children, in addition to a daughter from Agnes's first marriage. He served his community diligently but, by 1874, he was deeply in debt and seemed unable to control his



affairs or his growing intemperance. He died in 1879, aged 44. Agnes lived until 1914. Dumfries and Galloway FHS Mar 2025 n111 p18 (electronic journal).

ENGLAND

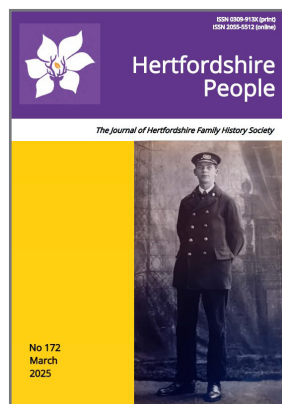
* Benjamin BOOTHBY (1775-1840) acquired the Rutland Iron Foundry sometime after 1823. His elder son Benjamin (1803-1868) joined his father in the business, before bankruptcy was declared in 1837. Benjamin junior subsequently studied law and moved to Australia. In 1853 he was appointed Second Judge in the Supreme Court of South Australia. His grandson Guy Newell BOOTHBY was a prolific novelist, born in Australia but who moved to England in the 1890s. Nottingham FHS Apr 2025 v18 n2 p8 (electronic journal).

* Margaret CATCHPOLE, the illegitimate daughter of Elizabeth, was born about 1762 in Suffolk. She was put into domestic service at a young age and in 1794 went to work for John COBBOLD and his wife Eliza. In 1797 Margaret was convicted of stealing a horse and sentenced to death, which was commuted to seven years transportation. She arrived in NSW in 1802 on board the *Nile*. She wrote a series of letters to Eliza, the last one in 1811. She did not marry, died in 1819 and is buried at Richmond. Suffolk Roots Mar 2025 v50 n4 p269 (electronic journal). See also Norfolk Ancestor Jun 2017 p56 (NN09/60/01).

* David CLAUGHTON (Australia) is seeking assistance in relation to his CLAUGHTON family in England. His ancestor Henry CLAUGHTON, a soldier with the 80th Regiment of Foot, arrived at Sydney on the convict ship *Prince George* in 1837. Henry married Emma FORTUNE in 1836 and they had six children before Emma died. Henry then married Honora WARD, with whom he had seven children. Suffolk Roots Mar 2025 v50 n4 p327 (electronic journal).

* Dr Robert HODGE: a talk "Crime and Punishment in Rural Shropshire 1768-1898" identifies various types of crimes and the sentences imposed, including transportation. Shropshire FHS Mar 2025 v46 n1 p17 (electronic journal).

* Edward (Teddy) William JACKS is shown in a photo of the Ashfield School's boys football team 1919-20. He was born in 1906 at Bushney, son of Edward John JACKS and Mary Ann (nee BRICKLEY). He married Florence Kate ETESON in 1930. In 1958 he, his wife and two sons travelled on the SS *Orontes* to Sydney. Teddy died in 1987 in Queensland. Hertfordshire People Mar 2025 n172 p13 (electronic journal).



* Edward MORLEY, aged 23 and his brother John, aged 20, sons of Edward MORLEY (1792-1867), were tried and convicted at Nottingham Assizes in 1854. Edward was married with three children. They were sentenced to 15

years transportation, arriving at Fremantle on the *William Hammond* in 1856. In 1875 Edward married a widow, Ellen HOLDMAN, at Canning. He died at Perth, aged 69, in 1900. Nothing further is known about John. Nottingham FHS Apr 2025 v18 n2 p17 (electronic journal).

* William MORLEY (1814-1883), his wife Mary (nee MASON) and family migrated to New Zealand in 1864. There are many descendants in both New Zealand and Australia. Nottingham FHS Apr 2025 v18 n2 p28 (electronic journal).

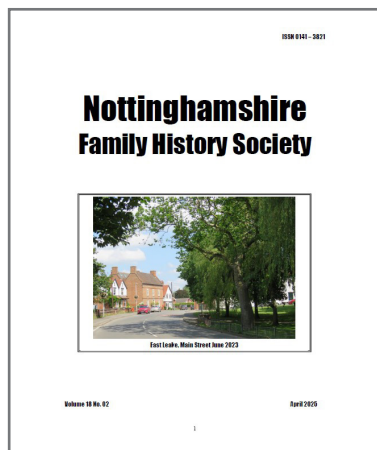
* Francis MOSS established Mossmont Nurseries in 1853 in the goldmining area of Bunninyong, Victoria. He saw the need

to provide fresh vegetables to miners, but also started growing fruit trees for farmers in the district. The MOSS family has strong connections to Kimpton in Hertfordshire. Hertfordshire People Mar 2025 n172 p25 (electronic journal). See also issue for Jun 2022 n161 p18.

* Fanny PHILLIPS, a labourer, aged ten, was charged with stealing the property of John JONES at the Parish of Dawley in 1850. She was convicted and transported to VDL on the *Anna Maria* in 1852. Shropshire FHS Mar 2025 v46 n1 p11 (electronic journal).

* John PORTER, a coalminer, married Hannah HALL. In 1855 John, along with another 16 men working at Sherburn Hill Pit, took up an employment offer in Australia. John went alone, leaving his wife and family behind. Hannah was a dressmaker and during John's absence she and the children helped out at Hill House Farm at Shadforth. He returned to England in 1864 and was killed in an accident at Ludworth Pit in 1874. Cleveland FHS Jan 2025 v16 n1 p37 (NYo9/60/14).

* James SHELTON, an Australian gold digger, returned to England in 1865 a wealthy man. He settled at Prince's Risborough. He took to drink, marrying the mistress of a public house in 1880 while under the influence. He changed his will which benefited his siblings to one favouring his wife, before changing it again, resulting in the will being contested and decided in the probate division



of the High Court of Justice, reported in Evening News (Sydney), 30 May 1883. Origins (Buckinghamshire FHS) Spring 2025 v49 n1 p46 (electronic journal).

* William Henry WILKS (1816-1862), his second wife Caroline Wilson STANTON (nee DEARE) and six children arrived in Tasmania in 1855 as assisted immigrants. A family story claimed there was a mysterious abduction of one of the children on the wharf as the family departed from Bristol, but it is more likely that Caroline's daughter, Euphemia STANTON, as an only grandchild, stayed behind with family. New Zealand Genealogist Mar 2025 v56 n404 p6 (electronic journal).

GUERNSEY

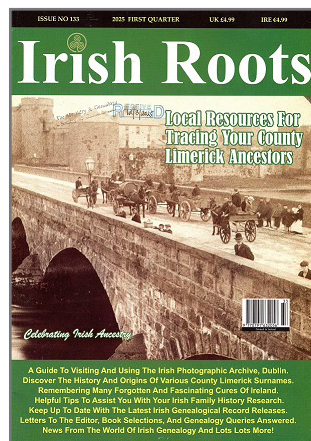
* James Jory MARTEL (1909-1992) and his sisters Ruth (1912-2002) and Margaret (1913-2018), the children of James MARTEL and Ellen JORY, were born at Guernsey. Their father was born in Port Melbourne in 1882, while their mother was born in Paris. A photograph of the children c1918 has been offered to anyone who has them in their tree. La Société Guernesiasse FHS Summer 2024 v38 n1 p24 (electronic journal).

IRELAND

* Jennifer HARRISON: "Australian Irish Connections: Biographical Dictionaries" focusing on Queensland. Irish Roots 2025 1st Qtr n133 p26 (R9/60/04).

* Dr Mary HATFIELD: "Visiting The National Photographic Archive". Irish Roots 2025 1st Qtr n133 p6 (R9/60/04).

* James G RYAN: "Local Resources for Family History Research: County Limerick". Irish Roots 2025 1st Qtr n133 p10 (R9/60/04).



SCOTLAND

* James George BURNETT was born at Fremantle, Western Australia. His ancestry can be traced back to James BURNETT who married in 1797 in Tyrie Parish, Aberdeenshire. Y-DNA testing has found this family can be traced back to an area within 20 miles of Fraserburgh, Scotland and descendants are found in five areas of the world. Aberdeen & North-East Scotland FHS Feb 2025 n173 p24 (electronic journal).

* Fiona MOORE: "Walking in the Footsteps of Helmrich and Skene Ancestors". Visiting from Australia, Fiona went to places in Aberdeenshire and Kincardineshire where her DUTHIE and HELMRICH ancestors lived. Charles



HELLMRICH (sic) married Elspet SIMMERS at Cluny in 1804. The couple had six children. Charles, a forester, died in 1817, aged 39. Aberdeen & North-East Scotland FHS Feb 2025 n173 p39 (electronic journal).

* Robin PRICE: "Australia and New Zealand Group Report" mentions Donald Mutch AIRD, who was born in 1862 and migrated to Australia in 1883. He was the illegitimate son of Donald AIRD and Isabella MUTCH. Aberdeen & North-East Scotland FHS Feb 2025 n173 p12 (electronic journal).

* Christine WOODCOCK: "For the Salvation of Destitute and Neglected Children" outlines the work undertaken by some philanthropic individuals and societies to

provide for the needs of the poor, including sending children abroad for a better life to countries such as Canada and Australia. Glasgow & West of Scotland FHS Mar 2025 n132 p16 (electronic journal).

Society Education and Activities

Meetings are held via Zoom, face-to-face in the Education Room, or “hybrid” via both methods. Refer to the website www.familyhistoryact.org.au for additional information or to register for the meetings. Contact the convenor if you have any questions.

Education Sessions – Registration is required for all paid Courses or Events. Information is on the website www.familyhistoryact.org.au or in the newsletters. Contact events@familyhistoryact.org.au for any questions about education events.

Calendar for regular Groups

AI for Genealogy SIG

7.30pm third Monday of even-numbered months

Australia SIG

2pm fourth Sunday of odd-numbered months

Coffee and Chat

10am third Friday of each month

Convict SIG

7.30pm second Wednesday of even-numbered months

DNA SIG

1pm first Saturday of February, second Saturday of March, May, July, September, November

English and Welsh SIG

7.30pm third Thursday of odd-numbered months

Family Tree Maker SUG

10am second Thursday of each month except January

Heraldry SIG

8pm third Thursday of even-numbered months except December

India SIG

10am first Saturday of even-numbered months

Irish SIG

9.30am second Saturday of February, March, May, July, September and November

Legacy SUG

10am third Thursday of each month except December

Morning Coffee and Chat

10am third Friday of each month

Pauline's Parlour

10am last Tuesday of each month except December
11am third Sunday of each month except December

Practical Procedures

10am fourth Monday of each month except December

Reunion & Mac Support SUG

9.30am first Friday of each month, except January and December

Scottish SIG

7.30pm first Thursday of each even-numbered month

TMG Down Under SUG

2pm second Saturday of even-numbered months except December

Writers SIG

10am third Saturday of each month February to November (dates around Easter may change)

JULY 2025

- 1 7:00 pm **Monthly Meeting:** *Prof. Jeremy Austin tells the story of the unknown sailor from HMAS Sydney*
- 4 9:30 am **Reunion & Mac Support:** convenor Danny O'Neill, ram.sug@familyhistory.org.au
- 10 10:00 am **Family Tree Maker SUG:** *TBA*; ftm.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 12 9:30 am **Irish SIG:** *Women Revolutionaries and Kilmainham Gaol*; convenors Nick Reddan and Peter Mayberry, irish.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 12 1:00 pm **DNA SIG:** *Members queries*; convenors Cathy Day and Clare McGuinness, dna.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 17 10:00 am **Legacy SUG:** convenor Julie Hesse, legacy.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 17 7:30 pm **English and Welsh SIG:** *More occupations*; convenors Floss Aitchison and Nina Johnson, english.welsh.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 18 10:00 am **Coffee and Chat:** coffee.chat@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 19 10:00 am **Writers SIG:** *Bringing historical stories to life - writing narrative non-fiction*; convenor Jo Callaghan, writers.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 20 11:00 am **Pauline's Parlour:** Round table support; convenor Pauline Ramage, parlour@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 27 2:00 pm **Australia SIG:** *Free Settlers to Australia, How, When and Why*; convenor Pauline Ramage, australia.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 28 10am **Practical Procedures:** *Learn to use our Library and other resources*; Jeanette Hahn
- 29 11:00 am **Pauline's Parlour:** Round table support; convenor Pauline Ramage, parlour@familyhistoryact.org.au

AUGUST 2025

- 1 9:30 am **Reunion & Mac Support:** convenor Danny O'Neill, ram.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 2 10:00 am **India SIG:** *TBA*; convenor Prof. Peter Stanley, india.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 5 7:00 pm **Monthly Meeting:** *TBA*
- 7 7:30 pm **Scottish SIG:** *TBA*; convenors Mae Mulheran and Clare McGuinness, scottish.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 13 7:30pm **Convict SIG:** *They Sent Me North: Female Convicts in the Hunter*; convenor Michelle Rainger, convict.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au

- 13 7:30 pm **TMG Down Under:** *Bruce Fairhall: Installing, organising and backing up TMG, including co-existence with OneDrive*; FHACT coordinator Lindsay Graham, tmg.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 14 10:00 am **Family Tree Maker SUG:** *TBA*; ftm.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 15 11:00 am **Coffee and Chat:** coffee.chat@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 16 10:00 am **Writers SIG:** *Lost on the Limestone Plains - stories of female pioneers*; convenor Jo Callaghan, writers.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 17 11:00 am **Pauline's Parlour:** Round table support; convenor Pauline Ramage, parlour@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 18 7:30pm **AI for Genealogy SIG:** *Crafting Family Stories Part 2: Transforming research notes into narratives*; convenor Cheryl Bollard, ai.genealogy.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 21 10:00 am **Legacy SUG:** convenor Julie Hesse, legacy.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 21 8:00 pm **Heraldry SIG:** *TBA*; convenor Chris Lindesay, heraldry.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 25 10am **Practical Procedures:** *Learn to use our Library and other resources*; Jeanette Hahn
- 26 11:00 am **Pauline's Parlour:** Round table support; convenor Pauline Ramage, parlour@familyhistoryact.org.au

SEPTEMBER 2025

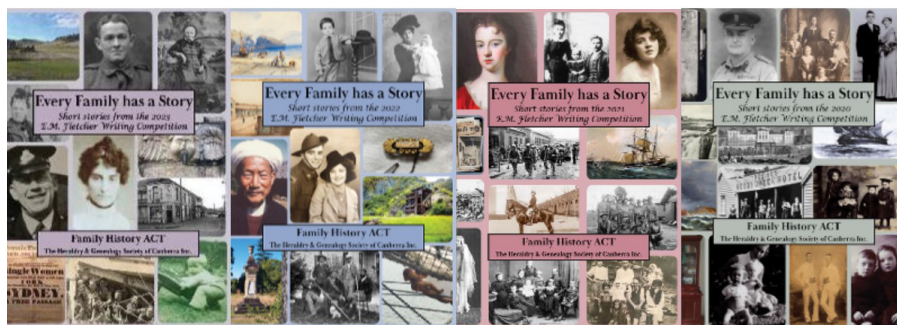
- 2 7:00 pm **Monthly Meeting:** *TBA*
- 5 9:30 am **Reunion & Mac Support:** convenor Danny O'Neill, ram.sug@familyhistory.org.au
- 11 10:00 am **Family Tree Maker SUG:** *Questions And Answers*; ftm.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 13 9:30 am **Irish SIG:** *TBA*; convenors Nick Reddan and Peter Mayberry, irish.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 13 1:00 pm **DNA SIG:** *TBA*; convenors Cathy Day and Clare McGuinness, dna.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 18 10:00 am **Legacy SUG:** convenor Julie Hesse, legacy.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 18 7:30 pm **English and Welsh SIG:** *More County Secrets*; convenors Floss Aitchison and Nina Johnson, english.welsh.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 19 10:00 am **Coffee and Chat:** coffee.chat@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 20 10:00 am **Writers SIG:** *Writing compelling history and biography*; convenor Jo Callaghan, writers.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au

- 21 11:00 am **Pauline's Parlour:** Round table support; convenor Pauline Ramage, parlour@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 28 2:00 pm **Australia SIG:** *Education in Early Australia 1788-1900*; convenor Pauline Ramage, australia.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 29 10:00 am **Practical Procedures:** *Learn to use our Library and other resources*; Jeanette Hahn
- 30 11:00 am **Pauline's Parlour:** Round table support; convenor Pauline Ramage, parlour@familyhistoryact.org.au

The Perfect Gift

If you've ever considered writing your family story, the Every Family has a Story series could be the perfect source of inspiration and motivation. These books showcase a collection of works from entrants to the E.M. Fletcher Short Story Writing Competition, highlighting the many ways family history research can be transformed into compelling stories. Each volume reveals the breadth and diversity of family history storytelling, making this series a valuable resource for both aspiring and experienced writers.

Order your copies through the Family History ACT online bookshop at www.familyhistoryact.org.au/online-store



Services for Members

Photocopies

A4 25c

Microform Prints

A4 45c

GRO Certificate and PDF Service

Members \$24 certificate, \$16 PDF

Non-members \$27 certificate \$17 PDF

Translation Service

Translations available for the following languages:

English handwriting c. 1600, Estonian, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Icelandic, Italian, Latin, Norwegian, Polish, Welsh, Yiddish.

Prices: A \$10 fee for assessment of the material is non-refundable. Prices vary according to language and are charged per 100 words or part thereof.

Further details in Library or from the secretary@familyhistoryact.org.au

LDS Film Viewing

The FHACT library is registered as a Library Affiliate with the LDS FamilySearch Organisation. This enables members using the FHACT library access to the approximately 25% of digital records held by LDS that have restricted access imposed by copyright holders.

Discounts

Financial members receive a 10% discount when purchasing FHACT publications. Further details in Library

Research Advice

The service providing free research to members, for those facing a "brick wall" in their research, is currently suspended.

Research Service

Contact Jenny Higgins 0429 704 339.

Readers' queries

Members may submit queries for inclusion in *The Ancestral Searcher* free of charge. Please no more than 200 words per query. Non-members \$27.50.

Contact: editor@familyhistoryact.org.au
(all prices include GST)

Notice to Contributors

The copy deadline for contributions to *The Ancestral Searcher* is the 2nd Monday of the month prior to publication. The journal is published quarterly in March, June, September and December.

The Editor welcomes articles, letters, news and items of interest on any subject pertaining to family and local history.

Please send text files in either MS Word or plain text. Articles should be no more than 2000 words, with one or two quality images. Please limit footnotes to 3-4 per 500 words.

Digital images should be high resolution and tiff or jpeg images.

The Editor reserves the right to edit all articles and include or omit images as appropriate.

Authors can assist by; format dates '1 July 1899'; spell out months; omit ordinals on numbers (no st/nd/rd/th); italicise ship names; all quotes "double quotes". Please send submissions and questions to: editor@familyhistoryact.org.au.

LIBRARY

Unit 7, 41 Templeton Street, Cook – 02 6251 7004

Opening hours:	Tuesday	11.00	am	–	2.00	pm
	Wednesday	10.00	am	–	3.30	pm
	Thursday	11.00	am	–	2.00	pm
	Saturday	2.00	pm	–	5.00	pm
	Sunday	2.00	pm	–	5.00	pm

The Library is CLOSED on all Public Holidays

SOCIETY MEETINGS

Reader's Access Ticket for non-members: \$10 for one day, \$20 one week, \$30 one month. Monthly general meetings are held beginning at 7.00pm in the FHACT Education Room, Templeton Street, Cook, ACT on the first Tuesday of each month, except January. The Annual General Meeting is held on the first Tuesday of November. Notices of special meetings, and social gatherings are advertised in this journal as appropriate.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Membership begins from the date the member joins and will expire either one or two years later at the end of the month in which the member joined. New members, or members who have lapsed for more than 12 months, are required to pay a joining fee. Joint membership is available for additional members at the same address. A concession membership is available to Australian residents please check with our Membership Co-ordinator. Amounts are shown for one year.

Individual	\$ 84.00*	Joining Fee	\$ 20.00
Joint	\$ 128.00*	Journal Only – Australia	\$ 35.00
Individual – Concession	\$ 79.00*	Journal Only – Overseas	\$ 45.00*
Joint – Concession	\$ 118.00*	* GST free other prices include GST	

Membership forms are available on the website, at the FHACT Library or can be posted on request.

The Ancestral Searcher is the official journal of the Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra Inc. The journal is published quarterly and available without charge to financial members of the Society and affiliated bodies. Kindred Societies can receive the journal on an exchange basis. Back copies are available for current year and previous two years at \$5.00 each. Earlier issues are \$3.00 each or \$5.00 for a yearly bundle of 4 issues (excluding postage).

Reproduction without permission is not permitted. The views expressed in the items in the journal are those of the authors' and not necessarily those of the Society, and the Society cannot vouch for the authenticity of advertisements appearing in the journal.

ADVERTISING AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Copy for advertising and contributions is required by the first day of the month preceding the month of publication. Advertising in the journal:

Full page for four consecutive issues \$330; half page for four consecutive issues \$175;

Full page for one issue \$110; half page for one issue \$60.

Advertising in non-consecutive issues is charged at the single issue rate. 10% discount is available to advertisers who are members of the Society.

Advertising flyers can be included with the journal posting. These are to be supplied by the advertiser folded to A5 or smaller in size, cost for A5 20c, A4 30c and A3 or larger 50c per insert. Readers' Queries up to 60 words: members, no charge; non-members \$35.00.

Payment is required at the time of submission.

All prices include GST

© 2025 The Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra Inc.

Surnames in this issue:

This index includes most names in *From Our Contemporaries*

Abel	133	Edwards	92	Moore	136
Aird	137	Eteson	134	Morey	133
Allsopp	115	Evans	101	Morley	134-135
Barnbaum/Barenbolm	92,94	Fitzpatrick	108-110	Moss	135
Bieck	100	Foristal	132	Nankivell	133
Blair	133	Fortune	134	Nixon	115
Boothby	134	Goodfellow	107-110	Phillips	135
Boreham	92	Hall	135	Porter	135
Burg	98-99	Harrison	136	Purcell	109
Burnett	136	Hatfield	136	Rogers	131-132
Cassidy	101-102	Helmrich	136	Rose	101
Catchpole	134	Hibbins	133	Sealy	95
Chapman	87,91	Hoffman	98-99	Shannon	101-102
Claughton	134	Howe	109	Stanton	136
Cobbold	134	Jeans	110	Topp	101
Cooper	119-122	Johnston/Johnson	108	Trott	93-95
Cowley	121	Jones	101,135	Ward	134
Crew	101-102	Jory	136	Watson	133
Crookston	133	Kelly	121	Wilks	136
Downie	131	Mapson	132	Williams	92,101
Duthie	136	Marsh	88	Wilson	131
Eddington	133	May	121	Woodcock	137
Eddy	125,130-132	McConnell	109	Woodford	101-102
Edmonds	132	Millingham	115	Yeomans	101-102



*The objectives of the Society are:
To promote and encourage the study and preservation
of family history, genealogy, heraldry and allied
subjects, and to assist members and others
in research in these areas.*