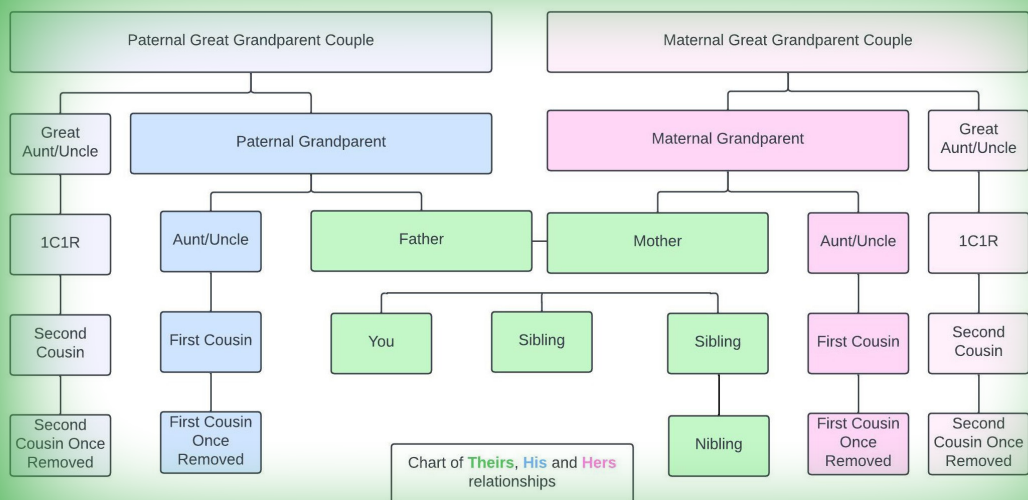




THE ANCESTRAL SEARCHER



Family History ACT

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FAMILY HISTORY ACT

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The Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra Inc. founded in 1964***

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Front Cover: Chart indicating the concept of His, Hers and Theirs in DNA Analysis

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

From the President

Michele Rainger

I am often asked, Why join a Family History Society? What do I get for my money?

Family History ACT (FHACTION) has an extensive library within our Family History Hub in the north Canberra suburb of Cook that offers a large and diverse collection of specialised books and resources, many of which cannot be found online, and some of which cannot be found anywhere else. We have resources for both beginners and experienced researchers alike. Members also have access to subscription databases such as Ancestry, FindMyPast and the British Newspaper Archive, as well as Affiliate Library access to FamilySearch.

While the internet has transformed genealogy, it has not replaced the value of specialised collections. Our Father Brian Maher Collection is a unique body of research compiled over more than five decades that brings together detailed family histories of Irish Catholic settlers in southern New South Wales and the ACT. It includes hundreds of files containing photographs, letters, parish records, and other primary sources, offering valuable insight into early communities and making otherwise scattered information accessible in one place.

Our Special Interest Groups play a vital role in helping members to expand their learning and research skills on topics such as Australian, Irish, Scottish, India, English and Welsh ancestry, Convicts, DNA research, Writing, and our latest group, AI for Genealogy. FHACTION's Software User Groups are designed to help members get the most out of popular family history programs such as Family Tree Maker, Legacy and Reunion. These groups are a practical way for members with similar interests to exchange ideas, discuss challenges, share discoveries and learn from others.

Perhaps the most underestimated resource in family history research is the community itself. Where else can we find knowledgeable people happy to talk about family history and never get bored. FHACTION actively encourages members to connect, whether through formal meetings (in person or on Zoom), education sessions, informal gatherings such as "coffee and chat" and Drop-In sessions.

From the Editor's Desk

Clare McGuinness

This edition of our Journal is themed around DNA. In 2024 there were many articles offered for inclusion. Today, a lot fewer. Our SIG attendance is down as well. I wonder why there might be a drop off in interest in DNA, surely one of the most exciting of developments in Family History this century.

Grahame Thom offers this reflection on his experience, perhaps as a conversation starter: "As you are aware I have provided a DNA article a couple of years ago; it is really the only DNA situation in my tree and my wife has no interest in DNA results. This is probably because I see no real benefit in chasing a high number of matches I get that are in the 4th cousin range, many of which don't have detailed trees online. And in the handful of matches I have contacted none have responded." He raises issues I think are commonly voiced, but I will argue that he is misguided to limit DNA to the circumstances he mentions.

In the early days of DNA, quite a high number of members rightly joined SIG meetings both to learn about the science, the concepts and perhaps how to tackle their own specific query. Many of that early interest has been satisfied: high quality education is available in books, blogs, seminars and online tutorials; many research queries have been answered; paradoxically the high number of advanced new tools remains bewildering to many and is perhaps now a clear disincentive to keep involved. As well, some people having failed to solve their mysteries have lost faith in the arena. The truth of uncovering errors or secrets in your family history may be a reason to fear DNA, and perhaps privacy concerns are another disincentive.

My sense of what people are missing out on at this time is a broader understanding of what DNA really can provide, in contrast to dreams of exciting, rapid and comprehensive answers to individual queries. DNA is a biological record of your family history that can never be wrong. Think on that for a moment. It stands alongside documents, oral history, memorabilia and familial connection both in its own right and in combination with those other sources, as articles in this edition demonstrate.

DNA verifies your family history by finding known cousins in your match list and interpreting correctly how much DNA they share with you. But for the many people we know have done DNA, even within our membership, they have restricted themselves to a cursory examination, a focus on ethnicity or pipedreams of uncovering very distant ancestors without doing the foundational work of investigating matches much closer to them. DNA can provide so much more.

Another truth is that utilising DNA takes time, methodical practice and repetition. Yet the concepts are straightforward and the tools specific and flexible. You have to use them, and sadly you have to use them correctly to have success. But I don't understand how a family historian could fail to be fascinated by uncovering their family from a completely new angle. You don't need every match to have a tree when working within clusters, and I must remind Grahame that DNA did answer his own mystery, after a match or two replied, and you can read it again in Vol. 47 No. 3 pp155-158. Some genetic genealogists claim to never contact matches!

As shown by articles this year though, and described explicitly in my article on clusters, DNA can provide answers but these come from examining groups of matches, not individuals. DNA is never static, cluster membership changes. A key match may arrive any day!

Please note our own new mini conference on Assisted Immigration on the flyer under advertising on page 177. Articles are now sought for the September 2026 and January 2027 TAS. The biography edition has been very popular, so January will again be 'Biography', a story of an individual.

A mystery written in DNA

Mary McLarty

To protect people who are still living, some names have been changed.

A mother's pain

My father, Kieran Cassidy, was always told his father was John Cassidy, a mysterious figure he had never met. My parents' marriage certificate listed John Cassidy as his father and noted he was deceased. As a child, whenever I asked, my father would say his father died in the war.

My grandmother, Bridie, had married John Cassidy in 1925, a few months before their daughter Mary Catherine was born in Dublin, Ireland. My father and his twin brother (Patrick) were born 11 years later and, unknown to my father, seven years after he was born my grandmother had twin girls (Marie and Therese).

The sets of twins were all born in St Patrick's on Navan Road in Dublin, a mother and baby home. Patrick died when he was five months old and the other three children were raised in institutions, taken because their mother did not have a husband. Marie and Therese were also told John Cassidy was their father.

Mary Catherine remained with Bridie and her family.

In about 2012 I decided to try and trace my elusive grandfather, John Cassidy, and started by getting his Irish military record. In the military record was a letter from my grandmother, seeking assistance from the army to find her husband. She stated in the letter she had not seen John Cassidy in seven years. The reply was that he had been absent without leave for seven years. I knew then the assumption he returned a few times after lengthy absences and fathered four more children was almost certainly a fiction.

Unravelling family mysteries with DNA

In 2016 I took an Ancestry DNA test and with a bit of work, and a lucky match to a half aunt, I identified my grandfather. My grandfather sounded like a lovely man and the family were welcoming and helpful. From the information they gave me it became clear that this man was not Marie and Therese's father.

Marie had very sadly passed away in 2011, but Therese readily agreed to an Ancestry DNA test and the

results showed my grandfather was not her father, and neither was John Cassidy.

Therese's results showed matches to two distinct families: the Reilly family originally from County Mayo, Ireland and the Horan family from County Limerick, Ireland. Initially I focused on the Reilly family as these were the highest matches. The Reilly matches were all based in the US, with the family arriving in the US in the 1840s.

The problem with DNA, as with most family history tools, is that it gives you some of the story but not all of it. I could analyse the DNA all I wanted but without high matches all I had were hypotheses, and as it turned out, some were not that close to the mark.

I started contacting matches and was lucky that the first person I messaged (JP with a match of 225cM) gave me lots of information about his family and I started looking at his great-grandfather, Farrell Reilly. Farrell had come to North Dakota from County Mayo, Ireland in about 1840 and married Mary Loftus. They had five sons and three daughters.

Many of Therese's matches had trees and, combined with assistance from matches I messaged, I was able to build a tree for each of the two families. For the Horan family, many of the

matches in from the US and were direct descendants of Catherine Horan who arrived in the US from Ireland in about 1873.

This work was before Ancestry introduced the enhanced shared matches function (ProTools), so I was using a combination of family trees and information from matches to work out who was on the Reilly side and who was on the Horan side. To help make sense of the matches I started with a table (sample below) which took each of the matches and built their direct line of ancestors back to x3 great-grandparents where possible; the yellow are Horans and the others are Reillys. I was still relatively new to DNA and while I had seen the Leeds method, I was not sure how to use it and the table worked for me.

I then built a Reilly and a Horan family tree in Ancestry with as much extended family as possible and included the matches in those trees. Unfortunately, I could find no documentation to support any connection between the families other than Catherine Horan and Farrell Reilly who both lived in Dickson, Stark, North Dakota. Dickson was founded in 1881 and, according to the US Census, in 1900 there were just 2,076 residents in the town. Even now the population is not much over 25,000.

Match	Carmel CM	Parents	Grandparents	Great Grandparents	Great x2	Great x3
JFP4398 Joe	225	Theodore Putz Mary Coar	Enos Coar Anna Reilly	Farrell Reilly Mary Loftus	Mary LaVelle	
JB	192	Eugene Snell Loretta Timmer	Catherine Horan Mark Snell	James Horan Margaret Griffin		
VRC	199	Vincent Cunningham Margaret Reilly	Anthony Reilly Margaret Ruether	Farrell Reilly Mary Loftus	Mary LaVelle ? Brennan	
PC	189	Orland Meinert Lavone Horan	James Horan Gertrude Eggert	James Horan Margaret Griffin	William Horan Patrick Griffin	
JP	171	Aron Scheeler	John Olheiser Josephine Horan	Patrick Horan Anna Griffin	James Horan Margaret Griffin	William Horan Patrick Griffin
JB	162	James Snell Clara Lindgren	Mark Snell Catherine Horan	James Horan Margaret Griffin	William Horan Patrick Griffin	
AS	148		Howard Snell Dorethy Hoyer	Maurice Snell Freda Ecker	Mark Snell Catherine Horan	James Horan Margaret Griffin
DG	116	Gerald Griffin Audrey Bewak	Michael Griffin Emma Marsh			
MFM	99	James Fealy Mary Byrth	Bridget Horan Edward Fealy	Timothy Fealy Johanna Cooney James Horan Margaret Griffin	William Horan Patrick Griffin	
CQ	93					
KP	90	Timothy Amsden Lorri Stephens	George Amsden Joan Reilly	Joseph Reilly Loretta Paddock	Anthony Reilly Margaret	
DS	77	Thomas Schuh Virginia Snell	Maurice Snell Irene Funnell	Mark Snell Catherine Horan	James Horan Margaret Griffin	William Horan Patrick Griffin
DA	69	Mrytle Snell	James Snell Clara Lindgren	Mark Snell Catherine Horan	James Horan Margaret Griffin	

The Horan family still had people in Ireland, and some Irish matches helped me with information about

the Irish side of the family. I mistakenly focused on the male family members in Ireland to try

and identify Therese's father.

Initially I spent too much time looking at the Reilly side because I had more information on that family, and because I had not considered that Therese and Marie's father may be illegitimate, meaning there would be no documentation on his paternal side to guide me. In addition, at that point I had no idea which family was Therese and Marie's father's paternal side, and which was his maternal side.

I used WATO at DNAPainter to try to narrow down the generation I might be looking at based on the matches. It suggested the most likely hypothesis (of the ones I put into the tool) was that Therese's father was the child of one of Farrell Reilly's children or the child of one of Catherine Horan's siblings. I still had nothing to narrow this down much further and these hypotheses were based on the options I had put in.

A family story solves the puzzle

About a year after Therese first tested, a new match at 318cM came up. This match (MO) was in Limerick, Ireland, and her grandmother was Catherine Horan's sister Margaret. Margaret had two boys before she married Mary's grandfather, one in 1901 and one in 1903. Mary's daughter shared some of the family history

with me, including that Margaret had been to visit her sister Catherine in the US in 1900 and had returned with her first child, Albert. It later became clear Margaret was pregnant when she returned. Albert's birth was registered Albert Brodie, son of James and Margaret Brodie (nee Horan). The story was that Margaret had married Albert's father, James Brodie in the US and come home to have the baby.

The 1901 Irish census shows Margaret Horan living with her mother in Limerick; she was identified as married but using her maiden name. A search of marriage records in the US has not revealed any marriage records for James and Margaret. By the 1911 census Albert was listed as a Horan. In 1908 Margaret married John Nagle, the marriage record indicating Margaret had never been married before.

There was a possibility that Margaret's other son from before her marriage was Therese and Marie's father but the story about Albert being conceived in the same place where Farrell Reilly and his family lived made him a much more likely candidate. Margaret had other children with John Nagle, including MO's mother, but with a match of 318cM she was most likely a half first cousin rather than a full first cousin.

I should note that Margaret must

have been an incredible woman; to have kept two illegitimate children with her in early 1900s Ireland is quite the achievement.

Albert had left home as a teenager, and the family had heard nothing of him since. There were stories of him moving to the US or to England, but I have found no records for him in these places (which does not mean he was not there).

Therese has only two matches with shared matches from both the Horan and Reilly families. These are almost certainly direct descendants of Albert, meaning he had other children. One of these matches, TC, is adopted and it appears Therese is a match to her maternal side. The other, AB, matches on his paternal side. AB was looking for information about his father. Both have been immensely helpful but know nothing of their birth parents that connect them to Albert. AB and TC match each other at 954cM suggesting they are first cousins.

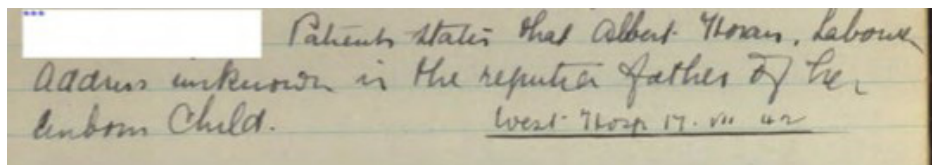
Confirmation 80 years on, but

more mysteries yet to solve

In late 2022 the laws on access to records for parents and children involved in mother and baby homes changed in Ireland, and Therese gained access to her records. Despite getting access to some records many years before from the Catholic order that ran the mother and baby home, one critical piece of information had been omitted. Bridie had named the father of her twin daughters as Albert Horan. For 80 years his name had been sitting in a file waiting to be revealed.

The DNA and family stories lined up with the documentation, but it also showed Albert was almost certainly in Ireland in around 1941/1942 and was still using the surname Horan. Let us see what the 1926 Irish census shows on this continuing journey to find out more about the elusive Albert Horan.

Albert's father? That is a mystery yet to be solved. The DNA, and location of Albert's mother when he was conceived, suggest the



Excerpt of documentation from baby home

father is one of Farrell Reilly's sons. Therese has a match (CB 48cM) who is related to Farrell's wife, Mary Loftus, which suggests that a son of Farrell and Mary is even more likely. However, there is still Albert's birth certificate and the family story about his father being James Brodie, so this is still a possibility. Maybe all the matches I am seeing are not descended from Farrell and the DNA line I am seeing is in fact from Mary Loftus. Maybe I am looking in the wrong place, again. I will continue to follow the trail as new information, or matches appear and if time permits.

What I learnt through this process

When I started this process I was sceptical about how much I would find out when I had no information at all about the fathers. I now know that even without documentation it is possible to identify a parent or grandparent through DNA. Sometimes this means narrowing down to two or three people rather than identifying an individual.

I downloaded the DNA data from Ancestry and uploaded it to Gedmatch, FTDNA and MyHeritage. For example, AB (most likely Albert's grandson) had his data on My Heritage and TC had uploaded hers there from Ancestry. Gedmatch gave me email addresses to contact

matches when people were not responding to Ancestry messages.

Contacting matches can be tricky. I have always been honest with matches but I usually start with vague 'how are we related' messages, usually with some family lines named if I think I know how they fit. Matches have mostly been helpful and the family stories I would never find in documents have been key to solving this mystery.

At times I got a bit tunnel-visioned in going down particular search paths. I found it helpful to have trees that I had built out quite wide and in the end I found the solution in a part of the Horan tree I had built out but not really looked at in any detail. This meant when a match came up that led to the mystery being solved, the information was right in front of me.

Finally, it takes patience to wait for matches, build a rapport with people so that they are willing to help, and match documents to stories and matches. It is a journey but in this case it has been educational, enjoyable and rewarding.

DNA: The Gift that Keeps on Giving

Kathryn Coughran

Decades ago, I had a university assignment with the following instructions:

- draw your family tree
- interview family and relatives and list medical symptoms, diagnosed conditions and (where appropriate) cause of death beside each person on the tree
- look for patterns and connections.

The premise was that the more people on the tree, the more likely it would be for patterns and/or connections to emerge; then predictions could be made as to who on the chart was likely to develop certain symptoms and illnesses.

With 90 first cousins – several of whom I didn't know, or had no computer and little knowledge of genetics/genealogy, I found this an exciting but daunting task. I concentrated on interviewing close family members, and aunts and uncles I could contact. By the end of term break I had enough names and some medical information for several people.

While the data I had was not complete, my family tree spanned the width of a room (to accommodate the cousins' generation), laid on the floor so I could see the whole diagram at once. I was surprised and happy when patterns and connections seemed to leap from my work. Mission accomplished. The lecturer was impressed – and I was hooked!

That assignment and the associated reading materials were based on the early work of Dr Chris Reading¹, who was later inducted into the Orthomolecular Medicine Hall of Fame (2012). The exercise left me wanting to know more about genetics, genealogy, biology, psychology, and all things related. A career spanning psychology, natural therapies, teaching and writing followed.

Parallel to this journey, my family history research uncovered certain characteristics, abilities, occupations, and attitudes that run through different ancestral strands.

Genetic Connections

These days, we can extend our knowledge of family in the context of ancestral history, ethnicity and original roots. Analysis of our DNA on genealogical sites can be applied to our family trees. Our results are matched with others who have been DNA tested, to identify those who share our DNA. On just one such site my DNA has turned up 49,587 matches (increasing over time) and my origins are currently reported as coming from nine different regions. These are continually refined and updated as more people register their DNA and more data becomes available.

Genes are the basic physical and functional units of hereditary². They are located on the chromosomes within the cell nucleus and determine biological traits. However, we are not replicas of our parents. We inherit 50% of our genes from each parent, as they did from their parents. In addition to the genes siblings inherit in common, they receive others that are different from those passed on to other siblings. The latter are responsible for the differences between siblings' appearances and traits. Hence, at birth we are individuals, each with our own unique genotype, the only exceptions being identical twins.

The process of gene inheritance

and the introduction of new DNA from those who marry into the family, produce generational dilution of genes. Deeper genetic connections exist between closer family members and smaller measurable genetic connections with more removed relations.

This explains how a person can have a DNA match to a distant relative, while their sibling doesn't have a connection at all to that same relative. It is also why one child can have red hair like their mother, another black hair like their father and a third may have inherited blond hair from a grandparent. Meanwhile, the mother's sister's children may all have red hair like their mother and aunty.

Most individual genes are the same in all people, however about 1% are slightly different between people. These minor differences contribute to each person's unique physical features³.

Mutations

Errors in genes can occur spontaneously in their production before birth, though they are more commonly inherited. These mutations are sometimes called SNPs (pronounced SNIPs), short for *single-nucleotide polymorphisms*. According to Dr Ben Lynch⁴, we each have over a million SNPs in our genes.

Most of these, while representing slight variation or abnormality in various genes, don't make much difference to the way our bodies function. Other SNPs, however, can disrupt the function of the associated gene and lead to medical conditions, among other abnormalities. One such example is haemochromatosis (one of the most common genetic disorders)⁵. In this case, a SNP in the HFE gene causes the body to absorb too much dietary iron. Excess iron, in turn, can create damage to organs including the liver, heart, joints and pancreas.

Another gene mutation of medical note is MTHFR – *methyltetrahydrofolate reductase* – which may cause severe irreversible health conditions. In 2011/12, Dr Ben Lynch⁶ listed 64 medical symptoms and/or conditions related to MTHFR gene mutations. These include allergies, headaches, blurred vision, pulmonary embolisms, stroke, heart murmurs, multiple sclerosis, some cancers and vascular dementia.

The severity of the effects of having MTHFR mutation/s depend on which mutation/s are inherited and their arrangement. The two most common MTHFR gene mutations are C677T and A1298C⁷. A child may inherit a single copy of either gene from

either parent (heterozygous), or one copy of either gene from each parent (homozygous), or a single copy of one gene from one parent and a single copy of the other from the second parent (compound heterozygous).

Epigenetics

The science of epigenetics tells us that our genetic destiny is not necessarily fixed. Many factors can influence the way our genes are expressed. Put simply, the mutations in our genes can be turned off by healthy methylation, reducing our predisposition to particular diseases.

Methylation is one of the most important interfaces between genetics and lifestyle. It is like a control system that doesn't change our DNA sequence, but does operate the on/off switch in our genes.

As well as being the gene that is one of the most worrying in its mutation consequences, MTHFR is also one of the most useful tools for turning on the methylation process. This can trigger an increase in the effectiveness of other genes as well, enabling more than 200 vital functions in the body including genetic expression.

MTHFR has been dubbed the Methylation Master⁸ because it is responsible for this vital process.

A Healthy Methylation Cycle works as follows:

- MTHFR passes a methyl group to → folate = methylfolate
- The methylfolate interacts with → homocysteine to methylate it = methionine
- This process continues from one biochemical to another until it reaches a biochemical called SAME (pronounced SAMMY, a contraction of *S-adenosylmethionine*)
- SAME passes those methyl groups to the hundreds of functions and processes that need them.

When something impedes this cycle, some or all the body's processes either won't get the methyl groups they need or won't be able to use them properly. If the problem is a SNP/SNPs in your MTHFR gene/s, methyl supplements may be prescribed. Should this not be the case, it could be that the gene/s need some other boost.

Enter epigenetics. Dr Lynch⁹ explains that this is when the efficiency of any gene/s is impaired by factors other than the DNA itself, for instance environmental or behavioural influences. The effects of, say, exposure to chemicals, lack of vital nutrients, chronic infection, lack of exercise, unhealthy sleep patterns and so on, can be countered by medical

interventions, changes in diet and other lifestyle practises. An improvement in any of these areas of a person's life works towards changing how genes are expressed and brings the person to a better position on the health versus illness continuum.

Intergenerational Epigenetic Inheritance

This phenomenon occurs when epigenetics impact genes to the extent that they permanently change. The altered genes can then be inherited by members of the next and future generations.

Swedish scientists investigated whether nutrition affected the death rate associated with cardiovascular disease and diabetes, and whether these effects were passed from parents to their children and grandchildren. The results suggested that diet can cause changes to genes that are passed down through generations, and that these alterations can affect susceptibility to particular diseases.¹⁰

Severe stress can also alter how genes are expressed. These new patterns can be inherited by children and grandchildren who never experienced the original trauma. This means a person's nervous system can carry the memory and effects of an ancestor's prolonged trauma.

An example here, especially for those of us with Irish heritage, is the effects on Irish famine survivors. The range of emotionally charged behaviours inherited by future generations may include hypervigilance, deep discomfort with waste (recycling to the nth degree before the term ever existed), and the instinct to prepare for the worst even when life is good.

With both Irish and Scots-Irish in my heritage, I was raised in a poor household where everything was about survival and living within limitations. My father was a hard-worker with incomplete education, a struggler, a worrier who did everything he could to improve life for our family – including punting on the horses hoping to get ahead financially (though we never did). My mother kept our home as spick and span as she could on a tight budget, saved threepenny pieces from her grocery money for over three years to buy an electric floor polisher, mended everything repeatedly, and disguised patches on curtains when we had visitors. There was no money for extracurricular activities, outings or holidays. We had a stable home with good parents and a happy childhood. This life was normal to us, but looking back I can see the effects of past traumas woven through it.

Just as there are ways to counter the effects of epigenetics where physical illness is concerned, trauma that has been internalised and passed on through generations can also be addressed. Modalities such as Deep Brain Reorienting for Healing Trauma (DBR), Emotion-focused Therapy, Psychodrama, Behavioural Therapy or Individual Counselling, are some options for working through these issues.

So Much More To Explore

As we learn about our ancestors, we learn from them. Our research into the stories of their lives and the paper trail they left behind, as well as how they adapted to the hardships, triumphs and tragedies of their times, teach us vital life lessons and help us grasp an understanding of ourselves. We can read of their illnesses and what they died from, and make predictions about future generations and the medical conditions that are likely to befall their descendants. Our genes have physically adapted through epigenetics and intergenerational epigenetic inheritance and we've accumulated aspirations, abilities and attitudes – and built our lives accordingly.

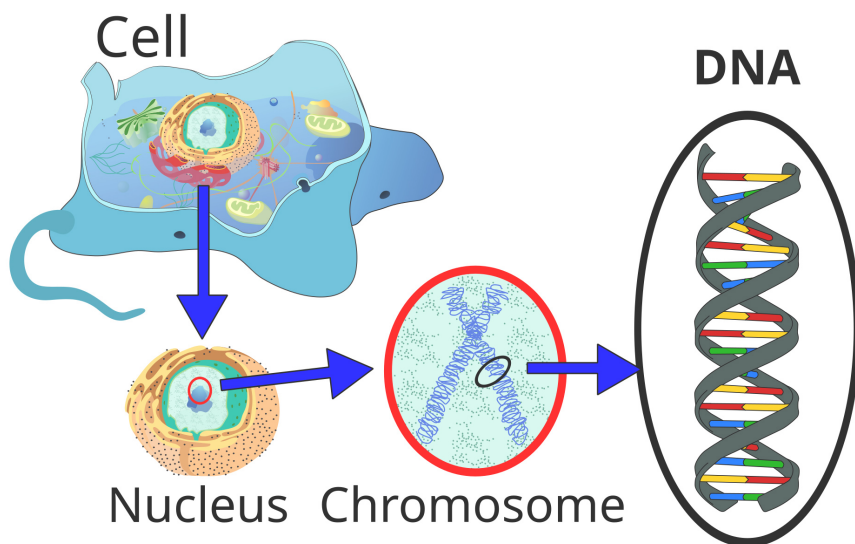
This raises the age-old Nature versus Nurture debate in biology and society. Is our behaviour more influenced by our genetic inheritance (nature) or the

environmental conditions of our development (nurture) – experience, learning, the way we live and so on? The thinking in different eras has tended to lean towards one or the other position, or a mixture of both. There are always differing opinions on this question.

The mixture theory makes the most sense to me. Consider the many people we hear about who find early ancestors who were, say, singers, dancers or actors, and are shocked because they thought

they were the only performers in their family. These people have not been influenced by what they saw or knew of their ancestors, but have still chosen the same professions.

In my own case, writing has been part of my life since primary school. In recent years, I've discovered ancestors who were also successful writers. Imagine my surprise when I found I am related to Nellie Bly, the renowned American investigative writer who had herself committed to a mental



DNA Structure: Genes are located in the Chromosomes

institution so she could write first-hand about the conditions inmates endured. Clearly any influence on my work from this creative woman had to (at least in part) have come from genetics.

The DNA in us from our ancestors and all that has been added to it, will continue to influence our children, grandchildren, and future generations.

How exciting it is to live at a time when knowledge of DNA is expanding, and its possibilities are continually developing!

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The Mystery of Lily Elizabeth's Father

Jeffrey Bollard

My grandmother, Lily Elizabeth, was born at Waratah, Tasmania, on 23 June 1887. Her birth was registered with Edward O'Keefe as her father and Elizabeth Evans as her mother. On paper, that appeared to answer the question of her parentage - but as so often happens in family history, the documents did not tell the whole story.

Elizabeth Evans could be traced through conventional records, and DNA evidence helped support her family lines back to arrivals in Australia. After Lily's birth, however, the document trail for Elizabeth largely goes cold. Family folklore suggests that she may later have gone to Victoria, but firm records have not yet been found.

Edward O'Keefe proved even more elusive. No marriage record has been found for Edward O'Keefe and Elizabeth Evans, and Lily's birth registration suggests that Lily may have been born out of wedlock. For many years,

Edward was the subject of fruitless research. Despite extensive searching, no clear documentary trail emerged, and later DNA work produced no obvious connection to the O'Keefe name.

The breakthrough came through DNA testing.

I was fortunate to obtain a DNA sample from my maternal aunt, Lily's daughter. This was especially valuable because her DNA was one generation closer to Lily's unknown father than my own. It allowed the search to focus more directly on Lily's parentage.

There was, however, one complication. Lily later married George Armstrong, and George's older sister Sarah Armstrong married George Evans, the brother of Lily's mother, Elizabeth Evans. This meant that some DNA matches could reflect known Evans or Armstrong connections rather than Lily's unknown paternal line. Once those known family lines were accounted for, unexplained

DNA matches became particularly important.

On Ancestry, twelve matches to my aunt ranging from 177 cM to 15 cM were descendants of Archibald McIntyre and Anne McLean of Ballarat, Victoria; later identified as 2nd and 3rd cousin matches to my aunt. This cluster was significant. The matches were not isolated individuals with uncertain trees; they pointed repeatedly to the same McIntyre couple.

To widen the search, my aunt's DNA results were also uploaded to MyHeritage. There, another important match appeared: a New Zealand cousin, Colin, who shared 297 cM with my aunt. Colin had not provided a family tree, but public records, newspaper reports and social media provided enough information to reconstruct his family line.

That research showed that Colin's great-grandparents were Hugh McIntyre and Ann Benison. Hugh McIntyre was the son of Archibald McIntyre and Anne McLean - the same couple already appearing in the Ancestry DNA cluster. Hugh married Ann Benison at Fingal, Tasmania, in 1892. Their daughter, born in 1893, became Colin's grandmother. She should not be confused with Lily Elizabeth, who

had been born six years earlier in 1887 to Elizabeth Evans. Hugh later died at Zeehan, Tasmania, in 1905.

This made Hugh McIntyre a strong candidate. The DNA evidence pointed to the McIntyre family generally, and Colin's much closer match helped narrow the connection to Hugh's branch of that family. Because Colin descends from Hugh and Ann Benison, while my aunt descends from Lily Elizabeth, the shared DNA is consistent with both lines leading back to Hugh McIntyre.

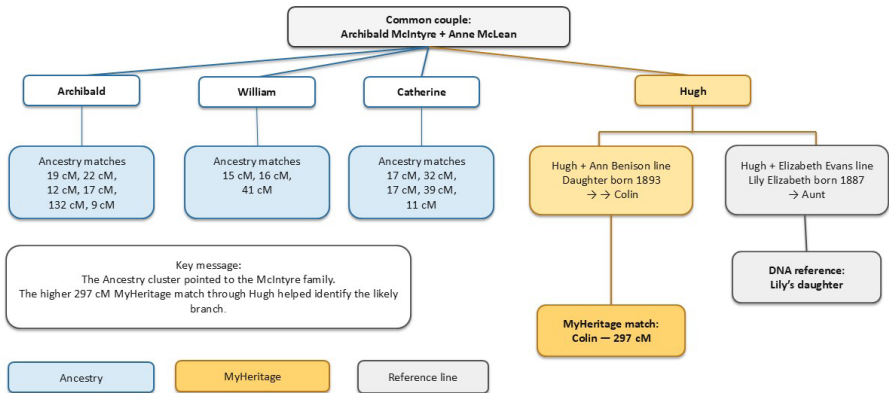
Just as importantly, available work and personal records place Hugh on the west coast of Tasmania at the likely time of Lily's conception.

The evidence therefore points strongly to Hugh McIntyre as the most likely biological father of Lily Elizabeth. It does not currently support Edward O'Keefe, the father named on Lily's birth registration, as her biological father.

There is still much we do not know.

No record has yet been found to explain the circumstances in which Elizabeth Evans, an unmarried woman, lived on the west coast mining area of Tasmania. Nor do

How DNA Matches Pointed to Hugh McIntyre



we know what relationship, if any, existed between Elizabeth and Hugh. The DNA can identify a likely biological connection, but it cannot tell us the human story behind it.

This research also showed both the power and the limitations of DNA testing. Ancestry provided the wider McIntyre cluster, while MyHeritage revealed a closer match that helped narrow the likely branch. But DNA research depends heavily on who has tested, whether they have provided a family tree, whether their tree is accurate, and whether enough relatives from the relevant lines are represented in

the databases.

For many years, Edward O'Keefe remained an unsolved mystery. DNA did not answer every question, but it changed the direction of the search. It opened the way to a new and more persuasive explanation of Lily Elizabeth's parentage, and it revealed a great-grandfather whose name had been hidden from the family story for more than a century.

My Canadian relative

Jenny Burgess

When I received my Ancestry DNA results in 2017, I eagerly wrote to many matches to enlarge my family circle. Imagine my surprise when I wrote to Faigie who I match at 15 cM, thinking she was from my Ferguson line here in New South Wales (from my knowledge of matches at that time), to receive the reply 'I don't know who I am, I'm a black market adopted baby from Canada'. I replied 'one of your parents is Australian'. This should have been easy to solve. Checking further into this match, I found that Faigie connected to me through my Sarah Rowe b1799 line. Faigie connects to another cousin R at 95cM. My connection to Sarah Rowe is through her son Thomas Crump b1821 and R's connection is through Sarah's daughter, Mary Yardley, b1818 who married Edward Craft, b1812. [See TAS Vol. 49 No.1 pp22-25].

The *Black Market* adopted babies became a scandal in Canada and USA. These babies from different religions were sold for profit to Jewish parents. Faigie only found out she was adopted at age 70, after her adoptive mother had

died, and her father on his death bed said, 'Your mother went and got you in a taxi'.

Faigie made me manager of her DNA kit and I put her results on Gedmatch. The top two matches for Faigie, JW at 674 cM and HH at 507cM did not link to her Australian family. R and I wrote to these matches and we had a response. They were relatives of Faigie's mother's sister. They lived close to Faigie in Canada, and Faigie went to meet them. They told her that her mother had died, and no one in the family ever knew she had been pregnant. She had married but never had more children.

With the maternal side solved, we looked to find the answers for her father.

Faigie was born in 1942. How did her Canadian mother meet her Australian father? During WW2, Australian and NZ Air Force men were sent to Canada, under the Empire Air Training Scheme for training as heavy bomber pilots, navigators and gunners for one month in different areas of Canada. They had one weeks leave before

going to England. Camp Borden is the closest to where Faigie's mother was working. Faigie has no DNA matches to people who could be her father's children. My research of Air Force records from this period included visits to the Australian War Memorial to find which regiments were sent to Canada, viewing service records at the National Archives Canberra, email contact with the Canadian Air Force Museum, who supplied a photo of members who graduated August 1941 (one month before the October conception date) and the RAF Museum London. The records show very few men survived after their arrival in England and some had died while in Canada.

Faigie's highest match on the Craft/Yardley line descends from John James Craft and Elizabeth Goodwin's daughter Eliza Ann's (b1861), through her son Albert George b1888. This match, LS at 739cm, is the result of an illegitimate relationship. John James and Elizabeth had ten children. Faigie has DNA matches to seven of these children with Eliza Ann showing as the link to Faigie. Eliza Ann had four children with Samuel Alfred Rootes b1860 before she married. Albert George is one of these children.

There are strong matches to the line of Richard Barling b1809

and Mary Brizzley Dray b1810 as the other family line in the Australian equation. Despite many messages with no quick replies, I have received useful information from some younger members which has assisted our search. Recent 'Common Ancestor' hints at Ancestry show a connection through David John Innes b1829 and Mary Ann Barling b1843. There are multiple illegitimate births over long periods for both Faigies' father's maternal and paternal lines.

Ancestry ProTools did not provide clear answers and we have come to the conclusion there is an illegitimate birth which resulted in Faigie's father. All known Air Force personnel from both the Craft and Dray-Barling lines have been investigated and none were in Canada during the conception time period. I have made a list of names of men in Canada during the crucial time period and checked to see if these names appear in the family trees of Faigie's matches with no success.

Despite having no actual knowledge of her father's true identity except for the Craft line, Faigie is happy she has an Australian connection. We keep in touch. I keep on searching hoping some new DNA match will provide the answer we need.

DNA and a pedigree of 1,000 years

Cathy Day

I think that we've all seen those large pedigrees that show the descent of a famous person back 1,000 years or more and then idly wondered 'what are their sources?' In England and Wales, there are no church records prior to 1538, and very few from later in the 16th century. The answer for the sources is often a collection of wills, land deeds and title registries, but now we can add DNA to the list of sources to connect up a 1,000-year pedigree. Well, it did for me!

My x2 great-grandmother was Hannah Henley Hamlyn and she had been born in St Ives, Cornwall in 1845. She has always held a special place in my heart as the mother of 18 children, all single births. As a university undergraduate studying demography, I was uninspired by the choice of essays to write for assessment and I persuaded my lecturer to allow me to write an essay on her fertility, the causes of mortality of all the children and the migration patterns of the whole family. I never enjoyed researching and writing a university essay so

much in my life.

Hannah had migrated to Australia in 1910, aged 65 years, to be with most of her living children, who had been migrating in waves since 1884. She lived until the ripe old age of 95 years and apparently had jet-black hair her entire life. I wish that I had inherited that gene, but we don't get to choose our DNA, sadly.

Whilst I knew a great deal about Hannah and her descendants, and was even able to trace part of her mother's family back to the 1580s, I knew next to nothing about her father, Edward Henley Hamlyn. For starters, the middle name intrigued me – middle names were uncommon in England until the mid-19th century, except for significant surnames, such as the mother's maiden name. But why would Hannah and her father have the same middle name, which was clearly a surname of someone? And who was Edward?

Edward Henley Hamlyn was a mystery to me until the availability of commercial DNA testing, and in

some ways he still is. But at least I know about his ancestors now. He appeared in many records between 1841 and 1845, then disappeared from the face of the Earth. He appears in Falmouth, Cornwall, in the 1841 census as a currier (leather worker) aged 20 years, although the 1841 census enumerators rounded ages down to the nearest five years, so he could have been born any time between 1816 and 1821. He said that he had been born in Cornwall.

In 1842 he married Louise Bailey and the marriage certificate named his father as William Hamlyn, a grocer. Edward and Louisa had two daughters: Maria born in 1843 and my x2 great-grandmother Hannah in 1845, but there are no verified records of Edward after that date. In 1849, Louisa died and the 1851 and 1861 censuses show the two little girls being raised by their maternal grandfather, James Bailey in Penzance. Where was Edward during this time? Where had he come from? Where did he go to?

In the early days of using digitised records for family history, one of the very few databases that were available was the International Genealogical Index (IGI) which was, at that time, a series of microfiche. It gave the barest of details of an event such as baptism or marriage, but did provide a

source number, which led to a microfilm that could be ordered from Salt Lake City in the US. It was a very, very slow process at that time and I am enormously grateful for the incredible range of records that we can access almost instantly today. About 40 years ago, I looked up the IGI and found a record of an Edward Hamlyn, son of William Hamlyn, born in 1820 in Brent, London. Right name, right age, right father, but London is a long way from Cornwall and there was no mention of middle names. But there was something which made it tantalising – the mother's name was listed as Johanna Henley. So her maiden surname was the same as Edward and Hannah's middle name, and Johanna was often abbreviated to Hannah at that time. Was Hannah Henley Hamlyn named after her grandmother?

I duly ordered the microfilm associated with the record, which I found was a family tree going back to about 1170 AD. It had been prepared by the Royal and Mediaeval Families Department of the LDS (Mormon) church, who created and maintained the IGI. Whilst it was an impressive family tree, there was no information other than names, dates and places. The good news is that it listed the sources used to prepare the family tree on the IGI, and the single source was the *Visitations*

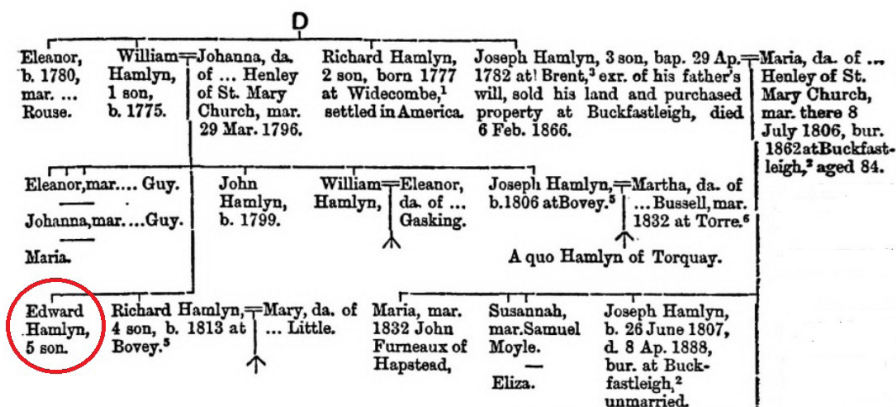
of the *Country of Devon*, by John Lambrick Vivian, published in 1895. I then ordered that microfilm.

In this context, a Visitation involved officials from the College of Arms, who periodically went to each county in England and verified the pedigrees (and hence the right to use heraldic arms) of prominent families. They created pedigrees back to the supposed origin of the family. When J.L. Vivian prepared the pedigrees from the Visitations of Devon for publication, he also added additional information from sources such as parish registers, wills, land deeds and so on. He noted that it appears that the Hamlyn family were descended from a man named Hamlin who owned the same lands at the time

of the Domesday Book of 1086, but that he did not have documentary evidence to make the connection from 1170 back to 1086. According to the Roll of Battle Abbey, this Hamlin fought alongside William the Conqueror at the Battle of Hastings. So here we had a verified pedigree of close to 1,000 years. Was this my family?

The Harleian Society pedigree showed Edward Hamlyn, the 5th son of William Hamlyn [page 483]. There was no date or place, but the 4th son was shown as being born in 1818. So whoever had listed Edward's birthdate as 1820 in the IGI was making an educated guess. Not so educated was the guess about the location. Whilst the pedigree shows the family at

THE VISITATIONS OF THE COUNTY OF DEVON.



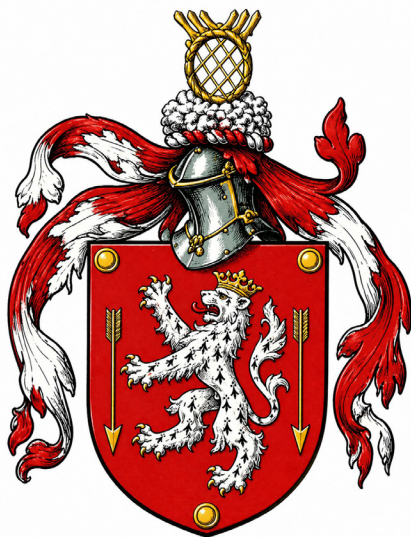
Brent, it is clear that this was Brent in Devon, not Brent in London. Whoever put the pedigree in the IGI had presumably been unable to locate a parish of Brent in Devon and so had assumed that it was the one in London. As we all know in family history – check your sources!

The family had at some point moved from Devon to Cornwall, so this was looking promising, since I knew that Edward Henley Hamlyn said that he was born in Cornwall. But that's as far as I got – 'looking promising'. I put in several decades of effort to try to find out more about Edward, and in particular whether I was part of this 1,000-year pedigree, but I exhausted all avenues. It was all to no avail, until DNA for family history purposes became widely available.

Along with submitting my own DNA, both my mother and great-aunt (Hannah Henley Hamlyn's grand-daughter) had generously allowed me to submit their DNA samples to Ancestry and I was rapidly able to identify dozens of matches to people with Hamlyn and Henley ancestors in Cornwall and Devon. My great-aunt matched with descendants of three siblings of the Edward on the 1,000-year pedigree, and they all used Henley as a middle name. A generation higher and my great-aunt also

matched with descendants of three siblings of Edward's father William, the grocer of Cornwall.

So here was my link to that amazing family tree that I wanted to claim, which would have been impossible to achieve without DNA-matching technology.



Hamlyn crest from Burkes Landed Gentry, 1937

As in any family history, there are still things that I want to know. Precisely when and where was Edward born? I have not been able to locate his baptism record, although I have the baptism records of his seven older siblings in Bovey Tracey, Devon. The first record that I can find of the family in Cornwall is in Chacewater in the parish of Kea, where they are

listed in directories and censuses from 1830 onwards. So my best guess is that Edward was born in Chacewater, but I have found no baptism record for him. His wife and one daughter were buried in a Methodist cemetery – had his own parents become Non-conformists and his baptism record lost?

Non-conformists did not need to submit their records to the General Register Office until 1837, and not all congregations were compliant or their records were dispersed before 1837. And what happened to Edward after 1845? Did he abandon his family or die young like his wife Louisa? Did he migrate overseas or join the army? One of the great things about the modern way of family history is that new records are added to enormous databases every year.

Every so often, I search for Edward Henly Hamlyn on all the genealogical websites, in the hope that he will show up somewhere. I may never know what become of him, but thanks to DNA, at least I know the long history of his family.

DNA led me to my Ancestral Irish Townland

Cathy Day

Like many of us with Irish Catholic ancestors, I struggled to find evidence of them prior to the introduction of universal civil registration in Ireland in 1864. The census records were mostly destroyed in the 1922 uprising, and the preservation of Catholic parochial records was patchy. However, I was luckier than some, as my x3 great-grandfather, James Corless, was married in England only months after civil registration began there in July 1837. His timing could not have been better! From his English marriage certificate, I learnt that James' father was a yeoman called Martin Corless.

James appeared in the 1841 census in Torquay, Devon confirming what I had been told by my great-aunts, that he had been born in Ireland. The census enumerator recorded his age as 25 years, so he should have been born between 1812 and 1816. But where? He had died before the 1851 census, so I had no more information about him.

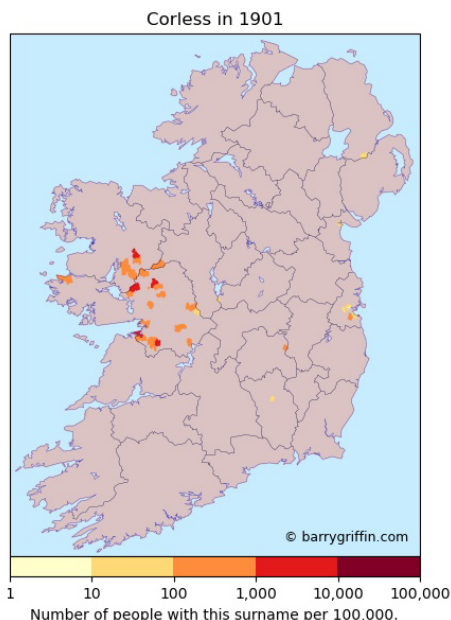
Surname distribution maps can be very useful if you are working on an unusual surname, like Corless. In 1901, it ranked as the 2,542nd most common surname in Ireland and by 1911 it had fallen to 2,678th. The surname distribution map clearly shows that the only place where one could find people surnamed Corless in Ireland was Galway and a bit of south Mayo. So my search was slightly narrowed down to almost a single county, but that's not much to go on.

The family legend was that the surname originated from an ancestor who was part of the Spanish Armada and was shipwrecked off the coast of Ireland in 1588. He supposedly came ashore and eventually married a local woman and settled down. I confess that I always thought that the story was far-fetched – I could hardly imagine the local people welcoming an invader into their home and family in a time of war, and Corless didn't sound the slightest bit Spanish. But a little bit of research showed that there may

CORLESS in 1901

There were 199 with this surname in Ireland in 1901. The surname is ranked 2542nd in Ireland.

Religion: Catholic: 197 (98.99%), Anglican: 2 (1.01%)



be some truth to this centuries-old story. Several ships of the Spanish Armada did indeed run aground and become shipwrecked in and around Galway Bay. It seems that some of the men onboard survived, although not many. Possibly 200-300 made it ashore – in some cases they were rounded up and executed, but in other cases, local Gaelic Lords sheltered them as a form of defiance against the English, who were also considered

invaders. Perhaps my ancestor was one of the few to survive.

Then another bit of information made me think that maybe there was a shred of truth in our family legend. When I examined records in the early 19th century, I could see that some people had their surname recorded as Corless but also as 'Carlos'. That sounds a bit more Spanish to me. It's not proof, but it is intriguing.

DNA has many uses, and identifying the ethnicity of ancestors is one of them. On my father's side, I can trace my ancestry in India to a woman in Madras who was probably born about 1790, and that is close enough for her ethnicity to show up in my own DNA and those of higher generations. According to Ancestry, I am genetically about 3% Indian, mainly from the southern part of India. This matches up with what I know from documents. My full Indian ancestor (with no European ancestry of her own) is seven generations from me. Only one of my daughters, who is eight generations removed from our Indian ancestor, shows any Indian ancestry in her DNA. It's not that my other daughters don't have Indian ancestry – they have the same ancestry as their sister. It's just that with each generation, the amount of DNA specific to a region has a 50% chance of being passed on. It is purely random. So two of my daughters received no Indian DNA from me, and my daughter who has 1% Indian DNA did not pass any on to her own children. So by the time eight generations had passed, the signature Indian DNA had mostly disappeared in our family, and by nine generations it had entirely disappeared. This is to be expected with the random nature of descent.

Turning back to Ireland, I would guess that my great-aunt Mildred

Corless, who generously donated her DNA when aged in her 90s, was probably 11 or 12 generations removed from the mystery Spaniard, if he existed. This means that the chances of her having any detectable Spanish DNA is almost non-existent. DNA won't be able to help me prove whether this family story has any truth in it, but it can help me pinpoint the exact land that my Corless ancestors lived and worked on.

With the DNA of me, my mother, my maternal aunt and my maternal great-aunt, I was able to match with multiple people with Corless ancestors. We then formed an informal Corless family email group and shared matches with each other, letting us know how much DNA each person shared with specific individuals. We could triangulate our results to pinpoint how each descendant was related to each other, as none of my new-found relatives could trace their ancestry as far back as my own line. Nowadays, Ancestry has a tool called ProTools, which can give us the same information, and I encourage you to use this tool to work out relationships more quickly and easily. I only wish that it had been available earlier!

Triangulating all the results was successful because we had more than one person's DNA to work with. When we're trying to create

family trees of people possibly born in the 1780s, the signal will be weak or non-existent with one person's DNA, but is multiplied when many are added.

Thanks to this group working with small bits of DNA, coupled with *Griffith's Valuation* of 1835, I was fairly certain that I had connected us all together with a family of farmers and blacksmiths in the townland of Corrilaun (now spelt Curlawn), in the parish of Donaghpatrick, in the county of Galway. Through DNA, I identified a probable 3rd cousin of my great-aunt Mildred Corless, who still lived in the area, and he was able to tell me that our Corless family did indeed come from Corrilaun, which abutted the border of County Mayo. He said that there used to be a small footbridge over the river that was the border, and his ancestor had crossed the little bridge each day to visit his sweetheart Bridget Corless, whom he eventually married. I am almost certain that Bridget was the sister of my x3 great-grandfather, James Corless who had migrated to England before 1837. If she wasn't a sister, she was a close relative.

In June 2025, I went to Ireland and met my new relative. I then travelled to Corrilaun – a tiny townland of 230 acres. There are only about six houses in the townland, all stretched along the narrow road.

Bold as I am, I approached a man trimming a hedge and told him that I had come from Australia to see the place where my ancestors hailed from. He then cheerfully took me to his parents, who invited me in for tea. His father, Michael Gallagher, had lived in Corrilaun all his life and knew the Corless family there, and his own mother was a Coreless from the neighbouring townland. He pointed out where their house had stood, although it had been demolished in the 1990s.

An 18th century stone barn was still standing nearby. His information matched up with my online research about the descendants of the Corless family that had been in the townland during *Griffith's Valuation*. It all fitted together. I had found our ancestral home.

In this case, DNA did not advance my pedigree in any way – I still don't know anything more about Martin Corless, my x4 great-grandfather. But I know where he and his family lived, and I've walked where they walked. That's all I need.



Stone barn in Corrilaun, author's collection.

Clusters are the key to DNA analysis

Clare McGuinness

What is a cluster?

This is the simplest statement in all of genetic genealogy – a cluster is a group of matches who share DNA with each other. To most people the term **genetic network** is synonymous.

We have been manually clustering in a piecemeal fashion for years, but perhaps only focusing on high cM matches, and those we can place on our tree, or looking for people with known surnames. It was all I thought you could do with DNA, till I found my own mystery ancestral couple and had to learn new methods of manually bringing matches into clusters. I learned to 'dot' or 'label' matches to group together people who share the same bits of DNA with us and with each other. An auto-cluster simply automates the process we have used ever since DNA matches became available. But this very automation is the key to unlocking our DNA.

A group of connected people offers the potential to find common

names and locations.

We are necessarily focussed on names in family history, but names can be absent, changed or just wrong. Why?

- names change particularly for married women every generation, yet female DNA is as powerful and necessary as male DNA in clusters; names change in cultures using patronymic naming patterns
- sometimes our ancestors change their name when they emigrate or wish to hide
- our matches can provide incorrect information due to unknown adoptions and illegitimacies hidden within same surnamed children.

In my Buchan study, only three of 200 matches have the surname Buchan, so relying on familiar names alone is grossly inadequate.

Who has been gathered into a cluster?

The most important thing about a cluster is to understand who was gathered into it when we start

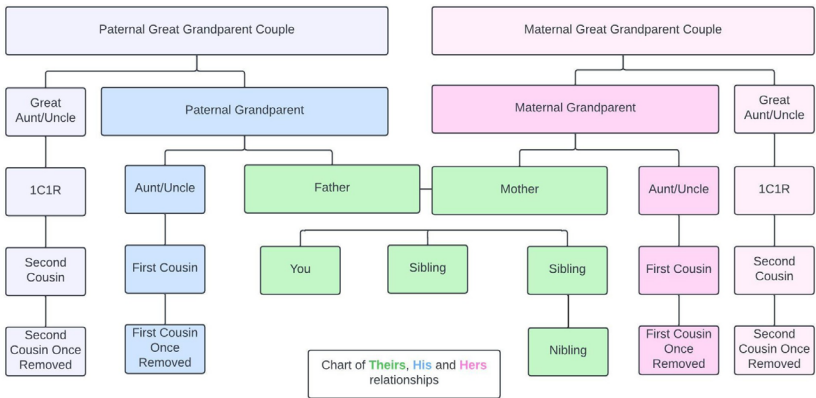
adding people we had never heard of. Never be discouraged by this – it is these strangers who hold the potential to tell you something that you don't know.

So, if you recognise one or more matches who represent the family of interest (see example of an auto-cluster below) then you can rightly assume that the other members of the cluster also share that family of interest. If you then gathered the shared matches of every member in the cluster, to expand the cluster, you would bring in all the matches who share this family's DNA .

There is an overriding principle that is very important to understand – every cluster contains descendants of the couple where the mystery lies – as well as both the paternal and maternal families of that

mystery ancestor or couple. In other words, every cluster contains multiple family lines. This critical principle that underpins working with clusters is elegantly termed His, Hers and Theirs, coined by DNA guru Dana Leeds. In general, we know the THEIRS because this is the generation we can trace back to. But for clusters to break through brickwalls, we need the families we don't yet know – we must expect to find at least two additional families – a paternal and a maternal family – HIS and HERS.

What an auto-cluster does extremely efficiently is to bring together many matches who share DNA, with some important guard-rails to help eliminate false matches.



The history of auto-clusters

Auto-clusters have been around for well over eight years. They are created as matrices by computer algorithms, that methodically go through your entire match list, identifying commonality in shared DNA often enough to be drawn together. Who matches whom and who else?

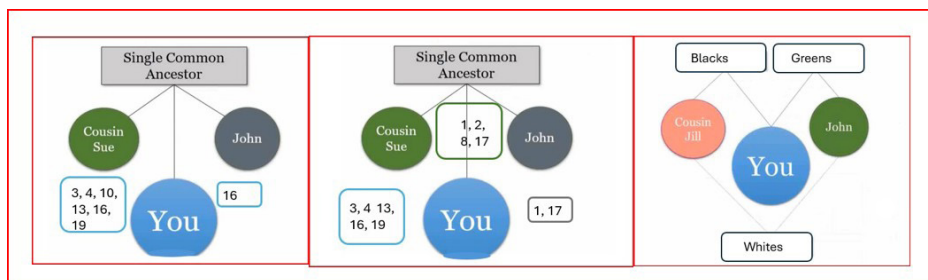
Initially marketed by a subscription service called Genetic Affairs; the methodology was quickly sold to MyHeritage and Gedmatch and appeared in other third-party tools like DNAGedcom. FamilyTreeDNA offers a matrix tool which is a very similar process but presented as numbers, rather than coloured boxes; so too, DNAPainter now offers a tool for you to build your own cM-based matrix, which allows you to combine matches from different testing companies. But the tool that made the biggest splash was undoubtedly the auto-cluster at MyHeritage.

MyHeritage set the bar for auto-clusters when they were released. This almost magical dynamic display was enough to entice people to transfer their DNA results to MyHeritage largely for this auto-cluster, to access segment data and for other good tools. Clusters at all sites change as new matches join, and some kits are deleted. So, it is good practice to screen

shot your auto-clusters for future reference.

Much attention has been paid recently to the launch of auto-clusters for Ancestry ProTools subscribers. Note Ancestry calls these 'Clusters' but they are, of course, auto-clusters. As Ancestry has the largest database of matches it was hoped that these would be more useful. At Ancestry, every match in the cluster has to match you at least 20cM, and also match almost everyone else in the cluster at least 20cM. This prevents anomalous matches taking up our research time. These misleading or false matches occur less frequently at Ancestry because of this 20cM guard-rail, but other companies are reporting matches down to 8cM. At 10cM a match is 50% likely to be false or be misattributed to a known common ancestor, when the true source of the DNA is an entirely different common ancestor no party has been able to document. At 20cM the risk of this is 0%.

The following graphics hopefully illustrate the process whereby a cluster is formed biologically. In the first panel below, Sue shares DNA with you on chromosomes 3, 4, 10, 13, 16, and 19 (six segments) and you happily think this accords with her status as a known second cousin. John is a more distant cousin. He shares



Schematic of 1. triangulated matched, 2. non-triangulating matches and 3. false matches: credit design based on images by Blaine Bettinger.

part of chromosome 16 with you. In this example that DNA is the exact same segment that Sue has. We call this 'triangulation' when three people descending from the common ancestors have inherited the same exact bit of DNA.

However it is not common that the triad of you, your chosen match and any one person on the shared match list do triangulate. Let's look at another John in the middle panel. Sue is still your second cousin, sharing the segments on the same chromosomes with you. However, John shares parts of chromosome 1 and 17 with you. But why is he a shared match of Sue? In this schematic example Sue and John share segments on different chromosomes, perhaps on 1, 2, 8 and 17. There is no overlap with the DNA you and Sue share, and this is very much the norm. But there must be overlap between each pair in this group of three – you must match Sue, you

must match John, and Sue must match John. This is often called three pair-wise comparisons.

I like to think that this process of one segment of DNA matching the next new person who comes into the cluster, brings with it additional bits of DNA that might bring in more people, is a bit like a chain reaction; this process is how clusters are formed. In this example, all the different segments of DNA were derived from the common ancestral couple. But let me stress – we don't need to care about which segments are involved to safely assume these three people share a common ancestral couple/ancestor.

Importantly auto-clusters minimise the risk of paying attention to misleading or false matches.

Key message – clusters of matches are far more powerful than any single match (except for very high matches say over 2000cM).

Working with clusters

Increasingly, working with DNA has evolved into a process of finding a cluster of people mostly unknown to us but who between them share DNA, and labelling them in such a way as to identify which of our family lines they belong to. The power of DNA is in connecting people who share DNA – not characteristics such as ‘born in Germany’ or surnamed Jones.

With this awareness, the important task is to springboard off matches we **do** recognise, and who are in the family of interest, but then to gather all their shared matches into a much bigger group, which we call a cluster or network. The cluster therefore includes some people we know, perhaps a sibling or 1C or 2C who also inherited that shared segment of DNA, and who will be at the top of a cluster list based on our cM values. It then includes the many other people we do not recognise.

However, what we can always recognise about every match is their **genetic relationship** to us, which is the **cM value**, and this is a proxy for their genealogical relationship to us. So, strangers on our cluster list with cM values of 200-250 are likely to be about 2nd cousins. Strangers with cM values of 75-100 are likely to be about 3rd cousins, those with cM

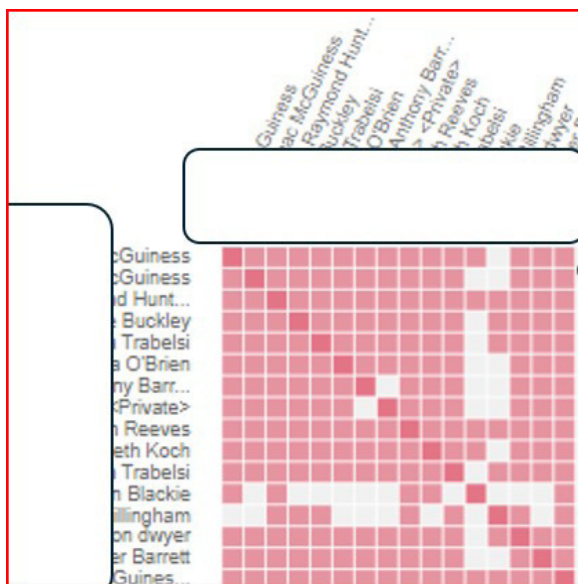
values of 25-50 likely to be about 4th cousins. Those in the low 20s are probably 5th cousins.

When you have a group of matches, either found through an auto-cluster, or through dotting, and there is internal consistency within the cluster you’ll know you are not committing the *Cardinal Sin* of creating clusters – bringing in the wrong DNA. We don’t want DNA from other family lines to contaminate the cluster. This will cause you to spend many hours looking for connections that do not exist. What you’ll find as you review the shared matches of each person in the cluster is that the same matches appear over and over, with only a few new ones for any one match. And eventually as you gather the shared matches of the smallest cM value members of the cluster, there will be no new matches. Now your cluster is complete.

Our known or recognised matches can only point the way to a particular family line. Because we already know where they sit on our tree, they cannot break through brickwalls. **It is these small mystery matches who hold the key.**

Examining a cluster

MyHeritage and Ancestry auto-clusters are presented as a grid of coloured boxes, with the same



names along the left and top sides. Thus, the darker box on the diagonal is where the names on the left match the names along the top. A blank box indicates that the two matches do not share enough DNA to satisfy the testing company's parameters to be a match.

When you hover over any box you see how many cM are shared between the two matches.

In this example of my largest cluster on MyHeritage, I examine it for the following features:

- Do I recognise any matches – and I see the names McGuinness, Hunt, Buckley,

Reeves – all members of my paternal grandfather's line

- Do I NOT recognise any names – e.g. O'Brien, Barr, Private – further research identifies them
- Are there any 'irregularities'? – Yes – Blackie and illingham match very few other people in the cluster – are they still important?
- Only the last line (a McGuinness) and Hunt (#3) match ALL people in the cluster – they are likely to be from an earlier generation than others in the cluster.

The people in an auto-cluster

should then be dotted/labelled in the usual manner to allow you to work with the cluster. This is essentially to allow you to extend the cluster with the shared matches of everyone in the cluster.

It is vital to dot/label members of **all** clusters with their appropriate family lines so that you can see patterns reflecting generational level, and where additional relationships are suggested by unexpected dots/labels found for individual matches.

How does a cluster break through brickwalls to mystery ancestors?

We are generally asking DNA to break down brick-walls where we do not know the name of a particular ancestor. This might be because of a known illegitimate birth where no father was named or because we are at say a x2 or x3 or x4 great grandmother who has been identified only by her first name. What has also emerged from the millions of DNA tests already taken, is the high frequency of non-expected-parental events, or NPEs, generally of the father but it also applies to women who did not raise their child. We expect to find surname X because it is in our tree and on all the documents, but none of our matches have surname X, or an ancestor named X.

Instead, there will be a group of

matches who do all share DNA and do not sit on any other family line we have documented, but with a name that we have never heard before and therefore can't recognise. In the past we may have passed them off as 'too-hard-to-work-out'. At an individual match level, it is far 'too-hard-to-work-out' such people. But with a group of matches embodying the DNA of Family X, some with good trees back to the generation where our two lines would connect, others with tiny trees, but with names that repeat enough to signal the connection, we can generally work out who Family X are. This process is described in the case study of working with clusters elsewhere in this edition of TAS.

Diahan Southard has the following rules for working with a cluster, whether formed manually, or extended manually from an auto-cluster.

1. A cluster is defined by the dot it is given, and then named accordingly (i.e. the parents)
2. The rule is DOT EVERY SHARED MATCH of the known cousin (because that tiniest of matches might have the best documented tree of them all)
3. When you gather all shared matches into a cluster, you will gather close and known shared matches (reassuring, but not as

helpful)

4. As matches get smaller, and the number of segments reduce (to 1-4), you are entering the territory of HIS and HERS

5. Add to the cluster with a second, third KNOWN cousin

6. Finally, and only when needed, add to the cluster by adding shared matches of UNKNOWN shared matches

7. NEVER use or gather shared matches of any suspect match (such as having the wrong paternal side, or a mixed dot pattern).

I encourage anyone with access to auto-clusters at MyHeritage or ProTools at Ancestry to really examine each cluster. Try to allocate every cluster to a family line. Those containing only matches with small cMs, under 50, will be families further back in your tree.

When you need to use clusters to break down brickwalls, you can confidently extend your auto-cluster (because you can have faith that these groupings are internally consistent). Following all of Diahan's rules for adding the shared matches of people you do not recognise in your cluster is the best way to identify the multiple families to be found in the cluster.

The most important of these rules is #7. If a match has dots/labels

from family lines not expected from your tree then they will bring in DNA with other families, and it will be harder to identify the brickwall family you are investigating.

In summary, clusters whether fully manual, or extended from auto-clusters, offer a more reliable path to identifying your ancestors.

A Cluster Case Study - the Buchans

Clare McGuinness

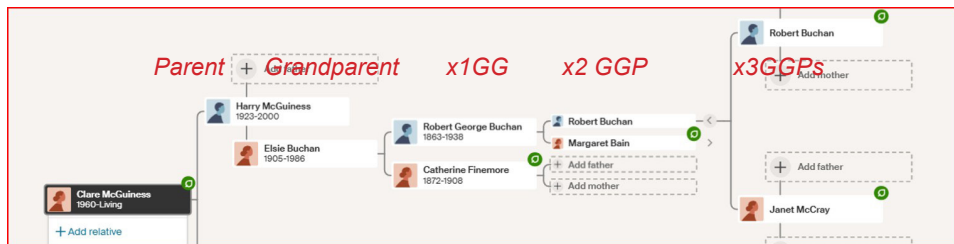
I have used clustering extensively in my Buchan study, and it illustrates well the principles of using clusters to solve mysteries (or to break down brick walls). Diahan Southard paid me to write about it on her YourDNAGuide blog, and last year she used it at a conference, and gave me permission to use her slides.

My 'nearest' family history mystery was the parents of my x2 great-grandfather Robert Buchan. My x2 great-grandparents independently emigrated to Australia from Scotland in the 1850s, married in 1860 and had a son Robert in 1863, as well as nine other children. Robert's wife was Margaret Bain, a lass from the Highlands, and I could trace her family easily. From their marriage certificate I knew

Robert's parents to be Robert Buchan and Janet McCray, but not where they came from. The emigrating Robert was said to be born about 1834 in Edinburghshire, now Midlothian in Scotland. But I could not find his baptism or their marriage anywhere in Scotland. Not did I find any siblings.

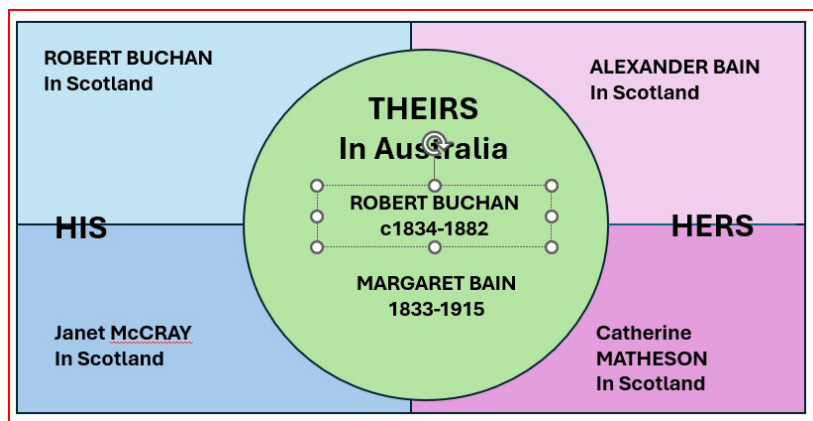
Although I knew the names of my x3 great-grandparents, in reality I was looking for my x4 great-grandparents Mr Buchan and his wife (I might presume) and Mr McCray and his wife. McCray is a very rare name in Scotland, and so I expected she might have been a McRae.

I solved the mystery within three weeks doing Diahan Southard's DNA Skills Workshop in 2022.



It all involved using the right clusters. What were they? The family structure in a DNA sense is shown here:

Robert and Margaret than I was. One of these was my father's 1st cousin (1C), Pat, my 1C1R, whose test I managed. I was able to use



Step 1 – Isolate the DNA of the emigrant Robert Buchan

I needed to use the DNA of Robert's descendants (THEIRS) to isolate a cluster of matches who were descendants of HIS (the Buchan family). It should be clear that the 'Buchan' family was really the Buchan and McCray families. In forming this cluster, I would be gathering matches who might descend from either of Robert's parental sides.

The first clustering was therefore based on Robert and Margaret's descendants. From extensive existing research on this family, I knew of three people at Ancestry who were a generation closer to

her because an older 1C1R shares only my great-grandparents (who were thus **her** grandparents). Robert and Margaret had named their second son Robert, the third in the line (to date at least). They had broken with Scottish naming traditions, and later knowledge might explain why.

Prior to the availability of auto-clusters at Ancestry, I used the three older matches to build a cluster of about 60 people. The three matched each other as expected since they were full 2Cs to each other. In practical terms this cluster was given a Dark Blue dot and called Buchan+Bain. Some of these matches were descendants of Margaret Bain's known sisters

(ie HERS matches) and I did not want them.

Once again, this family was already well researched, so I could identify quite a few Bain-only descendants in the original cluster. I started a Bain-only cluster de novo as I needed to go beyond the several Bain descendants in the original cluster, to find **all** Bain-only descendants, since the purpose of this new cluster was to eliminate them from a Buchan-only cluster. There would be matches that might be under 75cM whom I did not recognise and might therefore have been left in as Buchans when really they were not! In fact, there were Bain-only descendants in Scotland that I was certainly unaware of until I fully tackled this family in 2025. This second cluster was given a Yellow dot and called Bain+Matheson.

When I did this work in 2022 there were no Thrulines for this family. Since building up the family tree, Ancestry now provides these, and occasionally new matches are added.

Step 2 – Create a Buchan-only cluster

It is necessary to identify the Buchan-only cluster with a new Light Blue dot, which was allocated if a match did not have a Yellow dot. This is because you can only filter matches on Ancestry (and

on MyHeritage) by **having** a dot, not by 'not having a dot'. It may seem tiresome, but in fact it makes things incredibly clearer. Buchan-only matches may have both the Dark Blue dot and the Light Blue dot, but smaller matches found after extending the cluster, might have only the Light Blue dot. The label given was 'Buchan+McCray'.

Some of the matches with a Light Blue dot were THEIRS, like me and my siblings and Pat and all the known descendants of Robert and Margaret. But the ones who were not THEIRS must be HIS, must be descendants of the emigrant Robert's siblings if he had any (and I later only ever found half siblings), or descendants of Robert's 1Cs, therefore sharing Robert's grandparents. If the latter was the case, then these matches would be 4C to Pat – which has a 50% chance of matching if they had tested. However, this was much better than using myself and my siblings – any of our matches would therefore be 5C, which has only a 10% chance of matching if they had tested. It was critical that I had Pat's test, and later when I was investigating the McCray family, I was advised to gather more matches of her generation to widen the pool of McCray DNA (as you'll see why later). KJL shared her match list, while KP did not return my messages and

he is now well into his 90s if he is still alive. As a cautionary tale, he once messaged me with a 'be in touch' reply, but because I was not actively researching the family at that time I failed to do so. I should have asked to share his match list when I recognised his age. I now think his test is in limbo.

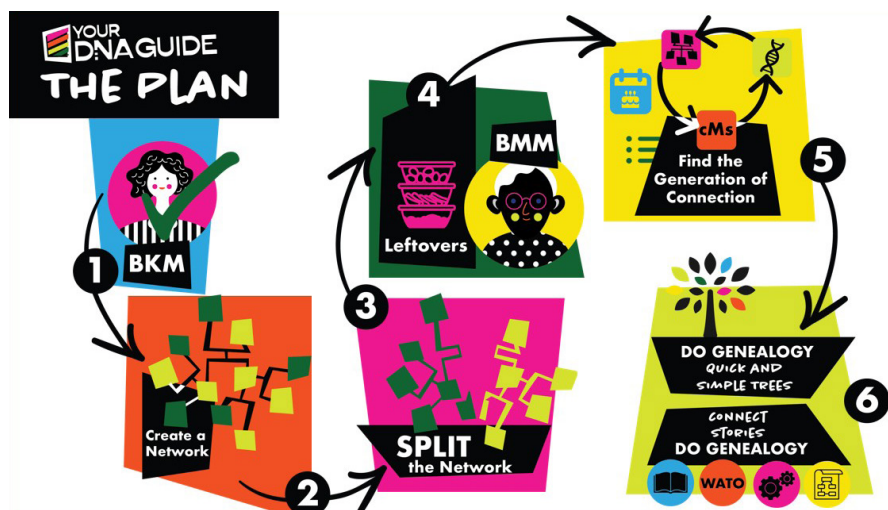
Diahan also calls the Light Blue group without a Dark Blue dot 'Leftovers' as shown in the seminal graphic of her Plan below.

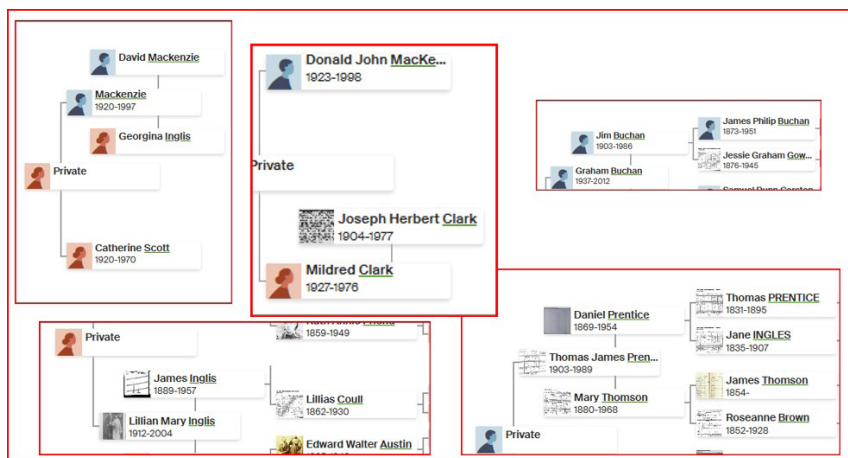
Step 3 – Examine the 'left-over' Light Blue matches for common surnames and locations

At this stage I had 11 matches, six with trees. I was heartened that one male match had the surname Buchan, and his tree extended to

his x2 great-grandfather George Buchan who was from Midlothian. I was more heartened when four matches included the name Inglis or Mackenzie, though all were seemingly unrelated and all the trees were small.

I did not know how to use the ScotlandsPeople website at that time, but another very transferable strategy is to look for other trees on Ancestry with the names in the match's trees. This can be done from within the match's DNA profile page. An amazing death certificate was attached to one of these 'non-match's' trees. A George Buchan died in 1865, and the informant for his death was his **brother Robert**. George was born about 1802, so he was of the right age to be a





Snippets of trees from the group of 11 matches.

brother to my Robert Buchan (the x3 great-grandfather). This man had many descendants, so there were several trees naming his parents as George Buchan and Janet (or Jean or Jane) Johnson. Similarly, I found trees showing an Isabella Buchan who married Daniel Inglis, and this Isabella had the same parents. I was confident that I had found Robert Senior's parents.

Descendancy research took over, as I documented all of Robert senior's siblings, found his possibly second marriage and an illegitimate daughter born just a year or two after the emigrant Robert. Now I know to search for siblings by conducting a search of the death records on ScotlandsPeople using the parents' names. All but one of his siblings

died after 1855, and therefore detailed death certificates exist for eight siblings (including Robert's) all naming George Buchan and Jean Johnson as their parents. As is common in Scotland in the early 1800s, only three of these siblings have baptism records.

Step 4 – Search for the McCray members of the cluster

Just as I did to identify the Buchan-only cluster, I needed to identify and label the now-recognised descendants of George and Jean. These matches got an Orange dot. Once again, I had to expand this cluster by adding the shared matches of the people for who this had not already been collected, and they all had small cM values, ProTools allowed me to find matches below 20cM down

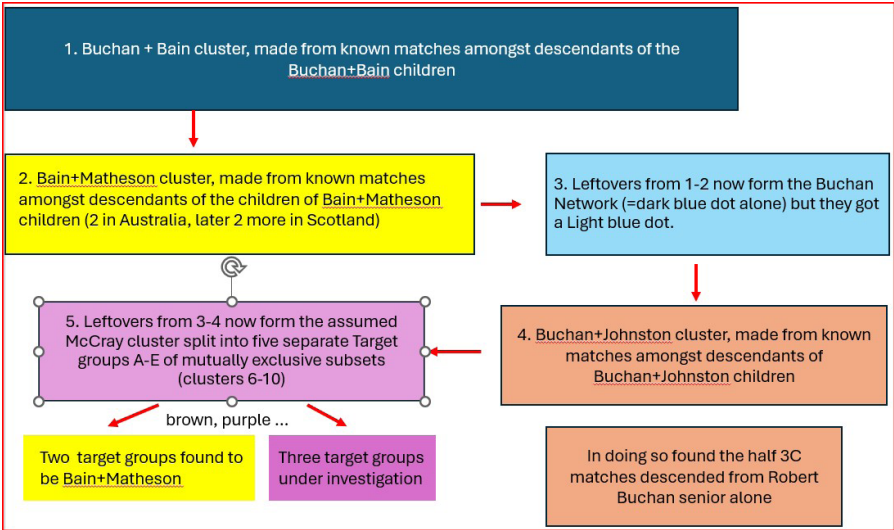
to 8cM. Without knowing who was significant, I included them all. Matches in the Orange group who were not descendants of George and Jean (i.e.Buchan+Johnson) were given a Pink dot called 'McCray+?'

I now knew that there were potentially half 3C and 4C matches to Pat in the database (these same people were half 4C and 5C to me). The average cM value for half 3C is 48, 4C is 35 and 5C is 25, so they were findable in a match list.

In 2026 I have 49 matches in this group using Pat's test. With no family lines to guide me, I chose the highest match and collected all of their shared matches into what I called Target A group which got a Purple dot. Similar to doing a

Leeds analysis, I then chose the next highest Pink match without a Purple dot, collected all their shared matches to form the Target B group. And so on, till I formed five **mutually exclusive** clusters. Two clusters turned out to be Bain+Matheson, missed when I formed these from Pat's list; it seems Pat has a lot less Bain DNA than Buchan DNA.

No amount of tree building has yet found definitive answers. In Target A group I can take six matches back to a couple in Lanarkshire in the 1820s. But these six are three pairs of closely related people, and the 1820s is too late to identify Janet McCray who was likely born about 1813 (when Robert was born). As well the parents of this 1820s couple remain elusive.



Summary

Clusters allowed me to find the parents of Robert Buchan senior and his siblings, but not to find the parents of Janet McCray. Was Janet an only sibling (to have descendants) and I am actually searching for a generation even further back?

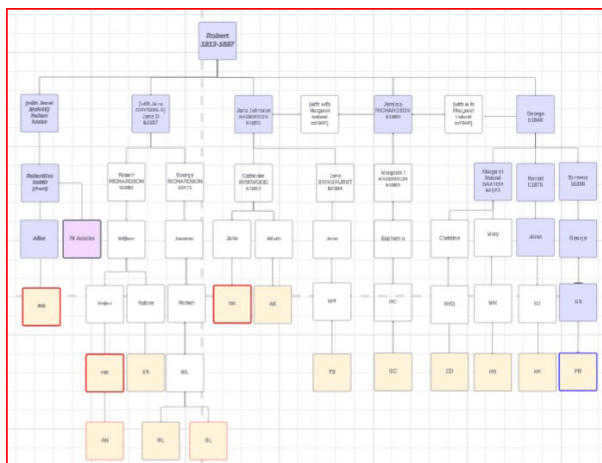
In total I made ten clusters as shown on the previous page. Although these Buchan families populate Thrulines, still nothing emerges independently for Janet McCray.

One of the most useful tools I find to understanding a cluster is to draw out the DNA family, and this is one of the clearest ways to explain to others what all the cMs mean. This can be done on paper, on Lucid chart software, using Excel, or other diagramming programs.

I use Lucid chart. In the following chart of the DNA descendants of Robert, the only one of the Buchan siblings to have more than one partner, DNA matches are in cream boxes, a red border indicates I have access to segment data, and a blue box indicates the match has the surname of Buchan. You can portray any other factor. For simplicity I have omitted cM values.

I also highly recommend writing your cluster development and findings into either a research note or a story (or a talk!) Not only will this step clarify your own missteps, it helps to remind you of how you got where you are. In the ever changing world of DNA analysis, new matches, new tools and new objectives, it is easy to get lost. Text and graphs are really helpful to keep you on the right path.

Snippet of a larger chart; this shows matches descended from Robert through his three partners.



NSW, with some descendants continuing in the engineering profession. The Manchester Genealogist 2026 v62 n1 p12 (electronic journal).

CANADA

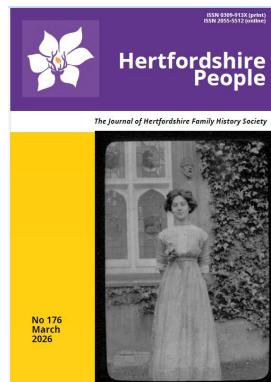
* James BARRON, son of William and Mary (nee FLEMING) of Co. Kilkenny, was reported as missing in the Boston Pilot on 13 Feb 1875. He supposedly left Halifax, Nova Scotia, in about 1865 and was last heard from when he was at Cape River Gold Field, Bowen, Port Denison, Queensland, South Australia (sic). The Nova Scotia Genealogist Spring/Summer 2026 vXLIV n1 p22 (electronic journal).

ENGLAND

* George BLACKWELL, son of William and Faith Elizabeth (nee WARCUP), of Yeadon in West Yorkshire, migrated to Australia in about 1910. He applied to join the AIF in 1916 but was rejected because of poor eyesight. Three of his brothers, Alfred, Francis and Frederick, who remained in England enlisted. Only one, Francis, survived. George married Elizabeth SCHELL, a widow, at Waverley, NSW in 1922. *Anglo-Celtic Roots* (British Isles FHS of Greater Ottawa) Spring 2026 v32 n1 p23 (electronic journal).

* William BROWN (1863-1931, son of Henry William Harris BROWN, migrated and became a Wesleyan Minister at Sherwood, near Brisbane. Henry, a schoolteacher, is thought to be the brother of Elizabeth BROWN, who used the stage name Mrs Henry LEIGH and was an actress in London for many decades. *Hertfordshire People* Mar 2026 n176 p14 (electronic journal).

* Emerson JORDAN, son of Emerson and Ann (nee WOOLNOUGH), was baptised at Kelsale, Suffolk, in 1788. He had several brushes with the law before being transported to Australia in 1828 for stealing pigs. He arrived on the *Phoenix* and was assigned to Sir John Jamison at Evan (now Penrith). In 1837 Emerson's wife, Letitia, and their two adult children, George and Letitia, with her husband James DRAKE were provided assisted passage to join him. Emerson died in 1852. *Suffolk Roots* Mar 2026 v51 n4 p332 (see also issue for Dec 2025



v51 n3 p228 (electronic journal).

* Graham LUGSDIN, whose x2 great-grandparents migrated to Melbourne in 1852 has written his third book on the LUGSDIN family. The book covers their lineage, the farms they lived on in Bedfordshire and the migration of family members to Canada and Australia, as well as drawing on diaries and letters dating from the 1850s. Bedfordshire FHS Mar 2026 v25 n5 p25 (electronic journal).

* Angela PARR-BURMAN: "Angela's Web Finds" mentions websites relevant to migration from Liverpool and Bristol, as well as some resources in Australia. The Essex Family Historian Mar 2026 n187 p22 (electronic journal).

* William SPARKES was one of 11 children born to John and Emma (nee LAWRENCE) who lived at Brent Pelham, in eastern Hertfordshire. William migrated to Australia in 1912 on the *Australind* leaving behind his wife and two children, intending for them to join him later which they never did. He remarried and had two daughters Vera and Betty while living in Corrigin, Western Australia. He died there in 1951. Hertfordshire People Mar 2026 n176 p26 (electronic journal).

* William VALE and Phillip HARROLD were convicted of stealing poultry in 1801 and transported to NSW on the *Fortune* in 1806. William and Ann SHADWELL, also a convict, did not marry but had several children, including Hannah VALE (1813-1897). William later married Mary HENRY. It is unclear what happened to Phillip. Suffolk Roots Mar 2026 v51 n4 p288 (electronic journal).

IRELAND

* Jennifer HARRISON: "Australian Irish Connections – Marking Time" highlights the usefulness of compiling timelines which are succinct, portable and provide accurate frameworks when researching. Irish Roots 4th Qtr 2025 n136 p26 (R9/60/04).

* Thomas HERBERT born in 1821 near Killarney, IRE and his brother Henry settled in Queensland in 1845. They were among the first settlers to squat on land in the Burnett District and helped



establish the township now known as Gayndah where their homestead still stands. The brothers returned to live in Ireland sometime after 1860 after they became disgruntled with what they considered interference from the colonial government in Sydney. Hertfordshire People Mar 2026 n176 p31 (electronic journal).

* James G RYAN: "Local Resources for Family History Research – County Meath" Irish Roots 4th Qtr 2025 n136 p10 (R9/60/04).

SCOTLAND



* Cameron DAVIDSON: Australia and New Zealand Group report highlights members' recent research. Aberdeen & North East Scotland FHS Feb 2026 n177 p32 (electronic journal).

* Alexander McQUEEN, born 1826, the son of William and Henrietta (nee LESLIE), migrated to Australia sometime after the 1841 census. He died in Melbourne in 1858. His name is recorded on the family gravestone at Braemar. Aberdeen & North East Scotland FHS Feb 2026 n177 p6 (electronic journal).

Book Review

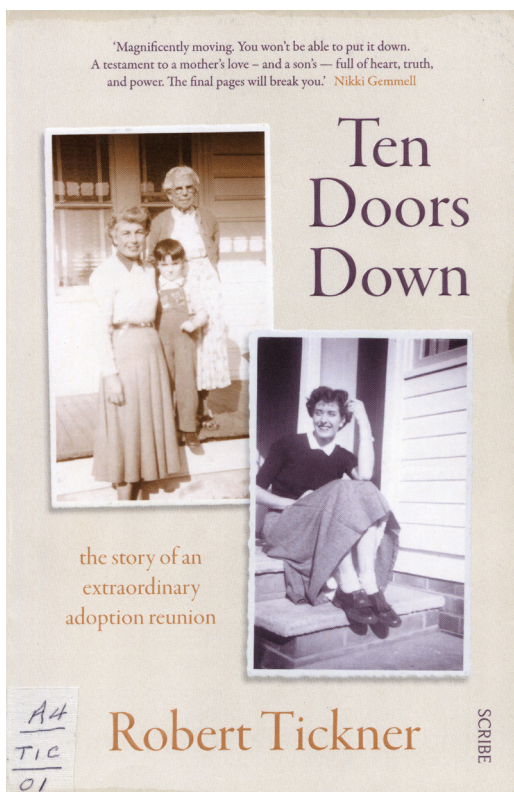
Helen Cohen

Ten Doors Down

Robert Tickner's memoir is more than the story of an extraordinary adoption reunion. It also discusses adoption practices in New South Wales in the 1950s and, in a separate chapter, practices relating to the Stolen Generations. However, the book is mainly focused on aspects of his life relating to his adoption.

Born in Sydney in 1951, Robert grew up as a country boy in Forster with his adoptive parents. This was a happy time in his life with loving parents, 'living a quiet and modest lifestyle'. Swimming and surfing were important to him, and he was a good school student. At the University of Sydney, Tickner studied law and developed an interest in politics, initially with the University Liberal Club, until he heard Malcolm Fraser speak at the NSW Liberal Party headquarters. He realised he 'was in the wrong place' and subsequently joined the ALP in Croydon, where he was living at the time; he also joined the Woolloomooloo Resident Action Group.

In 1977 Tickner was elected to the Sydney City Council as an alderman. In 1984, he was elected to the Federal Parliament as MP for Hughes. Tickner served in both the Hawke and Keating



governments, initially as a backbench MP and later as Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs. He spent much time travelling around Australia in this role. By age 41, Tickner was married and his first child, a son, was born. His son's birth was 'a life-changing event' and Tickner realised that baby Jack 'was the first human on the planet who I knew was biologically related to me.' This major event caused Robert to wonder about his birth mother.

Through the Department of Community Services, Tickner commenced the process of making contact with Maida, his birth mother. The process and meeting are described in detail. The text of some of the letters they exchanged has been included. After forming a successful relationship with Maida, Tickner commenced the process of contacting his birth father. This resulted in a successful relationship, not only with his birth father but also with two brothers and two sisters.

As well as the family reunions, this book records some of the events of Tickner's political life, especially as Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs. The Mabo decision and the Hindmarsh Island heritage application occurred during this time.

Perhaps, because Tickner's own life path as an adopted child was not always plain sailing, he is very sensitive to the difficulties experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, and their mothers, in the removal process and writes passionately about it.

In the penultimate chapter, Tickner discusses his family history, as he has been able to discover this following his ongoing relationship with both of his birth parents. The final chapter is a surprise. Following the death of Maida, Tickner realises 'our adoption reunion was a turning point in my mother's life, as her words below make clear, and we became integral to each other's lives for the next 20 years.' Maida had left a written record of the process and her feelings of meeting and forming a relationship with her son, Robert.

Robert Tickner writes in a clear, easy to read style. By combining elements of his life in politics as well as his personal life, and the process of searching for, and meeting with his birth parents, the book is of interest at a number of levels.

Robert Tickner, *Ten Doors Down*, Scribe, Melbourne, 2020, 243pp. Call Number A4.TIC.01.

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Across Oceans and Into the Archives: Twentieth Century Immigration Records at the NAA - *Amanda King-Hardie* *Manager, Reference & Community Outreach NAA*

Behind every immigration record is a story of journey, hope and belonging. In this presentation, Amanda King-Hardie explores 20th century immigration records held by the National Archives of Australia, highlighting the records available, the migration stories they reveal, and practical tips for finding and using them in family history research. Discover how archival records can uncover the experiences of the everyday migrants who shaped modern Australia.



Bound for Australia: The Ocean Passage that Shaped Your Family Tree - *Mike Traynor, Maritime Educator*

For many family historians, the voyage from Britain to Australia is reduced to dates and ship names, but for those on board it was often a long and challenging ordeal. This presentation explores the emigrant voyage through the eyes of a merchant seafarer, examining cramped conditions, daily routines, storms, dangers and uncertainty at sea. Step aboard and discover what the journey was really like for those who endured it and were forever changed by it.



This seminar is open to anyone who would like to learn more about assisted migration to Australia. You can attend via Zoom or in person at the Family History ACT Library in Canberra (note places are capped for in-person attendance so book early).



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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.

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

11am third Sunday of each month except December; and 11am last Tuesday of each month except December

Library Practice

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

- 3 9:30 am **Reunion & Mac SUG**: convenor Danny O'Neill, ram.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 4 9:30 am **Irish SIG**: *The 1926 Census*; convenors Nick Reddan and Peter Mayberry, irish.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 4 1:00 pm **DNA SIG**: Q&A; convenors Cathy Day and Clare McGuiness, dna.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 7 7:00 pm **Monthly Meeting**: *Saving Children, Saving Mothers: Thomas Coram and the Foundling Hospital*
- 9 10:00 am **Family Tree Maker SUG**: *General Questions & Answers*; ftm.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 16 10:00 am **Legacy SUG**: convenor Julie Hesse, legacy.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 16 7:30 pm **English and Welsh SIG**: *Not the dreaded workhouse! Looking at the British Workhouse system*; convenors Floss Aitchison and Nina Johnson, english.welsh.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 17 10:00 am **Coffee and Chat**: coffee.chat@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 18 10:00 am **Writers SIG**: *Writers Circle - a morning of giving and receiving constructive feedback*; convenor Jo Callaghan, writers.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 19 11:00 am **Pauline's Parlour**: *Round table support*; convenor Pauline Ramage, parlour@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 20 7:00 pm **Tell Me About**: *Noel Butlin Archives Centre*; see Registration page for Course 1069
- 26 2:00 pm **Australia SIG**: *South Coast Ship Wrecks*; convenor Pauline Ramage, australia@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 27 10:00 am **Library Practice**: *Learn to use our Library and other resources*; Jeanette Hahn
- 28 11:00 am **Pauline's Parlour**: *Round table support*; convenor Pauline Ramage, parlour@familyhistoryact.org.au

August

- 1 10:00 am **India SIG**: TBA
- 4 7:00 pm **Monthly Meeting**: TBA
- 6 7:30 pm **Scottish SIG**: *My Notable Relative*; convenor Clare McGuiness, scottish@familyhistoryact.org.au

- 7 9:30 am **Reunion & Mac Support:** convenor Danny O'Neill, ram.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 8 1:00 pm **Mini Conference** on Migration to Australia - see Registration page for details
- 8 2:00 pm **TMG Down Under SUG:** *TBA*; FHACT convenor Lindsay Graham, tmg@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 12 7:30 pm **Convict SIG:** *Brickwalls Session*; convenor Michele Rainger, convict@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 13 10:00 am **Family Tree Maker SUG:** *General Questions & Answers*; ftm.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 15 10:00 am **Writers SIG:** *TBA*; convenor Jo Callaghan, writers.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 16 11:00 am **Pauline's Parlour:** *Round table support*; convenor Pauline Ramage, parlour@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 17 7:30 pm **AI for Genealogy:** *Digging Deeper with AI Projects*; convenor Cheryl Bollard, ai@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 20 10:00 am **Legacy SUG:** convenor Julie Hesse, legacy.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 20 8:00 pm **Heraldry SIG:** *TBA*; convenor Chris Lindesay, heraldry@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 21 11:00 am **Coffee and Chat:** coffee.chat@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 24 10:00 am **Library Practice:** *Learn to use our Library and other resources*; Jeanette Hahn
- 25 11:00 am **Pauline's Parlour:** *Round table support*; convenor Pauline Ramage, parlour@familyhistoryact.org.au

September

- 1 7:00 pm **Monthly Meeting:** *TBA*
- 4 9:30 am **Reunion & Mac SUG:** convenor Danny O'Neill, ram.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 10 10:00 am **Family Tree Maker SUG:** *General Questions & Answers*; ftm.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 12 9:30 am **Irish SIG:** *TBA*; convenors Nick Reddan and Peter Mayberry, irish.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 12 1:00 pm **DNA SIG:** *Wato, Wato Plus and Banyan*; 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:** *A look at GENUKI*; 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:** *Writers Circle: a morning of giving and receiving constructive feedback*; 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:** *A 60 Minute Tour of a Look Back in Time*; convenor Pauline Ramage, australia@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 28 0:00 am **Library Practice:** 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

Services for Members

Photocopies

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A4 45c

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Members \$28 Certificate, \$18 PDF,
\$7.20 Digital

Non-members \$35 Certificate, \$22.50
PDF, \$9 Digital

Translation Service

Translations available for the following
languages:

English handwriting c. 1600, Estonian,
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Icelandic, Italian, Latin, Norwegian,
Polish, Welsh, Yiddish.

Prices: A \$10 fee for assessment of the
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according to language and are charged
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Further details in Library or contact
secretary on secretary@familyhistoryact.org.au

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The FFACT library is registered
as a Library Affiliate with the LDS
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enables members using the FFACT
library access to the approximately 25%
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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 first day 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, not pdf**. 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
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/rth), italicise
ship names, all quotes "double quotes".
We no longer capitalise surnames in
articles.

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 Coordinator. Amounts are shown for one year:

Individual	\$95-120.00*	Joining Fee	\$20.00
Joint	\$145-170.00*	Journal Only – Australia	\$40.00
Individual – Concession	\$90-115.00*	Journal Only – Overseas	\$45-75.00*
Joint – Concession	\$135-160.00*	* GST free other prices include GST	

Note the different prices for each type of membership reflect whether a print version of TAS is received. 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*

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*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.*