



THE ANCESTRAL SEARCHER



Family History ACT

Vol. 49 No. 3 September 2026

FAMILY HISTORY ACT

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

Member of the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations;

NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies;

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

Patron

Professor Peter Stanley F.A.H.A.

Honorary Life Members

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

Fellows

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

Honorary Fellows

Colonel Iain Swinnerton*, Heather Garnsey

** Indicates Deceased*

Honorary Office Bearers 2025-2026

President: Michele Rainger president@familyhistoryact.org.au
Vice-President: Susan Pillans vice-president@familyhistoryact.org.au
Secretary: Marie Wensing secretary@familyhistoryact.org.au
Treasurer: Cheryl Bollard treasurer@familyhistoryact.org.au
Councillors: Floss Aitchison
Helen Bull
Mel McNamara
Grahame Thom
Howard Viccars computermgr@familyhistoryact.org.au
David Wintrip facilities@familyhistoryact.org.au

Non-Committee Posts

Archivist Gina Tooke
Bookshop Manager Anne Beasley and Francine Morrison
bookshop@familyhistoryact.org.au
Computer Manager Howard Viccars computermgr@familyhistoryact.org.au
Editor Clare McGuinness editor@familyhistoryact.org.au
Education and Events Jo Callaghan and Sue Stockmayer
registration@familyhistoryact.org.au
Education Room Bookings Robyn Coghlan roomhire@familyhistoryact.org.au
Membership Coordinator membership@familyhistoryact.org.au
Public Officer Annette Fitzgerald
Research Manager Jenny Higgins research.service@familyhistoryact.org.au
Serials Librarian Susan Mann tims@familyhistoryact.org.au
Translation Service Jenny Higgins translation@familyhistoryact.org.au
Webmaster mjadministrator@familyhistoryact.org.au

Front Cover: *Joyce and Frank and some of their charges 1960, see page 212*

Society Library and Headquarters:

41 Templeton Street, Cook, ACT

The Secretary, FFACT PO Box 152 Jamison Centre ACT 2614

secretary@familyhistoryact.org.au

ABN: 50 317 924 321

Telephone: 02 6251 7004

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

The Ancestral Searcher

Quarterly Journal of Family History ACT*

September 2026

ISSN 2206-5598

Vol. 49 No. 3

Articles

Splitting a DNA network to solve a family mystery	Susan Pillans	186
One last road trip	Robyn Attewell	190
The Ship Samuel Plimsoll and Her Voyages to Australia		
	Jenny Tomkins	193
Letting Go of Books – Without Losing the Plot	Marie Wensing et al	199
Using ChatGPT to Unlock Irish Census Data	Jeff Bollard	202
The Home for Friendless Girls	Cathy Day	207
“Enemy Aliens” - the untold story of the Seefeld family	Sean Kelly	213
Beyond the Brick Wall	Cheryl Bollard	221
Scribe AI for Family Historians	Therese Lynch	229
Discussing the Irish 1926 census	Nick Reddan	237

Regular Articles

From the President	Michele Rainger	184
From the Editor's Desk	Clare McGuinness	185
From our Contemporaries	Pauline Bygraves	246
New Items in our Collection	Barbara Moore	252
Book Review	Helen Cohen	254
Society Education and Activities, Services		256
Advertising		206

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

From the President

Michele Rainger

As I write we are mid-way through Family History Month which occurs every year throughout August across Australia and New Zealand. It is a time to celebrate all things family history. Family history societies, national and state institutions and local libraries all get involved to promote family history and to host events that encourage people to start researching their family roots and/or enhance our knowledge. I especially like the sense of community that accompanies this month as we can all come together to learn, celebrate what we have achieved so far and renew connections and friendships with others.

And speaking of coming together to learn and connect with like-minded colleagues, there are some great opportunities coming up in the next six months to take this even further. The NSW and ACT Association of Family History Societies Annual Conference is being held at Port Macquarie from 18 to 20 September 2026, and the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations (AFFHO) Congress will be held in Wellington New Zealand from 11 to 14 February 2027. These gatherings are wonderful opportunities to hear from knowledgeable speakers on all manner of interesting topics; visit the trade tables of other family history groups and/or commercial providers to find out what's new; catch up with distant colleagues; and have lots of fun being totally immersed in our shared pastime.

I always enjoy participating in family history-related conferences and congresses – not just for all the reasons that I have outlined here, but also because they help to re-focus my attention towards getting on with my own research. I always return home feeling enthused and energised, and keen to get on with more work. If you have not attended one of these events previously, I would suggest that they are well worth some serious thought. Maybe I might see you at a conference or congress sometime soon.

Welcome to this edition of The Ancestral Searcher – I hope that you enjoy the wide array of topics and issues being shared.

From the Editor's Desk

Clare McGuinness

I was speaking to a library volunteer today who was full on investigating a DNA match possibly related to an ancestor of particular interest. So many questions and researches, and interest in this ancestor. And then I asked, "What will happen to all your work?" It is not an easy question to answer.

Just one idea is to publish something in our journal. Our journal is catalogued in the National Library of Australia (eventually). You might like to mention in your TAS article that you have an online tree, or a blog, or have published a printed family history or that a story of yours can be found in an E.M. Fletcher Competition compilation. This might lead future researchers to your work, and they might carry it further. Not everyone has found 'the one' who will carry forward our passion for family history. Have you found an interesting resource, developed a new method, or are just thrilled to learn something interesting about your family? Why not tell us all about it.

Are you worried about what will happen to your research? Please consider raising this with the Society, or propose options to assist both yourself and others.

This edition contains a DNA story submitted just as the previous edition went to the printer, as well as offerings from authors based on my untimely request for articles. No one likes to beg – please don't make me!

December TAS will see the short-listed stories of the E.M. Fletcher Award. Our most popular topic/theme – biography – is on for the March 2027 edition! I know that there is great work being done by our members. If you enjoy reading TAS, why not join the ranks of members who enjoy, even more, offering their work to the Society.

Our authors welcome any communication about their work. Please send anything to me to be forwarded on.

Splitting a DNA network to solve a family mystery

Susan Pillans

How a technique taught by Diahann Southard helped identify the father of my maternal great-grandmother

For many years, I had a family history mystery that seemed difficult to solve using traditional records alone. The question was simple: who was the father of my great-grandmother, Grace Goode (Matthews)?

Grace was registered at birth as Grace Goode, yet she married under the surname Matthews. Was her father Edward Goode or William Matthews, both of whom had been husbands of her mother, Clara Marsh?

Last year, I attended the DNA Skills Workshop presented by genetic genealogist Diahann Southard. Participants were encouraged to bring a specific DNA problem and a well-documented family tree. I immediately knew which mystery I wanted to investigate.

The Mystery

My maternal x2 great-grandmother, Clara Marsh, was born in

Nottingham, England. She married Joseph Maskrey in Sheffield in 1875, and they had two daughters, Clara and Gertrude.

Joseph emigrated to Australia in 1879 and became the publican of the Commercial Hotel in Orange, New South Wales. Clara and the girls joined him in 1881. Tragically, only eight months later, Joseph was killed in a shooting accident. Clara was pregnant at the time, and her third daughter was born shortly afterwards but died in infancy.

Clara struggled to support her family. She took over the lease of the hotel, although being unable to read or write must have made the task difficult.

In 1884 Clara married Edward Goode in Bathurst. A daughter, Victoria Elizabeth, was born in Walgett in 1886, followed by a son, William, in Wilcannia in 1889, my great-grandmother Grace in 1891, and George James in 1893.

Yet Edward Goode seems to disappear from the records soon after the marriage. I have found no evidence that he ever lived in

Wilcannia, nor have I ever located a death record for him in New South Wales.

William Matthews provides another possibility. Born in St Agnes, Cornwall, he arrived in Australia with his parents, William Matthews and Maria Halls, in 1848. The family later lived in several mining districts throughout New South Wales, including areas associated with Clara's family.

William Matthews remained a bachelor until he married Clara, then a widow, in 1903.

In Wilcannia, all of Clara's children used the surname Matthews, including her daughters Clara and Gertrude Maskrey. However, Victoria, William, Grace and George were all registered under the surname Goode. This inconsistency raised the question of their true parentage.

During the First World War, the family moved to Mildura, where William and George enlisted in the Australian Imperial Defence Force.

Learning to Split a DNA Network

The key lesson from Diahan Southard's workshop was that DNA matches should not be viewed as a long list of individuals. Instead, they should be organised into networks.

Network splitting involves dividing DNA matches into groups representing different ancestral

lines. Rather than asking, "How am I related to this match?", the first question becomes, "Which family network does this match belong to?"

Diahan's method uses coloured dots to identify groups of related matches. By examining shared matches, the amount of DNA shared, and the relationships between those matches, clusters begin to emerge. Individual matches may belong to more than one network and can therefore receive multiple coloured dots.

Building the Networks

I began with DNA matches whose relationship to me was already known. These became the anchors for my analysis.

Among the 55 DNA matches connected to Clara Marsh, I created separate-coloured groups for:

- Descendants of Edward Goode
- Descendants of William Matthews

The descendants of Clara's daughters Clara and Gertrude Maskrey were given their own colour group in addition to a Clara Marsh group. Separate colour groups were also created for matches descending from Clara's brothers and sisters.

Each DNA match was examined and assigned to the appropriate network.

As the analysis progressed, an interesting pattern emerged. I identified 21 matches connected to the siblings of William Matthews, yet I found no DNA matches that could be linked to the Goode family in either Australia or England.

Looking for Patterns Rather Than Individuals

One of the most valuable lessons from the workshop was that a single DNA match rarely proves anything. Individual matches can be misleading because they may descend from multiple ancestral lines.

A network, however, tells a much stronger story.

Instead of focusing on individual matches, I examined the overall pattern. Which network contained the strongest matches? Which network included descendants from multiple branches of the family? Which network showed consistent clustering?

These questions transformed the investigation from a search for a single piece of evidence into an assessment of the entire body of DNA evidence.

The Outcome

As the networks expanded, the evidence became increasingly difficult to ignore.

Among the 55 DNA matches connected to Clara Marsh, the

descendants of William Matthews formed a strong and consistent cluster. This was helped by the fact that Victoria Elizabeth Goode had ten sons, producing a large number of descendants available for DNA testing.

In contrast, no comparable network emerged for Edward Goode.

By examining the shared matches and their relationships to one another, it became clear that the DNA evidence supported William Matthews as the biological father of Grace Goode.

The analysis went even further. The DNA evidence indicated that William Matthews was the father of Clara's five surviving children, despite them having been registered under the surname Goode. Edward Goode must have disappeared before 1885, as Victoria Goode, born in 1886, is the daughter of William Matthews. For more than a century, the documentary evidence had left room for doubt. By organising DNA matches into networks using Diahan Southard's coloured dot method, the descendants of Clara's children unknowingly provided the evidence needed to resolve the mystery.

A Final Thought

Ancestry's latest ethnicity estimates now assign me 13% Cornwall. While ethnicity

estimates cannot prove a specific relationship, it is interesting that this regional connection aligns with William Matthews's Cornish origins as the son of a mining family from St Agnes.

More importantly, this project demonstrated the power of network analysis. The answer did not come from a single DNA match. It emerged from a network of interconnected descendants

whose combined evidence revealed the most likely truth.

The next time you encounter a family history brick wall, try asking a different question. Instead of "How am I related to this match?", ask "Which network does this match belong to?" The answer may lead you closer to solving your own family mystery.



George Matthews, Mary Elizabeth (my grandmother) and Clara Marsh Goode Matthews.

One last road trip

Robyn Attewell

It was a two-person job – Operation Warrigal. I was the designated packer and driver. My sister was the decoy. She ran distraction manoeuvres. It worked like a charm. Our target was our elderly Aunt Jean. Our destination was an aged care home not far from Canberra. It was time for Jean to leave her home in Sydney and move into care. Yes, we felt guilty, but there was a job to be done. Sentimentality would slow us down, and indeed, we needed to complete the mission that day. It was a four-hour drive. There was no turning back. There was no plan B. Failure was not an option.

The move was well overdue. She was a month away from her 90th birthday, and could no longer live on her own, despite her pretence to the contrary. She lived in a small, modest cottage on Sydney's northern beaches. It was tucked away, high up at the end of a long, steep driveway, amid sandstone outcrops. It was only a short drive to the beach. It was her oasis and sanctuary, built by her late husband in the 1960s. She had lived there for 40 years. First with Noel, and then, on her own, after

he passed away after 20 years of marriage.

There had been much preparation before the big day, but not a word of it was spoken that morning. Bags were packed discreetly and hidden in the boot. The thermos was filled, and snacks assembled. We tried to make it seem relatively spontaneous; just another road trip. Our aunt had always loved to travel. She loved driving on the open road, and once daringly mentioned how she was exhilarated by speed and by the thrill of putting her foot down on the highway. Indeed, she had enjoyed venturing far and wide all her life, often on her own. She was a very independent and modern woman. She had led a busy and active life and greatly valued the many close relationships she maintained over the years with friends from school and work.

A handwritten letter of reference from her school principal in her final year of school in 1941 provides insights into Jean's character and interests – *a steady and conscientious worker – prizes for music, games and school spirit*. It also highlights

principles such as *powers of judgement and leadership*. Among the many beautiful photos in her well-documented photo albums, I felt the one below captures her adventurous spirit as a young girl. She was happiest when 'out and about'. In contrast to a rather serious face in her prefect's photo and that of the netball team which she captained, Jean (far right in the photo below) looks perfectly at ease in this candid shot taken in the city. With friends and a teacher leading what appears to be a small group of students, one can only speculate on the nature of the



school outing.

Jean carried this enthusiasm and quest for adventure her whole life. After attaining her Leaving Certificate, Jean completed nursing training at Sydney's Western Suburbs Hospital in 1946, and then a physiotherapy degree at Sydney University. She followed her older sister to England in the 1950s and worked and travelled abroad for several years. She documented cycling through Denmark, skiing in Austria and driving all over Scotland and through France and Italy. Even after returning to Australia, she continued to enjoy wonderful trips during her holidays and into her retirement. Over the years she toured Europe, Scandinavia, Japan, Taiwan and New Zealand. She even went to Papua New Guinea in a light plane in the 1960s.

She married late in life. Although she had no children of her own, she was an important role model for her nieces and took an active interest in their lives. She was an independent, educated and principled woman in her own right, but also private and humble regarding her accomplishments.

I drove that day, commenting on the traffic, the sunshine, the countryside, anything really, except where we were going and why. Of course, the dementia

helped. It is a debilitating disease in the end, but her lack of short-term memory was a blessing during the trip. We could keep up the charade. When we pulled into the nursing home, we described it as a guesthouse. She bought it, or she played along. We weren't quite sure which. Ultimately, she settled in quite quickly, clearly benefitting from the routine, the social contact, and the regular meals. The staff were wonderful, very patient. Occasionally, she asked about her old house, but I

just explained that it was being well looked after. To my relief, she never asked to go back.

This story is a compilation of a short obituary for my Aunt, Jean Dean (nee Robson) (1924-2014), which I wrote for her school's ex-students' magazine in 2014, and an essay I wrote as part of a memoir writing class, published in a blog in 2024. *One last road trip – Robyn's Family History Stories* (wordpress.com)



Aunt Jean

The Ship Samuel Plimsoll and Her Voyages to Australia

Jenny Tomkins

My x2 great-grandparents, William Miller and his wife Mary Ann, with their family of nine children (ranging from 11 to 27 years old), travelled to Australia on the Scottish-built clipper ship, the *Samuel Plimsoll*. The ship had an interesting history, as did William and his family.

The *Samuel Plimsoll* was a well-regarded clipper ship, built in 1873 in Aberdeen, Scotland. Constructed by Walter Hood & Co. for the Aberdeen White Star Line (George Thompson & Co.), she was named in honour of Samuel Plimsoll, a British MP and shipping reformer known for introducing the Plimsoll Line to prevent overloading of ships. The vessel became known for its regular voyages transporting immigrants from Britain to Australia, earning a reputation for speed, safety and solid management.

Design and Launch

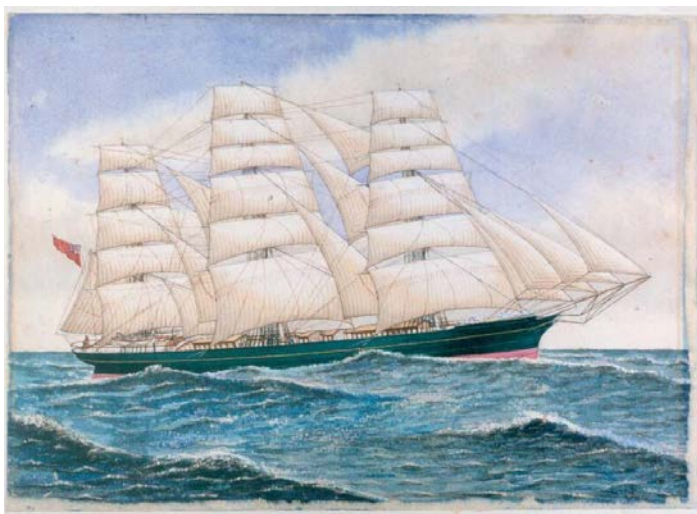
Launched in September 1873, the *Samuel Plimsoll* was an iron-hulled, three-masted sailing ship built for long-distance travel and

capable of carrying hundreds of passengers. Measuring over 240 feet long, with a beam of 39 feet and depth of 23 feet, she registered at around 1,450 tons. Her construction was first-class for the time, with iron masts and yards, and she was rated 100 A1 at Lloyd's Register – the top rating for structural quality and seaworthiness.

The ship was launched with some ceremony in Aberdeen. The christening was performed by Mrs Boaden, wife of the ship's first captain, Richard Boaden. Samuel Plimsoll himself was present at the launch.

Her First Voyage: 1873–74

The *Samuel Plimsoll's* first voyage began in Plymouth on 19 November 1873, and she arrived in Sydney on 1 February 1874, completing the journey in 74 days despite generally light winds. She carried a mix of saloon and intermediate passengers, along with 123 government-assisted immigrants under the care of Dr



1. *Samuel Plimsoll* under sail, 1873

Greenway. Reports at the time praised the ship's cleanliness and order, and both the captain and surgeon received formal letters of thanks from the passengers for their care during the trip.

Captain Boaden, who had previously commanded other ships to Australia, reported that the vessel performed well and was confident she could complete the passage in just over 60 days with favourable winds. At one point during the voyage, the ship demonstrated her speed covering 340 miles in a 24-hour period.

Subsequent Voyages and Conditions on Board

In December 1874, the *Samuel*

Plimsoll completed another voyage from Plymouth to Sydney in 88 days. The voyage included the deaths of three infants and one adult, while three babies were born at sea. The ship was again under the command of Captain Boaden, with Dr J S Hughes as surgeon and Miss E A Robinson as matron. All immigrants arrived in good health and were reported to be pleased with their treatment on board.

Despite some difficult weather – including a severe gale that damaged the ship's deck fittings and swept water on board – the crew handled the ship well. The vessel's resilience and the crew's management continued to earn praise.

One of the most dramatic incidents in the ship's history occurred on 6 August 1875, while outward bound for Sydney with around 400 passengers. In thick fog about 20 miles west of the Lizard (a peninsula on the south of Cornwall), the *Samuel Plimsoll* collided with the Italian barque *Enrica*. The impact created a large hole in the *Enrica*, which sank almost immediately.

The emigrants on board the *Plimsoll* panicked, fearing their own ship was going down. Life buoys were put on and many feared for their lives. Fortunately, the *Plimsoll* was only lightly damaged. Her crew quickly lowered boats and rescued several survivors from the water. Nine were landed at Falmouth. Had the *Enrica* struck the *Plimsoll* directly amidships, the disaster could have been much worse. After assessing the damage and ensuring safety, the *Samuel Plimsoll* resumed her voyage to Sydney.

Later that same year, in September 1875, the ship encountered a long field of icebergs shortly after passing the Cape of Good Hope. The field stretched for over 100 miles and included many large icebergs – an unusual and dangerous situation for a sailing ship in those waters.

This was just one example of the kinds of natural hazards

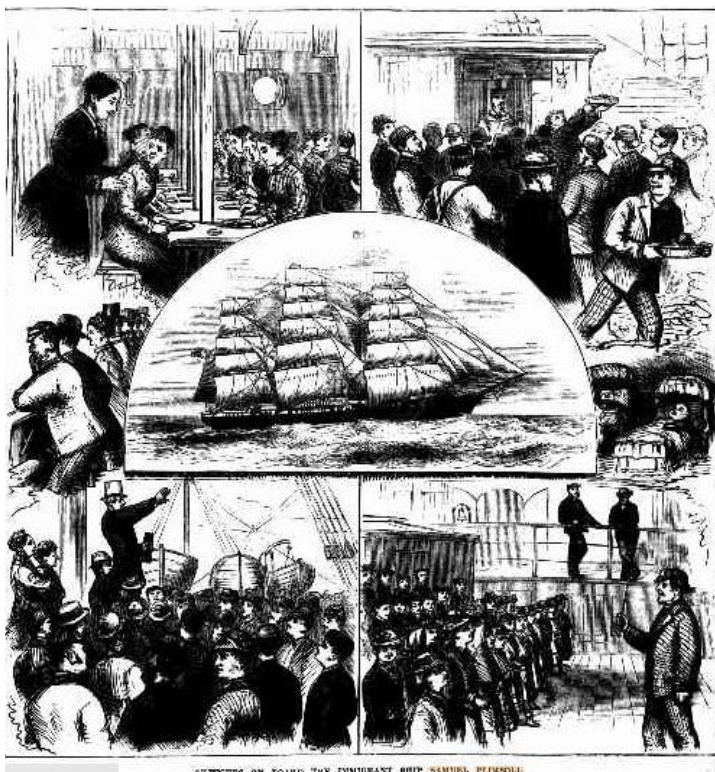
the *Samuel Plimsoll* and other sailing ships faced on their long journeys – from gales and fog to ice and unpredictable trade winds. In 1878, the ship faced a sudden squall near the Equator, and the foremast snapped. A nearby American clipper offered assistance and also offered to take the passengers. The captain declined, repaired the damage, and made it to Sydney before the American ship.

Immigration and Employment in the Colony

The *Samuel Plimsoll* made regular trips to Australia, each carrying hundreds of immigrants. The process was carefully managed. Surgeons and matrons were appointed for each voyage to supervise passenger health and welfare. Upon arrival in Sydney, government officials met the ship to help immigrants find work and accommodation.

In 1879, for example, newspapers reported that a high proportion of immigrants from the *Samuel Plimsoll* were quickly engaged in work. Many were farm labourers – a group in demand in New South Wales. Others were reunited with family and friends already in the colony.

This pattern was repeated voyage after voyage. The immigrants typically included married couples



2. Sketches on board the *Samuel Plimsoll*, 1878

with children, single men and women, and skilled or semi-skilled workers. The ship's role in helping build up the population of Australia was significant, especially in the 1870s and early 1880s.

A Measles Outbreak and Quarantine: 1880

In July 1880, after a voyage from London, the *Samuel Plimsoll* was placed in quarantine upon arrival

in Sydney due to an outbreak of measles during the journey. There had been 50 cases during the voyage and 13 deaths – 11 of them children. Dr Alleyne, the health officer, refused *pratique* (official clearance) and ordered the ship to be held at Watson's Bay.

Plans were made to move the affected passengers to a *lazarette* (quarantine vessel) at North Head, allowing the rest of the ship to be cleaned and eventually

cleared. This event highlighted the health risks of long sea voyages, especially for children in crowded ship conditions.

Final Years and Legacy

Captain Richard Boaden remained a key figure in the ship's success. He completed at least five voyages to Australia with the *Samuel Plimsoll*, bringing more than 2,000 immigrants to the colony. Passengers frequently expressed their appreciation for the kindness and discipline on board, often presenting testimonials to the captain and crew. On her return trips, she carried wool and ore to England.

The ship was severely dis-masted and damaged on a trip from Glasgow to New Zealand in 1902. She was towed to Sydney and subsequently to Fremantle, where she was reduced to hulk status (a floating warehouse) the following year. She was then used for storing and supplying coal to ships at Fremantle port. She was sunk in 1945.

Conclusion

The *Samuel Plimsoll* was a remarkable example of 19th-century maritime design and operation. Built during a time when fast sailing ships were still in demand for passenger transport,

she served the Australian immigration route with distinction. Her name – honouring a man who fought for safer shipping – was well earned. Through rough weather, collisions, and outbreaks of illness, she remained a reliable and respected ship.

The Millers

The Miller family came from the town of Ipswich, in Suffolk, and were assisted immigrants to Australia. Their sponsor was William's father, William Samuel Miller, a plumber and painter, who was already living in Australia. The family travelled to Australia on the *Samuel Plimsoll* from London in 1875. The family comprised William (54), his wife (53), and their children: Emma (27), Mary (24), Kate (23), George and Samuel (21), Sarah (19), Frederick (17 – my great grandfather), Alice (15) and Henry (11). What an incredible undertaking!

Ten years after his arrival, on 4 November 1885, Frederick married Mary Ann Humpage at St Mark's Church in Balmain. Mary Ann was born in Sydney in 1862, the daughter of earlier settlers, and together she and Frederick made their home in the bustling inner-western suburbs. Balmain, at that time, was a thriving working-class area, home to shipbuilders, dockworkers and tradespeople.

Frederick and Mary Ann lived in Balmain throughout their married life, and had six children: Frederick in 1886, Beatrice in 1897, Walter in 1889, Ernest Stanley (my grandfather) in 1891, Irene in 1894 and Ethel in 1898. Ernest became a carpenter, and married Heather Adele Edwards at Drummoyne in 1912. They then lived in Gladesville where they had six children, including my mother.

Selected References

1. Samuel Plimsoll from the Ships Index: https://www.shipindex.org/ships/samuel_plimsoll
2. Museums of History NSW. Assisted immigrants digitised shipping lists 1828-1896 <https://mhns.wa.au/indexes/immigration-and-shipping/assisted-immigrants-digitised-shipping-lists-1828-1896/>
3. The Samuel Plimsoll. The Evening News (Sydney, NSW) of Friday 9 July 1880, Page 2. at: <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/108744515?>
4. The Immigrant Ship Samuel Plimsoll. The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW) of Saturday 10 July 1880, Page 4. <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/13463615?>
5. Ships Reports. The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW) of Thursday 15 July 1880, Page 4. at: <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/13463951?>
6. The Samuel Plimsoll by Peter Worsley. All Maritime Heritage Association Journal, September 1995, p3: <https://www.maritimeheritage.org.au/documents/MHA%20September%201995%20journal.pdf>

[org.au/documents/MHA%20September%201995%20journal.pdf](https://www.maritimeheritage.org.au/documents/MHA%20September%201995%20journal.pdf)

7. Samuel Plimsoll. Aberdeen Archives, Gallery and Museums: <https://emuseum.aberdeencity.gov.uk/objects/99411/samuel-plimsoll>

Image Credits

1. *Samuel Plimsoll* under sail, 1873; Source: <https://emuseum.aberdeencity.gov.uk/objects/99411/samuel-plimsoll>
2. Sketches on board the *Samuel Plimsoll*, 1878; Source: Trove - Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser, 10 August 1878 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article162696665>

Letting Go of Books - Without Losing the Plot

Marie Wensing and Robyn Duncan

Before we create separation anxiety, let's pause and look at our current book habits. This makes the downsizing task far less daunting.

Rationalising a personal library can be practical, emotional, intense – or all three. So many lives, experiences and secrets. Yet most people who tackle it report something unexpected: a real sense of achievement and relief.

One gentle but important truth to keep in mind is this: someone else will eventually have to deal with your library. You may not care, but they will. If they do not know your wishes, the task becomes heavier than it needs to be. Leaving a lifetime's accumulation without guidance is not fair play.

So, let's start gently. Have a quiet conversation with yourself and take some small, manageable steps.

First: stop the problem growing

These habits help steady the ship before you start unloading cargo.

- One-for-one system

When you add a book, let one go. Choose something you can access elsewhere or that has already done its job. One in – one out.

- Use libraries instead

This sharpens your focus. Ask yourself: Do I need this book, or do I just want it?

- Borrow and lend through SIGs and other groups

Talk to others. Sharing knowledge does not require permanent ownership.

- Quality over quantity

Identify the books you truly love – the ones you use, return to and learn from. A large, cluttered library may look impressive, but it often says more than we intend.

If you've done this much, well done. The problem will not increase further. Now, on with the job.

Second: admit it must happen

Parting is such sweet sorrow... but it does have to happen.

- Set a reasonable deadline and

be honest about your energy and limits.

- Decide how much space you want books to occupy, whether you are moving or staying put. Measure it! How many metres will you need?

Now comes the sorting. Ask yourself: what makes me keep a book? Create piles using simple questions:

- Is it rare or valuable?
- Does it have a current purpose?
- When did I last use it?
- Can I access this elsewhere?
- Does it have sentimental value – and would my heirs value it?

This first pass usually reveals a clear “must keep” pile. Everything else is ready to move on.

Third: decide their next home

Books leaving your shelves still deserve respect.

- Sell – for items of genuine value
- Donate – if they are useful and in good condition
- Recycle – for damaged or outdated material

Disposing of books is not quick or easy. It takes time and a little research. Begin by documenting what you are letting go: title, author, year and subject. Leave space to record where each book goes. Yes, this takes effort – but you know your books best.

Here are some practical options

1. Selling

Online marketplaces and specialist dealers can help. Research prices first and be realistic. Options include eBay, Alibris, ABE Books or an auction house. Do not be surprised if books are worth less than expected – this is common.

2. Donating

Please do not dump a pile. Be specific about what you are offering. Many organisations are happy to view a library in situ and will tell you what they can genuinely use.

3. Family

Offer books to the widest family circle possible. A family history website or Facebook group works well. This avoids the later lament of “I wish you had told me.”

4. Libraries

Try not to take rejection personally. Libraries usually keep only one copy of a title and have limited space. Smaller local or specialist history libraries are more likely to accept donations.

5. Community organisations

Look for groups connected to the place or subject your books cover.

6. In Canberra – Lifeline

Lifeline ensures books go to people who actually want them. They also sell rare books. Baxter boxes are available from them to make transport easier.

Drop-off point: 40 Heffernan Street,
Mitchell, ACT 10am–2pm.

A final word

All aspects of this exercise take time. Give yourself this gift – but don't procrastinate. Aim for small, steady progress. Make sure you are truly disposing of books, not just sorting, boxing, and relocating them to another cupboard.

And remember this:

Your knowledge lives in you, not on your shelves. By choosing what stays and what goes, you are not erasing your history – you are curating it.

ChatGPT was used in the writing of this article.

Don't leave a
mess behind!



Using ChatGPT to Unlock Irish Census Data

Jeff Bollard

How a surname study became a family reconstruction and mapping project

From names to households

Inspired by a presentation by Nick Reddan to the Irish Special Interest Group in July 2026 about using the recently released 1926 Census of the Irish Republic, I revisited the Irish censuses with the help of ChatGPT. Irish census records are among the richest sources available to family historians. They do much more than place a person at an address: they show families living together, children becoming adults, widows heading households, relatives moving in and families shifting from rural townlands to city streets.

But census data can also become overwhelming very quickly. That was the challenge I faced when working with surname extracts for Bollard families in the 1901, 1911 and 1926 Irish censuses. The extracts contained hundreds of individual entries, with names, ages, relationships, birthplaces,

religion, language, addresses and record identifiers. The information was there, but it was not yet organised in a way that told a clear family story.

I used ChatGPT to help turn the spreadsheets into structured family groups, identify people who appeared in all three censuses and create maps showing where the families lived and how some moved over time.

Organising the census extracts

The first task was to identify which people belonged to the same household. This was not as simple as sorting by surname. The extracts contained only people named Bollard. If a Bollard woman was living in a household headed by someone with another surname, the rest of that household might not appear.

The most useful clue was usually the census image or household identifier. Records sharing the same identifier were grouped together, with the street or townland and district electoral

division used as checks. Each group was then classified as either a Bollard-headed household or another household or institution containing a Bollard person.

Within each Bollard-headed household, family members were arranged beneath the head and the structure was summarised – for example, “head, wife, three sons and one daughter”. This transformed hundreds of isolated rows into recognisable families.

The processed extracts contained 171 Bollard entries in 1901, 182 in 1911 and 163 in 1926. These represented 38 Bollard-headed family groups in 1901, 39 in 1911 and 37 in 1926. Missing ages, unlikely relationships and suspected transcription errors were retained and flagged rather than silently corrected.

Following people through time

The next stage was more ambitious: identifying people who were likely to appear in all three censuses. Matching records is rarely as simple as finding the same name. John, James, Mary and William appeared repeatedly; ages varied; people moved; and first names could be recorded differently.

The comparison therefore considered several clues together: name and common variants, sex, expected age progression,

birthplace, religion, address, household relationship and relatives appearing together. The expected age increase was about ten years from 1901 to 1911 and fifteen years from 1911 to 1926, allowing for the small discrepancies common in census ages.

Household evidence was particularly useful. A match became much stronger when several people from the same family followed the same path. Thomas Bollard, for example, appeared at Grand Parade in Cork aged six in 1901, sixteen in 1911 and thirty-one in 1926. Several members of the Farthingstown family in County Westmeath also remained together across all three censuses.

The results were classified as high confidence, probable, possible, or requiring review. The working analysis produced 17 high-confidence and 11 probable matches – a best working list of 28 people likely to have appeared in all three censuses. “Likely” is important: these are research conclusions, not proof.

Putting the families on the map

Separate maps were prepared for 1901, 1911 and 1926. Each Bollard-headed family group was assigned a number linked to a legend naming the household head and location. Dublin required

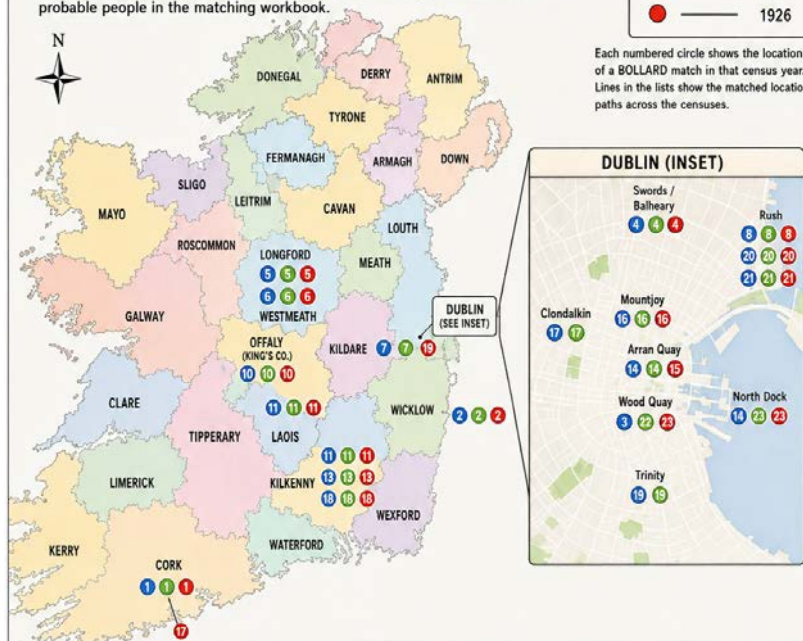
Matched BOLLARD family lines across the 1901, 1911 and 1926 Irish Censuses

23 distinct matched location paths condensed from 28 high-confidence or probable people in the matching workbook.

CENSUS YEAR



Each numbered circle shows the location of a BOLLARD match in that census year. Lines in the lists show the matched location paths across the censuses.



- 1 2 3 Thomas Bolland — Grand Parade, Cork — Grand Parade, Cork
- 2 3 4 John Bolland — Whitestown Lower, Donaghmore — Whitestown Lower, Donaghmore — Whitestown Lower, Donaghmore
- 3 4 5 William Bolland — Stafford Street, Dublin — Patrick Street / Wood Quay, Dublin — Inagh Trust Buildings, Wood Quay, Dublin
- 4 5 6 James & John Bolland — Balheary, Swords — Balheary, Swords — Balheary, Swords
- 5 6 7 Robert James & Mary Anne Bolland — Farringtown, Castletown — Farringtown, Castletown — Farringtown, Castletown
- 6 7 8 Elizabeth Bolland — Inishkeen, Athlone — Inishkeen, Athlone — Inishkeen, Athlone
- 7 8 9 Richard Bolland — Coon, Ararat North — Coon, Ararat North — Bluebell Lane, Ararat South
- 8 9 10 John Bolland — Lusk / Rush Rural — Rush — The Channel Road, Rush
- 9 10 11 James & Thomas Bolland — Bathingales West — Bathingales Town — Edward Street, Bathingales
- 10 11 12 Sarah Jane Bolland — Parkmore, Derryl — Parkmore, Derryl — Parkmore, Derryl
- 11 12 13 Daniel / Daniel William Bolland — Parliament Street West, Kilkenny — King Street East, Kilkenny — St Geran or King Street, Kilkenny
- 12 13 14 Frances E & Michael Bolland — Knockanore, Abbeyfeis — Knockanore, Abbeyfeis — Corun, Kildale.

- 15 16 17 Michael Bolland — Crowbally / Crobally, Tullamore — Crowbally / Crobally, Tullamore — Crowbally / Tullamore.
- 14 15 16 Margaret Bolland — Frederick Lane, Rathunda — Rathunda Road, Ararat Quay — Railway Street, North Dock.
- 15 16 17 James Bolland — Frederick Lane, Rathunda — Rush — Anselme Road, Ararat Quay
- 16 17 18 Mary Bolland — Upper Cumberland Street, Mountjoy — Trinity Court, Mountjoy — Geneva Street, Mountjoy.
- 17 18 19 Patrick J Bolland — Bluebell, Clondalkin — Bluebell, Clondalkin — Barrack Street, Kinsale.
- 18 19 20 Mary J Bolland — Crowbally, Tullamore — King Street East, Kilkenny — Crowbally, Tullamore.
- 19 20 21 John Bolland — Pilsca, Dunlavin — Gierlagh, Tabor — Moss Street, Trillick.
- 20 21 22 Robert Bolland — Rush Rural, Lusk — Rush Town — The Channel Road, Rush.
- 21 22 23 James Bolland — Rush Rural, Lusk — Summerhill, Mountjoy — The Channel Road, Rush.
- 22 23 24 Alice Bolland — Stafford Street, North City — Patrick Street / Wood Quay — The Channel Road, Rush.
- 23 24 25 Maggie / Margaret Bolland — Stafford Street, North City — Pardon Street, North Dock — Inagh Trust Buildings, Wood Quay.

Mapped from the Irish BOLLARD 1901, 1911, 1926 matches workbook; locations shown approximately for family-line visualisation.

Matched Bolland family lines across the 1901, 1911 and 1926 Irish censuses. Blue represents 1901, green 1911 and red 1926. Locations are approximate.

an inset because so many households were concentrated in a small area.

A combined map then used blue for 1901, green for 1911 and red for 1926. Where a family remained in the same place, the coloured markers sat close together. Where a person moved, the markers showed the change.

The maps revealed continuing concentrations in Dublin, Wicklow, Kilkenny and Westmeath. Some families remained in the same townland for decades, while others moved into Dublin or between inner-city streets, suburban areas and towns such as Rush and Swords.

These maps are useful illustrations, but they are not precision cartography. AI image tools may misplace towns, distort boundaries, duplicate numbers or alter text. Several drafts required correction. A future version should use verified coordinates in QGIS, Google My Maps or another geographic information system.

What AI did well – and what it did not

The greatest advantage of ChatGPT was speed. It helped convert hundreds of spreadsheet rows into consistent household groups and comparison tables. It was also useful for applying the same criteria across three

datasets and making patterns easier to recognise.

The disadvantages are just as important. AI can make a poor match sound persuasive, overlook an alternative person with the same name or treat two similar places as identical. Its fluent language can make uncertainty sound like fact.

For that reason, ChatGPT was used as an assistant, not as a genealogical authority. Human judgement was still required to decide what constituted a household, whether an age discrepancy was acceptable, whether a move was plausible and how confidently a match should be stated.

Where the research goes next

The next stage is verification. Each high-confidence and probable match should be checked against the original census form and the complete household, including people with other surnames. Civil registrations, parish records, directories, valuation records, wills, newspapers and cemetery records can then confirm – or challenge – the proposed identities.

This project showed that AI can make a substantial contribution to family-history research. It can organise evidence, reveal patterns and help us ask better questions. But it does not replace the original record, careful analysis or

genealogical proof.

Its greatest value lies not in supplying the final answer, but in helping the researcher see more clearly where the evidence may lead.

Acknowledgement

ChatGPT was used to assist with spreadsheet organisation, household grouping, cross-census comparison, map specifications and editorial development. All genealogical interpretations,

confidence assessments and final wording were reviewed by the author.

About the author: Jeffrey Bollard is a family historian with a particular interest in the practical use of artificial intelligence (AI) in genealogical research.



Writing your family story is a labour of love, devoting countless hours to selecting the best photos, research, and conversations with relatives and family.

Danny's design work brings your efforts into a stunning layout of photographs and family charts to illustrate your stories. He offers a scanning service to restore images from slides, negatives or prints.

10% hourly rate discount to FHACT members

0412 625 274

Please leave a message

dan@designbydanny.com.au
www.designbydanny.com.au

The Home for Friendless Girls

Cathy Day

If you weren't already miserable about being an orphan at the turn of the 20th century, the name of the institution which was to be your new home would surely plunge you into despair. The Home was run by the Waifs and Strays Society, clearly a group of people with a dour turn of phrase. 'As cold as Christian charity', as they used to say.

Elsie, Doris and Constance Harman were orphans who were admitted to the Home for Friendless Girls in Winchester, Hampshire. Their parents had both died in 1919 during the Spanish Flu epidemic. Their father, Job Harman, had been a soldier all his adult life and he had met their part-Indian mother, Sarah Minty, in Madras while posted there. The family had lived in India, Burma, Ireland and now England, but with no family in England to take them in, the Waifs and Strays Society had coldly classified the little girls as 'friendless'. Their parents were buried in unmarked graves, and the girls were sent to be cared for by the state and church.

They were aged 9, 10 and 12 years old when they were orphaned. The Waifs and Strays Society tried to find a new family for them, but it was a struggle to identify someone willing to take on three half-grown mixed-race girls. My great-aunt Constance told me that they felt abandoned and all alone in the world. When their parents were alive, they



Constance, Doris and Elsie Harman circa 1917.

had been visited by a wealthy uncle who drove his own car – apparently the first one ever seen in their street, she said. And where was that wealthy uncle now? Why hadn't he come to claim them?

After a year of waiting, the girls were eventually fostered by the Lindsay family of Carisbrooke, on the Isle of Wight. Although the children were well-fed and clean, it was made clear to them that the reason for their presence in the family home was the payment from the Poor Law Union for their upkeep. Every month, Mrs Lindsay walked the girls to the Post Office to collect her payment, so that they understood why they were there.

As each girl turned 14 years of age,

she was considered old enough to go out to work and was sent back to Winchester to learn how to be a domestic servant. They lived and learned in Connaught House, where all the residents were elderly spinsters who paid a reduced room rental in exchange for having trainee house servants wait upon them. Each girl undertook the two-year training program and was then found a suitable position within a respectable family.

By 1925, Elsie, Doris and Constance had all left the Lindsay family, completed their training and been sent to the same family in Wiltshire, to be domestic servants. With no money coming into the Lindsay family, times were tough back in Carisbrooke.



Home for Friendless Girls, late 19th century.



Doris and Constance at Carisbrooke.

The head of the household, Mr George Lindsay, had been in the trenches in World War One and he acquired terrible ulcers on his legs, due to the damp and dirty conditions. Every day he had to bathe his legs in Lysol, a powerful disinfectant, but he was in constant pain. On 7 July 1926, he ended his misery by drinking a bottle of Lysol and he was quickly relieved of his suffering, permanently. The magistrate ruled that it was a case of 'temporary insanity', caused by the constant pain in his legs. This was actually a small kindness, since the ruling that he had been 'temporarily insane' meant that his widow could remain in their home and his body could be buried in consecrated ground. By English law, if he had been sane, all his possessions would have reverted

to the Crown and his body would lie outside the church walls. This was a time of harsh judgements, on old men, on little girls and on many vulnerable people. Elsie, Doris and Constance were now servants in the home of Mr and Mrs Allott of Little Ashton, Codford, Wiltshire.

The military records of their father, Job Harman, showed that he was stationed in Codford, Wiltshire throughout World War One. As an 'old soldier' (he was 50 years old at the outbreak of the war) it was his duty to train the new recruits on how to live in the field – pitching tents, lighting fires, cooking simple meals from tins, staying warm and so on. For many recruits from England's big cities, this was their first taste of living out in the open.

According to his military records, Job spent four years in the fields at Codford, living under canvas, and from this experience developed chronic rheumatism. His military records state, 'It started in both ankles and then attacked his knees. Each succeeding winter he has had pains in all the joints of both legs and has gradually got worse. The ankles sometimes swell and he is unable to get his boots on.' He was discharged in April 1918 and returned to his wife and little girls, only to die a year later, along with his asthmatic wife Sarah.

I don't know if the girls' placement at Codford was related to their father's military service there, or whether their training home, Connaught House, simply answered an ad in the papers. Mrs Allott 'kept five maids', according to advertisements for additional servants, which she regularly placed in local newspapers. She seemed to be continuously advertising for maids between at least 1920 and 1930 – perhaps she had trouble keeping them on. In any case, Elsie, Doris and Constance did not last long.

They had accompanied the Allott family on a holiday to Hayling Island, not far from the Isle of Wight where they had been sent by the Waifs and Strays Society. Doris found a large number of empty suitcases 'rotting in the box

room' of the hotel at which they were staying, and took a travelling trunk back with her to Codford. Unfortunately, it belonged to a certain Miss H.C.B. Lynch, who reported the theft. A police constable was sent from Havant in Hampshire to Codford in Wiltshire, to arrest Doris. She readily admitted taking the travelling trunk but did not consider that she had stolen it, as she thought that it had been abandoned. Miss H.C.B. Lynch decided not to press charges. Nevertheless, all three girls were dismissed from the service of Mrs Allott.

So here were our friendless, parentless girls, who were now also homeless and jobless. The middle girl, Doris, went to work as a servant at a Catholic convent in Portsea. The oldest girl, Elsie, spotted an ad in the newspaper which offered free or subsidised passage to Australia for potential migrants. The scheme was run by The Salvation Army, with the express purpose of removing young adults from the unhealthy environs of British cities and depositing them in the clear, fresh air of rural Australia. Elsie and Constance boarded the S.S. *Vedic*, along with 400 other single migrants – 200 young men and 200 young women. They were accompanied by several Salvation Army officers and soldiers to ensure proper behaviour.

The Salvation Army chartered the S.S. *Vedic* for two years, bringing hundreds of 'working-age migrants' to Australia. The ship belonged to the White Star Line, also home of the ill-fated S.S. *Titanic*. Unlike the *Titanic*, the *Vedic* arrived in Melbourne, Victoria, safe and sound on 28 November 1927.

Elsie and Constance went on to serve wealthy families in Australia, with Elsie being employed by the Fraser family on a large sheep-grazing property. The young son of the family was Malcolm Fraser, who eventually went on to become Prime Minister of Australia. Elsie and Constance both remained in service until their respective marriages, when they turned to full-time home duties alongside poultry farming with their husbands. However, Elsie never forgot the 'proper' way to serve tea, as she had been taught, and this was instilled into her youngest son, my father Rod Settle. Elsie and Constance had children and grandchildren, and lived conventional lives in rural Australia for the rest of their days.

The life of their sister Doris, on the other hand, took a somewhat different trajectory. Whilst working at the convent, Doris felt that she had been wrapped into the warm embrace of the Catholic Church, and she was cared for and loved by the nuns. Doris had always felt

that the Anglican institutions – the Waifs and Strays Society and the Home for Friendless Girls – were cold and uncaring. She was aware that the Lindsay family, whilst they treated her well enough physically, were doing so for the money that they received for her upkeep and that of her sisters. Doris felt that the care that she received at the convent was based on genuine love and compassion. At age 18, she converted to Catholicism and, as a mark of the break with her unhappy past, she changed her name to Joyce.

Every day, the local milkman, Frank Wilding, would deliver milk to the convent kitchen, which was collected by the newly-named Joyce. They soon fell in love and were married.

The couple migrated to Australia, but chose the city of Brisbane over rural Victoria, where Joyce's sisters and their families lived. Joyce was fond of warmth – in her surroundings and in her relationships.

Joyce Wilding was appalled by the way that Aboriginal people were treated in Brisbane in the 1930s and 1940s, and was determined that no-one should be subjected to the cold charity that she had received as a little girl. She had a large boarding house, which she turned into a family home for dozens of homeless Aboriginal

people. She helped to form the One People of Australia League (OPAL), with the aim of bringing black and white people together. Her activism for Aboriginal rights in the 1950s drew the fury of her local member of parliament, who told her publicly, "If you have so much energy, why not play cards, find something decent to do".

But Joyce had found something decent to do, and it wasn't playing cards. The Wilding family home was now bursting at the seams with Aboriginal families, at one stage having 60 people living under the one roof. Joyce gave her bed to two pregnant girls and she herself slept on the floor of the bathroom.

Eventually, OPAL was able to raise enough money to buy an old motel at Eight Mile Plains in Brisbane, and Joyce became the first Matron of a permanent home for Aboriginal people in need. It was renamed the OPAL Joyce Wilding Home and it is still owned and operated by an Aboriginal housing association today.

Joyce's loveless experiences at Winchester in the Home for Friendless Girls had instilled in her a passion to ensure that other people in need, whatever their circumstances, felt loved and valued just as they were. No judgements, just love and care. It is estimated that more than 2,000 people passed through Joyce's home and felt her warm welcome. That was something decent to do.



Joyce and Frank with some of their charges.

“Enemy Aliens” - the untold story of the Seefeld family

Sean Kelly

Occasionally in the process of unearthing our family histories, we come across a story that shines a light on a little-known piece of broader history.

As part of my research into my family's extensive links with British India, I was led to delve into the family of my great-grandmother's sister, who moved with her husband from India to Singapore around 1890 where they then raised a family. Their youngest child, Doris Wright, married a German man, Gerhard Seefeld, in 1931, connecting our family to the Seefeld family and the disturbing events that followed.

While I knew that German, Italian and Japanese civilians living in Allied territories (including Australia) were interned for the duration of the Second World War, it would never have occurred to me that many German Jews would be interned alongside them, as happened in Australia to the Seefeld family.

Paul Ernst Gerhard Seefeld (known as Gerhard or by the German diminutive “Garry”), was

born in Hamburg on 10 June 1905, the son of Arthur Mendel Seefeld (1879-1963) and Theodora Sophia Margarethe Heitmann (1881-1965). His father, Arthur, was born in Koelpin, West Prussia to Jewish German parents, but appears to have converted to Protestantism when he married Sophia, who was Protestant. As Judaism only considers a child born of a Jewish mother to be Jewish by birth, Garry was not considered Jewish and would have been raised as a Protestant.

Garry's family was a relatively prominent one. Arthur had earned a doctorate of medical dentistry from Keil University, eventually becoming Professor of Dentistry at Hamburg University and Superintendent of the Dental Department of Hamburg's St George's Hospital. During the First World War he pioneered bone grafting for re-shaping servicemen's shattered jaws.

By 1930, Garry had moved to Singapore to work as a merchant. On 20 August 1931, he married Doris Kathleen Wright, the

youngest child of James Frederick Wright (1860-1942), a telegraphist with the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company, and his wife Laura Violet Baylis (1871-1946), my great-grandmother's youngest sister.

Born in 1911, Doris studied dance and as a teenager quickly became a prominent dancer in Singapore, including as a lead performer in the annual Singapore Grand Ballet performance. By the time they married, Doris was teaching dance.

Doris and Garry had three children together. Their first child and only son, Frederick Seefeld, was born on 8 April 1932, but he died as a child. Their second child was Loretta Dorothea Seefeld, born in Singapore on 26 September 1933.

Their third child was born just over a year later on 14 November 1934, but Doris sadly died of post-natal complications three weeks after giving birth on 7 December 1934. She was only 23 years old. Reflecting this tragedy, their new daughter was named after her mother – Doris Kathleen Seefeld. Doris was buried at the Bidadari Cemetery in downtown Singapore, with copious wreaths and tributes from Singapore's elite. The German Consul-General was also in attendance.

At some point in the first half of the 1930's, Garry's younger brother, Helmut Jurgen Paul Seefeld (1911-2008) also came to Singapore to work as a merchant, presumably with Garry. Helmut's arrival in Singapore might in part have reflected the challenges



Garry Seefeld, holding son Frederick, and his first wife Doris, holding their newborn daughter Loretta, late 1933.

faced by German Jews as a consequence of the rise of Nazism in Germany. On 30 October 1937, Helmut married Edith Mieile (1910-1999). Although Protestants, his father's Jewish parentage would have made them all targets of the Nazi's "racial" profiling and persecution. Perhaps it was also with that in mind that, in February 1936, Garry applied for naturalisation as



Loretta (left), Doris (right), and their half-brother Gerald (centre), with grandparents Arthur and Sophia Seefeld, Singapore, circa 1939.

a British citizen in Singapore, although this was apparently denied. As Nazi persecution of Germany's Jews deteriorated, Garry's parents, Arthur and Sophia, fled Germany in 1939 to join their sons in Singapore.

A little over three years after the death of his first wife, on 19 March 1938, Garry married again, to Rosalie Froge (1915-1979). Although a German Jew by parentage, Rosalie was born on 11 May 1915 in Harbin, Manchuria, which at that time was a predominantly Russian town. Following the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917, her family presumably fled south, eventually ending up in Singapore. Garry and Rosalie had two children in Singapore – Gerald Seefeld on 8 October 1938 and

Valerie Seefeld on 21 March 1940.

When Britain declared war on Germany in September 1939, it revived machinery established during the First World War to individually classify, through a tribunal process, foreign nationals as Category A (high security risk: immediate internment), Category B (doubtful cases: restrictions but generally not interned), and Category C (refugees, including Jewish refugees from Germany, and others considered loyal:

not interned). After the fall of France and with widespread fear of imminent invasion, concern about potential fifth columnists led the British Government in late May 1940 to adopt a "Collar the Lot" policy, apprehending and initially placing German and Italian Jews in internment camps, and then in July 1940 shipping off about 2,000 Jewish and other anti-Nazi refugees, along with several hundred genuine Nazi sympathisers, for internment in Australia.

After the outbreak of the war in Europe, German Jews in Singapore were not interned, but were rather free on parole, subject to registration and certain restrictions. Singapore authorities did not immediately adopt Britain's "Collar the Lot" policy, but subsequently

decided it was necessary to take some action due to the sensitive security nature of the fortresses of Singapore and Penang. An arrangement was agreed with the Australian Government to transfer German nationals from the Straits Settlements to Australia.

German nationals like the Seefelds were given a choice of either seeking asylum in a neutral country or travelling to Australia, where they were promised good treatment. A large group of Jewish refugees in Singapore, including Garry and Rosalie Seefeld, his brother Helmut and his wife Edith, and their parents Arthur and Sophia, chose to go to Australia in order to be “under British protection on British soil”. Before their departure, Garry met with the Secretary of Defence in Singapore, who assured him that the Governor would write to Australian authorities assuring them that these were “*unfortunate people without any leaning to Nazism*” and forwarding their police records so that, on their merits, they could be released and paroled in Australia.

This was done – a memorandum from Government House, Singapore, to the Australian Prime Minister’s Department, classified “Secret”, dated 20 September 1940, advised “... *with some exceptions these people are not considered to be dangerous*

enemies, and if it were not for the special circumstances obtaining in the Straits Settlements it is probable that the majority could without detriment have been allowed to remain at liberty.” While acknowledging it was solely the Australian Government’s decision, the memorandum continued that, if Australian authorities “... *felt inclined to grant them a measure of liberty, on parole or under other restrictions as seemed suitable, no objection would be raised ...*”

After surrendering themselves for expulsion (notionally being ‘captured’) on 17 September, 295 people – 232 Jewish refugees and 63 Italian or German nationals – left Singapore on 18 September on the luxury cruise ship, the SS *Queen Mary*, escorted by 42 soldiers of the Gordon Highlander Regiment. An auspicious beginning, they thought. Singapore authorities had confirmed with Australia that they could bring all of their personal possessions with them, so the Seefeld family had packed up their lives, bringing a total of over 80 trunks of personal possessions. They were optimistically looking forward to their new lives in Australia.

However, as they approached their destination in Melbourne, a Captain from the Adjutant-General’s Office of the Australian Army, Albert Heighway, issued an ‘Order for Detention of Enemy



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

Order for Detention of Enemy Alien.

WHEREAS by Regulation 20 of the National Security (Aliens Control) Regulations it is provided that if the Minister or any person authorised by the Minister to act under that regulation is of opinion that it is necessary or expedient in the interests of the public safety, the defence of the Commonwealth or the efficient prosecution of the war to detain any enemy alien he may make an order directing that the enemy alien be detained:

AND WHEREAS the Minister has, pursuant to the provisions of section 17 of the National Security Act, 1939-1940, delegated to me, Captain Albert Richard Heighway, an officer of the Adjutant-General's Branch at Army Headquarters, the powers and functions conferred upon him by Regulation 20 of the National Security (Aliens Control) Regulations insofar as the exercise of those powers is necessary for the purpose of making Orders for the detention in Australia of those persons on board His Majesty's Transport "W1," who have been sent from the Straits Settlements to Australia for internment in Australia in accordance with arrangements entered into by the Government of the Commonwealth and the Government of the Straits Settlements:

AND WHEREAS I am of opinion that it is expedient in the interests of the public safety, the defence of the Commonwealth, or the efficient prosecution of the war that

Loretta Dorothea SEEFELD, being an enemy alien on board His Majesty's Transport "W1," who has been sent from the Straits Settlements to Australia for internment should be detained.

NOW THEREFORE I do hereby order that the said

Loretta Dorothea SEEFELD shall be detained.

Dated this **25th** day of **September** One thousand nine hundred and forty.

(Sgd.) A. R. HEIGHWAY
Captain.

Order for Detention of Enemy Alien for six-year-old Loretta Seefeld.

Alien' for each passenger. The Order was made using powers conferred by Regulation 20 of the National Security (Alien Control) Regulations under Section 17 of the National Security Act, 1939-1940.

The Order noted that the passenger had been "sent from the Straits Settlements to Australia for internment in

Australia in accordance with arrangements entered into by the Government of the Commonwealth and the Government of the Straits Settlements." There is no evidence that any of the passengers were aware of this arrangement or that they were to be interned on arrival. As the example of the orders presented here shows, policy was that all passengers, even six year old Loretta Dorothea Seefeld, "... in the interests of the public safety ... being an enemy alien ... should be detained."

The *Queen Mary* passengers were immediately sent to Internment Camp No. 3 at Tatura, near Shepparton in northern Victoria (which was, for all intents and purposes, a POW camp), arriving on 27 September 1940. No distinction was made between those who

posed an actual threat and those, like German Jewish refugees, who were clearly not. No process for individual review was established for them. As the preceding quotes confirm, this was the sole decision of the then Australian government.

Life in the camp must have been a shock for the Seefeld family. In Singapore they were wealthy and successful, living in a luxurious

bungalow at 16 Adam Park. They came prepared to re-establish a prosperous life in Australia. Instead, they were living in wooden and corrugated iron barracks behind barbed wire with guard towers and searchlights. It is hard to imagine the sense of betrayal they must have felt.

Garry became Internment Camp No. 3 Leader and immediately began arguing the case for the release of Jewish refugees, including an "*Appeal to His Excellency the Governor-General Lord Gowrie*" dated 2 March 1941, pleading the case for his Jewish inmates. In October 1941, the then conservative Australian government lost its majority, and Labor Prime Minister John Curtin was sworn in. Curtin's government was more sympathetic to the Singapore Group of Jewish Refugees, and after the declaration of war with Japan in December

1941, restrictions on the group were eased. Garry's lobbying efforts resulted, over time, in the establishment of a Tribunal to review cases, with inmates being allowed out to undertake fruit-picking, and eventually the establishment of a labour company within the Australian Army which internees could join.

On arrival in Tatura, Loretta and Doris must have presented a problem for the camp authorities. Although an '*Order for Detention of Enemy Alien*' was signed for each on 25 September 1940 (while on the high seas), they were actually not 'enemy aliens', but rather bona fide British citizens by descent from their mother, and recognised as such in their internment paperwork.

Eight months later, no doubt after repeated representations from Garry, on 25 May 1941 Loretta



*Internment
Camp No. 3,
Tatura, circa
1941.*

and Doris (then respectively seven and six years old) were transferred out of Tatura to a foster family at 51 Mooramie Ave, Kensington, in Sydney “for education”. Curiously, despite Loretta and Doris clearly being declared as Protestant, the Harris family that took them in were of Ashkenazi Jewish background (the father was originally Nakhman Kharas, known as Numan Harris, naturalised as an Australian citizen on 19 February 1940). On 21 December 1941, Loretta and Doris were officially “*released from Internment*”. Their half-siblings, however, remained with the rest of the family in Tatura.

Garry, Rosalie and the rest of his children were detained at Tatura for 27 months. During this period, Garry and Rosalie had two more children – Alexander James Seefeld, born on 11 September 1941, and Derrick Winston Seefeld, born on 29 October 1942.

After the fall of Singapore in February 1942, a number of the men from the internment camp were paroled to work on farms in Bendigo and Mildura picking fruit, including Garry’s brother Helmut. Later they were allowed to enlist in the 8th Employment Company of the Australian Military Forces, mostly labouring on the wharves. Sixty *Queen Mary* internees joined, and their wives and children were permitted to leave internment. Helmut joined on 8 April 1942, and

his wife and baby daughter were released a few weeks later. For reasons unknown, their parents Arthur and Sophie Seefeld were released in September 1942.

On 25 January 1943, Garry also joined the 8th Employment Company, and his wife and their four children were released from Tatura the same day, taking up residence in a flat in Vale Street, St Kilda, in Melbourne. It was not until December 1943 that all of the ‘enemy aliens’ of the Singapore Group of German Jews at Tatura were granted recognition as ‘friendly aliens’ and released.

Garry initially served at Parkville, near the Melbourne Docks, with the 8th Employment Company, but on 28 July he was transferred to the 8th Labour Company at Tocumwal (on the Victoria-New South Wales border), where there was a large RAAF base. Garry was naturalised as a British Subject on 14 December 1944. On 14 April 1945 he moved again to the 24th Australian Works Company at Camp Pell, near the Melbourne docks. On 18 December 1945, Garry was promoted to Corporal. He was demobilised and discharged from the Army on 1 July 1946. After leaving the Army, Garry settled with his family in St Kilda and he resumed his career in import/export, including exporting tinned meats to Malaya in 1946.

After the war, Garry's father Arthur returned to the practise of dentistry. In 1946, at the age of 67, Arthur was admitted to practice dentistry in Melbourne by the Victorian Dental Board due to his "*exceptional qualifications*". In 1954, on Arthur's 75th birthday, the German Dental Association restored Arthur's dental titles (e.g., Professor), which had been taken from him by the Nazis 20 years earlier. He was still practicing at least until 1956, at the age of 77.

Rosalie (Froge) Seefeld died on 14 September 1979, while Paul Ernst Gerhard "Garry" Seefeld lived almost a decade longer, dying on 20 August 1989. Garry was 84 years old. Garry and Rosalie were interred in adjoining plots in the Jewish Memorial Garden at the Springfield Botanical Cemetery in Greater Dandenong City, Victoria, suggesting he had converted to Judaism later in life. Although she was Anglican and buried in Singapore, his first wife Doris Kathleen (Wright) Seefeld was also memorialised on Garry's plot in the Jewish Memorial Garden.

The story of the Seefeld family and the hundreds of other German Jews imprisoned at Tatura represents a black mark on Australia's wartime history. While some initial caution was perhaps understandable, the

length of time it took Australian authorities to recognise that German Jews were "friendlies" raises serious questions. At a time when Australians are reflecting on the ongoing scourge of anti-Semitism in this country, it is worth remembering the shoddy treatment Australia inflicted on the worst victims of Hitler's Germany.

Beyond the Brick Wall: Patience, Perseverance and Process

Cheryl Bollard on behalf of the
Coffee and Chat Group

At a recent Coffee and Chat gathering, the group tackled one of family history's most familiar frustrations: the brick wall. Between us, we have a good many decades of research experience, and not one person offered a shortcut. Like most of our discussions, ideas crossed one another and moved backwards and sideways, rather like genealogical research itself.

What emerged was that a brick wall is rarely brought down by one miraculous record. Progress comes from reviewing what we already hold, questioning our assumptions, increasing our understanding of the records more deeply, and approaching the problem from a different direction.

Sometimes the answer is hiding in plain sight; sometimes it lies in the records of a sibling, a neighbour or a witness. Occasionally it comes through DNA, visiting a place or a conversation with another researcher. And sometimes,

despite our best work, the wall remains standing.

The discussion can be summed up in three words: patience, perseverance and process.

What follows is the group's collective thinking, with a few examples from my own research where they illustrate the point.

Patience: Question what you think you know

Before attempting to demolish a brick wall, it is worth asking whether it is actually a wall.

Some problems arise because a record was never created or has not survived. Others arise because it is hard to locate, poorly indexed, held in an unexpected collection or entered under a different name. But many supposed brick walls are built from an assumption made early in the research and never reconsidered.

We may accept a birthplace from a death certificate without asking

who supplied the information. We accept a surname spelling as fixed, treat two people of the same name as one person, or conclude that a couple were married because they presented themselves as husband and wife. As research accumulates, such assumptions become almost invisible. New information is interpreted through them rather than used to test them. Such assumptions are not always careless. Mine was perfectly reasonable: a marriage certificate named my ancestor's father as George Drake, so I looked for George Drake, and set aside a promising Sheffield household because it was headed by a Michael Drake. It took a long time to consider the third possibility – that Michael and George were the same man, which a later death certificate naming him George Michael Drake eventually proved (Fig. 1).

Patience means being prepared to say, "This is possible, but it is not yet proved."

It also means defining the problem precisely. "Find John Drake" is not a useful research question. "Identify the parents of John Henry Drake, who married Mary Chapman at St Elphin's, Warrington, in February 1889" is much better. It fixes the person, event, place and period while leaving open where the answer may lie.

A precise question helps separate what we know from what we think we know, and both from what has merely been repeated in family stories or online trees.

Return to the beginning

Patience may require us to start again. This does not mean abandoning years of work. It means returning to the evidence with fresh eyes and rebuilding

Columns:—					
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	
No.	When and Where Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age	Rank or Profession.
184	9th June 1881 Infirmary U.S.D.	Sarah Drake	Female	60 years	Wife of George Michael Drake Blade Forger of Sheffield

Fig. 1. Death Record of Sarah Drake (GRO 1881 Sheffield Vol 9c pg 266) naming her husband as George Michael Drake.

from the most reliable information available.

Set out the known events in order – dates, places, occupations, addresses, relationships, and the source for each. A timeline exposes what a family tree conceals: two children born impossibly close together, a person recorded in two distant places on the same day, a supposed mother too young or too old for the relationship proposed. Chronologies also show what is missing. Where was the person between the birth of one child and the next, and what happened immediately before a name or occupation changed?

Begin with a blank page rather than the existing tree. A tree presents conclusions; a chronology presents evidence and lets contradictions stay visible. This can feel slow, especially when we believe we have already “done” the family. Yet a systematic review is often more productive than another broad search for the same name.

Perseverance – look again and look elsewhere

Perseverance does not mean entering the same name into the same database and hoping for a different result. It means continuing the enquiry while being willing to change direction. New record sets are constantly being digitised, indexed and added to databases and archival collections, so a search that failed several years ago may succeed today.

Indexes, transcripts and database entries are invaluable finding aids. They are not substitutes for the record itself.

An index contains only what the indexer chose to capture. It omits witnesses, addresses, occupations, marginal notes and unusual wording. Handwriting is misread, names standardised incorrectly, relationships can be misunderstood. Wherever you can, look at the original image.

An 1889 marriage record showed

1889. Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of Warrington in the County of Lancashire.

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname	Age	Condition	Rank or Profession	Residence at the time of Marriage	Father's Name and Residence	Rank or Profession of Father
1889	Feb. 11 th	John Drake	35	Bachelor	Corkenone Dealer	33 Buttermarket St.	George Drake	Eastham Lane Dealer
	1889	Mary Chapman	21	Spinster		33 Buttermarket St.	Thomas Chapman	Traveller

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church. Yes after Reading by the

This Marriage solemnized between us, John Drake and Mary Chapman in the Presence of us, Thomas Alfred Walder and Emily West J. Eden Baines, Curate

Fig. 2. GRO Marriage certificate of John Drake and Mary Chapman.

307 1889

Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence, Time of Publishing.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
John Drake	25	Bachelor	Cartographer	33 Bournemouth	George Drake	Cartographer
Mary Chapman	21	Spinster	—	33 Bournemouth	Thomas Chapman	Traveller
7. Jan. 27	First Time.	By	E. J. Willcocks			
8. Feb. 3	Second Time.	By	F. W. Willis			
9. 10	Third Time.	By	F. W. Willis			

1889 9/2/89

Fig. 3. Extract from marriage of John Drake and Mary Chapman from St Elphin's Warrington Parish Register.

me why. The GRO marriage certificate listed John Henry Drake's father as George Drake (Fig. 2). However, on the church record (Fig. 3), it appears the father's name had been entered in a different ink from the rest of the entry, apparently added later, and the word "deceased" beside it appeared to have been struck through in a third ink. No transcript preserved those details – and it mattered, because the man described as deceased was alive in the Sheffield Union Workhouse and would live another two years.

Make sure to read the whole entry and examine nearby records. The people above and below may be relatives, neighbours or travelling companions. A baptism register may reveal several children from one extended family. A marriage register may show the same witnesses at related ceremonies. A census page may place cousins next door.

Ask why the record was created,

who supplied the information and how likely that person was to know the answer. A birth registered by a parent shortly after the event carries different weight from a death certificate completed decades later by a son-in-law who never met the deceased's parents. Historical context matters too. Registration was not always compulsory, compliance could be poor, boundaries changed and denominational records may be held in unexpected places. A person may be absent from the collection first searched without being absent from the historical record.

Look sideways

When direct research stops producing results, the most useful instruction is often: stop searching for the person. Research the people around them instead.

Cluster research examines the wider network – siblings, cousins, neighbours, employers, witnesses,

sponsors, fellow passengers or business associates. People rarely lived as isolated individuals; they migrated, worked, worshipped and married within communities.

A sibling's marriage certificate is fuller than the one you already hold. A married sister hides in the census under an unfamiliar surname. A brother's obituary names the place of origin that his brother's never did. The neighbour turns out to be a cousin; the witness turns out to be the link between two households. The approach earns its keep particularly when researching women, people with common names, and those who generated few records of their own.

Two brothers solved my problem, neither of them the man I was looking for. One was recorded as deaf and dumb in successive censuses, and that unchanging detail led me to recognise a household as the same family ten years on, even though the man at its head now had a different name. The other witnessed a widow's remarriage in 1895, and his signature there matched the one on his own marriage register.

Wills, probate files, death notices and cemetery records preserve relationships never stated earlier. Look forwards as well as backwards and sideways.

Consider the human story

Genealogical records were created by people, and people do not behave tidily.

Names change. Ages drift. Marriages fail. Children are raised by relatives. People conceal earlier relationships, illegitimacy, desertion or an inconvenient first marriage; others reinvent themselves after migration. A researcher who expects consistency will miss the explanation precisely because it looks illogical or socially uncomfortable. Household arrangements catch us out most: an 1881 census return I use as a warning shows a woman apparently living as her son's wife, when she was his mother, still married to a pauper in the workhouse across town.

Family stories should be treated neither as unquestionable truth nor as worthless fiction. They are clues, and even when factually wrong they preserve an emotional truth – a rupture, a concealed relationship, a sense that someone did not belong. Ask why a story was told, who first recorded it, and what the family avoided.

Guard equally against inventing drama because the evidence is thin. A missing father is not automatically a scandal. Imagination should generate the possibilities. Evidence must decide between them.

Understand the community

Sometimes the breakthrough comes not from another name search but from learning about the world the person lived in.

Study the locality, religion, occupation, migration pattern and cultural community. Learn how names were used and inherited, who could own property, who was eligible for relief and which authorities created records. Local histories, maps, newspapers, rate books and community archives place an individual in a far richer setting.

Occupational knowledge broke my search open. Once terms such as “earthenware dealer” and “hawker” were understood in the context of Traveller and Gypsy communities, a sequence of occupations – earthenware dealer, carter, showman and shooting-gallery proprietor – stopped looking inconsistent and began to describe a life on the fairground circuit.

It also suggested why the family might be missing from a census. A showman’s household could have been anywhere in Britain, or abroad, on census night.

And talk to people. Local historians, archivists, cemetery volunteers and other researchers hold knowledge that has never been digitised – the decisive evidence in my own case came not from a

subscription database but from the Sheffield Indexers, a volunteer project that has indexed the Burngreave Cemetery registers. Contacting descendants is equally fruitful, though what they supply still has to be assessed: a privately held Bible, photograph or funeral card holds the clue missing from the public record.

Perseverance is not only continuing to search. It is widening the circle of people, places and records being searched.

Process: Turn clues into evidence

Verification is not finding several online trees that agree. Ten trees may all descend from one mistaken tree. Nor is it enough to collect several records bearing the same name.

The question is whether independent evidence points towards the same conclusion.

A marriage record may provide an age, occupation, residence and father’s name. A census may place a person of that age and occupation in the same locality. A probate record may name a sibling who later appears as a witness. DNA may connect descendants of both branches.

No single item necessarily proves the relationship, but together they can build a persuasive case.

It is equally important to know

where the case is weakest. My identification of Michael Drake and George Drake as the same man still rests heavily on one document. The remaining evidence shows consistency, but consistency is not the same as proof.

Contradictory evidence must not be quietly set aside because it is inconvenient. Record it and try to explain it. The discrepancy may arise from an error, a deliberate falsehood, a misunderstanding or the existence of two different people. Sometimes the contradiction is the clue that unlocks the problem.

Draw the problem

A family tree is not always the best tool for solving a complex question. Try a timeline, flow chart, table or map. Plot people of the same name against dates, residences, occupations and relatives. Create separate columns for evidence supporting and opposing a proposed identity.

The act of drawing or tabulating the problem forces our reasoning into the open.

Writing a short research summary can do the same thing. State what is known, identify the sources, describe the conflict and list the possible explanations. If the explanation becomes vague at a crucial point – “This must be our John because ...” – an assumption may have replaced evidence.

Use DNA carefully

DNA can be powerful when documentary research has stalled, but it should be used as evidence rather than treated as a machine that supplies an ancestor's name.

Begin with a clear question. Which relationship is being tested? What result would support the proposed connection, and what alternatives remain open?

In my Drabble/Drake research, I found the surname first in documentary records and then searched for it among my matches. That was a hypothesis to be tested, not independent confirmation.

My sister and I now have 15 matches whose connection can be traced both genetically and genealogically to the Drabble line, with about 20 more who cluster with them but remain unplaced. Those unplaced matches are not proof; they are a research plan.

DNA works best when integrated with documents. It may show that two families are biologically connected, but records are usually still needed to establish how, where and when.

It can also reveal unexpected parentage and unknown relatives, so researchers must proceed ethically, respect privacy and avoid claiming more than the evidence supports.

Know when to pause

Not every brick wall comes down today.

Records may have been destroyed. A relationship may never have been documented. There may not yet be enough DNA matches. The archive holding the answer may remain closed, unindexed or undigitised.

Recognising this is not failure.

Set the problem aside with a clear account of what has been checked, what has been ruled out and what remains possible. Then revisit it.

Collections are digitised, indexes improve, distant relatives test their DNA and fresh eyes notice what we previously walked past. Setting a problem down can also loosen the grip of a favoured theory.

Patience allows us to pause without abandoning the enquiry. Perseverance brings us back. Process tells us where to begin again.

A method, not a miracle

Our Coffee and Chat discussion did not produce one trick for solving every brick wall. It produced something more useful: a way of thinking.

Be patient enough to question what appears obvious.

Be persistent enough to look beyond the person and beyond the familiar records.

Follow a process strong enough to distinguish evidence from assumption.

Define the question. Rebuild the chronology. Return to the original record. Investigate relatives and associates. Understand the community. Draw the problem. Verify every conclusion. Use DNA carefully. Ask other people. Record what has – and has not – been found. Be prepared to pause.

Above all, remain willing to be wrong. The strongest genealogical researchers are not those who never make mistakes, but those who keep testing their conclusions and change them when the evidence demands it.

A brick wall may represent a genuine absence of evidence. More often, it marks the boundary of the approach we have been using.

Progress begins when patience, perseverance and process lead us to ask the question in a different way – when we stop, for instance, searching for the death of a man who never died.

Author: Family History ACT's Coffee and Chat Group is an informal gathering of experienced genealogists who meet once a month to share research problems, practical strategies and the occasional hard-won breakthrough.

ScribeAI for Family Historians: Useful, but Not Infallible

Therese Lynch

Having long been an early adopter of technology, I was curious about *Scribe AI*, a recent addition to MyHeritage's suite of online tools for genealogists. I decided to put it through its paces and see how well it could transcribe and interpret images of historical material.

Scribe AI is designed to work with handwritten records, printed documents, photographs, gravestones and coats of arms. According to MyHeritage's promotional material, it can place an item in its historical context, extract key details, transcribe documents and suggest further research. I wanted to find out how well it delivered on those claims.

Getting started was quick and easy. In MyHeritage, I simply opened the app, clicked on the **Photos** menu, selected **Scribe AI**, and was prompted to upload my first image.

I chose five items for my test:

1. a difficult to read (but not impossible), 17th century handwritten will for Richard Chitty;
2. a 19th century photo of a person who is possibly my x2 great-grandfather, John Barnes, of

Stawell, Victoria;

3. an image of Sir Francis Drake's coat of arms;

4. a 19th century Australian marriage register containing multiple handwritten entries on a pre-printed form which included my x3 great aunt, Elizabeth Barnes of Stawell;

5. a detailed 19th century Merchant Navy crew list and agreement, handwritten on a pre-printed form, which listed my x2 great-grandfather, Charles Vollett.

For *Scribe AI* to pass my test, it needed to:

1. identify the record or item type;
2. transcribe, extract, analyse and interpret available information accurately; and
3. save me time and preferably do a better job of transcribing than I could myself, taking into account the need for me to check the results.

Richard Chitty's will

The most impressive results involved the will of Richard Chitty, dated 12 April 1635. The test document was two pages of dense

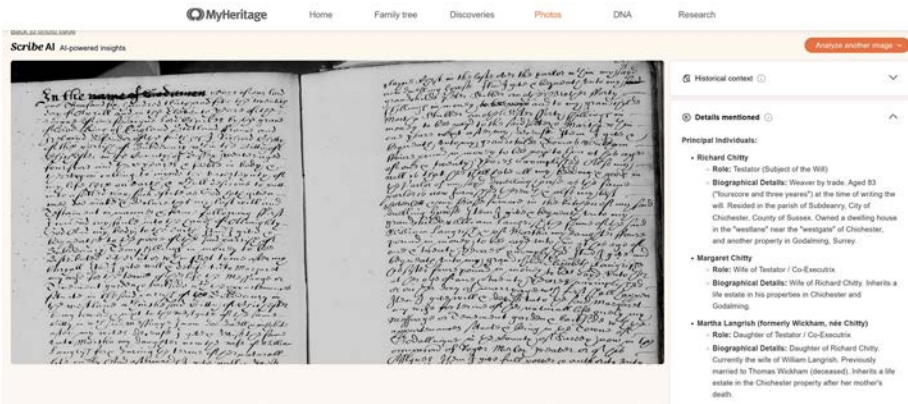
handwriting and 17th century spelling. *Scribe AI* performed extremely well. It provided useful background and historical context, accurately extracted key names, identified relationships and roles, and summarised the main bequests. It described Richard Chitty as an elderly weaver living in the parish of Subdeanry [sic], Chichester, Sussex. It also identified family members including his wife Margaret, daughter Martha, and several grandchildren across the Wickham, Langrish and Stubber families.

Even more impressive was the full transcription. Was it word for word perfect? No. However, it produced a very strong first draft while preserving the original spelling and character of the document. It saved me hours of painstaking work. That alone makes it valuable

for family historians faced with very old and unfamiliar handwriting.

I printed the transcript and compared it word for word with the original image on the screen. This made it relatively easy for me to determine *Scribe AI*'s accuracy. There were 893 words in the transcript wherein I detected 15 errors, none of which were material to understanding the text or its meaning. This equates to a little over 98% accuracy on this occasion.

The final part of *Scribe AI*'s analysis contained six suggestions for further research, all of which were sensible. I particularly liked its suggestion that I investigate the West Sussex Record Office and The National Archives for any surviving probate papers which might contain an inventory of Richard Chitty's possessions.



Extract from Richard Chitty's will and part of the corresponding analysis by Scribe AI.

Verdict: For this type of record, *Scribe AI* passed comfortably.

Analysis of a 19th century photo

Scribe AI analysed a nineteenth-century photograph of a man who could be my x2 great-grandfather, John Barnes, a pioneer gold miner and community leader in Stawell, Victoria. The photo is identified on the Victorian Collections website as “Stawell Volunteer Fire Brigade, Fireman Barnes, 1885”.

Scribe AI accurately provided visual and technical clues. It described the black-and-white studio portrait showing a bearded man in a dark volunteer fire brigade uniform, resting his hand on a cane-backed chair. *Scribe AI* noted distinctive details such

as the “SVFB” insignia on his sleeve, a belt tool, and the tunic style, and accurately suggested he was a member of the Stawell Volunteer Fire Brigade in Victoria, Australia. It suggested that the portrait’s composition and clothing point to the 1870s–1880s, aligning with mid-to-late Victorian studio conventions. This was consistent with the title and year in Victorian Collections’ catalogue entry for the photo.

Scribe AI also provided historical context, noting the vital role of volunteer brigades in gold-rush towns like Stawell, and suggested genealogical avenues for verification, including muster rolls or Public Record Office of Victoria collections. The analysis identified



Fireman Barnes. Stawell Historical Society Collection.

🔍 Key findings ⓘ	▼
📖 Historical background ⓘ	▼
📅 Estimated date ⓘ	▼
📍 Estimated location ⓘ	▼
🔎 Visual clues ⓘ	▼
⚙️ Technical details ⓘ	▼

List of analysis topics Scribe AI provided for the photo. Each of these topics expands to more information.

the photo as a reproduction of a 19th century albumen print, possibly a carte de visite or cabinet card, with typical soft focus and slightly faded contrast.

Where *Scribe AI* disappointed me was its failure to estimate the man's apparent age. John Barnes was born in 1844 and would have been 41 years old in 1885, the date given in the Victorian Collections catalogue. That age appears broadly consistent with the man in the photograph, but it does not establish that he was John rather than one of his brothers. An estimated age range would have helped me assess the photo more critically. Although such estimates are necessarily subjective, particularly from an old photograph, I would still have valued *Scribe AI*'s assessment and compared it with the documented ages of the other possible Barnes family candidates.

I must add at this point that the filename of the photo I uploaded was "Barnes Fire Brigade Stawell". Did it base some of its analysis on this unintended hint?

Overall, *Scribe AI* provided a detailed and historically informed interpretation that helped me assess whether the subject could have been my x2 great-grandfather. It did not establish his identity, and the descriptive file name may have influenced part of

the analysis.

Verdict: a good result, but one requiring independent verification.

Sir Francis Drake's coat of arms

I know little about heraldry other than sharing a surname does not entitle a person to use an individual's coat of arms. For my test, I used an illustration of Sir Francis Drake's arms.

I have been interested in Drake since first reading about him at school. More recently, I discovered that one of my seafaring ancestors lived in the same parish as Drake outside Plymouth in Devon.

I had also read that Drake claimed a connection with the Drake family of Ashe and sought recognition



Sir Francis Drake's Coat of Arms.

Origins & lineage ⓘ	✓
Heraldic description ⓘ	✓
Design breakdown ⓘ	✓
Meaning of symbols ⓘ	✓
Visual overview ⓘ	✓
Authenticity check ⓘ	✓

Analysis topics provided by Scribe AI for this coat of arms.

of his right to use its arms. His entitlement was challenged, and to resolve the issue, Queen Elizabeth arranged for Francis Drake to have his own coat of arms.

I did not want to give *Scribe AI* any clues, so I deliberately left Drake's name off the file name and called the image simply "Coat of Arms. jpg".

The result was very good. *Scribe AI* correctly identified the image as the arms of Sir Francis Drake, the English seafarer and privateer. It also correctly associated the arms with the grant made in 1581.

Importantly, *Scribe AI* warned that the arms did not belong to everyone bearing the Drake surname. Under English heraldic practice, a coat of arms belongs to a particular

person and those lawfully entitled to inherit it. A shared surname alone does not establish any right to bear the arms.

Scribe AI provided both a brief and a more detailed visual analysis. It described the shield, crest, mottos and other elements, and explained their possible meanings. It also assessed whether the illustration corresponded with the documented arms of Sir Francis Drake.

The tool gave the design a "Compliant" rating, meaning that it considered the arms were consistent with heraldic conventions. For example, it noted that the silver or white elements were placed on a black field, in accordance with the rule of tincture. It also recognised that the particular image was probably a 19th or 20th century illustration rather than a contemporary Tudor depiction.

Scribe AI's principal findings were consistent with information published by the National Portrait Gallery, including the date of the grant, the two mottos and the elaborate crest showing a ship drawn around a globe by a hand emerging from the clouds.

Verdict: a strong result for identifying and explaining a coat of arms.

Colonial Australia marriage register

The colonial Australia marriage register produced mixed results. The page was a pre-printed form containing three handwritten entries. *Scribe AI* accurately transcribed the names and biographical details in each entry and presented them in a table broadly reflecting the layout of the original form.

The declarations completed by the three couples appeared together beneath the table rather than alongside the corresponding entries. However, *Scribe AI* retained the item numbers from the original form, making it reasonably easy to match each declaration to the correct marriage.

Where it struggled:

Scribe AI did not preserve the original line breaks when transcribing names. As a result the names of brides, grooms, and parents sometimes ran together in the table when each should have appeared on a separate line. This was not a serious problem. The names were spelt correctly, and I could readily insert the missing line breaks after copying the text into a document.

The tool misread four numbers in the register. It transcribed a 6 as an 8; a 3 as an 8; 16 as 18; and 24 as 6. The image was blurred, so these errors were perhaps

understandable, and I detected them immediately. Even so, it was a useful reminder that every automated transcription must be checked carefully against the original image.

I was impressed that *Scribe AI* correctly recognised Chinese characters appearing on the marriage registration form. It also noted that the bride signed with her X mark.

The transcription of one witness's name was probably incorrect, although the signature was difficult to read and I could not determine the exact name myself.

Verdict: *Scribe AI* would save me time if I needed a transcription of the entire register page, particularly if some of the handwriting was difficult to read. If the page was easy to read and I wanted only one entry, however, it would offer little advantage once the time needed to check the transcription and make changes is taken into account.

Nineteenth-century Merchant Navy crew list and agreement

The 19th century Merchant Navy crew list and agreement was a complex document, combining printed text with numerous handwritten names and personal details. *Scribe AI* transcribed the pre-printed wording well, but concentrated mainly on the

master's name and details. It overlooked most of the handwritten entries for the seamen listed on the page.

For genealogists, this is a serious limitation. Crew lists and similar records often contain many separate entries, and the person of interest may be one of those the tool omits. In this case, my x2 great-grandfather, Charles Vollett, did not appear in either *Scribe AI*'s transcription or its list of names extracted from the document.

The problem did not appear to be an inability to read handwriting altogether. Rather, *Scribe AI* seemed unable to interpret the page's complex layout and recognise the multiple individual records contained therein.

Verdict: *Scribe AI* failed this test. Although it extracted some information, it omitted the entry I needed and did not save me any time.

Historical context ⓘ

Details mentioned ⓘ

Key findings ⓘ

Suggested next steps ⓘ

Full text transcription ⓘ

List D. No. 38 PORT OF Plymouth ACCOUNT OF VOYAGES AND CREW OF HOME TRADE SHIP, TO BE DELIVERED HALF-YEARLY TO THE SHIPPING MASTER AT THE ABOVE PORT.

Scribe AI's analysis topics including the start of its full text transcription.

FORM FOR THE BOARD OF
TRADE
LONDON
PRINTED BY J. JOHNSON, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD
1851

List D.
No. 38

PORT OF *Plymouth*
ACCOUNT OF VOYAGES AND CREW OF HOME TRADE SHIP, TO BE DELIVERED
HALF-YEARLY TO THE SHIPPING MASTER AT THE ABOVE PORT.

Name of Ship	Port of Registry	No. of Register	Date of Registry	Tonnage	Name of Master	No. of the Certificate	Date of Expiry of Certificate	Date of Discharge of Ship	Date of Discharge of Ship
<i>Northampton</i>	<i>Plymouth</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>1851</i>	<i>115</i>	<i>William Wyatt</i>	<i>44-15</i>	<i>1 January 1852</i>	<i>June 1852</i>	<i>June 1852</i>

ACCOUNT OF THE VOYAGES

*These Voyages from Plymouth to London and back to Plymouth
and Voyages from Plymouth to Bristol and back to Plymouth*

*77, 78
9, 52*

ACCOUNT OF THE CREW AND OF OTHER PARTICULARS REQUIRED BY LAW, IN RESPECT OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED VOYAGES OR EMPLOYMENT OF THE SAID SHIP

Name of Ship - Certificate and Document to be taken by the Shipping Master				Place of Birth, stating Place of Birth in County		No. of Register	Ship to which he has been or is to be attached	Time and Place of joining the Ship		Whether Certificate Expired, and if so, Date of Expiry of Days	Time, Place, and Cause of Discharge, or Leaving the Ship		Remarks
First	Second	Third	Fourth	Age	Place of Birth	No. of Register	Ship to which he has been or is to be attached	Time	Place	Whether Certificate Expired, and if so, Date of Expiry of Days	Time	Place	Remarks
<i>John Wyatt</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>Worce</i>	<i>1843</i>	<i>Salisbury</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Worce</i>	<i>1843</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Worce</i>	<i>1843</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Worce</i>	<i>1843</i>
<i>James Thompson</i>	<i>52</i>	<i>Plymouth</i>	<i>1845</i>	<i>Bristol</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Plymouth</i>	<i>1845</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Plymouth</i>	<i>1845</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Plymouth</i>	<i>1845</i>
<i>John Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>Richard Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>John Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>James Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>1 January 1851</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>1</i>								

Conclusion

In my opinion, and based on this limited test, *Scribe AI* is most useful for single handwritten narrative documents such as wills, diaries and letters. As demonstrated by Richard Chitty's will, it can produce a useful first-pass transcription, extract key names and relationships, provide preliminary historical context and suggest further research, all within a few minutes. It also performed well when analysing a coat of arms and a 19th century photo.

The tool was less reliable with complex layouts and pages containing multiple entries. In the version I tested, users could not ask follow-up questions or challenge the results. Although not part of my test criteria, it is worth noting that the tool did not identify the sources used for its analysis. This may change in future versions.

Overall, I found *Scribe AI* quick, easy to use, and a valuable aid for selected records. Used carefully, it is an excellent first reader, but not the final authority. As with any AI tool, *Scribe AI*'s output must always be checked against the original image.

Access note: At the time of writing, MyHeritage allowed limited free use of *Scribe AI*. Continued or unlimited use required a paid subscription.

References and copies of the records used in this review are available on request.

ChatGPT assisted with the final editing of this article.

Notes of the Irish SIG meeting discussing the 1926 Irish Census

Nick Reddan

Purpose

This article reports on discussions at the 11 July Irish Special Interest Group on the 1926 census of the Irish Free State. There was an active conversation and we helped each other understand these data and how they might help our research.

Background

Just over one hundred years ago the newly independent state, now called the Republic of Ireland, held a census. In the last few years, the National Archives of Ireland digitised the census records. Earlier this year they launched a new subsite where these records could be searched for free. The new site is a companion to the site for the 1901 and 1911 censuses released earlier.

Understanding the census benefits from using other free sites:

1. Civil registration records for Ireland on <http://www.irishgenealogy.ie/en/> Images of most early records are available

there.

2. Townlands Ireland <https://www.townlands.ie/> On this site you can search for townlands and view their maps.

3. The index of townlands from the 1901 census on <http://www.irishancestors.ie/search/townlands/index.php> This site has wild card search that can help in identifying townlands.

4. Griffith Valuation on Ask about Ireland <https://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/> Using this website you can search to find who was on the land at the time of the Griffith Valuation in mid 1800s. It includes maps of townlands for later valuations. Changes in interests in land can be tracked through the Cancellation Books from Griffith Valuation to the 1950s. While these are available through FamilySearch in grey-scale, colour images are much easier to understand.

5. The National Library of Ireland collection of images of Catholic parish records <https://registers.nli.ie/>

I led the investigation of the 1926 census using a case study of one of my families – the Barrett family of Ballinduff, Ardahan parish, County Galway. Some of the descendants of John Barrett and Ferdinand (Fergus or Fardy) Barrett who were tenants on Ballinduff for the Griffith Valuation, were still on the townland when I visited some years ago.

The Barrett family of Ballinduff, Ardahan parish, County Galway

On her marriage certificate, my great-grandmother, Ellen Barrett, stated that she was born at Ballinduff and that her parents were John Barrett and Bridget Leonard. Early on in my research I found John Barrett and Ferdinand Barrett appeared in Griffith Valuation at Ballinduff, Ardahan parish. Ellen, of course, was born

a few years prior to the start of civil registration in Ireland. Moreover, the baptisms for Ardahan Catholic Parish have a gap from 1845 to 1866. Some Barrett baptisms of interest have been recorded outside this gap. Some are noted as the children of John Barrett and Biddy Linane. John Barrett died at Ballinduff on 12 May 1867 and Bridget (nee Linane) Barrett died there on 11 January 1900, before the 1901 census.

Case study using the 1926 Census

We started by searching for Barrett in Ballinduff, and then filtered for John Barrett. We obtained the following two results. Clicking on one of the names shows the associated household form and the townland summary form images.

Surname: barrett ✕ First Name: John ✕ County: Galway ✕ Townland / Street: ballinduff ✕ Show all information ☐

Narrow your results

County

▼

Surname

▼

Townland / Street

▼

DED

▼

Age

▼

Sex

▼

Religion

▼

Barrett, John

Age	57	County	Galway
Townland / Street	Ballinduff	DED	Skehanagh

Barrett, John

Age	37	County	Galway
Townland / Street	Ballinduff	DED	Skehanagh

*Townland
summary:
two Barrett
households at the
bottom.*

Household form for
John Barrett and family

239

There are two Barrett households living in Ballinduff, with respective heads John and Mary Barrett. The example discussed here is the one headed by John Barrett.

Things of interest to note are:

- John's elder brother Patrick is living in the household and is unmarried;
- John's sister-in-law, Margaret Egan, is living in the household and is unmarried;
- for all John's children it is stated that both parents are alive; and
- John's wife is not living in the household.

The entries would imply that John's wife is one of the Egan family.

We used the Irish Civil Registration to find her name. On irishgenealogy. ie we searched for marriages in County Galway of John Barrett between 1900 and 1920. One of the results is the marriage of John Barrett and Mary Egan on 1 February 1916, with the linked image seen below.

Information to note includes the parties' fathers' names, Pat Barrett and Martin Egan, and places Shanaglish and Attyfeeney [Attyfineeny]. The witnesses are probably siblings/parent of the parties.

We can also look for Martin and Mary in the 1901 and 1911 censuses, and birth certificates for Mary and Margaret Egan.

Marriage No. 152 Registered by me, this 21st day of March 1916. *l.p.* Registrar.

1916 Marriage solemnized at the Roman Catholic Chapel of <i>St Anne's</i> in the Registrar's District of <i>Seil</i> in the County of <i>Galway</i>								
No. (1)	When Married (2)	Name and Surname (3)	Age (4)	Condition (5)	Rank or Profession (6)	Residence at Time of Marriage (7)	Father's Name and Surname (8)	Rank or Profession of Father (9)
152	February 1 st 1916	John Barrett	Full	bachelor	Farmer	Ballinduff	Pat Barrett	Farmer
		Mary Egan	Full	Spinster	Farmer's daughter	Attyfeeney	Martin Egan	Farmer

Married in the Roman Catholic Chapel of *St Anne's* according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Church by me, *Andrew J. Lavin P.P.*

This Marriage was solemnized between us, { *John Barrett* } in the Presence of us, { *Pat Barrett*, *Mabel Egan* }

Martin	Egan	husband	Roman Catholic	married	no vote	68	M	Farmer
Mary	Egan	wife	Roman Catholic	can read and write	48		F	
Martin	Egan	son	Roman Catholic	can read and write	21		M	Farmer's son
Mary	Egan	daughter	Roman Catholic	can read and write	18		F	Farmer's daughter
James	Egan	son	Roman Catholic	can read and write	16		M	Scholar
Maggie	Egan	daughter	Roman Catholic	can read and write	11		F	Scholar
Pat	Egan	daughter	Roman Catholic	cannot read and write	5		F	Infant

1901 census for Martin Egan and his daughter Mary.

	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
1	Martin	Egan	head of family	Roman Catholic	Can Read	74	
2	Mary	Egan	Wife	Roman Catholic	Read & Write		57
3	Martin	Egan	son	Roman Catholic	Read & Write	31	
4	James	Egan	son	Roman Catholic	Read & Write	25	
5	Mary	Egan	daughter	Roman Catholic	Read & Write		27
6	Katie	Egan	daughter	Roman Catholic	Read & Write		15
7							

1911 census for Martin Egan and his daughter Mary.

The Egan Family

We found Mary and Katie appeared in both the above records, while Margaret, now about 21 years old is missing from 1911.

Searching on irishgenealogy. ie yielded the birth certificates of Mary and Margaret Egan.

We also looked at the marriage of Martin Egan, all shown below.

1884	Mary	Female	Martin Egan	Mary Egan	Farmer	Martin Egan	April 1884	W. Moran	Registrar.
	Bighknitt March		Styffany	Monahan		Mark Father Littlejohn			

No. (1.)	Date and Place of Birth. (2.)	Name (if any). (3.)	Sex. (4.)	Name and Surname and Dwelling-place of Father. (5.)	Name and Surname and Matrimonial Surname of Mother. (6.)	Rank or Profession of Father. (7.)	Signature, Qualification, and Residence of Informant. (8.)	When Registered. (9.)	Signature of Registrar. (10.)	Registered Name of Informant (11.)
286	1884	Margaret	Female	Martin Egan	Mary Egan	Farmer	The mark of Martin Egan	April 1884	W. Moran	Registrar.
	Styffany			Styffany	Monahan		Mark of Mary Egan			

1873 Marriage solemnized at the Roman Catholic Chapel of Lisheen in the Union of Lisheen in the County of Gloucester in the Registrar's District of Lisheen

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
40	1873	Martin Egan	26	Bachelor	Farmer	Styffany	John Egan	Farmer
		Mary Monahan	22	Spinster	Do.	Kilshane	Michael Monahan	Do.

Married in the Roman Catholic Chapel of Lisheen according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Church, by me, Patrick O'Meara

This Marriage was solemnized between Martin Egan and Mary Monahan in the Presence of us, James Egan and Margaret Monahan

Since Mary, John's wife, was missing from the census we started with a search for Mary Barrett. A search across all counties returns 478 results. Fortunately, we could use the various filters.

From her birth certificate we can calculate her age as around 41 or 42. We choose the filter age between 40 and 49. This brings down the number of possible Marys to 43. Filtering on County Galway drops this down to 4 results.

The first two of these results have age 49 so are less likely to be her. Thus, we have the following two results of interest:

County ▾

Surname ▾

Townland / Street ▾

DED ▾

Age ▾

Sex ▾

Religion ▾

Barrett, Mary			
Age	42	County	Galway
Townland / Street	Mweenish Island	DED	Knockboy

Barrett, Mary			
Age	41	County	Galway
Townland / Street	Renmore	DED	Galway East Urban

Knockboy is in the far west of County Galway, the opposite end of the county to Ardrahan. Thus, we looked at the one in Galway town.

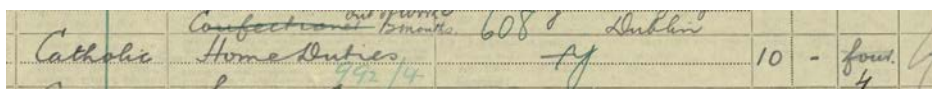
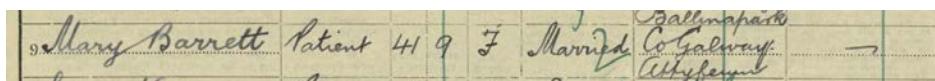
The return was for an institution and there are four household forms and four House and Building Return forms.

View single record		View household record	
Surname	Barrett	View census images	
First Name	Mary	* Current record appears here	
Relationship to Head of Household	Patient	Household Form A 1	
Census Year	1926	Household Form A 2	
County	Galway	Household Form A 3	
Townland / Street	Renmore	Household Form A 4 *	
DED	Galway East Urban	House and Building Return Form B 1	
Age	41	House and Building Return Form B 2	
		House and Building Return Form B 3	
		House and Building Return Form B 4	

Clicking on the "View household record" tab yields a list of the names in the institution.

We can use [ctrl]+F to search on the page for Barrett. The first result is for Rita Barrett who is one of the nurses. The second one is Mary

Barrett near the last of all records. We chose the Household Form number 4, where Mary Barrett is person number 9.



This was our Mary – the correct age, marital status, birthplace, years married and number of children. The institution name at the top of the page is Woodlands Sanatorium. A sanatorium is where people with tuberculosis were sent for both quarantine and treatment. It wasn't until the 1950s that there was an effective antibiotic for tuberculosis, so many of the inmates of sanatoriums died there. Our Mary died in the Woodlands Sanatorium about five years later.

On this page in the deaths register from irishgenealogy.ie showing Mary Barrett's death, there are three deaths in the sanatorium including one seven-year-old and an 18-year-old.

Tulliyr (Tulliar) is a townland next to Ballinduff. See <https://townlands.ie/galway/dunkellin/ardrahan/skehanagh/tullira/#borders>

Decd.	Age	Sex	Marital	Years	Occupation	Certified	Where	Date
13	10.31	Male	Bachelor	7	Son of a Labourer	Pulmonary Tuberculosis Cardiac Failure certified.	Aly Costello Occupier. Woodlands Sanatorium	10.31
14	10.31	Female	Married	46	Wife of a Farmer	Pulmonary Tuberculosis Cardiac Failure Certified	Aly Costello Occupier. Woodlands Sanatorium	10.31
15	10.31	Male	Bachelor	18	Son of a Labourer	Pulmonary Tuberculosis Cardiac Failure certified	Aly Costello Occupier. Woodlands Sanatorium	10.31

Conclusion

The Irish Free State 1926 census holds a vast amount of information about the people living in that part of the island of Ireland. It can be of interest for people like me whose ancestors left Ireland in the 1800s.

The ready availability of civil registration records means that we can fill in details about many individuals. This is despite the adoption in 1864 of the English model rather than the Scottish one.

For many families, relatives remained on the same lands for many generations. Some are still on the lands where our ancestors lived before 1860. The 1926 census and civil registration records can assist in following these links. The valuation cancellation books are also helpful for this tracing.

I encourage you to do your own digging into the 1926 census.

The screenshot shows the 'Search Online Records' interface on the Irish Genealogy website. At the top, the logo 'Irish Genealogy.ie' is on the left, and navigation links 'Search Records', 'Record Sources', 'Genealogical Research', 'FAQ', 'News', and 'Feedback' are on the right. The main heading is 'Search Online Records'. Below this, the 'Search in:' section has three radio buttons: 'Civil Records' (selected), 'Church Records', and 'All Records'. The 'First name' field contains 'John' and the 'Last name' field contains 'Barrett'. There is a small help icon to the right of the last name field. Below the name fields is a checkbox for 'Exact name matches only'. The 'Location' field contains 'Co. Galway', with a note below it: 'Enter a County, Civil registration district or Church area'. The 'Year range' is set from '1900' to '1920'. The 'Event type' section has three checkboxes: 'Birth', 'Marriage' (checked), and 'Death'. Below this is a link for 'Advanced options' with an upward arrow. The 'Day' and 'Month' fields are currently empty. There are fields for 'Mother's Surname (Birth records only)' and 'Age at death (Burial & Death records only)'. At the bottom, the 'Other recorded persons' section includes a 'Spouse (M:' label and a 'First name' field, followed by a field containing 'Egan'. A small help icon is also present to the right of the 'Egan' field.

From our Contemporaries

Pauline Bygraves

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

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

AUSTRALASIA

* Joseph ALDRIDGE was described as an "old colonist" in an obituary in The Week (Brisbane) dated 11 Jan 1895, according to which he was born at Amersham, England, in 1821 and arrived in Australia in the 1850s. He had a wife and three children, one of whom was Mrs D HAYES living in Boundary Street, Spring Hill. Origins (Buckinghamshire FHS) Spring 2026 v50 n1 p27 (electronic journal).

* Helen BELCHER is seeking information about a sampler, which does not relate to her family. It includes the names of Alexander THOMSON 1865, Mary Honour Mills THOMSON, born 1818, and Louisa THOMSON, born 1854 at Newcastle, NSW. Alexander, Mary's husband, ran a grocery business at Redfern where he died in 1887. Mary died in 1904, also at Redfern. A relative by the name of CHAPMAN (of NSW) attended Mary's funeral. The New Zealand Genealogist June 2026 v57 n409 p94 (electronic journal).

* Jan GOW (nee MacDONALD) was born at Wagga Wagga in 1939 and died in May 2026. She married David GOW at London in 1961.



They settled in New Zealand where they raised three children. Jan was a longstanding and well-regarded member of the New Zealand Genealogical Society. The New Zealand Genealogist June 2026 v57 n409 p52 (electronic journal).

* Lynda REID: "Missing in Australia" - a selection of missing family and friends advertisements from Australian papers, dating from 1873 to 1915 and covering 13 entries. Origins (Buckinghamshire FHS) Summer 2026 v50 n2 p85 (electronic journal).

* Margaret SHAND (1944-2026) was descended from James WATTS, a fishing boat skipper from Gamrie, and his wife Jean OGILVIE, through their daughter Helen. In 2017 she received an award for her services to the Queensland Family History Society. Aberdeen & North-East Scotland FHS May 2026 n178 p34 (electronic journal).

* Nathaniel TURNER, son of Thomas and Elizabeth, was born at Wybunbury, Cheshire in 1793. He began working as a Wesleyan preacher in 1812 and married Anne SARGENT at Stoke-on-Trent in 1822. Shortly afterwards they left for Tasmania, before embarking for New Zealand in 1823 to form part of the Wesleydale mission. In 1827 the mission was destroyed by the local Maori tribe. Nathaniel continued his missionary work in Tonga, Tasmania and, again, in New Zealand until 1852. He died at Brisbane in 1864. He and Ann had 14 children, all named with brief biographical details. Genealogists' Magazine (Society of Genealogists) March 2026 v35 n5 p222 (electronic journal).



ENGLAND

* Penelope CHRISTENSEN: "The BRICKETT One-Name Study". Mistranslation and illiteracy have resulted in many deviant spellings of the surname with the most common ones being BIRKETT, BRICKELL, BUCKETT, PRICKETT and RICKETT. There is a list of the major centres in England where BRICKETT occurs. The surname is also found in Australasia. Bedfordshire FHS June 2026 v25 n6 p13 (electronic journal).

* Thomas FOSTER, son of Charles and Mary, was born at Blackburn in 1792. He enlisted in the Army in 1807. His parents and younger siblings migrated to Australia on the *David Shaw* in 1818. In 1826 Thomas joined the NSW Veterans' Corps and arrived on the *Orpheus*. He was twice married, the second time to Elizabeth GEE at Launceston in 1833. Some children have been traced, but no definite record of Thomas's death has been found. He was the nephew of Mary REIBEY, the woman now on Australia's \$20 note. The Manchester Genealogist 2026 v62 n2 p132 (electronic journal).

* Thomas Henry HICK, son of William and Maria Ellen (nee ROUTH), was born in 1874 and worked as a saddler. He married Annie BEARD and had three children before going to the United States alone looking for work. When that did not work out, Thomas moved to Australia. Annie and the children followed, with a son, Sydney, born in 1909. Another son, George, was born later. Thomas died in 1928. The Midland Ancestor (Birmingham and Midland Society for G&H) June 2026 v20 n14 p825 (electronic journal).

* Sir James Everard HOME was the son of Sir Everard HOME (1756-1832) and his second wife Jane TUNSTALL. He became an eminent Naval Captain, serving in China and New Zealand. He died unmarried at Sydney in 1853 as the senior officer on the Australasian Station in command of *HMS Calliope*. Genealogists' Magazine (Society of Genealogists) March 2026 v35 n5 p232 (electronic journal).

* Joseph LOUGH and Mary Ann WELSH were married at Shoreditch in Dec 1820. The family bible records they had a total of 13 children, although only five lived to adulthood. Four of the children, Mary Ann, Edwin, Henry and Lucy moved to New Zealand in the 1850s. Joseph gave each of his children a bible when they grew up. Lucy's bible is in Sydney, NSW. The Journal (East Ayrshire FHS) April 2025 n56 p13 (electronic journal).

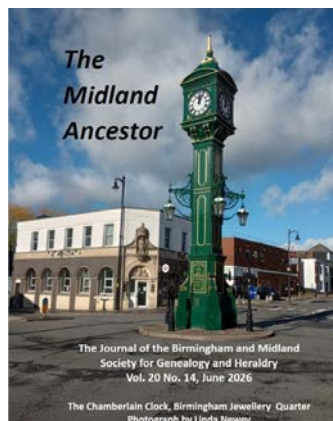
* Martha Lucy MILNER, daughter of Vincent and Isabella (nee SOMMERVILLE), was born in 1909. Lucy (as she was known) was the editor of the women's section of the Daily Express. She married Alan McCrae MOOREHEAD, a well-known Melbourne-born author and they had three children. Lucy died in a car crash in



1979. The Manchester Genealogist 2026 v62 n2 p107 (electronic journal).

* Joseph Martin ROUTH married Jane Elizabeth FRAY at Westminster in 1843. After 1851 he disappeared from UK records, although his wife was still in England in 1861 and 1871, living with William STEVENSON. She married John STINSON in 1879. Meanwhile, Joseph was working as a miner in the Australian goldfields and signed a miners' petition in 1854. His full name was also found in the Dunolly hospital records in Mar 1881. He died later that year and is buried in a common, unmarked grave in the White Hills cemetery (now called Sandhurst), Bendigo. The Midland Ancestor (Birmingham and Midland Society for G&H) June 2026 v20 n14 p828 (electronic journal).

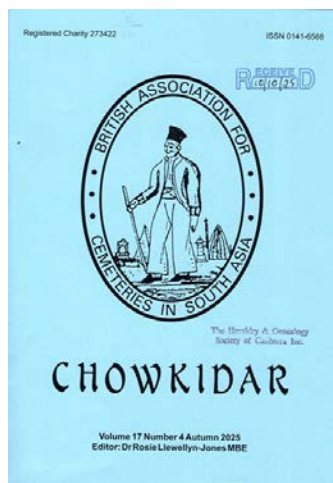
* William James SPARKES (1884-1951) migrated to Australia in 1912, leaving behind two children in the UK. He had a further two daughters in Australia. He maintained contact with his sister Nell, who married Herbert George BUTLER in 1927. Other SPARKES siblings are named, along with a brief history of each. Hertfordshire People Jun 2026 n177 p30 (see also issue for March 2026 n176 p26) (electronic journal).



INDIA

* Sean KELLY (Canberra) "Finding Arthur Anderson – Help needed" – Arthur is named as the father of an illegitimate daughter born in Madras, India in 1805. Nothing further is known about him, although it is possible he worked for brokerage firm Tulloh and Co before returning to Scotland in early 1806. Aberdeen & North-East Scotland FHS May 2026 n178 p13 (electronic journal).

* Walter Burley GRIFFIN is buried at Lucknow. His grave has now been restored with new wording on the tombstone (photo included), following lobbying by the Walter



Burley Griffin Society of Australia and assistance from the British Association for Cemeteries in South Asia (BACSA). Chowkidar (BACSA) Autumn 2025 v17 n4 p81 (V9/60/01).

IRELAND

* Jennifer HARRISON: "Australian-Irish Connections - On What Ship and When Did Your Irish Forebears Arrive?" Irish Roots 1st Qtr 2026 n137 p26 (R9/60/04).

* Jennifer HARRISON: "Australian-Irish Connections - Bailed Up!" explores how ancestors may have travelled to board their sailing ships in Ireland and then on to their destinations on arrival in Australia. Irish Roots 2nd Qtr 2026 n138 p26 (R9/60/04).

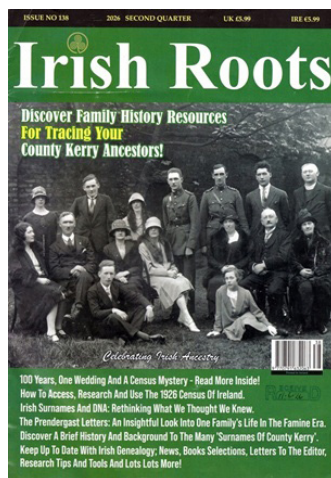
* Susan McKEE: "Unlocking the 1926 Census of Ireland". Irish Roots 1st Qtr 2026 n137 p16 (R9/60/04).

* Zoe REID: "Searching the 1926 Census". Irish Roots 2nd Qtr 2026 n138 p20 (R9/60/04).

* James G RYAN: "Local Resources for Family History Research - County Laois" (Queen's County). Irish Roots 1st Qtr 2026 n137 p10 (R9/60/04).

* James G RYAN: "Local Resources for Family History Research - County Kerry" Irish Roots 2nd Qtr 2026 n138 p10 (R9/60/04).

* Lauren WILLIAMS: "Motherland" - a poem about her x2 great-grandparents coming to Australia from Ireland sometime in the 1860s or 70s. They settled in Casterton, Victoria. Irish Roots 2nd Qtr 2026 n138 p6 (R9/60/04).



SCOTLAND

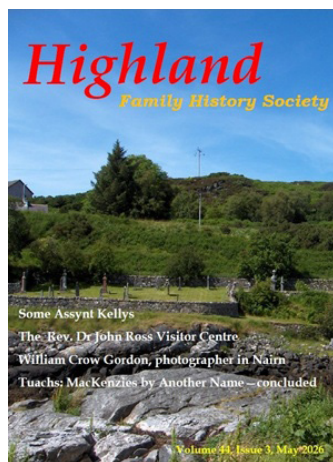
* Henry ANDERSON (1833-1903) was the son of Thomas and Isabella (nee HATHORN) who lived at Kirkcudbright. Henry came from a long line of blacksmiths who originally came from the Parish of Bunkle and Preston in Berwickshire. Many of them are named. Henry migrated to NSW where he continued to work as a blacksmith. Dumfries and Galloway

FHS June 2026 n115 p2 (electronic journal).

* Graeme MacKENZIE: "The Tuachs (MacKENZIE by Another Name): Part 3" mentions Donald (son of Alexander TUACH of Arrieleitrach), his wife Janet and their daughter Jean who migrated to Australia sometime between 1854 and 1859. They settled at Horsham. The names on their headstone (with photo) are Donald Tuach MacKENZIE who died in 1906 and Janet MacKENZIE (1830-1912). Highland FHS May 2026 v44 n3 p18 (electronic journal).

* William MORTON moved to Australia for health reasons but died shortly afterwards on 8 August 1880, aged 23. He is remembered in a poem, alongside another for Agnes MORTON who died on 27 June 1880 aged 74 years. The Journal (East Ayrshire FHS) August 2025 n57 p13 (electronic journal).

* David STEPHEN: "Australia and New Zealand Group - Tips and Tricks for Using Scotland's People". Aberdeen & North-East Scotland FHS May 2026 n178 p31 (electronic journal).



WALES

* Evelyn May WILLIAMS was born in Wales in 1895. From passenger records she is known to have returned to live in Australia in 1956. She spent the latter years of her life living at Hexham in Western Victoria and died at Warrnambool in 1985. What is not known is when she left Wales and first arrived in Australia. Gwent FHS September 2025 n159 p20 (electronic journal).



New Items in our Collection

Barbara Moore

A selection of those items which have been received recently and are available for use in the Society's Library. More details on the items can be checked via the catalogue on the FHACT website. Our thanks go to those members who have provided donations.

AUSTRALIA

Criminal Children - Researching Juvenile Offenders 1820-1920 - E.Watkins & B.Godfrey - A2/10/68

NEW SOUTH WALES

Irish Bigamy - New Insights into Colonial New South Wales - Damien Gleeson - AN7/40/05

ENGLAND

Tracing Your Surrey Ancestors - A Guide for Family Historians - Sarah Pettyer - NSur5/04/10

FAMILY HISTORIES

Ballallaba to the Badja and Beyond - Yvette Conaghan - A4/MIL/02

Convicts to Canberra - Rod Driver - A4/DRI/01

From Bandon and Beyond - Tracing the Shaw Family - Dorothy Brownrigg - RMu4/SHA/01

More Comans - A Supplement to "The Comans - 150 years in Australia (1838-1988)" - John & Cynthia Coman - A4/COM/02

My Human Story - Who I Am and How I Got Here - Paul Miller - A4/MIL/02

National Burial Index Place Report (applies to First Edition) - UK
Federation of Family History Societies - M5/12/23

Parramatta Connections - Helen Patterson - A4/AUS/02

Ryansdale - The Family, the Property, the People - Phillippa Garnsey -
A4/RYA/03

Tasmania Over Five Generations - John Biggs - A4/BIG/01

Ten Doors Down - Robert Tickner - A4/TIC/01

The Dorahy Family - Helen Patterson - A4/DOR/01

The Incredible Trevors - John C. Trinca - A4/TRE/01

The Woman from Snowy River - Ann Connolly - L2/22/27

Book Review

Helen Cohen

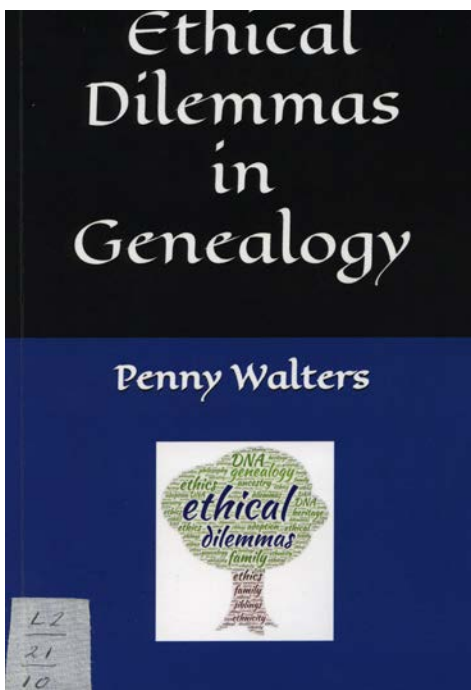
Ethical Dilemmas in Genealogy

Penny Walters has written a comprehensive outline of the potential ethical dilemmas in researching family history. It is a thought-provoking read for genealogists and family historians.

The book is divided into seven chapters and an appendix as well as a comprehensive list of references. The book's layout includes separate paragraphs with headings, sometimes within a text box, small diagrams and various lists related to each topic, making it easy to read.

Definitions of ethics and morality, privacy and confidentiality are included. Privacy and confidentiality are paramount in genealogy to respect individuals' rights, protect sensitive information, and maintain trust within the genealogical community. This is particularly relevant to online family trees.

The chapters provide discussion of the relationship between ethics and genealogy, ethical dilemmas in genealogy and two chapters discuss issues related to DNA. The DNA discussions include information about various DNA testing companies, giving an opportunity for comparison which is particularly useful for anyone contemplating DNA testing. Information about each of the following is included: Ancestry,



FamilyTreeDNA, MyHeritage, 23andMe, Living DNA and GEDmatch.

Although the book was originally published in 2019, the copy in our library quotes changes in relation to DNA testing as recently as 2023.

Penny Walters includes occasional details about her personal research, including the use of DNA, as she was adopted at birth. Some of her searches led to examining the history of slavery. Its effect in the USA and the UK is discussed along with useful information about relevant organisations in both countries.

Chapter Six, 'Where are you from?' discusses ethnicity, race, nationality, heritage and culture, using case studies. The final chapter covers the evolving field of genealogy. Case studies of a professional genealogist's ethical dilemmas are useful examples to then ask yourself, what solutions could you have provided?

The book's appendix provides a timeline of how family history has developed over the years, from the introduction of parish registers in England in 1537 to 1894 when FamilySearch, USA was founded, to RootsTech Connect in 2021.

A comprehensive list of references is provided, including websites. The references will aid further investigation into the topics discussed.

The book is a useful read, covering a broad range of ethical subjects related to family history research. There are no hard and fast answers to ethical dilemmas. Examples are given in the book, sometimes with case studies. To quote the author, 'The ethical genealogist should ideally respect human rights, values, customs and spiritual beliefs of the individual, family and community.'

Penny Walters, *Ethical Dilemmas in Genealogy*, Amazon, Sydney, 2019, 123pp. Call Number L2.21.10.

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)

October

- 1 7:30 pm **Scottish SIG:** *The MacLennan Worldwide Database*; convenor Clare McGuiness, scottish@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 2 9:30 am **Reunion & Mac Support:** convenor Danny O'Neill, ram.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 3 10:00 am **India SIG:** *Can't find a record? An informal meeting to shift focus and frustration to advance your research*; convenor Marie Wensing, india@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 6 7:00 pm **Monthly Meeting:** *Joint meeting with Canberra & District Historical Society*
- 8 10:00 am **Family Tree Maker SUG:** *General Q&A*; ftm.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 10 2:00 pm **TMG Down Under SIG:** *TBA*, convenor Lindsay Graham, tmg.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 11 10:00 am **Discovering Your Polish Heritage:** a beginner's workshop, see registration page
- 14 7:30 pm **Convict SIG:** *Convicts who left Australia*; convenor Michele Rainger, convict@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 15 10:00 am **Legacy SUG:** convenor Julie Hesse, legacy.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 15 8:00 pm **Heraldry SIG:** *TBA*; convenor Chris Lindesay, heraldry@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 16 10:00 am **Coffee and Chat:** coffee.chat@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 17 10:00 am **Writers SIG:** *An inspiring morning with Vesna, hearing her stories of women and migration*; convenor Jo Callaghan, writers.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 18 11:00 am **Pauline's Parlour:** *Round table support*; convenor Pauline Ramage, parlour@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 19 7:30 pm **AI for Genealogy:** *AI for Family History: Your Questions Answered, part of our AI Genealogy Toolbox series*; convenor Cheryl Bollard, ai@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 24 2:00 pm **AI Research Project Hands-on Workshop :** *Part 3 of our AI Research Projects Series*; see registration page
- 26 10:00 am **Library Practice:** *Learn to use our Library and other resources*; Jeanette Hahn
- 26 7:00 pm **Tell me about Trove**, see registration page

November

- 27 11:00 am **Pauline's Parlour:** *Round table support*; convenor Pauline Ramage, parlour@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 2 7.30 pm **Your Genealogy Toolbox: AI Essentials Course for Genealogists**
- 4-week course; see registration page
- 3 7:00 pm **Monthly Meeting:** *TBA*
- 6 9:30 am **Reunion & Mac Support:** convenor Danny O'Neill, ram.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 7 9:30 am **Irish SIG:** *TBA*; convenors Nick Reddan and Peter Mayberry, irish@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 7 1:00 pm **DNA SIG:** Q&A; convenors Cathy Day and Clare McGuiness, dnasig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 12 10:00 am **Family Tree Maker SUG:** *TBA*; ftm.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 15 11:00 am **Pauline's Parlour:** *Round table support*; convenor Pauline Ramage, parlour@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 19 10:00 am **Legacy SUG:** convenor Julie Hesse, legacy.sug@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 19 7:30 pm **English and Welsh SIG:** *Sharing family stories found in newspapers from crimes and scandal to wedding descriptions*; convenors Nina Johnson and Floss Aitchison, english.welsh@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 20 10:00 am **Coffee and Chat:** coffee.chat@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 21 10:00 am **Writers SIG:** Celebrating our 2026 success stories; convenor Jo Callaghan, writers.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 22 2:00 pm **Australia SIG:** *The possible effects of Syphilis on Family History* presented by Jenny Barnes, convenor Pauline Ramage, australia@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 23 10:00 am **Library Practice:** *Learn to use our Library and other resources*; Jeanette Hahn
- 24 11:00 am **Pauline's Parlour:** *Round table support*; convenor Pauline Ramage, parlour@familyhistoryact.org.au

December

- 3 7:30 pm **Scottish SIG:** *Christmas Feast*, convenor Clare McGuiness, scottish@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 5 12:00 pm **India SIG:** *Annual Christmas Lunch - share your progress and enjoy good food*, convenor Marie Wensing, india@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 9 7.30 pm **Convict SIG:** Sharing Convict Research Successes; convenor Michele Rainger, convict@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 18 10:00 am **Coffee and Chat:** TBC, coffee.chat@familyhistoryact.org.au

Services for Members

Photocopies

A4 25c

Microform Prints

A4 45c

GRO Certificate and PDF Service

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,
French, German, Greek, Hungarian,
Icelandic, Italian, Latin, Norwegian,
Polish, Welsh, Yiddish.

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

Further details in Library or contact
secretary on secretary@familyhistoryact.org.au

LDS Film Viewing

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

Discounts

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

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.
Contributions from first-time author are
warmly welcomed, and non-members may
also submit.

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	11.00	am	–	2.00	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. A 10% discount is available to advertisers who are members of the Society. 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.

© 2026 The Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra Inc.

Typographic design and layout: Clare McGuiness, Canberra ACT

Printing: Bytes 'n Colours, Braddon ACT

Surnames in this issue:

This index DOES include names in *From Our Contemporaries*

Aldridge	246	Harman	207, 209	Robinson	194
Allott	209-10	Harrison	250	Robson	192
Alleyne	196	Hathorn	250	Routh	248
Anderson	249-50	Hayes	246	Ryan	250
Barnes	229,231-2	Heighway	216	Sargent	247
Barrett	238-243	Heitmann	213	Seefeld	213-7,219
Baylis	214	Hick	248	Settle	211
Beard	248	Home	248	Shand	247
Belcher	246	Hughes	194	Sommerville	248
Boaden	193-4,197	Humpage	197	Sparkes	249
Bollard	202-4	Kharas	219	Stephen	251
Brickett	247	Leonard	238	Stevenson	249
Butler	249	Linane	238	Stinson	249
Chapman	222,246	Lindsay	208-9,211	Thomson	246
Chitty	229-30,236	Lough	248	Tuach	251
Dean	192	Lynch	210	Tunstall	248
Drake	222,227,229,232-3	MacDonald	246	Turner	247
Edwards	198	MacKenzie	251	Vollett	229,235
Egan	240-1	Marsh	186-188	Walters	254
Foster	247	Maskrey	186-7	Watts	247
Fraser	211	Matthews	186-9	Welsh	248
Fray	248	McKee	250	Wilding	211-2
Froge	215,220	Mieile	214	Williams	250-1
Gee	248	Miller	193, 197	Wright	213-4,220
Goode	186-8	Milner	248		
Gow	246	Minty	207		
Greenway	194	Moorehead	248		
Griffin	249	Morton	251		
Halls	187	Ogilvie	247		
		Reibey	248		



*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.*