

Generation

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND INC.

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Monday • **Closed**
Tuesday • **10am - 3pm**
Wednesday • **10am - 3pm**
Thursday • **10am - 3pm**
Friday • **10am - 3pm**
Saturday • **12noon - 4pm**
Sunday • **Special Interest Groups**

2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month
Online Zoom meetings • **7pm - 9pm**

Check the GSQ website for updates.

Visitors are welcome with a \$20 daily visitor pass, which allows access to the GSQ Resource Centre and all facilities. There are charges for printouts and photocopies. Reciprocal visits apply with some overseas and interstate societies. Please show your current membership card.

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Generation

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND INC.

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Contents

December issue 2025

Stories

Joan Reese Memorial Short Story Competition-Entry: <i>From my family history research</i> - Carmel Musumeci	7
Three Mysteries: <i>With my Scandinavian family tree</i> - Paul Grevell	11
Joan Reese Memorial Short Story Competition-Entry: <i>William Wall and the Van Diemen's Land Company in North-West Tasmania</i> - Christine Leonard	14
Short Tales: Somewhere a little unusual or historic... <i>The Paddington Water Tower</i> - Lesley Roebig	25
Short Tales: <i>Bridget Connera, an Irish Orphan</i> - Catherine Thompson	31
Barosi Toroke: A chief and war hero - Christine Leonard	32
Short Tales: <i>A visit to the dentist</i> - Eileen Kuhn	35

Regular & Special Features

From the Editor	4
Presidential Lines	5
Welcome New Members	6
Joan Reese Memorial Short Story Competition: 2026 theme	6
Notice: GSQ Volunteer call out	10
Book review: <i>Borneo: The Last Campaign</i> by Michael Veitch	17
Notice: <i>GSQ Family History Fundamentals 2026</i>	18
Events: Calendar, Education Program, GSQ Interest Groups	19
Snippets: <i>News and Information</i>	22
Featured sources: <i>Archives and State Libraries</i>	23
Focus on: <i>Colonists and Convicts Group</i>	24
Qld towns: <i>Dallarnil</i>	26
Spotlight on resources: <i>Hedgehogs in the registers</i>	28
Mag review: <i>Two leading Genealogical monthly magazines</i>	29
Web links: <i>Free BMD2 make-over</i>	34
Blog Beat: <i>Sept, Oct, Nov 2025</i>	36
From the Librarian: + <i>Library Accessions</i>	37
Notice: GSQ Mini Seminar: <i>From Europe to Australia: tracing the roots of migrant ancestors</i>	38
The Last Word: <i>The GSQ editor</i>	38

Fees

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Society membership is available either as a single membership or as a dual membership. Dual membership is for two members of an immediate family living at the same address.

Affiliate membership is for groups with an interest in genealogy and/or family history. Corporate membership includes all other types of businesses/organisations.

Life Enduring is a once only payment for lifetime membership of GSQ.

The current fees (2025) are listed below:

Single 1 year \$90 – 3 year \$240
Family 1 year \$160 – 3 year \$430
Affiliate 1 year \$180
Corporate 1 year \$360
Life Enduring \$1460

DONATIONS

GSQ Library Fund donations of \$2.00 and over are tax deductible.

RESEARCH

For those members who reside 100km or more from the GSQ Resource Centre, whether in country Queensland, interstate or overseas, five (5) hours per member per year is available for Lookup.

Research at GSQ's Research Centre is \$66 for members and \$110 for non-members.

GSQ can provide transcriptions of Funeral Director's records or Catholic Parish Registers for a fee of \$20.

Full details can be found at:

www.gsq.org.au/what-gsq-offers/researchservices

Generation

Acknowledgement of Country

In the spirit of reconciliation, the Genealogical Society of Queensland acknowledges the Traditional Custodians throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea, and community. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present; and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people today.

GENERATION subscriptions

Non-Members: A charge of \$45.00 applies to non-members who wish to receive *Generation* electronically [4 editions]

Print Copies: Within Australia ONLY: Printed and mailed \$65

Members: Electronic copies of *Generation* are included in the cost of membership [4 editions]

General enquiries: secretary@gsq.org.au

GENERATION deadlines

The closing date for submissions is the 1st day of the month preceding publication – that is, copy must be submitted by 1 February, 1 May, 1 August, and 1 November. Articles for consideration can be submitted at any time but placement is at the discretion of the Editor.

GENERATION contributions

GSQ welcomes the submission of articles on family history topics for possible publication.

The Editor reserves the right to edit or abridge articles to meet space constraints and editorial considerations. Submissions should be the work of the author submitting the article and should not have been published elsewhere unless agreed. All material should be submitted in electronic format to:

editor@gsq.org.au.

Please submit text as a Microsoft Word doc or docx files. Images can be embedded in the text file but should also be sent as separate email attachments at high resolution JPG or TIFF files (minimum 300dpi if possible). Provide captions for each image in the text file.

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GENERATION advertising rates

Contact Editor: editor@gsq.org.au for pricing.

from The Editor...

I am acting as editor, because Jess is unwell. We wish her a speedy return to health. A big thank you to the many people who have contributed to this edition of *Generation* in any way, big and small. Some members provide stories, long and short, based on their research. It is amazing what you can learn from reading how another member has tackled their research challenges. Other members provide the information for regular columns such as New Members and Library Acquisitions.

As you page through *Generation* you will be able to meet our new President and learn of a coming update to our website. You can read two stories which were entries in this year's Joan Reese Writing competition. Carmel and Christine tackled the topic in quite different ways taking us on their research journeys to far north Queensland and Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania). It is always exciting and interesting to see how writers take different approaches to the same topic. Perhaps you could submit a story for the 2026 award (see further on for details of next year's topic and the closing date for entries).

And Paul shared three family mysteries with us in his story. Sorting out such family mysteries keeps us interested in our research and can take us to many fascinating and unexpected places. Who thought genealogy had anything to do with hedgehogs? Two short stories, one about an Irish orphan girl, and the other about a family's experiences on Bougainville Island, take us to places that are very different. You can also read about the newest GSQ Interest Group as well as one that has been long established. Perhaps attending their meetings will appeal to you and help further your research.

We wish you happy reading, and as 2025 draws to a close, the editorial team wish you all a safe and happy festive season. Remember GSQ and its many resources are there to assist you. We encourage you to further your family history research during 2026.

Janice

Acting Editor

Presidential Lines...



As this is the last issue of *Generation* for the year, and my very first as your President, it is the time to reflect on what has been one of the busiest years for some time at GSQ. We are a society of like-minded family historians who have come together to assist each other and the wider community to preserve the records of our past so that they may be used to enrich the family history of all of us. This is my opportunity to show some appreciation of all that our members do for the Society and the community.

Earlier this year, GSQ hosted the triennial AFFHO Conference 'Connections 2025' at the nearby Technology Park. Over 300 attendees came to Brisbane from all over Australia and New Zealand to enjoy three days packed with interesting lectures and classes. The Conference was perhaps too successful, as it stretched the resources of the Technology Park auditorium to its limit, but it was a great result from all the effort put in by our organising team.

Throughout the year, the indexing projects teams have been working away to transcribe records and create new indexes to help unblock those brick walls that we all encounter. Our education team have presented a new lecture almost every week, and the eNews, *Generation*, Blog, and facebook editors have produced award-winning and interesting content that has reached all over the world. Within our society, there are large numbers of people working away to support all our members in their search for their family history, including the organisers of the regular Zoom meetings.

It is uplifting to see that GSQ is assisting the community in other ways as well. I am inspired to see the young people from the ORCA Project coming to GSQ to gain some experience as they progress out into the world. It is also heartening to see how many young people have come to the GSQ stands at recent events like the Brisbane 100 celebration or the Warwick CelticFest. Perhaps our interest may not be relegated to just the older generations in future years!

As you can see, we now have a very new Executive at GSQ, with new Vice President Fleur Creed and new

Secretary Wendy McLaren joining Treasurer Mike Houlihan and me to make up our newly-minted foursome. My predecessor Helen Veivers has by far exceeded a reasonable tour of duty, having been our President since 2019 and successfully steered the Society through all the COVID troubles right through to the Conference this year. We all owe her a tremendous debt of gratitude, and I do especially thank Helen for all her support since vacating the chair. Our outgoing Secretary Karma Hodgson also deserves our thanks for her calm and steadying influence through many a long-drawn meeting, and we will miss her. It is a time of renewal, and all of us in the new Management Committee trust that we can guide the Society in the right direction over the coming year.

An additional pleasure at the Society AGM in October was being able to present an Honorary Life Membership of the Society to Roberta (Bobbie) Edes. Bobbie has held so many positions in GSQ over a long career, and it was an honour to be able to present her with a certificate of Life Membership.

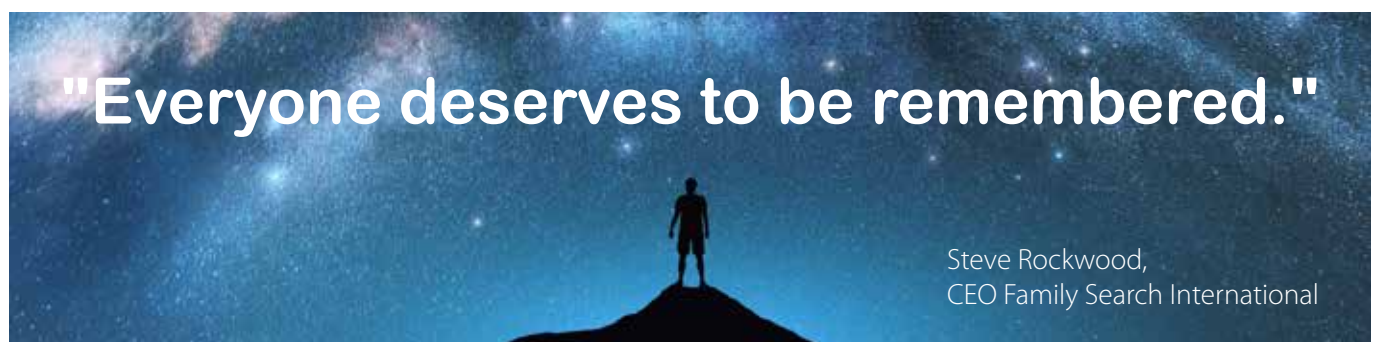
So, a big thanks to all of you who have worked so hard this year to help our society and a modest request for everyone else to consider giving GSQ a little help next year. My best wishes to everyone for a happy and safe festive season, and to come back next year with some successful research.

Alistair Henderson
GSQ President



GSQ Holiday Closure:
12 December 2025
Reopens
13 January 2026

*May it be a safe
and rejuvenating
New Year!*



Welcome to New and Re-joined Members

Alistair Henderson, GSQ President.

The President and members of the GSQ Management Committee are delighted to welcome all our new and re-joined members.

As new members, please do not hesitate to talk with a Research Assistant if you need assistance. Now that you are a member of GSQ, you have a number of benefits—one of which is the opportunity to list your research interests/names on our website: www.gsq.org.au

If you have any comments or suggestions as to how GSQ can enhance its services to members, or if you have a concern with how services are provided, please feel free to contact me at president@gsq.org.au



Your feedback is always welcome.

Kathryn McMahon
Warren Rose
Peter Berg
Rosemary Gall
Glenn Laurie
Mrs M Coughlan
Julianna Norita Bowring
Mary Agnew
Graham Thorley
Reid Mortensen (Dr)
Joanne Dickson - Know my Kin

Lilian Magill
Belinda Daly
Joan Sparks
John Rankine
Denise Reynolds
Nel Fulloon
Brenda Lincez
Margaret Graham
Patrick O'Neill
Clive Bloomfield
Linda Rhule



JOAN REESE SHORT STORY COMPETITION 2026

The topic for the Joan Reese Short Story competition 2026 is ***A short story from family history research you have undertaken.***

Researchers discover many interesting stories when researching family history. These stories may relate to how they followed the trail of an individual ancestor either in Australia or overseas, how a significant event such as an immigration story impacted on the family, how they started out researching their family history, or how they solved a mystery, a brick wall, or a difficult research question.

Entries are subsequently published in *Generation*. The prize for the winning entry is \$200 which is partly funded by GSQ's Writing Group and also carries a 12-month single membership subscription to GSQ.

Entries close on 25 May 2026 and the winner will be announced at GSQ's Open Day in August 2026. Full details of the competition, including judging criteria and entry requirements are to be found on GSQ's website <https://www.gsq.org.au/gsq-events/writing-competition>. More information is available by emailing secretary@gsq.org.au.



THE JOAN REESE MEMORIAL SHORT STORY COMPETITION

~ ENTRY ~

A SHORT STORY FROM

My Family History Research

Carmel Musumeci

Never, NEVER in my wildest dreams would I have anticipated my family's genealogical journey (commenced three months ago), to be the experience I have had so far!

In February this year, I signed up for *Ancestry's* offer of two week's free trial to begin research of the family tree on my father's side. I knew Mum's family tree had already been researched somewhat by relatives, so I thought my sister and I would tackle Mum's later. Now was the right time, as Dad had just turned 80 years old.

Within those first few weeks it was great to find GSQ's Five Generational Ancestor Chart to download freely.¹ I'm a visual person (and not necessarily well-organised) and found it excellent to type in our ancestors' details, then scribble notes - updating names and dates of our ancestors and questions to answer; later reprinting and updating as we progressed with our findings and confirmations of important facts and details!

Firstly, I must say something about where I live and my attitude about it. Born in Cairns, Far North Queensland, and raised in the far north, I have now lived in Mareeba (Atherton Tablelands) for forty years since marrying. My husband and I used to joke that I am 'almost a local' now, as I wasn't born in Mareeba like he was. And while I love living in the Mareeba shire, I never gave much thought about its early history nor any possible family connections to this area, only that my ancestors lived in Cairns and its surrounds as sugar cane farmers. Migrating from Ireland on Dad's side and Italy on Mum's branch of the tree.

After plotting out what little I knew about our lineage (mainly from information our Nan, Dad's mother, had given me about twenty years earlier which I had recorded in a family history book - funnily enough I had written a few names on wrong sides of the two families), then with the help of *Ancestry*, *My Heritage*, *Trove*, and Queensland (Qld) Government family research, my sister and I came across incredible information about our family almost daily for the first month or two!

We started looking at birth, marriages, and deaths, and then discovered *Find a Grave*; we poured over

maps of local cemeteries in our shires, finding where each person was buried. Some we will never find - lost to the ocean's advance on the Cairns Esplanade cemetery and others that went missing in the transfer to the Pioneer Cairns cemetery.

My sister got to know a very helpful person working at the Pioneer Cemetery Cairns who was extremely knowledgeable in finding our family burial plots and family members. Then when I found that my father's great grandparents had owned a home and lived in Mareeba a few decades after the town had been established, things started to really fire up! I am currently still researching where their home once stood, as property descriptions have changed since then. (See attached copy of their property valuation after my 2nd great grandfather's passing.)

It was about this time I discovered that my 2nd great Aunt Kate (Katherine) Mary GRANT was buried in the Pioneer Cemetery, Mareeba. So, I visited her grave, which was beautifully restored by a local group, organised by my husband's cousin, a real history buff.

About this time my sister and I joined our local historical societies - hers in Cairns, mine in Mareeba, and through newspapers on *Trove* and Qld Government family history research, information came to light about the kind of life Kate had endured. Of course, our research is still ongoing, but I'd like to share what

we have found out about her life here in Australia after she arrived from southern Ireland by ship circa 1885 with her sister Mary. Her future husband, Charles GRANT, immigrated from England, arriving in Australia by ship a year earlier.

Kate married Charles in September 1886. They had one daughter, Elizabeth Maud who was born in June 1891. Charles worked as a contract



Kate GRANT'S grave in Pioneer Cemetery, Mareeba

painter of railway bridges for the Queensland Railways and in 1892 they were living at the railway workers' camp near the Clohesy River railway bridge, near present day Koah township.

Railway building in Queensland was challenging due to extreme weather, even more so in the far north. The Cairns-Kuranda railway line is one of the most famous railway lines in the world and is considered to be one of Australia's great engineering marvels. Our research had us reading about railway building of that time. It was truly remarkable and helped open up our region.²

Astoundingly, I discovered that the last job Charles had was painting the Bibbohra railway bridge, one of 28 steel and wooden bridges in the third section from Myola (near Kuranda) to Bibbohra, known as the Cairns-Herberton Railway Line. (This is a mere four kilometres from where I live!) This beautiful bridge and the third section of rail was opened on 1 January 1893 (without fanfare).³



Local stories say this bridge spanned the Brisbane River and was carefully transported north, possibly the first Albert River bridge, however historical records say that Albert River railway bridge was destroyed by flood in 1893 and another bridge was constructed in its place. In any case, it's a beautiful railway bridge. We would take our children swimming and fishing nearby when they were younger, so we were very familiar with it. And now I learnt that my 2nd great uncle initially painted it! Wow!

A story on *Trove* we discovered next, which was dated Thursday, 16 March 1893 in the Cairns Post, told the grim story of Charles GRANT'S tragic passing.⁴ On Saturday, 25 February, 1893, Charles on his day off from contract painting of the Bibbohra railway bridge, decided to spend the Sunday with his wife and daughter.

So, he purchased some 'dainties' of butter, jam, etc., stowing them in his swag and he planned to take the train and alight at Clohesy River. Because he was working on this line, they would stop for him. However, the officials declined to do this! They only stopped at the Clohesy on Tuesdays and at no other time.

Charles was most upset that his plan had come to a grinding halt, and 'unburdened his sorrows' to Peter

Imperial. After listening to Charles' disappointment, Peter kindly offered a loan of his horse, Scotty, whose knowledge and experience of travelling the line was 'simply phenomenal.'

With thanks and cheery goodbye, Charles took off on Scotty - dainties in a sugarbag on one side and swag on the other. Peter never saw him alive again. Calling in at GRANT'S house at Clohesy River on the Monday as he was in the area, he was astonished that Charles had not arrived, and Kate was understandably extremely alarmed by this news.

Peter arranged a search party with M'INERNY, T. KELLY, VALLELY (an ancestor of a good friend of ours), WRIGHT, and himself and they searched the area. Tragically they discovered Charles' body within one mile of Clohesy in a muddy waterhole of a creek known locally as One Mile Creek. Somehow, he and Scotty had wandered about a quarter of a mile from the usual track, and he ended up in a waterhole - six or seven feet deep.

Scotty was found with his saddle intact, however the sugarbag and swag had disappeared, possibly at the bottom of the waterhole. Peter then rode off to wire for Constable HILL. After the constable's arrival, Charles' body was recovered from the water, placed on the ballast train, and then taken to Myola, where he was laid in a coffin.

The *Cairns Post* reports that Charles GRANT was aged about thirty-five years of age when he died, and that he bore the character of being a 'steady soul, industrious man, and a good tradesman'. Interestingly he was one of the chief witnesses in a trial against a man named Hugh HACKETT (who also worked in the railway) who at that time was committed for the murder of a woman at the Clohesy River railway bridge only a few months prior!⁵

How tragic that Charles would leave behind a grieving wife (married for less than three years) and a one-year-old infant? Charles, as was reported, was a chief witness against an accused, HACKETT, of a horrific murder of Kate CURTIS, that occurred only a few months prior to his death. Sadly, through a little more research, I found that Kate CURTIS was buried near the Clohesy River railway bridge by Charles and another fellow railway worker.

My sister and I then attempted to find Charles' burial place (he was not buried alongside Kate in the Mareeba Pioneer cemetery). We searched several local cemeteries, both in person and online. His final resting place was also discussed some years ago on a *Rootschat* website, initiated by a Canadian genealogy researcher!

Finally, after purchasing his death certificate through Qld Government family history research service, we

found he was buried 'at Biboohra', which seemed odd as there is no cemetery there.

We surmised, with insight from knowledgeable local historical society members, that the railway had transported his body back to Biboohra from Myola, and due to the circumstances of his death (and being the height of summer with lack of refrigeration, etc.), his decomposing body needed burial as soon as possible. Mareeba Pioneer cemetery has grave inscriptions from 1896, so burials back then were sometimes unconventional. Some local graves have been found on properties and in bushland several decades later and some, like those of Charles GRANT and Kate CURTIS, have never been found.

What was Kate GRANT'S life like after the tragedy of losing her husband? Local electoral rolls reveal that she remained living and working in Mareeba, raising her daughter Elizabeth – while her siblings and their families resided in Cairns. Her address was the *Carriers Arms Hotel*, Byrnes Street, Mareeba, where she also worked as a domestic or laundress.

When I learned this piece of information, I was curious as to which Mareeba hotel it was. It turned out to be the modern day *Anthill Hotel*, which was also known as the *Masterson Hotel* when I had moved to Mareeba. The original *Carriers Arms*, a single storey structure had been destroyed and rebuilt and was not the current two storey building it is today, which is a common occurrence.

Can you imagine my amazement learning that Kate had lived and worked where I had enjoyed a delicious steak dinner with my husband and friends only a week before? It puzzled me though, as Kate's brothers were quite wealthy. They owned farms and houses in Cairns and one was a master builder, so as a widow she could have chosen to move in with family and had their support while working, or she could have remarried. Perhaps the grief of losing Charles in such a tragic manner would be something she would never recover from?

Elizabeth Maud GRANT, after burying her mother in Mareeba in 1914, went to live and work in Cairns (possibly living with her relatives), and later married into the MURCHISON family. Her husband, William became the mayor of Cairns, defeating a serving Alderman of 22 years. Sadly, William died suddenly a few years into his mayoral position.



My thoughts now wander sometimes, imagining the conditions our relatives lived in, in these early pioneering times of far north Queensland - what was their work and life like without electricity; what did they wear and eat; where did they shop; did they perhaps travel along the road past our property (the highway between Biboohra to Mareeba)? In a very short amount of time researching, clearly I realised that Mareeba and Biboohra were only in their infancy when my relatives lived here, and life was incredibly difficult and challenging!

Honestly there have been times when I shed a tear reading both the happy and tragic stories we have discovered; when I see their handwritten census records in Ireland, the ships' logs of their journeys to Australia; their birth, marriage, and death certificates - all these little bits of information

and details. While we can never truly know our ancestor in full colour or detail, we get a glimpse of their journey and get to record some details to pass on to our children to learn, appreciate and enjoy.

We have absolutely loved sharing these stories with our family, especially seeing a look of surprise on Dad's face as he hears things he never knew! It makes us feel like super sleuths. We've still much to learn about genealogy research, and to refine the details of these wonderful people in our bloodline. I'm so thankful for the rich resources available both here in Australia (locally and further afield) and overseas that help us to discover with certainty more of our family's stories and origin.

Sources:

- 1 Five Generation Ancestor/Pedigree Chart, Genealogical Society of Queensland (GSQ) https://www.gsq.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/Groupsheets/GSQ_Five_Generation_Chart.pdf
- 2 *Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette*, 12 September 1889, p. 1. Cairns Herberton Railway,
- 3 Wikipedia Free Encyclopedia, Tablelands Railway Line, (contains public domain photograph of Biboohra railway bridge held at John Oxley Library, State Library of Qld).
- 4 *Ipswich Herald and General Advertiser*, 16 March 1893, p. 7. Found Drowned, Queensland Times.
- 5 *The Telegraph*, 29 November 1892, p. 5. Alleged Murder. Thrown Over a Bridge. – Cruel Treatment of a Woman.



Seeking GSQ Volunteers

Volunteers needed for two exciting roles

Become the Editor of GSQ eNews!

The Genealogical Society of Queensland (GSQ) is looking for a creative and enthusiastic person to take on the role of Editor for our monthly eNews.

About the Role

Our eNews is an essential way to keep members informed about what's happening at GSQ and across the broader world of family history. As Editor, you will:

- Coordinate articles and news with fellow GSQ members.
- Keep a finger on the pulse of GSQ activities and events.
- Share highlights from the broader genealogy community.
- Shape each edition into an engaging and informative newsletter.

What We're Looking For

- Someone with a creative eye and good communication skills.
- An interest in or knowledge of family history/genealogy.
- The ability to bring together contributions from different sources into a polished monthly update.

Why Join Us?

This is a rewarding opportunity to:

- Play a central role in GSQ's communications.
- Work closely with our enthusiastic members.
- Contribute to keeping the GSQ community informed and inspired.

Interested?

If this sounds like you, we'd love to hear from you! Please contact Helen on enews@gsq.org.au for more information.

Join GSQ as a Web Coordinator!

The Genealogical Society of Queensland (GSQ) is seeking two enthusiastic Web Coordinators to help manage our brand-new website, launching in the New Year.

We are currently building a modern site using WordPress with the Divi interface, and we'd love to hear from members (or friends of GSQ) with an interest in IT and website management.

What's involved?

- Work closely with our professional web developers during the transition phase.
- Receive full training in the new system before handover.
- Manage one domain with a WYSIWYG system for straightforward updates.
- Use your WordPress and Divi experience to keep our site fresh, functional, and engaging.
- Share the workload with a fellow coordinator for continuity and support.

Who are we looking for?

- People with some IT knowledge and website management experience (WordPress background essential).
- Good communication skills to liaise with GSQ and our developers.
- A collaborative approach—this is a team role with plenty of support.

Interested?

For more information or to express interest, don't hesitate to get in touch with our current Web Coordinators, Ailsa & Helen, at webcoordinator@gsq.org.au

Help us take GSQ's online presence into the future—join us as we launch our exciting new website in the New Year!



THREE MYSTERIES

With my Scandinavian Family Tree

Copenhagen harbour - image by Redo El Khomsi - Pixabay

Paul Grevell

In the course of researching my family tree, three questions arose in the Scandinavian branch of my tree. These were -

1. Where did the family name GREVELL come from?
2. Was my paternal great grandmother the right person? and
3. What was the correct birth date for my paternal grandfather?

By way of background, my paternal great grandfather (Anders JÖNSSON) was born in Östra Greve, Sweden on 30 September 1850 and became an apprentice tailor in south western Sweden before moving to Malmö as a tailor in November 1871. In September 1872, he moved to Copenhagen, Denmark to work as a journeyman tailor before returning to Malmö in January 1873 with a name change to Anders Jönsson GREVELL. On 13 October 1873, his first child, Adolph Peter Frederick GREVELL, was born to the woman he married on 7 December 1873, Anna Maria ANDERSSON.

The family then returned to Copenhagen in September 1875 where Anders continued to work as a tailor and their second child, Carl Bernhard GREVELL, was born there on 19 November 1875. The family moved around various areas of Copenhagen and their third child, Arthur Raugvoldt Leonard GREVELL, was born on 28 February 1878.

My grandfather, Charles Hubert Alexius GREVELL, was born on either 1 February 1880, or 1 October 1881 in Holmens Sogn (parish), Copenhagen. A fifth child, Hortense Angelia GREVELL, was born in 1884 in Copenhagen followed by a sixth child, Robert Emil Alexander GREVELL, born in October 1885.

In July 1886, the family left London, England on board the ship *Almora* bound for Brisbane, Australia. They arrived in Brisbane on 22

September 1886 and Anders set up a tailor business at Victoria Wharf, South Brisbane. Anders died of consumption (tuberculosis) at Brisbane on 18 October 1890.

Mystery One - Where did the family name Grevell come from?

Anders took the family name GREVELL at some point between September 1872 and January 1873 while he was living in Copenhagen. We know this because he left Sweden as Anders JÖNSSON and returned to Sweden four months later as Anders Jönsson GREVELL. There is no primary evidence to establish why he took this name, but the historical context is important.

At this time in Scandinavia, there was a movement away from the patronymic naming system where children were named after their father's forename - for example, the children of Anders JÖNSSON would be xxx ANDERSSON for a boy or xxx ANDERSDOTTER for a daughter. Many people were choosing family names related to where they came from, their occupations, or other factors important to them. As an example, my paternal great grandmother (whose father was Pehr ANDERSON) was using the name Anna Maria ANDERSSON (rather than PEHRSDOTTER) so she chose to use the same surname as her father. Her brothers used ANDERSSON and her sisters both ANDERSSON and PEHRSDOTTER - all a bit confusing!

It appears that Anders and Anna may have wanted to create a family name - perhaps to differentiate from another tailor with the same name or just to keep up with social trends. The origin of 'GREVELL' may relate to his hometown - Östra Greve - or there may be some other explanation such as he heard the name somewhere and liked it. As far as I am aware, GREVELL is not a common Swedish or Danish name.

We will never know for sure what the name is based on.



Mystery Two - Was my paternal great grandmother the right person?

Originally, in the early 2000s I obtained the detail of my paternal great grandmother, Anna Maria ANDERSSON, from a Swedish genealogist including information about her birth place, birth date, and details of her parents and grandparents. This information formed the basis of the information in my family tree in the years since then. The basic information was that she was born on 21 June 1855 in Malmö, Sweden, and used the family name ANDERSSON rather than PEHRSDOTTER - the patronymic last name. As noted previously, this was still somewhat unusual in Sweden at that time.

More recently, while researching further detail about my Swedish heritage, I came across some anomalies in this information - basically I identified an Anna Maria ANDERSSON who remained in Malmö after I knew that my great grandmother had married Anders JÖNSSON and moved to Copenhagen. I also received some DNA matches that did not seem to link into my tree in any way.

Investigating further in the Swedish records, I was able to confirm that there were two women born on 21 June 1855 in Malmö who used the name Anna Maria ANDERSSON.

It was only when I was able to find the marriage entry in the Church Books that I was able to specifically identify which of the two women was my great grandmother. It happened that she married at the age of 18 years and required the approval of her parents to marry - the marriage entry includes a note identifying that Bengta NILSDOTTER, the widow of Pehr ANDERSSON, had given approval for Anna Maria to marry. This information allowed me to correct the errors in my tree and to complete a whole new range of detail around her family line. It also provided links to some of the DNA matches that had not previously made sense.

Mystery Three - What was the correct birth date for my paternal grandfather?

It appeared from the Danish church records that my grandfather, Charles Hubert/Herbert Alexius GREVELL, was born in both 1880 and 1881.

The baptism records indicated that Charleми Herbarth Alexius GRAVELL was born on 3 February 1880 and baptised on 9 April 1880 with Anders Jönsson GRAVELL and Anna Maria ANDERSSON as his parents.

These records also included an entry for Charles Herbert Alexius GREVELL born on 1 October 1881 and baptised on 26 December 1881, with his parents identified as Anders GREVELL and Anna Maria ANDERSSON.

With this conflicting information, it appeared most likely that the first birth related to a child that had died but no death/burial entries could be identified in the index search at Rigsarkivet (Danish National Archives).

After an exhaustive search in the church records for Holmens Sogn (parish), the following death/burial entry was identified - Scharlemie Hagbart Alexius GREVILL, nine months, died on 17 November 1880 at Tordenskjoldsgade 32 - this matched the address where the family was living at the time.

Using this information, I was now able to confirm that my grandfather was born on 1 October 1881 and had a brother with a similar name who died before he was born. It is interesting to note that the names were so similar and that the recording of the names in different ways limited the usefulness of the indexes available.

On a general note, I have to say that the extent of the Scandinavian records and the amount of information available through the Household Examination Books in Sweden and the various Church Books in both Sweden and Denmark using names (including the birth names of women), dates of birth, and locations made the task of clarifying these questions possible. This is the case even with the translation issues from Danish or Swedish and when two women had the same name, birth place, and birth date!

Researcher's Notes

Three major sources were used for this research - two Swedish and one Danish.

Riksarkivet (riksarkivet.se) - This is the Swedish National Archives and holds a wide range of Swedish archive material dating back hundreds of years like other national archives. For genealogists the most relevant pre-1900 resources are the Church Records which generally are similar to those English Parish records that most of us are familiar with - i.e. Baptisms, Marriages, and Deaths/Burials. However, they also include very detailed information in Household Examination Books (Husförhållänsböcker) which include a wide range of information about birth date, when people moved into and out of the parish, any spouse or children, occupation, death and date of death,



Copenhagen harbour - image by Katie Walker - Pixabay

and various notes about religious requirements. Some recorders also included other notes such as emigration. Each book usually covers about five years of the parish business e.g. 1813-1818 etc.

Obviously, these records are in Swedish, but there is a wealth of information available that allows the building of a very detailed sense of the person's life. You need to know some basic information to start with. Parish details are the most important after the personal details (full name, birth date, etc.). You then need to search through the parish records. Most of these Household records are available from the early 19th century with baptisms, marriages, and burials. In some cases, these are available much earlier - early 17th century in some places.

ArkivDigital (arkivdigital.net) – This is a subscription site that offers a monthly subscription (from memory about \$60 a month on a month-by-month basis). The advantage of this site is that they have a set of powerful search options which allow you to potentially identify a person of interest and then take you directly to the relevant page in the Church Records mentioned above for any record relevant to that person including baptisms, etc. I used this site to get most of my basic information for Sweden and just paid for a month or so here and there as required (and when I could spend the time on research to make it worthwhile!). I then used the archives to follow through on particular parishes.

Rigsarkivet (en.rigsarkivet.dk) – This is the Danish National Archives site and holds a wide range of information. For genealogists, the church records are the most relevant, although there are also census records for the latter part of the 18th century, the 19th century, and into the 20th century – roughly every 10 years. Again, the church records are largely baptism, marriage, and death/burial records, but can also include information about witnesses, godparents, and so on.

All of these sites are primarily in their national language but do offer limited English translations. My advice would be to dive in and explore the information available – you will become familiar with the important words over time and there are always translation options online including AI. The Household Examination Books in Sweden and census data in Denmark are good places to start.

Some of the church information has been picked up by the larger genealogy sites with Family Search in particular having a range of the information indexed.

Finally, we are all aware of the potential for transcription errors to occur in our English language records – just be aware that they can and do occur in other languages as well!

Editor's note: At the time of publication, ArkivDigital advertised the month-by-month subscription option to <https://www.arkivdigital.net> as 199 SEK (\$32.35 AUD) per month.



Explore Your
Genealogy
From The Family History Federation

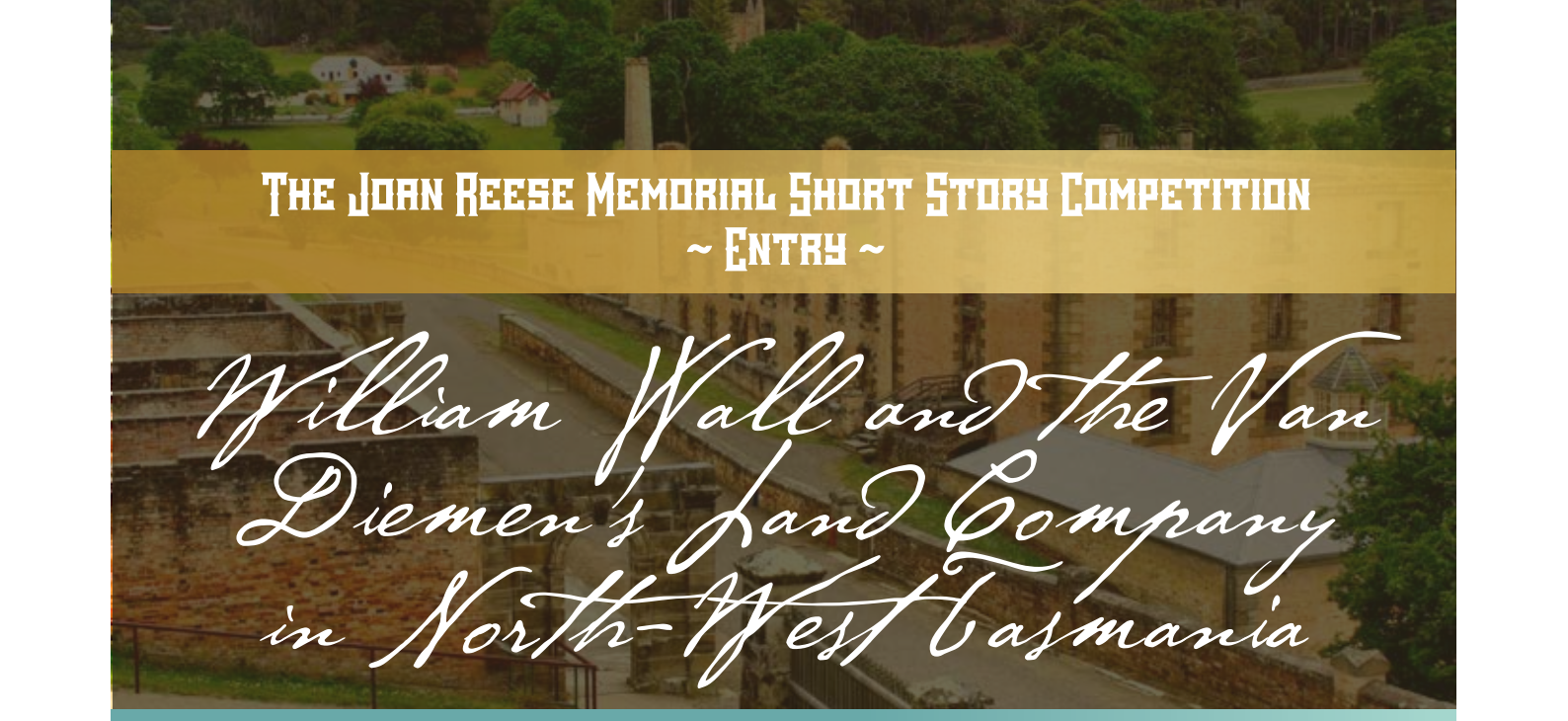


Really Useful Podcast

Our series of family history podcasts, covering a range of topics and expert guests. Introduced by Joe Saunders.

The Family History Federation has a series of podcasts worth listening to. The **Really Useful Podcast** brings together speakers from across the family history world including professional researchers, enthusiasts, authors, lecturers, and people involved with family history societies. These conversations have guests sharing their thoughts on a wide range of topics relating to family history.

For more information, link to these podcasts, here: <https://www.exploreyourgenealogy.co.uk/podcast>



THE JOAN REESE MEMORIAL SHORT STORY COMPETITION ~ ENTRY ~

William Wall and the Van Diemen's Land Company in North-West Tasmania

Christine Leonard

The Convict Penitentiary, built in Hobart, Tasmania, in the early 1830s, is a sobering place to visit, and despite my many trips to Tasmania over the last ten years, early May 2025 was the first time I went there. What induced me to go was the 90-minute Unshackled tour, which provides a digital experience of the many thousands of convicts transported to Van Diemen's Land between 1803 and 1853. One of three convict ancestors transported to Van Diemen's Land was my 2nd great grandfather, William WALL, who landed in Hobart on the *Layton* in December 1835.

William was a groomsman from Norfolk, aged 18 and assigned to Charles MCLACHLAN Esquire almost immediately. MCLACHLAN was a man going places, by that I mean up. He was a member of the Colony's Legislative Assembly and had purchased a beautiful home, *Newlands House*, the month before the *Layton* arrived. A groomsman such as William WALL would be a useful addition to his contingent of labourers. I had the good fortune of visiting *Newlands House* in November 2019 to see where William and one other convict lived on the grounds, as evidenced by the 1837 census records.

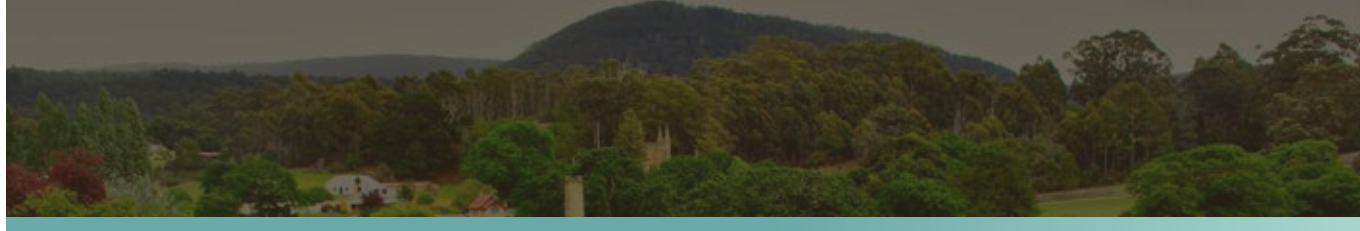
The narrow, dark corridors, the subterranean tunnels where convicts were kept in pitch-black solitary confinement, and the courtroom and chapel moved me deeply. I wondered, 'Did my 2nd great grandfather spend time here before being assigned to Mr MCLACHLAN?' As I sat in a pew in the prisoners' chapel, running my hands along the smooth patina of the wooden seats and rail in front, backing the pew in front, my thoughts ran to the convicts who sat here. *'Did William sit here too? Did he study the upper windows below the chapel's ceiling, wondering what people were doing outside, going about their business - free?'*

Travels through Tasmania in 2019 took me to Launceston, Longford, and Georgetown, following the footsteps of William's Van Diemen's Land assignment history before he took his family across Bass Strait in 1847 to Port Phillip. I knew that once William received his Certificate of Freedom, in January 1842, he had married Mary LONG, a free woman, and became a father for the first time, five months later. William and Mary registered the birth of their son, William Wall LAMB, in the Launceston church where they had married, though his exact birthplace in the East Tamar area remains unknown.

The WALL'S naming of their first child reveals a family mystery that is still unresolved. William, for reasons known only to himself and his parents, adopted his mother's maiden name, WHALL (sometimes spelled WALL), when arrested in Lincolnshire. William's parents were Martha WHALL and William LAMB. Was it the shame that stopped the young man from using his father's name, or something deeper? It was William's mother who travelled to Lincolnshire to appeal for clemency against her son's transportation order. Mr LAMB appears to be a silent actor in the drama that unfolded in 1835 before his sixth child, a son, left England forever.

Once William, an emancipated convict, was married and adjusting to his own version of parenthood, he tried to reinstate the family name 'LAMB'. This proved impossible, however, given that William's transportation papers were under the name of WALL. The next best thing was to pass the name on to his children. Hence, William Wall LAMB, born 10 June 1842, in Launceston, was the first beneficiary. The infant lived for nine months and 11 days.

Officials recorded his death on 21 March 1843 in the Horton district, Circular Head, showing the



WALL family had moved further north. The next child born was Joseph Lamb WALL on 10 June 1844 at Emu Bay, Tasmania. From here on, Lamb becomes a middle name in the three subsequent male children born to William and Mary WALL.

I included a brief background on the Van Diemen's Land (VDL) Company in my book on the WALL family in 2023, but my knowledge of William and Mary's life in Emu Bay was scant. In May 1824, the VDL Company was formed in England and after establishing in the colony of Van Diemen's Land was granted 20,000 acres at Circular Head, along with other sites such as Emu Bay. It was during a recent trip to Burnie, Tasmania, in May 2025, that I visited the Burnie Regional Museum for the first time. Thanks to meeting a volunteer researcher at the Burnie Regional Museum, on my return to Queensland, the Burnie Museum sent me a collection of digital files relating to William WALL'S tenure at Pigeon Hill in Emu Bay. The documents contained more detail on William's farming project thanks to the research conducted by historian Brian J. ROLLINS, the Museum Secretary.

Before calling in to Burnie, we stopped at Stanley, further north, and visited the historic site of Highfield House. This is when I started appreciating how powerful the VDL Company was and how vast its holdings were in north-west Tasmania. Edward CURR, Chief Agent of the VDL Company, built the gracious home during the first five years of the 1830s, which is now open to the public.

On 14 August 1827, Richard FREDERICK, who accompanied Henry HELLYER Esquire on the first ascent of the 'Peak' six months earlier, discovered a clear 'hill', subsequently named Pigeon Hill by HELLYER, one of the VDL Company's surveyors. HELLYER was looking for vast expanses of grasslands suitable for raising merino sheep. The following day, he described Pigeon Hill as

covered with fine grass and high fern where 100 acres might soon be cleared if it were summer by merely burning... (Rollins, nd).¹

In January 1829, the then Governor, Colonel George ARTHUR, accompanied an exploratory party travelling the inland bush track north to Emu Bay. The Surveyor General described 'the most stupendous and tangled forests in Van Diemen's Land'.²

In October 1842, William WALL was advised by James Alexander GIBSON, the Van Diemen's Land (VDL) Company's chief agent:

You are at liberty to proceed to Launceston on exhibiting this letter to [name illegible]. They must furnish your family with passage to Emu Bay. You may have 80 acres of land at Pigeon Hill.³

On 12 May 1843, another letter to WALL from GIBSON states:

You must have known that it was against my wishes and understanding that any spirituous liquors were brought to Emu Bay and I shall send the eight gallons of Rum alluded to in your letter of the 6th instant to Launceston, where it will be deposited into the Stores of Miss H (unknown) in your name. You may therefore make such arrangements as you think proper for its future disposal but it will not be brought to Emu Bay by any of the Company's vessels.

I cannot help remarking that it would have been better had you procured some useful provisions for your establishment than laying out money in such a pernicious article and I will take care to remember this when you apply for assistance from the Company,

Signed James GIBSON

William became a publican after migrating to New South Wales (later Victoria), an occupation

12 May 1843

W^m WALL

You must have known that it was against my wishes and understanding that any spirituous liquors were brought to Emu Bay and I shall send the eight gallons of Rum alluded to in your letter of the 6th instant to Launceston where it will be deposited in the Store of Miss H^y in your name and you may therefore make such arrangements as you think proper for its future disposal but it will not be brought to Emu Bay by any of the Co^y's vessels.

I cannot help remarking that it would have been better had you procured some useful provisions for your establishment instead than laying out money in such a pernicious article and I will take care to remember this when you apply for assistance from the Company

(Signed) James Gibson

he may have picked up from his second convict assignment in Hobart in the late 1830s. It wouldn't surprise me if William ran a 'grog shop' on the side to augment their livelihood. He clearly had an entrepreneurial streak in his character.



Port Arthur TAS, ruins - image by Siggy Nowak - Pixabay

A census record of January 1843 places William WALL, a married woman, one child under two years and two single males living in Emu Bay. William, the owner, had partially constructed the wooden dwelling they occupied. Of the two single men mentioned in the census form, one held a ticket of leave, the other was free, like William. The married woman was also free.

William's financial commitment was 2/- per acre with a view to purchase at two pounds an acre should he wish. By mid-1844, the WALL'S farm included seven acres under cultivation, of which six were small crops. The company entered into agreements with tenant farmers to purchase their produce at 'good' rates: 7 shillings (s) per bushel for wheat, 5s per bushel for barley, 4s per bushel for oats, and 5 pounds per ton for potatoes.⁴ The area around Emu Bay was described as occupied by 'a forest of a most impenetrable description'.

A list of VDL Company property names and tenants on 31 December 1843, included in the Return of Tenants, William WALL'S name with a list totalling 32 farmers.⁵

The Return of Tenants for 30 September 1844 shows that William WALL was still farming at Emu Bay. He had 16 acres cultivated, ten under crops, along with five head of cattle; signs of progress from early the same year, but he owed the VDL company 185 pounds.

In September 1847, records showed William as one tenant who had left their farm after clearing 17 acres. When these farmers left, the VDL Company took over the improvements made by the departing farmers, including infrastructure

on the farms such as buildings and fences. The VDL Company undoubtedly acquired properties capable of generating higher rents.

The WALL family left Van Diemen's Land from Georgetown in 1847 for Port Phillip in the Colony of New South Wales. New opportunities where one's past stayed in the past, beckoned.

What I learned from the visit to Burnie is the value of travel for research. Connecting with the Regional Museum in Burnie has inspired me to learn more about the VDL Company and its convict past. The VDL Company was a private entity, similar in many aspects to the East India Company. It was responsible for multiple massacres of Tasmania's indigenous peoples and colonising enormous tracks of land in Tasmania in the 1800s. The company has continued expanding its activities whilst maintaining a strong connection to agriculture and farming until the present day, when it was purchased by Chinese investors in 2016, employing more than 100 people in Tasmania.

Sources:

¹ Rollins B, no date, *Early Place Names of the North West Coast* (Draft Doc), pp. 57/58.

² Ibid.

³ Libraries Tasmania, Letterbooks of letters from the Tasmanian Agent addressed to correspondents in Australia, Item No. VDL 23/1/, (23-18, p. 119, A Gibson to Wall, 6 Oct 1842).

⁴ Leonard, C. 2023. *The Wall Family: weaving the threads of memories*, p. 11.

⁵ Libraries Tasmania, VDL 175-1-3, enclosed with Despatch 51, Gibson to Directors, 16 Jan 1844.

NEW Website for GSQ

Our GSQ website is changing! The new website should be available mid to late December, or at least should be up and running by the time GSQ opens again in January 2026.

Members should experience very little disruption during this time. The transfer of the website from our developers to the server is estimated to only take a few hours.

We have seen the protocol of the front page - the few changes look really great. The webcoordinators are busy at present going through existing pages on the current site, updating information and

content, and getting new pages ready to be part of the new site.

Members will find it much easier to access the members area, with the use of one click to sign in. We are very hopeful of obtaining a grant from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund so that Stage 2, the building of a comprehensive database, can be commenced soon after the launch of the new site.

Please keep a look out for the new website during December or early January and we are certain you will enjoy using it.

BOOK REVIEW



BORNEO: THE LAST CAMPAIGN

*Australia's brilliant, controversial
end to World War II*

BY MICHAEL VEITCH

Marg Doherty

Borneo, now part of Indonesia, was the location of the final Australian campaign of World War Two (WW2). Australia was assigned this operation as General MacArthur, the Supreme Commander of the Southwest Pacific, moved swiftly to end the War with Japan with United States troops. According to the author Michael Veitch, MacArthur was not prepared for anyone else to participate and held a US Army 'Americans-only' view for his Philippine crusade. This occurred even though MacArthur had promised the Australian Prime Minister that Australia would participate in battles that would lead to the end of the War in the Pacific.

Veitch, the author of many books on WW2, usually concentrates on air campaigns, but this time ventured into land battles. In this publication, Veitch admits he knew little about the campaign on Borneo, yet his research is very detailed.

In the introduction to this publication, the author mentions meeting the long-serving RSL representative, Bruce Ruxton, who had served in Borneo. In not following up on this unexpected meeting, Veitch admits he missed an opportunity to discuss Ruxton's war service and his experiences in Borneo with him.

Although there are now few survivors of the battles, Veitch provides detailed commentary on the Australians' involvement. Veitch has listed many unit diaries he referenced in the bibliography,

and in using these, he has brought some of the Australians' heroic actions to life. Although many of these heroics ended in death and injury, Veitch gave these men backstories that many family historians will appreciate.

The book has four parts. The first part is called The reasons for Borneo. This includes three chapters: the battle for Waite's Knoll; the background to MacArthur's promise that he would return to the Philippines and take the Australians with him; and a discussion of why the Australian troops were disillusioned.

The subsequent three parts discuss three battles fought in three different parts of the island. The first was Tarakan, followed by British North Borneo and Balikpapan. Veitch includes two maps at the beginning of the book; the first shows the Philippines and Borneo. This provides context for identifying the proximity of the Philippines and Borneo. This map also indicates Tarakan Island, North Borneo and Balikpapan and gives the dates of the battles. The second is a more detailed map of Tarakan Island. I found the maps very useful for referring back to during the reading of the three parts and their battles.

Overall, I enjoyed the book. I now know about Borneo and its place at the tail end of WW2. I also enjoyed Veitch's discussion of MacArthur's motivation for breaking his word to the Australians and assigning them a sideshow to highlight their bravery and commitment to the cause. I liked reading about the bravery that led to the awarding of Australia's Victoria Cross of WW2. The recipient was Private Leslie Thomislav Starceovich, and he fortunately survived.

¹ Michael Veitch, *Borneo: The Last Campaign*, Hatchette, Sydney, 2025, p. 34.



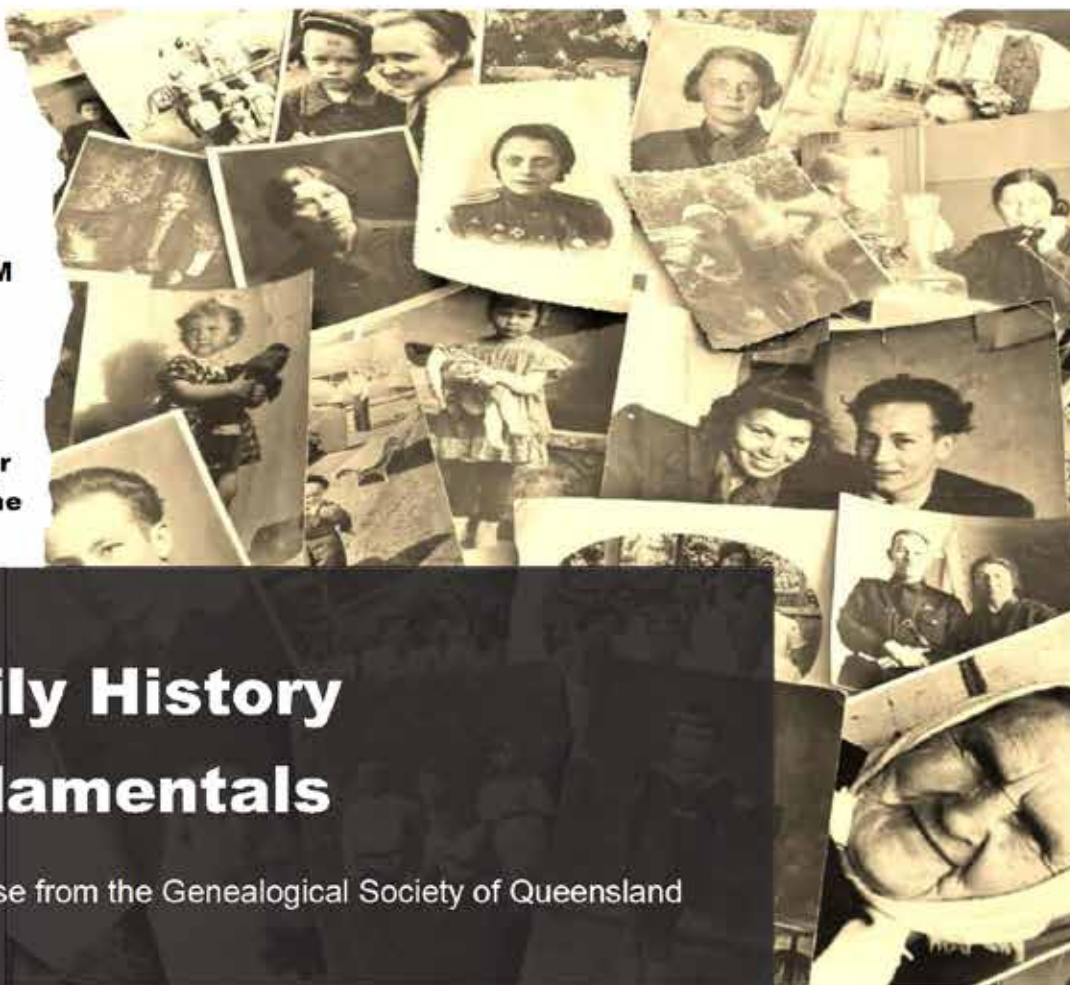
GSQ

Thursday

15th Jan @ 10:30 AM

For 4 weeks

Discount of \$15 on course fee will be given if nonmember joins GSQ during the course.



Family History Fundamentals

An online course from the Genealogical Society of Queensland

About the course

Start your family history research on a solid foundation. Presenters are experienced GSQ researchers. All sessions to be recorded and available to view for 4 weeks.

With Marg Doherty; Kim Davis; Bev Murray; and Ailsa Corlett

What does it cost?

All 4 sessions: Early Bird up to 5th Jan

GSQ/QFHS members: \$70

Non-members: \$85

after 5th Jan

GSQ/QFHS members: \$80

Non-members: \$95

Course program

Virtual event via Zoom

- 15 Jan – Where do I start? The basics of family history research. Certificates, civil registration, and Australia's convicts.
- 22 Jan – Finding records; primary and secondary, citations, standards, other sources of information and research plans.
- 29 Jan – Using Australian census and census substitutes, UK census. Practicalities of research and Repositories.
- 5 Feb – Putting it altogether in a Family History Program or an online tree and filing.

Payment

EARLY BIRD

GSQ/QFHS Members \$70.

Non-Members \$85

Book & pay online:

www.gsq.org.au/events/

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Genealogical Society of
Queensland Inc.

How to book



Calendar of events

GSQ web site: Go to www.gsq.org.au and select Events. Use the Events Calendar to find the event and then select the number and type of ticket (Member/Non-Member). Add your event to the Cart and proceed to the Checkout page adding in all details and selecting the payment type.

In person: Come into GSQ and have a library assistant help you fill out the online registration form for your chosen event.

By phone: Telephone GSQ on 07 3349 6072 during opening hours for EFTPOS credit card payments.

Payment types

Credit card: Can be used online, in person at GSQ or via telephone.

Direct Bank Transfer: Transfer the funds to GSQ using GSQ's bank details provided at the time of booking.

Cash: In person at GSQ.

Once payment has been confirmed, a ticket will be emailed to you. If you do not have an email address, it can be posted or provided to you on the day of the event.

Remember

For most courses, bookings are essential, especially for computer courses as these are limited to 10 attendees.

Also, please note that the GSQ education program is prepared many months in advance. Occasionally, changes need to be made due to circumstances which are out of GSQ's control.

Please check the GSQ website www.gsq.org.au/gsq-events/ for up-to-date information and for booking to attend sessions.



Date	Day	Event + Special Interest Groups [SIG]	Time
January 2026			
12	Tue	GSQ office OPENS for 2026	9am-5pm
15	Thur	Part 1 -Family History Fundamentals	10:30am-12:30 pm
17	Sat	Presentation -Family Tree Maker 2024	9am-11am
18	Sun	Chinese Research Group	10am-12pm
18	Sun	Scandinavian Group	12:30-2:30pm
22	Thur	Part 2 -Family History Fundamentals	10:30am-12:30 pm
25	Sun	German Research Group	10:15am-2:30pm
29	Thur	Part 3 -Family History Fundamentals	10:30am-12:30 pm
31	Sat	Presentation -Who, What, Why in nineteenth century maternity care practice	9am-11am
February 2026			
1	Sun	English/ Irish/ Welsh Group	10am-2:30pm
5	Thur	Part 4 -Family History Fundamentals	10:30am-12:30 pm
14	Sat	Presentation -The Mary O'Toole casestudy	9am-11am
15	Sun	Writing Group	10am-12pm
19	Thur	We re.xyz Group	6:30pm-8pm
21	Sat	Workshop 1 -Getting started with Obsidian	9am-11am
22	Sun	DNA Group	9:30am-1:30pm
28	Sat	Workshop 2 -Getting started with Obsidian	9am-11am
March 2026			
1	Sun	Scottish Group	9:30am-2pm
8	Sun	Family History Technology Group	2pm-4pm
15	Sun	Chinese Research Group	10am-12pm
28	Sat	GSQ Mini Seminar -From Europe to Australia: Tracing the roots of migrant ancestors	9am-1pm
29	Sun	German Research Group	10:15am-2:30pm



- Events and Interest Group meetings are held via Zoom or as Hybrid meetings.

GSQ address: 25 Stackpole Street, Wishart, Qld.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, some of these events may be cancelled or re-scheduled. Please check GSQ's website for up-to-date information on the education program.



Education Program 2026

Watch the GSQ website or e-News for information on dates, locations and topics as they may change. ALL paid events need to be booked online via the GSQ web site. <https://www.gsq.org.au/gsq-events/education-program/>

January • February • March

Presentation (Virtual platform)	WHEN: Sat 6 Dec 2025 @ 9:00am–11:00am AEST
Deciphering Old Handwriting	PRESENTER: Tricia Smout COST: FREE to GSQ members
Course (Virtual platform)	WHEN: 4 Thursdays @ 10:30am–12.30pm AEST
Family History Fundamentals [4 Parts]	DATES: Thurs 15 Jan @ 10:30am–12.30pm AEST Thurs 22 Jan @ 10:30am–12.30pm AEST Thurs 29 Jan @ 10:30am–12.30pm AEST Thurs 5 Feb @ 10:30am–12.30pm AEST PRESENTER/s: Marg Doherty, Kim Davis, Bev Murray, Ailsa Corlett COST: \$70 for members; \$85 for non-members <i>[Early Bird ends 5 January]</i> Non-early birds \$80 for members and \$95 for non-members
Presentation (Virtual platform)	WHEN: Sat 17 Jan @ 9:00am–11:00am AEST
Family Tree Maker 2024: An Overview of New and Enhanced Features	PRESENTER: Mark Olsen COST: FREE to GSQ members
Presentation (Virtual platform)	WHEN: Sat 31 Jan @ 9:00am–11:00am AEST
Who, what, why in nineteenth century maternity care practice	PRESENTER: Dr Madonna Grehan COST: \$21 for members and \$31 for non-members
Presentation (Virtual platform)	WHEN: Sat 14 Feb @ 9:00am–11:00am AEST
Mary O'Toole Case Study	PRESENTER: Greg Carlill COST: \$21 for members and \$31 for non-members
Workshop (Virtual platform)	WHEN: Sat 21 Feb @ 9:00am–11:00am AEST
Part 1: Getting started with Obsidian, setting the program up, running through a workshop example	PRESENTER: Greg Carlill COST: \$21 for members for one session; \$31 for Part 1 and Part 2
Workshop (Virtual platform)	WHEN: Sat 28 Feb @ 9:00am–11:00am AEST
Part 2: More advanced topics, making the most out of the data in your Obsidian Vault dataview queries, bases.	PRESENTER: Greg Carlill COST: \$21 for members for one session; \$31 for Part 1 and Part 2
GSQ Mini Seminar (Virtual platform)	WHEN: Sat 28 March @ 9:00am–1:00pm AEST
From Europe to Australia: tracing the roots of migrant ancestors	PRESENTER/s: Dave Obee; Charlotte Sale; Eric Kopittke; Eve Terry; Myheritage COST: \$45 for members; \$55 for non-members

DNA Virtual Clinics

The clinic help sessions are available to all GSQ members. The clinic help sessions are available to all GSQ members only. The clinics are held on the 5th Wednesday of the month. The first DNA clinic

date for 2026 is 29 April, please see eNews for any changes. If you'd like to make an appointment, please email dna@gsq.org.au by the Wednesday prior to the session, stating you would like an appointment and set out your DNA problem.
Wednesday evening between the times of 7pm–8:30pm.

Interest Groups Meeting Dates 2026

Interest Groups for 2026 are full of bright ideas and tips. All members of GSQ are welcome to attend. Watch the GSQ website or eNews for information on dates, topics, and any event changes. All meetings are held either via Zoom, or are hybrid meetings with some members attending in person (at GSQ Wishart) and others logging in via Zoom. <https://www.gsq.org.au/gsq-events/list/>



Colonists & Convicts Group • 10am–12pm



8 February, 12 April, 14 June, 9 August,
11 October, 13 December
• *Second Sunday, even numbered months*

DNA Group • 9:30am–1:30pm



22 February, 26 April, 28 June, 23 August,
25 October
• *Fourth Sunday, even numbered months*

English/Irish/Welsh Group • 10am–2:30pm



1 February, 5 April, 7 June, 2 August,
4 October, 6 December
• *First Sunday, even numbered months*

Writing Group • 10am–12pm



15 February, 19 April, 21 June,
16 August, 18 October
• *Third Sunday, even numbered months*

Chinese Research Group • 10am–12pm



18 January, 15 March, 17 May, 19 July,
20 September, 15 November
• *Third Sunday, odd numbered months*

German Research Group • 10:15am–2:30pm



25 January, 29 March, 31 May, 26 July,
27 September, 29 November
• *Last Sunday, odd numbered months*

Scandinavian Group • 12:30am–2:30pm



18 January, 22 March, 17 May, 19 July,
20 September, 15 November
• *Third Sunday, odd numbered months*

Scottish Group • 9:30am–2pm



1 March, 3 May, 5 July,
6 September, 1 November
• *First Sunday, odd numbered months*

Family History Technology Group • 2pm–4pm



8 March, 10 May, 12 July, 13 September,
8 November
• *Second Sunday, odd numbered months*

WeAre.xyz Group • 6:30pm–8pm



19 February, 16 April, 18 June, 20 August,
15 October
• *Third Thursday evening, even numbered months*

NEW



GSQ MEETINGS



Following the COVID-19 pandemic, GSQ has instituted a number of virtual meetings using Zoom. These meetings provide support for members' research, and discussion about resources available and interesting topics.

Check the Events Calendar on the GSQ website for further information and confirmation.



A tribute to retiring GSQ President Helen Veivers... *a farewell with gratitude!*



Farewell presentation at our AGM 2025: Alistair Henderson (Incoming President), Helen Veivers (outgoing President), with Management Committee members Leanne Taylor and Claire Rodwell

In this edition of *Generation*, it is appropriate to pay tribute to the outstanding contribution made by immediate past President Helen Veivers, following seven years of leadership in the role.

To suggest that Helen has achieved much during this period is an under-statement. Her primary focus has been on equipping GSQ to provide the best possible service to the many members of the organisation. Under her calm and capable leadership, GSQ has reached new levels of catering for member interests and needs.

Her period of leadership has seen significant equipment acquisitions including a new refrigerator and gardening equipment, reshelving and reorganisation of the library, and purchase of a Scanpro.

While the role of President during normal times is a demanding one, the onset and duration of COVID brought additional challenges – but Helen maintained a steady hand on the helm, managing to bring GSQ through these times in a much enriched way, with a hugely enhanced online presence and acquisition of the equipment and finetuning of skills to boost online learning, interaction, and socialisation.

While everyday activities remained a prime focus, Helen was also determined to make a difference in 'futureproofing' the organisation. Recognising the challenges that all member-based organisations are facing, and the demise of many, she led the Management Committee and members in planning ahead, including the ongoing development and review of the Strategic Plan, reviewing the governance of the organisation, with acceptance of a new Constitution and setting in place Position Descriptions for all key positions.

For decisions to better reflect the views of GSQ members, Helen has instituted regular Members' Meetings and Interest Group Convenor Meetings with a respectful and diplomatic approach.

Helen led the team that organised the very successful *Connections 2025* conference, which combined the 17th Australian Conference on Genealogy and Heraldry and the 5th History Queensland State Conference. This not only raised the profile of GSQ around Australia and New Zealand, indeed the world, but it also contributed significantly to GSQ coffers.

During her time as President, Helen has put her own interests aside so will now have the opportunity to set off in the campervan, sing heartily, spend time with family and friends, and of course resume her family history research. On behalf of all at GSQ we thank you Helen.

Jan Bimrose, Claire Rodwell, Alistair Henderson



Margaret Coleman Volunteer Morning tea presentation 2025: GSQ patron Dr Jennifer Harrison, President Helen Veivers and award winner, Assistant Treasurer Sue Grant

FEATURED SOURCE • RESOURCES & TOOLS



Archives and State Libraries

Janice Wellard

Following a suggestion in the November eNews (page 13) I watched a webinar entitled 'Crown Plans – Revisited' from State Archives of New South Wales (SANSW). The webinar was quite detailed, giving information on how to access various land records.

I then checked what other webinars were available – a total of 96 on a variety of subjects, from land (10 webinars), through photographs (4), to convicts (3). Did your ancestor work on the railways in New South Wales? There are two webinars with the railway as their focus – one about the variety of railway records in the collection and another on NSW railway photos. Most of these topics are designed to help you add to your family history research and knowledge by helping you to use the resources of the Archives effectively. You can watch the webinars and revisit them as you need. To find the SANSW webinars, go to <https://mhns.w.au/archive/subjects/land/?filter=webinars>.

Remember, although not designed as repositories for family history records, many of the subjects of the records created by various governments (Archival records) contain information that is very useful to genealogists and family historians. Such categories include court records, deceased estates, immigration, land, and women in the records. As well as webinars the SANSW website contains guides, articles, and indexes on many topics.

I also found many webinars or webcasts, again on a variety of subjects, on the State Library of Queensland (SLQ) website, see <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/collections/family-history/family-history-webcasts>. The SLQ also has guides, resources and indexes, a listing of useful websites, and family history blogs.

Remember – The Archives and State Libraries in each state are the genealogist's friend!



Introducing the NEW GSQ Interest Group, WeAre.xyz

Meetings of the new Weare.xyz Interest Group will be on the third Thursday of every even month starting at 6.30p.m.

We decided to have themes and learning topics and share what we have been working on at each session, which will last about 90 minutes. For our next session we will be sharing the welcome pages for our family archives, or at least talking about how to do these, for those who have not started yet.

The group already has 10-15 members, so is off to a flying start! All members are welcome - just send an email to weare.xyz@gsq.org.au for the link prior to the February meeting. Simon, the creator of this genealogy, family history, and ancestry archive website, will join us at some of our meetings, so if you are interested in learning more about WeAre.xyz and its application for family archives or one place studies, this is the group to join!

FOCUS ON

In each issue of *Generation* we will focus on one of GSQ's Special Interest Groups. For the dates and times that each of the Special Interest Groups meet, mostly every second month, check out the GSQ website or the dates elsewhere in *Generation*.

GSQ INTEREST GROUPS COLONISTS AND CONVICTS



Like all things this group has changed with time. Previously known as the Convict Connections Interest Group, it was first convened thirty years ago. Initially the convenors researched various aspects of convict history and reported back to the meetings. Back then, family history research involved extended periods of time sifting through microfilm and microfiche data, classified and stowed away in various libraries and archives. The convenor's role was to conduct this time-consuming research and report back to the members at their meetings.

In today's world, where most of us enjoy access to technology and the many digitised archival family history records, members conduct their own research and therefore can contribute and share their findings at the meetings. To facilitate this arrangement, pre-arranged topics for research are distributed to the members and they are encouraged to share their research findings at the group's meetings. Enabling everyone to participate has been an important goal.

In 2024, it was agreed that the focus of the group should include other settlers to Australia between 1788 and 1901 and not just convicts. It was also decided to extend the colonial period to 1901, when Federation occurred.

There are no other interest groups at GSQ, who research this fascinating period of our history.

The convenors of the Convict Connections group initiated the newsletter, the *Chronicle*, a publication produced each February, June and October and available by subscription. In 2024, it was revised and updated by Fleur Creed, the editor. Contributions are sourced from the Interest Group and Fleur includes many other relevant items.

Another useful resource produced by the members of our Interest Group is a Research Tool, complete with how to locate relevant family history information. The Research Tool gives Information about how to record research data including the citations. This is vitally important to ensure easy retrieval of that data, avoiding duplication and loss of information.

Being descended from convicts is acknowledged to be a source of envy and pride in today's prosperous society and for this reason, a Certificate of Proof, giving authenticity to your family history link, is available for purchase. A completed application form plus documentary evidence is required.

We have our own impressive lending library with a wonderful selection of books that will extend your knowledge and understanding. Our group is linked to many other societies who focus on similar topics, and we enjoy reciprocal rights to their newsletters. If you are fortunate to have ancestors who were part of the First Fleet, there is an exclusive 'First Fleeters' society, based in New South Wales.

Our meetings are held on the second Sunday of the even months of the year. The GSQ Research Centre opens at 9.30 and the meeting commences at 10 a.m. and usually concludes about 12 p.m. It is also possible to attend via zoom.

If you love our early Australian history and are researching your ancestors who made the huge decision to move across the world to a new home, you will enjoy being a part of the Colonists and

Convicts Interest Group. For all enquiries, please contact via email: CandC@gsq.org.au

C & C Interest Group MEETING DATES FOR 2026

February 8

April 12

June 14

August 9

October 11

December 13



Backhouse, Edward, A chain gang, convicts going to work near Sidney [i.e. Sydney], New South Wales 1843, nla.obj-138467409



GSQ Interest Groups



GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND Inc
Enriching family history

HOME WHAT GSQ OFFERS EVENTS LEARN ABOUT GSQ GSQ SHOP MEMBERSHIP GSQ login/register

eNews

THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND

GSQ e-NEWS 6

SIG Notices

Subject to the circumstances surrounding the Covid-19 situation, some interest groups will be holding their meetings at GSQ. There is a limit of 20 people attending the groups. Some groups are conducting virtual meetings through the use of the Zoom platform.

English/Irish Interest Group

Subject to the circumstances surrounding the Covid-19 situation, some interest groups will be holding their meetings at GSQ. There is a limit of 20 people attending the groups. Some groups are conducting virtual meetings through the use of the Zoom platform.



Unknown author - Macgregor Terrace in Bardon (Paddington Water Tower on left horizon), circa 1929, John Oxley Library, SLQ.

Somewhere a little unusual or historic... The Paddington Water Tower

Lesley Roebig

The water tower is a memory of my childhood. We lived at 95 Tooth Avenue, Paddington, which was on the corner of Croydon Road and Tooth Avenue and the water tower was a prominent landmark in our lives.

I must thank the Wednesday morning Zoom group for putting together this challenge. I have learnt so much about the water tower and the house that used to dominate the top of the hill. When we lived at 95 Tooth Avenue, we used the vacant land on which the house sat as our bike track (push bike that is).

The water tower at 16 Garfield Drive was built in 1926/1927 to supply water to the higher parts of Paddington. The water board fought for 12 years to get the Paddington water tower built on the hill. The reinforced concrete tank is 22 metres (70 feet) at its highest point. The trams passed by below on McGregor Terrace and in those days the Tramway Department provided electricity for the centrifugal pump to propel water into the tank, and from there to the residents who lived high on the many hills of Paddington, providing them with running water.

Information in this article sourced from Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paddington_Water_Tower



Fleur Creed

Where on earth is Dallarnil you might ask?

If you have driven along the Isis Highway towards Biggenden, you may have passed through it without realising. Dallarnil is located in the North Burnett region of Queensland, roughly an hour's drive inland from both Maryborough and Bundaberg, and just a little more from Hervey Bay. The closest towns are Biggenden, which is roughly 15 kilometres (km) away, and Childers, about 30 km in the other direction. Brisbane is about 350 km down the highway.¹



The first recorded mention of Dallarnil was as a pastoral run, and in 1852 the run was held by John William Gosling (1788-1852).² The first selectors in the Isis area started clearing and burning in 1871, but only on 5 August 1887, were the Dallarnil Scrub Agricultural farms opened to settlement. It was at this time that families started to make their homes in the immediate Dallarnil area.³ This coincided with gold and other minerals being found nearby, bringing prosperity.

The two main goldfields closest to what became the township of Dallarnil were Mount Shamrock, discovered in 1886, and Paradise, discovered in 1888. More than 20,000 ounces of gold were produced at Mount Shamrock in the first 15 years, with the town disappearing by the mid 1930s. Paradise was more short-lived, disappearing in

1904, and is now submerged under the Paradise Dam. Copper, silver, bismuth, and other minerals were also found in the vicinity of Dallarnil.⁴

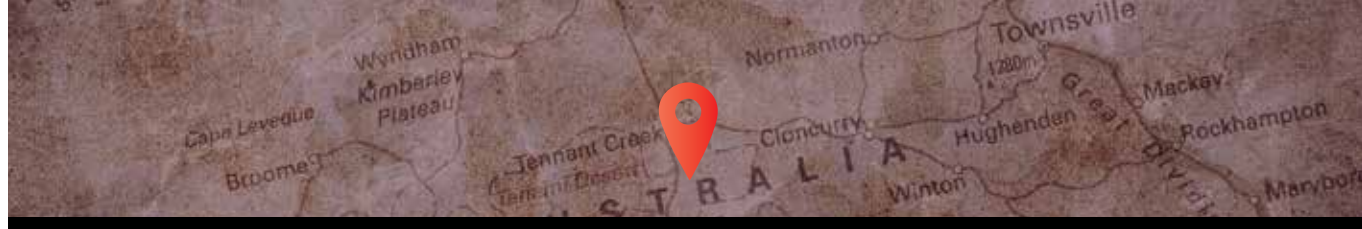
The pioneering families in the district helped each other, clearing the rough scrub and building their homes. Early attempts at grazing sheep were unsuccessful, but the area was suitable for cattle for much-needed dairy products. The first crops were sugar cane, corn, and cotton, with the volcanic soil being rich in nutrients, although it is a dry area for cane-growing.⁵

By 1900 there were sufficient families that a school committee was formed, and a provisional school commenced at the beginning of 1901 with 21 students. Soon the population was such that another school opened in North Dallarnil in 1904.

At its peak, Dallarnil had two hotels, the *Terminus Hotel* and the *Dallarnil Hotel*, refreshment rooms, a post office, two bank branches, a dentist, a saddlery and a blacksmith, a butcher shop, and cattle saleyards. It also had a Public Hall, built in 1920, which was the hub of the community and a sports-ground. Dances, meetings, concerts, movies, and celebrations of all descriptions were held in the hall, and the sportsground was the venue for the annual Dallarnil Sports Day, attracting people from across the state, as well as other sporting and horse-related events. Dallarnil also had its own orchestra, CWA and tennis, football, cricket clubs, and other social clubs. The *Dallarnil Masonic Lodge* opened in 1906.



W.G. Hutton's Dallarnil Hotel - Tom Calder was an owner at some point.



Christian denominations were represented in the town from the beginning, initially meeting in homes, at the school, or at the hall. The Gospel Hall established its own building first, around 1905, then St James' Anglican Church was built in 1921, St Xavier's Catholic Church in 1933, and the Methodist church in 1947.

The one piece of infrastructure that really helped Dallarnil grow was the opening of the railway line in May 1913, as both people and goods could travel more quickly to and from the town. This was not to last, however, and the line closed in 1955, in the belief that road travel had replaced trains.



Mining had also finished, as gold had long since been depleted in the area, although some minerals were still being mined at nearby Biggenden. Farming had also changed, with a reduced demand for sugar, and changes to the dairying industry. Local butter and cheese factories started closing. Eventually most graziers swapped to breeding cattle for beef, and crops changed to wheat, corn, pumpkins, fruit, and nuts. The sale-yards closed, but stock are now taken to Biggenden for sale.

Once a thriving town, Dallarnil is now home to just 245 residents in 122 private dwellings. There is a small general store open some days of the week,

and one state primary school. The Gospel Hall and the Masonic Lodge still hold meetings, and the Dallarnil Hall has just refurbished its kitchen and replaced its bathroom facilities. The sports ground holds regular horse-related events, including an annual Sports Day. The North Dallarnil Rural Fire Brigade has premises next to the school. There is a cemetery on the highway, and here you can find the resting place of many of the pioneers, who also have local streets named for them.

My husband and I moved to Dallarnil four years ago, buying the old Methodist church to renovate into our retirement home. We enjoy the peace of this quiet spot, and if we feel like going out for a coffee or a meal, Biggenden or Childers aren't far, or a trip to the coast to wander around the shops is only an hour away. I became interested in our locality when we moved here and I struggled to find information about its history, so if you would like to follow my research, my One Place Study can be found at: <https://app.weare.xyz/public/dallarnil/places/olybv15nmxzp>

Sources:

- ¹ "Dallarnil", Wikimedia Foundation, last modified 19 August 2025, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dallarnil>.
- ² *Sydney Morning Herald*, 31 January 1852, p. 3. Accepted Tenders for Runs.
- ³ M. J. Fox, *History of Queensland: Its People and Industries*. Vol. 2. State, 1923. <https://share.google/bmS6Oic5P0vBINvfB>.
- ⁴ Geraldine Mate, 'Streets and Stamper Batteries – an "Industrial" Landscape of Gold Townships in Nineteenth-Century Queensland', *Australian Historical Archaeology*, Vol. 32, 2014. https://www.asha.org.au/pdf/australasian_historical_archaeology/32_04_Mate.pdf.
- ⁵ Arthur Laurie, 'The History of the Isis Scrub', Historical Society of Queensland, Inc., 28 October 1948. <https://share.google/defGnNCCPc7IPUDyE>.
- ⁶ *Bundaberg Mail and Burnett Advertiser*, 7 May 1913, p. 2. Dallarnil Railway.
- ⁷ '2021 Dallarnil, Census All Persons QuickStats | Australian Bureau of Statistics'. <https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/SAL30795>.



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For more information on upcoming webinars, see <https://familytreewebinars.com/upcoming-webinars/>

SPOTLIGHT ON RESOURCES

Hedgehogs in the registers

Janice Wellard

Whilst exploring early family links to the parish of Halse in Somerset, I found something unexpected – my ancestor Robert NATION was paid by the parish for four hedgehogs during 1722.¹

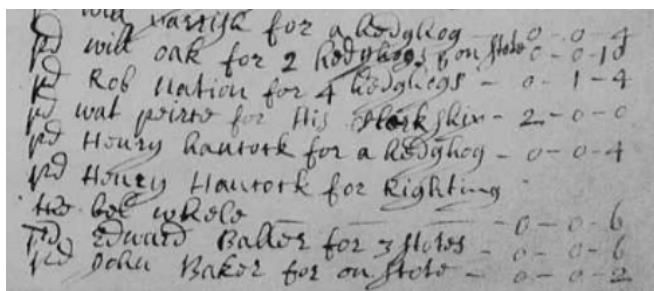


Image from Halse Churchwarden's Accounts.

I shared my surprise with others at the GSQ Research Centre, and another member set me on the path to finding out more about this payment and why parishes were paying for (dead) hedgehogs. Somewhat like our echidnas in appearance, the word hedgehog developed from the animal's habits (living in hedges) and its piglike snout.² They were also known as urchins and hedge pigs.



European hedgehog; once a common sight in gardens and parks. Jorg Hempel: file licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 2.0

The background to these payments to Robert NATION and others began almost two hundred years before this record was made in the Halse churchwarden's accounts.³ Poor harvests and population growth

resulted in food shortages in Tudor England. Animals and birds that ate food that could be used by people were declared 'vermin'. In 1532 the Preservation of Grain Act, also known as the Vermin Act, was passed during the reign of Henry VIII. This act, initially aimed at crows, badgers, kites, and foxes, placed a price per head on the vermin, which was to be paid by landowners or tenants.⁴

Under Queen Elizabeth 1 the act was extended in 1566 to include other animals, such as hedgehogs, polecats, wild cats, stoats, weasels, otters, sparrows, rats, mice, and moles and the vermin were to be sold to the churchwardens.⁵

The price for a dead hedgehog was set at four pence, tuppence for a hoglet or young hedgehog. It is estimated that about half a million hedgehogs were killed in the Great Britain between 1660 and 1800. Every person was encouraged to kill as many of the vermin as possible, then received the bounty of one penny for the head of a raven or kite, up to 12 pence for a badger or fox.⁶

These amounts were significant to agricultural labourers whose wage was about four pence a day, but parishes had to raise the money to pay the vermin bounties.⁷ The Vermin Act was only repealed in 1863. Superstition played a part too in the vendetta on hedgehogs, who were believed to steal the milk of cows, drinking from their udders when cows were lying down at night.

My ancestor Robert NATION wasn't the only person in Halse parish who was paid for hedgehogs. During 1722 the parish of Halse paid for 21 hedgehogs, as well as five polecats, and 17 stoats. It appears that there was a plague of hedgehogs in Halse in the early 1720s as the churchwardens only paid for one hedgehog and two polecats in 1719, then 12 hedgehogs and two polecats in 1721.

Have you looked for the churchwarden's accounts for the parish/es in which your ancestors lived? A good place to start is the FamilySearch website, looking in their catalogue for your ancestor's parish. You may find something interesting – like hedgehogs!

Sources:

¹ The churchwarden's accounts were found on the FamilySearch website, using film number 8403347 and searching using the 'Full Text Search' option and my ancestor's surname.

² Hedgehog, Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hedgehog>.

The churchwarden's accounts were found on the FamilySearch website, using film number and searching using the 'Full Text Search' option and my ancestor's surname.

³ Pest Control, Tudor Style, and Hedgehog Termination, <https://www.ourwarwickshire.org.uk/content/article/pest-control-tudor-style-hedgehog-termination>.

⁴ The Wonderful World of Churchwardens Accounts, <https://westsussexrecordofficeblog.com/2024/04/18/the-wonderful-world-of-churchwardens-accounts/>.

⁵ Guardian, 7 January 2007, <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2007/jan/07/conservationandendangeredspecies.theobserversuknewspages>.

⁶ For more detailed information see Roger Lovegrove, Silent Fields: the long decline of a nation's wildlife, Oxford University Press, 2007.

MAGAZINES REVIEWED



TWO LEADING GENEALOGICAL MONTHLY MAGS

Family Tree and Who Do You Think You Are (WDYTYA)?

[October 2025 issues]

Marg Doherty

I thought I would do something different for this book review. I will look at the two leading genealogical monthly magazines in the United Kingdom. These are *Family Tree* and *Who Do You Think You Are (WDYTYA)?* I will examine the October editions of both magazines.

There are certain similarities with the magazines, but they are also different. I have three favourite regular features in *Family Tree*. Firstly, there is the *Family Tree Academy* with Dave Annal, a professional genealogist, lecturer, and author. Dave has spoken on Zoom to GSQ several times, and he is a favourite of mine. The topic for October was *Exploring the Pre-1841 Censuses*. In this article, Dave provided an in-depth context for the early British censuses and their history. This was rich with facts. The author also included challenges for beginners, intermediate, and advanced researchers.

I also like the *Twiglets* article with Gill Shaw. In *Twiglets*, Shaw researches her own family tree every month. I have been reading this for a couple of years, and it is fascinating. However, Shaw's family, which spans Italy, France, and England, is far more interesting than my family history.

In October, other article topics include DNA tests, the responsibilities of family historians, and part one of a three-part series on the British Army. This is by Graham Bundy.

Finally, I always enjoy the last article in each edition. This is by Diane Lindsay, a family historian for many decades. In this edition, Lindsay discusses family likenesses and how they relate to her family.

There are many other features in this magazine, including answers to family historians' queries and Jane Shrimpton's monthly photo corner about dating photos. *WDYTYA* has a similar queries section and a photo section with Alison Toplis.

The two magazines also featured articles about railway ancestors as they celebrated 200 years since the first passenger train in Britain. Both magazines used Dr Mike Esbester from the University of Portsmouth. I enjoyed the *WDYTYA* article more because it discussed the railway industry and researching railway workers. The *Family Tree* magazine published a question-and-answer article that lacked depth.

WDYTYA often features elements that reference episodes of the television program of the same name. In this edition, the article refers back to Sir Derek Jacobi's episode, which utilised the Chancery court records.

Best websites is another regular feature, and the October issue featured websites related to pubs and breweries. This segment always includes an expert's choice. In this edition, it was the author of *London's Lost Pubs*.

I always enjoy Alan Crosby's one-page article in *WDYTYA*. Crosby is a family and local historian,



and his subject in October was likely predictable: railways and their impact on the lives of his ancestors.

In every edition of *WDYTYA*, there is at least one reader's story, and this edition features one from a reader who, during the British COVID lockdowns, uncovered many scandals in her family. There is also a review of a county's archives and libraries. In October, Essex was covered. Additionally, there is always an archivist who writes about one of the documents held in their particular archive.

Both magazines have 76 pages of reading. While some features are in common, others vary. I enjoy both and read them from cover to cover. The Brisbane City Council library services hold both

magazines, which can be borrowed for a month. Logan Council libraries also have magazines, including digital copies. I imagine many other local authority libraries have the magazines.



Front covers of five family history magazines and journals from State Library's collection



Our GSQ Facebook page is continuing to draw in both members and non-members. If you're a member of Facebook, then you can search for GSQ Genealogical Society of Queensland in the search box and our page

will come up. Or click the Facebook icon on our home page. Ticking 'Like' on that page will ensure that our posts feed into your Facebook.

GSQFB is a private group, so only members of the group can see what you post. Here you can ask questions, share your genie successes and frustrations. You don't need to be a GSQ member to join the group.

If you have any questions about the GSQFB Group, then please email Rhoda Copeland on gsqfbgroup@gsq.org.au. To join the group, click on the link below and answer THREE questions. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/548139069596908>

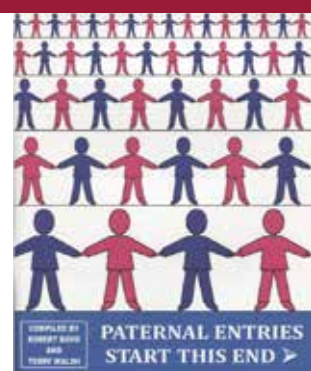
'MY FAMILY HISTORY'

PURCHASE THIS BOOK FROM GSQ

A ten-generation family history research record book with pedigree charts

Robert Boyd Publications (UK) is pleased to announce the release of the 3rd Edition of 'My Family History Record Book' and the appointment of the Genealogical Society of Queensland as its sole distributor for Australia, New Zealand, and their territories.

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SHORT *Tales*

BRIDGET CONNERA, AN IRISH ORPHAN.

Catherine Thompson

One of my 2nd great grandmothers, Bridget CONNOR, CONNORS and O'CONNOR from Galway Ireland has been a brickwall for a long time. She married George EVANS around 1852, a brickmaker from Fortitude Valley and together they had 10 children. This year I bought another birth record for their third daughter, Mary Jane, born August 1856. George registered her birth, and, on this occasion, he recorded Bridget's birthplace as Loughrea, Ireland. Finally, I knew where she was born in Galway and now, I know that Bridget was one of the Irish Orphan Girls sent to Australia from the Workhouses of Ireland during the Great Famine of 1845-1852. This discovery wasn't made by me but by Dr Jennifer Harrison, our GSQ patron, after talking informally to her at the end of GSQ Open day this year.

Jennifer was sure Bridget was an Irish Orphan and within a week, she had the answer. Working systematically through a list of variations of the surname CONNOR, she found my Bridget listed under the surname CONNERA. Bridget was 15 when she arrived in Botany Bay on 3 February 1850 on the *Thomas Arbuthnot* but she had to wait a month in Quarantine at the Female Immigrant Depot at Hyde Park, before she was offered employment with Fred L'ESTRANGE, of Fortitude Valley.

Bridget EVANS died on the 17 Aug 1908 in her home in James Street, Fortitude Valley and is buried with her husband at Nudgee RC Cemetery having spent 56 years in Queensland.

Suggested books to Read:

1. Dr Trevor McClaughlin, Barefoot and Pregnant? Irish Famine Orphans in Australia, Volume 2, the Genealogical Society of Victoria, Melbourne, 2001, p.240
2. Richard Reid, A Decent Set Of Girls: The Irish Famine Orphans Of The Thomas Arbuthnot 1849-1850.



Dr Jennifer Harrison, our GSQ patron, in blue, sharing stories and laughter with GSQ member Tina Louise at the 2025 GSQ Open day.



Hyde Park Barracks, New South Wales - Image from Flickr by Hugh Llewelyn - CC BY-SA 2.0

Connare, Bridget	15	Loughrea Galway	Patrick and Margaret RC (both dead)
Other:	Im. Cor. 50/540 Moreton Bay; Register 2 No. 706 16 Apr 1850 Indentures with Fred Strange Brisbane, £6-£8, 3 years.		

Document showing Bridget indentured to employment with Fred Le Strange, of Fortitude Valley, Qld



BAROSI TOROKE

A chief and war hero

Christine Leonard

My family lived on Bougainville Island in Papua New Guinea for twenty years before my father, Greg WALL, died on a plantation in 1971. As RSL President, Dad worked tirelessly to secure recognition for Bougainvillean veterans who had supported the Allies during the Second World War. Following his untimely death, those veterans beat a path to my mother Merle's door to take up their cause. Corresponding with the Department of Veterans' Affairs was a frustrating process, but in continuing the fight, Merle became the custodian of stories of bravery and acts of courage rarely acknowledged beyond the island.

ANZAC Day was central to my childhood. The memorial park in Kieta, the small town my mother and I moved to after Dad died, faced a ribbon of road lining a deep blue harbour, a volcanic crater cast in the shadows of rainforest rising around it. Each year with medals gleaming, Dad marched alongside fellow veterans, black and white.

Decades later, in 2016, I learned of a story connected to that place. Sitting by the sea, enjoying the breeze filtering through the shade of an overhanging rain tree, Danmark BAKAU of Sirovai Village told me about his grandfather, Paramount Chief Barosi TOROKE¹. Barosi was executed by the Japanese in January 1943 because he protected Australians. Danmark was sad that his grandfather's story had faded from Bougainvillean memory.

Sirovai, is situated on the east coast of Central Bougainville Island, an autonomous region in Papua New Guinea, poised on the cusp of nationhood. During the German colonial administration, Barosi, then simply a chief, was a *dokta boi*, or medical orderly, working for Europeans and learning a second language, Pidgin English (now called *Tok Pisin*). Barosi became a paramount chief during the Australian administration era. He cut an imposing figure with outstanding leadership, overseeing a vast area comprising three districts from Koromira to Wisai on the boundary of Buin. The chief was an ideal

candidate to work with Australian patrol officers—*kiaps*, who performed a range of duties, from policing, law enforcement, taking the census, and hearing cases as magistrates. *Kiaps* depended on cooperation from local chiefs to maintain order, and according to Danmark, his grandfather was a valued intermediary between the administration and his people. When the Second World War broke out, Paramount Chief Barosi TOROKE was in his mid-twenties with a reputation as a strong leader. His authority and fluency in *Tok Pisin* made it easy for *kiaps* to trust him.

In November 1941, Jack READ took up his appointment as assistant district officer, based at Buka at the northern end of Bougainville. Japan entered the war by bombing Pearl Harbour barely a month later. Within two days, READ received orders from the district officer to evacuate European women and children. Missionaries and nurses could remain if they preferred. Several did. Chinese families were left to fend for themselves, resulting in many being killed by the Japanese or perishing from the deprivations of hiding in an inhospitable jungle. Two years later, a few lucky ones were eventually evacuated on an American submarine.

By mid-1942, the Japanese controlled Kieta and the entire east coast, placing Sirovai deep in enemy territory. A major base was established at Rigu beside the Marist Mission near Kieta. Movement was restricted, and any local suspected of helping Australians faced death. At the time, Barosi lived with his wife, Okonung, their two daughters, and the children of his late uncle's widow, Uke, whom he had taken under customary obligation.

Some Europeans, civilians and administration employees stayed behind as coastwatchers—reporting from behind enemy lines on Japanese movements for the Allies. Jack READ, planter Paul MASON, and plantation manager Tom EBURY, who knew Barosi well, were among them. MASON, an experienced bushman, travelled south, with Chief DOVAI guiding him, keeping to the impenetrable mountains of the Crown Prince Range that ran down the middle of the island.



According to Danmark, DOVAI brought MASON and an Australian soldier to Sirovai, entrusting them to Barosi to guide the Australians further, as he knew the country. Knowing the danger to his village, Barosi agreed.

After hiding them overnight, they left Sirovai at dawn, trekking inland to the mountainous village of Sipuru where MASON recruited a group of commandos whose intelligence would prove crucial for the Allied cause. The chief returned alone to his coastal village, knowing that his walkabout with the Australians had been observed. It was a matter of time before he was reported. The Japanese knew there was an Australian moving about and told the locals that if they saw anyone or heard anything, they had to report it. Failure to report could lead to punishment by death.

Soon after, Barosi was ordered to report to Rigu. His wife begged him to flee, but the chief refused; running would bring certain death upon the entire village. At Rigu, Barosi admitted the Australians had slept in Sirovai but denied knowing where they had gone—sticking to the story MASON as instructed. Refusing to betray the Sipuru commandos and the Australians, Barosi was taken to Kieta to be made an example. Word went out for people to come and witness. It was not a request.

The execution site was near the centre of Kieta, close to a sweeping beach lined with giant rain trees laden with orchids and ferns, their branches outstretched in languid beauty over the water. It's hard to imagine the evil that made its mark in the heart of so much beauty. An eyewitness later described what happened in early January 1943:

After a brutal beating and being covered in red ants (kurakum), Chief Barosi was forced to dig his own grave. Standing beside it, he was beheaded with a sword. His body remained upright for a moment before collapsing into the grave.

Vegetation quickly reclaimed the area that became a place of fear. Even after the war, people avoided it.

Within days of Barosi's murder, plantation manager Tom EBURY was captured purportedly by Japanese sympathisers. Severely overweight and in poor health, he had little chance. EBURY struggled to keep pace with the soldiers hunting for MASON through the bush. He was beaten and bayoneted whenever he fell. As EBURY fell into a fast-flowing river, he called

out in Tok Pisin that he couldn't go on and was swept downstream. Villagers later buried him beside the river.

In the 1970s, before the Bougainville Crisis, my mother arranged a brass plaque honouring Chief Barosi for Kieta's ANZAC Memorial Park. Paul MASON's earlier memorial plaque had long vanished. Over the decades, more bronze plaques disappeared: even a hard-plastic replacement was removed during the turbulent Crisis days. At one point, people demanded Danmark's family pay for the park's upkeep, despite it being government land and despite Sirovai, the BAKAU's family home, lying more than twenty kilometres away.

Still, we hope a permanent memorial can one day be restored to the plinth to honour a chief whose sacrifice deserves recognition.

One lingering question remains. Given the Japanese threats, is it wild speculation to consider the locals who turned EBURY in were hoping to trade his life for Barosi's? We will never know.

¹Pronounced Torokay



Danmark Bakau's family. Sirovai village circa mid-1970s. Merle Wall MBE in the back row. Okonung (white hair), Barosi's widow, stands in front of Merle.



Please note the language on this plaque reflects the period circa 1970s, and is not supported today.



Barosi's widows. L-R Okonung, Uke in white dress. Circa 1970s. Photos courtesy of Christine Leonard

WEB LINKS • USEFUL WEBSITES



*Free UK Genealogy provides free, online access to family history records. We work with a team of dedicated volunteers to create high-quality transcriptions of public records from governmental sources, parish churches, and other trusted institutions. We believe that Open Data and Open Source are key to making and keeping public records accessible to all. We collaborate with others who share our objectives. Project websites include **FreeBMD**, **FreeReg** and **FreeCen**.*

FreeBMD2 make-over

Bobbie Edes

If you haven't recently gone into **FreeBMD** then you are in for a pleasant surprise as the website has had quite an update and is now under <https://www.freebmd2.org.uk/>

The site still has the option to search for the Birth, Marriage or Death Record, but it is much crisper with a wider search box.

You can also search **FreeCen** in the same site for Census results by going to the icons at the bottom of the web page. Click on the **FreeCen** icon and it will take you to this address: <https://www.freecen.org.uk/>

FreeReg is one of the site's best features that you may have missed in the past. To get to it, look at the bottom of the **FreeBMD2** page: <https://www.freereg.org.uk/>

To find out more about any one place, go to *Database* in the main top menu. Once you choose the District, Year and Event a list will come up. The statistics are shown in the table. An explanation is shown at the bottom of the A-Z Index of District names

Lastly – a HELP! Menu, which is always handy if you have a problem.

Search tip:

FreeBMD covers records for England and Wales only, not Scotland, Ireland or overseas.

Narrow your search by choosing start and end dates, single first name and/or surname, and limiting searches to one county or one district.

Free UK Genealogy records are currently divided into three separate projects:



FreeBMD provides free access to birth, marriage and death records. This resource is ideal for those beginning research into their ancestry. The central recording of births, marriages and deaths was started in 1837 and is one of the most significant resources for genealogical research. The transcribing of records is carried out by teams of dedicated volunteers and the database contains index information for the period 1837-1996.



FreeCEN offers a free, online database of the 19th century UK census returns. Census data can provide the full name, exact age, relationship to head of household, sex, occupation, parish and county of birth, medical disabilities and employment status of an individual. Later census years have more information. FreeCEN are currently working on the 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871, and 1891 censuses. Some counties have now started transcribing the 1881 census.



FreeREG houses registers of baptisms, marriages and burials of the Church of England and other organisations. The recording of non-civic registers began in England and Wales in 1538; this is separate and distinct from the civil registration process that began in 1837.

Genealogical Society Queensland - www.gsq.org.au/learn/web-links/

GSQ recognises that the internet is an important source of information for family historians. So we have included a directory of web sites that we believe will help members and visitors with their research. If there are web sites not included that you have found to be of some value, please let us know so that we can include them in our directory.



SHORT *Tales*

A VISIT TO THE DENTIST

Eileen Kuhn

It must have occurred sometime around 1942 or 1943, when I was teaching at a one teacher school called Bringalily, in the Millmerran district. I developed toothache and needed to see the dentist. I had rung for an appointment and told the children I would be absent for the day. None of us owned cars in those days and I probably travelled to Millmerran by the cream truck which travelled round the district, pulling up at the farmers' gates to collect cans of cream which were left there for the driver to pick up and take to the Millmerran railway station. From there they were sent on a train to the Toowoomba Butter Factory (I think it went about three times a week but cannot be sure today).

Anyway, I arrived in Millmerran and was given directions to find the dentist, who lived on the outskirts of the small town, and had his surgery in the front room of his house. I walked there and he admitted me. He was an elderly man, about 70 or over, and was a widower. He installed me in the dental chair and then put a clamp over my tongue which made it impossible for me to speak as he'd firmly jammed it down. He began to inspect my teeth, tapping them in turn with some instrument. He was panting somewhat and the tapping seemed irregular and all over the place and I tried to sit up, but he pushed me back, made some more random taps and then to my horror,

collapsed on the floor. I stood up and when I discovered I couldn't rouse him to consciousness, I ran through the hallway of the house to the back door, all the time trying to dislodge the clamp which stubbornly refused to move.

I ran to the back fence, where a woman was hanging out washing, and literally 'gibbered' at her pointing from my mouth to the house in turn. Goodness knows what she thought but she opened the little gate and I rushed her to the dentist's surgery, where the poor fellow still lay unconscious on the floor. Another frantic yank loosened the clamp and I was able to speak coherently. I can't recall what happened, but she must have rung for an ambulance, as one turned up, pronounced the dentist dead, and took him away.

Back at Bringalily, I wrote next day to the Education Department, requesting a day's leave and they replied saying they needed a signed certificate from the dentist testifying that I had been there. I had to write back and say it was impossible since he'd passed away during my visit. I felt incredibly foolish writing it, but no doubt they rang some authority in Millmerran to verify my story.

For the life of me, I have no recollection of where I went eventually to have my tooth attended to, perhaps it was close to a vacation break and I waited till then.

August 2015



GSQ Christmas Afternoon Tea

13 December @ 2pm - 4PM (AEST)

Come and Join in with all your GSQ Genie friends and celebrate a Christmas Afternoon Tea at GSQ.

Being held on the last Saturday that GSQ is open for this year, 2025.

This has always been a great event and time for us all to get together and celebrate for the new coming year. Tell what and who we want to find



out about next year or even over the Christmas Break. **The Christmas Hamper Raffle will be drawn during the Afternoon Tea.**

Please email president@gsq.org.au to advise you will be attending so that we have numbers for ordering purposes.

So we'll see you at this event or in 2026! Remember we are here to help with tools and resources for your family research! Join us at 25 Stackpole Street, Wishart, Qld.



BLOG BEAT

Snippets from GSQ's Blog | www.gsq-blog.gsq.org.au/

September - December 2025

31 August 2025 – Pauline Williams

My coal mining ancestors

In June 2025, GSQ's Writing Group explored writing family stories around themes. Pauline wrote about her plan to focus on coal mining, using examples from her paternal ancestry in the Midlands. She presented a number of topics that could be explored and then presented an informative piece about coalmining, adding some insights from her own family.

7 September 2025 – Shauna Hicks

Still walking in ancestral footsteps

Shauna combined a conference trip to Townsville where she had a paper accepted at the Australian Historical Association conference, with exploring her ancestors' paths in Northern and Central Queensland. Her Scottish 2nd great-grandmother was an opal miner and Shauna visited key family sites, mining areas, and museums. She reflected on ancestral challenges and plans further research in Thargomindah next year.

14 September 2025 – Janice Cooper

Francis Theobald Heffernan c.1840-1908

Sample handwriting in a poem introduces the story of Janice's great-grandfather, Francis Theobald Heffernan, who emigrated from Dublin to Queensland in 1862. Initially seeking gold, he also worked on the railway, even after losing his wife. He travelled for work and served as a committee secretary, before returning to mining.

21 September 2025 – Sue Bell

Duels were now only fought by snobs

Sue describes how duelling, once used to restore honour, faded in the mid-19th-century and uses two examples. Her 3rd great-grandfather John Harris, a surgeon on the Second Fleet, averted a duel between John Macarthur and Captain Gilbert in 1790. Fifty years later, Joshua Bell won £200 damages in a slander case against Pearce, signaling a shift to legal dispute resolution.

28 September 2025 – Catherine Thompson

Thomas Thompson: The Patriarch of the Family

An 1855 letter, bearing the address 17th Lock, Landenstown, reveals Catherine's 2nd great-grandfather as a devout Irish Catholic and a family man. Catherine traces the family's moves along the Grand Canal from Ticknevin to Landenstown, and in 2015 she walked along the Grand Canal, strengthening her connection to her ancestors, especially after being welcomed into a local family home at the 17th Lock.

5 October 2025 – Catherine Thompson

William F Thompson of Newbridge in Co Kildare, Ireland

William was the eldest son of Thomas Thompson, the subject of Catherine's previous blog. Of special interest was the discovery of a 99-year lease signed by William in 1858 and a painting of a cottage belonging to the Thompson family which had been shared in a tree on the Ancestry website.

12 October 2025 – Jill Ball

An Heirloom in our Family

Jill recounts the Gowans family story and how 'James the Clock' - a handsome Scottish clock crafted by James Gowans (1806-1886), Jill's husband's 3rd great-grandfather - made its way into her home's foyer, where it stands proudly. It took eight years to locate, transport to Australia, and install.

19 October 2025 – Marg Doherty

My mum, the nurse

Marg tells about her mother, Rene Morris who trained as a nurse in Queensland before and during WWII. She worked in several hospitals and, despite facing tough conditions and limited career options for

women, supported colleagues during the war. She was proud of her nursing career, which she left to focus on family life.

26 October 2025 – Yvonne Tunny

Mary Ann's Cottage

Information can come from unexpected places. While searching for information about her mother's family, Yvonne came across a blog post about a cycling trip with details about a Bed and Breakfast cottage. Mary Ann's Cottage turned out to be the home of her great-grandfather's half-brother, Maurice Schneider, and his wife Mary Ann (née Westaway).

2 November 2025 – Andrew Redfern

The Ground Beneath their Feet: Discovering Family stories through Land Records

Andrew Redfern argues that land records can reveal intimate family stories by tracing property ownership, tenure, and shifts across generations. Through examples he shows how maps and titles connect people to place, history, and community, while highlighting Indigenous stewardship and the broader colonial context.

9 November 2025 – Ross Hansen

A Comedy of Errors or just bad luck

Ross highlights how thorough family historians must be when searching documents for ancestors. Using examples from his late wife's family, he describes many such cases. As well as the expected different spelling of surnames, he found transcription errors, previous children missed on later birth registrations, and even the wrong country of birth given by the person themselves.

16 November 2025 – Pauline Williams

Family photos can help tell a story

Pauline expands the proverb 'clothes maketh the man' to include women and uses photos of her great-grandmother Mary Paddock, to show how clothing reflects social status. She notes that Mary's attire, especially her shawl, suggests comfort, but her expression reveals sadness and resignation in later life.

23 November 2025 – Christine Leonard

The Hallams of the Whitsundays

Christine's great-grandparents were pioneers of Bowen in the Whitsundays, North Queensland. Her story follows the industrious, but inexperienced Billy, as he first became a fisherman, then bought a small boat, allowing him to cut and supply timber. She recalls some of the many cyclones the family experienced while raising their nine children and building a farm, which remained in the family's hands until the 1940s.

1 December 2025 – Linda Kuhn

Christmas at Grannie Bell's

Linda shares a story about her mother's maternal grandparents, finishing with a favourite story of a cherished childhood tradition, 'Christmas at Grannie Bell's', where family gathered, Pop toasted absent loved ones, Grannie gave small gifts, cousins played games, adults danced to family music, and laughter filled the air. Even in later years, Grannie fondly remembered these joyful gatherings and continued to dance into her eighties.

8 December 2025 – Char Sale

A Woman of Character

Char's post explores the life of her great-grandmother as she moved from poverty in Scotland to the heat of northern Queensland, experiencing loss, love, and a life far from her family of origin. Working in a cotton mill, living in Hughenden and on Thursday Island, and a 'foreign' son-in-law, were just some of the challenges she faced.

From the GSQ Librarian ...



Do you know that GSQ members are able to access issues of **eJournals** from other societies through **MyGSQ Exchange Journals**? These include various family history societies in England, Scotland, Ireland, Germany, USA, New Zealand and of course Australia. Issues are generally retained for around three years.

The library catalogue https://catalogue.gsq.org.au/cgi-bin/koha/opac-page.pl?page_id=28 provides a list of the other societies who send us copies of journals for members to access.

Should you be a GSQ member and would like to be notified when a new issue of any of these eJournals are received, please email the **Librarian** librarian@gsq.org.au. In the email, please advise the ones of interest and we will add you to an email alert.

Sandy Liddle

GSQ Catalogue

The GSQ Library contains thousands of resources, unique records and publications.

The library is updated on a regular basis and is a valuable source of information, especially for those records which are not yet online. The Catalogue can be searched by the title of the publication, its author(s), keyword or ISBN and can be accessed from the Society's webpage at: <https://catalogue.gsq.org.au/>



SOME RECENT ACCESSIONS AUGUST - SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2025

BOOK Titles	Author	CALL No.
"We served" : war time Wandsworth and Battersea, 1939-1945	Shaw, Anthony	LND/205/030
A walk around Fulham Palace and its garden	Flower, Sibylla Jane	LND/205/025
Bound for Botany Bay : British convict voyages to Australia	Brooke, Alan	AUS/145/016
Building railways	Wood, James L	SCT/225/004
Celtic myths and legends	Matthews, John	UK/605/001
Christian names in local and family history	Redmonds, George	WW/320/006
Early modern genealogy : researching your family history, 1600-1838	Chambers, Paul	UK/310/035
Everyday fashions of the 20th century	Landsell, Avril	WW/105/009
Fair game : Australia's first immigrant women	Rushen, Elizabeth	AUS/630/002
Fulham as it was : a selection of photographs with captions		LND/205/028
Glastonbury, Wells and the Levels : a shortish guide	White, Paul	SOM/205/012
Ladybirds on the wall : growing up in West Kensington, 1920-1940	Denny, Barbara	LND/535/001
Medicine in the Parish of Fulham from the fourteenth century : Fulham Hospital, 1884-1959	Wyman, Arthur Lewis	LND/225/004
Retracing the first public railway	Bayliss, Derek A	ENG/225/002
St. John the Baptist Church Chilcompton : a short history	Atthill, Robin	SOM/220/004
Testing the chains : resistance to slavery in the British West Indies	Craton, Michael	WIN/105/001
The archaeology of Hammersmith and Fulham	Mills, Peter	LND/205/026
The clans and tartans of Scotland	Bain, Robert	SCT/605/026
The forgotten lives : gypsies and travellers on the Westway site	Kyriacou, Sav	LND/535/003
The history and family tree of Dougald McDougall's three known children ... and their descendants in Australia, 1801-1984	O'Donohue, Annette Marie	525/MCD/007
The instant past : old Hammersmith in pictures		LND/205/016
The Phillimore atlas and index of parish registers	Humphery-Smith, Cecil R	UK/905/003
The story of Wandsworth : the history of the Borough of Wandsworth based on displays at Wandsworth Museum		LND/205/027
Workhouse : the people, the places, the life behind doors	Fowler, Simon	UK/225/002
JOURNAL Titles	Date	CALL No.
Germanic genealogy journal	Vol 28, No 1,2 (Spring-Summer 2025)	GER/425/013
Links 'n' chains : newsletter of the Liverpool & District Family History Society	No 141 (Oct 2025)	NSW/425/047
Te Reo : newsletter	Vol 32 No 3 (Aug 2025)	NZ/425/002.1
The Midland ancestor : journal of the Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy and Heraldry	Vol 20 No 11 (Sep 2025)	WAR/425/001





GSQ Mini Seminar Sat 28 March 2026 - 9am-lpm



From Europe to Australia: tracing the roots of migrant ancestors

5 FANTASTIC PRESENTERS

- ▶ **David Obee** - *Eastern European Family History Online*
- ▶ **Charlotte Sale** - *Italian family history*
- ▶ **Eric Kopittke** - *My ancestors were German: Can I research my family history*
- ▶ **Eve Terry** - *Diaspora: The Greek migrant experience in Queensland*
- ▶ **My Heritage** - *30-minute presentation*

BOOKINGS & PAYMENT

Tickets on sale now:

GSQ/QFHS/Affiliate/Corporate Members \$45
Non-members \$55

Book online at:

www.gsq.org.au/events/

Further payment options or queries:

email: education@gsq.org.au
or call GSQ: 07 3349 6072

All sessions will be recorded and available for one month's viewing after the event to registered attendees.

THE LAST WORD. [GSQ • THE EDITOR]



It is timely to thank those who have shared their various skills, which demonstrate a variety of strengths across different areas, for the benefit of GSQ. Volunteers with technical and computer skills maintain our website (which is about to be updated) and keep the computers at the Research Centre running. Another computer-based contribution comes from those who produce *Generation* (quarterly), *Enews* (monthly), and *Blogs* (weekly). Both publications help keep members informed.

Other volunteers open the Research Centre so members can access databases and records, which have been purchased over many years. Some volunteers help with fundraising at Bunnings barbecues, and everyone can contribute to our fundraising through the Containers for Change scheme – every bottle and can helps. Committee members see to the smooth running of GSQ, paying necessary bills, and some volunteers help transcribe records, which will make them more available to members and others. There are so many roles available at GSQ – perhaps one which

matches your skills.

Take the time to learn from weekly blogs, semi-regular education sessions, seminars, and other learning opportunities, Interest Group meetings (there are nine different groups which meet about every two months; see dates for 2026 later in *Generation*), as well as regular fortnightly Zoom sessions which you can enjoy from the comfort of your own home. Remember that the MyGSQ section of the GSQ website contains various databases and indexes that can aid your research.

Participation has its own benefits. Going to the GSQ Research Centre or joining a Zoom session allows you to share your genealogical problems with like-minded people, who understand your research problems.

Take advantage during 2026 of the many ways GSQ can help you further your family history research.

Janice



Get the most out of your

GSQ MEMBERSHIP

The members' only section of our website allows you access to databases such as:

- Funeral Directors Records index and images
- Cemetery Records Index
- Pedigree Charts index
- Unrelated Certificates index and images
- QLD communal settlers index
- Generation journal
- Catholic records index
- Research interests of other members

GSQ members have Access to MyGSQ

When you join GSQ, you will gain access to the accumulated experience of many other researchers as well as gain access to one of Australia's best resourced family history centres.

Other member benefits include:

- Access to GSQ's Centre at Wishart which includes a large library of books and magazines from Australia and the rest of the world, plus thousands of research resources, microfiche, etc.
- Free access to subscription websites, such as **Ancestry, Find My Past** (which now includes full access to the 1921 Census), **MyHeritage, The Genealogist, British Newspapers Archive, Australian Biographical Database, RootsIreland, Irish Ancestors, Fold3, and Society of Genealogists UK (SOG).**
- GSQ's monthly eNews and quarterly journal *Generation* (emailed to members for no charge). Printed copies for members \$65 (posted within Australia). Non-members: Electronic \$45 and printed posted within Australia \$75
- Interest Groups which meet monthly or bi-monthly
- Education courses and workshops with reduced rates for members and secure online booking via

the Events Calendar or GSQ Shop

- Discounts on GSQ products such as genealogical books, magazines, etc
- Limited free research for members who reside more than 100km from GSQ
- Free publication of research interests in MyGSQ section of website
- Reciprocal visiting rights to other family history societies – see full list at: <https://www.gsq.org.au/what-gsq-offers/reciprocal-arrangements/>

Member's interest areas:

One of the advantages of membership of GSQ is to be able to contact other members who may be researching a surname and/or place of interest to you. Log into MyGSQ and access the Member's Interest Areas to search for a surname or place.

Members are encouraged to submit their interests. Contact webcoordinator@gsq.org.au and list the surnames that you are researching, together with location and period details. Your email address will allow other members to contact you.

Try this out. You could find someone who can help with your research. Or, you might find a new cousin!

<https://www.gsq.org.au/what-gsq-offers/membership/>

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