

Generation

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND INC.

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www.gsqa.org.au

St. Helena Island



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OPENING TIMES

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.

FRONT COVER IMAGE:



Citation:

Montage image of St Helena Island prison:
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Generation

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND INC.

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Contents

June- July - August 2025

Stories

<i>When your great great grandafther buries your hunsband's great great grandfather</i> - Compiled by Belinda Daly	9
<i>From Godly Mechanics to Farmers: the Nundah Missionaries</i> - Yvonne Tunny	12
<i>The Peats Ferry Disaster</i> - Elisabeth Kissel	16
<i>North Queensland Conservatorium of Music: a Retrospective – 50 years on</i> - Barbara A Barnaby	30
<i>Short Tales: For his country</i> - Russell Fraser	32
<i>GSQ Wednesday Morning Zoom, hosted by Bobbie Edes - An exercise in research and creative writing</i>	33

Regular & Special Features

From the Editor	4
Presidential Lines	5
Welcome New Members	6
GSQ AGM - Date grabber	6
Remember the society in your will	7
Volunteer report - Margaret Coleman Award	8
Events: Calendar, Education Program, GSQ Interest Groups	19
GSQ event report: <i>Conference 2025</i>	22
Focus on: DNA Group	25
Spotlight on Resources: GSQ Collection & Records	26
Notice: GSQ Annual Seminar 2025	27
Book Review: <i>Tinpot Navy</i> by Anthony Delano	28
Featured sources: <i>Harry Gentle Resource Centre</i>	29
Tips & Tools: NAA - research your family	35
Blog Beat	36
From the Librarian + Library Accessions	37
'What is Koha?'	38
The Last Word	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...

As a long-term reader of *Generation*, it is an absolute pleasure to have the opportunity to bring you the June edition as the new Editor. I know how many hours of work Russell put into *Generation*, and I hope to continue bringing you an amazing journal that showcases your work and the many fascinating areas of genealogy that have us all hooked!

In this issue you can read about unearthing the trail of distant ancestors on St Helena Island (and discovering incredible coincidences along the way that were once thought unremarkable), the life of the Nundah missionaries, the Peats Ferry Disaster in 1887, and the North Queensland Conservatorium of Music. It is wonderful where our genealogy research journeys take us!

The GSQ DNA Group is the focus for the Special Interest Group column in this issue, and is well worth reading if you are interested in this area. Don't forget to read Jennifer Harrison's write up of the Connections Conference! The Conference might be over, but we are still most definitely enjoying all the new knowledge and skills we shared at the Conference. We also have a contribution from the GSQ 'Wednesday Morning Zoom' group, showcasing their research and creative writing skills through a series of articles on West Australian towns in existence at the time of Federation.

We also have many of the regular columns in this issue, including upcoming events and interest group meeting dates, new library accessions, a book review, Short Tales, and Blog Beat. You can also read some tips for using the National Archives of Australia in your genealogy research, as well as the Harry Gentle Resource Centre Dictionary of Biography, a free, online resource that covers Pre-Separation Queensland.

Jessica Stroja
Editor

Presidential Lines...



It is my pleasure to introduce all readers to Generation's new editor, Dr Jessica Stroja. Jessica very kindly answered my plea for somebody to fill the void left by Russell Fraser's departure due to ill health. A warm welcome Jessica!

What a magnificent event it was!! I'm, of course referring to the GSQ organised Connections Past Present Future Conference conducted over three Days in March. From my point of view, it was so good to observe and feel the excitement in the air as 400 Family Historians met face to face for the first time since the COVID outbreak – yes, there have been some smaller events and Zoom conferences, but this was the first large event which enabled them to meet and chat (and chat they did!) and participate in the great sessions provided by Speakers from throughout the world. In this edition of Generation our Patron, Dr Jennifer Harrison's BLOG from 26 May 2025 has been republished – Jennifer so aptly captured the excitement of the few days, so grab a cuppa, put your feet up and read/reread Jennifer's clever interpretation of the Conference. I would like to thank the Conference Committee members who worked together so well over a period of more than two years to produce the Conference. These members were: David Barnes (Conference Convenor), Kay Ryan

(representing both AFFHO and History Queensland), Jan Bimrose (Conference Booklet Editor), Marg Doherty (Speaker Convenor), Mike Murphy (Accommodation and Transport), and myself. I would particularly like to express my appreciation for the wholehearted effort from David Barnes – his focus was totally on the Conference for the entire lead up time of more than two years.

The Margaret Coleman Volunteer Award was presented during a special Morning Tea conducted on Saturday, 31 May. The winner of the Award for 2025 was Sue Grant, GSQ's Assistant Treasurer – Sue works diligently very much behind the scenes to assist the Treasurer in ensuring GSQ's financial viability. Congratulations, Sue! Patron Dr Jennifer Harrison spoke about volunteering during the Morning Tea and presented Sue with her Award.

Helen Veivers
President



KEY DATES FOR 2025

GSQ Open Day:

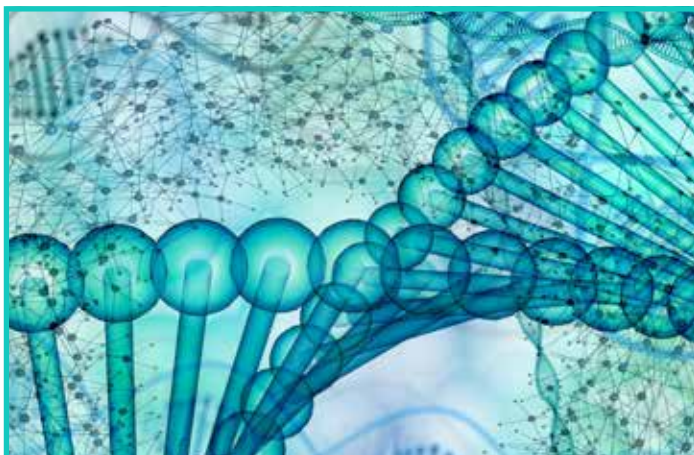
Sat 23 Aug 10am - 3pm

GSQ Annual Seminar:

Sat 11 Oct 11:30am - 6pm

Annual General Meeting (AGM):

Sat 18 Oct 10am - 12pm



DNA ties us all together; we share ancestry with barracuda and bacteria and mushrooms, if you go far enough back.

Spencer Wells

Welcome to New and Re-joined Members

Helen Veivers, 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.



Carol Cronk

Daniel Walker

Pamela Spall

Penelope Morris

Anne Maranda

Jeffrey Leslie Garrett

Marcia Dawn Haskins

Neil Gregory Wilson

Verity Hodges

Sharon R O'Brien

John Kelly

Dianne Lyn MacLean Whiting

Cherie Strickland

Ruth Kennedy

David John Hull

Lyn Hanlon

Esther Lalor

Darryl Charles Low Choy

Vicki Narelle Strid

Linda Hayes

Tricia Botta

Bernadette Staunton

Jacqui Kirkman

Patricia Wilson

Kaio Cesar Queiroz Madruga

Ann Margaret Vaughan

Katherine Anne Zarins

Julia Briskey

Anne Morrison

Vida Robertson

Doris Sadlier-Horomia

Patricia Junho



GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND Inc

Enriching family history

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The date of the AGM has been set as

Saturday, 18 October 2025 at 10.00am - 12pm

Nominations will be called for the positions of:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Up to 7 Management Committee members

Further information will be made available later.

At GSQ, 25 Stackpole Street, Wishart Q 4122

**Saturday
18 October 2025
at 10.00 am**

Please remember the Society in your will...



After you have provided for loved ones, why not support the other things in life that gave you joy?

By leaving a gift to the Society in your will, you are helping to ensure that its work and unique facilities can be continually improved and extended for future generations, perhaps even for your own descendants.

Legacies play a vital part in the Society's fundraising. They allow the Society the financial freedom to invest in crucial improvements and updates that would otherwise be unattainable.

The Society has been helping people to research their family history for over 40 years. We want to ensure future members will be celebrating the Society's centenary.

Leaving a gift in your will, you can be part of the Society's future as well as its past.

All gifts, whether large or small are immensely important to the Society.



For more information or to discuss leaving a gift to the Society in your will, please contact the President, at president@gsq.org.au or by mail to PO Box 1467, Carindale, QLD 4152 Website: www.gsq.org.au

DGR status: 46 025 286 168
ABN: 46 025 286 168

Further information about the types of bequest

- **General purpose:** your gift to GSQ is used for general purposes, depending on our needs at the time.
- **Specific purpose:** you specify the purpose of your gift in your will.
- **Specific bequest:** a specific amount.
- **Residual bequest:** this is the remainder of your estate after the other terms of your will are satisfied.
- **Proportional bequest:** a percentage of your estate is gifted to GSQ.

Please note

As estate planning is a complex area, we recommend that you seek professional legal and taxation advice to ensure that you are appropriately informed of your options and so that your Will operates in the exact manner that you intend it to.



The National Volunteer Week, in May 2025, celebrated the power of volunteering to bring people together with the theme *Connecting Communities*.

Every year GSQ acknowledges and celebrates our volunteers at our Morning Tea event, to honour their contributions made to GSQ in the past, now, and into the future and to share our gratitude and appreciation.

You may not realise it but every task in the Library is undertaken by volunteers. All members of the GSQ Management Committee are also volunteers. In fact every position that is required to help run GSQ is done by volunteers (*including the editing and design team of this Generation journal*). Without all of these wonderful people who love Genealogy and Family History and what GSQ stands for, GSQ would not exist.

As changes occur with people in their daily lives, we are constantly in need of people to volunteer their time. If you could spare a few hours per month it would be sincerely appreciated. We would especially like to welcome new members to the volunteer group.

There are even positions that you can do from home, and the little things like vacuuming the floor, washing the cups at the end of the day, and just being there to help support other volunteers. If you can assist in doing something like that, then please contact the Volunteer Coordinator.

We have a form outlining many of the different roles and positions. If a role or position that you can do is not on that form, then please let us know as we are always keen to obtain help in many ways.

If you are interested in volunteering, please complete the GSQ Volunteer Form, save it and attach it in an email to the Volunteer Coordinator: volunteer@gsq.org.au

You don't have to be an expert in any of the volunteering listed fields – a willingness to learn and enthusiasm are all that is required.

Thank You!

Kim Davis
Volunteer Coordinator



MARGARET COLEMAN AWARD

Jennifer Harrison [GSQ Patron], Helen Veivers [GSQ President], **Margaret Colman Award winner, Sue Grant** [GSQ Assistant Treasurer]

At the GSQ Volunteer Morning Tea held in May, the 2024 winner of the Margaret Coleman Award for Volunteer of the Year was announced and presented to **Sue Grant**.

Sue Grant is our Assistant Treasurer, who does such a sterling job in keeping the organisation's finance in order. The award was presented by GSQ Patron Dr Jennifer Harrison. Well done Sue.

Margaret Coleman was a longstanding member and volunteer for GSQ and, following her passing in 2020, her family donated a bequest in her memory, the funds of which were to be used to purchase a perpetual trophy and individual trophies for a period of ten years, to be presented to the Volunteer of the Year. We appreciate Margaret and her family for this generous acknowledgement of the ongoing contributions our volunteers make to the society.

WHEN YOUR GREAT-GREAT GRANDFATHER BURIES YOUR HUSBAND'S GREAT-GREAT GRANDFATHER

On a prison Island

Image sourced from The St Helena Island Community website

Compiled by Belinda Daly

People living 120 years ago have no sense of what will play out in the lives of the people that will become their descendants. They are merely living their lives and those of their children, the next generation. It is only when we look back that we can start to build a sequence of facts regarding our ancestors' life events and weave these together into a story. And for any genealogist, there is great joy in unearthing the trail back to distant ancestors.

Sometimes the trail leads back to incredible coincidences – events that may have felt unremarkable at the time but later play out to showcase to all of us the interconnectedness of people over time and space. Such a story was presented to me by Lois, who began to trace back the family histories of her family and also her husband's family. What she found was remarkable – a connection of two families 120 years ago and reconnection of those families again today.

Lois knew her and her husband's ancestors were connected to St Helena Island, Moreton Bay. At the time her ancestors were there, it was a prison island, home to the St Helena Penal Establishment.



William Bowden, Chief Warder of St Helena Penal Establishment, with his wife Sarah Gawn. Image sourced from Moreton Bay EEC.

What makes this story interesting is that these ancestors were on either side of the prison bars.

Lois's ancestors were the BOWDEN family, one of the very long-term families who lived and worked on St Helena for over 40 years. William BOWDEN Snr began as a Warder at St Helena Penal Establishment on the 25 September 1871. This was the first and his last location for his employment with the Queensland Prisons service. Throughout his time at St Helena, he also became a Turnkey, a Senior Warder and finally rose to the rank of Chief Warder within the prison by the time he retired on the 26 November 1913.¹



Star Queen, May 1875 (John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland, Negative No. 63421).

William BOWDEN and his wife Sarah GAWN were born and married in County Antrim, Ireland.² They both emigrated to Moreton Bay, Queensland aboard the *Star Queen* in 1869, with two children, James being born at sea.³ The family settled in Brisbane, while William worked at St Helena, but the whole family, including four children, decided to live together on St Helena Island from 1873/1874 when new married quarters were built and made available to the BOWDEN family.⁴ What looked like a blissful time turned to tragedy when the youngest daughter Sarah Margaret died on St Helena on the 14 February 1874.⁵ This is the first known death of a warder's child on St Helena.



View of early Brisbane, Queensland, 1862. Source: State Library of Queensland

The BOWDEN family had extensive connections to St Helena. Over the years, all nine children lived on St Helena Island at some point, and they potentially were educated at the island school for some periods. Sarah BOWDEN (nee GAWN) appears on many birth certificates as the nurse or midwife who helped deliver many children of warders' families, but she never gave birth to any of her own children on St Helena Island. Two of the BOWDEN sons worked on St Helena as warders themselves – James from 1900 to around 1903 and William Jnr in 1900.¹

Not only that, but two of the BOWDEN daughters married St Helena warders. Eldest daughter Mary married David SUFFERN an Irish seaman who deserted ship in Victoria, Australia in 1875.⁶

By 1886, David became a warder and boatman on St Helena Island, and by 1888 the two married in Brisbane.⁷ They were later given a cottage on the island to reside in.⁴ Another daughter Alice BOWDEN married Charles Weston DAVIDSON, a Scottish soldier and Queensland policeman.⁸ His arrival in 1888 saw him appointed as a warder, but he was to serve as a Senior Warder for 19 years.¹ Charles and Alice were married in 1899⁷ and were given immediate approval to both live on St Helena Island in married quarters,⁴ where daughters Muriel and Agnes were born in 1903 and 1905.⁷

Inside the prison that the BOWDEN/SUFFERN/DAVIDSON family guarded were hundreds of prisoners. These prisoners were people whose crimes ranged from vagrancy and drunkenness to manslaughter and murder. However, for many decades, St Helena had held the majority of long-term criminals in Queensland, many whom had been sentenced to life in prison. One such prisoner was Jonathon LONGLAND, who arrived at St Helena P.E. on the 9 October 1896, aged 59 years old.⁹ His crime? The murder of his wife, Mary STONE, mother to his 13 children.

The story was sensational at the time, not only for the act itself but for the fact the STONE family was so well known in South Brisbane. Job and Elizabeth STONE and their entire family emigrated to Moreton Bay, Qld aboard the *Mary Pleasant*, arriving on the 9 August 1857.¹⁰ In 1875, one of the sons of the STONE family, James, purchased land on the corner of the present-day Logan and Old Cleveland Roads and later operated a ginger

beer shop on this site. The area is still known as Stone's Corner today. Jonathon and Mary LONGLAND ran a General Store at Sunnyside (Morningside), an inner suburb of Brisbane. Their store, established in 1887, also became the first Post Office for the area.¹¹



Jonathon Longland and his wife Mary nee Stone. Image sourced from Moreton Bay EEC.

When under the influence of alcohol, Jonathon LONGLAND often fought with his wife Mary and threatened her, believing her to be having an affair. On the 2 May 1896, one event changed the entire LONGLAND family forever. In the court case that followed, daughter Louisa LONGLAND aged 12 years, described how on that evening she and her mother were sitting by the table in the sitting-room, sewing and reading. Jonathon LONGLAND came into the room with a candle which he placed on the table. Louisa heard a shot and saw a firearm in her father's hand. Immediately after the shot her mother Mary put her left hand to her breast and said, 'I am dead.' Her father then left while Mary ran out of the house to the neighbours with Louisa following screaming. Nothing could be done.¹²

Jonathon had been given the death sentence for the murder of his wife Mary, but this was later commuted to life and finally commuted to 12 years. He was transferred to St Helena Penal Establishment where he was admitted as prisoner



St Helena Island Prisoner's cemetery. Jonathon Longland was buried here under headstone number 4382 in 1904. Image sourced from Zak Smith.



number 4382. Jonathon was eventually due for release on the 10 August 1908, but he didn't make his release date. On the 21 October 1904, Jonathon LONGLAND died while still incarcerated in St Helena Penal Establishment, dying from Senile Decay, Influenza and Exhaustion, aged 67 years.⁹

It is here that the two worlds collide. Jonathon LONGLAND'S death certificate shows that he died and was buried on St Helena Island in the prisoners' cemetery, under a headstone imprinted with No. 4382. His death was certified by his son David LONGLAND and his burial was presided over by Church of England minister Hugh T. MOLESWORTH. However, his burial witnesses were not his immediate family – well, at least at that time. Standing by his grave as witnesses who were overseeing his burial stood Chief Warder William BOWDEN Snr and Senior Warder Charles W. DAVIDSON.¹³

What's remarkable is that Lois' husband was the 2nd great grandson of Jonathon LONGLAND. In her research she realised that her 2nd great grandfather buried her husband's 2nd great grandfather on St Helena Island. The two were worlds apart on the same island. It would be generations later that the BOWDEN and LONGLAND family came together - this time not in death but in marriage.



The Family History Federation has launched a series of monthly podcasts, beginning in September 2021. 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 our guests sharing their thoughts on a wide range of topics relating to family history.

For more information and links to upcoming podcasts, see <https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/podcast>

Compiled by Belinda Daly, May 2024

The St Helena Island Community

Do you have any ancestors who may have been on St Helena Island? If so, contact Belinda and Sandy via the St Helena Island Community website for more interesting stories about the people who have been part of this island's fascinating history. Head to: www.sthelenacommunity.com.au

SURNAMES: BOWDEN, GAWN, SUFFERN, DAVIDSON, LONGLAND, STONE, MOLESWORTH.

¹ Register of warders and warders' defaulters' (charge) book - H M Penal Establishment, St Helena, 1882 - 1931. Queensland State Archives, ITM271614

² Ireland Birth Certificate, Ireland Death Certificate, Ireland Marriage Certificate, Irish Genealogy.ie.

³ PERSONAL. (1919, March 3). *The Brisbane Courier* (Qld. : 1864 - 1933), p. 11. Retrieved May 21, 2024, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article20242368>

⁴ Colonial Secretary's Correspondence, Qld State Archives.

⁵ Death certificate for Sarah Margaret Bowden, Qld Births Deaths Marriages Index

⁶ Victoria Deserter Discharged, and Prisoner Crew Lists, 1852-1925 (Victoria, Australia, Public Record Office)

⁷ Qld Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages.

⁸ Queensland Police Service History, Queensland Police Museum

⁹ General Record and Description of Male Prisoners Admitted-HM Penal Establishment 1895-1900

¹⁰ Queensland Passenger Lists 1848-1912

¹¹ Australia Electoral Rolls

¹² THE MORNINGSIDE TRAGEDY. (1896, August 11). *The Brisbane Courier* (Qld. : 1864 - 1933), p. 6. Retrieved May 21, 2024, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article3632207>

¹³ Jonathan Longland's Death certificate sourced from Ross and Lois Longland.



Family Tree Magazine

With so many genealogy websites available for your family history quest, how do you know which sites are the best? Leave it to our genealogy experts! We constantly scour the web for great resources, and once a year, whittle those down to our annual list of the 101 Best Genealogy Websites. Here, we've compiled our picks into a handy directory that makes it easy to find the top sites for your family history goals: Just choose the category that matches your interests to see the best sites to visit. See their website at: <https://www.familytreemagazine.com/best-genealogy-websites/>

FROM GODLY MECHANICS TO FARMERS: THE NUNDAH MISSIONARIES



Image 1- Moreton Bay Settlement 1835 (from South Brisbane) by Henry Boucher Bowerman (State Library of Queensland, ac. no. 3944)

by **Yvonne Tunny**

[first published in The Genealogical Society of Victoria magazine **Ancestor** Volume 36 Issue 2]

The morning light is breaking,
The darkness disappears
The sons of earth are waking,
To penitential tears
Each breeze that sweeps the ocean
Brings tidings from afar
Of nations in commotion,
Prepared for Zion's war...

Samuel F Smith 1832¹

Mum was moving into a retirement unit, and I had come to Brisbane from Melbourne. We sat on her bed as she tipped out a box of old photos and cuttings. 'These can all go,' she said. 'I've taken the ones I want to keep.' I picked up some yellowed pages, stapled together in the corner. FRANZ NOTES, it was labelled.² 'What's this mum?' She told me she had been given this list when she volunteered to preserve the records of the Nundah Historic Cemetery where many of her early family were buried. I knew mum was proud of the fact that her family had been pioneers of Nundah. I flipped through the pages until I came to a longer entry for – FRANZ, Frederick Leopold Theodore. I read how he was part of a missionary group who arrived in Australia in 1838 where they founded a mission in Moreton Bay at what is now the Brisbane suburb of Nundah.

I had never really thought about my ancestors. Here was a young man who had left his home and country to travel thousands of miles to become a

missionary. I wondered what had motivated him. Was it his beliefs, or the chance of a better life? Those pages started me on a journey and passion that would keep me interested in for many years. The journey for my 2nd great grandparents was not so enjoyable.

The Moreton Bay penal settlement, still part of New South Wales in June 1838, was winding down when my 2nd great grandparents arrived.

Theodore Fran(t)z
UNMARRIED MALE IMMIGRANT.
Arrived by the Ship *Minerva*
Brought out by *Rev. Dr. Lang*
A Native of *Prussia Province of Pomerania, Town of*
Stettin - son of Theodore Fran(t)z, Tailor there
and *Dorothea Boese his wife* —
Calling: *a Tailor*
Age on Embarcation: *Twenty three on 25. of January 1837*
From certifying registry of *none produced*
Baptism
Character and person certifying the same } *Rev. John Gooner of Berlin*
and the Rev. Edw. Schmidt
Schmidt —
Date of bodily health, strength, and probable usefulness }
Religion: *Protestant Lutheran*
Remarks: *A free passage so far as he was concerned*
I do hereby Certify, that no Bounty from the Government has been already received on account of the above named Unmarried Male Immigrant, or has been claimed, or is intended to be so, other than the Bounty now applied for
Sydney.

Image 2- Picture of Immigration record for Minerva, Theodore Fran(t)z. [NSW State Archives & Records. Index to Bounty Immigrants Index, 1828-42 (digitised version available at familysearch.org)]



Twenty-three-year-old Friedrich Theodor FRANZ (1814-1898) (Theodore), a tailor from Stolberg Pomerania, in the kingdom of Prussia had been one of the first students of Pastor Johannes Evangelista GOSSNER of the The Bethlehem Church in Berlin.^{3/4}

Gossner believed that the 'godly mechanic' made a better missionary than highly trained scholars and that missionaries should be able to support themselves by working with their own hands, a view at odds with the Berlin Missionary Society.⁵ When the Rev. John Dunmore LANG, the first Presbyterian minister of Sydney, called seeking protestant clergy for a mission settlement in New South Wales, Theodore and the rest volunteered to test the dream of their mentor.⁶ Reverend LANG was horrified at the licentiousness in the convict colony. He promoted and assisted in persuading over four thousand, mostly Scottish highlanders to come to New South Wales. Furthermore, he saw the role of missionaries as part of his plan for religious and moral reform and developing 'Cookland' in the region that stretched roughly from Grafton to Gympie.⁷

Pastor GOSSNER urged the men to take wives for support. His parishioners seemingly obliged and just before the group left Berlin in July 1837, Pastor GOSSNER married six of them.⁸ Unbeknown to Theodore, or anyone else, my 2nd great grandmother, twenty-seven-year-old Maria Caroline /Charlotte Dorothea WEISS (1810-1855) was one of these. She was born in Berlin to Johann WEISS and Wilhelmina Dorothea HEGNECKIE. but in July, she married one of the other missionaries, Moritz SCHNEIDER (1811??-1838), a medical student from Leipzig, Saxony. Theodore and three others remained single.^{9/10}

There was no time for honeymoons as they set out the next day, first to Britain where they received their final training with the Presbyterian Church authorities as required by their sponsor and then from Greenock, Scotland where, along with over two hundred mostly Scottish and Irish tradesmen and families, all mostly Protestant and also sponsored by Rev. LANG, they boarded the *Minerva* in September 1837 on the voyage that would change all their lives.

A diary of the day-to-day events by one of the passengers describes music and dancing on board soon after departure. Even when a few people became ill, they remained in good spirits and enjoyed many new sights. But by November

the shipboard deaths increased. Many steerage passengers were now unwell with typhus, among them the doctor's sister. The mood on board changed as they realised they were fighting a serious disease. Typhus was known to appear when people lived in close proximity to others as would have occurred on the *Minerva*. The missionaries were now kept busy with funerals as the deceased were quickly buried at sea. When the ship's doctor became ill, the missionaries took on the care of the sick, led by Moritz SCHNEIDER, who had some medical training. Some of them, including Theodore FRANZ succumbed to the fever. He recovered on January 16, but Moritz was ill when they landed.¹¹ When the *Minerva* arrived in Sydney on 23 January 1838, she was directed to the Spring Cove quarantine station, but could not land as the hospital only had eighteen beds and there were nearly 40 sick people. They were finally allowed to land over a week later:

The settlement took the quarantine seriously. Soldiers were posted to ensure that no one left and that no townsfolk came in. Moritz SCHNEIDER died on 3 February 1838. He was buried in the quarantine cemetery. The missionaries conducted a service and carved his name and birthplace on a stone. They had lost a valuable worker even before their task of converting the aborigines began. It must have been distressing for his wife Maria, now pregnant and newly widowed in a foreign country. Yet, were it not for his death, our family would not exist as it does today for Theodore FRANZ later married Maria SCHNEIDER and they had six children, from one of whom our family is descended. Overall about 28 people died either on the voyage out in or quarantine.

Some members of the missionary group were released from quarantine in February and left for Moreton Bay in March 1838. Pastor SCHMIDT and the rest, including Theodore and Maria, left in June. The first group of missionaries found a spot for their settlement:

... a suitable locality was immediately fixed for the mission settlement, which the missionaries have called Zion Hill, about seven miles from a government station, called Eagle Farm.¹²

They began to build their houses, close to the road, of strong rough slabs covered with a clay plaster and long grass with four good rooms and



Image 3- Sketch of German Mission at Nundah, Brisbane, 1846 by Carl Friedrich Gerler, (State Library of Queensland Collection)

a kitchen. Each house had about an acre at the front for gardens and orchards, whilst the back was used in common for crops and animals. It was a practical way of utilising resources, but only successful within a close cohesive community.¹³

The first child of my Australian FRANZ family was Moritz (Maurice) Theophilus SCHNEIDER (1838-1871), Maria's son to Moritz SCHNEIDER who died in quarantine. He was the second child for the settlement. It would have been hard for a woman and child alone in that environment and in 1839 she married Theodore FRANZ.

While early dealings with the Yaggera peoples (Jagera and Turrbal), on whose land the mission stood, appeared favourable, within the first few months about thirty locals settled near the mission and some began to attend Sunday service.¹⁴ But their interest was sporadic – they would only come if the missionaries were willing to share food and tobacco. Too often the missionaries did not have enough food for themselves.¹⁵ And they were obliged to dispense with their bell; a tin dish beaten by a stick that was rung to summon them for evening service, as it provided an ideal opportunity for the people to avail themselves of some of the missionaries' possessions. On one occasion some of the missionaries resorted to shooting their guns to scare them off, which led to an inquiry from the Moreton Bay commandant and an explanation sent to Lang.¹⁶

Even as late as 1841 they struggled:

... the very scanty supplies that have been received by them from their society in Sydney has left them in a state bordering on starvation during the last months. I have been obliged to issue them with 1,050lbs of flour from the commissariat magazines here: they have not received any supplies by the last vessel. One of the females fell into such a state of extreme debility, induced by want of proper nourishment after her confinement that the medical officer deemed it necessary to remove her to hospital.¹⁷



The female referred to was my 2nd great grandmother not long after the birth of her second child Jane, her first with Theodore. She was admitted on 30 December 1840 and not discharged until the end of April 1841.

But the missionaries did have success in developing their settlement:

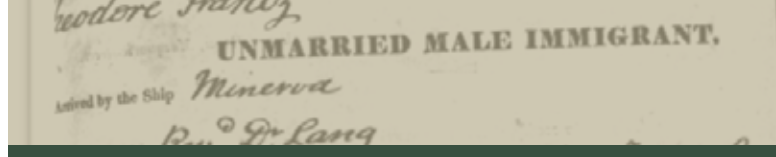
...The spot on which our Zion stands was in 1838 a dense forest in which hardly two or three people could survive and before which even experienced wood cutters would have quailed and there now stands a pretty village with beautiful gardens full of useful plants. It is marvellous because each brother has his own house, stables, outbuildings and gardens...¹⁸

By 1842 there were seventeen children born at the mission. The missionaries erected a schoolhouse and chapel. Pastor SCHMIDT was acknowledged as the tutor, but two of the missionary wives were schoolmistresses so most likely contributed.

After 1842 the mission was administered by a committee of various denominations in Sydney, but when the New South Wales Government withdrew funding in 1843, their support also ceased and the mission was left to its own resources, independent of any church group. Some missionaries left. A Government survey of the area, named the County of Stanley was completed in 1843 and the five year grant on the 640 acres of Zion Hill lapsed in September 1843. The area was declared open to free settlers who 'took up' the Aboriginal land and the Aboriginal people retreated, making contact more difficult for the missionaries. The Rev. EIPPER had moved to Sydney in 1844.

With increasing pressure for land from new settlers, the Governor decided the mission was too close to the Brisbane settlement and that it must transfer further north where the Aboriginal tribes were to be found. They recommenced working an outstation at Nordga, now Burpengary, twenty-six miles to the north which they had abandoned after several altercations with the Aboriginals. But in 1845 an attack on the missionary Gottfried HAUSSMANN'S life which almost succeeded led them to give up the outstation.¹⁹

The remaining missionaries initially decided to continue with their work and farm the land at Zion's Hill now known as German Station. New



settlers openly resented their residence and success in farming the land:

... Our readers are perhaps aware that the German Mission is also abandoned. Sir George Gipps, we think wisely, finding its utter uselessness has discontinued the assistance that it formerly received from the public revenue. The German missionaries, phlegmatic and philosophical, have become German graziers and market gardeners. Located on the rich land of Eagle Farm, commanding an extensive back run; paying neither licence or assessment, it may be gratifying to their friends at a distance to know that they are 'doing well'; that is, that they have much cattle, and their butter and vegetables are highly prized in Brisbane, that if their spiritual harvest has been small, their vegetables are most luxuriant, and if during their mission, they have made no converts, their last increase in calves is at least ninety percent.²⁰

They continued with the mission until about 1850 when it was finally abandoned. Some of the original missionaries purchased land in the area they had worked for years. Theodore FRANZ and Johann ZILLMAN also purchased land in the Caboolture district and were the first settlers at Stoney Creek (now Burpengary Creek).²¹

Over one hundred and fifty years later, much has been written about the failure of the mission.²² The reasons were complex. The lack of funding and their efforts to make their settlement self-sustaining, surely reduced their capacity for missionary work. Their European cultural biases prevented them from seeing that the Yaggara people already had a sophisticated spirituality grounded in their connection with the land. The essentially well-meaning missionary interests of Christianity and humanitarian were in opposition and overruled by the economics and pastoralism. Mission activity in Nundah and early Queensland in general was incompatible with colonial expansion. But the names of these men will be found to crop up continually in the later history of Nundah and south east Queensland. In 1851, Theodore obtained his certificate of naturalisation as an Australian citizen.²³

The house where I sat on the bed as mum tipped out her box of memories was in the suburb of Zillmere where I grew up. I had no idea that it

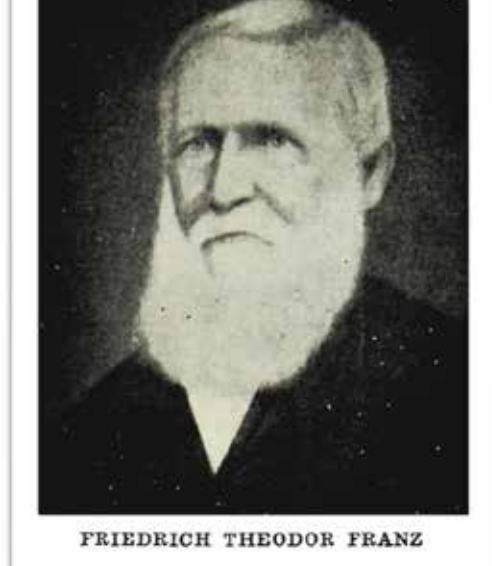


Image 4 Friedrich Theodor Franz (from Gunson, W.N., *The Nundah Missionaries*, Qld History J., 6 (3): 511-539, 1961)

was named after a missionary who had come to Australia with my 2nd great grandparents. My journey, though not complete, has taught me not only about my own family history, but also much about the history of the place where I grew up.

SURNAMES: EIPPER, FRANZ, GERLER, GOSSNER, HAUSSMANN, HEGNECKIE, LANG, SCHMIDT, SCHNEIDER, WEISS, ZILLMAN.

¹ German Missionaries in Australia Zion Hill Mission <http://missionaries.griffith.edu.au>

² David Magee, FRANZ NOTES, 1989 (held in private collection of the author)

³ NSW State Archives & Records. *Index to Bounty Immigrants Index, 1828-42* (digitised version available at familysearch.org)

⁴ <http://missionaries.griffith.edu.au>

⁵ Gunson, W.N. (1930- (1961) 'The Nundah Missionaries', *Qld History J.*, 6 (3) 511-539.

⁶ Baker, D.W.A.(1967) Lang, John, Dunmore (1799-1878), *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/Lang-John-dunmore-2326/text2953> (accessed 12 December 2010).

⁷ Johnston, A. (1997). 'God being, not in the bush: The Nundah Mission (Qld) and Colonialism.' *Queensland Review*, 4(1), 71-80.

⁸ Egan, A.J., et al., *Nundah: mission to suburb* Nundah and Districts Historical Society, Qld (2010)

⁹ NSW State Archives & Records. *Index to Bounty Immigrants Index, 1828-42* (digitised version available at familysearch.org)

¹⁰ Egan, A.J. p2.

¹¹ Egan, A.J. p 4.

¹² Lang, John Dunmore, cited in Egan, A.J. p5.

¹³ Egan, A.J., p15.

¹⁴ Ganter, R. (2014), 'Digging in: German humanitarians in early Queensland,' *Queensland Review* 21, 2, 122-141.

¹⁵ Harris, J., (1990) *One Blood: 200 Years of Aboriginal Encounter with Christians: A Story of Hope*. Albatross Books, NSW, p110.

¹⁶ German Missionaries in Australia, Zion Hill Mission, <http://missionaries.griffith.edu.au>

¹⁷ Egan, A.J. p13.

¹⁸ Egan, A.J. p10 (letters written by the missionaries, from 23 February 1840, held at Mitchell library).

¹⁹ Egan, A. J. p17.

²⁰ *Moreton Bay Courier* Sat 27 June 1846, p2.

²¹ Tutt, S.(ed.)& Caboolture Shire Council, *From Spear and Musket, 1879-1979: Caboolture Centenary*. Caboolture Shire Council (1979), p102.

²² Johnston, A.

²³ New South Wales Certificate of Naturalisation, 1849-1903, State Records Authority of New South Wales,

THE PEATS FERRY DISASTER

Sydney, June 21, 1887

Elisabeth Kissel

The Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria was celebrated on Monday, 20 June 1887, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of her accession to the throne. In the colonies, June 20th and 21st had been declared public holidays, and diverse festivities were planned throughout the land. On the 22nd, *The Sydney Morning Herald* reported that

The Jubilee Celebration had been an unqualified success. The illuminations on Monday night were good, and the pyrotechnic display in the harbour last night was all that could be desired ¹...

The article goes on to describe in detail the illuminations with gas lights and the fireworks at the waterfront, and then concludes with

But for the lamentable railway accident that occurred yesterday, there would be nothing to cast the faintest shadow upon the brightness of a picture that will be a pleasant recollection to thousands in years to come.

It is this 'lamentable railway accident,' that is the topic of my story. I first heard about it in a family research paper my grandfather, Charles Herbert HANKIN, had written back in the 1940s. He mentioned that his uncle had died in the Peats Ferry Disaster at the Hawkesbury River. Our family has always assumed that this uncle had probably drowned in a ferry accident – but, as I discovered when researching the original descriptions of the catastrophe in *The Sydney Morning Herald* on Trove, this was not the case.

On 21 June 1887, many people in Sydney took advantage of the Jubilee holiday and planned a day trip by rail to one of the outlying areas. They were going to return late in the day in time to witness the spectacular fireworks that were planned along the harbour.

One such excursion train left Redfern Station (now Central) in the morning, proceeded along the Great Northern Line to Hornsby and then on down a steep decline through several tunnels to Peats Ferry Station at the Hawkesbury River. William Henry HANKIN, a young man employed as a clerk with the railways, left his mother Mary Ann's



Photo of workers at Peats Ferry – Hawkesbury River in the same year (1887) - Source: LCCN2016652520 (Library of Congress catalog)
Author: Morse, E.K. Date: 1887 - No known restrictions on publication

house in Summers Hill near Sydney's inner west on Tuesday morning. He hadn't told her about the plans he had for the day. William met his friends, Walter SHOULTS and William TOWNSEND, at Redfern Station at 9.30 am. They boarded a train composed of altogether nine carriages that pulled out of the station at 10.27 am.

Soon, it became clear that the long train and its load of passengers were a little too much for the engine. Hornsby's elevation is around 200 m and the train had to 'back up' several times along the way. This means that on some of the inclines, the engine couldn't complete the climb and had to reverse a bit and gather speed to make it up the hill. In one spot, this happened three times. Finally, the driver decoupled the last two carriages and proceeded on to Hornsby without them. The engine then returned for the last two carriages.



The coupling, decoupling, and shunting had to be performed at great speed by busy workers, who later maintained that the engine and carriages had been in good working order mechanically. Not surprisingly, there were long delays, and by the time the entire train pulled out of Hornsby station, it was running 2.5 hours late.

The passengers were happy to finally be on their way to their destination. Little did they know that frightening scenes were taking place at the front of the train.

On approaching the Hawkesbury River, there is a steep descent of about eight kilometres with five tunnels down to the station. The train was now picking up speed on its way down. The driver applied the brakes but found, to his horror, that they did not grip properly. The fireman saw that something was seriously wrong and pulled the emergency brake – to no avail.

Still, the passengers had no idea of the impending disaster, although some did become increasingly alarmed as the train violently swerved around bends and through the tunnels at dangerously high speeds, estimated to be up to 70 miles or over 100 km/hour. When they finally realised what was happening, many panicked.

A short distance before reaching the bottom of the hill, William HANKIN and his friends were thrown to the floor by the train's jerky movements. He called out to Walter: 'My God, Gus, the train's run away' and reached beneath his seat to grab his hat. He then got up, rushed to the door, and, holding on to the side handle, opened the door and put one foot on the footboard.

What happened next remains unclear. Walter was never able to say whether William meant to jump or whether he fell from the carriage. It all happened so quickly. In any case, he disappeared. Walter then prevented William TOWNSEND from following their friend out of the carriage.

The driver still desperately tried to apply the brakes. He also continuously used the train whistle to alert the station below.

Because of the holiday, Peats Ferry Station was swarming with people. Two trains, each carrying around 400 passengers between them, were waiting at the platforms, ready to leave once the delayed train arrived.

Thankfully, the alert station master heard the roaring engine and the frantic whistling and surmised correctly that the train had 'run away' and could not be stopped. He urgently dispatched a railway porter to throw the points lever open and divert the runaway down a siding that led to the new bridge site. When the porter got to the points he realised that it was almost too late; however, with great presence of mind, and in mortal danger to himself, he threw himself at the lever and hung on, even as the train hurtled towards him, with whistle blowing and passengers screaming, passing him at less than a metre distance – but averting the station and the trains and the passengers waiting there!

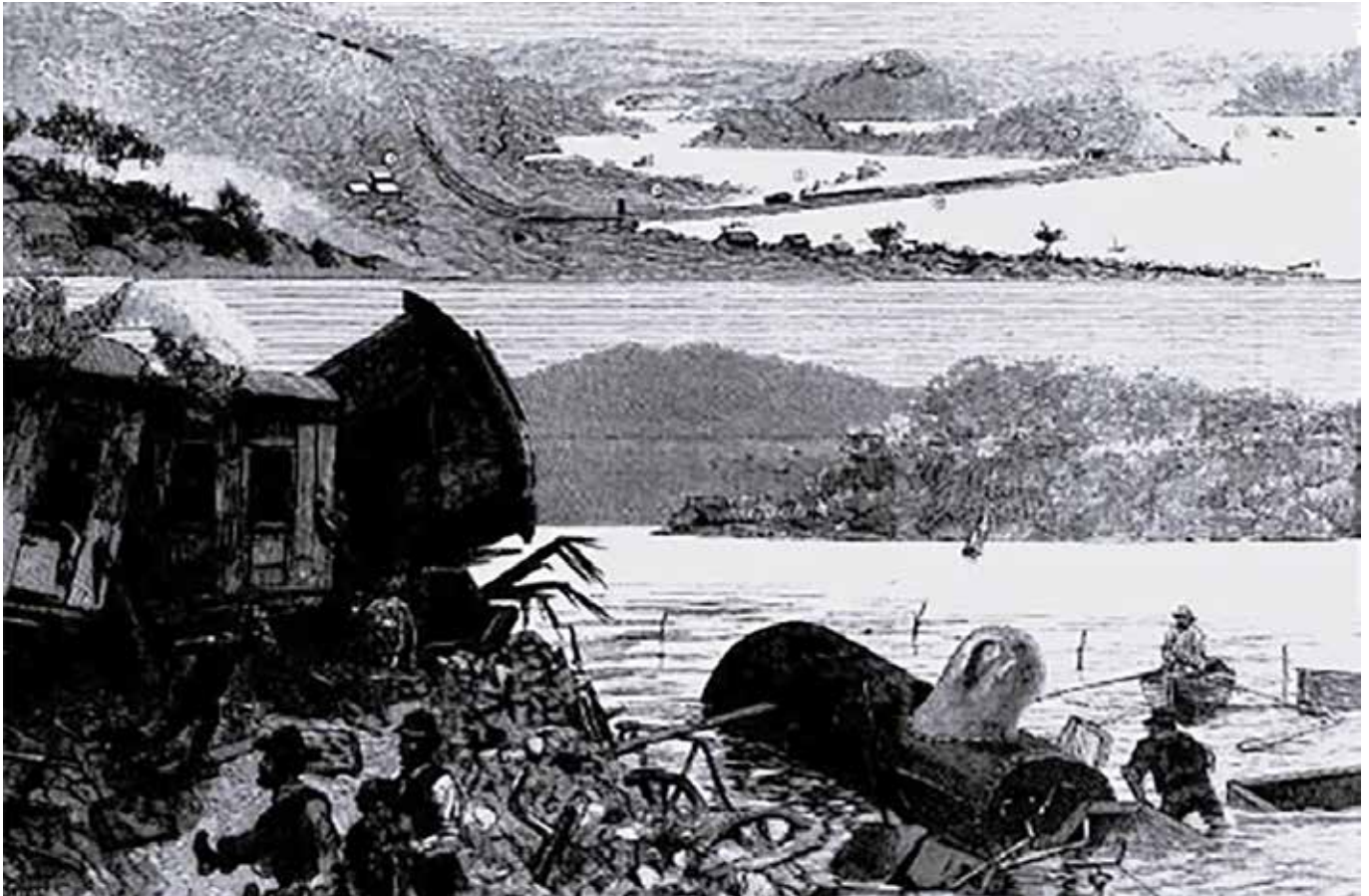
Many, many people owed their lives to the quick actions of this brave porter who was later identified as a Mr PROCTOR.

The train then rushed onto the siding, losing speed along the railway causeway out to Long Island where it collided with some empty carriages. Although it had lost some of its speed, the impact was still so strong that the engine was pushed upwards and off the tracks, sliding down the embankment and landing on its side, partly submerged in water.

The first two carriages concertinaed into each other; one newspaper article later described them as 'smashed to atoms.' Walter and his friend's carriage came to a surprisingly slow and relatively gentle halt. Almost immediately after William had jumped or fallen from the carriage, the train collided with the empty carriages and, in a tragically ironic twist of fate, his carriage (the fourth from the front) was merely bumped off the track and the passengers in it were relatively unhurt.

Walter immediately scrambled out of the carriage to look for William. He found his friend about 40 yards back, lying on his left side. At the time he thought that he might have broken all his ribs.

Screams for help and moans filled the air. The people at the station rushed to give aid. Remarkably, at this stage, there were only four fatalities. The fireman escaped with severe injuries and was saved from drowning by another railway employee who was also clearheaded enough to let off the steam, lest the trailer should explode. Sadly, the driver was not so fortunate, he was trapped in the engine cabin and drowned.



The picture shows a scene immediately after the accident. The engine is partly submerged, with the body of the engine driver underneath. The top sketch shows the position of the tunnels, the train descending the steep incline (top left) and the hotel turned into a makeshift hospital below it. The pointsman Proctor is the small figure at the edge of the water, while the train in the middle of the picture is the return train to Sydney that narrowly avoided colliding with the runaway train.

There were no medical services or doctors, but the local hotel was turned into a hospital for the time being, and one train became a makeshift ambulance transporting some of the injured back to Sydney. Among those shocked and suffering passengers was William HANKIN. His friends stayed with their injured mate on the return trip to Redfern Station. Walter then left William to be transferred to Sydney Hospital and made his way to William's home to tell his mother the awful news. Mrs HANKIN immediately went to see her unconscious son in hospital. He never regained consciousness and died shortly after. He was 17.

Meanwhile, the authorities were notified immediately and later came to inspect the accident site to find out what had gone so terribly wrong. An inquest was held; however, the reason for the brakes' failure was never conclusively established. The final toll of this accident on Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee was six dead and 70 injured. However, people took heart from the fact that it could have been a lot higher, had it not been for one railway porter, whose bravery and quick thinking saved many.

As a way to compensate the family, the railways gave William HANKIN's position to his brother Charles, my great grandfather, who was then 15. He ended up working for the railway office for 45 years, rising through the ranks. Over 130 years later, new generations of our family were not aware of the nature of the Peats Ferry Disaster. I was happy to distribute my research amongst them to remember this sad vignette of family history, a young life cut short in a tragic accident.

SURNAMES: HANKIN, SHOULTS, TOWNSEND, PROCTOR.

¹ All quotes and historical details are taken from original newspaper articles that appeared in the *Sydney Morning Herald* from June to December 1887. They were all sourced through Trove.

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

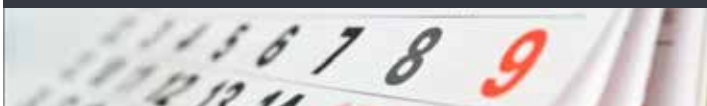
For most courses, bookings are essential, especially for computer courses as these are limited to 10 attendees.

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/gsqevents/ for up-to-date information and for booking to attend sessions.



Date	Day	Event + Special Interest Groups [SIG]	Time
July 2025			
5	Sat	Presentation: Beyond the family history roadblocks: finding hidden ancestors	9am-11am
6	Sun	Scottish Interest Group	9:30am-2pm
12	Sat	Presentation: How to do research so it's right	9am-11am
13	Sun	Family History Tech Interest Group	10am-12pm
19	Sat	Presentation: Give your past the best chance of a future	9am-11am
20	Sun	Chinese Research Interest Group	10am-12pm
20	Sun	Scandinavian Interest Group	12:30-2:30pm
27	Sun	German Interest Group	10am-2:30pm
30	Sun	DNA Clinic	7-8:30pm
August 2025			
2	Sat	Presentation: Finding non-British subjects in Queensland records	9am-11am
3	Sun	English/Irish/Welsh Interest Group	10am-2:30pm
10	Sun	Colonial & Convict Interest Group	10am-2:30pm
12	Tue	Presentation: Breaking down brick walls with TheGenealogist	7-9pm
17	Sun	Writing Interest Group	10am-12pm
21	Thur	TOUR: free tour of the National Archives of Australia	10am-12pm
23	Sat	GSQ OPEN DAY	10am-3pm
24	Sun	DNA Interest Group	9:30am-1:30pm
30	Sat	Presentation: Keys to solving family history mysteries: some case studies	9am-11am
September 2025			
6	Sat	Presentation: Ship me somewhere east of Suez: Migration to Morton Bay 1848-60s	9am-11am
7	Sun	Scottish Interest Group	9:30am-2pm
13	Sat	Presentation: Putting your ancestors in their places	9am-11am
14	Sun	Family History Tech Interest Group	10am-12pm
20	Sat	Presentation: Record as you go, cite as you go, and file as you go	9am-11am
21	Sat	Chinese Research Interest Group	10am-12pm
21	Sat	Scandinavian Interest Group	12:30-2:30pm
28	Sat	German Interest Group	10am-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 2025

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.

July - August - September

Presentation (Virtual platform)

Beyond the Family History Roadblocks: Finding Hidden Ancestors

WHEN: Sat 5 July @ 9am – 11am AEST
PRESENTER: Bobbie Edes (?)
COST: FREE GSQ members - \$21 non-members

Presentation (Virtual platform)

Give Your Past the Best Chance of a Future

WHEN: Sat 19 July @ 9am – 11am AEST
PRESENTER: Fleur Creed
COST: FREE GSQ members - \$21 non-members

Presentation (Virtual platform)

Breaking Down Brick Walls with TheGenealogist

WHEN: Tues 12 Aug @ 7pm - 9pm AEST
PRESENTER: Mark Bayley
COST: FREE GSQ members - \$21 non-members

Presentation (Virtual platform)

Keys to solving family history mysteries: some case studies

WHEN: Sat 30 Aug @ 9am – 11am AEST
PRESENTER: Stephanie Ryan
COST: \$21 members - \$31 non-members

Presentation (Virtual platform)

Putting Your Ancestors in their places

WHEN: Sat 13 Sept @ 9am – 11am AEST
PRESENTER: Jill Ball
COST: \$21 members - \$31 non-members

Presentation (Virtual platform)

How to do research so it's right

WHEN: Sat 12 July 2025 @ 9am – 11am AEST
PRESENTER: Charlotte Sale
COST: \$21 members - \$31 non-members

Presentation (Virtual platform)

Finding non-British Subjects in Queensland records

WHEN: Sat 2 Aug 2025 @ 9am – 11am AEST
PRESENTER: Hilda Maclean
COST: \$21 members - \$31 non-members

Tour - GSQ Members ONLY

Tour of National Archives of Australia

WHEN: Thur 21 Aug @ 10am – 12pm AEST
PRESENTER: National Archive staff
COST: FREE GSQ members

Presentation (Virtual platform)

Hail! Stranger, hail! Right welcome to our shore

WHEN: Sat 6 Sept @ 9am – 11am AEST
PRESENTER: Dr Jennifer Harrison + Dr Dot Wickham
COST: \$21 members - \$31 non-members

Presentation (Virtual platform)

Record as you Go, Cite as you Go, and File as you Go.

WHEN: Sat 20 Sept @ 9am – 11am AEST
PRESENTER: Cyndi Ingle
COST: \$31 members - \$41 non-members

We hope you enjoy the education program for 2025. Remember to look on the GSQ website for up to date events & times.

DNA Virtual Clinics

The clinic help sessions are available to all GSQ members only. The clinics are held on the 5th Wednesday of the month. DNA clinic dates for 2025 are 30 April, 30 July and

29 October, but 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 2025

Interest Groups for 2025 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.

<https://www.gsq.org.au/gsq-events/list/>



Colonial & Convict Group • 10:00am – 2:30pm



10 August, 12 October, 14 December
• Second Sunday, even numbered months

DNA Group • 9:30am – 12:00pm (2:30pm even months)



22 June, 24 August, 26 October
• Fourth Sunday, even numbered months

English/Irish/Welsh Group • 10:00am – 2:30pm



3 August, 5 October, 7 December
• First Sunday, even numbered months

Writing Group • 10:00am – 2:00pm



15 June, 17 August, 19 October
• Third Sunday, even numbered months

Chinese Research Group • 10:00am – 2:00pm



20 July, 21 September, 16 November
• Third Sunday, odd numbered months

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



27 July, 28 September, 30 November
• Last Sunday, odd numbered months

Scandinavian Group • 12:30am – 2:30pm



20 July, 21 September, 16 November
• Third Sunday, odd numbered months

Scottish Group • 10:00am – 2:30pm



6 July, 7 September, 2 November
• First Sunday, odd numbered months

Family History Technology Group • 10:00am – 12:00pm



13 July, 14 Sept, 9 November
• Second Sunday, odd numbered months

Our Interest Groups hold meetings at GSQ,
25 Stackpole Street, Wishart or online via Zoom.
Members of GSQ are welcome to attend.



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.

GSQ Event Report



Jennifer Harrison [GSQ BLOG May 26, 2025]

WHERE ARE YOU GOING, MY PRETTY MAID? WHY GO TO CONFERENCES?



Keynote speaker, Judy G. Russell presenting at the recent conference. Image by Connections2025 photographer, <https://www.connections2025.org.au/>

'Ooh, look is that the American guest speaker over there? She was fabulous the last time I saw her! Must NOT miss her sessions or a chance to chat with her.' Conferences are such good fun. They are great places for learning; wonderful for meeting and catching up with friends and making new ones, too. Not only that, but we can also observe and absorb how other people tackle the same family history problems we all have. Importantly we can put faces to names – so the Legal Genealogist/Judy G. Russell becomes a 'real person'. Even 'newbies' go home with new networks.

The recent *Connections: Past-Present-Future* conference conducted jointly by the Australian Federation of Family History Organisations (AFFHO), History Queensland (HQ) and the Genealogical Society of Queensland (GSQ) from 21-24 March at BTP Conference & Exhibition Centre at Eight Mile Plains in Brisbane convincingly confirmed multiple advantages of attending these events. *Connections* represented both AFFHO's 17th Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry, and the 5th History Queensland Conference and was organised most efficiently by an active and dedicated GSQ committee comprising Helen Veivers, David Barnes, Marg Doherty, Michael Murphy, and Jan Bimrose with Kay Ryan representing AFFHO & HQ.



Conference organising team. Image by Connections2025 photographer. <https://www.connections2025.org.au/>

The Learning Aspect:

At each session, speakers could select from nominated themes to present insights. The first category, *Diaspora, Migration in all its forms* emphasised that all Australians, apart from First Nations people, are immigrants. What were their unique or shared experiences? The second, *Looking Ahead What are the Opportunities?* asked us to consider new methodologies, employ every prospective tool and assess possible brickwall solutions in an increasingly technological world. The third option, *Local History and its impact on our research*, highlighted the importance of placing our 'people' research into specific locations, encompassing where to gain geographical insights, the establishment and subsequent growth of villages and towns, and importantly, to inform about the wealth of material available.

Carefully chosen papers ensured a balance between topics giving audiences a challenging abundance of selections. The programme, generally offering

Connections Conference Report - continued...



Keynote speaker, Dr Nick Barratt presenting at the recent conference. Image by R.Edes.

a choice between three simultaneous sessions, posed the first serious quandary?? Help, help which session should I attend. That presenter is always most informative, interesting and entertaining but this other subject might provide answers for my country town research while the third lecturer is an old friend, or someone I have been mentoring, how is she going? And I thought I had planned my intended involvement before I arrived. Each and every speaker provides new information as, inevitably, individual researchers discover different characteristics even when referring to identical primary sources. All can contribute to my stories. Where lies my loyalty or need?

For most of us conference preparation commenced months before the occurrence as a treasure chest of quality preconvention information was issued to the potential audience included professionally produced detailed paperwork describing speaker experience, content and synopses. Most useful in adapting to an unfamiliar setting was a site map of amenities providing basic locative information for planning meetings and determining sitdown areas for morning and afternoon tea breaks, plus lunch distribution points. Comfort of delegates seemed to be a motivating spur. Efficient technology ensured contented unflustered presenters, while relaxing chairs, balanced air conditioning, clean facilities, and tasty food & teas/coffees were readily available to ensure recovery of spirits preparatory to the next exciting lectures.

Near the registration booths several stalls demonstrated work by professional services, with



Keynote speaker, Hamish Maxwell-Stewart presenting at the recent conference. Image by R.Edes.

several societies advising of specialised activities and research support, while wellstocked book shops opened many wallets when tempted by the offer of, often out-of-print, reliable reference material. Why can't I carry more? This plaintive call was accompanied often by a wistful: And where will I shelve them when finally reaching home? But I just cannot resist this bargain. Also how wonderfully reassuring to see familiar smiling faces from the State and National Archives and Library at information desks. They readily offer knowledgeable solutions to sources and how to spend your research hours most effectively.

For me, one of the most heartwarming benefits of conventions is reconnecting with old friends, especially interstate and co-presenters from all over the world. While audiences are introduced to speakers, our supporters remain unknown parties. We mainly rely on eye-contact during lectures and cannot always immediately recognise everyone who has asked questions on former occasions or who have emailed for advice or have bumped into us in crowded repositories. Each reunion is valuable even if instant recall may need prompting by mentioning problems solved. We rarely forget those ancestors whom we have scrutinised and I count many of these and their diligent descendants as close companions. Some names or faces may be familiar through society journals or newsletters and we feel we know them well even though we have never been officially introduced. Others we have met at conferences in quite distant locations and these shared experiences contribute significantly to our well-being. People bound by activities get together such as the bead-bedecked bloggers. Further, gatherings give the opportunity to congratulate people on jobs well done or results obtained. Boosting and appreciating volunteers and recognising contributions is important to members of all societies.

Connections Conference Report - continued...



Bloggers at the recent conference with author Jennifer Harrison in red on left at the foot of the stairs, as well as 12 other of our GSQ Bloggers. Image by Connections2025 photographer. <https://www.connections2025.org.au/>

I had a ball over these three days and consider each dollar well rewarded by multiple learning experiences. It is my heartfelt desire that others should 'play this game' and benefit to the same extent. Now, a few weeks later, I remain on a high as I plan and implement techniques, methodologies, and pursue my newfound discoveries.

Who knew that my favourite repositories, the John Oxley Library and Queensland State Archives held so many more wonders that I had yet to discover despite almost a lifetime devoted to exploring their riches. I have already signed up for the *Royal Historical Society of Queensland's Settlement Conference* scheduled for 17 May 2025 to mark the transference of the Moreton Bay outpost from Redcliffe to Brisbane Town exactly 200 years ago. I truly regret that I cannot make Darwin at the year's end on *Hot Histories* for the Professional Historians Association although their topic has inspired yet another avenue to explore. My cup runneth over. P-l-e-a-s-e let me come with you, pretty maid?



Author Jennifer Harrison in blue waiting to be introduced at the recent conference. Image by R.Edes

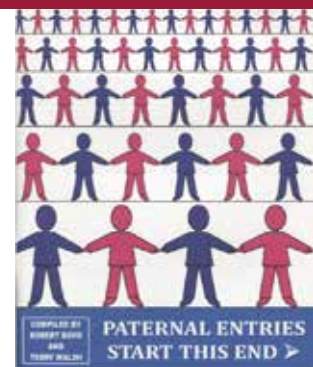
'MY FAMILY HISTORY'

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.

My Family History is an efficient and attractive method of recording and displaying the results of family history research. It can be used as a presentation document to family members and as a handy aide memoire to carry around when researching.



**GSQ - EXCLUSIVE DISTRIBUTOR:
AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND**
Retail and trade orders available from:
Genealogical Society of Queensland

Email: shop@gsq.org.au
Retail price: \$A 30.00 plus postage
Wholesale price: available on request.

FOCUS ON

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

GSQ SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

GSQ DNA GROUP

The DNA Group launched in May 2015 and has now grown to over 100 members. GSQ members are welcome to join our monthly meetings as well as our closed Facebook group, only available to GSQ members, where questions on DNA testing and analysis can be asked in a friendly environment. To join, search for GSQDNASIG on Facebook and then answer a couple of questions.

Because our meetings are usually attended by 30 to 40 members we meet currently via Zoom and an invitation with the meeting link goes out about five days before the event.

During the meeting we have a presentation on recent updates in the DNA world, usually one other presentation and Q&A sessions. Another feature of the group is the Mentoring sessions where those attending decide which Zoom room they'd like to join to learn more about a specific subject i.e., DNA general, DNA Painter, Clustering, Y-DNA/FTDNA, My Heritage/23&Me/Ancestry etc.

GSQ members with DNA problems can arrange a one-on-one virtual help session with one of our admin team during our DNA Clinic nights on the 5th Wednesday of specific months from 7pm – 8:30pm. Dates can be found in the GSQ Events calendar.



MEETINGS

These are held every month and begin at 9:30am sharp, with the Zoom room open to login from about 9:15am most months. For odd numbered months – the meetings are on the third Sunday and for even months they are held on the 4th Sunday except for December and January when we have a break.

CONTACT DETAILS

If you wish to join our group then further information is available from the convenor, Greg Carlill by emailing dna@gsq.org.au

GSQ Special Interest Groups • e-News



The **Genealogical Society of Queensland** publishes a monthly electronic newsletter about Society news and upcoming events. All are welcome to download and read it.

For information on the activities of all our Special Interest Groups, see GSQ's monthly newsletter, E-news at: <https://www.gsq.org.au/what-gsq-offers/enews/>



SPOTLIGHT ON RESOURCES

GSQ Collection & Records

GSQ has an extensive library of published reference material, on all aspects of genealogy and family history, collected over many years. Our catalogue covers Queensland and other Australian states, New Zealand and the Pacific, as well as extensive holdings for the United Kingdom, Europe, and other overseas countries.

We have subscriptions to pay-per-view sites such as Ancestry.com (World), FindMyPast (the UK, Irish, Australian & New Zealand, World databases) as well as The Genealogist and more.

Our collection covers print material, card indexes, microfilm/fiche and CDs, as well as online access to internet resources; in order to cater to the different research techniques and interests of our members and visitors. It Includes:

- A comprehensive collection of reference material on subjects covering history, heraldry, genealogical research, vital records, etc.
- Available birth, marriage and death indexes (civil registration), together with some BMD registers prior to civil registration which are normally called Parish Registers.
- A wide range of census records, post office directories and electoral rolls
- Immigration, convict and military records

- Cemetery and burial records
- An extensive collection of published family histories.
- Special collections of material in unpublished or unusual format.

GSQ has a substantial collection of Queensland resources, many of which are unique to GSQ through our own projects, including Queensland cemetery and funeral directors records and indexes to south east Queensland Roman Catholic parish registers.

New resources are being added to the library all the time and lists of new acquisitions are published in our Journal Generation.

The library catalogue is available to search on the GSQ web site.

Use of the online catalogue enables members and other interested family historians to do their 'homework' before they visit us, and therefore single out those resources which will provide the most efficient use of their research time.

Why not visit us and see what we have that can help you get started with your family history research and, perhaps, knock down one of your 'brick walls'.

DNA TESTING

**Rewriting the Tree of Humankind:
The Million Mito Project – What Is...**

Roberta Estes

PLACES AND ETHNICITIES • WEBINAR SHORT...

Cyrillic for Genealogists

Jen Shaffer

DNA TESTING

**Foundations in DNA 3 of 5:
Understanding Autosomal DNA**

Blaine Bettinger, Ph.D., J.D.



FREE Family History Webinars from Legacy Family Tree

What is the cost? There is no charge to register and view the live webinar. However, the recording is available to view for the next 7 days – for free! Watch it as many times as you would like, pausing and taking notes, during the free viewing period.

If you cannot make the live event, downloads of the recording are just \$9.95 each or yearly memberships give you access to everything.

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

GSQ Annual Seminar 2025

11 OCTOBER FROM 11:30AM TO 6:00 PM AEST

MORE DETAILS COMING SOON!



Early notice of GSQ Annual Seminar October 11, 2025

*Rogues, Rebels and Respectables:
Crime and Punishment in your family tree*

**Stay tuned for speakers & further info in
eNews & on the GSQ website**



GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND Inc
Enriching family history

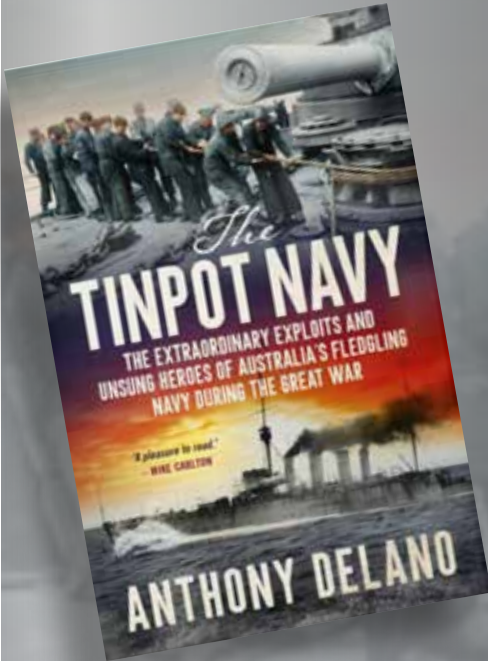
Our GSQ Facebook page is continuing to draw in both members and non-members. If you're a member of Facebook, then you can search for GSQ Genealogical Society of Queensland in the search box and our page will come up. Or click the

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 gene 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>

BOOK REVIEW



THE TINPOT NAVY *The extraordinary exploits and unsung heroes of Australia's fledgling navy during the Great War*

BY ANTHONY DELANO

Marg Doherty

The subtitle of the book is *The Extraordinary Exploits and Unsung Heroes of Australia's Fledgling Navy during the Great War*. While the author has written several books and is a journalist, he did service for a few months in the Royal Australian Navy. Anthony lied about his age to enlist, as he was only fifteen years old.

The introduction begins in Rabaul, German New Guinea, on 11 August 1914. HMAS *Sydney* is leading three other ships up the approach to Rabaul harbour. The other ships were the *Warrego*, *Yarra* and *Parramatta*. The war was less than a week old, and as the author reminds us, the Royal Australian Navy had existed for only three years. It is here that we met the Royal Naval Officer in charge of the Australian Navy, Sir George Patey. Although the country had a navy, it was under the command of the British Royal Navy.

Following the introduction is Part 1, which begins by examining the existing colonial navies that would later form the Australian Navy, as well as the provenance of the ships. Here, the author starts to introduce the colourful colonial characters who would comprise some of the initial officers in the Australian Navy; however, the British Navy also sent along several of their officers.

Part 2 is titled *The Brand New Navy at War*. This section starts on 4 August 1914, the day war was declared, with a German ship slipping away from the port at Melbourne. The next few chapters cover the conflict that came to German New Guinea, as well as the

interactions between new and experienced officers from both the Royal Australian Navy and the Royal Navy. There is also a discussion of the work of the Australian Navy and Military Expeditionary Force (AN&MEF). Together, the Australian Army and Navy commenced seeking and destroying German wireless stations in the South West Pacific,

After this initial conflict, the RAN was deployed with the British naval fleets, and although they missed the Battle of Jutland, Australia's submarines, AE1 and AE2, were part of the Gallipoli campaign. While this did not end well, the Australians displayed daring. AE2 spearheaded the way through the Narrows at Gallipoli, where others had failed. Delano, however, described the awards system as being parsimonious, with limited awards given to Australians who participated in Gallipoli on the sea.

The *Tinpot Navy* is an easy read and gives the reader a sense of how the Royal Australian Navy commenced its adventures and its ups and downs during the Great War. Please give it a go. The Brisbane City Council has five copies available for readers. If you want to purchase a copy, it is readily available in Brisbane. I sourced my copy from Big W.



Harry Gentle Resource Centre Dictionary of Biography

*An initiative of the Harry Gentle Resource Centre in collaboration with
Griffith eResearch at Griffith University.*

Dr Dorothy Wickham

The Harry Gentle Resource Centre Dictionary. A Place to Search for Queensland's Pre- Separation Ancestors

The Harry Gentle Resource Centre Dictionary is an excellent tool. It is an ever expanding, and living document that is constantly being updated, amended, and revised. Contributions are welcomed. A resource that draws on a wide range of genealogical and archival sources.

I was an honorary research officer (before I moved to the wonderful and sunny state of Queensland). I led a team for the Ballarat and District Genealogy Society (BDGS) answering queries and researching about 40 different family history letters a month. That's a lot of queries over the ten years I worked in that capacity! We used to say jokingly that, 'Every man and his dog came to the goldfields of Ballarat'!!

I kept in mind a couple of guidelines! 'Start from the known and go to the unknown' and 'Don't reinvent the wheel!' Any help that you can get when you are researching that elusive ancestor – and, yes! everyone has one! – is welcome.

We rely on databases and search-engines, and we all have our favourites. The Australian Dictionary of Biography is an excellent start for the famous or infamous, but most ancestors, especially if they are law abiding citizens, are neither. Trove has an excellent search capability and is especially useful in searching those people and women who are hard to find. As genealogists we all know that people change their names, have aliases or nicknames, or get married (maybe even several times). They move around to different localities, and names can be misspelt or mistranscribed.

If your ancestor was in Queensland before 1859 the Dictionary at the Harry Gentle Resource Centre, a relatively new search engine, having

been launched only last year, is worth trying. It is still in its embryonic stages, but it is constantly being updated with new information and new biographies. It is a biographical database of people who lived in colonial Queensland.

The Dictionary includes information about First Peoples of this region under conditions of colonisation, the convicts and soldiers who occupied Moreton Bay penal settlement, and settler immigrants, as well as the indentured labourers who followed them. The information in this Dictionary about First Peoples is drawn from sources most commonly associated with colonisation practices and government administration. For this reason, most individuals of First People origin are known only through an anglicised name. Their inclusion in this Dictionary is an important step in acknowledging their original possession of the country of this region, and the scale of significance of their ancient and ongoing occupation of these lands.¹

The Dictionary is free and easy to use, and there are many searches that can be undertaken.² It is fully referenced so all the information can be easily checked, and often original records can be viewed through the many URL links which are on the database. This allows you to check names, plus associated names, and spelling.

Some entries have more information on them than others. Even if there is little information it can prove the location of an ancestor.

The Harry Gentle Resource Centre Dictionary can be accessed at the following URL: <https://app.harrygentle.griffith.edu.au/>

¹ Information transcribed from the Home Page of The Harry Gentle Resource Centre Dictionary.

² The Harry Gentle Resource Centre (HGRC) is a digital initiative established in 2016 to honour the generous bequest of Robert (Harry) Gentle. It promotes and supports the histories of Queensland, prior to 1859. It has been prepared by staff and scholars associated with the Harry Gentle Resource Centre.

NORTH QUEENSLAND CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC: A RETROSPECTIVE

50 Years on

Barbara A Barnaby [nee Bourne] Dip Mus

In 1969 and 1970 a group of individuals from the Innisfail area banded together to promote raising funds to build a centre for music tuition and performances. This followed the successful commencement of annual Festivals and Opera performances in a district enthusiastic about putting Innisfail, and North Queensland, 'on the map' as far as music was concerned.

Three men were pivotal in their support of the project – Alf MARTINNUZZI (who became Chairman of the Board), Rod TAYLOR (who became the Appeal President), and Arther CREEDY (who worked for the Queensland Government as Director of what is now known as Arts Queensland). In particular Rod TAYLOR brought an enthusiasm and skills I have rarely seen in my 45 years of involvement with Music in Queensland. Rod owned a motor dealership in Innisfail and was also a Director of Nerada Tea, itself an innovative and successful company.

The North Queensland Conservatorium project had its beginnings as far back as 1960, when James CHRISTIANSEN was invited to Innisfail to conduct a summer school for voice, which was soon fully booked. CHRISTIANSEN, a singing teacher with the Queensland Conservatorium, had adjudicated the North Queensland Eisteddfod at Innisfail over the Easter weekend in 1960, and found an untapped source of rich vocal talent possibly because of the high percentage of people with European and Italian heritage in the area. A further summer school followed in 1962. Ronald MACONAGHIE, accompanied by Trust pianist John CHAMP, appeared in the Elizabethan Theatre Trust's opera performance of Barber of Seville in Innisfail in 1966, and also conducted a voice summer school that year.

Fundraising:

An appeal was launched in 1970, following

endorsement by the Conservatorium in Brisbane. The Queensland State Government promised support up to \$100,000 with a grant on a 'dollar for dollar' basis. To put the 1970-1974 cost estimate of \$311,000 into perspective, a similar building today would cost approximately \$4,000,000.

The Early Days: How my involvement 'evolved'.

I graduated from the Conservatorium in Brisbane in 1969 where I formed a strong bond with Max OLDING, the Principal Tutor of the Con, and Nancy WEIR, a notable pianist. Firstly, I taught at Loreto College during 1970 and 1971, before taking private students in piano and singing from my parents' home in Greenslopes. I toured the United Kingdom and Europe with Nancy in June and July 1973. Another person on the tour was Rhonda VICKERS, Choir Mistress on the credits of the operas La Traviata, Tosca, and Cavalleria/Pagliacci, who had musical and other interests in Innisfail. I later assumed the role on Choir Mistress.

The Design:

John CURRO AM MBE was a strong supporter of the project and a much-admired fellow musician during my career. He founded the Queensland Youth Orchestra in 1966 and led it for 50 years. John was also a qualified architect whose thesis for his University of Queensland Bachelor of Architecture degree was Conservatorium design. He became the architect for the North Queensland Conservatorium and its 'ageless design' looks today as though it was built quite recently. At the time he created the design John worked for Curro Nutter Charlton architects, but then retired from the firm to work fulltime at his music career. Credit as architects of the building were Nutter Charlton and Associates.

John CURRO was born in Ingham, North Queensland and was well acquainted with local conditions. He also conducted the North Queensland Festival Symphony Orchestra in 1967 and 1968. John's



plan for the North Queensland Conservatorium was simple and tropical in concept.

I attended the official opening of the new Conservatorium in Innisfail in December 1972. Premier Joh BIELKE-PETERSEN opened the building then was guest of honour at a production of *Tosca*, by James CHRISTIANSEN. In the latter part of 1973 I was offered the role of Principal Tutor for the North Queensland Conservatorium of Music, which I gladly accepted.

Heavy and flooding rains during December 1973, resulting from Cyclone *Una* caused major flooding in coastal streams between Gladstone and Rockhampton and extensive traffic disruptions, which meant I had to fly to Cairns, then use road transport to Innisfail. My prized possessions were loaded into my car, which went on a railway wagon to Innisfail. As I began teaching at the new Con I marvelled at just how wet, hot, and humid Innisfail was.

Opera and Musical Highlights:

For a regional and rural area, the early years contained some very impressive renditions of famous operas, including –

1967 – *Marriage of Figaro*

1968 – *La Bohème*, with baritone James CHRISTIANSON flying in from the USA where he was then based.

1969 – *Carmen*

1970 – *Barber of Seville*

1971 – *La Traviata*

1972 – *Tosca*

A feature of many of the operas was lavish costumes which were often hard to locate. On one notable occasion quite heavy costumes were borrowed from Opera New Zealand. They arrived in boxes, each one clearly marked 'NOT TO BE LAUNDERED, PLEASE RETURN UNCLEANED'. After a steamy Innisfail summer one can only imagine the look on the faces of the New Zealand Opera staff when they opened the container!

1973 – the joint operas of *Cavalleria Rusticana* and *Pagliacci*

1974 – *Il Trovatore* for which I was Chorus Mistress

1975 – *Rigoletto* – Dido and Aeneas. Again I was Chorus Mistress and had the role of Countess Ceprano in the former and that of Spirit in the latter.

1976 – *L'Elisir D'Amore* and *Bastien and Bastienne*. I was Gianetta in *L'Elisir D'Amore* and Chorus Mistress.

1977 – *A Masked Ball*; and I played the lead role of Dame Nellie Melba in the Innisfail Repertory's production of *A Toast to Melba*. This was reviewed in the *Canberra Times* –

As Dame Nellie the local conservatorium singing teacher, Barbara BOURNE, had something of a triumph. Her voice is a true lyric soprano, with a good deal of the purity of tone, which distinguished Melba's sound.¹

I was truly honoured to have my voice likened to Dame Nellie herself!

1978 – *Madame Butterfly* for which I Chorus Mistress and played the role of Kate PINKERTON.

1979 – *Don Pasquale* for which I was Musical Director and the comic opera *Beautiful Galathea*, where I played piano. The Governor General Sir Zelman COWEN was guest of honour for this Festival.

Reflection and Conclusion:

The seven years that I enjoyed in Innisfail were among the happiest in my life, and certainly career. With such a strong and sizeable Italian population, it was not surprising, perhaps inevitable, that a centre for learning and presenting music, opera, and other top-quality performances, would be strongly driven by the local community.

Names such as MARTINUZZI, BORTOLANZA, DE MUNARI, VECCHIO, BIANCA, and BIANCOTTI spring to mind. A more permanent connection is that my good friends Gino and Tina BORTOLANZA named their long-awaited daughter Barbara, after me!

The overall experience left a very happy 'stamp' on my musical being, and gave me a love of opera, which still exists today.

SURNAMES: BOURNE, MARTINUZZI, VICKERS, MACONAGHIE, TAYLOR, CREEDY, CHRISTIANSEN, MACONAGHIE, CHAMP, OLDING, WEIR, COWEN, CURRO, BIELKE-PETERSEN, PINKERTON, BORTOLANZA, DE MUNARI, VECCHIO, BIANCA, BIANCOTTI.

¹ *Canberra Times*, 16 December 1977, p. 19. The World of Theatre: Innisfail has a lesson for Canberra.



SHORT Tales

Russell Fraser

For His Country

Hector Douglas FRASER was born on 18 January 1906. He lived on the family farm at Mount Louisa and also worked as a contractor. In March 1937, he made a claim in the Townsville Magistrate's Court against a poultry farmer, Charles SMITH, for non-payment for work done in sinking a well. 'There was a verbal agreement of 'no water, no pay'. After the well was sunk to 47 feet, there was still no water supply, so Hector's chances of being paid were as dry as the well.

On 9 June 1940, at the age of 34 (although he claimed to be 32), Hector enlisted in the army. His description suggests that he had ginger hair and blue eyes, so conceivably he was nicknamed 'Bluey'. He served in 'F' Force in the 2/26 Battalion.² The Battalion sailed for Singapore aboard the *Marnix Van St Aldegonde* (HMT EE), a Dutch ship seized by the British War Ministry after Holland fell to Germany.

They disembarked in Singapore on 23 August

1941 and spent the next six months defending Singapore from the Japanese until the British commander surrendered on 15 February 1942.

Hector was captured and sent to the Kanchanaburi prisoner of war camp in Thailand, for work on the infamous Burma railway. His parents received messages that he was alive and well up until the end to the war, as Japanese propaganda. In fact, Hector died from dysentery on 5 February 1944. Originally buried in Kanchanaburi No 4 Burial Grounds, his body was exhumed after the war and re-interred at Kanchanaburi War Cemetery, with a memorial which bears the inscription 'FOR MY COUNTRY'.

SURNAMES: FRASER, SMITH.

¹ *Townsville Daily Bulletin*, 10 March 1937, p6

² National Archives of Australia; B883, QX1727, Hector Douglas Fraser

³ Find A Grave, Hector Douglas Fraser, www.findagrave.com/ accessed 11/02/2015

WEB LINKS • USEFUL WEBSITES



Biographical Database of Australia (BDA) is a research tool for historians and genealogists comprising transcripts & indexes of original records and published biographies of deceased individuals who arrived, or were born in, Australia. <https://www.bda-online.org.au/>



Find the graves of ancestors and search or browse cemeteries from around the world. <https://www.findagrave.com/>



A large resource for searchable GPS cemetery data, with headstone images and transcriptions of personal information. <https://billiongraves.com/>



Brisbane City Council maintains records of people buried or cremated (interments) at its cemeteries and crematoria. The online search tool makes it easy to research family history. <https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/community-and-safety/community-support/cemeteries/grave-location-search>



The Ryerson Index is a free index to death or funeral notices appearing in Australian newspapers. The date range covered extends from the Sydney Gazette of 1803 up to newspapers published within the last week or so. <http://www.ryersonindex.org/>

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.



GSQ 'WEDNESDAY MORNING ZOOM'

AN EXERCISE IN RESEARCH AND CREATIVE WRITING

*Bobbie Edes hosts the GSQ 'Wednesday Morning Zoom' sessions - The following were created during a **Learning Aid research session**. The challenge in this meeting was for each small group to research and write about a Western Australia town in existence by the time of Federation. They had 30 minutes.*

Bobbie Edes

COSSACK, WA



Cossack is an historic town in Western Australia 1480 kims (920 miles) north of what is now known as Perth. The district was first known as Tien Tsin after Walter Padbury a pastoralist who landed his stock there however, it was renamed in 1872 and declared the town of named Cossack after HMS Cossack. & By 1869 the town's port opened the pastoral lands supporting over 39,000 sheep in the Pilbara region to the east, so the port was crucial to the area.

The town was the birthplace of the pearling industry and Asians arrived to work as divers, tending to live in an area which became known as 'Chinatown'. Cossack became a thriving town, and many beautiful stone buildings were built in the 1880/1890s most of which remain intact today as historically significant buildings. These are the Customs House, Court House, Bond Store, Post Office, Bakehouse, and the General Store known as Galbraith's.

The town was separated from the main access road by salt flats, so during the 1870s a causeway was built, which remains the form of access today and in 1887 a horse drawn tramway was later constructed linking Cossack to Roebourne. Following the 1881 cyclone the pearling industry largely moved to Broome, so by 1895, the number of Asian and Aboriginal people employed there

had dwindled to under 1,000 working on 57 vessels at Cossack. In the last years of the 19th Century there was a short-lived gold rush nearby, but that soon fizzled out and sadly by 1910 Cossack was virtually a ghost town and Port Sampson became the port for Roebourne.

In 2007, a decision was made to restore the buildings to their former glory, and the town is now a designated museum town. Visitors can walk around and venture inside the restored structures, including the bakehouse, the courthouse, and the historic post office.

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/cossack-historic-town-western-australia>

The Karratha local government has published a brochure to assist tourists to the area:

<https://karratha.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/uploads/2016Cossack-brochure-web.pdf>

¹https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cossack,_Western_Australia

²Ross Anderson; Jeremy Green (2011). Anketell Port Development - Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage (MUCH) desktop analysis (PDF). Department of Maritime Archaeology, Western Australian Museum. p. 2-3. Archived (PDF) from the original on 12 July 2022

³<https://www.aussietowns.com.au/town/cossack-wa>

⁴ibid

Wendy McLaren

BROOME, WA

When it was settled?

According to previous historical thought Broome was first visited by William DAMPIER in 1688. However it was later discovered that he explored the coast from Shark Bay to La Grange Bay where he headed away from the Australian coast.

In 1883 John FORREST chose the site for the town named after Sir Frederick BROOME, who was the



GSO 'WEDNESDAY MORNING ZOOM' - COME AND JOIN US

Image sourced: <https://www.broome.wa.gov.au/Council/About-the-Shire-of-Broome/Visit-Broome>

Governor of Western Australia from 1883 to 1889.

Why it was settled?

The Government settlement at Cape Villaret at the south end of Roebuck Bay, provided facilities for the extension of the Pearl Shell Fishery. It was also to form a port and base of operations for future pastoral and agricultural settlers.

The 1880s saw the commencement of Broome's pearling industry. Slavery and indentured labour were involved, comprising specific ethnic groups mostly from Japan and other Asian countries. Europeans held positions of power and as a result racial segregation was common in Broome until the 1970s.

In 1889 an undersea cable was laid from Broome to Banjuwangi, East Java allowing connection to England hence the name Cable Beach.

Aboriginal children from Broome were sent to live at the Beagle Bay mission north of Broome on account of being 'half caste' and many lost contact with their families.

Noela Bates

BROOME, WA

Founded in the late 1880s Broome was named after Frederick Napier BROOME who was the Swan River first Governor. There are few white settlers at this time and a scattering of pearling camps along the shores.

Long before Europeans arrived in Australia, Aboriginal people collected and ate pearl shell oysters. Carved shells, known as a riji, were worn by Aboriginal men in the Broome area.

The aboriginal people introduced the settlers to the existence of pearling and so the new industry was developed. In the early days the aboriginal men were used as divers. Working conditions were very harsh with many men moving far from their homelands. By 1910 Broome was the largest pearling centre in the world because of the fertile waters and the booming markets.

It was in Broome that the first diving suits were introduced which helped in the production of the booming international pearl button market. Since this time, Broome has been a uniquely multicultural Australian town as many workers came from overseas to work in the pearling industry. A rich cultural heritage has shaped the community and today approximately 15,000 people live in Broome.

<https://kimberleytravelandcruise.com.au/a-short-history-of-broome/>

Bev Murray

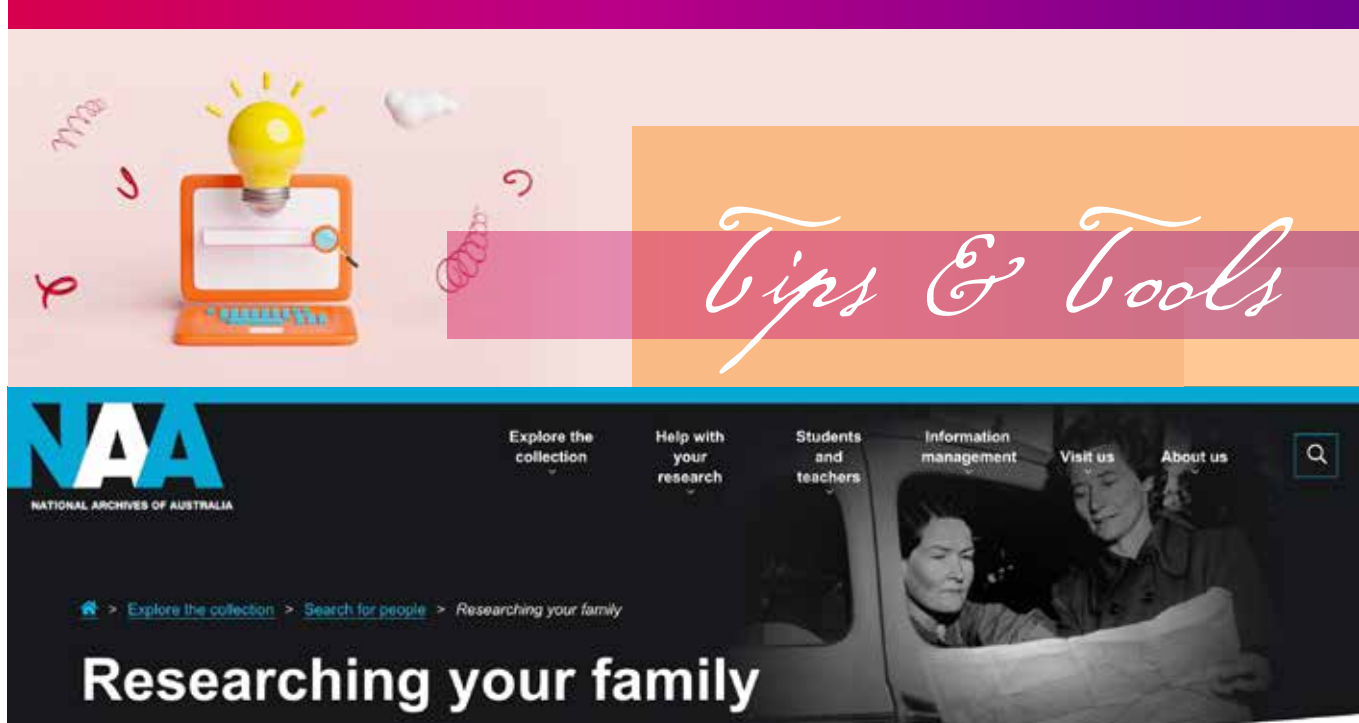
BROOME, WA

Located on the traditional lands of the Yawuru people, the early settlement of Broome was rudimentary with a few 'scattered dwellings' and a couple of stores. Mangrove swamps featured in the district creating an infestation of mosquitoes. With no road or rail links to the more established commercial centres to the south, settlers were dependent on ship freight for supplies.

The township quickly expanded due to the rapid rise of the pearling industry. Pearling methods were primitive with divers ill-equipped to work underwater, only resurfacing to take a breath. Hence, unsavoury work practices such as 'blackbirding' prevailed in order to supply the much-needed labour. Others were lured as indentured labourers to provide the means to help pearlers to become rich. Chinese and Japanese workers were soon attracted to the district bringing opium dens, noodle stalls, and slums where hawkers and prostitution were available.

<https://www.broomeandthekimberley.com.au/broome-history-culture/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Broome,_Western_Australia



The National Archives of Australia (NAA) contains a vast and rich collection of resources that can provide some hidden gems for genealogy research! Have you explored the NAA collection? To get started with RecordSearch (the online NAA catalogue), think of any point of contact your family member might have had with the Australian government. This can include events such as migration and travel, citizenship applications, employment for government, army, air force, or navy service, and registering trademarks or patents.

There are hidden treasures that don't fall into the typical categories of records that we might expect! You can choose to only view specific categories of records in your catalogue search results. Some categories you might find helpful include:

- Australian Defence Forces personnel records
- Immigration and naturalisation records
- Other records (this includes security and intelligence records, copyright, patent and trademark registrations, Australian Broadcasting Commission artists, Commonwealth Literary Fund applicants and High Court cases)

Try these other tips to get started with your search:

- Use the NameSearch feature, and remember that some files do have misspellings of names in the file title. If you are expecting to find results but are not successful, try variations in the spelling of names. There is an option to use (or not use) the exact spelling provided in your search query, however, this does not capture all spelling variations of names.
- Use the Photo Search feature to view photographic results only and refine your search by date.
- If a file is closed and not yet open for viewing, you can request to have the file opened – but remember that this process can sometimes be lengthy, so lodge your request early if you are on a deadline.
- Not every file is listed in the online catalogue!! If you think the NAA holds a file on a family member, it is worth visiting a research centre if you can, because the specialist archival staff can assist with a further search.

It is free to view files/records in any of the NAA research centres. The Brisbane NAA office is located in Cannon Hill, though it is not open every day. Before visiting any of the state offices, check that it holds the records that you require. If you can't go to a reading room, you can request to have a file digitised for a fee. If a file has already been digitised, it will tell you this in the catalogue, and you can view it online for free.



BLOG BEAT

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

April - May 2025

7 April 2025 - Bobbie Edes

More about Mary.

In this blog Bobbie continued with stories about the Neville family, this time concentrating on her 3x great grandmother, Mary Neville who married market gardener, James Geary in 1820. The couple lived and had their family of four children in Orwell Cottage in London Road, Twickenham where James leased several allotments, and on identifying one plot was thrilled to learn that part of it is a community garden today.

14 April 2025 - Catherine Thompson

Richard Hamilton of Newbridge.

Despite having a primarily Catholic ancestry with family members serving the church, the author was surprised to find that her 3x great grandfather was a practicing member of the Church of Ireland. This blog compared the duties of Richard Hamilton's appointment as a Petty Sessions clerk, to those when he was employed as a Process Server for Newbridge, Co Kildare. Catherine continued her story with a good roundup of the town of Kildare and its role within the military and the nearby British Army base at Curragh.

21 April 2025 - Charlotte Sale

Have you got your jacket?

This story was based around a humorous tale written by Charlotte's now deceased husband telling of their journey to South Africa and his wandering jacket, which insisted on going missing more than once during the holiday. The various complexities of planning arrangements via mobile in a remote area, transferring funds for couriers to deliver said jacket and eventual reunion of it with the writer were told.

28 April 2025 - Janice Cooper

Researching women in early colonial NSW.

With her vast experience in researching early colonial life in New South Wales, the author explained how the legal and land records of her female ancestors led her to finding detailed records of their earliest recordings within those files. As these were in the period from 1792 to 1820, it certainly gave depth to her research as did the population records and early newspapers.

5 May 2025 - Andrew Redfern

Metaphors We Live By: Phrases That Capture the Genealogical Journey.

Andrew highlighted sayings that many of us use without thinking how apt it is to our hobby. As well as many other

metaphors, he described how we talk about 'walking in our ancestor's footsteps' or 'digging into the past,' we're describing 'more than the process' – 'we're capturing the sense of wonder', of intimacy, that comes with meeting the past on its own terms. In his usual competent way, the use of AI generated images enhanced the story.

12 May 2025 - Christine Leonard

Researching a female convict of Van Diemen's land: Ann Simmons, a convict mother.

This was a story following on from Christine's 2023 blog titled 'The Gift of Resilience' about Ann Simmons, her three times great-grandmother, who was transported to Van Diemen's Land in early 1823. Looking at the story in more depth, Christine submitted a section of her family history writing about Ann, for inclusion in a planned publication by the Convict Women's Press in Tasmania. It made the grade and was included with the book launch in early May this year. The blog relates the story and happenings leading up to and including the event.

19 May 2025 - Stephanie Ryan

The Cambus Wallace: tragedy and souvenirs from the sea.

With her role within the John Oxley Library of our State Library of Queensland, Stephanie researches many interesting tales of our early history. She has this time written about how on 3 September 1894 the merchant ship *Cambus Wallace*, whilst being buffeted by strong winds, was wrecked at Jumpin Pin. This sad event with the loss of six crew members and the actions following it, led to the separation of Stradbroke Island into two separate islands. The author discusses how salvaging of the cargo was of prime importance with a guard appointed to protect it.

26 May 2025 - Jennifer Harrison

Where are you going, my pretty maid? Why go to conferences.

Many genealogists love a conference, and the author is no exception. From carefully chosen papers which ensured a balance between topics the programme generally offering a choice between three simultaneous sessions, posing a serious quandary for most of those attending Connections2025, Jennifer included. The blog talked about the various aspects of the conference from the technology to the display booths by various organisations and companies, the food, the awards, the meeting of friends new and old and enthused about the event.

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

• FEBRUARY - APRIL 2025 •

TITLE	CALL No.
Scottish placenames : their study and significance	SCT/321/001
Aberlady burial and mortcloth records, pre 1846	ELN/805/016
Ancient churches for beginners	ENG/220/001
Australia's last convicts : reprobates, rogues and recidivists	AUS/145/015
Biggar St Mary's : a medieval college kirk	LKS/220/001
Bruan Free Church births & baptisms 1847-1906 & Lybster Free Church marriages 1844-1852, births & baptisms 1876-1900	CAI/805/001
Calendar of Assize records : Kent indictments, 1649-1659	KEN/831/002
Calendar of Scottish supplications to Rome. Vol. V, 1447-1471	SCT/220/001.05
Clan MacMillan : a complete history	SCT/605/025
Collections, 1950-1954. Second series, volume 3	AYR/205/006.03
Convict records of Western Australia : a research guide	WA/310/001
Cracking the code of old handwriting	UK/411/012
Creich Free Church births & baptisms 1843-1897 & marriages 1843-1896	SUT/805/001
Dalgarnock memorial inscriptions : nat. grid ref NX 876936	DFS/820/001
Deaths in Western Australia : a genealogy guide	WA/310/002
Dunnet Free Church, births & baptisms 1843-1867 & 1872-1897 and marriages, 1845-1847 & Canisbay Free Church, births & baptisms 1843-1875	CAI/805/003
Labrador : the early pioneers	QLD/205/215/RIX
The Baptists of Smarden and the Weald of Kent, 1640-2000	KEN/220/002
Tracing your female ancestors : a guide for family historians	UK/310/034
Tracing your insolvent ancestors : a guide for family and local historians	UK/310/033
Wick Free Church births & baptisms, 1845-1860	CAI/805/007
Yes we also stock JOURNALS	
Coontin kin : the quarterly journal of the Shetland Family History Society	SHI/425/001
Germanic genealogy journal	GER/425/013
Kith 'n' kin : newsletter of the West Gippsland Genealogical Society	VIC/425/011
Progenitor : the official journal of the Genealogical Society of the Northern Territory	NT/425/002
Te Reo : newsletter	NZ/425/002.1

These are only some highlighted accessions into our GSQ Library, you can find the entire list on our website, email our librarian or visit our resource centre at 25 Stackpole Street, Wishart, Qld 4122 and ask one of our fabulous volunteers for assistance with what you are looking for.

Family Tree Charts saved at GSQ



GSQ holds a collection of family tree charts submitted by members. These charts are available for members to access, with chart numbers recorded, corresponding with the numbers noted on the folder containing the chart and the chart

itself. Volunteers have compiled an index based on the name of the first persons mentioned on the chart. Some family trees are larger than A3 format and can be accessed with the assistance of GSQ research assistants.

What actually constitutes a family tree chart? According to **Wikipedia**, the definition of a family tree is 'a chart representing family relationships in a conventional tree structure'. This could be a basic chart with just names

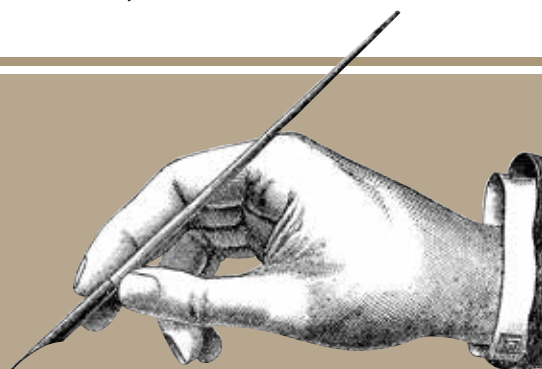
and plotted relationships. However, our members have been creative and, as well as simple names dates and lines, some charts include spouse's names, occupations, locations, nobility and heraldry and some photographs.

The family tree charts may be accessed by members at GSQ during opening hours. Search the Family Tree Charts index to see if your ancestor is included on one of the charts held at GSQ for safe keeping.

No responsibility is assumed by GSQ for the accuracy of the data contained in the family tree charts or the prepared index.

Have you submitted your own family tree to the GSQ collection, or have you relied on digital means, such as Ancestry or My Heritage to make your tree available to others? Why not submit your own family tree chart, as someone else may find it useful?

THE LAST WORD. [GSQ • THE EDITOR]



As we reach the end of the June issue of *Generation*, I would like to thank everyone for the incredibly warm welcome I have received. I am so excited about working with you all, although deeply saddened that Russell's health meant he needed to step down.

I would like to extend immense thanks to Janice, Sharyn and Tina – it has been a whirlwind ride meeting everyone and getting up to speed on the workings of the journal, and this issue would truly not be in everyone's inboxes (or post boxes!) without the support of all three of you. Thank you also to all the GSQ Committee members who have supported us in preparing this issue. Again, I have appreciated your welcome, support and contributions to this issue greatly. And last (but far from least), thank you to all the contributors who have helped showcase genealogy in this issue!

If there was something that you were expecting to see in this issue of *Generation* that isn't here,

please accept my sincere apologies, and know that anything not here is truly an oversight that occurred as I stepped into the role. If you have any concerns, please send me an email, let me know and we will work it out.

So where do we go from here? We keep going! Please don't stop sending us your contributions for *Generation*. We would love to see them and showcase your work. Even if you are just thinking about writing, but aren't sure, send me an email, because I would love to chat with you about what you are writing or working on at the moment. It doesn't matter if you are a first-time writer or a seasoned author, we want to hear from you! Don't underestimate the value of your work, because it is your love of genealogy and the thrill of the search that is at the heart of what we do.

Jessica
Editor



Get the most out of your

GSQ MEMBERSHIP

*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.

The members' only section allows you to access many great benefits:

- Access to GSQ's large library of books and magazines from Australia and the rest of the world, plus thousands of research resources, microfilms 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*
- Special Interest Groups (SIG) which meet monthly or bi-monthly
- Education courses and workshops with reduced rates for members
- Discounts on GSQ products such as genealogical books, magazines, etc
- Reciprocal visiting rights to other family history societies

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



Representatives from the GSQ Interest Groups will be available to answer any queries you may have and there will be experienced library volunteers to help you find your elusive ancestors. Invite your relatives,

friends and neighbours to come along and see what GSQ has to offer its members. There will be raffles, coffee, tea and lovely food as well as other goodies on offer. *We look forward to seeing you there!*

Now there's even more to your family story



With millions of new records added every year and new discoveries to be made with AncestryDNA, it's little wonder Ancestry is the world's favourite family history resource.

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